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East Carolina University Health Sciences Campus Student Center located at 1868 Health Science Dr. near the College of Nursing.

KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

CON looks toward future

Nursing students face possible changes due to COVID-19

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

Due to the continuous changing environment surrounding COVID-19, the East Carolina University College of Nursing may experience some changes in the program come the next fiscal school year.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Nursing (CON) Annette Peery said the undergraduate nursing program may experience some changes to its traditional set up with the COVID-19 pandemic looming near the 2020 fall semester.

The previous spring semester was cut short when the onset of COVID-19 caused clinicals and labs to be transitioned to virtual instruction, according to Peery.

“Our biggest challenge was clinicals, students going into clinical practices to do patient care, that we weren’t able to do. Things we would do hands-on we had to switch to an online format,” Peery said.

ECU’s undergraduate nursing

degree is a four-year program with students applying after their first two years, according to Peery. She said the program has an average student GPA of 3.5 with a 3.7 average for the spring 2020 semester.

Peery said the College of Nursing is in discussion of hopefully keeping its students in clinicals to continue experience of much-needed patient care. She said its graduate program is already online, but the large Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program is traditionally held face-to-face in the classroom.

Over 500 students normally run through the undergraduate BSN program in a given fiscal school year, so the college is looking at trying to decrease the number of students, number of faculty and number of people in a building at any one time, Peery said.

“How do we follow what the gover-

nor (Roy Cooper) is asking us to do in terms of the three W’s (wear, wait, wash), making sure we keep everyone safe but still making sure we maintain the rigor of our program and keeping students in patient care areas?” Peery said.

For all of its students, graduate or undergraduate, Peery said the program will not be assigning them to care for any known or suspected COVID-19 positive patients.

ECU spring 2020 graduate Deja Davenport said she lacks hands-on experience as she prepares herself to start work with the University of North Carolina (UNC) Medical Center in the Neurosurgery and Neurology Acute Care Unit.

In lieu of clinical work, through their capstone course students were given six of the same virtual patients with the same diagnosis for the last six weeks of the spring semester, according to Davenport.

Clinicals are where nursing students



Annette Peery

ECU first generation gets support

George Martin
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University will continue to offer support systems for first-generation college students in order to help potentially guarantee students experience success while attending university.

Associate Director for the Office of Student Transitions Karen Smith said ECU has multiple initiatives geared toward first-generation students in order to help build a support system for this part of the student body.

“We created a first-generation website for first-gen students and faculty and staff and family members if they want to look at that. On that website there is a link of first generation faculty and staff on campus so that incoming students and family members can look for others for support on campus,” Smith said.

Smith said the university participates in the national celebration for first-generation college students which happens each year on Nov. 8. She said there is a student-led organization, “I’m the First,” which seeks to help first-generation college students make connections.

An important aspect of the college experience is creating a support network, Smith said, and the university wants to make sure that first-generation students are able to find a support network which will allow for continued growth during their time at the university.

“While they have the support of their family members at home, and they’re really proud of them and want them to do well, they can’t really answer questions or help direct them to what the college experience is going to be like,” Smith said.

The university offers a special section of COAD 1000 to first generation college students, taught by Linda Campion, who is an advisor for the student group “I’m the First.”

Campion is a first-generation college student herself and graduated from ECU in 1977 with two degrees, one in music therapy and another in music education. She said when she came to ECU for her degree she felt it was daunting and wanted a way to help students who are currently feeling the same anxiety she felt.

“When I was teaching a section of COAD 1000, I



Karen Smith

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Artist builds career

Yasmine D. Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Drayvon Fairley, an East Carolina University alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, will release a new album titled “Channels” on June 1, which will feature songs from a variety of music content.

Fairley said his love for creating music started while he was in high school doing engineer work for a friend, which turned into him creating tracks of his own. He said “it’s a feeling like no other” when he creates.

Rappers such as J. Cole, Kanye, Drake and Kendrick Lamar are some of whom Fairley said he pulls inspiration from and hopes to work with in the future. He said he creates a variety of music, love and pop songs that tell a story depending how he feels.

“I call myself an artist rather than a rapper. It’s the only thing I have passion for besides helping kids, which I can do through creating music. It allows me to express myself, relieve stress, create vibes and change lives. This art is universal,” Fairley said.

According to Fairley, when he told

people he was a musician, people associated his first name, Dre, with the west coast rapper Dr. Dre. He said he wanted to be like Dr. Dre and do what Dr. Dre did for California on the east coast, so he decided to go by the stage name “Dreoftheeast.”

Fairley said his first performance was at an ECU showcase performance with his band, Absolute, where it performed his original song “Do you really want me.” He said the audience put their phones in the air and waved them side to side as he performed for the first time and describes this moment as the “best feeling in the world.”

According to Fairley, he is creating opportunities for local artists to create, perform and to better themselves with his business Building Culture Music Group.

Fairley said he is the founder of Building Culture in partnership with Mediamajorz, VVstudios media and Yurptv252. Fairley collaborates with different venues



Drayvon Fairley

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Senior Javier Renones gears up his forehand during a match earlier in his career at East Carolina.

COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

ECU cuts four sports

Swim and dive, tennis, out amidst struggle

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF



East Carolina University Director of Athletics Jon Gilbert said in a press conference on Thursday that there will be additional moves made in the athletics department in order to cut costs, but no chance of eliminating other sports programs.

“We will maintain the 16 sports to play 1A football. We are going to have to look at additional reductions in our department,” Gilbert said. “Everything is still on the table without going past the 16. I am confident that we’re going to play football in the fall, that we’re going to have students on campus in the fall, but I also know

that if we have to play at a reduced capacity, that there will be additional financial hardships that we will have to address.”

Before the elimination of these programs, ECU led the American Athletic Conference (AAC) in the number of varsity level sports offered with 20 in total. Now, the total stands at 16, with nine women’s sports and seven men’s sports. The NCAA requires D1 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools to sponsor at least 16 sports with eight women’s sports and six men’s sports.

“My view on this matter in general is pretty simple,” ECU Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said. “ECU does not possess

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ONLINE

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SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Umbrella Market opens to the public

Today, the Uptown Greenville Umbrella Market will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. at Five Points Plaza at the corner of 5th and Evans Streets. There will be 18 vendors registered to attend, which include Moores Produce Family Farm, Washington Crab & Seafood Co. and Sunny Day Farms/IBX Soaps. More information can be found on the Uptown Greenville Umbrella Market Facebook page or Uptown Greenville's website. The hours of the market are subject to change.

Freshman enrollment deposit due

On June 1, the deposit to secure enrollment into East Carolina University for the 2020-2021 incoming freshman class is due. In order to do this, students must access their PirateID and their student email. This will give students access to their PiratePort and a checklist that will help guide them through the post-admission process. More information can be found on ECU's website on the undergraduate admissions page.

College of Business to host street clean up

On June 1, East Carolina University's College of Business will host a street clean up from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Jarvis Street. This event is being done through the Adopt A Street program and is a service opportunity for College of Business faculty, staff, students and alumni. More information on this opportunity for service can be found on ECU's website or by contacting Karen Kus.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's Career Center offers students and recent graduates virtual support and resources that will prepare them to enter the work force.

Career Services offers guidance

ECU provides virtual assistance for students and recent graduates

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

While the search for employment may be different for some recent graduates due to COVID-19, East Carolina University Career Services will continue to work virtually to assist both students and recent graduates in resume building, job searching and interview practices.

ECU alumna Amber Lewandowski graduated this spring and said she has only received one interview offer after applying to at least 60 jobs over the past few months.

Lewandowski said she would encourage those who may be graduating in the fall or spring to start applying for jobs a semester before graduation.

"I think just preparation is really important," Lewandowski said. "And also, I only did go to the Career Services once, but I really do think they helped me fix my resume to make it more towards what employers are looking for."

Director of Career Services Thomas Halasz said the department's services are now conducted through a virtual format. He said virtual resume reviews have been offered for years and the transition went well because virtual formats are not entirely new.

Numbers of appointments have been steady, if not more, since the transition to virtual services, according to Halasz. He said after comparing April 2020 with April 2019, he was pleased to see students are continuing to seek assistance while virtual appointments may be more difficult than face-to-face.

"We were quite pleased, you know, recognizing students have some significant difficulties and the challenges of the job market," Halasz said. "We were very pleased to be able

to help students in that way."

Job searches, resume reviews, cover letter assistance and practice interviews are all a part of what Career Services offers virtually, according to Halasz.

Additionally, Halasz said it's important to utilize Handshake, an employment searching platform for students and graduates, because it shows thousands of jobs and internships. He said some opportunities offered through Handshake can be virtual which will allow students to work remotely.

Halasz said Career Services is in the process of developing a virtual job fair. He said the platforms which exist for virtual job fairs



Thomas Halasz

are quite advanced and can be beneficial. "A student would get in line to talk to a recruiter, just as they would at a job fair, but they'd do that virtually," Halasz said.

It is important to remember job searching in a specific field may be different than it was a year ago, according to Halasz. He said it is important for graduates to keep clear, flexible and achievable goals.

Halasz said the continuation of skill development after graduation is important when it comes to competitive job searching, and there's plenty of online resources to help students do that.

"Between networking, narrowing down their target, being flexible and acquiring additional skills, we're confident that students even in a severe downturn like we're experiencing can be successful," Halasz said.

Associate director for Career Services

Patrick Roberts said because some companies may conduct virtual interviews, the interview-stream software Career Services provides is very beneficial. He said it allows students to build an interview based on the questions they think they may be asked and then share the interview with a career counselor.

Roberts said he wants to encourage students to not give up or decrease their job search. He said Handshake shows there are over 800 general positions available in North Carolina.

"Employers are still posting positions, it took a little bit of time for them to adjust to what's going on with COVID, but I think there still was positions available before this happened and there will be positions available after," Roberts said.

Career Services offered a "resume drop" event to seniors from April 8 to May 1 which allowed them to upload their resumes in Handshake to be shared with employers who are currently hiring, according to Roberts. He said nearly 500 seniors participated.

Roberts said virtual workshops were recorded and accessible to students in the past, covering specific topics like resume writing and job searching. He said Career Services plans to host two upcoming workshops, one will be focused on federal government jobs and one will be a series titled "What to do during COVID."

Although a date has not been selected for the workshops, Roberts said when more information becomes available it will be posted on the Career Services website.

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NURSING continued from A1

dents brush up on those critical skills you need to grow as a nurse and become better experienced to enter the field, Davenport said.

"What I missed in my capstone was pulling all four semesters together. I looked at all my notes and it surprised me that there's some stuff I don't know that I should," Davenport said.

Davenport said ECU's CON program is fantastic overall and prepared her to know a lot of stuff other people in other programs don't know. She said during an interview with Duke University, she felt as if she was bragging when discussing the opportunities ECU's program includes.

Rising senior nursing major Rachel Hansel said becoming a nurse had always been something she dreamed of and that the COVID-19 pandemic has made her excited for what's to come in her career.

"I always felt the need to be helping people in some sort of way. It always blew my mind how the body can do

everything it does," Hansel said.

The most rigorous portions of the nursing program are labs and clinicals which are usually in groups of 10 to 12, with the labs being work done on models and clinicals in a hospital setting, according to Hansel.

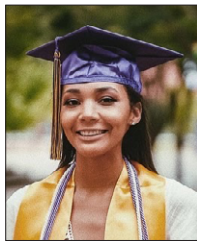
Hansel said she is hopeful to see if nurses get more respect in the medical community after the COVID-19 pandemic. She said safe ratios and prevention of staff burnout should become more of an issue that upper management considers.

There has been no official word from the College of Nursing as to how students will navigate the modified program come the fall semester, according to Hansel.

"This fall will be my second semester in nursing and how that's going to go on a normal basis is two semesters, so my semester is already split like block scheduling," Hansel said.

As of May 20, ECU has not released any further announcements in regards to the 2020 fallsemester. Updates on ECU's upcoming decisions are located on the ECU News Services website.

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Deja Davenport



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU College of Nursing faces possible changes to its program.

FIRST continued from A1

asked if we could do a specific section for first-generation college students just so that I could offer them me as a resource, but also access to all the wonderful resources we have at East Carolina for this population," Campion said.

Approximately 33% of each incoming class consists of first-generation college students, Campion said. In the fall, she said she usually has around 28 to 80 first-generation students taking her special COAD section.

The special section still attends to certain competencies that each COAD class must follow, but Campion said she will try and figure out exactly what the students need and try to help them gain a better footing at ECU.

"They don't have what we call social or cultural capital," Campion said. "They don't have those two things. Research shows that they're going to come in and have a more difficult time of remaining in college and finishing just because of

this, they don't know how to do some things."

Campion said that she tries to focus on networking for first generation students so that they will have a support network to help them figure out certain aspects of college life, such as writing an essay or knowing if or when to drop a class.



Zechariah Felton

Co-president of "I'm the First," Zechariah Felton, who is also a senior health service administration and information management double major, said at meetings held by the group there are usually speakers who share their experiences being first-generation students themselves.

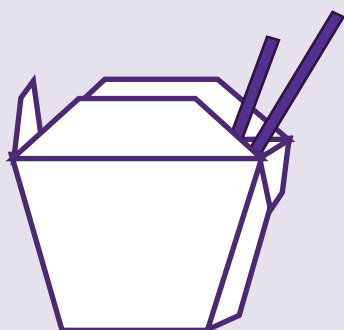
"We like having people that are alumni, not just alumni, but faculty from ECU that are first-generals because then members can see that sometimes it can be hard being the first in the family, but there's light at the end of the tunnel, especially if we all work together," Felton said.

"I'm the First" members volunteer to help with events around campus like Storm the Stadium, Felton said. He said the organization additionally goes to local high schools in order to talk to seniors, rising first-generation students, who may need help with tasks such as filling out FAFSA forms.

"I'm the First" offers a mentoring program between upperclassmen and freshmen in order to build a support group between students who are going through similar experiences, Felton said. He said he believes it's critical for first-generation students to have a support network when coming to college.

"It's especially critical in that first semester because usually how you start your first semester freshman year can be a tone setter, and we want to be the ones to be an outreach group for them and be like a support system because we don't want them to think that they have to go about it alone and we don't want anyone to fall through the cracks," Felton said.

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RESTAURANTS OPEN FOR DINE-IN UNDER PHASE 2

Sup Dogs

213 E 5th St.
Open Sunday through Wednesday
11 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.
Open Thursday through Saturday
11 a.m. to 3 a.m.
252-752-7682
Requires reservation

Chicos

501 Cotanche St.
Open Monday through Sunday
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
252-757-1666

Cucina LaMantia

3700 S Memorial Dr.
Open Tuesday through Saturday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
252-242-2525
Requires reservation

Jack Browns

805 Dickinson Ave
Open Monday through Thursday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Open Friday through Sunday
11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
252-689-6827

AJ McMurphy's

1914 Turnbury Dr.
Open Monday through Sunday
11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.
252-355-7956

Tiebreakers

1920 Smythewyck Dr.
Open Monday through Sunday
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
252-439-0555

Angus Grill

201 S Jarvis St.
Open Sunday through Thursday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Open Friday and Saturday
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
252-689-6460

LongHorn Steakhouse

520 Greenville Blvd. SE
Open Monday through Thursday
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Open Friday through Sunday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
252-830-6100



The Greenville Museum of Art, located at 802 Evans St., has remained closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as the staff continues to plan for the future. MICHEALA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

GMOA stays busy during pandemic

Museum plans virtual fundraisers and continues online education

Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

The Greenville Museum of Art (GMOA) remains busy amid the COVID-19 pandemic as it plans virtual fundraisers, performs housekeeping in the museum to prepare for future exhibitions and hosts online instructions sent out to the students in the museum's educational program.

Trista Reis Porter, the executive director at the GMOA, said the museum, which would usually be preparing for its annual "Summer Shindig" event in June, has been holding several smaller virtual fundraisers to keep the community engaged.

"We (GMOA) had a print sale fundraiser that brought in a little bit of revenue. We also are planning our Golden Jackpot raffle which we kind of started now and we will be holding the drawing the same day we would have been holding the Summer Shindig. That allows us to still do some fundraising even without having to have a physical fundraiser event," Porter said.

The GMOA's Golden Jackpot raffle is usually held at the end of July and beginning of August, but the museum decided to host the fundraiser earlier so it could hopefully host the Summer Shindig later in the summer, according to Porter.

The raffle is held to raise money for the museum, Porter said, and the winners can win a large cash prize as well as smaller prizes, such as a museum membership and prints. She said the museum received \$15,000 last year and hopes to meet that goal again this year.

"We are selling tickets for \$50 each, and it enters you for a chance to win 1/3 of the pot. We did raise \$15,000 last year, so the winner got \$5,000. We're doing some other prizes as well like rentals of the museum and home prints from our print sale that we're doing. I think we are going to

give away a museum membership as well which includes access to museums around the country," Porter said.

Along with planning fundraisers, Porter said she and Sim Asher, the communications and event coordinator at the GMOA, have worked on housekeeping maintenance around the museum, such as painting, preparing for an upcoming exhibition and doing needed repairs that they usually wouldn't have time to take care of.

The museum's art education classes are continuing with online instruction, according to Porter. She said one of the museum's art instructors, Debbie Huggins, has sent art assignments to her students in the program online.

"The students usually take art classes with one of our instructors at the museum. So, instead of doing that, the students have been taking virtual classes, assignments are sent out each week. She's (Huggins) has been one of the other people that has been involved in doing stuff with the museum," Porter said.

Huggins said she teaches fifth through eighth grade students from around Pitt County who were selected by their art teachers from their respective schools to participate in the museum's program.

Instruction usually happens in person at the education center next to the museum, Huggins said. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the instruction has been happening through weekly assignments Huggins sends to her students and occasional Zoom calls to touch base with her students. She said that she also will sometimes include a photograph to help give her student an

idea of what they can do.

"I try to underline something that is from the art curriculum that is a legitimate concept. We really want it to have an academic spin, but we also want them to enjoy what they're doing," Huggins said.

Although Zoom classes may be in a different format than what the GMOA usually provides, Huggins said she is adjusting to the online instruction and tries to find online material that teaches students art concepts, but also helps them decompress. She said she tries to come up with assignments that her students can complete with materials from home.

Huggins said she listens to the feedback she gets from her students on the assignments she gives them and uses the feedback to decide which assignments to assign in the future. The assignments, however, are not required by Huggins. She said she doesn't want to overwhelm her students who are also completing online assignments for their schools.

"Some of the things I'm providing as suggested activities are things that I think would make them laugh and have fun and take a little pressure off. These are really creative kids that like to draw and like to make art on their own anyways. The assignments that I suggest are a little more concept driven," Huggins said.

According to Huggins she looks forward to the return of regular instruction as she can utilize the GMOA and bring her students to the museum to observe the art.

More information on the GMOA and its plans during and after quarantine, can be found on its Facebook, Instagram or website.

This writer can be contacted at
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Trista Reis Porter

TV REVIEW

'Black-ish' tackles important issues



Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

The sixth season of "Black-ish" finale aired on May 5 and did not disappoint as the show continues to tackle current issues and topics in black culture and universal family issues.

There are not a lot of shows on television today or ever that have represented the black culture and the black experience in a sophisticated way like "Black-ish" has done. African American children can look up to the characters on the show and see themselves and their issues discussed. African Americans can enjoy a show that caters to them and not have their stories told from the outside looking in.

"Black-ish" is an intentionally socially conscious sitcom about an African American upper middle class family in the suburbs. The show explores balancing the African American experience with a suburban lifestyle of an African American family.

Father Andre "Dre" Johnson (Anthony Anderson) is the vice president at an advertising agency and is married to Rainbow Johnson (Tracee Ellis Ross), an anesthesiologist, and their five children: oldest Andre Johnson Jr. (Marcus Scribner), Zoey Johnson (Yara Shahidi), twins Jack Johnson (Miles Brown) and Diane Johnson (Marsai Martin) and their youngest Devante Johnson (August/Berlin Gross).

The main plot of the sitcom surrounds Dre questioning if his family is living the black experience all while living in the suburbs.

Dre was raised in the hood of Compton, California and did not have the life he worked hard for in order to provide a better life for his family. As portrayed in the show, he is happy with his life but he wants to include black culture in his children's upbringing.

His mother Ruby (Jennifer Lewis) is Christian and pro-black. His father Pops (Lawrence Fishburne) was in and out of his life. With them on the sitcom, their views and perspectives show how Dre was raised and what values they instilled in him. Dre's wife Rainbow was raised on a cultish commune growing up. She is liberal and has very different opinions about life and social issues from Dre and his parents.

Throughout the seasons of the show, the writers utilize the scenes when Dre is at work with his colleagues discussing whatever is going on at home or in society. The writers have used Dre's colleagues to show different perspectives on social and family issues.

The show is a family show because in this season, the show explored universal family issues like parents trying to stay connected to their teenagers and the journey of figuring out life after graduating high school.

Throughout the sixth season, Junior struggles to take care of himself because he chose not to



'Black-ish' actors Anthony Anderson and Alvin Stewart. CONTRIBUTED BY TRIBUNE

go to college. Episode 11 titled "Hair Day" gave viewers insight on different black hair textures and styles, hair care and most importantly self love. The episode showed black girls and women that it did not matter what style they wore their hair but that it was healthy. In episode 22 titled "... Baby One More Time," the show explores single parent adoption through Dre's lesbian sister Rhonda (Raven Symone).

RATING:



5 out of 5

This writer can be contacted at
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ARTIST continued from A1

to hold the events for artists.

Other artists are given places to perform, create and provide private artist development events where artists go to have fun and improve their craft, according to Fairley.

"Building Culture is basically me attempting to bring a solid music culture to Greenville, NC (North Carolina), because it has the potential to be a music capital," Fairley said.

Fairley has collaborated and performed with rappers such as Houston rapper Mike Jones; local artists like singer, songwriter and director Xavier Brodie known as Xbrodie;

Zaheem Winstead known as Zeemo; artist Slade the Supreme; SunnyDaMan; CoolBroJo; JermOnTheKeys and more.

Mark Machizzaga, a DJ at Stilllife and an ECU graduate student studying economics, said he met Fairley through Instagram when Fairley reached out to work on music together. Machizzaga said they have been "brothers" ever since.

"To tie him (Fairley) to one genre is impossible. The man is always bouncing on different type of genres," Machizzaga said.

DJ Snyder, also known as Snyder Musik, is a DJ and music producer who has worked with Fairley in the past and said he appreciates Fairley's work and creativity.

"Dre is extremely talented and has an ear for all music. It's uncommon, most artists gravitate toward one thing but if you go through what Dre is working on he is constantly challenging himself and pushing into different genres which is one of my favorite aspects of his artistry," Snyder said.

Bryanna Pearson, Fairley's sister, describes his music as "authentic, realistic, relatable, and powerful."

"Every song displays a message. All of that mashed with a great beat and catchy lyrics makes him one of my favorite artist," Pearson said.

Fairley's music is available on Spotify, AppleMusic, Tidal, GooglePlay, Amazon Music and Deezer.

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OUR VIEW

ECU's block schedule decision was too soon

East Carolina University recently announced that it would change to an eight-week block schedule for the 2020-2021 school year in response to COVID-19. The new schedule will split students' schedules in half. The first half of the classes will be in the first eight weeks while the second half will be in the second eight-week block.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that this decision was made too early in the quickly changing scenario that is COVID-19. In addition to this, short session classes put additional stress on students, faculty and staff.

A regular session class typically lasts 16-weeks or the length of a semester. Professors are not used to having to condense 16-weeks worth of class content into an eight-week period. This change shortens the number of time students have to completely learn the material and prepare for exams, papers and quizzes that they normally have weeks to do.

If the beginning of the fall semester is postponed or if students are required to back off-campus midway through the semester, the block schedule will help to avoid restarting the semester.

However, students, parents, faculty and staff have begun to voice health concerns about being back in classrooms and dorms in such close proximity with so many people. The current environment is rapidly changing but it's difficult to tell if the situation will continue to improve or decline again.

It would have been more beneficial for ECU to provide a more flexible plan that can remain fluid moving through the summer rather than the seemingly concrete plan.

While we are certainly eager for the ECU community to move back to normal on campus, we would much rather have everyone online and safe than risking their health on campus.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEADER



It's time to reflect together

COVID-19 helps people see the importance of life



Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

In recent times, the internet seems to be the only place to derive information from. Textbooks are a thing of the past and word of mouth has been replaced with text messages. Got a question? Ask Google. Want to

know the weather? Ask Alexa. The internet assists us every day but has hindered our ability to connect in real life.

I can't remember the last time I walked down a sidewalk without seeing eyeballs glued to phone screens. I think it's time to slow down, share the sidewalk and put the cell phones away. Our world moves a mile a minute and no one can seem to catch their breath.

With our world in a current state of crisis, now more than ever, is a test of humanity. The COVID-19 pandemic swept our world by storm unannounced with no intention of packing up any time soon. It's time to focus on the basics: our family, friends and the world we live in. Let's

take the time to call our loved ones and send handwritten letters.

The coronavirus pandemic has instilled a factor of fear in all of us, and some of us are alone throughout this process. Maybe it's your neighbor or the woman trailing four kids behind her into the grocery store. The elderly are on strict quarantine and weddings are happening via Facebook live stream. Whatever the case may be during tough times, people come together and the world needs more of that.

We are captive to the internet with COVID-19 being a warranted time for virtual interaction with the outside world. But let's not lose sight of what's important about social distancing: staying social. To our advantage, social media has provided a blissful distraction from the outpouring of daily coronavirus related news, which is essential and important to stay informed during this time.

Platforms such as Netflix and Hulu have turned our homes into five-star cinemas making every night movie night. Video chatting software programs have saved universities and schools across the United States

which has allowed continued education. The internet has given us the ability to communicate with our family and friends during this time, but we must not forget about the importance of human touch.

It's that powerful sense of being and connectivity that sometimes gets lost in our fast-paced world. Text messages shape what we want to say while taking away the emotion behind words. For some people, all it takes is hearing another person's voice to feel connected again.

From a realistic standpoint, there is no promise of tomorrow and all it takes is today to remember the comfort of our feet on the ground. The coronavirus pandemic has taken away the normality of life, but it cannot take away the power of humanity. I encourage you to reach out to your loved ones and wish good on those you miss all while slowing down time just a bit.

Cayla Menges is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Quarantine builds character development

Williams' World



Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

After two months of being self-quarantined due to COVID-19, I have learned a lot about myself and became a lot more aware of the things that have been going on around me. I've developed a lot of

new hobbies to keep me distracted and also built a stronger relationship with my friends and family. Now that Phase 2 of the Stay-At-Home Order has been in effect since last Friday, I decided to reflect on the things I've learned and experienced during my months of quarantine.

The first thing I told myself at the beginning of quarantine was to be more productive. I had a wonderful idea to start waking up at 8 a.m. every day to be a productive young adult by working out, sending emails for work, getting schoolwork done and many other tasks that I wanted to complete. That eventually turned into me waking up early to grab a cup of coffee, scrolling through social media and not starting anything until after 1 p.m. halfway through April.

It was during that time when I realized social media is not the most comforting place in the world. During the beginning of quarantine, I was on social media a lot more to fill the void of my lack of human interaction, but I realize how social media does not hold much value to me as it used to.

" Now that Phase 2 of the Stay-At-Home Order is effective since last Friday, I decided to reflect on the things I've learned and experienced during my months of quarantine. "

I began to take short breaks from the internet which caused me to be away from my phone for long periods of time.

This kind of backfired because I realized I was forgetting to respond to important text messages and emails while ignoring countless FaceTime calls from my sister. I've always been horrible at responding to people because of my lack of interest in being on my phone. Therefore, quarantine taught me to not depend so much on my phone as the only source of entertainment and to appreciate other things outside of technology.

I began to appreciate the things around me like the people in my life. As an introvert, I value being alone and being at peace with myself, but I slowly began to develop a closer relationship with my family, friends and coworkers, which I'm not used to whatsoever. It's a foreign concept for me to open up to people, but I was able to connect with the people in my life a lot more. Their company kept me very grounded during the situation because we were able to relate to the stress and boredom

quarantine has brought to all of us.

I also began to appreciate books a lot more. Due to classes and work, I never had the time to sit down and enjoy a good book but being quarantined did help me get back into that interest. Since the beginning of quarantine, I've managed to read three books so far. Two of them were required for me to read for my anthropology class. Being able to escape the current problems and dive into a fictional setting puts me at ease and helps me destress from life.

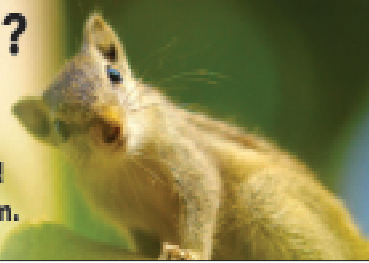
There are other moments that can be highlighted to summarize my quarantine experience but overall, it has benefited me a lot mentally and physically. I guess you can say it kind of helped with my character development. I know a lot of people may not have a similar quarantine experience, but I hope they were able to learn maybe a thing or two during the experience.

Giana Williams is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19)
-- Today is a 7
-- Advance to the next level with your favorite game, talents and skills. Practice your arts and work your magic. Relax with people you love.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
-- Today is a 9
-- You're especially charming. Energize a personal initiative. Self-discipline is required. You're gaining points with someone you admire. Use your power and confidence for good.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
-- Today is an 8
-- Anticipate changes with your studies and education. Explore your subject from a new angle. Academic investigations could seem chaotic or confusing. Patiently persist. Messes are OK.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
-- Today is a 7 -- Home could seem both confining and safe. Nurture family through challenging times. Try new recipes or revert to family favorites. Improve your living conditions.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
-- Today is an 8 -- Changes occur at the top. Patiently wait for developments. Lay low to nurture energy. Rest and meditate to relax and reduce stress. Notice intuition and dreams.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
-- Today is a 7 -- Put in extra work to keep income flowing to shared accounts. Monitor resources and negotiate for what's needed. Get advice but make your own decisions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
-- Today is an 8 -- Write your story. Develop concepts, timelines and outlines. Strengthen structures and foundational elements. Get feedback from trusted allies. Creativity flowers in new directions.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
-- Today is an 8 -- Participate with teams, groups and community efforts. Contribute to a larger cause for satisfaction. You can learn what you need to know. Make an important connection.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
-- Today is a 7 -- The person yelling loudest isn't necessarily right. Have patience with partners and colleagues. It's not a good time for gambling. Stick with tested techniques.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
-- Today is a 9 -- Estimate expenses and potential sales. You're creative and efficient. Set a juicy goal and go for it. Wheel and deal. Network and connect.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
-- Today is an 8 -- Adapt to a changing industry or professional market. Reach out to your connections and listen for what's wanted and needed. Adjust targets and modify to suit.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
-- Today is an 8 -- Adapt and maintain physical routines and practices. Take extra care with sharp objects. Slow around tight corners. You can work out a puzzle.

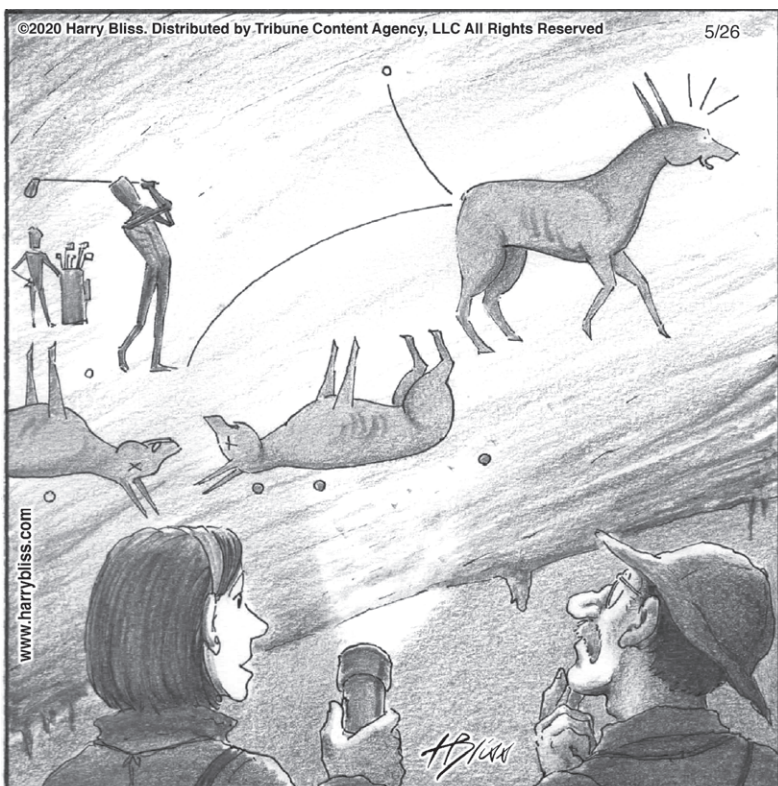
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



BLISS

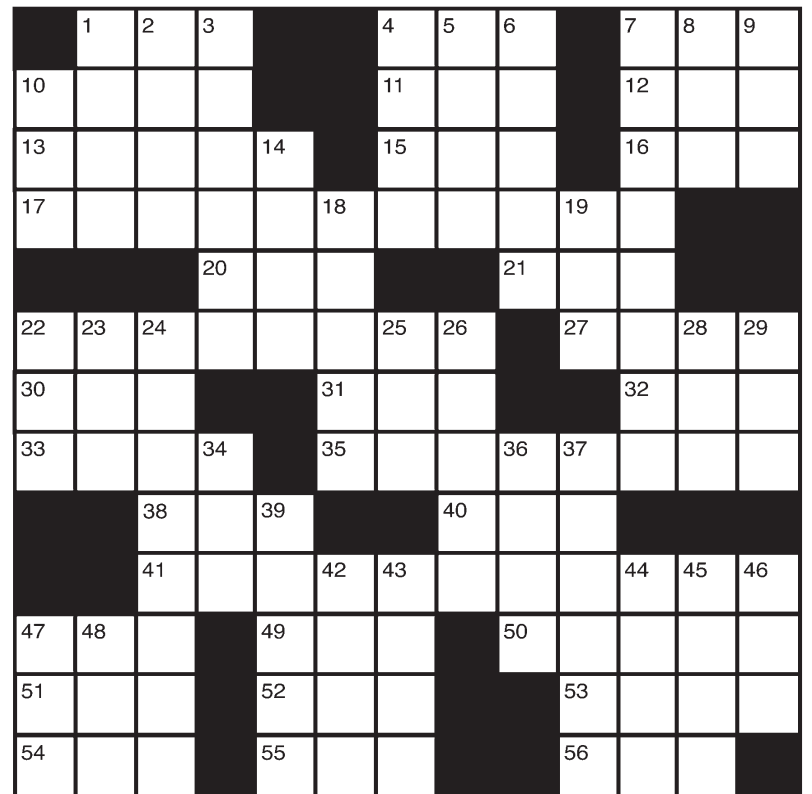


"Professor, this changes everything."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



ACROSS

- 1 "___ and Stacey"
- 4 Hanks or Cruise
- 7 Freddie the Freeloader, for one
- 10 Oz visitor
- 11 Aetna or Kaiser, for short
- 12 "___ was saying..."
- 13 Actor Florek and his namesakes
- 15 Crew member's item
- 16 "Breaking ___"; hit AMC series
- 17 Role on "The Good Doctor"
- 20 Classic Father's Day gift
- 21 EFG followers
- 22 Herman, Lily and Eddie
- 27 "Hachi: A Dog's ___"; Gere movie
- 30 "___ Tree Hill"
- 31 Brian of "Chicago Med"
- 32 "___-Stop"; Liam Neeson thriller
- 33 "White House ___"; film for Channing Tatum and Jamie Foxx
- 35 Role in "Gone with the Wind"
- 38 "Are We There ___?"; film for Ice Cube
- 40 Peeples or Long
- 41 "CBS ___ with Jeff Glor"
- 47 Actress Thompson

DOWN

- 1 Actor Wyle
- 2 Explosive mount
- 3 "Superior ___"
- 4 "O Brother, Where Art ___?"; George Clooney movie
- 5 Sharif or Epps
- 6 Become something else
- 7 "What Ever Happened to ___?"
- 8 Nation with the highest GNP
- 9 Prefix for night or wife
- 10 Six-pointers, for short
- 14 In a ___; miffed
- 18 "Boy ___ World"
- 19 "Your ___ Parade"
- 22 "The ___ Squad"
- 23 Candy bar name
- 24 "___ Eve"; movie for Halle Berry, Robert De Niro & other big stars
- 25 ___ room; place for a pool table
- 26 Actor ___ William Scott
- 28 "A ___ Like Love"; Amanda Peet film
- 29 Suffix for differ or exist
- 34 Setting for "Bonanza": abbr.
- 36 Actress Diana
- 37 Open-sided verandas
- 39 Garr and Hatcher
- 42 How many Emmys "Zoo" won
- 43 "The Big ___ with Donny Deutsch"
- 44 Lioness in "Born Free"
- 45 Cry
- 46 180 degrees from NNW
- 47 Actress Myrna ___
- 48 Special order shoe width

Solution from 5/18

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O	N	T		O	P	R	A	H		L	I	D
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N	Y	E		A	B	E	T	S		E	R	A

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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, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 5/18

		5			2			
9				5				6
8	6					7		
	8	4	3	6				
				2	7	5	8	
4	7					9		3
			4					2
			7		5	1		

2	3	5	6	7	8	4	1	9
9	6	8	1	2	4	3	5	7
1	4	7	5	9	3	8	2	6
7	9	1	2	8	5	6	4	3
8	2	6	4	3	7	5	9	1
4	5	3	9	1	6	2	7	8
3	1	9	8	5	2	7	6	4
5	8	4	7	6	9	1	3	2
6	7	2	3	4	1	9	8	5

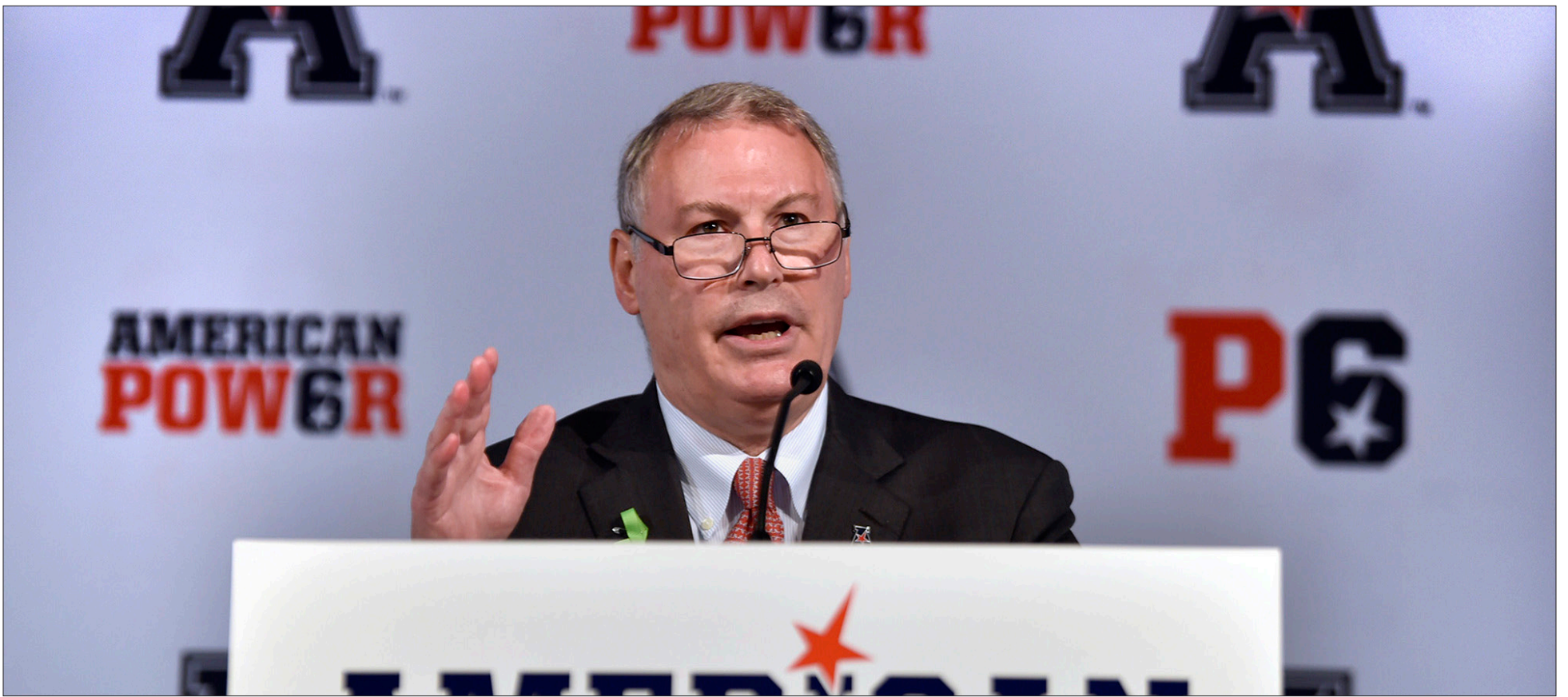
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American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco responds to questions from members of the media at a press conference in Newport, Rhode Island for AAC's media day on July 16, 2019.

AAC forms new advisory group

Medical representatives from all 12 institutions to provide guidance

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

The first steps toward sports returning to college campuses have been taken. On Friday, the NCAA's Division I council approved a measure that allows student-athletes in all sports to participate in voluntary athletic activities on campus beginning June 1.

Schools, however, are still prohibited from "countable required athletics activities" through June 30, according to a release by the NCAA. Nevertheless, this step may help pave the way for fall sports, namely football, to begin on time.

With the announcement by the Division I Council, the American Athletic Conference (AAC) announced the formation of a Medical Advisory Group. Its task is to answer many questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic that separated student-athletes from on-campus activities, according to Commissioner Mike Aresco.

"We decided now that we were getting closer to when we would need to promulgate various guidelines for the reopening of our campuses to athletes -- as you know that could begin in June -- we felt that it would be very important to develop our own protocols," Aresco said.

The group consists of 12 members, one from each AAC member institution and chaired by Dr. Greg Stewart from Tulane University, and meets weekly. The docket, according to Aresco, revolves around everything from testing of student-athletes and support staff to travel protocols

and who will be allowed in stadiums before and during games and workouts.

"We're using the best information we can get, but yes we're on a tight timeline," Aresco said. "Starting June 1, some of our campuses will have student-athletes return for voluntary workouts. We're going to want these protocols in place so that people know what they need to do."

While other conferences have set a date for schools to allow student-athletes to return, Aresco said the AAC is taking a more liberal approach. It will allow members to open their campuses whenever they see fit within NCAA guidelines as long as certain protocols are in place.

Many of those protocols are ones that are already widely in affect, including social distancing, the number of people allowed to a confined space at one time and a slew of other things.

According to Aresco, schools in the AAC will police themselves when it comes to these practices, but that does not mean the conference will be totally hands off.

"I think every school will have a certain level of discretion, but there are going to be minimum standards that we're going to insist on at the conference level," Aresco said. "This group is developing those. There will be things that certain schools will probably do differently and if schools

want to exceed the guidelines, they're perfectly free to do that."

In the United States, more than 13 million tests have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with a little more than 1.7 million coming back positive. For the AAC, Aresco said testing will be the biggest key in order for campuses to open back up.

"I think the biggest hurdle is testing," Aresco said. "Health and safety are the primary considerations. You want to make sure you have the safest environment possible. Nothing is going to be 100%, nothing in life we do is 100%. We drive knowing that there could be an accident. We do all sorts of things that involve some risk, but we want to minimize it and eliminate it if we can."

Testing comes with its own bundle of questions. Aresco said knowing when to test, how many times per week to test and what to do when or if someone tests positive are among the biggest questions the group is working toward figuring out.

Aresco said he believes the availability of testing will not be a factor for the conference and the advisory group is working with labs around the country to find the best testing available.

"They (the members of the group) comment on the latest trends that they have noticed in their worlds," Aresco said. "We have access to great medical centers and labs, so we're getting the latest information on testing and what the protocols are and what the most effective tests

are and availability?"

East Carolina University is represented by Dr. Joseph Armen, the head team physician for the campus athletics program. He wrote in an email, "the protocols recommended will also take into consideration federal, state and local recommendations where appropriate."



Joseph Armen

Under North Carolina's Phase 2 reopening plan that went into effect on Friday at 5 p.m., restaurants and retail establishments are allowed to open at 50% capacity. Limits of 10 people on indoor gatherings and 25-person limits on outdoor gatherings are still in place, according to nc.gov.

At the time of publication, no announcement had been made about ECU's plan to reopen campus to student-athletes. Under the NCAA's guidelines on the matter, those living near their school's campus would be the easiest to return to on-campus activities.

Aresco said there are many questions to be answered before activities can become mandatory and before fall sports can begin in earnest. He said the advisory group is circulating documents and protocols that are not quite ready to be rolled out yet and that things are still a work in progress.

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

Athletes given honors

Joshua Nelms
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's golf and women's cross country teams were both honored with Public Recognition Awards by the NCAA and gained recognition for their latest multi-year academic progress rate, which each team ranked in the top 10% of all teams in its sport. In the 2018-2019 academic year both squads had a perfect score of 1,000.

ECU cross country head coach Josey Weaver is serving his fourth year as head coach and is very proud of how his team has performed in the classroom.

"Success is not just on the track, but also in the classroom; they go hand in hand," Weaver said. "They are definitely setting the bar high, and making it hard for the next squads to top what they have done."

Coach Weaver discussed that the coaching staff takes pride in their teams' grades and when recruiting they always make asking about the athlete's grades a top priority.

Weaver left some specific advice for incoming freshman student athletes, explaining that college can be a fresh start for your grades and even going as far to say that there is no shame in seeking help from tutors.

"To succeed at this level you need your academics in order," Weaver said. "Tutors get a bad rep but their job is to help students do well, tutors are here to help students learn so that they can turn Bs into As."

As for women's golf, led by head coach CC Buford, the award marks the women's golf team's fifth straight and sixth total time being recognized. The Pirate golfers managed to post a 3.85 team GPA for the spring semester.

Women's cross country posted a team GPA



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

ECU women's cross country in full stride.

of 3.78 for the spring semester while women's golf posted a 3.85 GPA. The ECU athletic twitter page tweeted that as a whole, ECU student athletes posted three all-time highs in spring semester GPA with a 3.30, spring cumulative GPA with a 3.22 and the 2019-2020 annual GPA with a 3.21.

Beyond the scope of teams that were recognized by the NCAA, the ECU women's soccer team posted its highest team GPA in program history with a 3.55 GPA for the spring semester and a 3.52 for the academic year.

The Pirate baseball team also managed a solid semester in the classroom as they too posted the highest semester team GPA in program history with a 3.61 for the spring semester. Junior pitcher and first baseman Alec Burleson could be attributed with some of the credit that goes along with the squad's academic successes as Burleson himself has proven to be quite the scholar.

Burleson was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District 3 First Team for the second year in a row on May 14 and was also named a Third Team Academic All-American for his efforts in the classroom. Burleson boasts a 3.93 cumulative GPA as a business major.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic managed to knock the spring semester of schooling and athletics alike out of shape, a number of East Carolina's student athletes managed to keep performance up in the classrooms.

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

CUTS continued from A1

adequate financial resources to host 20 sports programs successfully. It is as simple as that. I am confident that this painful adjustment, along with other adjustments proposed, positions us more strongly to successfully move forward with the remaining 16 sports."

With no specifics given, the ECU athletics department announced "additional measures" will be taken to save about \$4.9 million, according to ECUPIrates.com.

"The decision to eliminate four sports programs today goes against everything that I believe in and was taught in collegiate athletics," Gilbert said. "I was extremely disappointed to deliver this news today to our 68 student athletes that are affected. It was difficult because I had to do it behind a computer screen, and I couldn't be in the room with them. I couldn't feel what they were feeling."

The decision will also affect nine coaches and several new athletes who intended on participating in the upcoming season. Gilbert made it clear that



Jon Gilbert

the athletics department at ECU will continue to acknowledge scholarships if athletes decide to finish their degree at the university in four years. He said in order for the scholarships to remain effective, student-athletes must continue to follow NCAA and ECU athletic policies.

One of the coaches affected by the decision is ECU women's tennis head coach Kirstin Burgess. A four-year letterwinner for the Pirates' women's tennis program from 2003-2006, now head coach.

"For 18 years, Greenville and ECU have been my home," Burgess said. "Everything I am and everything I have is because of my parents and because I decided to become a Pirate tennis player in 2002."

Unfortunately, for Burgess and the 10 members of the ECU women's tennis program,

they must now seek other opportunities. One of those 10 Pirate women's tennis players is junior marketing major Victoria Dixon.

"My options are very limited since I'm an upperclassman," Dixon said. "Transferring my classes will be very difficult and matching up the majors. Then I'll be in my senior year, it's just kind of a bad situation."

2020 National Letter-of-Intent signees will continue to receive applicable scholarships if they decide to remain at ECU according to Gilbert on Thursday. The athletics department will allow athletes to look for opportunities at other universities if they choose to. According to NCAA rules, student-athletes are allowed to transfer schools with immediate eligibility once their university discontinues a sport.

"We are honoring every scholarship that we have with every student-athlete," Gilbert said. "Any student-athlete that is on current aid will continue aid for that four-year period so that they can graduate. For the NLI student-athletes, we will also honor that aid and we'll see how many student-athletes choose to return or go to other institutions to compete."

According to Gilbert, football, men's basketball and women's basketball were not considered due to ECU's contract with ESPN.

Concerning future effects of the pandemic, there are several dates up for consideration for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. In addition to the block scheduling that has been adopted by several universities, Mitchelson confirmed that there are more plans in line to keep students and staff safe for the upcoming year.

An attempt to reach ECU swimming and diving head coach Matthew Jabs was made on the day of the announcement on May 21, but was unsuccessful.

"Given the sensitivity of the decisions, coaches are not available at this time," swimming and diving sports information director Jody Jones said.

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