

The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 02.10.21

ECU launches new pandemic research fund

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

A new Pandemic Research and Response Fund will be launched by East Carolina University, which will seek to support and fund projects at the university that are committed to research and prevention of COVID-19 in the eastern North Carolina region.

Dr. Peter Schmidt, vice dean for ECU's Brody School of Medicine (BSOM), said the fund was started by the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation as an effort to aid projects that began under the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act.



Peter Schmidt

"I think it's important to say this is a full Health Sciences Division effort. There's work going on at the dental school, at the College of Nursing, the College of Allied Health Sciences, who are all pulling together to move forward to fight against COVID(-19). We've got people contributing to the effort in every way possible," Schmidt said.

ECU's Medical and Health Sciences Foundation Interim President Dr. Herbert Garrison said in an email statement the foundation created the fund to allocate accessible funds to medical researchers across health sciences whose work relates to the prevention of COVID-19.

Garrison said the fund will support more than 20 projects that were originally launched by the CARES Act, such as vaccine development and community surveillance initiatives.

"The need (for the fund) is urgent, and our clinicians and researchers have the skills to act now," Garrison said. "This fund provides a way for resources to be targeted quickly and directly to the projects making the greatest impact on treating, preventing and ultimately defeating COVID-19 here in Greenville and across the region."

Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pathology at the BSOM Dr. John Fallon said with ECU's research and response fund, his team can continue to build the infrastructure necessary to conduct the research and continue its surveillance of the virus.

"We (COVID-19 researchers at BSOM) need funding. We don't currently have funding to do the sequencing work, which is relatively expensive, so that would be a primary use of this research fund," Fallon said. "And we'd also like to be able to get some students involved, undergrads, grad students, medical students, in the lab to let them learn some of this technology and work with us to do some of this surveillance testing, as well as the sequencing."

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY



Joyner Library at ECU is one building expected to undergo review.

BOT to review controversial building titles

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

Summer Tonizzo
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson will recommend to the Board of Trustees (BOT) that the names of five campus buildings be changed from historically controversial namesakes to reflect the university's current climate of "respect and inclusion."

The name change recommendation by Mitchelson will be brought to the BOT on Feb. 11 to the Athletics & Advancement Committee Meeting, according to the BOT meeting agenda.

In a Feb. 5 email sent to the BOT via Chair Vern Davenport and Athletics & Advancement Committee Chair Fielding Miller, Mitchelson said he proposes Jarvis Residence Hall be renamed Pamlico Hall, Cotten Hall be renamed Albemarle Hall and

Fleming Hall be renamed Currituck Hall. In the email, he proposed Joyner (West) Library be renamed Main Campus Library and Joyner East be renamed School of Communication.

"Regardless of the passage of time, the racist expressions and actions attributed to these individuals should not be honored on a university campus that is (increasingly) home to African American students and colleagues," Mitchelson said in his recommendation email.

The recommendation follows the Jan. 28, 17-page report sent to Mitchelson from the Ad Hoc Naming Committee.

The committee recommended the removal of namesakes James Flemming, Thomas Jarvis, James Joyner and Sallie Cotten from university buildings in a vote, according to the report.

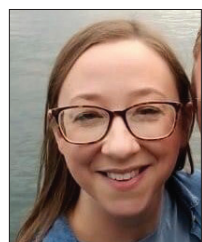
> NAMES page A2

Pitt Street to feature local artist

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Local artist Raymond Henderson is the featured artist of the month at Pitt Street Brewing Company, located at 630 S Pitt St., for which he contributed eight pieces of artwork for Black History Month that focus on the celebration of unity, equality and empowerment.

Brianna Long, general manager at Pitt Street Brewing Company, said different artists to be featured in the brewery are chosen to represent a variety of styles and cultures. She said the brewery is also a stop on the Uptown Greenville Art Walk on the first Friday of every month.



Brianna Long

"Raymond's art is so thoughtful. He often takes current social issues and turns them into beautiful works of art," Long said in an email statement.

People have come to view Henderson's work and should contact Henderson directly if they would like to purchase his artwork, Long said. She said artists interested in a featured artist spot can email samples of their artwork to info@pittstreetbrewing.com.

Raymond Henderson said the opportunity to have his artwork displayed at Pitt Street Brewing Company gave him the chance to use sketches in his sketchbook that he's had for a while. He said the opportunity has increased his following on social media as well.

"It's (Pitt Street Brewing Company) a great place for artists to display their work. It's free exposure and lots and lots of people are coming in and out of the brewery," Henderson said.

As he grew up, Henderson said he studied how various artists used different colors and shades and how the choices they made told a story. He said African Americans used art to tell stories when they were not allowed to learn how to read in the 1800s. He said he was inspired to hide messages inside his artwork such as unity and equality.

People usually do not see everything that goes on in a piece, and they buy it because of the colors, according to Henderson. He said he enjoys when he gets the chance to explain the full meaning of his artwork.

"Once people start looking at my work, I want them to ask me those questions," Henderson said. "(such as) 'Why did you do X, Y and Z?'"

One of the pieces displayed at Pitt Street Brewing

> ARTIST page A4

Men's basketball to play Temple series

Pirates prepare to face off against AAC foe the Owls twice in a three-day span



Redshirt junior center Ludgy Debaut goes up for a basket in ECU's win over Houston.

Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's basketball team (8-6, 2-6 American Athletic Conference) will enter into back-to-back games with Temple University (4-5, 3-5 AAC) away on Feb. 11 and then at home on Feb. 13 with both games scheduled for a noon tip-off.

Temple enters the first game against ECU on the back of a three game loss streak. The Owls lost their last two games to the University of Cincinnati (5-7, 3-4 AAC) on Feb. 4 and to Wichita State University (11-4, 7-2 AAC) on Feb. 7. Each of those games were lost by just three points. However, the first game of their current losing streak is tied for their worst loss of the season, a 17 point loss to Tulane University (7-7, 2-7 AAC) on Jan. 31

The Owls are led in points by freshman guard Damian Dunn.

Dunn leads the team with 14.1 points per game as he shoots 34% from the field overall, 73% from the free throw line and is 25% from three. Dunn is 5-20 from three on the season which is the lowest percentage of Temple's top six scorers, according to ESPN.

Sophomore guard Khalif Battle is No. 2 on the team in points per game with a season average of 11.8, according to ESPN. Battle has shot 31% from the field, 73.7% from the free throw line and 29.2% from three. Battle is No. 3 on the team in rebounds with 5.8 per game.

Temple's third-highest scorer is junior forward Jake Forrester. Forrester averages 10 points per game and is the team's most efficient scorer. Forrester has shot 59.6% from the field overall which is 9.6% higher than any other teammate, according to ESPN. He shoots 61.1% from the free throw line and

has not taken a three point shot yet this season.

Temple as a team averages 64.3 points per game which is No. 306 in the country, according to teamrankings.com. They do so on a 45.6% effective field goal percentage which is No. 316 in the country. They allow their opponents to score an average of 69.1 points per game on 48.6% effective field goal percentage which are ranked as No. 121 and No. 127 in the country respectively.

The Pirates enter the first game against Temple on a two game loss streak of their own, with their most recent loss a 15 point defeat at the hands of Southern Methodist University (11-4, 7-4 AAC) on Feb. 8.

Due to their in-conference record being at 2-8, ECU currently sits at the bottom of the AAC standings according to ESPN, while

> TEMPLE page A6

ONLINE

»ARTS: MOVIE REVIEW on Amazon Prime Video movie 'Bliss'

»NEWS: Construction around ECU and Greenville continues

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

G.O.L.D series to continue virtually

Today, the G.O.L.D Leader series will continue from 5 to 6 p.m., as Student Engagement hosts an online event that will discuss how COVID-19 affects college students. Healthcare experts are expected to provide information and takeaway strategies about how to survive and thrive through the ongoing pandemic. Any East Carolina University student is welcome to participate in this virtual event and are encouraged to RSVP via the Engage website.

PASC to continue Alumni Career Panel

Today, the Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC) will continue its Alumni Career Panel with a "Chemistry Careers" information session from 7 to 8 p.m. Every Wednesday throughout the month of February, PASC continues to host sessions related to the health career field. The events host recruited representatives from various roles in the health field. The "Chemistry Careers" event will be hosted via Microsoft Teams and the link to join can be found on the ECU Events Calendar.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

The College of Fine Arts and Communications Dean's Merit Award was won by Karena "Kidd" Graves among the winners of the 13th annual Friends of Joyner Library School of Art and Design Graduate Student Art Exhibition.

The Student Government Association SGA advisor and Campus Activities and Events director, Justin Janak, announced on behalf of the Student Homecoming Committee on Feb. 1 that students both on and off-campus are encouraged to participate.

There will not be a blood drive event included in "Home Sweet Homecoming" Week.

The East Carolina University Homecoming event "Skit Night" would usually gather 3,000 to 5,000 spectators each year.

The Student Activities Board has no involvement in the planning or execution of "Home Sweet Homecoming."

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



East Carolina University student leaves Dowdy Student Store. The store is expected to see changes under Barnes and Noble College's management.

BNC to take over Dowdy

Operational changes expected to occur throughout March and April

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

Barnes and Noble College (BNC) will soon take over operations of East Carolina University's Dowdy Student Stores as the transition process will be finalized at the end of February and is expected to take place through March and April.

Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said BNC is a subsidiary of Barnes and Noble, and it manages over 700 bookstores across the country, such as the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel-Hill, UNC at Wilmington, UNC at Greensboro and UNC at Charlotte.

"They (other universities) have had, I think, good success and reported good things about their relationship with Barnes and Noble," Mitchelson said. "With all that purchasing power, with all those economies of scale, economies of scope, it will help them fight the inflation that we see in traditional books."

Mitchelson said the movement toward digital content and materials was not handled well by the university and BNC will help students and faculty be better served. BNC's benefits toward Dowdy does not mean the current Dowdy employees did poorly, he said.

BNC will provide Dowdy with large-scale, centralized services and an access to more resources, Mitchelson said. He said BNC will make the decisions for Dowdy Student Stores from here forward.

"They're (BNC) smart as heck, right. Their job is to return a profit to the company, they want the customers to be happy, they want their customers to return," Mitchelson said. "We'll lose some control but what we know is, for example, from their other operations, is that they're very price conscious and they have a matching program, so if you show them a cheaper price they'll match it."

In regards to the transition process, Mitchelson said the next step is to write and sign the final contract between ECU and

BNC. The agreement needs to be finalized in written form, which will be concluded by the end of February, with March and April dedicated to the transition process, he said.

Mitchelson said Dowdy has lost money, and with BNC's operations toward the bookstore, Dowdy will now have a guaranteed \$1 million, some of which will go toward student scholarships. He said BNC will help with the disruption of revenue and loss of employment due to COVID-19.

"There was a major investment necessary for us, a point of sale transactional platform software and ours had come to the end of its life and that was going to be hundreds of thousands of dollars," Mitchelson said. "It just made sense to at least put it out for bid."

Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Safety and Auxiliary Services Bill Koch said BNC will benefit ECU with stability and sustainability as the university has lost revenues since 2018.

Koch said although the university has sustained thousands of dollars in scholarship donations each year, it would not be sustained long-term while the market continues to change as well as with the impact of COVID-19 on the university.

"This is not anything against our staff and our management, it's why universities are going with these large vendors who provide this management service," Koch said. "They also provide great access to markets, whether its digital materials or textbooks, or even apparel and other merchandise that we sell."

Dowdy's name will not change, though there will be visual and brand changes, Koch said. BNC wants Dowdy to be a destination for people to come in and enjoy, and it will remain a bookstore with Pirate and ECU apparel, he said.

Dowdy will look a bit different, Koch said, though it will still be full of purple and gold, as BNC wants it to become a place where students can go to study, watch TV and catch a football game. BNC understands that the ECU brand is what brings people in and sells products and they will work out the details of change with the university, he said.

"They love our store, they love the layout, they love what the staff and the management have done with the store," Koch said. "But they have some other ideas on ways to, you know, to get that pop, that vibrant look. The kinds of setups and displays that are going to bring people in."

Koch said upon the request of proposal for BNC to operate Dowdy, ECU had one requirement, that the current Dowdy staff be retained. While employees will not lose their jobs, it is their choice to stay with Dowdy or to look into positions of reassignment, he said.



Quinn Willard

she is glad BNC wants to keep student employees and is excited about the transition.

"I think it'll be good, just 'cause I know they are putting money into it, so hopefully it'll (Dowdy) grow and get better," Willard said. "Currently, I haven't noticed any change, but I mean it's only been a week (since the announcement)."

An ECU Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) news release said 16 employees are impacted by the partnership. While two employees are currently on furlough, seven currently work at Dowdy and seven more have been temporarily reassigned. The FAQ release said ECU administration will work with ECU Human Resources and BNC to discuss employees options.

The partnership includes a five-year agreement with a five-year extension deal and will provide the university with benefits such as a sign-on bonus, a capital investment for renovations and technology, an annual contribution to athletics, textbook scholarships and utilities, according to the FAQ news release.

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

NAMES continued from A1

The committee voted to keep Robert Wright's namesake building, Wright Auditorium, and recommended Mitchelson retain the name.

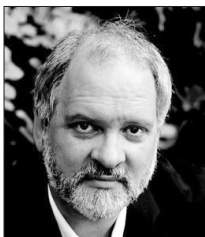
"Unfortunately, the progressivism of the early 20th century also embraced 'scientific racism,'" the report said. "Many anthropologists, sociologists, historians and other social scientists of that time argued that human beings could be categorized along a scale from primitive to advanced, based on race and ethnic religion."

Four of the five namesakes under review were prominent in the "Progressive Era" from around 1890 to 1920, the report said.

"The committee looked for evidence that the person actively advanced and promoted the political and social supremacy of white North Carolinians, as opposed to being a 'person of the times' who accepted but did not promote the racial norms of the day," according to the report. "As a secondary factor, the committee looked at the person's contribution to East Carolina Teachers' Training School."

Chair of the Ad Hoc Naming Committee and history professor Gerald Prokopowicz said if some campus buildings are named after individuals who didn't have the best reputation, it is a good idea that they be renamed.

"You can't hold people responsible for the world they lived in, but you can review the conduct people committed where they had an opportunity to make the world better and chose to make it worse," Prokopowicz



Gerald Prokopowicz



Jarvis Residence Hall is expected to see a name review due to the controversial past of Thomas Jarvis.

said. "I think recognizing the views of the past that were universal 100 years ago aren't anymore is an appropriate thing to do. I do think it (renaming buildings) would make the campus more consistent with its values of diversity and openness."

History Professor and University Historian John Tucker said in an email statement he wrote numerous entries on ECU's Heritage Hall's website relative to ECU history.

Fleming Residence Hall was named after James Fleming, a lawyer and state senator from Pitt County, according to the Heritage Hall website. The website said he served the eastern North Carolina region from the year 1905 to 1909.

James Joyner, the individual Joyner Library is named after, worked to establish some of North Carolina's high school systems and education, Tucker said on the website, as public school systems were racially segregated from 1902 to 1919.

While the website Tucker wrote for describes the accomplishments of the figures the buildings

were named after, the report by the Ad Hoc Naming Committee sent to Mitchelson discussed why these buildings are recommended for name changes.

"As Superintendent of Instruction, Joyner unquestioningly accepted and supported the division of educational facilities on racial lines," the report said.

Thomas Jarvis advocated for "white political dominance" and political violence, according to the report. Although Jarvis was not confirmed to be a Ku Klux Klan (KKK) member, the report said, secret KKK societies were common during the early 1900s and Jarvis has been accused of supporting the Klan.

Sallie Cotten helped organize multiple women's clubs in the state of North Carolina that were racially segregated, the report said, and Cotten also wrote many historic poems in the early 1900s which oftentimes "conveyed themes of

white supremacy."

"She was a local leader of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, an organization that helped build the myth of the 'Lost Cause' that formed a cornerstone of white supremacy rhetoric of the time," the report said.

Wright Auditorium, another ECU building that was under consideration for a name change, was named after Robert Wright, the president of ECU from 1909 to 1934, according to the report. Although the committee decided not to recommend Wright Auditorium since Wright did not actively promote "white supremacy" and racism, some of his values do not agree with ECU's 21st century values, the report said. It said Wright shared his views of prejudice against certain foreigners.

"Immigration was a divisive political issue in the first decades of the 19th century, with many Americans of English and German descent (so-called Anglo-Saxons) opposing the influx of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe," the report said.

James Fleming sponsored a convict labor bill in Pitt County, according to the report, and also prohibited students of color from attending ECU for over 50 years.

"During the Democrats' 'White Supremacy Campaign' in 1898, Fleming helped found a 'White Government Union' and was praised by the Eastern Reflector newspaper as having 'done much good for the cause of good government and white supremacy,'" the report said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

Cultural events need attendance

As February marks Black History Month, various organizations on East Carolina University's campus have events scheduled in honor of the occasion.

The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, the College of Nursing, the Student Activities Board and the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will all host events on a wide array of topics that relate to Black history, culture, health and more. Both in-person and virtual events will take place through February into March.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe these events are important and valuable additions to the university's programming, and that any and all ECU students can benefit from them. Students should take advantage of these opportunities to stand with the Black community and to learn more about the challenges it has faced in the past, and still faces today.

Especially in light of the protests for racial justice and the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, these events can serve as important forums for education, remembrance, healing and unity. The work of racial justice is not finished and it is up to the public to continue to do that work.

The inclusion of both virtual and in-person events in honor of Black History Month show that challenges associated with COVID-19 will not stop or cancel the celebration of Black history. It reinforces that these events are open and accessible to everyone, regardless of their comfort levels relative to COVID-19.

While it is undoubtedly important to celebrate Black history during the month of February, it is equally important to celebrate and recognize how Black history has shaped our campus, our city, our state and our nation, all year round.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



"TODAY'S SPECIAL IS RELAXED INDOOR DINING RESTRICTIONS SERVED WITH HIGH INFECTION RATES AND A CURFEW REDUCTION. BON APPÉTIT AND GOOD LUCK."

National lockdown is needed

New measures are necessary to combat COVID-19 in the US

More with Michelle



Michelle Mazzei
GUEST COLUMNIST

March marks the one-year anniversary of quarantine life in America due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and there are still millions of cases throughout the world almost a year later and the only

way to get rid of this virus is to go into a national lockdown and make stricter regulations that are enforced more.

North Carolina went into statewide Stay-at-Home Executive Order for only a few months last spring and then businesses, gyms and other establishments slowly started to open back up through phases while cases continued to rise. Today, masks and social-distancing are still part of America's society, but what if those regulations were enforced while we went into a national lockdown?

Some people say the way we live currently is the "new normal," which in some ways is a positive way of living. Individuals all over the world have become more sanitary and safe as they have taken various extra safety precautions due to COVID-19. I think back to the way people lived pre-pandemic and it blows my mind how unsanitary we all were.

Why did we stand so close to each other in airports or in grocery stores pre-pandemic? Why did teenagers or young adults go to parties and gatherings when there were hundreds of complete strangers there?

Although there were more enjoyable things to do when COVID-19 was



COURTESY OF MARIO TAMA | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise around the country, a national lockdown may be needed.

not present, like going to sports games or to the movies, we should continue to incorporate COVID-19 precautions even when the virus goes away. If we go into a national lockdown, we will be able to do the enjoyable activities we want to do sooner as we all hope.

I do want the pandemic to end sooner rather than later. I really hope it does not affect my whole college experience. I think that the only way COVID-19 will end is if we, as a country, go into a national lockdown. While a national lockdown will not be very beneficial for the economy, the general public's health is more important than the economy. If the number of cases can be controlled, everyone can get back to the way they lived their lives before the pandemic.

The COVID-19 vaccine has recently been distributed amongst individuals, some of which include healthcare workers and the elderly, and in the coming months, it will hopefully become available to everyone. Hopefully, having more

people vaccinated will help control the COVID-19 rates. Will the vaccine make all restrictions and regulations be lifted? No. Keep in mind, not everyone will take the vaccine and people don't yet know the long-term effects of the vaccines.

It is to my knowledge that not a lot of people know every guideline that is in place. My friends have been guilty of asking "is the curfew still in effect?" or "how many people are we allowed to have in one sitting?" or "will we have to start wearing two or three face masks at a time due to the new variants?"

As a college student, I see through social media posts that quite a number of people are still going out to social gatherings. It amazes me that people will go to these gatherings with more than 10 mask-less people. There should be more law enforcement acted upon those individuals who choose not social distance.

Michelle Mazzei is a sophomore majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Past experiences don't equal success

Tano Talk



Macie Tano
TEC COLUMNIST

I wrote recently about how I didn't believe college prepared students for life after graduation, but now I want to focus on another problem I think is equally as important as it's something I've dealt with

myself: Why do entry-level jobs require years of experience in the field?

If you're a college senior like me, you are probably also looking for a career after graduation. Whether you're using job search websites like Indeed or Ziprecruiter or are looking in person, you've probably stumbled across a job posting that promotes itself as being "entry-level," yet once you start reading the qualifications of the job, it requires prior experience in the field. For many of us, this is near impossible unless we had a previous internship or job. So, it's super discouraging when you think you have found a job you want to apply for only to realize you don't have the experience they require.

So why do these jobs require three to five years of experience knowing that, most likely, college graduates will be the ones who apply to them? It seems a little

"Overall, entry-level jobs requiring previous experience in the field can seem discouraging. I know it discouraged me from applying at times."

-Macie Tano

unfair to me. Not to mention, usually, these jobs require long hours with very minimal pay. Of course, I would expect that of an entry-level job, but to expect prior experience in the field on top of that doesn't seem quite right.

After looking into this phenomenon more, I realized there are a few reasons why some entry-level jobs require this experience. Many of these hiring managers are looking for someone with "real world" exposure. At university, we tend to be dealing with homework and tests. These jobs want someone with exposure to money and clients. While that makes sense, it still seems a little unfair to ask if many college students don't have that exposure until after graduation.

Another reason entry-level jobs require prior experience is due to them wanting someone with exposure to deadlines and projects. These hiring managers

want to know that their candidate can successfully meet deadlines for their clients. Of course, as students, we have dealt with deadlines before for classes, so I believe hiring managers should take this into account when looking at job applications.

The ability to effectively communicate is something that entry-level jobs look for in their candidates as well. They want to make sure their employees can properly communicate with their clients and business associates. This communication is way different than communication with classmates and friends but is something that can be learned quickly.

Lastly, hiring managers want someone who can deal with unorthodox projects and situations.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

EVENTS

TODAY

Karaoke Night

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

Open Mic Comedy Night

Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
7:30 to 10 p.m.
252-227-4151

TOMORROW

Open Mic Comedy Night

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

College Night at Stumpy's

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

FRIDAY

February African American Music Series

Emerge Gallery and Art Center
404 Evans St.
7 to 11 p.m.
252-551-6947

JP Guhns

AJ Murphy's
1914 Turnbury Dr.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-355-7956



CONTRIBUTED BRIAN O'KEEFE

Thats Mayan, a small business which supplies handmade items such as clothes, art and accessories, employs citizens of San Pedro, Guatemala.

Thats Mayan aids foreign economy

Local resident sells handmade Guatemalan products

Harold Bloomfield
TEC STAFF

Hannah Bolick
TEC STAFF



Thats Mayan, an online store based in Greenville, North Carolina, which specializes in handmade Guatemalan-inspired clothing, jewelry, art and accessories, continues to help the village of San Pedro, Guatemala, through employment opportunities given to families who were put out of work by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bryan O'Keefe, the CEO of Thats Mayan, founded the business in March 2020 and now employs 32 families. He said he launched the company in support of the village of San Pedro, as COVID-19 has

made tourism, a major part of the community's economy, unprofitable. He said he regularly visited the community in Guatemala before COVID-19 and fell in love with the culture and people.

"I contacted a local family who lived down there, and I wanted to give them a piece of my stimulus check for charity and they said we don't want charity, we just don't want to be shut down, we want work," O'Keefe said.

The people of Guatemala are very family-oriented and hardwork-

ing, and when tourism declined due to COVID-19, many families in San Pedro found themselves unemployed, O'Keefe said. Some families were interested in the work opportunity Thats Mayan presented, and wanted to help create the items, according to O'Keefe.

Michelle Walker, O'Keefe's girlfriend and Thats Mayan business partner, said she has been a part of the business it began. She said she saw how much the unemployment situation upset O'Keefe and how much he wanted to help Guatemalan communities, so she supported him when he created Thats Mayan. Walker said after Juan Chavajay,

O'Keefe's now business partner, refused to take O'Keefe's offer of money from his stimulus check, O'Keefe bought several established stores in San Pedro for their inventory to get Thats Mayan started. She said she loves to be involved with the business because of O'Keefe's passion.

"I've never seen such love and unconditional, unselfishness and just giving back, and everything just kind of happened and it (Thats Mayan) came to fruition," Walker said. "Everything is so beautiful because it is handmade and it's just one of a kind."

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY



Brian O'Keefe

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SoM to host guitarist

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University School of Music guest guitarist Isaac Bustos will perform classical music by Hispanic and Italian composers of various styles in a pre-recorded livestream concert on Thursday night at 7:30 located on the ECU School of Music Live Concert Video Stream.

Guitar professor Elliot Frank said he has taught at ECU since 1988 and hosts ECU's guitar festival every summer. Frank said he has known Bustos for 20 years, after they met at a guitar festival in Boone, North Carolina.

Frank said the original intent was for Bustos, who is from Nicaragua, to perform a concert in October 2020 for Hispanic Heritage Month. Frank said Bustos' concert will include music which seeks to challenge the meaning of "classical" music.

"He has a really big sound, and a really beautiful sound. But he's always had those things, from the very first time I heard him it's what attracted me to him as a player, and so then over the years he has become a really profound and

insightful musician," Frank said.

Bustos teaches guitar at the University of Texas San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas and recently taught a virtual class of School of Music students on Feb. 4, Frank said.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

graduate assistant, said in an email statement that Bustos' music continues to make connections with others in a time when connections are scarce.

MacDougall said she has seen Bustos perform and teach several times, and during a masterclass Bustos gave to ECU students, she was impressed by his musical intuition.

"Guitar is a notoriously difficult instrument to define a smooth melody with, yet Isaac Bustos makes the guitar sing. The piece An Malvina which he performs this Thursday is one of the first pieces I learned as a serious guitarist. I have no doubt that Isaac will convey the tenderness of this piece which sounds like someone singing their love to Malvina," MacDougall said.

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



Elliot Frank

ARTIST continued from A1

Company is a silhouette of the late Los Angeles Lakers player Kobe Bryant as he celebrated a victory, Henderson said. He said he likes this particular piece because one really has to study it to understand the images.

Henderson said the opportunity to display his art with Pitt Street Brewing Company is a way to get feedback from the community on how they feel about what his take on the world is, specifically within the African American community.

"I didn't really key into a lot of the topics hardcore, so you have to look at the piece to figure out what is going on in the images. When you really study it and kinda look at it, it opens up those conversation topics," Henderson said.

Lakisha Perkins is Henderson's sister and said through their childhood, Henderson would often draw and color. She said Henderson has grown into an artist who can convey meaningful messages through his work.

"For me, it's amazing to see what he's coming up with. And I also enjoy his self expression, especially of being in the Black culture," Perkins said.

Henderson depicts what is going on in the world through his artwork, according to Perkins. She said Henderson expresses different events that have recently taken place in America.

Mike Hickman Jr., owner of Cryo252, a wellness and holistic business, said Henderson has done a few pieces of artwork for his business. He said Henderson painted a mural piece of the late rapper Nipsey Hussle at his business. Henderson's work has a great cultural impact and it promotes unity and equality, according to Hickman Jr.

"It's (Henderson's artwork) very conveying, Raymond does a very good job of expressing himself without saying too many words," Hickman Jr. said.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

The East Carolina University Police Department gives notice that certain items of unclaimed property have been in possession of the police department for over 180 days. These items were found, confiscated or seized during lawful investigations and included various types of property such as but not limited to scooters, skateboards, documents, duffel bags/book bags, suitcases, keys, wallets/

purses, electronics, car stereo equipment, clothing, power/hand tools, home décor, home improvement items, U.S. currency and bicycles. Some matters concern property in which the case has been disposed of in the judicial system and the property is no longer considered evidence in this matter. Persons who may be entitled thereof are required by law to make such a claim within (30) days of this notice. Owners may contact the ECU Police Department at (252) 737-2626 or (252) 328-6787 or in person at 609 East 10th Street, Greenville, NC. A description of the property along with the serial number or reasonable proof of ownership will

need to be provided in order to claim property. After (30) days, the property will be administratively forfeited and disposed of according to law. Property items of value that remain unclaimed will be turned over for auction to PropertyRoom.com, all bicycles not claimed will be donated to non-profit charities and all remaining items will be destroyed.

References: N.C.G.S. 15-11.1, N.C.G.S. 15-12 through 15-16

First Date of Notice: February 10, 2021

Last Date of Claim: March 11, 2021

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Share support with your community and strengthen networks. An unexpected situation resolves easily with help from friends. Collaboration produces satisfying results. Have fun together.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Somebody finds your creativity and cleverness attractive. Together you can figure out a way around an obstacle. Listen and learn. Adapt naturally. Share perspectives.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Practice creative arts. Muses enchant you. Capture a sense of their song. Express your version. Attention to detail raises the level of your game.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Your career is on the rise. Put your heart into your work and it flourishes. Slow to consider the best approach with a challenge.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Stick to basics regarding your health and work. Maintain practices and routines. You're building strength and energy. Natural beauty inspires you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — You're especially persuasive, and this can benefit your bottom line. Negotiate, bargain and market your wares. Get terms in writing. Communication gets lucrative.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Adjust your educational course around an unscheduled change. Don't react blindly. Consider consequences of different pathways. You can see the best road.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Nurture yourself and family with fun and loving connections. You're adapting to changes. Relax and decompress. Find romance in unexpected places. Tap into passion.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Follow a personal vision. Advance a cause that pulls your heartstrings. Contributing to others satisfies at a deeper level. Pursue a passionate possibility.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 9 — Lucrative ventures pick up steam. Support your partner and team to prioritize practicalities. Keep accurate records. File documents, send invoices and stay in communication.

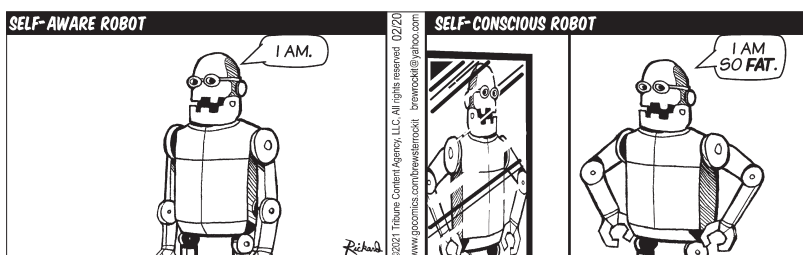
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Home and family demand more attention. Make repairs and upgrades. Clear clutter to free space for new projects. Give away extra stuff. Nurture seedlings.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Complete old projects to clear space for new. Consider your vision for what you want. Meditate on desired outcomes. Private contemplation can get productive.

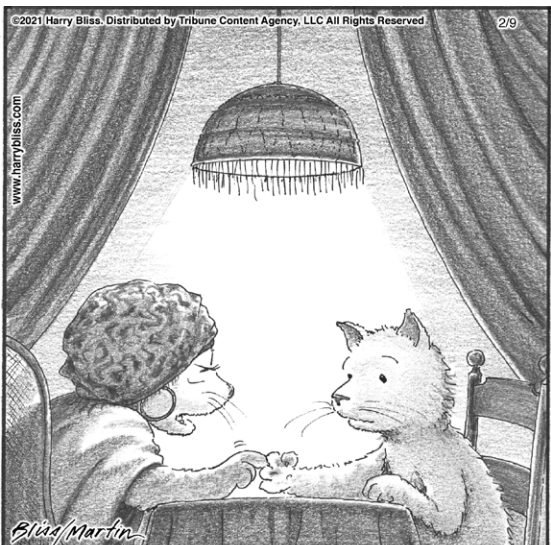
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



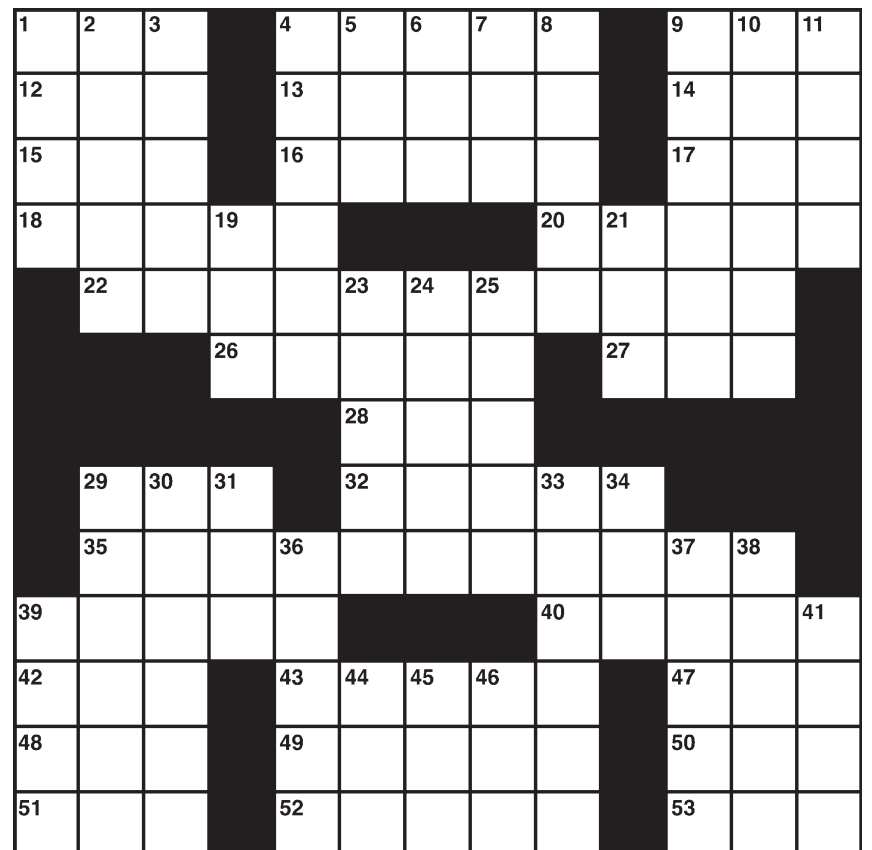
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by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 "___ This Morning"
 - 4 Alf or E.T.
 - 9 "Judging ___"
 - 12 Suffix for pay or Motor
 - 13 "I cannot ___ lie"; claim of honesty
 - 14 Londoner's restroom
 - 15 ___ Diamond Phillips
 - 16 Alaska's Sarah
 - 17 Bad cholesterol letters
 - 18 The Lone Ranger's sidekick
 - 20 "Dawson's ___"
 - 22 "Happy Together" actor
 - 26 Hymn-singing group
 - 27 Suffix for long or strong
 - 28 East Lansing univ.
 - 29 Film for Asner, Ferrell, Caan & Newhart
 - 32 "Everybody Loves Raymond" role
 - 35 Former "ABC World News" anchor
 - 39 "A Bell for ___"; Gene Tierney movie
 - 40 Vowel list
 - 42 Tease
 - 43 Live's partner, in phrase
- DOWN**
- 1 Young horse
 - 2 "There Will Be ___"; Daniel Day-Lewis film
 - 3 Steam bath
 - 4 "The House ___ Corner"; A.A. Milne book
 - 5 Thompson or Michele
 - 6 "___ Fly Away"
 - 7 Wallach or Marienthal
 - 8 Actress Travis
 - 9 Woody and Tim
 - 10 Not at all pretentious
 - 11 Egg's center
 - 19 Premium cable channel
 - 21 "Norma ___"; Sally Field movie
 - 23 ___ plume; pen name
 - 24 ___ up; finally thinks logically
 - 25 Dutch island in the Caribbean
 - 29 Albert & Fisher
 - 30 Legally responsible
 - 31 "The ___"; Robert De Niro baseball film
 - 33 "Hotel ___"; award-winning Don Cheadle movie
 - 34 Certain vote
 - 36 Actor Nick
 - 37 Refrain in a children's song
 - 38 Esther of "Good Times"
 - 39 Up in ___; irate
 - 41 ___-friendly; easy to operate
 - 44 Cochlea's place
 - 45 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
 - 46 ___ room; spot for a pool table

Solution from 02/03

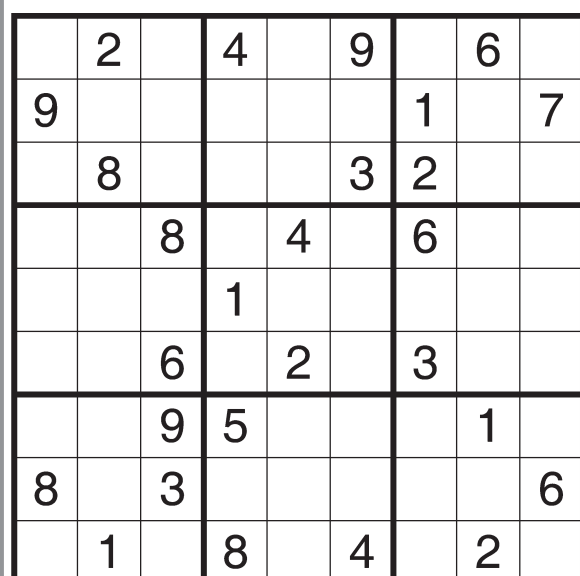


SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level
1 2
3 4



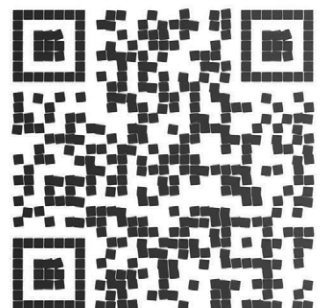
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 02/03

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

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TEC 'sports

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

Pat Polomchak

Sports Editor
@pattywhaKK



Men's Basketball Series vs. Temple on Feb. 11, Feb. 13
Who wins? ECU completes series

sweep of Temple

Why? Junior forward Jayden Gardner is on a hot streak as of late, and he earned AAC Player of the Week honors as a result. Gardner rallies ECU past Temple in both games, but both games are close.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports Chief
@bcvaz_xi

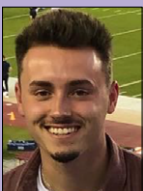


Women's basketball vs. Temple on Feb. 13
Who wins? Temple wins 70-58

Why? The Pirates lost their previous game against the Owls 66-57 on Jan. 6. Both teams are coming off of a win, but Temple gets the edge with the better overall record of 7-7 versus the Pirates' record of 6-10.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



Women's Volleyball vs. Cincinnati on Feb. 11, Feb. 12
Who wins? ECU and Cincinnati split matches

Why? Ideally, both teams should be even as they go into the two match series. Cincinnati will win 3-2 in the first match, and ECU will win 3-0 in the second match.



Junior forward Maddie Moore lines up a shot in ECU's matchup with UCF this season. The Pirates will look to build momentum after their recent win.

ECU vs. USF postponed

Bulls program's COVID-19 issues cause second delay

Cade Carlson
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's basketball team (6-10, 4-7 American Athletic Conference) was scheduled to have a rematch with the No. 14 University of South Florida Bulls (10-1, 7-0 AAC) today at 4 p.m. from Williams Arena in Greenville, North Carolina, but due to COVID-19 related issues within the USF program, the game has been postponed.

This is not the first time in which a contest between ECU and USF has been postponed. Earlier in the season, the Pirates were scheduled to have a matchup with the Bulls on Jan. 23, but that game was postponed due to COVID-19 related issues within USF's program and moved to today. As of the date of publication, no new date for the game has been announced.

ECU recently picked up a win and snapped a seven-game streak of losses against the University of Memphis Tigers (4-8, 2-5 AAC) on Feb. 6 by a score of 67-53 in Memphis, Tennessee.

In that game, senior guard and preseason All-AAC first team selection Lashonda Monk had a team high of 20 points to go along with four rebounds, five assists, and two steals in 32 minutes.

Junior forward Maddie Moore also provided a spark in that game, where

she scored 15 points in addition to five rebounds. The last player for the Pirates to score in double figures was sophomore guard Taniyah Thompson who had 11 points to go along with five rebounds for the Pirates.

In the matchup history between USF and ECU, it is the Bulls who hold an advantage as they lead the series 10-3. In addition, the Pirates suffered a loss to USF earlier this season by a score of 71-58 on Jan. 2 in the Yuengling Center in Tampa, Florida.

Senior forward Bethy Mununga led the Bulls in points scored in that game, as she had a double-double with 23 points and 21 rebounds.

This season, USF has been able to lean on several different options for points as they have four players who average double figures in points scored per game. Sophomore guard Elene Tsineke leads the Bulls in points per game with an average of 12 total, followed by junior guard Sydni Harvey, who scores 10.5 per game on average. Mununga and sophomore guard Maria Alvarez average 10.2 points per contest.

The Pirates as a team have averaged 58.2 points per game this season and they shoot 35.9% from the field, according to The American. In addition, ECU grabs 33.3 rebounds per game, and they have had 132 total assists through 16 games.

On the defensive side, the Pirates force 20.6 turnovers per game, 11.6 of which are steals on average.

ECU has three players who average double figures in points scored per game



Taniyah Thompson

this season. Monk averages 15.4 points per game and she is followed by Thompson, who averages 11.7 points per contest for the Pirates.

In addition, graduate student guard Sierra DaCosta averages 10.4 points per game.

For the Bulls, they outscore their opponents every game on average, as they score 71.6 points per game and they hold their opponents to 53.0 points per contest. Also, the Bulls average 8.3 three pointers made per game and they shoot 32.0% percent from the perimeter as a team.

On defense, USF has a positive turnover margin of 1.5 and the Bulls have won nine straight games as the No. 1 team in the AAC ranks.

With an extended break due to the postponement of the USF game, the Pirates will now return to action and hit the road for their next game to take on the Temple University Owls (7-7, 7-4 AAC) in an AAC rematch on Saturday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The game is set to tip off at noon and can be seen on ESPN+.

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

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TEMPLE continued from A1

Temple is three seeds higher at No. 8. Should either team sweep the other that would propel them up the conference standings as the March Madness tournament draws nearer.

ECU has been led by junior forward Jayden Gardner so far this season. Gardner averages 17.4 points per game on 48.1% field goal percentage, 74.7% free throw percentage and 25% from three though he has only taken four three pointers total this season. Gardner leads the team in rebounds with an average of 8.6 per game according to ECUPirates.

The Pirates' second highest scorer has been junior guard Tremont Robinson-White. According to ECUPirates, White has averaged 12.6 points per game despite the fact he only saw a significant minutes increase five games ago when ECU played against the University of South Florida (7-5, 3-3 AAC) on Jan. 9. White has averaged 12.6 points per game on 48% from the field, 64.7% from the free throw line and 44% from three.

ECU's third double-digit scorer is senior guard J.J. Miles. Miles has averaged 10.5 points per game on relatively high efficiency. He has shot 41.8% from the field overall and has shot 32% from three, but he has yet to miss a free throw this season, according to ECUPirates.

The Pirates average 67.1 points per game while they allow their opponents 67.2, according to teamrankings.com. The Pirates points per game is No. 255 in the country while their opponents points per game average is ranked No. 86 in the country. According to teamrankings.com, the



Junior guard Tremont Robinson-White dribbles.

Pirates defense has allowed their opponents to make an average of just 22.3 field goals per game which is the No. 30 best mark in the country. They have also allowed just 54.1 field goal attempts per game which comes in at No. 54 in the country.

The Pirate offense has statistically struggled so far this season. The team's effective field goal percentage is 47.2% which is No. 277 in the nation. They also make an average of just 24.3 field goals a game which is No. 233 in the country. The only metric the pirates have offensively in the top 100 so far this season is points scored in overtime, where they average 1.2 points per overtime which is ranked at No. 74 in the country.

To follow the games against Temple, ECU will face the University of Houston (16-2, 10-2 AAC) who fell from No. 5 in the country to No. 8 following its loss to ECU on Feb. 3. The game will be played at the Feritta Center with tipoff scheduled for 8 p.m. on Feb. 17.

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