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The East Carolinian

'Home Sweet Homecoming' moves forward

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

Homecoming festivities have been rescheduled at East Carolina University with the theme "Home Sweet Homecoming," and will be presented in a hybrid format from March 15 to March 21 after students were unable to participate in a fall Homecoming Week due to COVID-19 limitations.

On behalf of the Student Activities Board (SAB) the Student Government Association (SGA) announced on Feb. 1 that students both on and off-campus are encouraged to participate. All student and alumni homecoming activities were postponed in fall 2020, and were projected to resume in the spring 2021 semester, according to a Sept. 2 tweet from ECU Homecoming.

This semester's festivities will include competitions like the "Spirit Cup Champion" between ECU student organizations, a Homecoming Parade and Skit Night, according to the email.

Both large and small student organizations at ECU are welcome to compete, SGA said. Student organizations who wish to register for the spirit cup competition can visit the Student Organizations Spirit Cup Competition website for more information, according to the email statement. Rather than the former crowning of Homecoming King and Queen, SGA said this year's Homecoming Week will instead feature a "Captain of the Ship."

"The Captain of the Ship recognition program recognizes students who make outstanding contributions to ECU through their campus and community involvement, as well as their efforts to support the success of other Pirates," SGA said.

SGA President Tucker Robbins said in an email statement the Homecoming Steering Board is a part of SGA and the SAB. He said SGA has financially funded homecoming for over 10 years, and the Homecoming Steering Board made the decisions on how to host homecoming amid the pandemic and the decisions that followed.

SGA will continue to work on a blood drive competition between ECU and North Carolina State University, with the hopes to incorporate it into homecoming, according to Robbins.

"That will basically take convalescent plasma to help fight COVID(-19) for people that don't have the antibodies," Robbins said.

Homecoming Committee Chair Katelyn Ward said in

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Black History Month arrives

ECU to host virtual, in-person events through February

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) and the College of Nursing (CON) will hold various events throughout the month of February to celebrate and honor the importance of Black History Month.

Originally named the Afro-American Cultural Center in 1975, the LWCC was established and renamed in 1995 in honor of Ledonia Wright, an assistant professor of community health at ECU, according to the LWCC website.

Associate Director of the LWCC Mariza James said the center is committed to the values of servant leadership, innovation and transformation.

"The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center provides specialized diversity and social justice experiences so all students can become confident, culturally aware, global citizens," James said. "Additionally, (the) LWCC provides programming and services to support student success."

James said she plans cultural education and identity development programs, as well as supervises the Cultural Unity and Leadership through Understanding, Relationships and Engagement



Black History Month books are on display East Carolina University Joyner Library.

(C.U.L.T.U.R.E), a student-led ECU programming board that plans events and activities for students.

Faculty, staff, students and other ECU campus departments have partnered with the LWCC to plan events for Black History Month, James said.

"There are several events planned for Black History Month. The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center has partnered with several other

departments and organizations for events during the month," James said. "The Black History Month programs are open to the entire ECU community."

James said while the majority of events will be held virtually, some will take place in-person. All events are listed on the Engage website where participants are able to access links to virtual programs, James said.

The LWCC's events include a Women of Color book club, Black HIV and AIDS awareness day, a pleasure principles series, a diversity dialogue series, a quiz bowl, reel talk workshops, Black History Month keynote speaker Micheal Bonner, it's "Culture Event," "Healing Space" event and a poetry slam. Associate director of the LWCC Shaun Simon said events will take place in February and March.

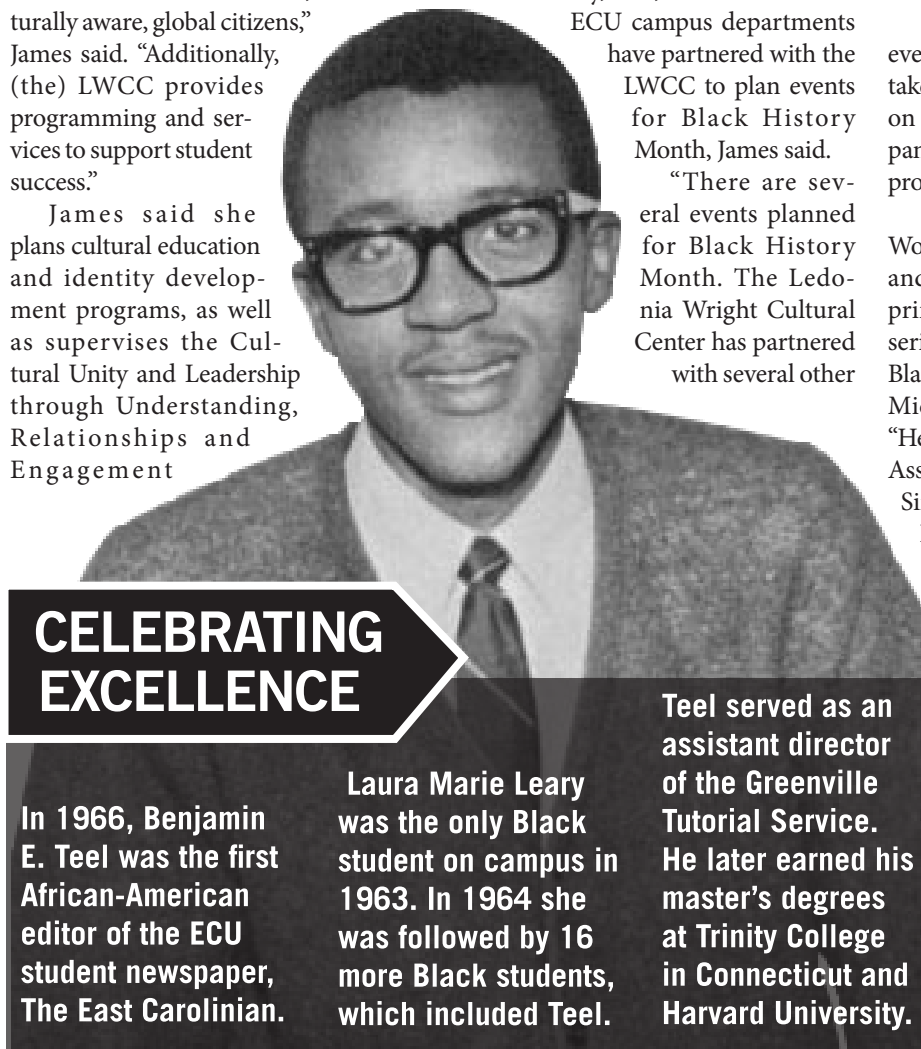
"One of our events that's in March, actually, is the homage exhibit which is a traveling museum," Simon said. "Then on Feb. 17, we have a COVID(-19) vaccine panel with ECU folks that are going to be part of that to help explain the vaccine to students. Especially in certain communities there's a fear around the vaccine so there will be a frank and honest conversation about that."

There will be at least one event each week that is open and available to the public and stu-

> HISTORY page A2



Tucker Robbins



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

In 1966, Benjamin E. Teel was the first African-American editor of the ECU student newspaper, The East Carolinian.

Laura Marie Leary was the only Black student on campus in 1963. In 1964 she was followed by 16 more Black students, which included Teel.

Teel served as an assistant director of the Greenville Tutorial Service. He later earned his master's degrees at Trinity College in Connecticut and Harvard University.

Bennie E. Teel was the first Black editor at The East Carolinian in the year of 1966.



Junior guard Jayden Gardner goes up for a layup against Houston defenders in the Pirates' matchup with the Cougars in the 2019-2020 season.

Pirates, Cougars to face off

Players expected to take court against No. 6 team in America

Cade Carlson
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Men's Basketball team (7-6, 1-6 American Athletic Conference) is set to face off against the No. 6 University of Houston Cougars (15-1, 10-1 AAC) on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. from Wil-

liams Arena in Greenville, North Carolina, and can be watched on ESPN+.

The Pirates recently came up short in a 77-68 home loss against the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane (9-6, 6-4 AAC) on Jan. 30 in Greenville, North Carolina. In that game,

junior forward Jayden Gardner had a team-high of 26 points for the Pirates to go along with eight rebounds in 37 minutes played.

After the Tulsa loss, head coach Joe Dooley said although there were some positives in the game, that the team's defense cost them

in the end.

"Were there some possessions that were off kilter, yes but I thought it was our defense on a lot of things that we know how to guard that we've got to clean up quickly," Dooley said.

> HOUSTON page A6

Student influx spotted among local restaurants

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Various local Uptown Greenville, North Carolina, restaurants report substantial boosts to business with students' return to East Carolina University's campus for the spring 2021 semester.

Bret Oliverio, owner of Sup Dogs, located at 213 East 5th St., said when students are not in town, his business loses money. He said when students transitioned to online classes due to COVID-19 in March 2020, his business felt the impact.

"We lost 80% of our business because we were only allowed to do take-out only and then things picked up slowly as people were allowed to start returning to the restaurant," Oliverio said.



Bret Oliverio

> DINE page A4

ONLINE

»NEWS: Campus living adjusts to life without resident advisors.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

G.O.L.D Series to host leadership workshop

Today, the G.O.L.D Leader Series will continue from 4 to 5 p.m. as Student Engagement and the Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW) host "Building Teams Remotely" via Microsoft Teams. Individuals can register for this event, which will discuss the importance of building teams that strive for success while the pandemic continues, on ECU's Engage website.

LGBTQ Center, LWCC to host 'QTPOC'

Today, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) will host 'Queer and Trans People of Color' (QTPOC) from 4 to 5 p.m. where individuals will have the opportunity to explore the issues of race, gender, sexuality and ethnicity and how these issues impact students all over the world. ECU students can register for this virtual event on ECU's Engage website.

Mitchelson to address State of the University

Today, East Carolina University's Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson will present the current State of the University in a virtual address at 3 p.m. University officials are expected to provide updates on the university's general operations throughout the address. Individuals who want to join this virtual event can click a live-stream link which is located on ECU's Events Calendar website.

SAB to host Harry Potter Trivia

Today, the Student Activities Board (SAB) will host two Harry Potter Trivia sessions. One will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the other is set to begin at 7 p.m. A link for this virtual event will be posted on ECU's Engage page as well as SAB's social media accounts. Participants will have the opportunity to win various amounts of gift cards throughout the sessions as they answer Harry Potter-themed questions during this event.

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

Pitt County Health Department created a vaccine distribution hub inside the Greenville Convention Center, which began operations on Jan. 25.

COVID-19 vaccines distributed

Vidant, PCHD work to provide limited supply to Pitt County

Sarah Porter
TEC STAFF

Vidant Health and the Pitt County Health Department (PCHD) will continue efforts to vaccinate eastern North Carolina residents for COVID-19 as supplies and eligibility allow.

In a media conference on Jan. 27, PCHD Director John Silvernail said the PCHD has held clinics four to five days a week since its first shipment of vaccines on Dec. 23, 2020, to vaccinate healthcare workers and first responders. He said as of Jan. 27, the PCHD vaccinated 2,400 eligible individuals, but a limited vaccine supply caused the department to dip into its supply of booster doses to be able to continue to administer to individuals who still need to receive their first dose of the vaccine.

Silvernail said almost 25,000 individuals are eligible to receive the vaccine but between Vidant Health and the PCHD the vaccine supply does not meet the demand for vaccination. He said the health department began to vaccinate individuals aged 65 and older at two clinics on Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 at the Pitt County Agricultural center.

"The vaccine supply does not meet demand, in fact it's far less than the demand or for people who are eligible to receive the vaccine," Silvernail said.



John Silvernail

The PCHD has been told by the state of North Carolina that it will begin to receive a guaranteed allocation of vaccines the week of Feb. 1 and allocations will be guaranteed for the next three weeks for first doses, according to Silvernail. He said the PCHD will replenish its supply of booster doses with the upcoming allocations, but the PCHD doesn't know the specific number they'll receive.

Silvernail said local health departments across the state have been forced to cancel thousands of appointments due to low quantities of vaccines, but the PCHD will continue to work to make sure this does not happen to those with appointments through the health department. He said those who receive their COVID-19 vaccine through the PCHD will receive a reminder card with a pre-scheduled date and time for the follow-up booster shot.

The PCHD and Vidant Health opened a mass vaccination clinic on Jan. 25 at the Greenville Convention Center, according to Silvernail. He said this large capacity vaccine clinic will continue to vaccinate individuals who are pre-registered with the PCHD, but have not received their vaccine yet.

"We are being careful with scheduling especially for our seniors. We didn't want to have people waiting for hours in their cars. We've tried to do this by appointment, and I think the clinics are run very well by appointment," Silvernail said.

Greenville resident Jane Highsmith, 69, said she received the COVID-19 vaccine at the mass vaccination clinic a day after it opened on Jan. 25. She said she was given an appointment within 48 hours of her call to the PCHD on Jan. 22 after they opened appointments to residents under 80.

After she spoke with her primary care physician, Highsmith said she wasn't worried to get the vaccine because of her participation in the 1950's with the polio vaccine. She said she has some underlying conditions that wouldn't interact with the vaccine so it would be safe to receive it.

Highsmith said her appointment at the mass vaccination clinic lasted 30 minutes from the time she arrived to when she left. She said there was a clear traffic pattern inside and outside the Greenville Convention Center. She said everyone she encountered was associated with Vidant Medical Center and East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine.

"How did they (Vidant Health and the PCHD) do it so fast and so easy with what we're hearing from Los Angeles (California) and all the other places? Of course, I know the population has a lot to do with it. I'm just really proud of how our system was organized," Highsmith said.

In a media conference on Jan. 27, Chief Executive Officer of Vidant Health Mike Waldrum said Vidant Health has given over 10,000 vaccines and the addition of its mass vaccination facility in Greenville, North Carolina, has created a multi-pronged approach to vaccinate the community. He said Vidant Health has expanded and continues to increase the numbers of vaccines given, but its

growth in vaccination numbers is dependent on the supply from the state.

The feedback from the mass vaccination clinic in Greenville has been positive and they've had to turn away volunteers due to an influx in requests to help administer the vaccines, according to Waldrum. He said the clinic plans to vaccinate 4,000 individuals per week, with 30-minute appointments for each patient.

Waldrum said Vidant Health will administer vaccinations as supply allows and clinics will not offer appointments unless there is a vaccine available. With the capacity and capability Vidant Health has created to mass vaccinate, they expect to continue to grow to serve the eastern North Carolina population as supplies are delivered, according to Waldrum.

"This will be a long term endeavour, it's going to take us time to vaccinate everyone that we want to vaccinate in eastern North Carolina and this will be going on for multiple months," Waldrum said.

Vidant Health was asked by the state of North Carolina to build vaccination capacity to serve communities in eastern North Carolina as the state understands the issues and challenges to get vaccines to rural areas, according to Waldrum. He said eastern North Carolina has been impacted more financially by COVID-19 than some of the metropolitan areas and the state will continue to accommodate the needs of eastern North Carolina residents.

Waldrum said everyone should be reminded of the inadequate supply of COVID-19 vaccines, as the demand is not met anywhere in the country, so there will continue to be a frustration of lack of supply to meet demand. He said he is confident eastern North Carolina will continue to be given its fair share of vaccines.

North Carolina's next phase is Phase 3, which will include students 16 years and older, according to the North Carolina Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) website.

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



Mike Waldrum

HISTORY continued from A1

dents from other universities, who plan to host other celebration events, Simon said.

Clinical assistant professor for ECU CON and Chair of the Black History Month subcommittee Wendy Bridgers said the subcommittee plans something each year for Black History Month to celebrate through the CON. This year's event will take place virtually on Feb. 25. from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

"This year, our theme is 'ECU CON Celebrates Black History Month, African Americans and Health Disparities, Past, Present and Future,' and we're so excited," Bridgers said.

ECU CON will have two students share reflections on their ethical principles research

papers and a guest keynote speaker for their celebration, Mark A. Newell, from the Brody School of Medicine, who will give a talk titled "Health Disparities in African Americans, Acknowledging the Past to Advance to the Future," according to Bridgers.

Bridgers said these events are meant to address the health care disparities that have affected the African American population, as well as reflect on what has happened in the past and the present to help correct the disparities.

"I know it has been our goal to promote Black history in the CON. When I came on as faculty there six years ago, we did not have recognition of Black History Month and it has evolved," Bridgers said. "It's not just an event

that happens within the college of nursing, it has expanded and been able to incorporate the community as well."

While there is a small amount of African American representation within the faculty and staff within the CON, Bridgers said she feels as though it is important that the CON demonstrates efforts in diversity and inclusion for African American students.



Wendy Bridgers

It will be important for minority students to recognize the role that African American faculty and students in our community play in regards to nurses through the event, Bridgers

said.

"I think this event is important to see how we are celebrating the efforts that the Black faculty and the students in our community, the role that they play in producing nurses," Bridgers said.

ECU's Dr. Peel LGBTQ Center and Students Activity Board (SAB) will also host events for Black History Month. The LGBTQ Center will coordinate with the LWCC to host a Queer and Trans People of color event on Feb. 3 and SAB will host a Black History Month canvas painting class on Feb. 25.

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

HOME continued from A1

an email statement preparation and plans for this year's homecoming began in March 2020, and the committee originally planned to have two homecomings. She said one would have been in-person and the other would be virtual or hybrid.

Ward said it was in the best interest of ECU faculty, staff, students and alumni to move homecoming to the spring. She said the Homecoming Committee members came up with various ideas for events.

"I think everyone in our committee would have preferred to have a traditional, in-person homecoming," Ward said in her statement.

"However, due to the current restriction, we are moving forward with our virtual/hybrid plan and we're confident students will enjoy it."

Ward said events such as the parade and Skit Night would usually gather 3,000 to 5,000 spectators each year, so the committee knew it needed to make changes with COVID-19 safety precautions.

The parade, expected to take place on March 20 at 10 a.m., has been transitioned to a Golf Cart parade, according to Ward. She said organizations who participate will receive a golf cart to decorate to follow the theme "Home Sweet Homecoming."

The parade will be hosted at the ECU

letters near the Main Campus Student Center, Ward said. She said due to the ongoing pandemic, spectators will not be allowed at the parade but it will be broadcast on ECU Homecoming's Facebook Live.

"Skit Night this year has taken a more drastic change, as we cannot all gather at Mings Coliseum and watch all the orgs (organizations) put on their best performance," Ward said. "The Skit Competition will not just be one night rather instead it will be a whole week."

Organizations will record five different mini-skits or dances and these will be posted to the ECU Homecoming's Instagram story and be voted on, Ward said. She said throughout the week the clip with the least number

of votes will be dropped and the one with most votes will move on in the bracket until a favorite is chosen at the end of the week.

With this change, Ward said the committee hopes to include every student and give them a chance to win the title. She said the Top 10 candidates are no longer limited by gender identity. She said students should be excited to celebrate Pirate Pride during this year's homecoming.

"With students living in various places, from on-campus to off-campus to back home with their families, they can still be involved in Homecoming Week," Ward said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

Students deserve to show art

Students in the School of Art and Design (SoAD) at East Carolina University continue to work diligently on their art projects, even amid the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, and deserve to have it shown to the general public and campus community face-to-face.

The galleries located in Jenkins Fine Art Center have been closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19 state mandated restrictions, which means students have been unable to display their work in-person.

The spring 2021 semester has been able to offer students the opportunity to attend certain classes in-person. Of course, this means they must follow the necessary safety protocols and precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19, though the art galleries are not given this opportunity.

Many students had to endure unfortunate changes due to the online instruction transition, which would include those who usually work in a hands-on environment who had to adapt to an online or at-home experience. Although there's benefits in an online art exhibition, such as the option to view months later, the experience does not remain the same.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that if some classes are able to meet in person and some groups are able to host small gatherings, the SoAD galleries should be able to open with a safe capacity and time limit with social distancing guidelines in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Undergraduate and graduate students work hard on their projects and look forward to showing the community their final products, which they should be able to do.



Pause the social media obsession

Consequences can come when we let news consume us



Glenn Hubbard
GUEST COLUMNIST

Note to self: Dear Glenn,

Give it a rest. Live your life. You're old enough to remember when people didn't constantly obsess over current events — when those holding public office didn't

have that much impact on your emotional state. You even remember when knowing someone disagreed with your politics was little more than a tidbit of trivia, not reason to work yourself into a froth.

After all, you're a professor of communication, a field with Cultivation Theory as part of its foundation. George Gerbner did research in the 1960s finding a relationship between the amount of time people watched violent or disturbing programming and the extent to which they perceived the world as frightening. Yes, spending time consuming media you find alarming makes you perceive the world as meaner. Some questioned those studies back then, but is there any doubt that obsessively "doomscrolling" Twitter bums people out?

Granted, we've just been through a rough period in history, and political polarization is real. It's still important for citizens to keep informed and not merely ignore current events because they're disturbing. But staying informed is a far cry from beating yourself into a bloody pulp reading the thoughts of every random person who's as obsessed with current events as you are and less restrained online. Social media started as a fun way to interact with friends and follow prominent people, but it's evolved into a catalyst for mass insanity. If you don't believe it,



OLIVER DOULIERY | COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

There can be harmful consequences when we obsess over what we see on social media.

consider the last five years as evidence.

Ever been on a plane that climbed or descended a little too fast? Maybe the pilots had different tolerances for discomfort from yours, or air-traffic control directives required them to fly in a way you found uncomfortable. But did you storm the cockpit? Did you scream at the top of your lungs, making a scene that freaked out the other passengers? Or did you simply read your book, listen to music, work a crossword puzzle, or take a nap? Even when you had reasons to question how the pilots did their jobs, you let them fly the plane, waited for it to land, and eventually arrived at your destination just fine.

Another thought: Have you considered you might be wrong? Polarization means there are drastically different opinions, and they can't all be right. How ironic that we rarely encounter anyone who admits to having incorrect opinions, but somebody has to be wrong! For instance, some claimed early in the Covid crisis that the disease was a hoax

— that news media were blowing it out of proportion and it wasn't actually as deadly as experts warned. Those people were wrong.

Similarly, some claimed the election results were fraudulent, and they were wrong too. There were a lot of officials who wanted Trump to win but certified results for Biden because they were people of integrity, and the results were accurate. Some also claimed the news media lied about the election, but they didn't — except a few organizations promoting conspiracy theories. Why were some people so obsessed with those theories they were willing to storm the Capitol? Suffice to say, they didn't just let the pilots fly.

Point is, Glenn, there are real problems in the world, but obsessing over social media isn't solving them. Give it a rest. Live your life.

Glenn Hubbard is a communication professor and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Mendenhall Main Floor,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

College doesn't fully prepare us

Tano Talk



Macie Tano
TEC COLUMNIST

As an undergraduate senior here at East Carolinian University, who is set to graduate in the spring, I can tell you that I am both excited and terrified for the future. There's so many questions I have, like what career

will I end up with? Where will I end up living? As I look toward the future, I also have to reflect on my time at ECU and the past three and a half years I have spent here. While I have had a wonderful time at this university and have met great people here, I don't believe my courses fully prepared me for the real world.

There are so many skills I have to basically teach myself now that I never really learned throughout my courses here. There were some professors who would briefly touch upon certain skills, such as time management, but I believe there should be more emphasis on skills needed in life. There's a few things I believe should be covered more in our courses, such as communication and negotiation skills, money management, etc.

Communication and negotiation skills are critical for the professional world. If I have learned anything from

" This issue isn't unique to ECU either, as I'm sure many college students across the nation feel the same way. "

-Macie Tano

the few interviews I have had so far, it's that I was not fully prepared on how to be a successful interviewee. Proper communication skills are essential for interviewing with any company, and is also equally important for life in general. The same goes for negotiation. Whether it be for salaries or business deals, negotiation is an important tool for success in the professional world that seems to be missing from our curriculum.

Money management is another skill I am having to learn now. Saving money is extremely essential, yet it is something that isn't talked about much in our courses. Fortunately, ECU added a Financial Literacy course on Canvas, but this is something I definitely wish I could have had access to sooner. I often found myself completing unnecessary spending over the past few years, and even now, so I believe money management is something that should be covered more heavily in our curriculum.

Finding the right job is something I'm sure everyone wants to know how to do. In my job search for post grad life, I've noticed that I've found myself stuck on where to even begin looking. How do I know what job is right for me? While ECU's Career Services do an excellent job assisting with career planning, resume help, etc., I believe students would benefit more from job searching skills and resume building being covered more in our courses. Students need to know how to make an effective resume, find the right job for them and successfully prepare for an interview.

Lastly, I believe critical thinking needs to be covered in our courses more. Once someone graduates college, and even before graduation, they will be making many important decisions.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

EVENTS

TODAY

Open Mic Night

The Blackened Kraken
123 E. 5th Street
7 to 11:30 p.m.
252-215-8822

Karaoke Night

5th Street Distillery and Annex
120 E. 5th Street
10 to 11:30 p.m.
252-757-3034

Open Mic with JT Ackerman

Molly's Community Cafe
6 to 9 p.m.
300 S. Evans St.
252-227-4449

Karaoke Night

Pitt Street Brewing Co.
8 to 10 p.m.
630 S. Pitt Street
252-227-4151

TOMORROW

Tapas and Jazz

Starlight Cafe
104 W. 5th Street
5:30 to 10 p.m.
252-707-9033

Comic Book Club

Smashed Waffles
718 Dickinson Avenue
7 to 9 p.m.
252-364-2872

College Night at Stumpy's

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

FRIDAY

Virtual First Friday Art Walk

Uptown Greenville
Virtual
5 to 8 p.m.
252-561-8400

Friends of Joyner Library School of Art & Design

Graduate Student Art Exhibit
Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery
Joyner Library E. 5th Street
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
252-328-4176

SATURDAY

Sidetrac Band Live

Molly's Community Cafe
6 to 9 p.m.
300 S. Evans St.
252-227-4449

Call for Artwork

Greenville Museum of Art
802 S. Evans Street
Ongoing Submissions
252-758-1946

SUNDAY

Sunday Brunch

Mpourium
814 Dickenson Ave.
1 to 5 p.m.
252-565-8773

#TAKEOUTUPTOWN

Uptown Greenville
Month-long
252-561-8400

Mantra Immersion Series

Purple Blossom Yoga Studio
302 S. Evans St.
9 to 10:30 a.m.



TY HUFF | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Julienne Beblo looks at the graduate student artwork featured in the 13th Annual Friends of Joyner Library School of Art & Design Graduate Student Art Exhibit.

ECU student art remains on display

Friends of Joyner Library award winners announced

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

The winners of the 13th annual Friends of Joyner Library School of Art and Design (SoAD) Graduate Student Art Exhibition were announced on Jan. 28 and all submissions will be able to be viewed in the Faulkner Gallery through March 5.

Charlotte Fitz Daniels, programs and events coordinator and curator of Janice B. Hardison Faulkner Gallery, said there are 21 artists who are featured in the exhibit with 51 pieces of artwork displayed.

The Friends of Joyner Library Purchase Award 2021 winner is "Point of Hunt Series" by Madi Johnson. The School of Art and Design Director's Award winner is "Squeezed" by Karena "Kidd" Graves. The School of Art and Design Award winner is "Vaxius"

by Peter Borsay. The Dowdy Student Store Award is Julienne Beblo with her piece "Nathan's Bowl."

"This exhibit is sponsored by the Friends of Joyner Library. They are a membership group that supports a lot of our library initiatives and this exhibit is one of them," Fitz Daniels said.

Fitz Daniels asked students to submit artwork based upon a broad perspective she provided to them. She said she asks them to send her images of the artwork they wish to submit to the exhibition as well as an artist statement.

"This year I asked them (graduate students) to respond about the state of our world. The pandemic, Black Lives Matter, the presidential election," Fitz Daniels said.

The Friends of Joyner Library provide the prize money for the Joyner Library Purchase award,

according to Fitz Daniels. She said the winner of the Purchase award has their artwork on display in the library and are awarded \$1,000.

"It is very much an honor for a student to have their work purchased by the library and a very staple to the Friends of Joyner Library to do that," Fitz Daniels said.

Trista Reis Porter, director of the Greenville Museum of Art, said Fitz Daniels contacted her to be the juror of the exhibit. She chose the winners of all the awards for the exhibition and said she was happy to be a part of the exhibit.

Porter said there were no specifications for the judging process, as she was asked to choose the four pieces of artwork that she liked best. She said she chose the pieces of artwork that spoke to her aesthetically.

"I thought it (the exhibit) was really strong. It was nice to see such a broad representation, and across

different mediums, different styles," Porter said.

Madi Johnson, Friends of Joyner Library Purchase Award winner, said she participated in the exhibition because her professors encourage graduate students to use their voices through their artwork.

"I am beyond thrilled. I was not expecting it whatsoever. They (Joyner Library) typically purchase 2D designs, like paintings or prints or something that can go on the wall, so I am ecstatic that a 3D thing (artwork) was purchased through the library and they get to stay there," Johnson said.

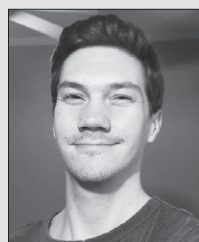


Madi Johnson

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

MOVIE REVIEW

'Dark Waters' offers well executed story



Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

"Dark Waters," a film currently featured in East Carolina University Voyages of Discovery Series, is a legal thriller that stars Mark Ruffalo as Robert Bilott and tells the tale of Bilott's 20-year-long struggle against the corporation DuPont's activity in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

The film, released in 2019, recounts the true story of environmental attorney Robert Bilott's legal battle against the company DuPont's widespread chemical contamination and subsequent cover-up, according to the ECU Voyages of Discovery website. The site said the film is based on Bilott's book titled, "Exposure: Poisoned Water, Corporate Greed, and One Lawyer's Twenty-Year Battle Against DuPont."

Bilott, an environmental corporate defense lawyer who, upon the call to action from his down-home "grammar" (grandmother) and a disgruntled farmer Wilbur Tennant (played by Bill Camp), decides to begin what would turn into roughly a 20-year-long struggle against the chemical company DuPont. In addition to acting in a principal role, Ruffalo is listed as producer in the film's credits. "Dark Waters" takes a serious tone,

and it does well to chronicle the painstaking effort made by Bilott blow-by-blow. The movie is paced relatively well given the 20-year timeframe, and utilizes montages to pass time and give scope to the struggle. To warn potential viewers who may be revolted by chemistry, there is in fact a short chemistry lesson within the film, and bits like this slow the movie tremendously, though they feel necessary to the whole film.

Comedic relief is subtle, sparse and well written. Viewers can expect to at least blow air through their nostrils once or twice. Enigmatic scores by Marcelo Zarvos serve the film and the ear well, and add to both the overarching theme of legal intrigue and queasy abjection as the effects of DuPont's evil manifest throughout the film.

When the movie feels like a thriller, it does so incredibly well, and when it shifts to feel like an expose on corporate accountability, it executes this aspect smoothly as well. The latter accounts for a bulk of the film, and the former fairly brief, and mix well when they meet.

The film entertains but not exceptionally well. Its value, and this recommendation comes from its salient substance, and important narrative. Those looking for a thriller may find the movie lacking, but those looking for a compelling real-life legal drama with



COURTESY OF MARY CYBULSKI | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES AND FOCUS FEATURES
Mark Ruffalo (right) plays Rob Bilott in "Dark Waters."

well executed thriller elements should find "Dark Waters," an exciting saga.

Those who wish to view the film can do so for free at the Voyages of Discovery's webpage on Feb. 3 with an ECU login. Those interested in hearing about Bilott's struggle firsthand should attend the Voyages of Discovery lecture hosted by ECU's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences where Robert Bilott will speak and have a Q&A session.

RATING:



3 out of 5

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

DINE continued from A1

Business was steady throughout the summer months, according to Oliverio. When the fall semester began in August 2020, business picked up as students came back to Greenville and were excited to come back to the restaurant, but it took some time for everyone to adjust to being in the restaurant with the safety protocols, he said.

Business slowed down in December and into January, according to

Oliverio. He said cold weather slows dine-in business. With students back in town and as the weather warms up, he said he hopes for an increase in business in the next few weeks. He said the staff increased cleaning methods and started to wear masks to ensure a safe dine-in experience.

"The majority of our seating is outdoors, so for us it's all about making people feel comfortable dining out. The only way to do that is to go above and beyond and make people feel safe," Oliverio said.

Andrew Kirchner is the manager

of The Blackened Kraken Bar & Grill, located at 123 East 5th St. Kirchner said when the shutdown started due to the pandemic, the restaurant was not able to switch over to take-out because it is a full service restaurant and bar which was not equipped to handle take-out orders.

The Blackened Kraken closed down at the same time classes transitioned to online, and remained closed for three months, Kirchner said. He said the restaurant reopened in the summer and he believes there were

more students in town when classes were in session, so business was steady for the summer and the fall.

"We serve a lot of faculty, with students being in town more professionals have to be in town to support the increased number of

people in town," Kirchner said. The Blackened Kraken's target clientele are upperclassmen, graduate students and young professionals, Kirchner said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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 a 7 — Review resources with a joint venture. Handle administrative tasks and accounting. Hunt for hidden opportunities underneath big changes. Think and make plans.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Prioritize domestic tranquility. Clean and organize. Keep your patience and humor. Stay flexible with unplanned changes. Prepare comfort foods to nurture your household.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — It's OK to withdraw into your cozy cocoon. Find a peaceful spot to plot and imagine. Catch up on cleaning. Rest with a good book.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Take it easy with your partner. Avoid upset or controversy. You probably don't have the full picture. Support each other with changes. Relax.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Study the latest developments in the story. Reconsider your view. A roadblock could cause delays or confusion. Listen and observe. Articulate words carefully before you speak.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Confer with allies to surpass an obstacle. Clean a mess; many hands make light work. Collaborate and contribute what you can. Teamwork wins.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Focus on strengthening health, wellness and physical work with practice. Use gentle pressure rather than force. Listen to your intuition and body. Feast on beauty.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — That money could show up anytime now. Old assumptions get challenged. Postpone travel or expect delays. Avoid a clash with authority. Double-check the numbers.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Consider professional options and opportunities. In a stalemate, don't ask for favors. Diplomacy provides a golden key. Keep expenses low as you advance.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Obligations, deadlines or chores could interrupt the fun. Patiently clean messes. Manage unexpected circumstances. Nurture love and family. Relax and wait for better conditions.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — You know what you want. You may notice everywhere it's missing. Treat yourself kindly. If your internal monologue turns negative, talk to someone else.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Unexpected deviations interrupt your research. Investigate promising threads. Some lead nowhere. Some hold real potential. Patiently manage transportation or shipping delays. Study options.

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

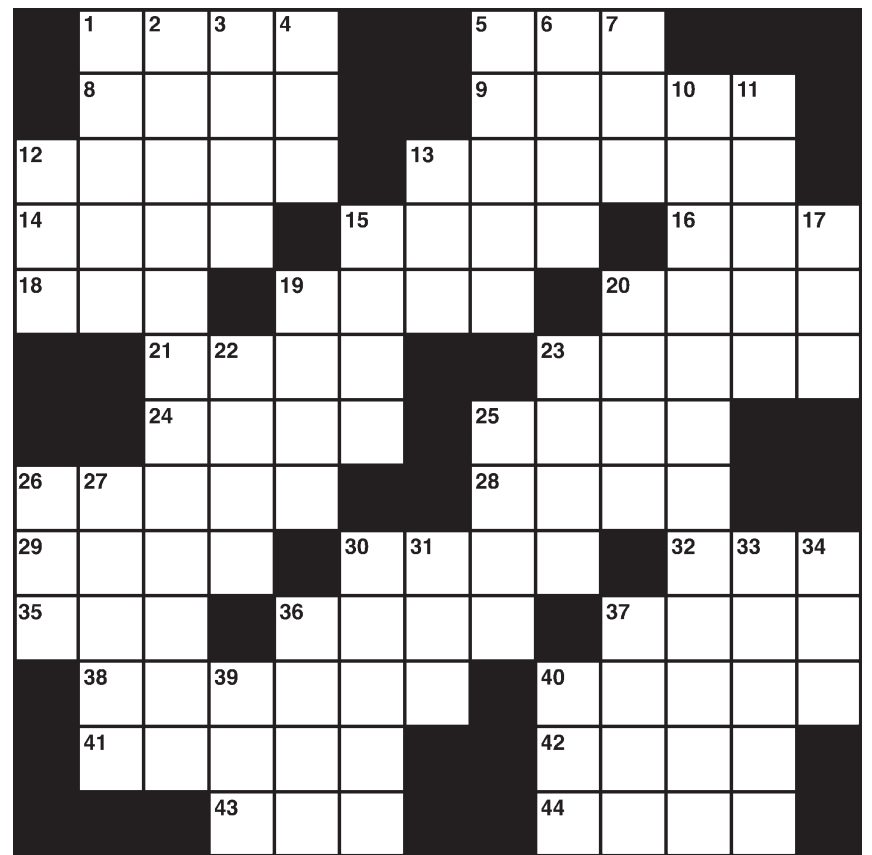


"And now, dear, I'm going to hum annoyingly and see how you like it."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- Paquin or Faris
 - Elly May's pa
 - Rosary piece
 - Nick Fradiani & Maddie Poppe, e.g.
 - "_ Get Away with Murder"
 - Lead role on "The Good Wife"
 - Gardner and others
 - Actor on "Gilligan's Island"
 - Six-pointers, for short
 - Topaz or ruby
 - Farrow & Kirshner
 - "_ of Echoes"; Kevin Bacon film
 - "The _ Man"; Cedric the Entertainer series
 - Acting parts
 - "From Dawn _ Dusk"; film for George Clooney
 - "She _ a Yellow Ribbon"; John Wayne movie
 - "_ for Adano"; Gene Tierney war film
 - Help a thief
 - Cooper or Sinise
 - Knotts & Rickles
- Solution from 01/27
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | T | E | R | | | L | A | P | | | | | | |
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| S | H | O | R | T | | | A | F | R | I | C | A | | | |
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| S | W | A | B | | | | W | A | S | T | E | | | | |
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- DOWN**
- "The Cat in the _"
 - "The New Adventures of _ Christine"
 - _ touch; pushover
 - Mrs. Herman Munster
 - "_ Eden"; James Dean movie
 - Comes to shore
 - Make a smudge worse
 - Seaweed
 - Trauma ctrs.
 - Director & former actor Ted _
- DOWN**
- _ suspicion; obviously innocent
 - 2018 medical drama series
 - Natalie's dad and others
 - "Much _ About Nothing"
 - St. John and Hennessy
 - Adams or Falco
 - One of the Seven Dwarfs
 - "A Million _"
 - Calvano of "Mom"
 - Broom Hilda, for one
 - Battery size
 - Actor Harper
 - Yrbk. section
 - _ over; contemplate
 - As _ as a boil
 - Greasy
 - Estes & Lowe
 - "The X-Files: I _ to Believe"; Duchovny film
 - Not long _; recently
 - Actor Christian & his family
 - Choices for "Let's Make a Deal" contestants
 - "Fresh _ the Boat"
 - Alan and others
 - Cobb & Burrell
 - "_ Trek: Voyager"
 - "_ Land"; Ryan Gosling movie
 - "Eye _ You"; film for Stallone
 - "_ & Order"

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

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 01/27

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

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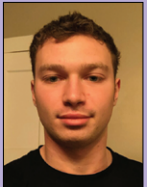
The East Carolinian - WZMB 91.3 - Anchor's Away
The Agency - Expressions - The Hook - Rebel

TEC 'sports

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's athletic contests

Jess Sabin

Men's basketball reporter
@jess_sabin

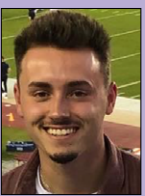


Men's Basketball vs. Houston on Feb. 3
Who wins? Houston beats ECU 83-60.

Why? ECU has experienced several close losses in its recent loss streak, and Houston has been dominant as they have not lost a game since Dec. 29, 2020.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



Women's Basketball vs. Memphis on Feb. 6
Who wins? ECU beats Memphis 55-51

Why? Although the Pirates have had a streak of losses, they have still been in it in the fourth quarter of several of those games.

Stephen Babich

Track and field reporter
@stephenbabich1



Brant Tolsma Invitational at Liberty University on Feb. 6
Who wins? Nijel Wilkins will finish top three in the men's triple jump.

Why? Wilkins is currently ranked fourth all-time in ECU program history with a jump of 15.31 meters in the American Athletic Conference Indoor championships in 2020.



ECU students utilize the fitness resources provided by the Student Recreation Center, which have been rearranged under COVID-19 guidelines.

SRC to adapt operations

Recreation center modifies procedures under COVID-19

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Student Recreation Center (SRC) will continue to operate throughout the spring semester, with all visitors required to wear a face mask while inside and set time slots with required reservations.

When North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper decided to let the gyms reopen on Sept. 4, the recreation center resumed its operations, but students had to reserve time slots to work out due to COVID-19 gathering limitations.



Roy Cooper

The recreation center didn't have the pools, track or basketball courts open after it first reopened on Sept. 7. However, the center plans to reopen these facilities later this spring semester.

Junior Dylan Hamer said the recreation center has been cautious with its operations this semester. He said that the SRC's protocol, even before entering the facility has been great and they are doing a good job enforcing it.

"They're (the recreation center) checking temperatures and having hand sanitizer outside, they're doing good stuff like that," Hamer said. "I feel like if they let people in whenever, it would be more sparse in there at a single time."

Associate Director of Facilities/Operations of the SRC Dana Lopez said the recreation center plans to use a similarly structured schedule throughout the spring semester.

"We're doing the same idea and it's a similar process," Lopez said. "We had an update with our software so it will be easier to book times and to cancel."

According to Lopez, the recreation center will have two added time slots of 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 to 9:45 p.m., accommodating the 10 p.m. curfew enforced by Cooper. The recreation center will still have the time slots of 4:30 to 6 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. that were put in place for the duration of the previous fall semester.

The recreation center will be almost completely open, with an exception of the cycle studio which will remain closed. The racquetball court will be open, but racquet play is prohibited there. The mind and body zone will only be allowed for academic use and is limited to four people at a time. "The Nook," which has limited weights, will now have a capacity of 10 people, versus last semester's limit of seven, according to Lopez.

Lopez said recreation center staff will conduct constant sanitation procedures to eliminate germs, which will help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"While we're open, we will have a cleaning crew constantly going around and cleaning equipment," Lopez said.

"It's still expected that the members themselves would clean the equipment (they use) prior to and post exercise. Also, that 30-minute time gap between our slots, is used for hydrostatic cleaners that go around and pretty much fog the entire place and disinfect the area."

Additionally, Lopez said masks will need to be worn at all times while individuals use the SRC facilities, even during physical activity. She said this is in accordance with the North Carolina state law.

Lopez said equipment that is for check out is cleaned as someone brings it back. She said equipment usually gets left out for people to pick up and use, but is now behind the members service desk so it can be sanitized.

However, one student said that the recreation center would be better off without the required reserve time slots just for access to the facility. Junior business marketing major Jake McNeill said he thinks to schedule everyone to come in at one time is a little odd in regards to general COVID-19 concerns.

"I think scheduling everybody to come in at one time is a little weird," McNeill said.

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

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HOUSTON continued from A1

Houston picked up a 70-48 win in its most recent game against the Southern Methodist University Mustangs (9-4-4 AAC) on Jan. 31 in Houston, Texas. Sophomore guard Marcus Sasser led the way for the Cougars in that game as he played 34 minutes and had 19 points in addition to four rebounds and three steals.

Up to this point in the season, ECU has averaged 67.8 points per game and shot 42.2% from the field as a team. In addition, the Pirates shoot 31.9% from the three point line and they grab 35.0 rebounds per game on average. ECU moves the ball well as they are third in the AAC in assists with 15.8 per game, according to The American. On the defensive end, the Pirates force 15.1 turnovers a game and they have a positive turnover margin of 1.8.

Gardner said after the loss against Tulsa the team needed to figure out how to close out games in the final minutes.

"We've got to figure out how to win," Gardner said. "We've got to be able to execute down the stretch, listen better and execute better in the X's and O's and we weren't able to do that tonight."

Houston comes into Greenville on an eight-game win streak and they sit atop the AAC ranks. The Cougars have been led by junior guard and former McDonald's All-American Quentin Grimes, who averages 17.6 points and 6.7 rebounds per game. Junior guard Marcus Sasser follows Grimes in points scored per contest at 15.3 points per game and he shoots 39.6% from the three point line. As a team, the Cougars have averaged 74.4 points per game and they hold their opponents to 56.5 points per contest.



Jayden Gardner



Senior guard J.J. Miles lines up a shot on basket.

Dooley said he feels as if his team has improved despite the recent losses. He said it is important for the team to respond to this adversity.

"Now, I think the big thing is how do you stay together, how do you get better, how do you compete, how do we clean up some things and try to get our guys better," Dooley said.

The Pirates have been able to rely on a number of different players for offense this season. Gardner, who was a preseason all-AAC selection, leads the way for ECU as he averages 17.1 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. Senior guard J.J. Miles and sophomore forward Brandon Suggs follow Gardner in points per game as they average 10.2 and 9.5 points per game, respectively.

After Houston, ECU will hit the road for a matchup with the University of Memphis Tigers (9-6, 5-3 AAC) on Feb. 6. The game is set to tip-off at 2 p.m. and can be seen on ESPN2 or ESPN from the FedExForum in Memphis, Tennessee.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY