



The East Carolinian

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ECU receives diversity award for ninth year

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

For the ninth consecutive year, East Carolina University has been recognized for its commitment to diversity and inclusion as it receives the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, awarded by *INSIGHT into Diversity* magazine.

The HEED Award is awarded to recognize colleges and universities that demonstrate commitment to diversity and inclusion. Applications are comprehensive and of the goals of the application process is to help higher education institutions assess their diversity efforts to build and improve in needed areas, according to the *INSIGHT into Diversity* website.

INSIGHT into Diversity Co-Publisher Holly Mendelson said award winners depend on the diversity and inclusion efforts across the campuses of those that apply. She said questions change every year and are dependent on several factors.



Holly Mendelson

"We really update the questions every year that we ask based on what we're learning from the schools, what we see going on, what's happening in the country and things that we think are important and should be, you know, top of mind for school," Mendelson said.

Some of the questions focus on recruitment and retention of both employees and students, diversity and inclusion within the curriculum, accommodations for veterans, accommodations for those with disabilities and what the atmosphere is like for the LGBTQ community, according to Mendelson.

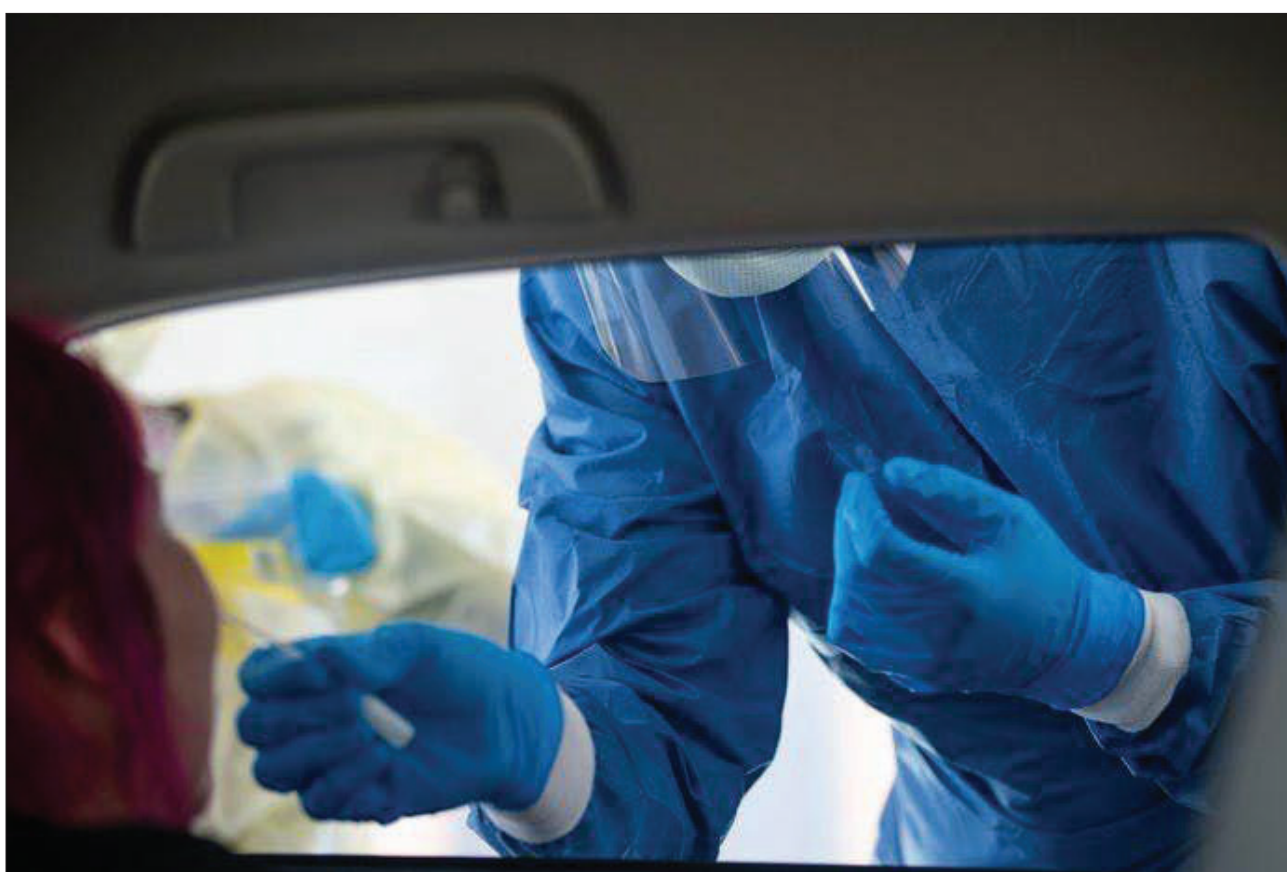
ECU's Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) Associate Provost LaKesha Forbes said OED has worked hard to be able to compile all of the efforts and programs across ECU's campus in an effort to complete one application that tells a story on the efforts of diversity and inclusion.

Forbes said the OED realizes in this period of heightened racial equity and equality awareness that there is a lot to do.

"There are still some things that we need to work on," Forbes said. "So we'll be very focused on that in the coming, in the coming year as we have in the past."

To put those intentional efforts in place, to build a more inclusive campus environment and to work

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Large-scale testing initiatives have been implemented throughout Pitt County since the virus first came to the United States in February.

Local cases trend downward

Pitt County sees decrease in COVID-19 positives

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

Pitt County has continued to see a decrease in COVID-19 cases as this week marks 27 weeks since the first coronavirus case reported in the county.

Public Health Director of the Pitt County Public Health Department John Silvernail said the recovered case numbers continue to grow and the total fatality for Pitt County sits at 27% as of date of publication. He said 56% of COVID-19 fatalities are among the 75-and-over age group which make up 4% of total case numbers.

The 18 to 24 age group now holds 39% of total COVID-19 cases in Pitt County, according to Silvernail. He said the reopening of East Carolina University in August played a factor in the rise of numbers among the age group.

"The thing we struggle with in any public health threat is perceived risk," Silvernail said. "I think many

folks within that age group perceive the risk of this infection to be very, very low and may not be as careful in protecting themselves against it."

Prior to the university's reopening, the primary age bracket for COVID-19 cases was 25 to 49 year olds, Silvernail said. He said the higher age groups do not have a larger percentage of cases due to factors such as their circulation in the community and protection against COVID-19 early on.

The vast majority of public health data is based on county residents, and ECU has included its case numbers in Pitt County's total numbers, according to Silvernail. He said ECU has its own database for coronavirus cases among students, faculty and staff.

In terms of COVID-19 waves, Silvernail said he is unaware of any new waves of the virus as he believes we are not out of the first wave yet. He said COVID-19 seems to be part of our environment as it does not fret the weather and thrives in groups.

"We're not there yet. We're still in the mode where most people haven't come into contact with it," Silvernail said. "We may very well have another bubble."

As state trends may be down, Silvernail said individuals should continue

to practice precautions, to distance six feet, wear facial coverings and wash hands. He said as the holiday season approaches, it is important to promote safe environments and discourage gatherings.

Silvernail said Influenza is here and he encourages individuals to get a flu vaccine. He said while the symptoms of COVID-19 and the flu are similar, the vaccine could eliminate any confusion.

Silvernail said a COVID-19 vaccine may be available as early as next

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Football returns

ECU to open 2020 season with UCF game

Stryker Stubbs
TEC STAFF

Stephen Babich
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



Head East Carolina University Football Coach Mike Houston and the Pirate football team will face-off against the University of Central Florida (UCF) for its season opener on Saturday, after the game was postponed due to concerns around COVID-19.

The UCF Knights are currently ranked the number 13 team in the entire nation this year after already playing two opponents this season.

In 2019, the UCF Knights defeated ECU in Orlando, Florida by a score of 41 to 28. This continued a four-year streak where the Pirates have fallen in defeat to the Knights.

The game between the ECU Pirates and UCF Knights is scheduled to have the kickoff being at noon, and will be aired on ESPN+. The game will also be live streamed on ECUPIRATES.com and on ABC.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still

placing an impact on athletics, ECU's Head Coach Mike Houston issued a statement regarding the virus during a press conference on Sept. 17.



Mike Houston

In the 2019 matchup, the Pirates gave up a total of 35 points, in just the first half of play. ECU attempted a comeback, but fell short even after scoring 22 points in the second half.

ECU football ended its season with only four wins in 2019. UCF on the other hand, finished with nine wins and three losses, plus a bowl game win against Marshall University.

The quarterback matchup between ECU's junior quarterback Holton Ahlers and

"We have a pretty good idea, pregame warmup will be kind of the same, and we'll be able to dress a few more kids at home than we would be able to on the road," Houston said.

"The thing we struggle with in any public health threat is perceived risk," Silvernail said. "I think many

folks within that age group perceive the risk of this infection to be very, very low and may not be as careful in protecting themselves against it."

He said COVID-19 seems to be part of our environment as it does not fret the weather and thrives in groups.

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THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Brews at Pitt Street Brewing Company, which will be hosting its third annual Oktoberfest on Sunday.

Oktoberfest to arrive

Neha Makanangot
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Macie Tano
TEC STAFF



For the past two years, Pitt Street Brewing Company has held its annual Oktoberfest celebration, and plans to host the third one on Sept. 26 from Noon to 11 p.m. as it will follow the appropriate health guidelines due to COVID-19.

During the event, festival goers will have the opportunity to try traditional German food and also listen to music from The Monterio Experience from 7 to 10 p.m., according to the event's Facebook page.

Brianna Long, Pitt Street's current general manager, said she has been heavily involved with the planning and organization of this year's Oktoberfest. She said the event will be different this year than the previous two

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ONLINE

»NEWS: Hispanic Heritage Month recognized by ECU

»Check out our website for articles, photo galleries and more

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

Citizen U to host discussion on elections

Today, The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement will host a virtual discussion facilitated by Dave Davis, director of the Pitt County Board of Elections. The discussion will be held today from 4 to 5 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. More information can be found on its Engage page.

Virtual Involvement Fair to be held virtually

Today, East Carolina University's Greek Life, Club Sports and Student Engagement organizations will host a virtual involvement fair to allow students to discover various campus organizations. The fair will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. More information can be found on the event's Engage page.

SGA to host virtual office hours

Tomorrow, East Carolina University Student Government Association (SGA) will host virtual office hours. Students will have the chance to speak with members of the executive cabinet via WebEx. More information can be found on SGA's Engage page.

C.U.L.T.U.R.E. to host session on Black Love

Tomorrow, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and C.U.L.T.U.R.E. Programming Board will host a session focused around Black Love as part of their ongoing series from 6 to 8 p.m. The session will be held via WebEx. More information can be found on Engage.

Pirate Media 1 to host panel discussion

Tomorrow, Pirate Media 1 will hold a virtual panel on the role of the media in the Black Lives Matters protests at 3 p.m. The panel will explore the relationship between the media and marginalized communities. The panel will be hosted through Webex.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



A tour of East Carolina University's campus for prospective students that follows social distancing and mask protocols mandated by the state and the university.

Admission requirements altered

University lowers required GPA for transfer students and waives test scores

Graham Emmett
TEC STAFF

This academic year, East Carolina University admissions has made multiple changes to its requirements for admission, which include a lower grade point average (GPA) for transfer students as well as former changes made to SAT and ACT test score requirements.

Erica Hoyt, associate director for transfer recruitment, said her office has lowered the GPA requirement for transfer students. Hoyt said the decision was not influenced by COVID-19.

"We changed our GPA requirement to 2.0. Originally, for as long as I can remember, it has always been a 2.5. This is something that was talked about before we went into this pandemic timeframe but it's been talked about before," Hoyt said. "Most of our sister UNC (University of North Carolina) System schools are at a 2.0 already. This is essentially being more in line with our partners; our competitors."

These changes only apply to university admission, according to Hoyt. She said programs like nursing, engineering and other health related schools require higher GPAs and additional applications.

Hoyt said waiving test scores will last until admissions for the fall 2021 semester are over, but the reduction of the GPA requirement is permanent. The decision to make it permanent was not made in the same circumstances as the decision to waive test scores, according to Hoyt.

Margaret Turner, admissions director for the Honors College at ECU, said she is excited for the opportunity to bring diversity into the honors college program. With the dropping of test scores and newly implemented transfer policy, Turner said she expects a more diverse set of students to come in.

"To be eligible to apply to the Honors

College, students just have to meet a GPA requirement, either a 3.5 unweighted GPA or a 4.0 weighted GPA, and we are not considering test scores at all," Turner said.

The GPA requirements remain unchanged because there is too much confusion in the process as is, according to Turner. She said the temporary waiver of test scores this year was the right thing to do for the best interest of the students.

Turner said the Honors College takes in 200 freshmen every year. That number will remain the same but she said she expects to see a larger applicant pool.

"Because we have scholarships tied to all of the Honors College spots, we kept the test score requirement initially simply because of the volume of applications we could receive," Turner said. "As it became more evident that testing just wasn't happening or there were so many fiascos around the testing sites, it really became evident that (waiving test scores) was the right thing to do for the best interests of students."

Turner said she expects to see an increase in the number of applications. She said she hopes to see an increase in the diversity of applicants which is something that honors college has struggled with in years past.

Stephanie Whaley, the director of undergraduate admissions at ECU, said she and the rest of the admissions office made the decision to waive test scores for incoming freshmen. It was a decision made by the UNC System who gave schools the option to waive scores in the admissions process.

"They granted us a one year waiver for requiring test scores. In the past, we always required an SAT or an ACT for freshman admissions," Whaley said. "This year the way we are implementing this waiver process is that we are taking a test blind approach. That means that students can certainly submit their test score but we are not going to base an admission decision on a test score. The test score will not positively or negatively impact their admission decision."

Students can submit their test scores if they want but it will not necessarily help or hurt them, according to Whaley. Going test blind puts no students at unfair advantages or disadvantages in terms of test scores.

ECU Admissions waived test scores because many students were not able to take their exams due to the difficulty to get registered in the reduced capacity of testing sites, Whaley said.

"There are also challenges for that group (high school class of 2021) having to take an ACT or SAT this fall semester because while you go to websites and see lots of test dates out there," Whaley said. "Because of social distancing requirements, testing centers are at 25% capacity or 50% capacity so those available spaces just fill up so quickly that some students are going to miss out on that opportunity, so that's why we are just test blind this year."

Most of the students who graduated high school in 2020 were able to take their exams before COVID-19 forced schools to close down, according to Whaley. ECU admissions made some adjustments in their requirements back in April that allowed for flexibility for students who didn't take their exam in time.

The UNC system had not given ECU the ability to completely waive test requirements for incoming freshmen for fall 2020, Whaley said. All of ECU's admissions policies are governed by the UNC System, according to Whaley.

"Our requirements for new freshmen this year will be an application, an essay and of course, their official high school transcript with GPA and all the courses they have taken through their junior year in high school," Whaley said.

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Erica Hoyt

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with faculty to determine what is best to prepare students for a multicultural global society are some of the main efforts of OED, according to Forbes.

OED partners with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and its recruitment and outreach efforts to better enhance the diversity of ECU's student population, Forbes said. She said OED partners with the graduate school to work with this as well.

"We use that information (from the climate survey) to then be able to inform our programming," Forbes said. "So if the climate survey has information related to the experiences of racially underrepresented individuals, then from time to time, we will focus our efforts there."

Forbes said OED prioritizes its work and its efforts are primarily around diversifying the faculty, staff and student population to enhance the climate of ECU to always be more inclusive. She said it has been a while since the last campus climate survey, though she hopes to do one this year.

Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager Toya Jacobs said there has been a lot done in the past several years to make sure ECU is a place where faculty, staff, students and visitors can live, learn and work in an inclusive environment.

Jacobs said when OED submits the application for the HEED Award, it shows

cases an institutional effort in data and numbers. She said the application is on behalf of the entire institution.

"Making sure that we're not just having one successful program but building on those programs and building capacity across the institution is why I think we've been able to win for nine consecutive years," Jacobs said. "It's not just the Office for Equity and Diversity, it's the entire institution."

Jacobs said she believes the application process is competitive, and the questions change depending on what's going on in the world and what's going on in higher education. She said as the environment changes, the answers to questions change.

The reception of the HEED award comes after the university was given a grant for nearly \$1 million at the start of September in order to promote the employment of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The money will be used to make sure women are allowed opportunities for leadership.

The project that seeks to address gender inequality in STEM is called THRIVE: Towards Hiring, Resources, Inclusion, Value and Excellence.

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month, mid-to-late October, but it will be released by the federal government then to state levels. He said the distribution of any vaccine would be under strict guidelines for individuals at a high-risk for COVID-19.

"It'll be given to us in a proportional allotment with a distribution strategy which I believe would be to target the higher risk groups, the older, sicker, moving down to healthier, younger individuals as it becomes more available," Silvernail said.

The decrease in COVID-19 cases coincides with the time after ECU made the decision to switch to an all-online course delivery system on Aug. 26.

As of Sept. 22, the university has recorded 1,227 confirmed cases among its faculty, staff and student body, according to ECU's coronavirus updates page.

The city of Chapel Hill also experienced a decrease in COVID-19 cases after UNC Chapel Hill made the decision to move to all online class on Aug. 18, according to UNC Chapel Hill's COVID-19 dashboard.

After the initial increase in cases at Chapel Hill which resulted in students being sent home, cases rose initially before a decline in early September.

Greenville experienced a similar trend, with a small spike on Aug. 29

after university students were sent home until the number of coronavirus cases in the county began to decrease, according to Google's COVID-19 tracking website.

After the closure of the university's on-campus facilities in August, 700 students remained on ECU's campus.

After the initial decision to send the majority of students home, ECU announced on Sept. 17 that it would allow for an increased residence hall capacity for the second block of the fall semester.

"The move to single rooms has greatly enhanced the ability for students to remain safe. In the past seven days, only two on-campus students have tested positive for COVID-19," the press release said.

Students who decide to return to campus for the second block of the semester will be tested for COVID-19 in between the two blocks.

"ECU does not plan to close the residence halls this academic year or expect students living on campus this fall to have to leave the residence halls for the remainder of this academic year," the Sept. 17 news release said. "Residents who choose to remain in the same room for the spring semester will be able to leave their room intact during the winter break and keep their key/fob."

Residence halls will still close on Nov. 29 for winter break, as was planned by the university, and the spring semester is set to begin on Jan. 19, 2021.

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

OUR VIEW

Families in stands are beneficial

East Carolina University announced on Sept. 2 that fans would not be allowed in the stands for the home opener against the University of Central Florida (UCF), however, Governor Roy Cooper has since made changes to his original decision.

The initial announcement included the absence of the players's families with the return of football. Since then, Cooper has decided that family members of players would be allowed in college football games.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that the decision to allow the families of players is a great opportunity to attempt a trial-sized run of the Pirates' initial plan of having 25% capacity in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

At the very least, allowing families in the stands gives the university an opportunity to view how stadium operations might need to be altered before it allow more Pirate fans into the stands. Allowing families into the stands is also a good move concerning the well-being of the players.

As hard as the players have worked with their season jostled around by a global pandemic, they deserve to get at least a portion of the "college experience." That experience includes a lot more than online classes, 10-day quarantines and game days with no fans or tailgates in action.

A number of universities have already played at least one game including scheduled conference opponents UCF and Southern Methodist University. As of date of publication, no news related to COVID-19 has come out of either school's camps.

The safety of fans and players is there, but allowing families to attend is a understandable risk and one that could be a special first experience for some of the Pirates' younger talents.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEADER



THE PRESIDENT WITH ACTUAL INFLUENCE OVER COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Masks are not a political debate

COVID-19 should not have lasted six months in the US



Simon Emery
GUEST COLUMN

With all of the recent events happening in today's society, especially in the United States, it would be fitting to talk about something relevant. For some reason, one of the biggest debates is whether or not to wear a mask, which is ridiculous.

With the current pandemic that continues to be unmanaged in this country, there is controversy on wearing a mask or not. Personally, I wear a mask. Leading experts in healthcare and other various professionals have explained their benefit time and time again, yet some people still fail to listen.

I understand that we live in a "free country," but by not wearing a mask you are jeopardizing the health and safety of the people around you. You can look to other countries like Japan who wear masks even when there is not a pandemic and they have managed to keep their cases under wrap. I wonder why that is? Could it be that the masks actually help? Not only is wearing a mask beneficial to the health of you and the people around you, but it is also courteous. What is so inconvenient about wearing a mask whenever you are in public?

ONLINE | FULL STORY



COURTESY OF GENARO MOLINA | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

People, with and without face masks, as they walk along the Venice Boardwalk in Los Angeles on July 5.

Wearing a mask has definitely been made into a political debate, but I cannot understand why. The fact that the common decency to respect and keep the people around you safer is just thrown out the window because someone decides not to follow the guidelines recommended by the state and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) perplexes me. You would think that after six months of being in this pandemic, with establishments reduced to limited capacities and regulations, people would be more compliant and respectful with masks, but apparently not.

I am genuinely confused as to why people do not wish to wear masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19, is it pride? I personally think it is more prideful to be considerate and compassionate about your surrounding audience because I expect them to do the same thing. We are all living together on this planet whether we like it or not, so why not make the most of it and work together to solve the problems we create.

Emery is a junior majoring in nursing and a guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Women's rights at stake after death of RBG

Williams' World



Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) died on Sept. 18 due to complications from pancreatic cancer. When this news broke, RBG's name was trending with four million tweets on Twitter along with many concerns from Americans. "No. No. No." also started trending at 2.95 million tweets by 9:22 p.m. that evening because of Americans fearing what could happen to not only the country but to women when President Donald Trump elects the next supreme court official to take over RBG's place. RBG was known to be a feminist trailblazer by being the voice for gender equality, women's rights and many other civil rights discussions. RBG has been an inspiration for many women including Hillary Clinton who tweeted her condolences and how RBG inspired her. Even though her death is very saddening, RBG's vacant spot also leaves America anxious about who's going to fill that space.

The president has the decision to fill up a vacant Supreme Court spot if a member were to die or step down. Due to being an election year, it was originally unknown if Trump was able to fill up that spot right away or if the spot will be filled by the next president. But, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McCon-

"Four years ago was the American's voice to be able to determine the next vacant spot and for it to be filled after the election. Now, he's (McConnell) rushing to vote for the nominee and not giving America that voice,"

-Giana Williams

nell, released a statement on Twitter after the release of RBG's death that the senate can fill the current vacant spot once Trump nominates someone.

Yet, in 2016, McConnell blocked former President Barack Obama from filling the Supreme Court nomination after the passing of late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, stating that the American people should have the voice in the process and to wait until the next president was nominated.

Besides the death of RBG herself, the reason why some Americans are slightly upset about the situation right now because McConnell couldn't wait a few days to let the family, friends and supporters of RBG grieve over her death to release the plans of filling the vacant spot, despite RBG's dying wish for her spot to be filled after the next president is nominated.

I completely understand that a vacant spot in the Supreme Court is a serious thing that needs to be solved soon, but the disrespect McConnell showed on Saturday evening is just sickening.

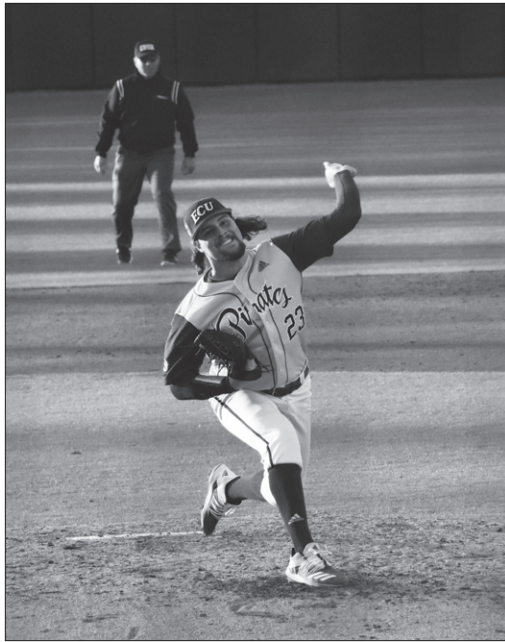
Another reason why some are upset because of the hypocrisy that McConnell has shown for himself during this situation. Four years ago was the American's voice to be able to determine the next vacant spot and for it to be filled after the election. Now, he's rushing to vote for the nominee and not giving America that voice.

RBG's death is so detrimental because she had always been the voice of women's rights and gender equality. If Trump were to nominate someone who is strongly conservative-leaning, one of the most well-known court cases Roe v Wade, which grants women to have safe abortions, could possibly be overturned, thus not giving American women the right to make their own decision to their bodies.

RBG was a powerful force in the U.S. government and an inspiration for many women in America while she provided a voice for them to be heard.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY



COURTESY OF ECUPirates.COM

ECU junior kicker Jake Verity kicks the football.

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and UCF's sophomore quarterback Dillon Gabriel is full of collegiate experience, as both players were starters last year as well.

In 2019, Holton Ahlers threw for 3,387 yards and 21 touchdowns, and finished the season with a quarterback rating of 135.8, according to ESPN.com. Meanwhile, UCF's Dillon Gabriel threw for 3,653 yards and 29 touchdowns, and finished the 2019 season with a quarterback rating of 156.9, according to ESPN.com.

There will be no fans in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to ECUPirates.com. Although no fans will be allowed, 50 upper-classmen parents will be allowed in the stadium for the game, according to hoistthecolours.com

ECU has a very young team, with 38 freshmen listed on the roster. This new, young core will face an experienced roster in UCF considering the Knights have 20 seniors on its roster. Time on the field, however, is something Houston said there is no way to replicate.

"There is no replacement for experience. Game experience means so much," Houston said.

UCF has played two games this season already, and have won both by at least a 20 point margin. In the first game of the season, UCF defeated Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University by a score of 62-0, not too dissimilar as to when the Knights trounced the Pirates in 2017 by a score 63-21.

This game is the Pirates' first game of the 2020 season where the UCF Knights are favored to win by 27 points, according to ESPN.com.



Mike Houston

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Copper reflects on past

Former Pirate remembers decade long NFL career

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

As former Pirate Terrance Copper Sr. sends his son Terrance Copper Jr. to East Carolina University's football team 2020 freshman class as a receiver, he reflects back on the time spent prior to his 10 years playing football at the professional level in the National Football League (NFL).

Copper graduated from ECU in 2003 after he spent four years as a Pirate. He went undrafted in the 2004 NFL Draft, but was signed by the Dallas Cowboys in the same year, according to Rotoworld. Copper said his time spent at ECU prepared him more than he realized once he went pro.

"Playing at East Carolina and playing under coach Steve Logan made my transition not easy, but it made it easier because the offense we ran was a pro-style offense," Copper said. "Once I got to the NFL, I understood the terminology...when it came to the playbook, it wasn't easy, but it was easier than it could have been."

Over the course of his collegiate career, Copper's play gradually improved statistically with his most impressive year coming from his senior season, according to Sports Reference. He went from catching only nine receptions for 187 yards in his freshman season to catching 87 receptions as a senior for 897 yards total. In his senior season he also scored two touchdowns.

In his sophomore season, Copper was listed as a running back, according to Sports Reference. He only had nine carries for 49 yards, but he paired that with 13 receptions for 204 yards on the season with one rushing touchdown.

As far as collegiate accolades, in 2003 Copper was ranked No. 1 in receptions among Conference USA (C-USA) teams and No. 9 in the entire NCAA, according to Sports Reference. He additionally ranked No. 5 in C-USA in receiving yards during the same season.

Once he made it to the NFL, Copper said his eyes were opened to several differences as a rookie, but the biggest one came off the field: his first paycheck. Copper said as a rookie he had no idea that there would be so many taxes taken out once he made it to professional football. He said the main change that came from the field was the football itself.

"In college and high school, it was easier to locate it because you see a white stripe spinning at you so you can locate

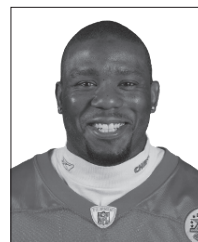


COURTESY OF DAVID EULITT | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Terrance Copper Sr. pulls in a pass at practice with fellow Chief Vince Agnew defending.

it from a farther distance," Copper said. "Once I got to the NFL, it was tough to locate the ball because it was a straight brown ball coming at me. Sometimes it blended in with the stands, the atmosphere...that's why I really loved playing snow games."

As a pro, Copper said he spent a total of 10 years playing for different teams. He spent two years with the Dallas Cowboys and played 26 games with them until 2006,



where he then went to the New Orleans Saints, according to the Rotoworld website. Midway through the 2008 season, Copper was cut from the Saints and signed by the Baltimore Ravens, but in 2009 he signed with the Kansas City Chiefs where he spent the remainder of his career, according to the NFL.

In addition to being a receiver, Copper was a big special teams player over the course of his career. In Dallas as a rookie, he returned 16 kickoffs for a total of 307

yards on the season, his longest return being 39 yards, according to the Pro Football Reference website.

"To be honest with you, that is how I stayed in the league as long as I did," Copper said. "I was a great receiver, don't get me wrong, but if you're not a starter, you have to be good on special teams."

Copper said he learned very early in his career how significant special teams would be in his career. While he was in Dallas, Copper said his Hall of Fame head coach Bill Parcells told him that his role on the team would show significance through special teams.

His most impressive year as a receiver concerning statistics came in 2006 with the Saints. Copper caught a total of 23 receptions for 385 yards on the year and also finished that season with three touchdowns, all career-highs, according to ESPN.

Currently, Copper's son is a receiver on the 2020 roster as he looks to start his own collegiate career as a Pirate.

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

ECU baseball receives academic award

Maceo Donald
TEC STAFF

Emily Peek
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



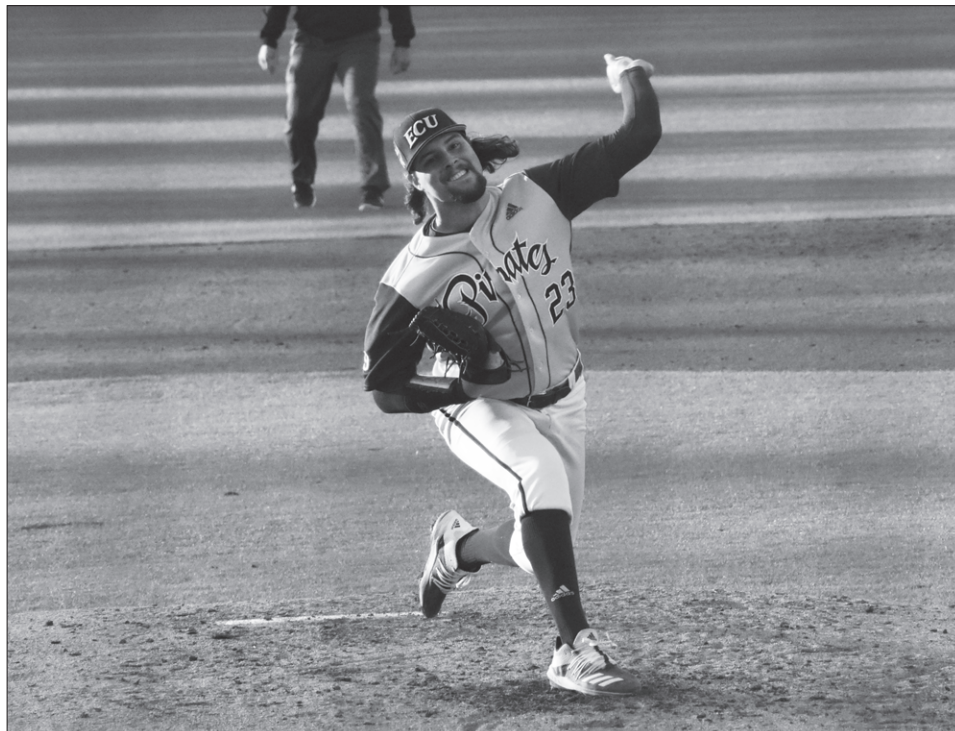
The East Carolina University's baseball team received the American Athletic Conference (AAC) Team Academic Award on Sep. 9 for the fifth-straight year under head coach Cliff Godwin.

The Team Academic Award selections are made by the conference's faculty athletics representatives, according to the American Athletic Conference website. The teams selected are chosen based on that year's grade point average (GPA) of each student-athlete who was listed on an institution's roster at the end of the academic year, then by weighing each student's GPA by credit hour.

The Pirates had a 3.52 GPA for the 2019-20 academic year that was sparked by a team-best 3.61 in the spring of 2020. The academic excellence that we see now from the Pirates is something that Godwin said he speaks with recruits and their families about in the early stages of recruiting.

"For me when we recruit we talk to the players and the families and let them know that academics is a huge part of our program," Godwin said. "Look there are going to be guys that are 4.0 students, we want them to be 4.0 students. If you're a 3.5 student, be a 3.5 student. We are also going to have some guys that are maybe a 3.0 student, but whatever your academic level is make sure you're getting to that level and you're not underachieving."

The Pirates have had some individuals who were recognized for their academic achievements. In 2019, former ECU pitcher Jake Agnos became the first student-athlete in school history to win the Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award by the AAC. In 2020, former utility player



ANNA ALLEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Former ECU baseball player and left handed pitcher Alec Burluson on the mound during the 2020 season.

Alec Burluson followed Agnos and won the same award.

Dating back to 2016, the Pirates have had four players who were awarded CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, according to ecupirates.com. Those players are Travis Watkins (2016), Charlie Yorgen (2016), Agnos (2019) and Burluson (2019, 2020).

While there are many people who contributed to the team's efforts to win these awards, Godwin said associate head coach Jeff Palumbo, who has coached the Pirates alongside him for several years, can also be attributed for winning this award. Godwin also said academic advisor Rebecca Wade, who has worked with the team for the past five years, was a big help.

"It just makes me smile because there's

a lot of people behind the scenes and a lot of players that have really carried the workload," head coach Cliff Godwin said. "But a lot of people that have been on our staff have just put in a lot of time with our kids to make sure they're doing what they need to do when they need to do it."



Cliff Godwin

planned to move undergraduate classes online due to the rapid acceleration of COVID-19 cases on campus. This decision has affected many people, including student-athletes.

Although the Pirates have had an

exceptional record of academic excellence, Godwin said the transition to online classes has been difficult for some of the younger players who are in the midst of their first time college level course experience.

"Some of our freshmen have struggled," Godwin said. "It's just easier face-to-face. When you've got the professor there's not as many distractions. Maybe it's not loud in the dorms and your cellphone is not as accessible, so I think it's been harder to focus."

Godwin said the Pirates have had to adapt to a new normal when it comes to practice and training. He has had to find ways for his team to abide by the safety measures associated with COVID-19, which includes the practice of social distancing and limits to how many players can be in one place at a time.

To achieve this, Godwin and his team found a way to keep his players in the locker room and on the field, all while they remain spread out.

"We've only let part of our guys in the locker room. Position players are in the third base dugout, pitchers in the first base dugout, so we just spread out as much as possible to try to keep guys on the field as long as possible," Godwin said. "Guys that have been cleared, we've been able to do smaller group workouts, but starting next Friday we'll start getting into more of a team aspect and try to social distance, as you do at practice."

There has yet to be a decision on spring sports from the AAC. Updates on the upcoming baseball season can be found on the ECU athletics website.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?
Got something for sale?
ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**
Contact smaa@ecu.edu for more information.



HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Stay focused on professional tasks. Minimize risks or hassle. Don't argue with a brick wall. If something goes against your grain, turn it down.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Prioritize your health. Listen to your body. Physical exercise strengthens your heart. Avoid risk or accidents. Eat well and get extra rest.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — Focus on generating resources. Trade or barter. Sell or give away stuff you don't need. You won't need to defer gratification forever. Steadily build.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Plan future studies or travel. Adapt as needed. Old methods don't work. A formidable barrier blocks the path. Invent and innovate. Listen to others.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Words can fall short. Express what's in your heart anyway. Romance, beauty and fun develop naturally. Savor something delicious. Make a loving connection.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — Take extra care of yourself. Engage in pursuits you love. Enjoy fresh air and sunshine, trees and nature. Savor energizing personal rituals. Take charge.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Discuss shared finances and strategize. Determine which purchases to prioritize and which can wait. Keep stashing nuts away for winter. Plant seeds for later harvest.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Domestic matters have your attention. You can't do everything; focus where you can. Decrease clutter to reduce stress. Relax with family. Enjoy each other.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — Get into thoughtful planning mode. Old assumptions get challenged. Consider opportunities and adjust goals to suit. Private reflection feeds your spirit. Follow your own path.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Rely on your partner's support. Not everything you try works. Figure it out together. Keep an open mind. Patience is golden, like that worthwhile rule.

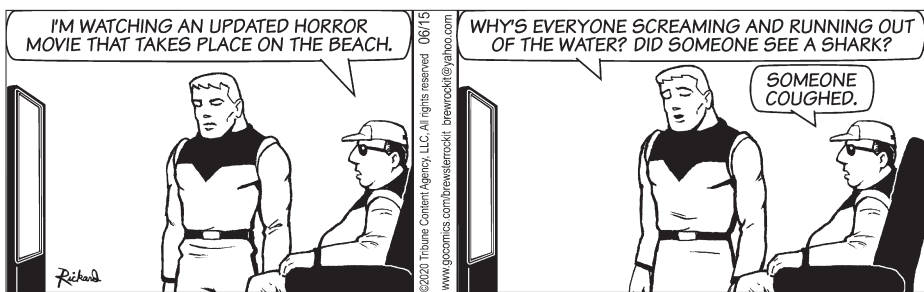
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Savor an intellectual challenge. Research and articulate your views. Don't share unfinished work. Edit and polish. Plan your moves in advance. Express a possibility.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Connect for shared support. Teamwork allows outsized results. Curtail travel or risky business. Check in to make sure that folks are fine. Together you rise.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



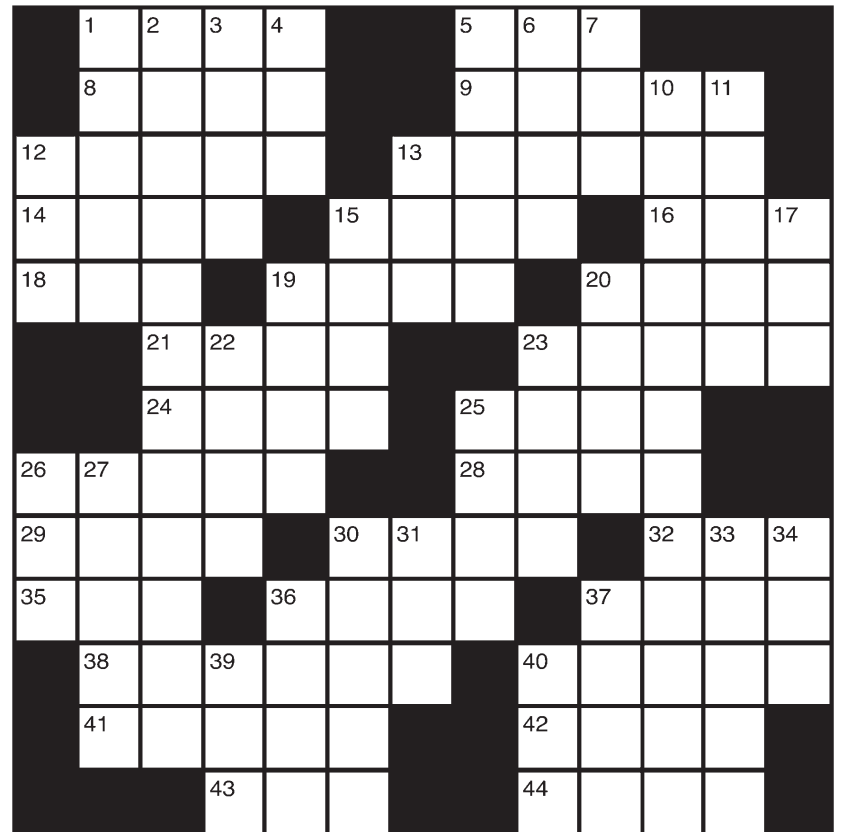
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

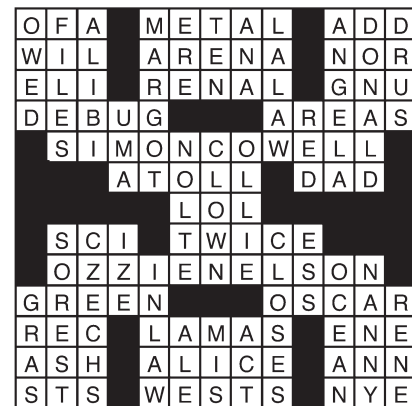
ACROSS

- 1 "The Price Is Right" host
- 5 Donaldson or Waterston
- 8 After-bath wraparound
- 9 Patton ___; Daryl Mitchell's character
- 12 "They Call Me Mr. ___!"; Sidney Poitier film
- 13 "___ Knows Best"
- 14 Printer owner's purchases
- 15 Crazy
- 16 "___ Vegas"
- 18 ___ out a living; get by
- 19 "Spenser: For ___"; Robert Ulrich series
- 20 Oka of "Hawaii Five-0"
- 21 Carla's portrayer on "Cheers"
- 23 Earned
- 24 Actress Deborah
- 25 Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- 26 Stravinsky and others
- 28 "Or ___!"; ultimatum words
- 29 Actor Annable
- 30 Actress Summer
- 32 Word from Emeril
- 35 MacGraw or Larter

DOWN

- 1 Beverage
- 2 Actor on "NCIS: New Orleans"
- 3 Flows back
- 4 Jazz guitarist Montgomery
- 5 "Lost in ___"
- 6 Singing voice
- 7 ___-jongg; popular tile game
- 10 "America's Got Talent" judge
- 11 Clear the slate
- 12 Even score
- 13 "Grounded ___ Life"
- 15 Dishonest one
- 17 ___ Caesar
- 19 His and ___; matching items for Dad & Mom
- 20 "Driving ___ Daisy"; Jessica Tandy movie
- 22 "From ___ to Eternity"; Burt Lancaster film
- 23 Soccer great
- 25 Ruby and Sandra
- 26 Ms. Lupino
- 27 Celebrations
- 30 Hymn-singing group
- 31 "The Adventures of ___ Tin Tin"
- 33 Mistreatment
- 34 "How I ___ Your Mother"
- 36 Grow weary
- 37 Auction site
- 39 "This Is Spinal ___"; Rob Reiner film
- 40 Isn't ___ to; probably won't

Solution from 9/16

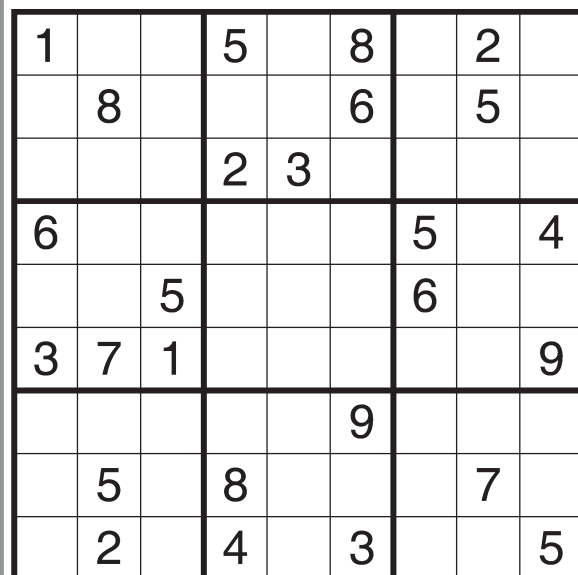


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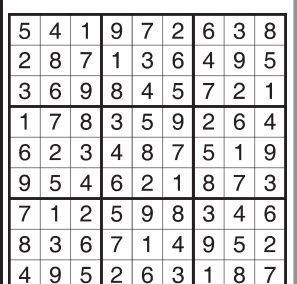
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



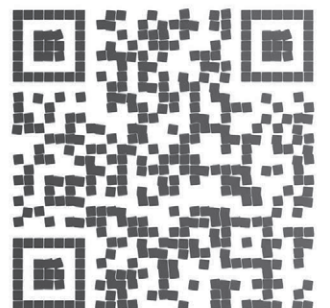
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 9/16



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Pirate Media

The East Carolinian - WZMB 91.3 - Anchor's Away
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EVENTS

TODAY

Open Mic Comedy
Pitt Street Brewing Co.
630 S Pitt St.
7:30 to 10 p.m.
252-227-4151

Open Mic Night
The Blackened Kraken
123 E 5th St.
8 to 11:30 p.m.
252-215-8822

TOMORROW

Tapas and Jazz
Starlight Cafe
104 W 5th St.
5:30 to 10 p.m.
252-707-9033

Live music by rickoLus
Christy's Euro Pub
301 S Jarvis St
6 to 9 p.m.
252-758-2774

College Night
Stumpy's Hatchet House
816 Dickinson Ave.
5 to 8 p.m.
252-751-0300

FRIDAY

Wingski's Food Truck
Pitt Street Brewing Co.
630 S Pitt St.
6 to 10 p.m.
919-866-8173



The Greenville Museum of Art, located at 802 Evans St., reopened its doors to the public on Sept. 10 after being closed indefinitely due to COVID-19.

GMOA reopens to public

Museum resumes operation with safety measures in place

Harold Bloomfield
TEC STAFF

The Greenville Museum of Art (GMOA) has been closed due to COVID-19 since March, but reopened to the public on Sept. 10 so guests are able to enjoy the variety of art the museum has to offer in-person.

Trista Porter, executive director of the GMOA said she knew she would have to shut the museum before Phase 1 even started. She said the museum chose to shut down on its own because, due to COVID-19, they did not have a new exhibit to put up.



Trista Porter

"We knew it was the right decision to make then, but as things started to open up again during

Phase 2, we were pretty fine with opening up to people because we knew it was the right decision," Porter said.

The capacity the museum usually operates at was a big contributor to the museum reopening, according to Porter. She said if restaurants and other retail stores that have people in close proximity can open, then the museum would be able to reopen due to it not having as many people there at one time.

Porter said being closed has taken a toll on the museum financially, with fundraiser events such as the "Summer Shindig" and "Fall Fashion Show" being canceled. She said annual memberships have not been renewed as much because of people not being able to come.

"COVID-19 has just affected a lot of people in a lot of different ways, but a lot of people can't do as much as they normally would or at

all," Porter said.

Sim Asher, communications and events coordinator for the GMOA, said he has only worked at the museum since January of this year, but he has been coming to the museum since he was five years old.



Sim Asher

Asher said the Summer Shindig is one of the biggest events the museum has annually and the fact that it had to be canceled was a huge hit for the GMOA. He said the staff had to think creatively on how to operate and continue to make the finances while the museum was closed to the public.

"Now that we have reopened, our big push right now is that we are encouraging visitors to come if they are comfortable with doing so,"

Asher said.

Visitors are required to wear masks in order to come to the museum and the same applies with the staff, according to Asher. He said many safety precautions have been implemented, such as wiping door handles to keep potential contamination touch-points clean while additionally sanitizing often to protect customers.

Asher said the museum will plan the Sidewalk Sale, an event where artists will serve as vendors and sell art to the community with free admission. People will be able to attend and enjoy the variety of art being displayed and even go home with some, according to Asher.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

In Living Color: Journalism in the Age of Black Lives Matter

A virtual panel with those watching and reporting from the front lines

What is the role of the media in the time of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Jacob Blake? Join us as we explore the relationship between the media and marginalized communities. Exploring both the coverage and experiences of people of color, this discussion will examine, from both a personal and professional lens of media insiders, the relationship between the press and social activism.

Thursday, Sept. 24
3 p.m.
Connect via Webex
bit.ly/2ZIWF3Y

Pirate Media 1 **LEDONIA WRIGHT CULTURAL CENTER**

PITT continued from A1

years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"We (Pitt Street) are having to facilitate this event under the Governor's current orders at 50% capacity and all guests wearing masks whenever standing in the brewery," Long said in an email statement.

Oktoberfest is a traditionally German festival running from mid-to-late September, according to Long. She said it's known for being a hub for parades, food, music and beer.

The process to bring a piece of the German holiday event to Greenville was the brainchild of several Pitt Street Brewery employees, according to Long.

The event is family-friendly and welcomes well-behaved dogs, Long said. For fans of beer, a new brew, the Marzen Oktoberfest brew, will



Brianna Long

be released in honor of the event. It will be available in to-go cans and on draft in the taproom, according to Long.

"Brewing a traditional fest beer is something we were really excited about and pairing an event with that beer went hand-in-hand," Long said.

The event will consist of games, costumes and food, in true Oktoberfest spirit, Long said. She said The Rock food truck will serve a traditional German menu from 5 to 9 p.m.

In the past two years Pitt Street has held it, Long said Oktoberfest has been a popular event. She said she anticipates a good turnout and though the event capacity will be different this year, it is nonetheless aimed to welcome fest lovers and beer drinkers.

"We appreciate the support from our community during this time and we are doing everything we can to keep our employees and guests safe at the brewery," Long said.

Jeff Blinder, owner of Spazz Presents in Greenville, said he plans to attend Pitt Street's Oktoberfest this year. This will be the first time

Blinder has attended the event, he said, but he has heard positive remarks about the festival the last two years the brewery has had it.

Blinder said he was drawn to the festival because of the food, the beer and the performing act, The Monterio Experience. Blinder said he plans to attend with a friend, and he will



Jeff Blinder

take precautions to stay safe from COVID-19.

"(It's) totally understandable if folks choose to social distance to the point of staying home, that's their (people who choose to stay home) prerogative. I plan on masking up, keeping my greetings to elbow bumps, staying mostly to the company I bring (and) enjoying the live music a little farther back from the front than my usual posting spot



CONTRIBUTED BY BRIANNA LONG

A beer at Pitt Street, located at 630 S Pitt St.

(which is usually up front and center)," Blinder said in an email statement.

Although he has not attended an Oktoberfest at Pitt Street before, Blinder said he has been to a few other Oktoberfest events and he looks forward to what Pitt Street offers. He said he is excited to try the new beer, the German food and hear the live band.



Stephanie Hall

Stephanie Hall has been a server at Pitt Street for the past three years, ever since its official opening. She said Oktoberfest has been one of the major events that Pitt Street has held in the past few years, and is excited to see it

conducted again this year.

For fans of music, Hall said this event is especially exciting, since it's the second event being held this year with a band.

"We had a Marchtober fest in March. It's nice to be able to have another one come out at the time of the actual Oktoberfest celebration," Hall said.

As a server, Hall has seen how great of an experience guests have had before at Oktoberfest. Even in the midst of COVID-19, Pitt Street continues to try to cater to their guests as much as they can. Hall said that by still holding events like this, they are able to maintain a sense of normalcy for the community.

"Oktoberfest is always really fun. It's nice to see everyone gather in celebration. People always have a lot of fun and I'm looking forward to it this year," Hall said.

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