



The East Carolinian

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East Carolina students return to campus Sunday night before the first day of class to prepare for the spring 2020 semester.

Pirate nation returns

Faculty welcomes students back for the new semester

Sarah Hooper
TEC STAFF

Spring classes begin today for the nearly 30,000 students at East Carolina University. After a month-long break, classrooms and lecture halls are opening their doors once again.

"I do hope that everybody has a productive and fulfilling semester, and at the end of the semester they can say they've had a good experience at ECU. I want everybody to have such a great learning experience, classroom and out of classrooms. It's all about growth," Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said.

Vice Chancellor and Head of Student Affairs, Virginia Hardy, said 2020 is expected to be a year of great change for ECU as the search for a permanent chancellor begins. She explained how excited she is for the search process to begin after nearly a year without a permanent leader.

"I'm happy that myself, my colleagues and, of course, our students are coming back refreshed and full of energy, ready to start the spring semester," Hardy said. "I'm looking forward to seeing the people who are interested in serving ECU, and who will be the 'chosen one.'"

Hardy said she hopes that students will be engaged and motivated to get the best experience possible inside and

outside of the classroom this semester. She mentioned that students should get involved on campus, citing future events such as Pirates After Dark, Polar Bear Plunge and Pirate baseball.

Hardy emphasized how important it is to be involved on-campus. Joining campus organizations was recommended by Hardy for a well-rounded experience for student's spring semesters.

"Hold the university accountable for doing what we say we're going to do. This is a two-way relationship. We will provide the opportunities and hopefully students take them and make good decisions along the way," Hardy said.

Many returning and transfer students may find it difficult to adjust back to campus life after a month-long break. Freshman international studies major Claire Abercrombie shared her advice for students adjusting back to academia.

"If you want to get on top of things, do them at the get go instead of making the change in the middle of the semester. Don't let your grades go down in the first place," Abercrombie said.

Mitchelson will continue his role as interim chancellor into 2020 as the search for a permanent leader continues. Mitchelson works with ECU's Rebound each year, a program focused around helping students who have a challenging first year at college. Mitchelson said he struggled as a college student adjusting to the new level

of freedom he had and understands it's difficult for many.

"My biggest advice is, first you work, then you play," Mitchelson said. "Get the work done, don't procrastinate, and earn the right to play. There's no substitute for a good work ethic."



Ron Mitchelson

Both Hardy and Mitchelson emphasized how important it is to utilize the resources available to students on campus such as The Pirate Academic Success Center, which offers free tutoring for students. The Counseling Center, Career Center and academic advisors are also all available to help students when needed.

Additionally, Hardy said she wants students to learn as much as they can about the candidates for the 2020 local and national elections. She said ECU usually gets candidates who come and speak on campus and want students to take advantage of the opportunity.

"Push the envelope. Ask lots of questions," Hardy said. "It's okay to ask people to explain, that's where learning comes from. Use the information that you gain and go vote in November."

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Advisors help assist with class registration issues

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

Registering for courses at East Carolina University can be a difficult process for some students, but ECU advisors and other faculty members are able to assist and guide students in any way possible and can be a resource that is useful for registering for classes in the future.

Daniel Wiseman, an academic advisor at ECU, said regardless of a student's major, class registration is based off of credit hours. Seniors typically would register for classes first, then juniors, sophomores and freshmen. Incoming freshmen don't have any credit hours, so they are the last to register, according to Wiseman.

"I would advise students to continue to take and pass classes each semester in order to earn more credits and register for future classes ahead of other students," Wiseman said.

Occasionally, Wiseman said he will have students come in who have registered for classes as soon as possible and are still waitlisted. The majority of students may not get all the classes they need and may not have a perfect schedule, but as long as students work with their advisor, they will be on track for graduation, according to Wiseman.

Wiseman said every ECU advisor monitors the waitlists and if a student needs a class, the advisors will continue to work with them to ensure they are put into that class. The advisors will always do whatever is needed for students to sufficiently stay on track for graduation.

"I have a very small number of seniors at this time who are still on a waitlist for a class they need," Wiseman said. "Students should constantly check up with their advisors, especially after the tuition deadline...because spots for classes will become available after that date."

If it is a class they can take in the future, Wiseman advises students to remain on the waitlist, but it will be okay if they aren't able to get in that current semester and he would advise students to take it the following semester.

"If a student isn't able to take a class right away because it's full and no spots are available, it's not going to hold them back greatly and they will graduate on time," Wiseman said. "If a student doesn't pass a class, then that might restrict them graduating on time."

It's more difficult to be removed from the waitlist and added to the class if the waitlist is 25 students compared to five. Availability depends on the specific class and it depends on how many students are on the waitlist, according to Wiseman.

"Classes aren't a guarantee but that's what the advisors are here for. We will let them know if it's truly okay if they aren't able to get that class at that time," Wiseman said. "If it's a graduation issue or whatever the issue may be, contact us and we'll make sure we can do what we can and make sure we get them all set up at the end of the day."

Director of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences Academic Advising & Resource Center (THCAS AARC), LeAnn Etheridge, said in general, each class offered at ECU is different and there could be a lot of reasons why students don't get into a particular class and are waitlisted.

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Children's book musical flies into Wright Auditorium

Hannah True
TEC STAFF

Inspired by the children's book bearing the same title, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus: The Musical" written by Mo Willems and performed by the Kennedy Center will take place Friday at Wright Auditorium.

Willems is the writer of the #1 New York Times best-selling Pigeon series, which has also been awarded the Caldecott-Honor award along with writing numerous other children's books. Willems has also accrued six Emmy awards for writing, has created two animated series and was a head writer for "Codename: Kids Next Door".

While "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus: The Musical" is primarily aimed towards a



Actors Evan Casey, Tracy Lynn Olivera, Felicia Curry, and Hasani Allen perform a scene on stage.

younger audience, Debora Crabbe, the actress playing the Bus Driver, explains that the play drew her in because of its joy and message.

"Everything the bus driver does is about bringing joy to people, and throughout the piece, you see that," Crabbe said. "This musical

is different than others because of the message it sends to people: finding what makes you unique."

Crabbe explained her love for the arts and its ability to bring people together and find common ground no matter the form.

"We all come from different walks of life, but theatre and arts bring us together. Whether it's a song, a painting, a play, or a show, we all find common ground in the world of arts," Crabbe said.

The musical combines acting, puppetry and music to create a one of a kind musical performance. It all starts when the Bus

> PIGEON page A6

ONLINE

» NEWS: Greek houses elect new board members for 2020

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SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Pirates are welcomed back to campus

Pirate Weeks of Welcome will host "Welcome Back Hot Chocolate!" today from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Wright Plaza. Students will be offered free hot chocolate or coffee to welcome them back for the first day of class.

Cultural Center invites students to open house

The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will host its Spring Open House today from 1 to 4 p.m. for students to meet the staff, enjoy free food and games. The center hopes to welcome back pirate nation for a new semester.

Munchie Monday will teach students how to eat healthy

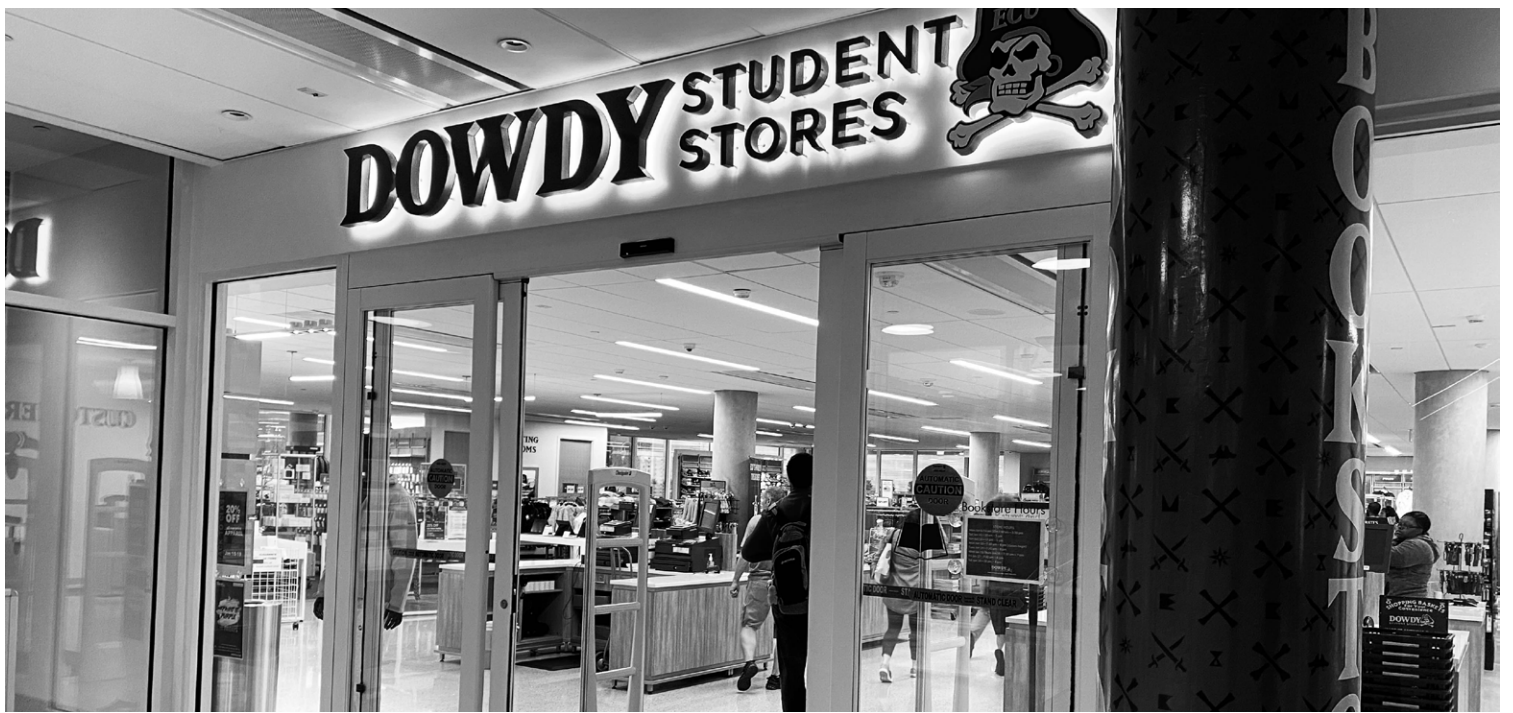
Campus Recreation and Wellness will hold an event today at 4 p.m. in Joyner Library to help teach students how to prepare healthy snacks. Students will learn how to prepare three different kinds of hummus toast, and the event will take place every Monday with a different snack being the focal point.

Dowdy extends store hours

Dowdy Student Stores will extend hours for back to class purchases from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. today. Students will be able to pick up pre-orders on textbooks and saved 20 percent on regular priced apparel.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Jenna Price at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.



Dowdy Student Store opens its doors to welcome back students and allow pre-ordered textbooks to be collected for the start of the new semester.

Students face inflated textbook costs

ECU stores discuss campus concerns with overpriced materials

Ahren Rau
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University students return to school to face the semester gamble of purchasing textbooks.

Charles Moore, one of two textbook managers at U.B.E., said he has worked at the store for more than 20 years. He said book prices and tuition prices have outpaced inflation during his time at U.B.E. and said he understands student frustration.

"Pricing has changed dramatically over the last 20 years and we are aware of that," Moore said. "Most of the time people are extremely frustrated if they spent \$100 on a book and it's not worth anything at the end of the semester."

Moore said the buy-back value of a textbook is mostly based upon whether or not it will be used by professors in the following semester.

"Ask if we think the book is going to be used again and we'll tell you what we think. If we can save you money, we're going to and that's the only reason my business is still here," Moore said.

If the textbook a student is selling is not going to be used in the following semester, U.B.E. will pay the student the wholesale price of that textbook, according to Moore.

Moore said his store does business with three

different wholesalers and will give students the highest offer out of the three.

"We pay you what they're going to pay us. We regard that as an opportunity to create good will for our customers. It's not a profit center for us," Moore added.

If the textbook a student is selling is going to be used in the following semester, Moore recommends selling the textbook at the end of the semester during a period he called "retail buyback."

"For example, I might know I need 100 copies of the Health 1000 textbook. I'll know how many I have in stock and that will tell me how many I need to buy. That is what we call the retail buyback period," Moore said.

During this period, which typically starts two weeks before reading day, Moore said students will generally receive half of the textbook's value.

He recommends students purchase used books that will be used in the following semester and sell the textbook during the retail buyback period.

"For example, the new textbook is \$100, the used price would generally be \$75, and the retail buyback would be \$50 dollars. That means your overall investment is \$25, and even rental prices seldom drop down to \$25," Moore said.

Bryan Tuten, director of Dowdy Student

Stores, said his store purchases textbooks year round but advises students to sell right before the end of the semester.

Similar to U.B.E., Tuten said the value of textbooks will rise if they are going to be used by professors in the following semester.

Dowdy provides students the option to sell their textbooks online, explained Tuten.

"We also have a tool on our website that students can use to sell their textbooks. The student will type in the book's ISBN number and our wholesale partner will give them a price," Tuten said.

Tuten said students should be mindful of Dowdy's return policy, and said it is there only to help students.

"Students have 10 days from the first day of classes, and 30 days from the first day of class if a student dropped a class and can show proof, to return their textbooks," Tuten explained.

Tuten advises that students only buy required materials for class and to wait to buy optional materials when instructed by the professor.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY



Bryan Tuten

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CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1925

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Try Outs:

Tuesday, Jan. 21

From 4-6 p.m.

OR

Wednesday, Jan. 22

From 4-5:30 p.m.

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All majors welcome!

Students must have a 2.25 GPA or higher to apply.

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A group of students sit at a table in a study room inside of Joyner library discussing classes.

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Before registration, students should check the registrar's website to see the registration schedule to know when they should begin to register for classes. Most advising departments have registration guidance on their websites that students should definitely look at and become familiar with the information, according to Etheridge.

"The way the registration process is set up, it's designed to help the students who are juniors and seniors get the classes they need because freshmen have the most flexibility in their schedule," Etheridge said.

Additionally, Etheridge said students should also review the requirements for their specific major in Degreeworks, which can be a useful tool to know what classes students will need to take for their major and write down their list of courses they plan on taking.

"Be honest with your advisor about how you are doing in classes," Etheridge said. We are not here to judge you if you fail, but we can't help you or provide accurate guidance if we don't know the facts."

During final exam season or over the holiday break, students may adjust their schedules or perhaps even change their majors, so students should be checking their email constantly, according to Etheridge. Students have until the first week of classes to make adjustments to their schedule and after that, still have time to drop or add classes.

If students feel like they are unable to complete the desired courses during the spring semester, Etheridge said summer school is also an option, even at a community college. There are different options students can choose from if

they are waitlisted or aren't able to get into class right away, but it won't restrict them enough to where they won't graduate on time

"Most majors are flexible enough where students can switch classes around and still graduate on time," Etheridge said.

Freshman nursing major Lylian Treece will go into her second semester at ECU this spring. She hoped to get into anatomy next semester, but when she went to register, she was unable to sign up because the class was already full. This class doesn't offer a waitlist, so she couldn't even be placed on that, Treece said.

"It's a little frustrating because I did not encounter this problem whenever I first registered for classes as an incoming freshman. I got all the classes I wanted to take and even picked up a few classes I wasn't planning on taking," Treece said. "It worked out perfectly, but with this semester coming up, I now have to rearrange my whole pre-requisite schedule."

Treece was planning on graduating a semester early, but if she can't take anatomy with ECU this next semester, that means she will have to rearrange her entire plan. She said her advisor told her to keep checking the class and her email because she planned to take community classes in the summer, but it was recommended to her that she take ECU's anatomy class.

"According to my advisor anatomy is a very difficult class, so students will most likely drop it during the first week of next semester which will give me a chance to get in," Treece said.

Although multiple students are experiencing difficulties with scheduling their required classes, advisors in each department will continue to work towards "finishing in four."

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR VIEW

Welcome back to all students

Today marks the first day of the 2020 spring semester at East Carolina University. Students from a plethora of states have all made the odyssey back to Greenville, NC for the start of classes.

Various administrators and staff are excited to welcome students back to campus, with some even offering advice to students for the coming semester.

Interim chancellor Ron Michelson mentioned that if students want to be successful in the spring, they should focus on getting their work done before play.

"There's no substitute for a good work ethic," Michelson said.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, are excited to welcome back all students to ECU for the spring semester and hope they have a successful term.

Once they find their classes, we encourage students to use time in between classes wisely. As mentioned by Michelson, it is important to be able to balance school and other fun activities that come with being a student at ECU.

Although there are many events that are put on by the school for students, it is important to prioritize classes and homework first.

There are many resources that can help students get organized and plan out their schedules. Advisors are here to help, as they have many resources to give students the tools for success to balance the busy life of a college student.

There are also events that ECU will host to help students hone their skills, like workshops to help study and organize schedules. Checking on ECU's events calendar on the website will provide students with the date and time of those events.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



Smoke law misses mark

The new nicotine rule distracts from problems



Jess Buchanan
GUEST COLUMNIST

As with any new policy put into place, there are many ways to analyze the pros, cons, and motivations that lead to the decision being made. Raising the legal age to buy nicotine products from 18 to 21 comes

across as the federal government's attempt at protecting its citizens' safety. However, this new policy doesn't actually protect our country's youth, it creates further complexity to what age is considered an "adult" in our society, and it distracts the public from more pressing risks to our health.

The legal smoking age wasn't a public health priority until teenagers started getting seriously ill from vaping. To combat this, popular vaping companies, mainly JUUL, discontinued their popular flavors to discourage underage individuals from using their products. Then, it was found that what was causing these illnesses were bootlegged THC cartridges. The pens used for these cartridges can't be used for nicotine products. It's a completely separate market, and raising the age to buy nicotine has no effect on it.

Without access to the favored JUUL flavors, and marijuana being either illegal or only available to persons 21 or over, raising the legal smoking age will not have much of an effect on teenagers. Much like underage individuals have ways to get illegal THC cartridges, they will do the same to continue getting whatever nicotine products they use.

Those most affected by this new policy are the people that were 18 or older when the new law was set in place. Individuals that are told they are adults, and will be treated as such by employers, universities, and the legal system. If the legal age of adulthood is 18, then as adults, individuals 18 or above should all have the same rights. These rights include voting, enlisting, and smoking. Now, people that had already begun using nicotine products have to either quit or find other ways to buy their products, much the same as teenagers. If the goal for this age group was to decrease nicotine use, then instead of banning them from the habit, the government should be investing in ways to help them quit, such as better health education and advertising products and methods to help them quit.

The main reason for this policy change was to create a distraction, and

the federal government has done just that. They have distracted the public from the man-made disasters that are a real risk to our health. If the public's collective focus is on an ineffective policy change, then it won't be on starting wars, climate change, and vast wealth inequality that's actively killing people every day. Nicotine use at any age is a public health concern, but it isn't the most pressing one, and this isn't the correct way of dealing with it. This isn't a solution, and it's not going to have the impact people hope it will.

The most effective way to keep teenagers from vaping or smoking is education. The good comes with the bad. The most important thing we can do as a society that cares about the health and longevity of our youth is educate them on how to be safe. The unsafe options cannot really be taken away. All we can do is encourage them to make smart choices and educate them on the consequences.

Jess Buchanan is a junior majoring in public health and a guest columnist. To contact her/him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR STAFF

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Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Mendenhall 114,
E 5th St. Greenville, NC, 27858-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Bias in media hurts legitimacy

Down Pat



Pat Polomchak
TEC STAFF

With the way the news is looked at today, it is more important than ever for those of us at The East Carolinian, as a media outlet, to present facts and avoid letting personal bias shine through in stories.

In today's overly-polarized world, media's main and unquestionable goal should be to provide the truth for readers, cutting through the bias that pervades modern politics, policy and life in general. The news should not be the thing fanning the flames.

There are many practices that can help in this endeavor, from avoiding conflicts of interest to providing a voice for both sides of a conflict. The biggest factor, though, is the greed that eventually crops up in every market.

Many media outlets care more about their ad revenue and keeping a customer base than actually providing the truth. It is easier to tell your customers what they want to hear than to report facts that may go against their preconceptions.

Some papers are specifically designed with one particular side in mind. While I have to question the journalistic integrity of outlets like that, they are at least up-front with their intentions. Media outlets that claim to be based in fact but only report some of the facts break all the rules reporters are supposed to learn.

" I will not discriminate between partisan lines when deciding what stories to pursue and which ones to avoid. Even in the opinion section, the neutrality of the paper should be the number one goal. "

As a student newspaper, we are in a unique position to remain unbiased. As individuals, the revenue the paper generates is a secondary concern to getting experience in the world of news. We need to hold ourselves accountable as a staff.

If a newspaper or other media outlet reports based on opinion, the legitimacy of the whole organization needs to be called into question. When the people telling you about what is happening in the world around you can't be trusted, it makes it difficult to trust anything at all.

Those of us in the media have a responsibility to our readers and to ourselves to stay neutral and allow both sides of any issue to say their piece. Obviously there are exceptions, but in general, if a news site continually publishes content from one side without ever airing out an opposing viewpoint, it harms readers.

As the new opinion section editor, I believe it is possible to even keep a certain level of neutrality within the opinion section. While every article published in my section features an opinion, publishing articles with

opposing views prevents our paper from becoming too single-viewed or closed-minded.

I don't want to make it sound like I never slip up. In previous articles I have written for the opinion section, I certainly tried to talk about the subjects as objectively as possible while sharing an opinion. However, even in some of my old news articles it is possible to see the opinion of the writer in the background.

While my personal opinions will be shown through the stories I write this semester, my biggest goal is to make sure the paper itself maintains neutrality. I will not discriminate between partisan lines when deciding what stories to pursue and which ones to avoid. Even in the opinion section, the neutrality of the paper should be the number one goal.

Pat Polomchak is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her/him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.



Jake Agnos jumps on the pile inside Clark-LeClair Stadium after ECU baseball won the 2019 Greenville Regional over Campbell.

Ten years of sports

Pirate athletics over the past decade

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

The new year brings an end to a decade full of experiences. Success, failure, and trials of all kinds have played a part over the past 10 years, and the East Carolina University Pirates have had its fair share of all three.

The football program finished the decade under .500 with a record of 55-69. The program's peak came out of the 2013 season.

Under former head coach Ruffin McNeill, the Pirates ended the regular season with a record of 10-3. This was only the second time in school history that ECU finished with a 10-win season. The team then went to its second-straight bowl game where they defeated Ohio University 37-20.

The football team is now under head coach Mike Houston, who just finished his first year as the Pirates' head coach, and now looks forward to more success in the upcoming decade.

The men's basketball team has seen some changes over the decade. The program held a record of 133-160 and finished under the .500 mark for the decade.

The best record they have seen in the past 10 years came under former head coach Jeff Lebo in the 2012-2013 season. That year the team went 23-12 and 9-7 in conference play, and they also were ranked second in the nation in assists per game with 17.2. During that time, the Pirates were in Conference USA, but the team switched to the American Athletic Conference in the 2013-2014 season.

Coach Lebo became the winningest coach at ECU since the program became Division I. East Carolina's men's basketball team is now led by head coach Joe Dooley who is in the midst of his second season as head coach. Sophomore forward Jayden Gardner has been the light of the team this season, becoming a star

for the future of ECU basketball.

Women's basketball put together an impressive 22-9 record in the 2013-2014 season under former head coach Heather Macy. This was the best record the team finished with during the decade, but they held a 14-1 home record during the 2012-2013 season. They held a 26-game win streak at home from the 2011-2012 season and the following season.

The ECU baseball program is the brightest star in the Pirate athletics family and has some of the best accolades to

show for the past 10 years. The baseball program has had a great record of 374-233-2 with the best regular season record of 47-18 in 2019. During the past 10 years, East Carolina baseball has won two conference tournaments (2015, 2018) and also appeared in the NCAA tournament six times (2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019).

Pirate volleyball has been led by head coach Julie Torbett, who led the Pirates to their first non-losing record since 2006. It finished its first year in the AAC going 15-16 in 2014.

The next season, the team started winning six of their first eight games, but still finished with a losing record. In 2016, the volleyball team finally earned its .500 record finishing 15-15. The following year the team posted its best record of the decade, finishing 22-11 overall. Coach Torbett has steadily led the team upwards during her time as head coach.

The Pirates' softball team went through multiple coaching changes over the decade. Former head coach, Tracey Kee, coached the team for 26 years, but she resigned at the end of the 2012 season.

Following coach Kee, the team was led by former head coach Beth Keylon-Randolph until 2015. In 2016, ECU softball was led by their current head

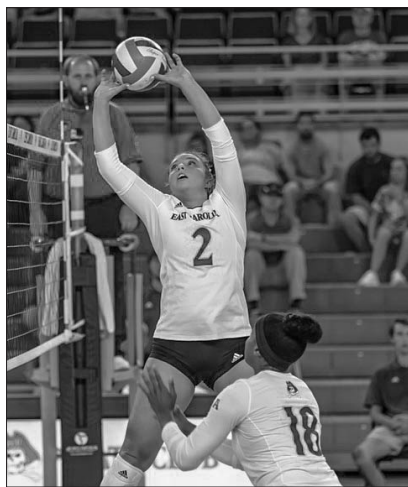
coach, Courtney Oliver. She led the team to become a force in 2017 when the Pirates beat the school and AAC single-season record in home runs with 64.

Men's tennis team has been successful recently. They have held a winning record from 2016-2019 winning a total of 52 matches, the most posted during any three-year span. During the 2017-2018 season, the men's team set a program record with 22 wins total. Led throughout the decade by head coach Shawn Heinchon.

"We certainly have seen some of the greatest heights our program has ever seen. We were blessed with some phenomenal players, assistant coaches and great individuals that worked hard and got better while they were here that ultimately put us in a spot where we saw a lot of success," Heinchon said, regarding the success his team has seen.

The women's tennis team also was also able to look back on a great decade under the leadership of North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame member and East Carolina's all-time winningest women's tennis head coach, Tom Morris.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.



Shelby Martin sets during a recent match.

New TV deal opens opportunity for students

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

Perhaps more so than ever before, collegiate athletics is driven by revenue from large television deals negotiated between conferences and companies like ESPN or Fox Sports.

Beginning in the fall of 2020, a new 12-year, \$1 billion television partnership between the American Athletic Conference and ESPN will see each member school draw in close to \$7 million per year for the rights to their content.

While schools like East Carolina University will see increased revenue from the deal, much more responsibility is going to be placed in the hands of the athletic department on gameday.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

"The content that will not be picked up by the linear network, then the athletic department will produce the content," ECU Athletic Director Jon Gilbert said. "That will be for every sport other than football. The conference office, if we are not picked up on a linear channel, then the conference office is going to pay for the production of football games. Athletic departments in our conference are going to pick up the content for every other event."

In plain terms, if a non-football ECU athletic event is not picked up by a channel like ESPN, ESPN2 or another traditional linear platform, that event will be streamed on ESPN+. When that happens, ECU's athletic department will foot the bill for producing the event.



Jon Gilbert

At least in the early years of this new television deal, expect to see many ECU sporting events on the subscription-based channel that will run consumers \$4.99 per month. For the Pirates' staff, the cost will also be noticeable as it will be their responsibility to hire an entire production team and neutral play-by-play and color analysts.

To help offset some cost associated with the deal, creative steps are in the process of taking shape. A proposed partnership between ECU athletics and the School of Communication could create a symbiotic relationship moving forward.

"We're meeting this month with a group to talk about that further," Gilbert said. "We are interested in partnering with them (the School of Communication) and giving students on campus the ability to get experience doing that. We're not there yet but certainly early indications are both parties are interested in the partnership."

As of yet, there is no timeline for when opportunities will begin opening for students in this new proposed partnership.

On the streaming side of things, Gilbert said he does not anticipate any potential dropoff in viewership even when a major portion of ECU athletic events could possibly go behind a paywall on ESPN+ in the coming years.

"Certainly, I do think our fan base is passionate and willing to do that, to view the Pirates knowing that ultimately it is helping our athletic department," Gilbert said.

The new television deal between the AAC and ESPN takes hold prior to the 2020 Pirate football season and runs through the 2031-2032 academic year.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Ryan Davis looks to lead track & field into new year

Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

Ryan Davis is not good at baseball, he is however a very gifted track and field athlete. Davis's track and field career started for that very reason. In seventh grade, he wanted to compete in a spring sport and his two choices were baseball or track and field. Rather than do nothing, he decided to give track and field a try and it proved to be a great decision.

Davis was a three-sport high school athlete coming from earning letters in cross country, track and field and lacrosse at Pine Forest High School in Fayetteville North Carolina, but by the time senior year started and recruitment began, East Carolina University wasn't on Davis's radar.

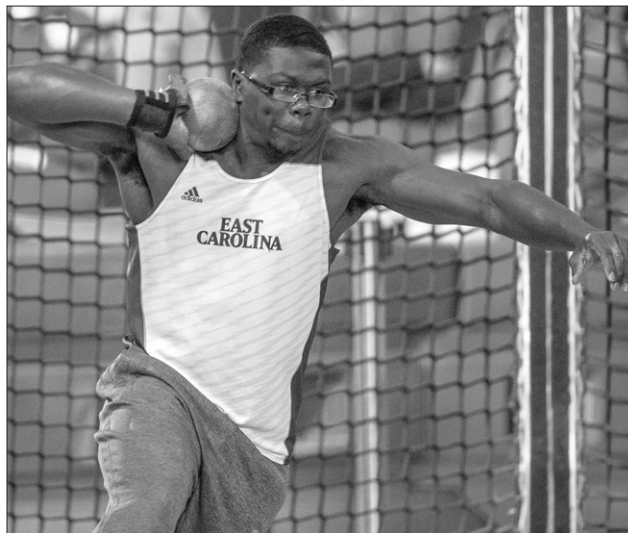
"I actually hadn't even heard of ECU prior to their interest in me," Davis said. "ECU reached out to me the fall semester of my senior year. At the time the only other school I had talked with was NC State. After visiting both schools and meeting the coaches though the decision was easy."

From the moment throwers coach David Price saw Davis perform, he knew there was something special.

"I first saw Ryan at an indoor meet his senior year of high school. I was like, 'who is this guy!?' We contacted him immediately after that," Price said. "He was a multi-sport athlete in high school. Although his high school technique was off."

The mechanics of throwing, whether it is in shot put, discus, javelin, or hammer are all incredibly difficult and involves a lot of precision. One misstep or miss time could mess up a player's accuracy and cause them to not get nearly the distance they would have, which is why coaching is so important.

"In high school I didn't really have a coach so I always wanted to know how much better I could get if I knew more about throwing



Ryan Davis throws a shot put at a recent track and field meet.

and had someone to coach me," Davis said. "All the throws events are very technical and at times it feels like solving a puzzle to get to the most efficient throws and I really love that aspect of it. I guess you could say I've learned to love the process as much as the competitions."

Having real coaching has helped Davis immensely. Being able to really practice and have guidance has really helped him grow as a thrower and as an athlete in general.

"Ryan has improved tremendously over the past several years," Price said. "Most notably his best hammer throw was 43 meters his freshman year to 66 meters last season. Hopefully he will break the 70 meter barrier this season. He also improved five meters in the indoor weight throw which put him in the top 20 in the country his junior year."

The growth hasn't just been physical. Davis and his coaches have

noticed an emotional and overall mental growth and maturity as well. Davis isn't the type of guy who will get in your face to yell at you or lead by being a "Ra-Ra" type of leader. Davis, as his coaches have noticed, prefers to lead by example. He is the type of guy who is respected not just by his peers but by his coaches and his opponents.

"I am, really amazed by his personality," Price said. "Ryan never gets too excited or too down. He has a kind heart and is compassionate and empathetic towards others. He speaks softly with meaningful words. Ryan also amazes me how he sticks with challenging pursuits."

These qualities are what has led him to being a leader on the ECU track and field team, something Davis is more than happy to do.

"When I first got to ECU there were some great leaders above me that helped me along the way like Adam Manns and Jalen Peterkin just to name a couple, but I really appreciated everyone on that team as they all helped me grow as a thrower," Davis said. "I do feel a responsibility to help. There are a lot of younger people on the team this year especially in the throws and I do best to help out when I can. Coach Price is just one guy teaching 12 people and sometimes it gets a little crowded so I try to help out as much as I can."

The end goal for this season remains as it has been for Davis every year. To get better and he feels that everyone on the team has what it takes to take that next step this season.

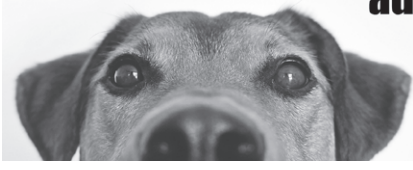
"We have amazing talent on the team and they have all been working so hard this offseason. I know that if everyone can showcase their abilities then the sky's the limit for this team," Davis said. "I think a key part of that is just have fun with it so I would (say) that is my expectation of the team this season."

With these thoughts going into the new year and with Davis leading the way, Pirate fans should expect to see great things from the track and field team in 2020.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Physical action gets results. Don't reveal your secrets all at once, with Venus in Pisces. Maintain mystery. Fantasies abound. Allow yourself more quiet time.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Find a sweet deal. Expect expenditures. Review family finances this month, with Venus in Pisces, and discover ways to save. Increase your assets.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Feather your love nest. You're more domestic, with Venus in Pisces this month. Increase your family's comfort level. Savor simple home cooking. Recharge for professional growth.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- You're extra popular this month, with Venus in Pisces. Social activities benefit your career. Share your heart with friends and allies. Pull together for common cause.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Personal insights benefit. Partnerships flower, with Venus in Pisces. Collaborate on a creative project. Use your magnetism and charm. Build and strengthen long-term connections.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Document your exploration and research. You especially love learning, with Venus in Pisces. Creativity flourishes. Words flow with ease. Write and share your discoveries.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Home recharges you to grab career opportunities. Take charge this month, with Venus in Pisces. Pass a test and rise a level. Do the homework.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 5 -- Get into a fun and productive work phase, with Venus in Pisces. Physical performance can provide exceptional results. Prioritize health, wellness and fitness this month.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- Silver flows into shared accounts. Gather new income. This month with Venus in Pisces can get profitable. Infuse heart into your work and it pays.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Communication and transportation channels flow more freely. Travel, explore and study, with Venus in Pisces this month. Plan your next adventure. Discover new worlds.

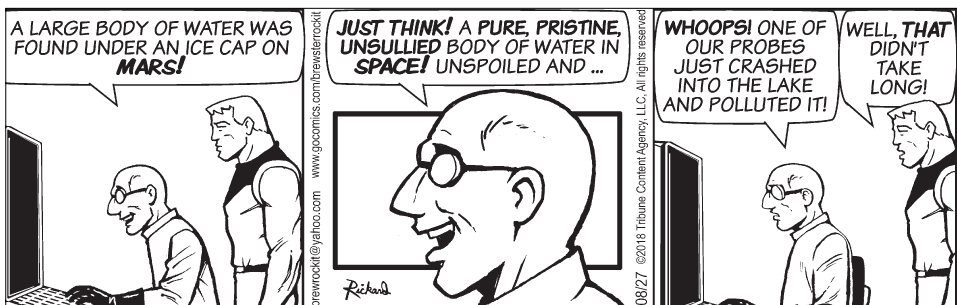
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Artistic efforts work in your favor. You're especially lucky in love, with Venus in Pisces. Savor and create beauty this month. Share your heart.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Rely on a strong partnership. Dress like the star you are with Venus in your sign. Try a new style or look. You're especially irresistible.

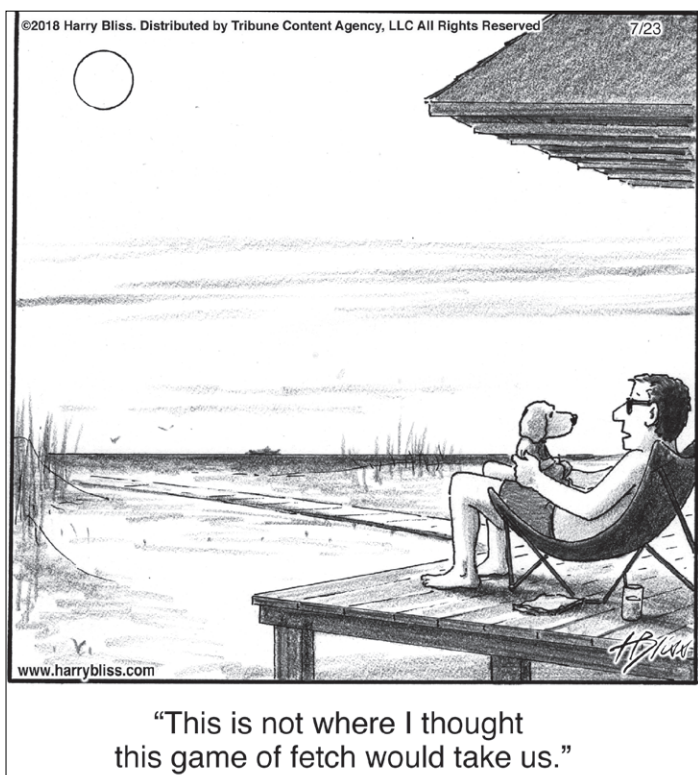
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



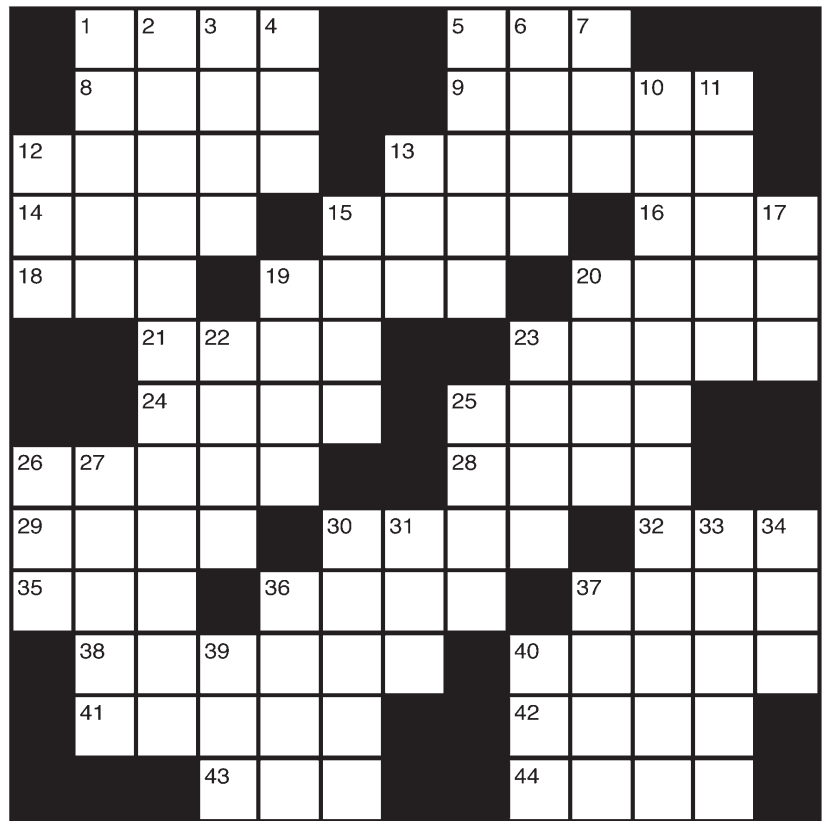
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

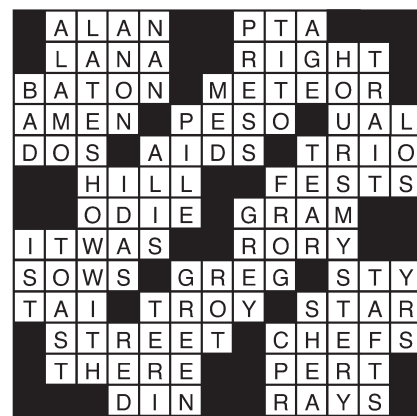
ACROSS

- 1 Actor ___ Alda
- 5 "Harper Valley ___"
- 8 Actress Turner
- 9 "The Price Is ___"
- 12 ___ Rouge, Louisiana
- 13 Shooting star
- 14 Series for Sherman Hemsley
- 15 Mexico's dollar
- 16 Suffix for intellect or event
- 18 Two, in Spain
- 19 Assists
- 20 Threesome
- 21 "One Tree ___"
- 23 Gala events
- 24 Dog in "Garfield"
- 25 Tiny weight
- 26 "___ a Very Good Year"; song for Frank Sinatra
- 28 Actor Calhoun
- 29 Piglets' mothers
- 30 "Dharma & ___"
- 32 Pigpen
- 35 Skater ___ Babilonia
- 36 Actor Donahue
- 37 "___ Trek: Voyager"

DOWN

- 1 "The ___"; John Wayne movie
- 2 "The Late ___ Craig Ferguson"
- 3 Abbr. following many poems
- 4 Actress Fabray, to friends
- 5 "Meet the ___"
- 6 One of Michael Jackson's brothers
- 7 "Ice ___"; blockbuster animated film
- 10 "48 ___"
- 11 Characteristic
- 12 "___ Boys"; theme song for "Cops"
- 13 "Presidio ___"; Dana Delany drama series
- 15 Stack
- 17 "NCIS: ___ Angeles"
- 19 MacGraw and Larter
- 20 Rip
- 22 Ms. Lupino's namesakes
- 23 Kermit, for one
- 25 Dr. Meredith ___; Ellen Pompeo's role
- 26 Suffix for cartoon or violin
- 27 Breakfast bread, often
- 30 "___ Acres"
- 31 Go bad
- 33 President William Howard and his family
- 34 Calendar periods: abbr.
- 36 Garr or Hatcher
- 37 Actor John of "Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman"
- 39 "The ___ Skelton Hour"
- 40 Life-saving technique, for short

Solution from 12/03



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

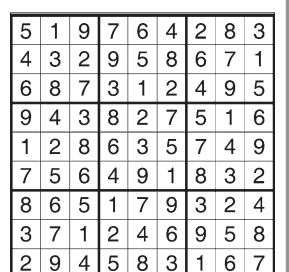
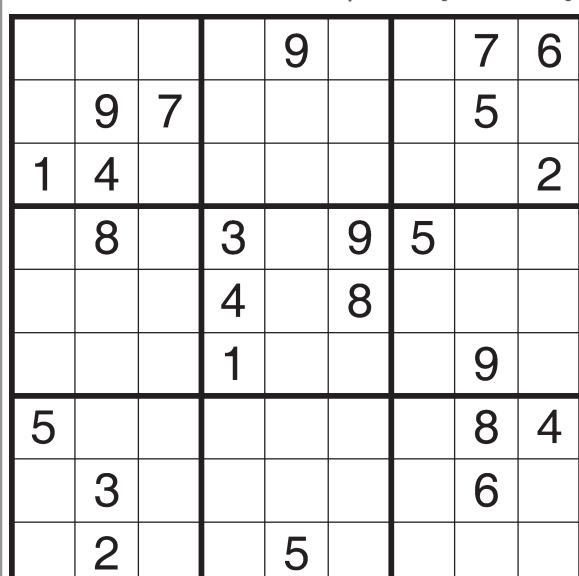
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:




Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 12/03



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EVENTS

TODAY

Beets, Bears, Brewery: The Office Trivia
Pitt Street Brewing Company
7 p.m.

Rural Route Romance R3X
Buccaneer Music Hall
Midnight

TOMORROW

Harry Potter Movie Trivia
Uptown Brewing Company
7 p.m.

Karaoke Night
Pitt Street Brewing Company
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Badfish "Sublime Tribute" with Tropicadelic and Little Stranger
The State Theater
7 p.m.

THURSDAY

Infusion Boozin'
Dickinson Avenue Public House
5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Carolina Chicken and Waffles Food Truck
Pitt Street Brewing Company
6 p.m.

Folk artists to perform at Christy's

Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

Chapel Hill based Folk duo, Neville's Quarter, will be performing a free concert at Christy's Euro Pub this Sunday at 8 p.m. with North Carolina songwriter, Chet Nichols.

Neville's Quarter, which consists of Brian Moyer and Lex Headley, was created in 2016 when the pair met through their local church while singing in their choir and performing at music galas, Moyer said.



Brian Moyer

"We're a duo. Lex plays guitar and I play the fiddle. We play Folk and Americana, and we write all of our own music," Moyer said.

The duo has performed at various locations throughout North Carolina and currently have written around 50 songs, along with nine studio recordings according

to Moyer.

At their shows, they often sing their own songs, but they also perform covers of songs from other artists, such as Bob Dylan. This will be the duo's second performance in Greenville, Moyer said.

"We have played at Jarvis Bottle Shop, which is also owned by Christy's. We played there once for one of their wine tasting nights. This will be our second time back in Greenville, and our first time at Christy's," Moyer said.

While this will be the first time that the duo performs with Nichols, they have played at the same venues before and are a part of the North Carolina Songwriters Co-op together, a nonprofit organization supporting North Carolina's songwriters.

Moyer and Nichols became friends through Moyer's Songwriter Circles, where local songwriters come together and share their music with one another. Moyer is looking forward to performing with Nichols for the first



CONTRIBUTED BY NEVILLE'S QUARTER

Neville's Quarter duo Brian Moyer and Lex Headley perform folk music.

time, and coming back to perform in Greenville, Moyer said.

"We always love the adventure of going to a new place. That's one of my favorite things about playing music. We get to visit all these places that we might not have visited otherwise. We love Chet's music a lot. I'm looking forward

to watching him play," Moyer said.

Headley said that she started singing and playing music to meet other people with similar interests, which is how she and Moyer came to be in 2016 when they began playing together at their church's music galas.

This writer can be contacted at arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

PIGEON continued from A1

has a crisis that could cause turmoil for her passengers and cause them to be late. The performance also includes music from award winning composer, Deborah Wicks La Puma, and a puppetry collaboration with Mr. Warburton, Disney Juniors Muppet Babies executive producer.

Associate Dean of Research, Marketing and Outreach for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, Michael Crane, is one of the people responsible for bringing the musical on campus. This will be the



Michael Crane

eighth play that has been brought to ECU from the Kennedy Center.

Crane explained that this play will be a part of the Arts Smart program, which "exists to introduce children from 13 countries in grades Pre-K to fifth to the power of professional, literature based, dramatic and musical performances." The program serves many children who haven't been on a college campus before and allows them to watch a live theater performance.

"Hopefully, the power of live theater, coupled with the great big open door of possibility will bring hundreds of first generation college students to ECU. That's part of the power of the arts," Crane said.

Crane is naturally a lover of the arts, and

within his role, he aims to find performances, experience them, and decide whether they fit ECU's constraints.

"I've had a few experiences with performances and performers at ECU that were truly sublime," Crane said. "My role is to find exceptional performances and then facilitate a great experience for our guest artists and our patrons. Most of the feelings I get through this work is when an artist connects with a single individual. That's something you can't plan for."

The musical starts at 10 a.m. this Friday, in Wright Auditorium. Seating is reserved and tickets can be purchased online on the College of Fine Arts and Communication website.

This writer can be contacted at arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

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