

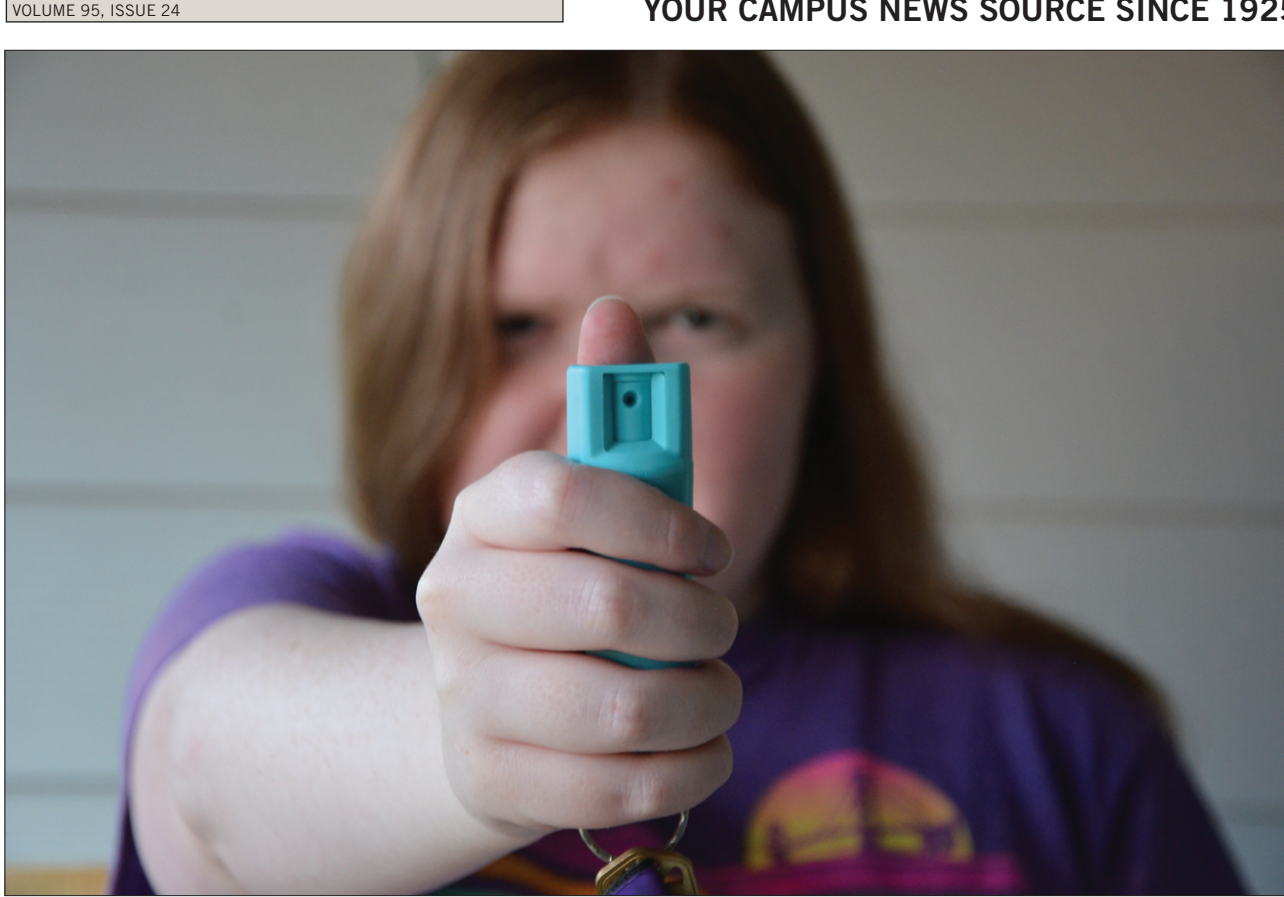
CHECK OUT THE HONORING ECU'S CAPTAINNESS INSERT INSIDE



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 03.31.21



ECU student Katie Murphy holds pepper spray, a commonly used defense tool used by many women in the private "Safety Gals" Facebook group.

Safety concerns surface

Facebook group continues to share security tips, information

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

Several East Carolina University students continue to utilize "Safety Gals," a private Facebook group, as a way to share safety tips and provide information for women in Greenville, North Carolina, about criminal activity on the rise on and off campus.

"Safety Gals," created by graduate student Lisa Khare in August 2020, aims to provide safety tips and information for women in Greenville and female students, with over 2,000 members and daily posts to make others aware of criminal activity in the area.

Khare said she created the "Safety Gals" group after she experienced an incident on her way home from class where a man exposed himself to her from his car. She said she posted the incident on another Facebook group for ECU women to "clean out their closets," "Pirate Gals Buy/Sell/Trade," where she received over 100 comments from other women who experienced similar or identical situations.

After she saw comments from wo-

men who had experienced the same or similar situations, Khare said she decided to create "Safety Gals" as a space for ECU and Greenville women to post instances of threatened safety. She said she noticed there was a delay in communication between police, victims and others who should be made aware of crime which occurs around them.

"I was just like you know we don't get an ECU Alert until the next morning when something happens," Khare said. "I'm like what can you know from that when you're on the streets where the break-ins are happening, what is that going to do?"



Lisa Khare

Khare said she lived on the Grid, a neighborhood where many ECU students reside, for two years and she continues to be surprised by the amount of crime present there. She said she is shocked to see a college campus infiltrated with crime toward women and wants ECU to maintain safety for future students

and residents of Greenville.

Groups like "Safety Gals" should exist for anyone, Khare said, regardless of sex, as a place for people to create a flow of information about crime.

ECU Police Department (PD) Captain Chris Sutton said he was unaware



Chris Sutton

of the existence of the Facebook group until March 2 after an interview on campus safety with another staff member from The East Carolinian. He said he was surprised to hear about the volume of posts from women about recurrent criminal activity on the grid and other off-campus residences.

"In the face of safety, there's really not any limits to how creative you can be with trying to develop plans to stay safe and to keep others safe," Sutton said. "Social media is certainly an excellent way to share what we (ECU PD) would call in law enforcement intelligence information about. I think

> SAFETY page A2

Renovations to Pee Dee statue ahead

Jennifer Sieg
TEC STAFF

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF



Brick pavers around the Pee Dee the Pirate statue on East Carolina University's Main Campus across from the Wright Fountain are expected to be installed in an effort to help individuals with mobility limitations access the statue for photo opportunities.

Associate Vice Chancellor of Campus Operations Bill Bagnell said in an email statement the decision to add brick pavers around the statue came from a recommendation made during a Pirate Roundtable meeting with Chancellor Philip Rogers on March 17.

"The suggestion was passed on to Facilities for consideration," Bagnell said. "Our University Landscape Architect with consultation from the University's ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) (Interim) Coordinator (Rhonda Anderson) drew up a plan that included brick pavers around the statue."

Bagnell said as of March 25, if weather permits, the project is anticipated to be finished in approximately two weeks. He said there was no specific reason the decision to add brick pavers to the statue was not made at an earlier date.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Director of the Department for Disability Support Services (DSS) Stephen Gray said the pirate statue attracts many to take pictures with it and the current landscape hinders some people's ability to do so.

"It just happens to be an opportunity for someone in a motorized chair or wheelchair to be a part which is great," Gray said. "It's going to help everyone. It's going to help grandparents. It's going to help anyone that's on tour that's being pushed around campus, etc, so I think it's really cool."

The addition of pavers around the statue is just one of the ways ECU works to make its campus more accessible to students and visitors, according to Gray.

The university, Gray said, continues to uphold its responsibility to keep ECU's campus accessible. He said it is a constant work in progress to make sure the campus accommodates students, faculty and visitors.

As of date of publication, Anderson has been contacted by a member of The East Carolinian staff for comments.



Stephen Gray

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

ECU softball to square off with Camels

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University softball team (10-16, 1-3 American Athletic Conference) will face the Campbell University Camels (9-10, 2-1 Big South Conference) today at Amanda LittleJohn Stadium in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

The game was originally scheduled for March 3, however, inclement weather in Buies Creek led to the game to be rescheduled for today. It will start at 5 p.m. and be available to stream on ESPN+.

The Pirates lost their last game on March 28 against the Wichita State Shockers (20-5, 3-1 AAC) at Wilkins Stadium in Wichita, Kansas. Meanwhile, the Camels won their last game against the Winthrop University Lancers (14-16, 2-5 Big South Conference) 4-3 on March 20.

> CAMELS page A7



LAMAR GILCHRIST | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Local restaurant and bar competes for the championship title in the Barstool Best Bar competition after two consecutive wins.

Sup Dogs aims for victory

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

Sup Dogs, a local restaurant in Greenville, North Carolina, will look to reclaim victory in the 2021 Barstool Best Bar competition as it enters the championship round against Riley's Bar from Chico, California.

The final round of the competition will take place through Twitter today with voting set to open for entries at 3 p.m. will close on Friday at 8 p.m. Bracket information can be found on the 5th

Year official Twitter account, @5thyear, and to cast an entry for Sup Dogs, tweet #BestBarSupDogs.

Sup Dogs Owner Bret Oliverio said this year the bar goes for the "three-peat," after winning the title of Barstool Sports Best Bar for two years in a row from 2019 through 2020 and successfully defending its title.

The bar who takes the championship will be awarded the 2021 Barstool Best Bar trophy, a filled customized championship fridge and a \$10,000 prize on

behalf of Barstool Sports and Revitalyte, a business that crafted the namesake drink.

"People just come in to have a great time, they come in to eat a ton, they drink a ton, you know we've become

sort of a tourist destination if you're visiting ECU or Greenville but that's not something we take lightly we, you know, take pride in being a big part of the college experience at ECU," Oliverio said.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

ONLINE

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

»ARTS: SOM to honor African American women composers

SOCIAL MEDIA



@theeastcarolinian



Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian



@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

Transgender visibility event to be hosted

Today, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host a "Transgender Day of Visibility" event from noon to 1 p.m. This virtual event is in celebration of Trans Day of Visibility and will honor transgender voices and their experiences as well as celebrate the courage transgender individuals have. Participants can register and join the event via Engage. T-shirts, pins and other "Trans Pride" items will be available at the LGBTQ Center.

CLCE to host NC Civility Summit

Today, the Center for Leadership and Engagement (CLCE) and Intercultural Affairs will host the 2021 NC Civility Summit from noon to 1:30 p.m. The focus throughout the sixth annual summit will discuss how to build peace after conflict, and participants will learn the lessons learned from ECU Global Partner Dr. Matthias Hass. Further information can be found on and participants can RSVP and join the virtual summit event through 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 "Designing Your Life (Part 1)" from 4 to 5 p.m. This two-part virtual series will be based off of Designing Your Life, a New York Times Bestseller and will discuss how individuals can create a life and career which is more fulfilling and meaningful. Individuals are welcome to join only one session or both and can RSVP for this series through the Engage website.

LWCC to hold QTPOC virtual event

Today, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) and the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host a Queer Trans People of Color (QTPOC) event from 4 to 5 p.m. This virtual event will only be open to ECU students and will explore the issues which impact students of various ethnicities, race, gender and sexuality. Individuals can register and join the event via Engage.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



East Carolina University students walk across ECU's Main Campus with required face coverings on amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

ECU hopes for normal fall term

Community expresses thoughts about the return to in-person classes

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Chancellor Philip Rogers has organized a planning team to discuss operations of campus life, residency, course instruction and dining services for the fall 2021 semester.

Rogers announced that aspects of campus life will return to regular operation in the fall on March 18. He said although the past year has been a challenge for higher education institutions, he feels optimistic about the fall.

"Campuses across the country have faced an environment that was extraordinarily difficult in terms of operation, academic delivery, mental health, finances and many other aspects of the university enterprise," Rogers said. "It's evident to me that the strength and determination of the Pirate Nation has been on display for the past year."

Rogers said since the ECU community has continued to follow safety protocols, COVID-19 numbers have moved in the right direction.

A normal, in-person fall 2021 semester is intended, Rogers said.

"I have named a planning team that will begin to explore the operations and logistics and strategy associated with bringing us back to campus in the fall," Rogers said. "I think if that team can get us to the right point to achieve our goals, then from an academic perspective we certainly intend for the university to return to those pre-pandemic modes of academic delivery."

Rogers said he anticipates the return of normal dining services as well as the return to a normal capacity in residence halls, which includes double occupancy rooms.

"We're (ECU) using less than 3% of our isolation and quarantine space and over the last seven days our estimated positive test rate

has been 1% or less," Rogers said. "We need to keep those numbers in that range and we need everyone to do their part to get us there."

Rogers said ECU's vaccine allocation is a main factor in the return to normal operations in the fall. He said campuses across the University of North Carolina (UNC) System have provided about 30,000 vaccines to students.

Rogers said if students can become vaccinated before summer it would benefit them as well as their hometowns.

"It (vaccines) reduces the cost of testing on our campus because more people that are vaccinated have a lower likelihood of contracting the virus and it prepares them to be able to come back in the fall fully vaccinated, protected and ready to engage in that student experience," Rogers said. "We're feeling good about the future."

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said while students are expected to return to campus in the fall, safety protocols will continue to be in place. She said these protocols will be based on North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's executive orders, as well as federal COVID-19 guidelines.

Hardy said the ECU community can expect to see the "hustle and bustle" of a college campus again in the fall semester.

"Right now, based upon what we know, we will still be wearing masks, we still got some social distancing protocols in place. We'll still have the hand sanitizer and messaging and things of that nature," Hardy said. "I'm hoping that people get the vaccine and that our students get it."

Hardy said the more members of the ECU community that get vaccinated the better the return to campus will be.

The past year of online instruction has had its ups and downs as the concern of safety since COVID-19 began caused anxiety to surface throughout the ECU community, according to Hardy. She said she feels excitement toward

the coming months as well as for the 2021 and 2022 fiscal year.

Sophomore biology and chemistry double major DaRon Snipes said a lot of individuals



DaRon Snipes

have struggled with the effects of the pandemic on education, such as online instruction. He said he feels as though ECU needs to return face-to-face instruction.

"I struggle with my labs because it's not in-person, so we can't ask face-to-face questions," Snipes said. "We got to send an email and wait for returns and all of that stuff, so labs would definitely improve if we came back to campus."

Snipes said as long as those on-campus continue to wear a face mask, then he would feel safe on-campus. He said his main concern includes large events held on and off-campus.

"It does take away from me actually learning, though," Snipes said. "I don't really learn and retain a lot of information as I would in class."

Senior communication major Tyler Vu said he feels comfortable to return to campus as ECU has begun to offer COVID-19 vaccines to students. He said his experience with online instruction has not been favorable.

"It's been terrible, actually. I enjoy the college atmosphere because, like, you pay to be part of the university," Vu said. "It just sucks that we thought we were going to get better in the fall (2020) and it didn't."

Vu said he said he misses in-person classes and awaits the return of a somewhat normal college atmosphere.

ONLINE |
FULL STORY

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

SAFETY continued from A1

it's a terrific idea."

A college town such as Greenville is prone to have predators around it in search of individuals they believe to be weaker than them, according to Sutton.

Members of "Safety Gals" are encouraged to reach out to authorities about incidents they have posted about in the group, according to Sutton.

Sutton said students are encouraged to download the application LiveSafe as a way to communicate with ECU PD about criminal activity. He said the application allows a user to send text messages and photos to the department's dispatch center, where officers can be sent to your location.

"If somebody's at your door you may be weary of calling for fear that he may hear your voice, so you can pull your phone out and you can start texting our police department through our dispatch," Sutton said.

Aside from the LiveSafe application, Sutton said he recommends females stay aware of what surrounds them not only on-campus, but at shopping centers and other high-populated areas in the city of Greenville.

Sutton said ECU PD has city-wide jurisdiction in Greenville to be able to respond to any call. He said many universities' police departments don't have this ability, so it is a useful asset for ECU.

Sophomore history major Jessica McArthur said she joined "Safety Gals"



Emergency Blue-Light Phones are placed around campus to assist the ECU community in crisis situations.

because she doesn't hear a lot about criminal activity in the community.

"I would just like to recommend that every woman that goes to ECU or lives in Greenville to join that ('Safety Gals') so they're aware of stuff that's happening around Greenville," McArthur said.

The "Safety Gals" group allows for women to talk about issues around Greenville, such as human trafficking, according to McArthur. She said she is not surprised by the posts she sees because of her familiarity with the Greenville area.

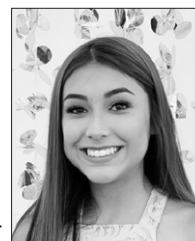
An Administrator of the "Safety Gals" Facebook group and sophomore marketing major Rachele Cabrera said the main purpose of "Safety Gals" is to raise awareness for women in Greenville. She said those

who wish to join the group must be local to Greenville or Pitt County, as well as have a Facebook account.

"I'm kind of scared to walk around Greenville. I never go to Target alone," Cabrera said. "I'm very high aware of everything around me and so I just wanted to help keep an eye on that on the app."

"A lot of people who are friends with her (the homeless woman) got offended," Cabrera said. "Just because they're mentally ill doesn't mean they're not OK. We're also in their home, so that's one thing that surprised me, which is why I wanted to join."

Cabrera said along with the safety bene-



Rachele Cabrera

fits of the "Safety Gals" group, women have also been able to find lost items. She said she would like to see more involvement from more police officers in the community.

"I see a lot of cops everywhere for like, cars speeding, but I never see enough cops like helping the whole area with stalking and sexual harassment and a lot of just inappropriate things going on in front of women," Cabrera said. "I would just like to see more involvement of that."

Cabrera said her safety tips for women are to carry pepper spray, to go places in pairs, to look under cars before entrance and to not touch anything you may see on your car like a zip tie or a sticker as it could be a human trafficking tactic.

Senior criminal justice major Madison Church said the "Safety Gals" group is one of the most beneficial resources she has had access to while in Greenville.

"Not only does it ('Safety Gals') give us (Greenville women) a way to kind of keep each other safe and protected from different things that are going on and keep the community alert to what's going on," Church said. "It ('Safety Gals') kind of brings, you know, a sense of comfort and empowerment, a sense of knowing that you have other girls you can turn to and the potential to help other people."

Church said she does her best to answer questions in the group when she is able to, she said, as well as "bump" or engage with other women's posts so they can receive more attention.

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

Social media interactions discussed

Faculty, students speak on ethical communication in a primarily virtual environment

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

While most classes and faculty and student interactions remain virtual at East Carolina University amid the COVID-19 pandemic, students and faculty have reflected and discussed how to practice social media in a responsible way to prevent ethical violations from student and faculty interactions online.

Dean of the College of Education (COE) Art Rouse said he isn't aware of any official protocols or guidelines specifically geared toward faculty and student social media interactions, but the university's Professional Code of Ethics and faculty manual instruct faculty on how to interact in a professional environment. Rouse said the entire ECU community should follow these professional ethics through their interactions inside and outside of class.

"The online interaction is no different than face-to-face interaction, right? It's a professional engagement, or professional interaction, and we interact or engage online in an online environment the same we would in a face-to-face setting," Rouse said. "So, the space doesn't really matter."

As COVID-19 changes the format in which many students and faculty interact overall, Rouse said the college has informally addressed the needed confidentiality of online environments and conduction of ECU business. He said the interactions made between students and faculty online and among social media should be no different than those made face-to-face.

Rouse said active engagement is critical to the success of the students at ECU and the use of social media outlets in the classroom allows faculty and students to expand upon this.

"Regardless of the medium, our main focus is student success. That's part of the mission of ECU," Rouse said. "Whether that's in a synchronous online course, or whether that's in a College of Education Facebook (page), you know, social media. The goal of that is to engage our students and to make sure that we know what they need."

Nicole Franklin, a teaching instructor of voice and vocal pedagogy within ECU's School of Music, said there have been no official protocols or training specific to social media interaction with faculty and students to her knowledge.



Nicole Franklin

Before social media became widespread, Franklin said many professors connected with their students through Facebook until its expansion beyond those affiliated with a university.

When Franklin realized online interactions could cause unique issues to arise which typically wouldn't occur in an in-



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Social media applications commonly used to communicate with other individuals include Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat.

son setting, she said she removed current students from her pages and established a personal policy to await online interaction until post-graduation.

ECU's SOM has had the advantage of one-on-one in-person instruction, Franklin said, which has allowed for a connection between faculty and students that wouldn't typically occur online. She said she keeps up with her students through text message as well to update them on classes and communicate throughout the pandemic.

"I would be happy to add them (current students) back in (social media) once they graduated, and once they are a part of the professional world. I would welcome them as friends in the professional world, but as long as the relationship was student and mentor or professor. I tried to keep that pretty separate."

Senior Teaching Instructor and Communication Director for the English Department Timm Hackett said he personally chooses not to interact with students on social media, though he remembers when Facebook originally gained momentum and he and many other faculty had profiles to engage with students.

Hackett said he made the decision to hold off on interaction when he served as chair of the Distance Education Learning Technology Committee and learned the legalities of student-faculty interactions. He said he is unsure of any formal standards that

concern interactions with students online, though faculty active on social media discuss the topic among themselves.

Communication should be kept to official university channels for the sake of both parties involved, Hackett said, especially if it pertains to the classroom.

"I know social media now is such a vital part of communication in society,



Timm Hackett

and I have heard professors do some wonderful classroom activities and really wonderful learning opportunities and use social media," Hackett said. "I would argue it's not for or against it, it's more of a preference of the faculty, and to me this is where I feel strongly about it, it's whether the students want to open their social media to faculty."

Freshman psychology major Ashanti Cuthrell said she doesn't have a problem with faculty having a connection to her on social media as long as the interaction continues to remain appropriate.

Student and faculty interactions should be up to the discretion of those involved, Cuthrell said, though students who feel the need to report an incident should do so when the incident occurs.

Cuthrell said she appreciates the mentorships she's formed with professors personally,

but those involved with faculty and student online interactions must have a mutual understanding of what's appropriate and what isn't.

"I've always been one to connect with teachers, have a close relationship with teachers," Cuthrell said. "But if it gets too uncomfortable then there should be a line."

Daniel Ransome, a freshman computer science major, said in terms of communication with faculty through social media, he often draws the line if the subject isn't related to his education.

In high school, he would text coaches about games and practices, Ransome said, but he would never bring anything too personal into the conversation. He said it may be more acceptable in a university setting now that students are considered adults, but he believes those involved should hold themselves accountable regardless.

"I think it should be up to the teachers and stuff," Ransome said. "Because at that point, you should be responsible enough. Nobody should have to tell you to say like, 'Hey, you shouldn't be following one of your students on Instagram or Snapchat' or whatever."

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

Seniors foresee in-person graduation

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF



As East Carolina University's spring 2021 commencement will be held with multiple in-person ceremonies on May 7 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, seniors reflect on safety protocols and their upcoming graduation in the midst of COVID-19.

Senior public health major Ashley Beach said she initially felt indifferent about the in-person graduation ceremonies. She said her main concern is how to keep herself and others who attend safe.

"I honestly am excited as long as we can still follow the guidelines that they (ECU) had sort of drawn out for us in the email sent," Beach said. "I think it (multiple ceremonies) is certainly a great way to, of course, minimize the number of people that will be attending at a time, so I think that that will certainly assist in allowing them to social distance more effectively."

Beach said she has been in anticipation of her college graduation day for a long time, and she is still worried it may be moved online. She said her brother's college graduation day was the best day of her mom's life, and she wants her mom to experience hers as well.

If COVID-19 safety precautions are followed through during the ceremonies, Beach said she will feel safe. She said a college graduation in the midst of a pandemic is all about perseverance.

"It's (a graduation amid COVID-19) not something I could've ever imagined for myself. It's certainly not how I ever dreamed my graduation from college going," Beach said. "It's taught me a lot about my ability to succeed, even facing, sort of, challenges when

it comes to my academic career so I'm proud of myself."

Beach said the loss of some of her junior and senior year to COVID-19 upsets her. She said she lost some of the ability to network and participate in academic research projects in regards to her major.

Senior film major Jordan Hardnett said he will graduate in May, and he is glad graduation will be in-person. He said he hopes guests follow the COVID-19 regulations in place.

"I just hope it's (the ceremonies) safe and everybody has the proper distance between them and everybody can follow the proper guidelines, but it's definitely good (that the ceremonies are in-person)," Hardnett said. "I get to bring my family through and they get to finally see me walk the stage."

Hardnett said the multiple ceremonies will allow all seniors a chance to walk the stage at their graduation, despite the fact that the spring 2020 graduation was held virtually. He said it personally did not matter to him how graduation was conducted as long as he got his degree.



Jordan Hardnett

It's an achievement to graduate college while in a pandemic, according to Hardnett. He said he was upset when instruction at ECU transitioned mostly online as he enjoyed his in-person film class.

"Just the thought of, like, 'man I graduated college during a pandemic,' is pretty crazy," Hardnett said. "It's kind of been harder to really lock in and do my homework cause I'm not seeing my classmates. I'm not really seeing my professors unless it's online."

Hardnett said while he is upset that his



JASMIN RUSH | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Melena Franks poses for her senior graduation photos in front of the Main Campus Student Center.

last year in college was online, he is excited to graduate with an in-person ceremony and continue on with his life.

Senior dance performance and choreography major Autumn Stowers said she's grateful for the opportunity of an in-person graduation after the class of 2020's ceremonies were made virtual due to the pandemic. She said prior to the announcement, she had already accepted she potentially would not walk in-person for graduation due to the pandemic.

"I am mostly just really excited and grateful for the ability to walk at graduation and have my parents be there as well," Stowers said.

The in-person graduation wouldn't be made possible without the dedication of healthcare workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Stowers. She said she sees graduation as a time to show appre-

ciation toward healthcare workers and those involved with COVID-19 operations.

Stowers said she navigated hurdles with online instruction throughout her senior year.

"Going from having scheduled time to study to do homework or even a certain amount of time for other things like coffees and friends made me realize my time management wasn't as good as I thought it was," Stowers said.

Stowers said her family plans to join her for the in-person graduation as both of her parents have plans to get vaccinated. She said she and her family feel comfortable with the COVID-19 guidelines put in place and the continued decrease in positive cases.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

Students should get vaccinated

As COVID-19 rates continue to decrease and vaccinations are more accessible to individuals in North Carolina, it is key for East Carolina University students to receive their vaccinations in order to return to a safe and normal environment in the fall semester.

The ongoing pandemic has affected the ECU community for over a year as the university's instruction has remained mostly online since March 2020. Social distancing, face mask mandates and other safety precautions have been encouraged by ECU during this time.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe students should get their COVID-19 vaccination in order to help ECU's campus return to some form of normalcy in the fall. An increase in the number of students who receive the vaccine will help protect not only Pirate Nation, but communities close to the university as well.

There are various organizations on ECU's campus who offer vaccinations to students. The vaccine is additionally offered in other locations throughout Greenville, North Carolina, such as at Vidant Medical Center.

As accessibility to vaccines continues to increase, all adults will be eligible to be vaccinated due to North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's mandated orders on April 7. Students should be aware of this update and should look at their options in order to try and receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they can.

Being vaccinated for COVID-19 is the ultimate safety precaution one can take, and it will help encourage the university to move back toward normalcy. Maintaining personal health during a pandemic is not an issue that only affects one member of a community, but instead, a sickness will ripple through a community.



Stricter gun laws are needed

Firearm restrictions require adjustment amid mass shootings

Tano Talk



Macie Tano
TEC COLUMNIST

In the past month, we have seen two mass shootings that have taken the lives of 18 victims in America. On March 22, 10 people were shot and killed at a Boulder, Colorado, supermarket, including a police officer. The week before, eight people were killed when a gunman opened fire at three Atlanta, Georgia, area spas on March 16. This, along with the multitude of mass shootings and gun violence we have seen over the years, should be a reason for stricter gun control laws across the United States.

As of 2020, according to Soapboxie, the current gun issuance laws in the U.S. were 66% "Shall Issue," 20% "May Issue," 11% "Unrestricted" and 3% "No Issue." "Shall Issue" means that authorities can issue a permit to those meeting the law requirements, regardless of their intent to use the gun. "May Issue" means that an applicant must demonstrate a need for the permit. "Unrestricted" means that no permit is required to carry a concealed firearm, and "No Issue" means that no concealed carry permits will be issued, according to Soapboxie.

While the Second Amendment does protect individual gun ownership, there are endless reasons why the U.S. should tighten its gun control laws, along with the examples we have seen recently.

One reason for tighter gun laws is that they would reduce gun related deaths. Between the years 1999 and 2016, there were 572,537 gun deaths in the U.S., with 37.2% of deaths being homicide, accord-



Store managers show a customer ammo at a Grand Terrace, California gun store on June 30, 2016. COURTESY OF GINA FERAZZI | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

ing to Britannica ProCon. Guns were also the leading cause of death by homicide at 67%. Tighter gun laws would actively reduce the number of deaths by guns in the U.S.

Another reason for stricter gun laws is for the protection of women from domestic violence. As of 2020, according to Britannica ProCon, five women are murdered by guns every day in the U.S. A woman's risk of being killed is also 500% higher if a gun is present during a domestic dispute, Britannica ProCon said. Women need further protection from gun violence and domestic abuse, and tighter gun laws would aid in that protection.

An argument against stricter gun control often has to do with self-defense. However, guns are rarely used for self-defense. Of over 25 million violent crimes committed between the years 2007 and 2011, 0.79% of victims protected themselves with a threat of use or use of a gun, according to Britannica ProCon. While U.S. citizens do deserve their right to own a gun and protect themselves, tighter gun

laws would serve to protect more people.

A ban on high-capacity magazines would protect against the threat of mass murders, like the ones that occurred in Boulder and Atlanta recently. High-capacity magazines were used in at least 50% of 62 mass shootings that occurred between the years of 1982 and 2012, according to an investigation by Mother Jones, Britannica ProCon said. The investigation also found that, when high-capacity magazines were used in mass shootings, the death rate rose 63% and the injury rate rose 156%, according to Britannica ProCon.

What happened recently is tragic and unacceptable. The current gun laws are not enough to protect U.S. citizens from gun violence and mass shootings. Overall, I think the U.S. has a way to go to protect against gun violence, and tighter gun laws is a step in the right direction.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR STAFF

- Chloe Easton** Editor-in-Chief
- Summer Tonizzo** Managing Editor
- George Martin** Copy Editor
- Jennifer Sieg** News Editor
- Michelle Mazzei** News Chief
- Hannah Bolick** A&E Editor
- Sarah Hooper** A&E Chief
- Pat Polomchak** Sports Editor
- Brendan Cavazos** Sports Chief
- Giana Williams** Multimedia Manager
- Macie Tano** Opinion Editor
- Kate Francis** Visual Arts Director
- Rose Bogue** Production Manager

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.

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

One copy of The East Carolinian is free. Each additional copy is \$1. Unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under North Carolina law. Violators will be prosecuted.

Contact Info

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

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Global programs are beneficial



Erin Taylor
GUEST COLUMNIST

With the events of the past year-and-a-half, we have seen the growing importance of global literacy and cultural sensitivity. As opportunities to travel and engage in international communities have been adversely

impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to remember the opportunities offered through East Carolina University and how they can contribute to your future.

When I was an ECU student, I participated in three different study abroad programs. Once I went the first time, I couldn't wait to go again. Little did I know at the time just how impactful they would be. As a direct result of my time abroad, I chose to pursue a career in international education and am now the Education Abroad Advisor at ECU, paying the incredible experiences ECU afforded me forward to new students each year.

The idea of studying abroad may seem distant given the current global situation, however, now is the perfect time to begin planning. ECU offers over 250 programs located in more than 60 countries around the world. This diverse programming allows students of all majors, statuses and degrees to gain academic credit over a

"Study abroad has a life-long impact, preparing you for success in any field by instilling independence, sensitivity and marketable skills."

-Erin Taylor

summer, semester or full academic year. While the flexibility of our programming is enticing on its own, there are numerous personal benefits from studying abroad.

Academically, studying abroad provides you the opportunity to pursue courses that count toward your degree while fulfilling various graduation requirements. The cost of studying abroad can be comparable to a term at ECU, and there are many program types that may be more ideal depending on North Carolina residency status. While studying abroad advances progress toward graduation, it also provides experience and skills that will set you apart from your peers when it comes time to enter the workforce.

In one line on your resume you can pique the interest of prospective employers and have life experiences to draw on during the interview process. Your time

abroad will help develop transferable skills that are desirable in the workplace. Additionally, research shows that students that have studied abroad have an easier time finding jobs and most are employed within six months of graduating.

The Office of Global Affairs hosts many events throughout the year to help you get involved with internationally minded people on campus by coordinating activities on-campus as well as preparing students for a study abroad experience. If you are interested in learning more about studying abroad opportunities or getting involved with our activities, please visit global-affairs.ecu.edu.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Erin Taylor is an education abroad advisor at the Office of Global Affairs and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

THE EAST CAROLINIAN SPECIAL EDITION



PHOTO BY FRANK LIU | PIRATE MEDIA 1

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH'S CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Letter from the Editor

CHLOE EASTON

Editor-In-Chief, The East Carolinian.

As we conclude Women's History Month, members of the editorial board of The East Carolinian have spent the entire month speaking with 10 women who continue to contribute to East Carolina University and its community through their knowledge, excellence and accomplishments.

My goal for this project is to remind the community why it is important to recognize women who have contributed to our success here at ECU and shed light on the difficulties they may have faced along the way. Additionally, it is important to recognize the images these women have set for generations to come and honor their achievements.

There are obstacles that women everywhere continue to face worldwide, such as sexism, racism, harassment, lack of representation and economic inequality. It is easy for our community to say these issues are unjust or unacceptable in the society we have

cultivated today, however, it is not always as easy to make change happen.

Women bring completely different aspects to the table as we are able to see the world from a different point of view than the society-produced male successors. We have the ability to use our band of sisterhood from oppressive historical events and challenges to empower one another in the workplace.

Change must come with support, with action and with repetition; this project falls into the line of change for women everywhere. My hope for you, as a reader, is to understand from the perspective of women in leadership what experiences may have attributed to the unequal treatment of women at the table. My hope, as a woman in leadership myself, is for young women to be inspired by the excellence around them; our generation of women is meant to change the world.

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
CHLOE EASTON

MANAGING EDITOR:
SUMMER TONIZZO

LEAD DESIGNER:
FRANK LIU

COPY EDITOR:
GEORGE MARTIN

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:
HANNAH BOLICK

SPORTS EDITOR:
PAT POLOMCHAK

TEC ADVISOR:
CHERIE SPELLER

MULTIMEDIA & PRODUCTION ADVISOR:
ANNAH HOWELL

CONTACT INFORMATION:

MENDENHALL MAIN FLOOR
GREENVILLE NC 28889-4353

EDITOR@THEEASTCAROLINIAN.COM
252-328-9238



Patricia Clark

Professor
School of Theatre and Dance,
Head
Theatre for Youth Program

East Carolina University School of Theatre and Dance Professor Patricia "Patch" Clark continues to bring tales of heroes and heroines to life as coordinator of the Theatre for Youth and Theatre Education programs. As founder and director of Storybook Theatre, she has toured community events, local schools and libraries to not only enhance the skills of students but spread joy among our youth. She has directed over 10 children theatre productions and believes as individuals we should recongizne our equality within our hearts.

"I was drawn to Theatre for Youth and Theatre Education because of my love and respect for children. They are honest and wonderfully curious and creative. I discover along with them and they open the world of excitement and wonder to those who are brave enough to step inside their world and vision. When involved in theatre, children and youth become amazingly creative and again share an excitement for the arts that is simply, joyous."



Sylvia Brown

Dean
College of Nursing

As Dean of the East Carolina University College of Nursing Sylvia Brown has acted as a faculty member for the institution for four decades with numerous article authorships, a wide track record of service in the community, an induction into the ECU Nursing Hall of Fame in 2011 and recognition in 2010 as one of "Six ECU Incredible Women" at the ECU Women's Roundtable. Her major contributions to the community include the creation of the first online nursing programs in the state of North Carolina, and implementation of a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner program.

"There are several challenges nurses face including long hours, staffing shortages, mandatory overtime, workplace violence, bullying and harassment. Nursing is a physically demanding job and requires critical thinking to assure that patients receive safe, effective care. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses have been stressed with demanding long hours and dealing with life and death situations. This often results in burnout (or) workplace violence due to patients or family who become upset can result in injury."



Tara Kermiet

Associate Director
Center for Leadership and
Civic Engagement

Associate Director for East Carolina University's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement Tara Kermiet continues to dedicate her time at ECU to focus on campus outreach, community partnerships and strategic direction to ensure she and her staff are able to pursue and fulfill their goals. She said she continues to use past experiences to motivate herself in her career and her day-to-day duties. As leadership has always been an interest for Kermiet, she believes it important to instill a confident mindset in young women for they might enter a leadership position where they feel as they are lesser than the competing male peer.

"A lot of the work that I do because of my role as associate director is supervising staff, so a lot of my specific goals are just supporting the, you know, capacity building and the goals of those that I supervise and work with. Another thing I really try to focus on is that professional development piece for our staff, so ensuring that they have the opportunities to learn and challenge themselves and find their passion areas."



Allison Danell

Professor
of Chemistry,
Dean
Thomas Harriot College of
Arts and Sciences

East Carolina University Professor of Chemistry Allison Danell continues to fulfill her role as dean of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences (THCAS) since August of 2020. As an award-winning professor, Danell is an advisor focused on student success who supports and promotes education, research and development opportunities in the THCAS. As an analytical chemist with expertise in mass spectrometry, she works to mentor student researchers and manage projects across multiple disciplines. She believes that as a woman, she should not focus around the idea of a "woman leader," as her "goal is to be a leader, period."

"Once, during a conversation with a trusted colleague, I admitted that I actually am not comfortable with the idea of being a 'woman leader.' Rather, my goal is to be a leader, period. My ability to share that admission, and being accepted for it, changed my own narrative about how I presented my own achievements and proposed new strategies. It's from a much more confident place now."



Virginia Hardy

Vice Chancellor
of Student Affairs

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy continues to focus on student success, learning and leadership as she has spent over 20 years in education. Hardy has previously served as senior associate dean for academic affairs at the Brody School of Medicine where she provided strong academic support for medical students. Her goals focus around each student within the ECU community while she guides them toward success and leadership skills. Her major attributions to the community involve improved student housing construction and the innovation of the Main Campus Student Center. She believes this generation of women is set to change the world.

"Some of things I have experienced has been a sense of paternlism that has happened, looking at me and saying oh, you know, this is my framing right? 'Oh little girl, let me help you' kind of a thing, so that has been one. Another is seemingly not being heard or saying things and then having a male saying the exact same thing I have said and everybody thinks it's great and like didn't I just say that? So sometimes it's just not having my voice heard."



Gina Shoemaker

Assistant Director
Facilities Engineering and
Architectural Services

East Carolina University's Facilities Engineering and Architectural Services Assistant Director Gina Shoemaker has worked for the university for over 20 years. Shoemaker has forged her own path as a successful woman in the project management field, and oversaw the construction of the Main Campus Student Center as project manager. In 2019, she was a recipient of the Centennial Award for Excellence for Ambition from ECU, an esteemed accomplishment that is awarded to faculty or staff members who are dedicated to positively contributing to the university.



Ashley Cleland

Associate Director
Women and Gender Office

Founding Associate Director of the Women and Gender Office within the department of intercultural affairs at East Carolina University Ashley Cleland works to provide a safe and supportive environment for women and those in our campus community. Due to a plethora of accomplishments, such as serving as a Safe Zone facilitator to educate individuals on sexuality and gender diversity, Cleland has also facilitated a discussion during the Women's March on Washington. Her leadership skills shine when informing those on identity inclusion and women empowerment.



Shaun Simon

Associate Director
Ledonia Wright Cultural
Center

As Associate Director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Shaun Simon continues to lead programs that focus on cultural education, the celebration of heritage and student success. Simon believes in creating an empowering environment for those in our community and works to support the BIPOC (Black, Indiegnous and people of color) communities through her career. Additionally, Simon is the president of the North Carolina Cultural Center Consortium, which promotes social justice education and identity development for students.



PHOTO BY FRANK LIU | PIRATE MEDIA 1



Nita Boyce

Assistant Athletics Director
Student Development

Assistant Athletics Director for Student Development Nita Boyce has served the community for 24 years. She oversees all of the division's operations, which includes student affairs while she also serves as the academic coordinator for the women's tennis team. She has been a member of the National Association of Academic Advisors For Athletics since 1992 and has served as the organization's editor for its national newsletter. Boyce will continue to work in assisting all student-athletes with their personal, career and social development.



Purificación Martínez

Associate Professor
of Foreign Languages
and Literatures,
Chair of the Faculty Senate

Purificación Martínez, an associate professor of foreign languages and literatures, serves as chair of the Faculty Senate at East Carolina University. Her field of interests include the representation and impact of male and female power in royal chronicles, as well as masculinity and women in the Middle Ages. She has earned a licenciatura en filología Hispánica from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in Spain and has recently been announced as a member of Chancellor Philip Rogers' fall 2021 planning team for campus operations.

PATRICIA CLARK**01**

“Never give up. Listen to your heart and your dreams will follow. Believe in yourself even in the midst of doubters. Be an inspiration to others. Lead with kindness and care for others. Listen. Dream. Care. Selflessness reaches out to the world and embraces the unreachable. You can recognize a true leader because they simply lead.”

TARA KERMIET**02**

“What I try to do when I’m talking with young women who are growing into their leadership and growing into their career is A) recognizing that for us as women, that imposter feeling is very real and not saying that men may not feel that, but I think it’s probably more heavily on women and we are you know stereotypically a bit more emotional and more internal processors and I try to instill on women that we all have strengths to bring and if we don’t speak up on what we need and what we want to see, we can’t expect someone else to do it for us.”

SYLVIA BROWN**03**

“It is important for young women to be an advocate for themselves and to support one another. Work-life balance is particularly challenging for women as they balance obligations at home, often with children, and work obligations. Finding an excellent mentor and role model is very important, so that they have someone to support them, to bounce off ideas, and provide guidance to them as they make career choices.”

ALLISON DANELL**04**

“There have certainly been times when I have felt I am not being heard, or when folks do not seem to trust that my scientific expertise is well-developed. It can be very tiring to have to assert myself over and over. It helps me very much to talk to other women about those feelings. I think it is important for young women to never feel they need to defend why they are doing what they want to do, personally or professionally.”

VIRGINIA HARDY**05**

“I think the women of your generation will change the world and I’m not exaggerating, that isn’t a hyperbole in my opinion because I think the millennials and the iGen coming up, there is a different framework because some of it is because great foundation has been laid, but you all are coming in at a age where you are seeing women in leadership roles and you are hearing women voices and women voices saying ‘no this is not right.’ So you are more empowered than we were coming up. You will be the ones who will continue this conversation and continue this fight.”

GINA SHOEMAKER**06**

“I think it is imperative that young women know they are just that, women. DO NOT try to fit into a man’s world. Do NOT try to be ‘one of the guys.’ Make it your world. It’s 100% OK that you do things differently than the guys. Most of the time, your way is probably better. It is critical that young women stand up for what they believe in and that they learn to ignore the naysayers. If you feel like you would be a fantastic addition to what has been considered a predominantly male career, go for it. The only caveat I would add is to make sure you are passionate about whatever path you choose to pursue. Do not do it just to make waves or just to try to be ‘the only girl.’ People will take you seriously if they see and feel your passion, and they will quickly know if you’re going about things for the wrong reason.”

PURIFICACIÓN MARTÍNEZ **07**

“One of the things that I think, it’s very important that we remember is that this is a battle that we have not won yet. We need to continue to be very aware. There are constant pressures in our society that are trying to keep away the fight for equal rights for women and we need to be constantly aware so we continue the battle and we continue to work toward the achievement of equal rights.”

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 smas@ecu.edu for more information.



HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Maintain positive cash flow. Communication gets you around a structural breakdown. It pays to recycle. Reinforce the basics. Coordinate with your partner for extra credit.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 7 — Make a home repair before something breaks, especially where water is concerned. Keep systems flowing. Minimize risk or controversy and enjoy domestic creations.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 6 — Enjoy private time to contemplate recent events. Process emotions and feelings with comforting rituals. Organize plans. Discuss dreams and possibilities with your inner circle.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Collaborate to find solutions and implement them. Breakdowns or misfortune could affect your partnership. Coordinate your efforts. Align strategies and schedules. Share love and support.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Keep your attitude positive despite miscommunications. Patiently clarify. Do the homework and rely on basic facts. Simplify your arguments and lead with heart.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Teamwork provides the missing link. Adapt and coordinate to manage a structural breakdown. Keep your objective in mind. Inspire and encourage others to succeed.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Slow to investigate physical issues. Talk it over from different perspectives. Strategize around an obstacle. Protect your health and vitality. Nurture yourself and grow stronger.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Punctuate an agreement or deal with optimism. Manage carefully to overcome a financial hurdle. Provide excellent service and follow through on what you said.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 8 — Push, but do it gently. Don't rock the boat at work. Professional complications require adjustment and finesse. Stick to reliable tricks. Provide valuable services.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Adapt to limitations or barriers to romance and fun. Talk, network and find clever solutions through connection. Focus on love and everything works out.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 9 — Resist impulsive or automatic reactions. Don't say anything you'd later regret. Listen and observe. Wait for developments. Keep things simple and easy. Follow your heart.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Heed advice from experts, even when you don't agree. Travel complications and roadblocks abound. Advance educational goals step by step and adjust as you go.

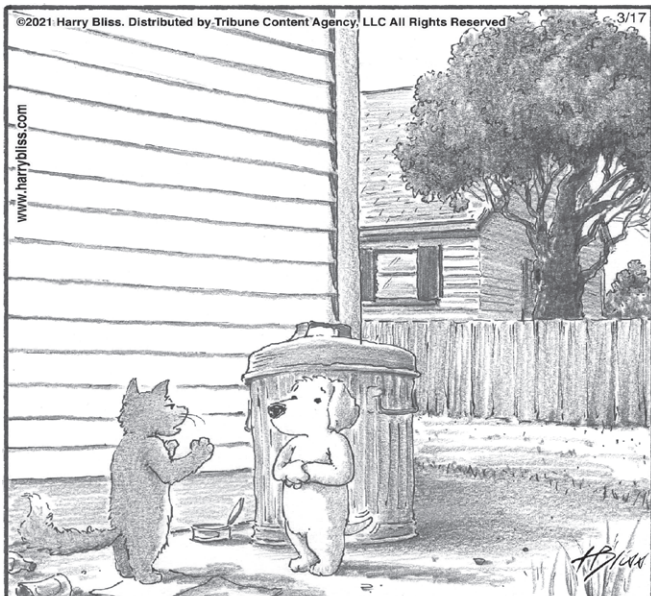
(c)2017 BY NANCY BLACK. DISTRIBUTED BY TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

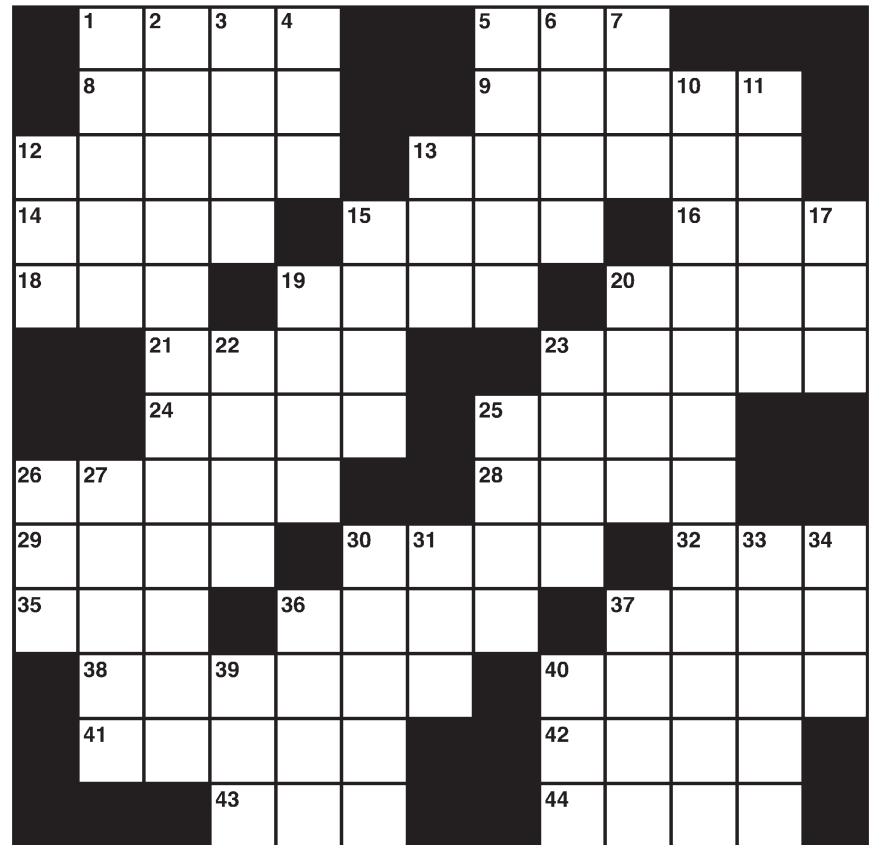


"OK, relax, that rug is from Crate & Barrel, not Persia."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Tim Daly's sis
- 5 Garfield, for one
- 8 Destroy
- 9 "Return to ___"
- 12 "2 Broke ___"
- 13 Colorful cocktail
- 14 Mayberry resident
- 15 "Promised ___"; Gerald McRaney series
- 16 Hosp. personnel
- 18 ___ Moines, Iowa
- 19 Adams & Johnson
- 20 Long story
- 21 Sitcom about a deacon
- 23 Was sore
- 24 "You ___?"; Lurch's line on "The Addams Family"
- 25 File drawer, perhaps
- 26 Foxx and others
- 28 Jack's love in "Titanic"
- 29 Scottish hillside
- 30 Hee-haw
- 32 "Sanford and ___"
- 35 Suffix for boss or wind

DOWN

- 36 Goofs
- 37 Actor Morales
- 38 ___ spaniel; popular dog breed
- 40 Actress Eleniak
- 41 "The ___"; David Duchovny/Sigourney Weaver film
- 42 Yahtzee cubes
- 43 Suffix for art or cartoon
- 44 Actor Penn

DOWN

- 1 Nonsense; rubbish
- 2 Actor on "Chicago Fire"
- 3 "The Jewel of the ___"; Michael Douglas movie
- 4 Junior nav. officer
- 5 James and Scott
- 6 Surrounded by
- 7 ___ for tat
- 10 Actress ___ Parker
- 11 Door hanger's metal piece
- 12 "___ Bless America"
- 13 "___ with a Plan"
- 15 TLC's "___ Island Medium"
- 17 Blue
- 19 Comfy rooms
- 20 Biol. and chem.
- 22 "American ___"; Tom Cruise movie
- 23 Chips ___!; Nabisco cookie brand
- 25 Mardi ___; pre-Lent festival
- 26 Baseball stat.
- 27 Build
- 30 ___ Butler; "Grace Under Fire" star
- 31 Elem. school subsj.
- 33 Made of a hardwood
- 34 Long or Peeples
- 36 ___ out a living; gets by
- 37 One of the Great Lakes
- 39 Former series for Ted Danson
- 40 Sullivan and Bradley

Solution from 03/24

A	L	L	S	O	A	P	S	O	F
L	I	E	U	R	K	E	L	U	A
A	L	A	B	E	A	N	Y	R	T
S	A	S	H	A	E	M	O	T	E
C	H	A	R	L	I	E	R	O	W
G	U	I	L	D	I	N	N		
			M	O	W				
S	G	T	I	V	I	E	S		
K	R	I	S	T	E	N	B	E	L
G	I	A	N	T	E	W	E	L	L
L	I	V	A	M	B	E	R	R	A
E	N	E	H	E	A	R	T	O	M
E	G	S	L	A	N	E	S	Y	A

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

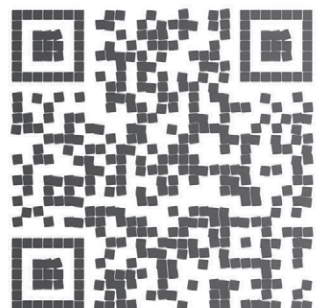
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 03/24

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

© 2019 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

Get your fill of news, sports, music, arts and events on the NEW Pirate Media 1 website at PirateMedia1.com.



Pirate Media

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

EVENTS

TODAY

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

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

Open Mic with J.T. Ackerman
Molly's Community Cafe
300 Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449

BFA Printmaking Exhibition
Greenville Museum of Art
802 S. Evans St.
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
252-758-1946

TOMORROW

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

Ribbon Cutting
Giant Falls Boutique
301 Evans St.
4 to 5 p.m.
252-752-4101

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

Pitt Street Run Club
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt Street
6:15 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4151

FRIDAY

April Exhibitions
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
404 Evans St.
12 to 5 p.m.
252-551-6947

Tim Bivans Live
A.J. McMurphy's
1914 Turnbury Dr.
8 to 11 p.m.
252-355-7956

Molly's Featured Artist Night
Molly's Community Cafe
300 Evans St.
7 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449

Sometimes Lions Live
Jarvis Street Bottle Shop
211 S. Jarvis St.
6 to 10 p.m.
252-364-2840

SATURDAY

Pitt Street Book Swap
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt Street
1 to 5 p.m.
252-227-4151

SideTrac Live
A.J. McMurphy's
1914 Turnbury Dr.
8 to 11 p.m.
252-355-7956

Pitt Street Madness
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt Street
12 to 7 p.m.
252-227-4151



CONTRIBUTED BY CYNTHIA BICKLEY-GREEN

ECU alumna Emily Benson teaches students prior to the pandemic at the after school arts classes for kids offered by SoAD, which have continued online.

Kids art program continues virtually

After school classes through SoAD persist amid pandemic

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

A long held tradition of the East Carolina University School of Art and Design (SoAD) continues as it hosts after school arts classes on pertinent cultural topics for youths around the Greenville, North Carolina, area virtually.

Cynthia Bickley-Green, a professor of art education within SoAD, oversees the program and said it has been in operation at the university for over 60 years, 27 of which she has headed. The after school arts classes are the first practicum for art education majors, Bickley-Green said, although the class is open for any major to join.

The transition last year to online instruction was difficult, according to Bickley-Green, with less attention able to be paid to each K-12 student. This year, Bickley-Green said the K-12 students were divided into classes based on grade level to keep them small, with three university students assigned to each, to allow for more individual attention.

"You don't have to teach chil-

dren how to be children, they already know that, so you need to give them experiences that will lead them into adulthood," Bickley-Green said. "So last semester we looked at the development of human rights."

Last semester's class made a puppet show for each of the developmental phases of human rights and this semester, Bickley-Green said, the class took a look at science, sustainability and nutrition. Art served to supplement the information, according to Bickley-Green. She said students made leaf-prints with clay, personalized their plant journals and made a brochure to sum up what they learned.

Materials for the class are provided by SoAD after the parents pay the \$5 fee for the class, Bickley-Green said. She said she decides the overall content of the course, but the ECU students who teach the class design units and lessons around it.

"We chose to have the children grow their own garden and then, or at least they're going to sprout some seeds, and then watch the seeds grow and learn about good nutrition, and how their nutrition can help them stay healthy, strengthen their immune system and stuff like that," Bickley-Green said.

Robert Quinn, an ECU associate professor of art education, acts as liaison between the art department and the ECU Youth Programs and Camps Office. Quinn said he works with the office to ensure compliance with the ECU Youth Programs and Camps Office's policies to keep minors protected and safe.

Quinn said the program is important not only to provide aspiring art educators with experience but also as a form of community outreach and enrichment.

"I think the thing that we value this particular program so very much is we see that there is a great need, interest in our community, for young people to receive art lessons. We feel that the after school art class provides an opportunity for students who may have an interest and aptitude for art to study it in a very controlled environment, very safe environment with some of their peers, some of their potentially like-minded peers," Quinn said.

Rachel Karwacki, a senior art education major, said she taught the class in the fall 2020 semester.

Karwacki described the process of teaching students to make puppets and hold a puppet show as "pretty dope."

Karwacki said there was the struggle to keep kids engaged, which extends to public schools and programs everywhere. Technological literacy is another aspect

where some students may struggle and not have access to skills they need to succeed in online instruction, Karwacki said, but despite this, teaching the class was a positive experience for both herself and the children she taught through the program.

"It gives them (students of the art classes) a really good outlet to get creative, they can get out their feelings, and they can talk to, like, people their own age. It's kind of like an escape, you know, for after school, for creative kids who are really looking for an outlet to express themselves. It was even good for me," Karwacki said.

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



Cynthia Bickley-Green



Robert Quinn



COVID-19 hobby turns charitable

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Usu Company Candles owner Stacy Ahua turned her COVID-19 lockdown candlemaking hobby into a hand-poured, 100% soy candle business, which uses a percentage from sales to donate to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

Usu signifies light and fire in Nigeria, Ahua said. She said Usu was the first name that came to mind when she decided to start her business. She said her family is from the Tiz tribe in Nigeria, so she wanted her company to reflect her culture.

Ahua's candles listed on her website prices range from \$10 for a single four fluid ounce candle to \$145 variety box set.

"I wanted mine (candles) to be meaningful, not just because of the stories behind them but because of the scent that provoked those stories. My culture has always been meaningful to me, something I've always been proud of. It just felt right for that to be the name for it (company)," Ahua said.

Ahua said she started the business in September 2020 while on lockdown at home due to COVID-19. She said she cooked and did other activities to keep busy, so she started to make candles with simple ingredients. She said she then tried different fragrance blends to tell the story of the candles.

The hobby quickly turned into a business, according to Ahua. She said she sent the first candle she made to her mother, who is a nurse, when she worked in Florida to administer COVID-19 tests.

She said her mother, and several other nurses, loved the candle and asked her to make candles for them.

"\$2 from each 'Guardian Angel' candle is donated to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. The fund benefits health care workers, essential workers, frontline workers and goes an

extra step and benefits patient care and research," Ahua said.

The "Guardian Angel" candle has a spring, but not floral scent, Ahua said. She said the "Guardian Angel" candle consists of grapefruit, basil, guava, candlewood and oakmoss. She described the scent as "earthy and fruity," and she said the basil scent lightens the fragrances so the overall scent is not overwhelming.

Ahua said she had a woman approach her at a market where she was selling candles, and the woman told her she had read the story associated with the "MADAM" candle, which describes the connection Ahua has with her mother. She said the woman purchased the candle to burn during her labor with her third child.

"I've had the most wonderful stories that people have told me, just coming up and smelling a candle is something that reminded them of something from their childhood," Ahua said. "Or one reminded them of their grandmother and brought them to tears because it was sort of a fragrance she always smelled like or they had a connection to their grandfather that was similar to what I shared in 'Grandad's Farm.'"

Director of Retail at the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA), in Raleigh, North Carolina, Janis Treiber said she met Ahua through a pop-up shop where Ahua was a featured vendor. She said her staff liked Ahua and her story, and immediately bought her candles.

Treiber said she started to place consignment orders of Ahua's candles for the NCMA store after she and other staff members purchased some of the candles. She said Ahua makes custom candles and

made a "Golden Mummies" candle for the NCMA "Golden Mummies of Egypt" exhibition.

Treiber said she recommends Usu Company Candles because Ahua is "thoughtful and creative" in what she produces.

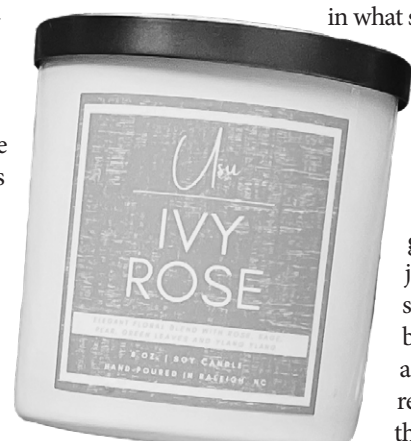
"I think what's important is when you purchase with a purpose of supporting a woman-owned business, supporting somebody who wants to grow the community, not just her own business and supports and uplifts everybody you can do that with a single purchase which is really powerful and I think that's exciting," Treiber said.

Lauren Stevens, co-owner of Joy Worthy, a creative workshop business, said she cohosts candle making classes with Ahua at her creative workshop business. She said Ahua's process of candle making is like no else's.

Stevens said there is a lot of thought and effort into Ahua's candles and into the candle making classes she offers. She said Ahua's candles are different from the candles you buy in retail stores because Ahua's candles burn evenly so customers do not waste any of the wax.

"The way she formulates her products, she puts a lot of effort and thought into it. Even with the wick, she takes the wick and makes sure she makes the thickness measured out to the circumference of the jar so the wax burns evenly throughout the candle," Stevens said.

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



CONTRIBUTED BY STACY AHUA

Ahua's candle named "Ivy Rose."

ONLINE | FULL STORY

TEC 'sports

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

Pat Polomchak

Sports Editor

@pattywhaKK



ECU softball vs. Campbell University on March 31

Who wins? ECU tops Campbell 4-3
Why? ECU holds a

decisive advantage in the all-time series against Campbell as it holds a 39-13 overall record and a 12-7 record in Campbell's stadium. The Pirates have also played more games than Campbell this year, and the extra experience will be a big factor.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



ECU baseball vs. University of Cincinnati on April 1 through April 3

Who wins? ECU goes 4-0

Why? The Pirates have been a consensus top 10 team for most of the season, while the Bearcats currently have a losing record. ECU's talent and schedule up to this point favors them in the series.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports Chief

@bcvaz_xi



ECU lacrosse vs. University of Florida on April 1 and April 3

Who wins? ECU goes 0-2 on the weekend
Why? The Pirates

have shown that they struggle against experienced teams with a high win count on the season after losses to Vanderbilt University and Old Dominion University. The University of Florida has a 7-2 record so far this season, and comes off two blowout wins against Cincinnati. ECU will likely struggle to keep up given their current three-game losing streak.

Jess Sabin

Baseball reporter

@Jess_Sabin



ECU soccer vs. University of Tulsa on April 3

Who wins? ECU wins 1-0
Why? Both teams

have struggled this season particularly on offense. However, ECU has had more success than Tulsa. In Tulsa's six games played they are 1-5 and have scored a total of four goals all season but three of their goals came in their victory over UCF. ECU has shown more consistency and has been more competitive which will play in their favor.



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES

Freshman goalkeeper and TEC Female Athlete of the Month Maeve English runs to grab the ball during a previous game this season.

English finds early success

Goalkeeper named TEC Female Athlete of the Month

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

Markayla McInnis

FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University soccer team (2-4-2, 2-2-2 American Athletic Conference) currently sits at No. 4 in the AAC, and a huge part of its season thus far has been freshman goalkeeper Maeve English, who The East Carolinian has chosen to be March's Female Athlete of the Month.

In English's first year, ECU has been able to win two games and tie two teams in its conference, who have had the upper hand on the team in previous seasons. While English is still a freshman, she has managed to save 28 out of the 39 shots she's faced so far this season in the eight games she's started.

As English went straight to starting in college from not playing in a while because of COVID-19, she said it was a large step, but she is excited about the future.

"It's been quite a transition after not having played in a while because of quarantine, but it's been great overall so far," English said. "I'm

developing a lot as a player and I'm excited to keep working for them (ECU)."

On top of her position as the starting goalkeeper for ECU, English has managed to rack up two AAC Goalkeeper of the Week titles.

English achieved that title for the first time after the Pirates' first away win of the season against the University of Houston (4-4-1, 1-4 AAC) on Feb. 14. In this game alone, English was able to save five shots, which left the Cougars scoreless.

"I was so excited and shocked," English said. "It was really cool to see that after getting it (AAC Goalkeeper of the Week) so early and it really set sights to getting another one."

The second week English was able to achieve AAC Goalkeeper of the Week was after the Pirates' game on March 14 against the University of Central Florida Knights (2-3-1, 2-3-1 AAC). In this game, English was able to achieve her career-high of seven saves. Many of her stops were at the last crucial moments of the game and overtime, which led the game to end in a double-overtime draw.

In English's last game against the University of Cincinnati (4-4, 3-3 AAC), the Pirates weren't able to pull off a win, but English faced

five shots and managed to save three of them in the 2-1 loss. As the season is approaching the end, head coach Jason Hamilton said the Pirates will look for a win in their next game.

"I know they want it so I am sure we will see them have a lot of energy this week leading to the game," Hamilton said.

Before English attended ECU this year, the Greenville native was part of the North Carolina Football Club (NCFC) soccer team and helped lead the team to qualifications for the Jefferson State Cup and the North Carolina State Cup Final Four. Throughout her high school career, English made 127 saves with an average of 5.1 per game, which also included 44 shutout games. In 2019, English was named an all-state, all-region and all-conference player.

In that environment, English was able to develop and get ready for her journey at ECU, according to Hamilton.

"Her growth over the last two years has been tremendous, and I think that has a lot to do with her commitment to the game," Hamilton said.

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

WEEKEND ROUNDUPS

Track and field competes in Weems Baskin Invitational

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University track and field team competed in the Weems Baskin Invitational on March 26 and March 27 in Columbia, South Carolina, where the Pirates ended the meet with a total of 39 participants that finished in the top eight in their respective events.

Freshman pole vaulter Starrett Vesper placed first in the men's pole vault. Vesper cleared a height of 4.60 meters. Graduate student Ryan Davis placed first in the men's hammer throw invite with a distance of 68.99 meters, which also set a new school record in the event, according to ECU Pirates.

On the women's team, freshman thrower Rebekah Berquist placed first in the women's javelin throw, recording a distance of 41.70 meters. Freshman thrower Ansley Frady placed second in the same event with a distance of 40.62 meters.

The full results of the Weems Baskin Invitational can be found at adkinstrak.com. The Pirates will next compete in the Bill Carson Invitational on April 3, in Greenville, North Carolina.

Pirate soccer falls short against Cincinnati

Markayla McInnis
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's soccer team (2-4-2, 2-2-2 American Athletic Conference) hosted the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (4-4, 3-3 AAC) on March 27 at Johnson Stadium where the Pirates came to a 2-1 loss.

Junior midfielder Taylor Nuncio assisted defensive forward Annie Metzger as her first shot attempt was a success to tie the score at 2-1 for the rest of the first half.

AAC Player of the Week and ECU senior defender Carsen Parker was able to get a low goal in to tie the score for most of the second half.

As the last 15 minutes of the game approached, junior defender Alli Pestaina was able to bring the Bearcats on top as her shot wasn't able to be stopped by freshman goalkeeper Maeve English.

ECU will play its second to last game this Saturday when they travel to the University of Tulsa (8-11, 2-7 AAC) to face the Hurricanes. The game is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

ECU lacrosse goes 0-2 in weekend series

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University lacrosse team (3-7, 1-3 American Athletic Conference) dropped both games in a two-game series against Vanderbilt University (9-2, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) on March 26 and March 28, with final scores of 19-12 and 14-12.

On March 26, sophomore attacker Frances Kimel and junior attacker Megan Tryniski both led the Pirates with four goals each. Sophomore goalkeeper Ashley Vernon reached a career-high of 15 saves in the effort against Vanderbilt.

In the second game on March 28, the Pirates put forth a stronger defensive effort as a team in comparison to March 26, keeping Vanderbilt to only 14 goals in comparison to the previous 19. Senior attacker Megan Palozzi led the Pirates with four goals. Senior midfielder Nicole LeGar followed up with three goals of her own.

ECU will return to action at 4 p.m. Thursday and noon on Saturday to face the University of Florida (7-2, 4-0 SEC) in Gainesville, Florida.

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

CAMELS continued from A1

According to ECU Pirates.com, ECU last played Campbell on Feb. 9, 2020, at the Kickin' Chicken Classic at St. John Stadium in Conway, South Carolina. The Pirates won the game 4-1.

Freshman pitcher Logyn Estes recorded her first career win with two hits and a home run. Estes threw 5.1 scoreless innings and allowed three hits and one walk. She also recorded a strikeout in the contest.

The Pirates scored one run the second and third inning each, followed by scoring two in the sixth. The Camels scored their only run of the game in the top of the seventh inning.

According to GoCamels.com, redshirt senior Destini England hit a walk off RBI triple, which game winner in the bottom of the seventh inning in the Camels last game against Winthrop University. England also led the Camels in hitting for the game with two.

Redshirt freshman Kayla Howald recorded her second win of the season.

Howald pitched two innings and did not allow any hits or runs. Howald also recorded two strikeouts.

The Pirates will next play the University of North Carolina Wilmington Seahawks (6-13, 3-0 Colonial Athletic Association Conference) on April 7 at Boseman Field in Wilmington, North Carolina.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Baseball to face Cincinnati

Pirates to begin conference play against the Bearcats Thursday through Saturday

Cade Carlson
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University baseball team (18-5, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) will open up AAC play in a four-game series against the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (10-10, 0-0 AAC) from Thursday through Saturday on Lewis Field at Clark-Leclair Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina.

The Pirates picked up a win yesterday in a rematch against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (13-10, 8-7 Atlantic Coastal Conference) in a walkoff 11-10 victory.

Due to the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic cut the 2020 season short, the last time ECU and Cincinnati met was in a 2019 series.

In that three-game series, the Pirates were able to secure a win in all games against the Bearcats by a score of 9-4 and 6-3 in two games on May 3, 2019 and 6-2 on May 5, 2019 on the road in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This season, the Bearcats have a team batting average of .272 as they have had 189 total hits in 694 at bats. In addition, Cincinnati has hit 27 home runs and it has a team slugging percentage of .454.

The Bearcats have reached a total of 315 bases this season and they have batted in 120 runs thus far. At the plate, Cincinnati has only struck out 180 times and it has had 532 putouts in the field.

Freshman outfielder Cole Harting has led the Bearcats at the plate this season with a team high batting average of .349 with a total of 22 hits in 63 at bats. Harting also leads the team in home runs with six and a slugging percentage of .714.

Senior infielder Wyatt Stapp leads Cincinnati in runs batted in this season with 18



Freshman left-handed pitcher C.J. Mayhue winds up to throw the ball during one of ECU's games against Duke University this season.

total. In addition, Stapp has a batting average of .338 and leads the team in total hits this season with 26 in 77 at bats for the Bearcats.

ECU has been one of the top teams in the country this season under head coach Cliff Godwin. This season, the Pirates have a batting average of .286, and the team has a total of 219 hits in 766 total at bats. In addition, ECU has batted in 135 total runs as a team this season.

The Pirates have had success in getting on base this season as their on base percentage is .372. ECU has had success hitting the ball

over the fence as well as it has hit 29 home runs and it has a team slugging percentage of .454.

Sophomore infielder Connor Norby, The East Carolinian's Male Athlete of the Month for March, has led the Pirates at the plate this season as he has a team high batting average of .429 and 39 total hits in 91 at bats. In addition, Norby leads the team in runs scored with 23.

Caddell leads the team in home runs this season with eight total to go along with a slugging percentage of .639, and he also leads the team in runs batted in with 25.

Sophomore infielder/outfielder Thomas

Francisco has also played a role in the Pirates' success this season as he is second on the team with a batting average of .344 and has scored 22 runs.

After the Pirates face off with Cincinnati, they will have another four-game series at home against the University of Memphis Tigers (9-10, 0-0 AAC) from April 9 through April 11 in Greenville, North Carolina.

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

TECTalk

Spotlight on Safety

Wednesday April 7 at 3 p.m.



As a rising number of female students within the East Carolina University community continue to experience targeted crime on and around campus, join The East Carolinian and the ECU Police Department for a discussion centered around the importance of female safety in our community. This event will shed light on the unfortunate experience's women continue to face in the area, as well as work to find a solution for Pirate safety. Members of the panel will include Deputy Chief of Police Jason Sugg, Sergeant Stephanie Carnevale, Master Police Office Kim Bell and Captain Chris Sugg.

Meeting ID: 844 0956 9935

Passcode: Safety

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84409569935?pwd=b3hZeitRYzhiUVhzR05JRnZoNjhNZz09>

» ANALYSIS

ECU must win early

Football needs success in first four games



Pat Polomchak
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University football team will look to build on two relatively successful seasons under head coach Mike Houston, and in order to do so, success early in the 2021 season will be paramount.

ECU is set to kick off the 2021 season with a four-game slate of non-conference opponents before American Athletic Conference (AAC) play begins. To have any chance at a return to bowl season play for the first time since 2015, the Pirates will need to win three of their first four games.

The opening game of the 2021 season will be a neutral-site clash between ECU and Appalachian State University on Sept. 2. The game will be played in Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The matchup history favors Appalachian State, as ECU currently holds a 12-19 disadvantage in the all-time series. However, the Pirates came away from the last matchup between the teams with a 35-13 victory on Sept. 1, 2012.

As the first game of the season, this contest will give fans an idea of what the Pirates will look like this year. A win in the opener would create momentum and boost morale for a team which has had plenty of struggles since that last bowl game.

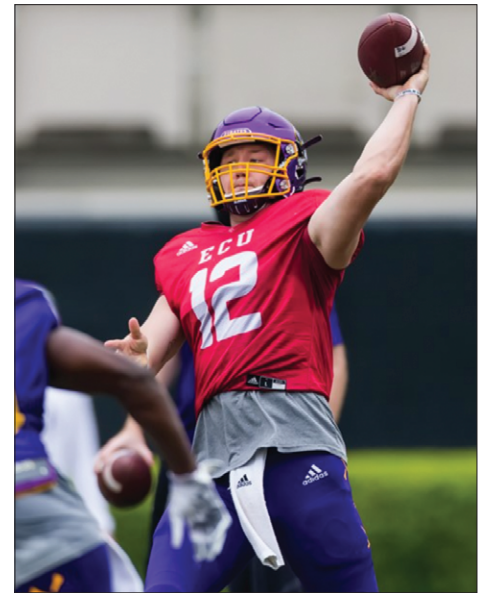
After the Appalachian State game, ECU will return home to host the University of South Carolina (USC) on Sept. 11 for the first time since 1997. That game will likely present a tough challenge, as USC plays in the top-ranked Southeastern Conference and therefore faces tougher competition than ECU.

Next, the Pirates will hit the road to take on Marshall University on Sept. 18. This game serves as a reschedule of last year's contest, which was postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19 concerns.

ECU and Marshall have been linked through a tragedy which took place 50 years ago, on Nov. 14, 1970. On the way back from a game in Greenville, North Carolina, the Marshall football team's plane crashed and 75 members of the program were killed.

ECU holds the advantage in this matchup history. ECU currently has a record of 6-3 against Marshall, but lost the most recent matchup 59-28 on Nov. 29, 2013.

ECU has shown a tendency to lose on the road against Marshall. While nine games is a small sample size, all three of ECU's losses in the all-time series have come when Marshall was the host, which includes the last two road contests in a row. With the Pirates set to travel for the 2021



Junior quarterback Holton Ahlers in spring workouts.

matchup, ECU will need to reverse that trend to keep its season on track.

The Pirates round out their non-conference schedule with a return to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, where ECU will host Charleston Southern University on Sept. 25. This will be the first matchup between ECU and the Big South foe. ECU should have a good chance of victory against Charleston Southern if the team can build on its late-season success from 2020.

The main reason that ECU needs to do well in this four-game slate is because ECU has struggled against AAC opponents in recent years. Since the 2016 season, ECU has finished 3-9 three times and achieved one more win once, a 4-8 season in Houston's first year at the helm.

Many of those losses came against AAC opponents. The Pirates finished with conference records of 1-7, 2-6, 1-7 and 1-7 in the 2016 through 2019 seasons. However, the team did manage to improve to 3-5 in last year's COVID-19 abbreviated schedule.

Despite that improvement, ECU has not quite shown the talent to hang with the top teams in the AAC, which are often nationally ranked. It is important for ECU to rack up as many wins as possible before conference play begins. More wins against non-conference opponents would equate to less wins needed against the tougher foes in the AAC.

It only takes seven wins to become eligible for certain bowls, so ECU has a shot to make one again. That would be a much easier prospect if the Pirates can manage three wins in non-conference play, so that is a reasonable goal ECU should focus on achieving if it wants to continue playing after the regular season ends.

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





PROUD SPONSOR OF
THE ECU PIRATES!



FOLLOW US ON
[@ECUPapaJohns](https://twitter.com/ECUPapaJohns)

GREENVILLE 252-757-7700
1322 East 10th Street

WINTERTVILLE 252-353-5300
675-A West Firetower Road

Order Online and Check Out Our Special Deals and Coupon Offers at www.papajohns.com!