



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 03.24.21



Students work on their computers in Joyner Library at East Carolina University as a majority of classes remain online.

Pirates reflect on COVID-19 ECU perseveres through one year altered by virus

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

Yesterday marked the one year anniversary of East Carolina University's transition to online instruction due to COVID-19, members of the ECU community have reflected on the past year and how it has impacted Pirate Nation as a whole.

Associate Vice Chancellor of Environmental Health and Campus Safety Bill Koch sent an email statement to the ECU community on March 26, 2020, where he addressed and updated the welfare and safety of the university at the time.

"We want to make sure you are updated regarding campus operations and any significant changes related to COVID-19 as it relates to ECU," Koch said in the statement. "Courses transitioned to alternative course delivery on March 23 (2020). March 25 was the final day students were permitted to remove items out of campus residence halls."

In the statement, Koch addressed the pass/fail option implemented on March 23, 2020, the cancellation of the Spring 2020 Commencement and

safety precautions such as to social distance and to wash hands.

Additional updates included the City of Greenville Stop the Spread Order implemented on March 26, 2020, Pitt County's Stay-at-Home Order implemented on March 25, 2020, and the limit on travel and large gatherings set to last through April 8, 2020, according to Koch.

"We are grateful for the dedicated faculty and mandatory employees keeping our essential operations going," Koch said. "Particularly those on the front lines in our clinical operations who continue to serve the medical needs of our community."

Koch said ECU was in close collaboration with the Pitt County Health Department in March 2020 and with increased COVID-19 tests, the number of confirmed cases would likely rise in the coming months.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said there was a lot of anxiety that came with the unknowns faced in March of last year as there was a heightened need to use the available information in March 2020 to make the right calls. She said to reflect on the past year is emotional.

"I think that the positive is that, I think at least for myself, but that we realized just how much we want and

need people, right, and the socializing and just being able to see people's faces and the nonverbal cues," Hardy said.

It was beautiful to watch how barriers fell within the university, Hardy said.

She said the university has worked collectively to ensure safety.

Hardy said to experience Student Health Services (SHS), ECU Physicians, Vidant Medical Center and Pitt County Health Department come together as four medical entities to work through COVID-19 was an amazing and emotional experience.

"The power of them together has been phenomenal, it gives me chills," Hardy said. "Watching them, I was just like, my mouth was open and I'm so glad people can't see me, I mean my jaw was dropped."

It is hard to believe that a year later the same safety protocols are in place, though there are better times ahead, Hardy said. She said she is ready to pivot back to a traditional campus life in fall 2021 and is proud of Pirate Nation.

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Pirate Nation Gives breaks record numbers

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

Pirate Nation Gives, East Carolina University's annual 24-hour fundraiser where ECU alumni, fans and faculty can donate to the university, raised over \$6.5 million on March 17, a number that has more than doubled last year's record of \$3.2 million.

Nichole Stokes, a strategic initiative and campaign manager at ECU and co-chair of the Pirate Nation Gives Committee, said donations continue to be counted for a final total as of March 23 at 8:13 a.m.

Stokes said the committee initially set a goal of \$3.2 million with hopes to raise any amount of funds due to the pandemic. A record number of more than 1,200 donors participated in the event this year, Stokes said, which brought in a tremendous number of funds for various scholarships, emergency funds and colleges throughout the university.

This year's online format allowed donors from across the country to make contributions and the university itself has seen a great deal of fundraising from donors and alumni throughout the pandemic, Stokes said. She said in terms of outreach, the pandemic has pushed for constant communication between ECU and donors, as they prepared for Pirate Nation Gives, something her committee would like to continue over the years.

"The number one reason that we raise money for ECU is for the benefit of the student, 100%," Stokes said. "The scholarships that are either created or added to because of Pirate Nation Gives, make a difference in the lives of our students every day."

Alumnus of the university, film producer and director Bryce Wagoner said he finds ECU to be a large part of his identity and made his contribution to the university's COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund on Pirate Nation Gives.

Though the funds are an important part of Pirate Nation Gives, Wagoner said he values the lifelong connections he and other alumni have made with the university. Alumni contributions made to the university not only assist current students financially, Wagoner said, but also can be a way to guarantee the future of students for the years to come.

"I think it's important to contribute to higher education because if you have a soul, if you care about where you came from and you want others to experience that, this is how you solidify it," Wagoner said. "You ensure a brighter and

> GIVES page A2

SoM seniors navigate final performances

Reyna Crooms
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University School of Music (SoM) seniors continue to navigate online-instruction and have been given the option to complete in-person senior recitals, rather than strictly pre-recorded performances, which will be live streamed to audience members.

Payton Parker, a senior music major with a concentration in voice performance, said she has her senior recital in April, which she continues to prepare for. She said the recital will be held for friends, family and others in the SoM.

"I'm excited for my recital, I'm excited to see what happens outside of graduation, and I'm excited to see what

> SOM page A4



East Carolina University junior quarterback Holton Alhers looks to pass downfield against Southern Methodist University on Nov. 28, 2020.

Football begins spring drills

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University football team started spring workouts on March 19 as the team ramps up to play its annual spring Purple and Gold Game, where the team will compete against each other on April 17 at 4

p.m. at Dowdy Ficklen Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina.

As of right now, games can have a max capacity of 15,000 fans due to the North Carolina state law that allows 15% max capacity at outdoor arenas. Head coach Mike Houston said he was optimistic about fans returning

in attendance to games.

"Our home field advantage is our fanbase," Houston said. "I hope we can get at home for the spring game. For our capacity opener (Sept. 11), that could be a huge game for our program

> SPRING page A6

ONLINE

»NEWS: Occupational Therapy faculty study elderly transportation

»NEWS: ECU professors plan for summer instruction

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

'Study Abroad 101' to be hosted

Today, East Carolina University's Study Abroad will host its weekly virtual information session from 4 to 5 p.m. Study abroad financial aid, scholarships, the offered study abroad programs at ECU along with how students can conduct research on the programs will be some of the information discussed. Education Abroad Advisors and students who have previously studied abroad through ECU will be available to participants who can RSVP and join the session via Engage.

G.O.L.D. Series to continue

Today, the Growing Organization Leadership Development (G.O.L.D.) Leader Series and Student Engagement will host a workshop from 5 to 6 p.m. This workshop will focus on time management and tips will be provided to those students who participate to help them prioritize their time. Students can RSVP for and join this WebEx event through the Engage website.

Pi Sigma Alpha to host debate

Tomorrow, the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, College Democrats and Republicans of East Carolina University, the Turning Point USA and the Young Democratic Socialists of America at ECU will host a virtual debate from 7 to 9 p.m. This student debate will be moderated by Jody Baumgartner, a political science professor, and will cover various topics, some of which include fiscal, foreign and domestic policy. Students can join the debate through Engage.

'Gender This' to be hosted via Zoom

Friday, the Health Sciences Sexual and Gender Diversity Committee will host "Gender This" from noon to 1 p.m. This virtual seminar will be in honor of National LGBT Health Awareness Week where Jessica Pettit, founder of Good Enough Now, will be the guest speaker and will discuss sexuality and gender. Participants can find further information and join the Zoom seminar through the Engage website.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

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Associate Dean of the Dean of Students Office (DOS) Lauren Thorn said she represents the DOS office's COVID-19 response for the university. She said it feels "surreal" to be a year out from the original transition to online instruction.

"It feels like we've (America) been doing this forever and it also just feels like, you know, it just happened yesterday," Thorn said. "Even though we've gone through a lot of challenges and certainly a lot of obstacles that we've had to overcome, we also see ourselves as being in a much better position than we were a few months ago."

Thorn said when she looks back on the past year, she remembers when many individuals believed COVID-19 would only last for two weeks.

The start of the pandemic, as well as the transition to online instruction may have caused trauma for some people, Thorn said. She said she has a background as a licensed clinical social worker.

"There's a lot of research around trauma anniversaries and the idea that when we experience something traumatic, when we kind of approach a year or, you know, that annual date or anniversary of that event, our bodies feel it," Thorn said.

It's important to acknowledge that the past year has been a challenge and that people have lost personal and real things, Thorn said. She said it's important to grieve that and to reach out for help as there are many resources available on campus.



COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

Distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations continue throughout the state of North Carolina and Pitt County as supplies and accessibility increases.

Vaccination eligibility increases

North Carolina moves into Group 4 of distribution plan

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

Vaccination rates have seen a steady rise as North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan continues as Group 4a became eligible for vaccinations on March 17 and the rest of Group 4 will be eligible on April 7.

Group 4b, the rest of Group 4 of the distribution plan, includes the remainder of essential workers who didn't qualify for Group 3, according to the website of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.



Jason Foltz

Dr. Jason Foltz, chief medical officer of ECU Physicians, said there has been a rapid increase in vaccine supply capacity within recent weeks as the state continues to roll out its distribution plan. Foltz said beginning the week of March 22, ECU Physicians, who were previously allocated only 100 doses a week, will now receive 200 vaccine doses weekly from the state of North Carolina to distribute to the state's historically marginalized communities.

"To honor that (North Carolina's vaccine equity plan), we have not had any real vaccine clinics here within our medical group," Foltz said. "And we have been taking that 100 doses per week and passing that onto our Brody School of Medicine (BSOM) mobile vaccine van, and they have been setting up community events with churches and employer groups to focus on equity distribution of that vaccine, and so they have been continuing to do that."

COVID-19 vaccinations have become increasingly accessible as larger-chain pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS begin to offer clinics, Foltz said, as well as other groups and small practices approved by the state. As for ECU, Foltz said, Student Health Services (SHS) will begin to receive a weekly

allocation of vaccines to distribute on campus the week of March 22.

Though vaccinations have created a recent optimism for the pandemic, Foltz said it's important for students to remain responsible and to continue to practice their three W's (wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distancing) in order to prevent a rise in COVID-19 cases before the whole population is able to get vaccinated.

"I think the key message is now that we're in Group 4, lots of people are eligible. Not everybody, not the perfectly healthy young adults, but the majority of the at-risk people are eligible," Foltz said. "If you're able to get your vaccine and want to get it, there's a high probability that you have the ability to get that at multiple different sources. There shouldn't be a wait."

Chair of Internal Medicine at the BSOM Dr. Paul Bolin said over the past year, the university's Department of Internal Medicine has been involved in COVID-19 vaccination distribution, therapy and treatment as well as the mobile vaccine vans that travel to marginalized communities, operated by ECU Physicians. Though the increase in distribution is sure to show effects around May, Bolin said the state of the pandemic isn't controlled enough quite yet.

Upcoming Group 4b will be a gamechanger for public health, as active members of the population such as college students are vaccinated, Bolin said. He said it's important to focus ECU's vaccination efforts toward both super-spreaders of COVID-19 and marginalized communities.

Bolin said the U.S. has administered approximately 2 million doses every day, and vaccination numbers continue to rise as developments such as the Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine are made.

"I'm real proud of how the students have done this spring (of 2021), they've really stood up and done a great job. Student Health

(Services) has done a great job," Bolin said. "We're a very social campus, we've been quite famous for that in the past. We need to get back to that, and hopefully we will soon."

Dr. John Silvernail, director of Pitt County's Public Health Department, said as of March 16, Pitt County has only seen about 25 COVID-19 cases a day, a 75% decrease within the last month. Silvernail said as the county continues to test at a rate of more than 1,000 tests a week, infection rates decreased from 13.6% in mid-January down to a record of 3.9%.

Pitt County has seen more than 18.3% of its population get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as 15.8% of its population become fully vaccinated. Those who come into clinics to get vaccinated must affirm that they are eligible for the vaccine, Silvernail said, though the state does not require verification of age, health condition or occupation.

"As a group opens, it's getting through those eager folks up front, and then slowly



John Silvernail

working through the rest of the group as vaccine supply and appointments allow," Silvernail said. "Again, because this is all done on the honor system without verification, we rely on individuals to truthfully attest to things in the scheduling system."

Student Health Services (SHS) Director Lanika Wright was unable to be reached for comment with The East Carolinian as of March 23.

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

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better future than what you had."

Paige Hill, director of outreach at ECU's College of Business (COB), said though the COB saw a great amount of monetary contributions, its primary focus was on the number of donors they brought in for Pirate Nation Gives.

As of March 27, Hill said the COB saw 279 donors make contributions compared to 91 donors in 2020.

"(Pirate Nation Gives) would not have happened, or being able to capture that momentum, would not have been able to happen without the hard work of the faculty, staff and students here on campus now," Hill said. "They did a fantastic job of spreading the word with their networks."

This year, Hill said the COB raised participation within the college by friendly competitions between the different departments, which allowed for them to raise their own priority funds individually rather than as one whole. She said the funds raised go to different student oriented-programs within the departments, scholarships and travel.

Though COVID-19 has created challenges for in-person events and engagement, Hill said the virtual interactions with alumni and donors alongside a focus on social media have been big factors of the

college's success.

"So, Pirate Nation Gives, we had a great year. This type of event is a lot of fun for everyone at the College of Business," Hill said. "This year, we definitely saw some great numbers that I have to credit to this kind of all-hands-on-deck approach we took at the college."

This year's Pirate Nation Gives event focused on student scholarships, diversity and inclusion and pandemic response and research, according to a March 17 ECU News Services press release.

Specific gifts made during the event include a \$21,000 gift for the university for the College of Nursing, a \$30,000 gift for the ECU Annual Fund from the Oak Foundation, a \$5,000 gift for Beacon Scholarships, a \$10,000 gift to EC Scholars, a \$10,000 gift to Access Scholarships and a \$25,000 gift for "unlocking challenge," the press release said.

In the press release, Chancellor Philip Rogers said the donation turnout encourages him as he sees Pirate Nation come together.

"This success shows how small actions made by many people can have a huge impact. Thank you, Pirates," Rogers said in the press release.

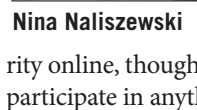
Further information about Pirate Nation Gives and a list of donors can be found on the Pirate Nation Gives website.

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

Sophomore music theatre major Nina Naliszewski said students should show that it's normal to have days where individuals feel sad and angry because of the past year's unprecedented experiences.

"Everyone, all the students, all the faculty, we're all in it together," Naliszewski said. "So if we just try to remain positive while keeping safe, hopefully we can get back to normal in the fall."

Nina Naliszewski



Naliszewski said she feels frustrated that the university is still majority online, though she feels grateful to get to participate in anything in-person right now.

The fall 2020 semester was an experiment for everyone, Naliszewski said. For the future, the university needs to continue to administer COVID-19 vaccines, she said.

"The way that college is set up and the environment, students need the vaccine to go back to normal," Naliszewski said. "I didn't really think that it would be so limited, but honestly, like I said, I think we need them to get back to normal so however they (ECU) do it (administer COVID-19 vaccines) is fine by me."

Naliszewski said she is hopeful that the fall 2021 semester will look normal and she is excited to experience her academic courses in-person.

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



Paige Hill

OUR VIEW

Rogers will lead with pride

East Carolina University's Chancellor Philip Rogers took office on March 15, which has given the university a new leader in a time of hope for the future as the campus finishes off the academic year and anticipates the return to face-to-face learning in the fall.

Rogers is now the 12th chancellor of ECU and is not foreign to the campus community as he was a policy analyst for the university in 2007 and chief of staff from 2008 to 2013. His wife, Rebekah Rogers, is a two-time ECU alumna. With Rogers' history at ECU, his contributions to the university will only further benefit the campus community.

ECU's chancellor search went on for well over a year, and the Chancellor Search Committee spent the necessary time and effort it took to search for and narrow down the best candidate for the position. Rogers was hired as he was presented as the best candidate for the long-term position.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe Rogers is a great addition to ECU and its community as he begins to lead us into the future and give us permanent leadership. We look forward to working with him in the near future and to witness his positive contributions and commitment to Greenville, North Carolina, and Pirate Nation.

During Rogers' first week in office, he reached out to the campus community to express his hopes and plans for the return to face-to-face instruction for the fall 2021 semester as the university abides by the University of North Carolina (UNC) System, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention along with the state of North Carolina's guidance.

The ambition and commitment Rogers has shown the ECU community so soon after taking office shows he will do his best to work with students, faculty and staff.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



Women deserve fair treatment

NCAA female weight room conditions were unjustified



Brendan Cavazos
TEC COLUMNIST

On March 19, redshirt junior forward Sedona Prince for the No. 6 Oregon University Ducks (13-8, 10-7 Pacific 12 Conference) posted a video on the social media platform TikTok, which showed what was originally

supplied for the women's teams. A waist-high dumbbell rack and a few yoga mats were tucked behind curtains to give the women's team a so-called weight room. Next to the dumbbell rack was a single practice court for the teams to get shots up.

To say that the men's workout facilities were better than the women's is a gross understatement. The men's teams were supplied with numerous squat racks, much more dumbbells and various other equipment spread out across a large room for social distance purposes. Just a simple look at both workout areas and it is clear that the women's teams were severely under appreciated.

In her video, Prince also mentions that the NCAA originally blames the weight room on space, however, that is clearly not the case when Prince turns the camera to show a large and completely empty room behind the curtains.

In addition to the weight room, other issues were also brought up by the women's teams which included food accommodations and the March Madness "swag bag" given to teams. Several players including Prince have released pictures and videos comparing how the women's teams are treated.

In one TikTok video released by Prince, she opened up a pre-packed dinner box with



PATRICK SMITH | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

A TikTok video revealed conditions of the women's weight rooms at the NCAA tournament on March 19.

her friend and both seem overly disgusted by the food. Other photos have been released on social media showing that the men's team gets full buffets with tables of food. Photos of the "swag bags" have also floated around social media, which again showed that the NCAA is more focused about the men's tournament and disregards the women's.

The NCAA has not officially released a statement regarding the food or "swag bag" accommodations, which alludes that there may be some falsity to the images, or they simply do not care. However, according to Lynn Holzman, NCAA vice president for women's basketball, the bags may have different contents, but both the men's and women's "swag bags" cost the same.

The mistreatment of the women's teams is blatant disrespect whether it was an accident or not. Regardless of the revenue NCAA women's basketball may bring in, the facilities that were provided were unacceptable and were quickly fixed once exposed.

On March 20, the official College

Gameday Twitter account released a video which showed an overnight update of the women's weight room. There are now several squat racks, more dumbbells and resistance bands in a larger space. Prince released another video shortly after thanking the NCAA for listening.

NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt also released a statement of apology on behalf of NCAA basketball.

"We have intentionally organized basketball under one umbrella (at the NCAA) to ensure consistency and collaboration. When we fall short on these expectations, it's on me," Gavitt said, according to the NCAA. "I apologize to women's basketball student-athletes, coaches and the women's basketball committee for dropping the ball on the weight rooms in San Antonio."

Brendan Cavazos is a sophomore majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

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TDoV needs proper recognition



Ian Hope
GUEST COLUMNIST

This March 31 will be the 12th annual Transgender Day of Visibility (TDoV). I know that the common sentiment on this day is to celebrate well-known names who have brought pride and awareness to

the community. They deserve to be recognized for the trials they've faced, tears they've shed and victories they've shared with all of us.

But when I think of the importance of visibility, I think of my first Pride, before I was able to comfortably, and safely, medically transition.

I drove myself to Washington, District of Columbia. It was the first time I had ever traveled alone. I was full of butterflies because not only was I excited to finally be surrounded by my own community, but I was also meeting my (ex) long-distance partner for the very first time. It was May of 2017, and that weekend was one of the greatest weekends of my life.

It was also one of the hardest weekends of my life, because I knew that when I came back home, I would struggle to remain closeted. So, I bottled that beautiful feeling of freedom, and I carried it back with me. I secretly carried that warm memory, that craving to be my authentic self without fear, until June 22, 2018.

And when I think about the importance of visibility, I think of my current partner and the journey as we bloomed into our best and truest selves, together.

"Transgender Day of Visibility, to me, is a day when I can reflect and take pride in myself, my friends, and my community, while also acknowledging that there is still much work to be done."

-Ian Hope

He and I have been best friends since we met in a Twitter group chat in 2016. It was created specifically for trans-masculine individuals looking for support and a safe, understanding space. We shared memes, playlists, heartaches, successes, tips and tricks and links for support websites, as we all tried to navigate the rocky social terrain together. We mourned and we celebrated each coming out story and result if they were our own. I had never felt so connected and yet so lost.

Back then I was newly thrust into a world I never knew existed, finding words for the feelings I had been aware of since I was a child but could never explain. It was startling. I felt like I was so far behind compared to the others, but he and I bonded almost immediately. We made a plan to start our medical transition together, promising each other that we would finally make it happen one day. In 2018, I started HRT (hormone replacement therapy) in June, and just a few months later, he started HRT in September. That's my favorite story to tell about us, I think. Our one-year

anniversary is June 8th.

So, when I think about the importance of visibility, I think about the fears of existing in a world of uncertainties. About love stories and serendipity. I think, too, about those we've lost who were taken from us for simply living their truth. About our pioneers and the faces of a movement. I think about how much I was willing to lose in order to show the world who I had always been and always will be. About how we should never have to endure decisions as life shattering as those for the sake of living authentically.

Transgender Day of Visibility, to me, is a day when I can reflect and take pride in myself, my friends, and my community, while also acknowledging that there is still much work to be done to ensure that we all are able to one day experience that exhilarating feeling of freedom and belonging.

Ian Hope is a junior majoring in psychology and a guest columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

EVENTS

TODAY

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

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

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

TOMORROW

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

ECU Coastal Winds Quintet
A.J. Fletcher Music Center
102 A.J. Fletcher Music
Center
7:30 p.m.
252-328-6851

Litter Cleanup
SustainECU
and Love A Sea Turtle
Town Creek Culvert
2 to 3:30 p.m.
252-744-4190

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

March Exhibitions
Emerge Gallery
and Art Center
404 Evans St.
1 to 8:30 p.m.
252-551-6947

FRIDAY

**Washington State
Wine Tasting**
The Rickhouse
710 Red Banks Rd.
6 to 8 p.m.
252-689-6377

SATURDAY

**Spazz Fest Presents:
The Day Rager**
Christy's Euro Pub
301 S. Jarvis St.
4 to 7 p.m.
252-758-2774

Eric Sommer Live
Christy's Euro Pub
301 S. Jarvis St.
4 to 7 p.m.
252-758-2774

**Garden and Orchard
Work Day**
Greenville Community Garden
209 Stancill Drive
9 a.m. to noon

Sometimes Lions Live
The Blackened Kraken
123 E. 5th St.
8 to 11:30 p.m.
252-215-8822

Gary Braddy Live
A.J. McMurphy's
1914 Turnbury Drive
8 p.m.
252-355-7956



The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center was one of three hosts for the panel and discussion entitled "The Long Civil Rights Movement: From Emmett Till to Black Lives Matter."

Panel discusses racism in US

Virtual conversation focuses on present-day racial prejudices

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Office of Global Affairs (OGA) confronted issues of racism in America yesterday during its online panel and discussion "The Long Civil Rights Movement: From Emmett Till to Black Lives Matter" with actor Sonny Kelly.

The sponsors of the event included OGA, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill's Carolina Public Humanities and Carolina K-12 programs. The discussion was based upon *Vanity Fair's* article, "What the Face of Emmett Till Says About Every Brutalized Black Body."

Discussion panelist Sonny Kelly performed excerpts from his plays "The Talk" and "Haunted" during the event. "The Talk" discusses the traumatic experiences of a Black man and the conversation he has to have with his Black

son about the history of violence toward Black men. He then has to explain to his son how to survive as a Black man in America. The play includes references to W.E.B. Dubois, a prominent civil rights activist and author.

The event additionally included music about the struggle of African Americans, such as the song "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cook, and Kelly answered questions about his presentation at the end of the discussion. Kelly explained how Americans can address racism calmly.



Sonny Kelly

"As a communicator, I have found that if you are going to get into conflict, and anyone who doesn't think racism is not a problem in America today, then I am going to have conflict

with them. I am not going to be mad at the person but we're going to have conflict. In dealing with conflict you have to create a confirming communication climate," Kelly said.

Americans need to get to a place where they are open to hear someone else's lived experiences and acknowledge their similarities, according to Kelly. He explained how some words people say are similar to those said hundreds of years ago that dehumanized people.

"It's a process, not a product. I can't just expect you to be woke all of a sudden. What are we going to do now to invest in a better future? Let's do that," Kelly said.

Associate Director for State Outreach at UNC Chapel Hill's Public Humanities Joanna Sierks Smith said during the event that the discussion looks back at the struggle of Black Americans from

Emmett Till to Ahmaud Arbery.

Smith said this helps show why Black lives have always mattered and how their lives mattered to different people for a variety of reasons. She said the discussion explores various protests and the fight for justice throughout generations.

**ONLINE |
FULL STORY**

"This virtual format allows us to share such an important conversation with so many educators, students and interested members of the public around North Carolina and beyond," Smith said. "Many of us probably grew up hearing about the Civil Rights Movement by our textbooks and our teachers as something that happened in the 50's and 60's, yet we have seen so vividly just this past year that the Civil Rights Movement is not over."

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

Climate-focused series to continue

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences (THCAS) Voyages of Discovery lecture series will feature James Marshall Shepherd in "Zombies, Sports, and Cola: Implications for Communicating Weather and Climate Science" at 7 p.m. tomorrow in a livestream event with a moderated question and answer session.

Dean of the THCAS and Professor of Chemistry Allison Danell said in an email statement the March 25 lecture continues the series' year-long focus on climate,



Allison Danell

water and the environment. Danell said for the 2020 to 2021 school year the series has also featured climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe and attorney Robert Bilott, the figures behind the "Dark Waters" movie.

"On March 25, we are excited to welcome Dr. Marshall Shepherd, who is an accomplished meteorologist at the University of Georgia who spent

a significant amount of his career at NASA (The National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Goddard Space Flight Center. Like our other speakers this year, Dr. Shepherd values engaging the community to understand climate science, which is very different from watching the weather!" Danell said.

ECU Professor of Atmospheric Science of the THCAS Tom Rickenbach said he will host the lecture. Rickenbach said his work observes rainfall and wind patterns over time and location, in order to understand how they change.

Rickenbach said he has known Shepherd professionally from when the two worked at NASA together, and was contacted to host the event by the nature of his work and relationship to Shepherd.

"He's (Shepherd) going to mainly talk about communicating climate change to the broader public, how scientists, what are some of the most effective ways that scientists can interact with the public to best explain the science they're doing to help move the conversation of how to use that science forward," Rickenbach said.

Shepherd will give a short



COURTESY OF DANTING ZHU | UNSPLASH CREATIVE COMMONS

The Voyages of Discovery lecture hosted by THCAS will focus around climate change.

formal presentation, Rickenbach said, and the bulk of the lecture will be a conversation between Rickenbach and Shepherd, which will be followed by a question and answer session.

Beth Bee, an ECU associate professor of geography, said her research focuses on the social science aspects of climate change, especially in Latin America. Bee said her work looks at how people respond to and act upon knowledge they hold about climate change.

Bee said mistrust of climate change evidence is unique to the United States and the United Kingdom. She said this is evident from her work in other countries, where people may live on the

forefront of climate change. This may, Bee said, be in part due to the uncertain nature of science, that for every question answered, another is revealed.

"That's why science exists, right, is to uncover and reduce some of those uncertainties, but as soon as we uncover one, we find another, and I think that that tends to be really difficult for the general public too, I know it's definitely difficult for a lot of my students, to say, well, I mean if there is a consensus about it, then why is there still an uncertainty, because people don't tend to understand," Bee said.

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

SOM continued from A1

happens when everyone who wants to get vaccinated, gets vaccinated," Parker said.

Only 10 people will be allowed in the recital hall at a time, according to Parker. She said she will have a socially distanced in-person performance, like many other SoM seniors. Parker said she and everyone who will be in attendance will wear face masks and all seniors' performances will be livestreamed.

Evan Martschenko, a pianist and vocalist, who is a junior music theory major, said he will

continue to prepare for his senior recital that will take place next fall.

Performing arts students had permission from the university to rehearse in person even with no upcoming performances, according to Martschenko.

"It was a little funny because we were rehearsing with no performances, but you know it's good to just learn and practice with each other," Martschenko said.

Students have had to adjust back into in person class formats, Martschenko said, and permission was granted from the university to

return to in-person rehearsals and classes this semester for SoM students.

Martschenko said he is one of many performing arts students who are able to get tested for COVID-19 every few weeks in order to attend in-person classes and performance rehearsals.

"I think we've been really lucky in the SoM to continue like we have this semester we get tested every couple of weeks," Martschenko said.

**ONLINE |
FULL STORY**

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Did someone say FREE?

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



HOROSCOPES



Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Romance and fun have your attention. Handle practical matters first. Invite participation to get chores done quickly so you can all go play.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Dress for success. Groom for Zoom and smile for the camera. Choose private over public engagements. Carve out time for yourself. Advance personal goals.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Slow down. Don't step into a pitfall. Minimize risk. Avoid travel. Investigate your educational options. Adapt your research to shifting circumstances. Find creative solutions.



Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Fix up your place. Make technical upgrades. Positive results energize your efforts. Adapt spaces for changes. Find new uses for old stuff. Support family harmony.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Step back to process recent events. Distractions abound. Privacy comforts and soothes. Clean your spaces. Organize your thoughts and plans. Investigate options and choose.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Changes necessitate budget review. Monitor cash flow to cover unexpected expenses. Avoid impulsive moves. Simplify and prioritize basics. Strengthen foundations and support structures.



Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Things are starting to make sense. Changes confirm your intuition. Revelations show your ideas' weakness. Put the puzzle pieces together. Do the background research.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Listen to team considerations. Adapt to unexpected plans. Reinforce structural support. Contribute to a collaborative effort. Keep your patience and sense of humor.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Quickly handle a structural breakdown. Collaboration and coordination lead to simple solutions. Work together for common gain. Strengthen basic foundations. Encourage each other.



Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Monitor expenses closely. Unexpected events could deviate your financial plans. Avoid risky business. Prioritize simplicity and basics. Gain and stash resources. Maintain a positive balance.



Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Advance your professional objectives despite changes or delays. Get expert support when needed. Heed the voice of experience. Choose privacy over publicity. Prepare your presentation.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Prioritize your work and health. Slow to avoid accidents or mistakes. Cutting corners would be more expensive overall. Highlight safety. Adapt practices with changes.

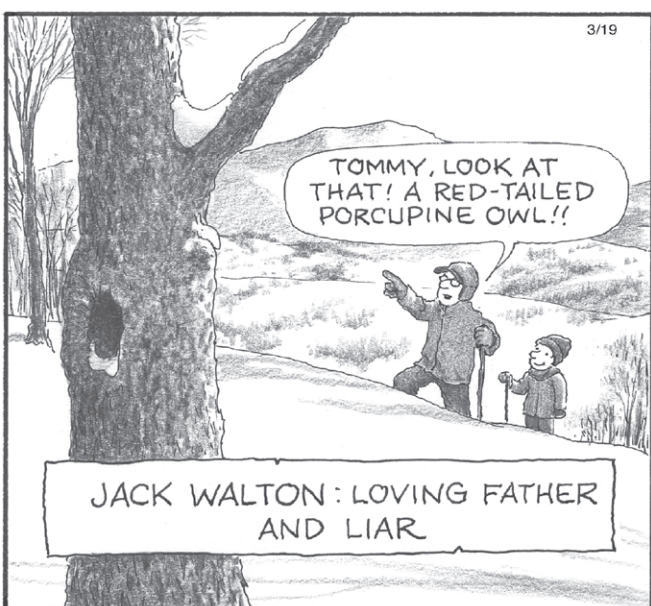
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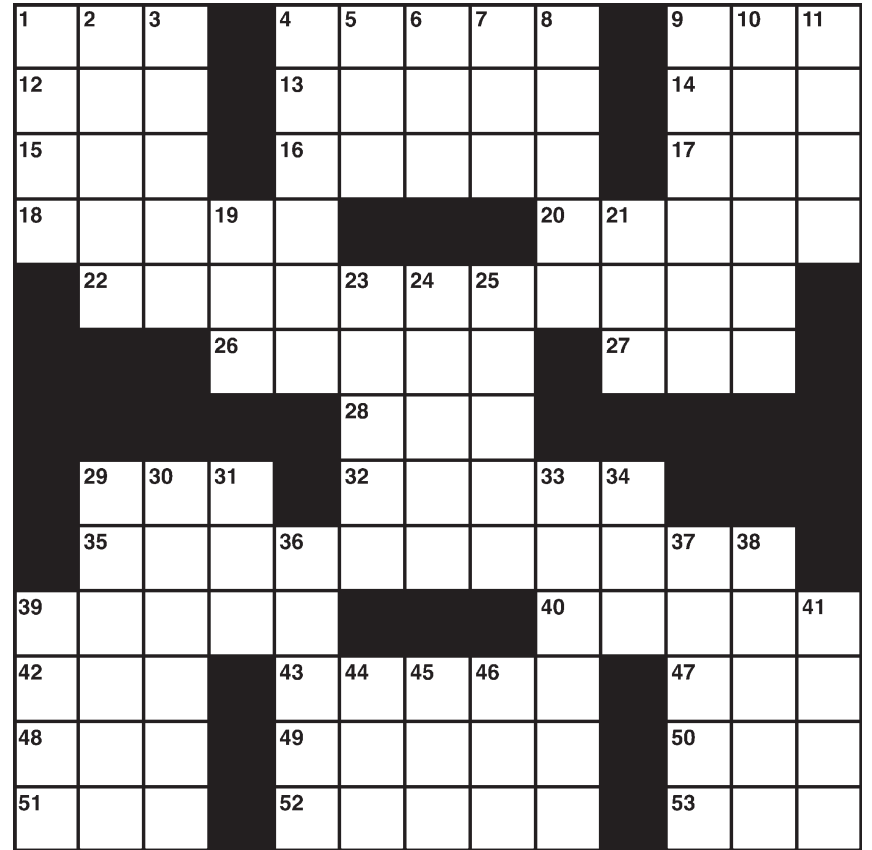
JACK WALTON: LOVING FATHER AND LIAR.

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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 "___ My Children"
 - 4 Daytime serials
 - 9 "Better ___ Ted"
 - 12 "___ to Me"; Tim Roth series
 - 13 Popular sitcom geek
 - 14 Suffix for event or habit
 - 15 So. state
 - 16 "Matty's Funnies with ___ and Cecil"; cartoon series of old
 - 17 Mailman's beat: abbr.
 - 18 One of the Obamas
 - 20 Shed crocodile tears
 - 22 Actor on "Salvation"
 - 26 Group of craftsmen or merchants
 - 27 Home for the Loudons on "Newhart"
 - 28 Do a lawn chore
 - 29 "___ Bilko"; Steve Martin movie
 - 32 Climbing plants
 - 35 Actress on "The Good Place"
 - 39 1956 Liz Taylor/Rock Hudson film
 - 40 Actor Tom ___
 - 42 Actress/director Ullmann
 - 43 Actress Tambllyn
- DOWN**
- 47 "Norma ___"; Sally Field movie
 - 48 180 degrees from WSW
 - 49 "In the ___ of the Sea"; Chris Hemsworth film
 - 50 Tumor suffix
 - 51 Actor Marshall and others
 - 52 Freeway divisions
 - 53 Long-haired ox

Solution from 03/17

E	L	M	O		A	L	I	M	I
R	I	N	S		R	I	T	T	E
E	V	I		L	E	N	O		L
S	E		C	O	D	E		M	I
	R	H	O	S			J	E	S
	H	U	N	T		D	U	E	S
O	U	T	E		A	N	K	A	
L	D	S		M	O	N	K		R
D	S		J	O	N	S		D	A
I	O	O	O	O		T	R	U	T
E	N	T	E	R		A	N	C	E

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

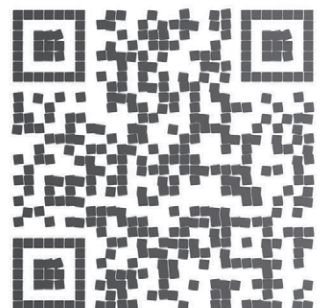
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 03/17

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

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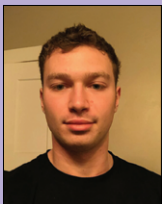
TEC 'sports

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

Jess Sabin

Baseball reporter

@Jess_Sabin



Baseball vs. St. John's University on March 26 through March 28
Who wins? ECU wins series 2-1

Why? While ECU has shown to be a well-rounded team so far this season, its past five games have shown that the team is not invincible. The team lost badly to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on March 17 and though it swept Illinois State University on March 19 through March 21, two of their three victories were sloppy at best. Though ECU will win the series, St. John's will be able to steal one win.

Pat Polomchak

Sports Editor

@pattywhaKK



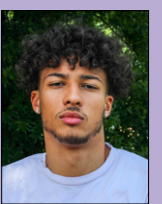
Soccer vs. University of Cincinnati on March 27
Who wins? ECU takes down Cincinnati 2-1
Why? ECU comes

off its most successful offensive performance of the season so far, a 3-2 overtime victory over Southern Methodist University on March 21. The momentum from an overtime thriller and another strong performance from senior defender Carsen Parker will propel the Pirates to another in-conference victory.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports Chief

@bcvaz_xi

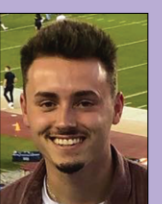


Lacrosse vs. Vanderbilt on March 26 and March 28
Who wins? ECU splits series with Vanderbilt 1-1

Why? After a split series with ODU on March 19 and March 21, the Pirates will head into the second two-game series of conference play. Vanderbilt has a dominant record of 7-2 and is 2-0 in conference play. ECU should be able to fight hard enough to win the first game, but the second one will likely be a loss.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



Softball series vs. Wichita State on March 26 through March 28
Who wins? ECU will go 2-2

Why? The Pirates have had several tough matchups this season which will prepare them for a four-game series against Wichita State. On the other hand, the Shockers have played well as of late, so both teams should go into this series on a similar note.



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

Sophomore infielder Connor Norby slings the ball across the field in ECU's game against the University of Rhode Island Rams on Feb. 20.

Male Athlete of the Month

Connor Norby shows potential, strong play in March

Editor's Note: The sports staff of The East Carolinian chose the athlete featured in this article. This will be a monthly series.

Cade Carlson
TEC STAFF

A large part of the East Carolina University baseball team's (16-3, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) success this season is due to sophomore infielder Connor Norby, who has led the team in several statistical categories this season. Norby is first on the team in runs, hits, runs batted in, total bases, slugging percentage and on base percentage. In addition, he is also second on the team in runs batted in.



Cliff Godwin Top 10 program in the weekly polls six times, which included five of six weeks from April 29 to June 3 of 2019. Godwin said one of the aspects of

The ECU baseball team currently sits at No. 8 in the top 25 national rankings. Under seventh-year head coach Cliff Godwin, the Pirates have been a consensus

Norby's game that he admires the most is the business-like approach he takes to prepare for practices and games.

"Working hard every day and just working hard on his game," Godwin said. "He's just grown tremendously from his freshman year to now. 'Hey, I know I need to get my work in, this is what I need to do to be a successful player and to also help the team win.'"

In the 2019-2020 season, Norby went 25 for 62 at the plate for a noteworthy batting average of .403. Through the short season, Norby was able to hit one home run, score 14 runs and he had 10 runs batted in for ECU. Norby said one of the main aspects he worked on in the offseason was the mental side of how he approached the game.

"I'm a perfectionist in a game where you're supposed to fail, and you have to deal with everything that comes with it mentally," Norby said. "You gotta learn how to deal with adversity and failure in this game."

This season, Norby has picked up 36 hits in 80 at bats for the Pirates. In addition, he has scored a total of 22 runs

to go along with 20 runs batted in and 60 total bases on the season. Norby has also been a threat at the plate for big hits this season as he is second on the team with six home runs and a slugging percentage of .750.

Norby said although the Pirates are a top 10 team this season, the players are more focused on getting better as a team every single day.

"We want to be better at the end than we were at the beginning," Norby said. "I mean the expectations are to win and to win at a high level here."

Norby has been one of the top players in the country this year, as he is in the top 30 nationally in a number of statistical categories. He is currently tied for No. 1 in hits, No. 28 in batting average and he is tied for No. 8 in hits per game. In addition, Norby was also named the AAC Player of the Week on March 15 for his performances in a four-game win streak for the Pirates where he had seven hits and three home runs.

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

WEEKEND ROUNDUPS

ECU LAX splits weekend series with ODU

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University lacrosse team (3-5, 1-1 American Athletic Conference) played two games against Old Dominion University on March 19 and March 21 (3-6, 1-1 AAC) to kickoff the first conference games of the season.

ECU won the first game on March 19 with a final score of 12-9, but lost on March 21 with a score of 13-12. Both games were held in Norfolk, Virginia.

The game on March 19 was the first conference victory for ECU. Senior midfielder Nicole LeGar led the Pirates in scoring with four goals and an assist. Junior attacker Megan Tryniski finished with three goals and two assists in the game.

After a back and forth game on March 21, senior attacker Megan Pallozzi set up LeGar for a goal with less than two minutes left to force overtime. However, ODU sophomore midfielder Tess Meurling scored the only overtime goal to win the game for her team.

The next game for the Pirates will be a home game on March 26 for the first matchup of a two-game weekend against Vanderbilt University (7-2, 2-0 AAC).

Pirates win 3-2 in overtime against SMU

Markayla McInnis
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University soccer team (2-3-2, 2-1-2 American Athletic Conference) traveled to Dallas, Texas to take on the Southern Methodist University Mustangs (1-1, 1-1 AAC) on March 21 where the Pirates were able to pull off a 3-2 overtime win.

ECU left the first half scoreless, but in the second half, senior defender Carsen Parker was able to put the Pirates on the board with a penalty kick goal.

ECU senior forward Tori Riggs was assisted by Parker to tie the score at 2-2 as the teams headed into overtime. Redshirt junior defender Morgan Dewey was able to find Parker for her second goal of the game, which brought the game to an end with the Pirates on top 3-2.

The Pirates' next game will be back at home as they will play the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (2-4, 1-3 AAC) in Johnson Stadium on March 27 at noon and will be available to watch on ESPN+.

ECU volleyball defeats Davidson University

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University volleyball team (4-7, 1-7 American Athletic Conference) defeated the Davidson University Wildcats (2-9, 1-7 Atlantic 10) 3-2 on March 21 at John M. Belk arena in Davidson, North Carolina.

According to ECUPirates.com, senior outside hitter Sydney Kleinman, senior rightside Bri Wood, junior outside hitter Natalie Tyson and redshirt sophomore middle blocker S'mara Riley each were in double digits in the kills category.

The game went to five sets, where the Pirates secured the second, third and fifth sets. The Wildcats were able to win the first and fourth rounds of the game.

The Pirates outnumbered the Wildcats in multiple statistics, such as kills with 68, 59 assists and two aces. However, the Pirates and Wildcats both recorded 12 blocks.

The Pirates' next game will be against the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (8-1, 8-0 Mid Eastern Athletic Conference) at Mingos Coliseum in Greenville, North Carolina. That game will be the season finale for the Pirates' volleyball team.

These writers can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

SPRING continued from A1

and we have to prepare to have 51,000 in attendance."

The 2020 Purple and Gold match was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, along with spring practices. ECU didn't start practices until July 30, 2020, according to ECUPirates.com.

Houston said the team understood what it meant to be out on the field early this year, which they were unable to do last year, especially for the student-athletes who have not had a regular offseason up to this point.

"A year ago, everything got shut down," Houston said. "Certainly, we have greater appreciation for just being able to be out there and be together. It was the first college spring practice ever for the vast majority of our team."

Last season, ECU finished 3-6 (3-5 American Athletic Conference). The season concluded with a 52-38 victory on Nov. 28, 2020, over the Southern Methodist University Mus-

tangs (7-3, 4-3 American Athletic Conference).

Houston said the Pirates made a great effort, despite being rusty since this was the team's first time playing together since the SMU game last season.

"There were so many positives (on March 19)," Houston said.

"Incredible efforts, great attitudes, great running. You're not having to push them to go hard, and you're having to pull them back a little bit, which is refreshing."

According to ECUPirates.com, in 2020, junior quarterback Holton Ahlers threw for 1,921 yards, 18 touchdowns and nine interceptions. Ahlers played in eight games for the Pirates last season.

Houston said Ahlers has improved his body and athleticism ever since the final game in November 2020.

"He (Ahlers) is in the best physical shape

that I've ever seen him in," Houston said. "He's slimmed down some, he's worked on his flexibility. He's more explosive and faster and he's improved his athleticism since the fall."

The team has not begun to practice with pads yet, according to Houston. He said because of this, he and the team are more focused on footwork and technique.

Houston said he is very happy with the Pirates' depth this season on the offensive side of the ball.

"We have a pretty good chance to be good upfront because we have size and depth," Houston said. "We need to make a more concerted effort to use our tight ends more because we have talent in that room. I have a lot of confidence in our receiving group because we have a lot of guys returning. Everybody knows about our running back room, we have quality and we've got some more coming this summer."

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