

RYAN DAVIS NAMED TEC MALE ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

turn to A6



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The East Carolinian

A YEAR IN REFLECTION



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

As the 2020-2021 academic year nears conclusion and summer approaches, various ECU officials and departments reflect on the year.

Officials share experiences

Emily Peek
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University nears the end of the 2020-2021 school year, faculty members reflect on the university's experiences over the past year, as well as voice their hopes for the future years to come.

Chancellor Philip Rogers said when he looks back on the past year, he reflects on ECU's ability to reinvent itself due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think at the highest level we all experienced our worlds being rocked in March of 2020," Rogers said. "It cost us as a university, it cost us as individuals, it

cost us as a leadership team, as a student body, to reinvent who we are as a campus and as a people and as an individual in this world."



Philip Rogers

represented the ability of the university to achieve its goals while enduring hard-

Rogers said students, faculty and staff have shown resilience with their ability to face challenges.

Pirate Nation's strength throughout the pandemic represented the ability of the university to achieve its goals while enduring hard-

ships, Rogers said. He said a significant accomplishment he saw the university face within the past year was its ability to move instruction online in a short period of time.

"In a matter of days we had to figure out a way to transform our campus from a face-to-face environment to a virtual learning space," Rogers said. "That took people coming together, it took people stepping out of their comfort zone and it took us thinking very creatively and strategically about what the future of higher education looks like."

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Health remains top priority

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

Officials at East Carolina University continue to reflect upon health safety improvements and COVID-19 developments throughout the 2020-2021 academic school year as the semester comes to an end.

Director of Student Health Services (SHS) LaNika Wright said since the fall 2020 semester, ECU health officials have learned more about the virus and the importance of consistent COVID-19 testing, public health surveillance and vaccine accessibility. On average, Wright

said the university saw the percentage of positive COVID-19 test results on campus reach 37% in the fall, which was higher than the spring semester's average of 1-2%.

Wright said initiatives such as expanded COVID-19 testing, residence hall wastewater testing, vaccination clinics, single-occupancy residence hall rooms and improvement in isolation and quarantine spaces have all contributed to the spring semester's improvement. ECU's increased knowledge of the virus will allow the university to remain proactive, Wright said, but the success of

the fall semester will be up to students.

"As an ECU community, I think we've all recognized what role we play in keeping the campus open and safe," Wright said. "The community as a whole, I think we've all taken a responsibility and kind of stepped up to the plate."

Ying Zhou, associate provost for

> VIRUS page A2

Graduation nears, details announced

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University's Spring 2021 Commencement approaches on May 7, university officials continue to release and communicate details about the three in-person ceremonies.

Associate Vice Chancellor and Senior Operating Officer Chris Stansbury, who also sits as a co-chair on the commencement committee, said ECU students can expect to receive steady communication from ECU about commencement within the next few weeks.

"I think we (ECU) did our best to make sure when we put a communication out. We would let them (graduates) know when the next one was coming and we always think that's really really important," Stansbury said.

An ECU Commencement email announcement on April 15 said University of North Carolina (UNC) System President Peter Hans will deliver the keynote address to almost 4,000 spring 2021 graduates alongside the class of 2020 graduates and their guests. The announcement said prior to his election as UNC System president in 2020, he served as the ninth president of the North Carolina Community College system.

The commencement email announcement said the university will host three in-person ceremonies on May 7 to celebrate the spring

Class of 2021 and the Classes of 2020. The announcement said the ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. will recognize undergraduate students grouped by colleges, and the 5 p.m. ceremony for graduate and professional students.

"A livestream of the event will be available to students and their families who are unable to attend or choose not to attend the in-person celebration," the email announcement said.

Stansbury said attendees will be spread out throughout the stadium and graduates will not participate in a procession nor enter into the stadium at once, but will sit down as they arrive with their colleges on the field.

Guest tickets cannot be copied, duplicated or transferred to another student, according to Stansbury. He said every ticket has a number associated with an assigned seat that designates where each graduate's guests will sit throughout the ceremony.



Chris Stansbury

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

Softball to face off with UNC Greensboro

Cade Carlson
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University softball team (11-24, 2-10 American Athletic Conference) is set for a non-conference matchup against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) Spartans (21-14, 6-3 Southern Conference) on April 21 at 5 p.m. in the UNCG Softball Stadium in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The Pirates recently picked up one win in a four-game series against the University of Houston Cougars (13-27, 4-12 AAC) by a score of 11-5 on April 18 at the Cougar Softball Stadium in Houston, Texas.

In that game, the Pirates had nine hits in 28 at bats to go along with nine runs batted in on the day. In addition, ECU was walked a total of 10 times and had 21 putouts in the field.

The matchup history between the two teams favors the Pirates as they are undefeated against UNCG with a 9-0

> UNCG page A6



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The main entrance of the Emerge Gallery and Art Center, located at 404 Evans St. where student art is being displayed.

Seniors' work displayed

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program will continue to celebrate a few seniors at Emerge Gallery and Art Center in the Spring 2021 BFA Senior Exhibition, open through the month of April.

Sarah Lazure, the marketing coordinator of the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, said every year the gallery hosts senior students' work. She

said with the struggles presented by COVID-19, this year's senior exhibition was especially important.



Sarah Lazure

Thomas both located in the Don

Edwards Gallery and photography by Madison Gurley and Madison Groom, will be located in the Harvey Wooten Gallery.

The exhibition, which opened on April 1 and will run until April 29, is part of the curriculum for BFA students, Lazure said. She said the exhibition and curriculum's purpose are both to show the artist's work and

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ONLINE

»SPORTS: Analysis on baseball's undefeated conference record

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

CRW to host 'Walking in Nature'

Today, ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness (CRW) will host "Walking in Nature" from 2 to 3 p.m. This event will start at the bottom of College Hill where the university connects with the Greenway. Students who take walks in nature are proven to have reduced anxiety, an improved mood and lower blood pressure. Individuals will have the opportunity to connect with the outdoors, learn how to walk and meditate at the same time, and must register on the CRW website in order to participate.

G.O.L.D. Series to hold volunteer session

Today, the Growing Organizational Leadership Development (G.O.L.D.) will hold "Translating Your Experience: Volunteering...Not Just a Line on Your Resume" from 3 to 4 p.m. Kara Rafferty, Principal Owner of The Rafferty Firm and Outside the Box Mediation, will share how she is an active leader within the community and how she was able to translate her experiences of leadership and involvement into a professional career. Individuals should register on the Engage website.

ECU to show Earth Week Film

Today, East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine and the Sustainability Program will hold an "Earth Week Film Screening" event on the Main Campus Student Center Lawn from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The film to be shown is "How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change." All ECU students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the film screening.

ECU BOT to host meetings

Tomorrow, East Carolina University Board of Trustees (BOT) will host individual board meetings in the Main Campus Student Center Ballroom A from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, a board meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Various committees will speak throughout the meeting tomorrow while the BOT's full board will conduct the Friday meeting.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University Career Services plans to continue its operations throughout the summer as the spring 2021 semester comes to an end.

Summer internships encouraged

Career Services continues to offer various opportunities, assistance

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

Alexys Woolard
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



East Carolina University Career Services will continue to offer and encourage students to pursue internship opportunities throughout the summer in an effort to help them develop professional skills and prepare them for post-graduation.

Tom Halasz, director of Career Services, said there are currently more than 1,800 internships available to students through the university's career platform, Handshake. He said students of any year at ECU have the opportunity to register for internships based on their background, career goals and location at any time. Many of these internships are throughout



Tom Halasz

the country, Halasz said, and before the COVID-19 pandemic, some could be found internationally. Due to less accessibility to travel and health safety concerns, Halasz said COVID-19 has forced many internships to turn to a virtual format until recently. He said there will be a good number of employers who offer internships face-to-face for students this summer.

Halasz said though COVID-19 has its downfalls, the ability to switch to virtual opportunities has expanded accessibility to internships and improved the economy.

"When I talk to freshmen, when I talk to incoming students, when I talk to parents, all of them say, 'How often should we use Career Services?'" Halasz said. "If somebody knows you by name in Career Services, you're using it enough. If no one knows you by name, you're not using it often enough."

Though career fairs and other in-person opportunities within Career Services are finished for the school year, Halasz said one-on-one virtual counseling appointments with the department are currently available

through its website, and will continue to be offered throughout the summer. He said career counselors work with students to pursue experiences such as study abroad, volunteer work, research with faculty and more.

Halasz said he encourages ECU students to get involved with career planning at the university as soon as possible, regardless of what their professional goals are. He said students should sign up for Handshake to look at specific companies and interests as well.

"I'd like to say our students will use Handshake exclusively," Halasz said. "But that's not a good strategy. The strategy is, use all your resources, and there are just so many. Sometimes students can be overwhelmed by that. Again, that's where I'll return to meet with one of our staff, come up with a plan (and) they'll help you get started."

Career Liaison for the College of Engineering and Technology Ariel Robinson said students should seek hands-on experience during the summer to ensure that they are confident in the career they have chosen to pursue after graduation.

Robinson said she recommends students who are undecided continue to search for volunteer experience that can add soft skills and transferable skills to their resume.

"Hands-on, experiential learning is so, so, so important," Robinson said. "If they can get any type of internship or part-time job that's related to their field, that's great."

Students who attend ECU should take advantage of the online platform Handshake, which can be used to connect students with job opportunities in eastern North Carolina as well as opportunities in different regions, Robinson said.

Handshake also allows employers the ability to view work experience and skills, Robinson said. She said this is a great way to obtain internships this summer.

"We (ECU Career Services) do encourage students to use our platform, our recruiting platform, called Handshake. Handshake is the platform that ECU uses to connect students with jobs and opportunities over the summer,

during the semester as well," Robinson said. "It hosts thousands and thousands of different positions across the country."

Students should be aware of fraudulent job opportunities that may be on the lookout to gain access to personal information, Robinson said.



Ariel Robinson

Always check email addresses and review the emails sent to see if the recipient has requested any personal information or money in order to gain employment, according to Robinson.

"Typically, if it's a scam email, it's not going to come from a company email address. It'll probably be Gmail or Yahoo or something like that, so that's, that's a red flag," Robinson said. Freshman business administration and criminal justice double major Joshua Crockett said he has worked for the Supreme Court of North Carolina under Justice Warren E. Burger throughout the spring semester and will continue this summer. He said he has the opportunity to review case information and transcripts to prepare bench briefs for the court.

Crockett said his work with the state of North Carolina's supreme court has given him an insight into his future career within the judicial system. As a freshman, Crockett said he has gained a lot of experience with the courts that has allowed him to be given the opportunity to return his senior year for another internship opportunity.

"Just go out and try to connect with people," Crockett said. "If they really like you, and like what you're doing and even just like, how you think and your personality, they'll offer you something. It never really hurts to just go out and ask."

More information about services and assistance offered to students and alumni can be found on the ECU Career Services website, alongside further information about internships on Handshake.

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

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Rogers said aside from COVID-19, other hardships in the past year included "fiscal distress," issues with race culture and social injustice. He said all of these issues together have caused the university community to come together.

Former Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said the past year was difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is an accomplishment that the ECU community persevered.

"We didn't have the efficiency of telecommunications, the internet, so I think there's a lot to be said for our new toolbox and how efficient it is and how it can ultimately complement face-to-face activities," Mitchelson said. "We're better at this than we were twelve months ago."

The spring 2021 semester was planned appropriately due to COVID-19 in comparison to the fall 2020 semester when there was a peak of 1,080 new COVID-19 total reported cases within the first three-weeks of class, Mitchelson said. As of the date of publication, there were 24 new total cases within ECU over the past seven days.

Mitchelson said he is excited to see the university's campus and the Greenville economy reopen.



Ron Mitchelson

As the special assistant to the chancellor and co-chair of the fall 2021 planning team, Mitchelson said he believes the upcoming fall semester will look better than fall 2020, where the university had to think and plan fast. He said the fall 2021 planning team is more inclusive, transparent and knowledgeable about COVID-19 and how to return to campus than the university was a year ago.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said as she reflects on the past year, a major accomplishment was the university's ability to offer COVID-19 tests and vaccinations to students and faculty.

Hardy said ECU was supported throughout the year by the federal and state government with CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) and HERFF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds) funds distributed to students.

Hardy said she looks forward to students, faculty and staff members' return to campus for the next academic year.

"I'm looking forward to the activity on-campus. I'm looking forward to football games and just athletic events," Hardy said. "Just seeing the students and to be able to hug the students, and if I can't hug them, I can at least give them a fist bump or an elbow bump. That human connection really matters."

Hardy said she encourages faculty, staff and students to take care of themselves and relax.

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

VIRUS continued from A1

Institutional Planning, Assessment and Research, said in an email statement ECU saw a large spike in COVID-19 cases among students during the fall 2020 semester. She said SHS tested 756 positive cases in students within the first three weeks of the fall, while as of April 20, only 644 students were tested positive through both SHS and other local testing sites since Jan. 3.

As the semester comes to a close, Zhou urges students to remain responsible and get vaccinated as soon as possible. She said the ECU's Public COVID-19 Dashboard is essential for the university's fall 2021 planning committee as they begin to prepare for the upcoming semester.

There have been 21 new student cases reported and a 2% positive testing rate within the last week as of April 20, according to ECU's Public COVID-19 Dashboard.

"The Fall 2021 Planning Committee has just begun its work," Zhou said. "I believe the COVID-19 dashboard contains critical metrics for us to track and assess COVID-19 safety."

ECU Police Department (ECU PD) Captain Chris Sutton said he credits the improvement in COVID-19 conditions on-campus to the health safety enforcement set by ECU PD in fall 2020, the preparation made by Campus Living and Student Affairs for the spring semester and

increased student responsibility.

As in-person Spring 2021 Commencement ceremonies begin to approach, Sutton said he would like to remind students to continue to remain mindful of large gatherings and aware of North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's executive orders.

"It's (practicing COVID-19 safety) not just necessary for our campus, but it's really important for the City of Greenville," Sutton said. "ECU is the heartbeat of Greenville, and that heart took a very critical punch over this last year. It's recovering and I'm very excited for what the future looks like."

Lindsey Smith, a freshman communication major, said she believes ECU has regulated the virus well since fall 2020 and she appreciates safety measures that have been taken in classrooms such as sanitation, social distancing and face mask mandates.

"My hope for the upcoming semester is just that everyone still keeps in mind that this isn't going to just magically disappear," Smith said. "Getting vaccinated is a choice, but it's very important. If you don't get vaccinated, you need to remember that you're still at risk for contracting the virus and giving it off to someone who doesn't have the vaccine."



Lindsey Smith

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

DE tuition increase is unjust

The East Carolina University community was made aware of an increase in distance education (DE) fees for the upcoming school year, as the University of North Carolina (UNC) system transitions to a per-credit hour billing system.

While the transition will not have an impact on face-to-face tuition rates, every ECU student has experienced the DE model at this point thanks to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. When students were sent home early in the fall 2020 semester, many returned to old jobs in their hometowns and may choose to remain online going forward after seeing it is possible.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe raising tuition prices for students who choose to attend ECU online, especially during a global health crisis, is a bad faith decision. Not only does it disincentivize students from remaining online, even if they still don't feel completely safe on campus, but it penalizes those who cannot return for personal reasons.

Additionally, many ECU students walked away from the past year with the feeling that the online learning experience pales in comparison to face-to-face learning. There is a reason the UNC System at large implemented a pass/fail grade accommodation system; for many, learning simply isn't feasible without the face-to-face interactions with professors and peers.

Taking this action while some still may be uncomfortable with face-to-face instruction places them between a rock and a hard place. Either return to campus and brave the virus or remain online and begin to pay more for an education that many consider to be of a lesser value. No student should have to face this ultimatum.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



AND NOW, TO EXIT GRACEFULLY...

» SENIOR COLUMN

Pirate journey will near its end

Farewells are bittersweet, but memories will last a lifetime

Tea with Tonizzo



Summer Tonizzo
TEC COLUMNIST

As my graduation nears and time at East Carolina University comes to a bittersweet end, I believe the experiences and life lessons I've learned over the course of my past three years have molded me into the independent, motivated individual I am today.

Some people embrace changes to their daily lives with open arms, but for me, major life changes are the hardest obstacles to overcome. I attribute this to my love for routines and stability, and in three weeks when I become a Pirate Nation alumna, I think this will be one of the most difficult transitions yet.

It's strange to think that as I grew up I always looked forward to going to college, but now, I am reluctant to say that I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I decided to come to ECU and finish out my undergraduate degree in communication in three years to save money, and with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting exactly one half of my time spent here, I feel as though I'm walking away with less than what I had hoped for when I sent in my enrollment deposit in 2018.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken so much from us and provided a great disservice. I would never have imagined that I would be graduating from ECU with three semesters of online-based education, and with that being said, I will miss what could have been without COVID-19.

The past three semesters have been hard, but they have opened up the door to



The fountain sits in front of Wright Auditorium, facing the mall on Main Campus and Cotten Hall.

new, mindful perspectives in my life that I appreciate and have learned to cherish. I have learned that patience is key, true friends can be few and far between and balance is essential to succeed.

Academically, I will walk away from ECU with knowledge and that is everything I could have hoped for. The professors I've had throughout my time in college have proven that they are here to see their students succeed.

I would like to extend my gratitude to professors who have shaped me into the young professional I am today, particularly SOC Professors Brian Massey, Glenn Hubbard and Mary Tucker-McLaughlin. With the skills, knowledge, experiences and in some cases much-needed life advice that I've received from these professors, I am able to look back on the education I've received happily. So, in short, thank you.

Aside from what I've learned in the classroom, I would not be nearly as prepared for life post-graduation with-

out the valuable experiences I've gained from working in student media. My first semester freshman year I went to tryouts for The East Carolinian, and now, I will graduate with gained knowledge from holding over five positions across two divisions of Pirate Media 1.

Moving on from TEC will be one of the hardest changes to overcome, as it has been a driving factor that has led to my success in journalism thus far, but the friendships I've made I hold dear to me.

While I believe there could have been more to gain from my time at ECU if COVID-19 hadn't affected academic and social experiences across the board, I am proud to be a graduating Pirate. The memories I've made at ECU will truly last a lifetime. Now, I look forward to what the future will bring to me.

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

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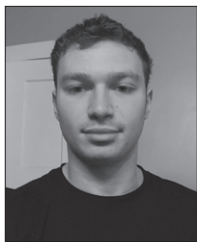
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» SENIOR COLUMN

ECU prepared me for the real world



Jess Sabin
TEC COLUMNIST

For as long as I can remember, I have been involved with sports in one way or another. Coming out of high school I knew I was never going to be able to play any sport collegiately, never mind professionally, but I wanted to be connected to sports in some way. What that would be I didn't know.

When I came to East Carolina University and Greenville, North Carolina, as a whole, it was drastically different from what I grew up experiencing in West Windsor, New Jersey. People here actually seemed to care about the local sports teams and there was genuine pride in the school, which was something I never experienced back home.

Most people I know went to or are going to Rutgers University. And here I was going down to North Carolina almost eight hours away from home for the next four years.

Admittedly, I was never a very driven individual. I coasted in high school and never took things seriously until the very last moment when the panic and fear of failure set in. Coming to college I knew I needed to step up, but that was something I only ever seemed to be able to muster up the energy to do if it was something I was

"All in all, I am grateful for the time I spent here at ECU, and especially with The East Carolinian (TEC). Without it, I wouldn't be who I am."

- Jess Sabin

passionate about and school had never been one of those things.

I had thought about sports medicine and being a physical therapist, but science had never really been my thing. I thought maybe sports management or something more business related, but my heart was never really in it, but after I talked with my career advisor, she told me that I should try out for The East Carolinian (TEC). She said that based on my interests, being a sports reporter would be right up my alley. I haven't looked back since.

Joining TEC was one of the best decisions I have made in my time at college. It really helped me connect with ECU and find the path I wanted to take for my career. I have been able to cover so many different sports over my time at TEC and it has been a blast.

Through TEC, I have been able to

improve my writing skills, which has helped me not just with writing articles, but with class work as well.

All in all, I am grateful for the time I spent here at ECU, and especially with TEC. Without it, as cheesy as it is to say, I wouldn't be who I am. I am on the path I am now because of TEC and working with all the amazing people that have helped me develop a much stronger work ethic and drive that I have taken to all aspects of my life. Cheesy, I know, but it is the truth.

Graduating is scary. Entering the real world is something I approach with great apprehension, but I know for a fact that I am more prepared than I would be if I didn't have TEC.

Jess Sabin is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

EVENTS

TODAY

Open Mic Night

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

Open Mic Comedy

Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
7:30 to 11 p.m.
252-227-4151

Karaoke Night

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

TOMORROW

Tapas and Jazz

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

Pitt Street Run Club

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

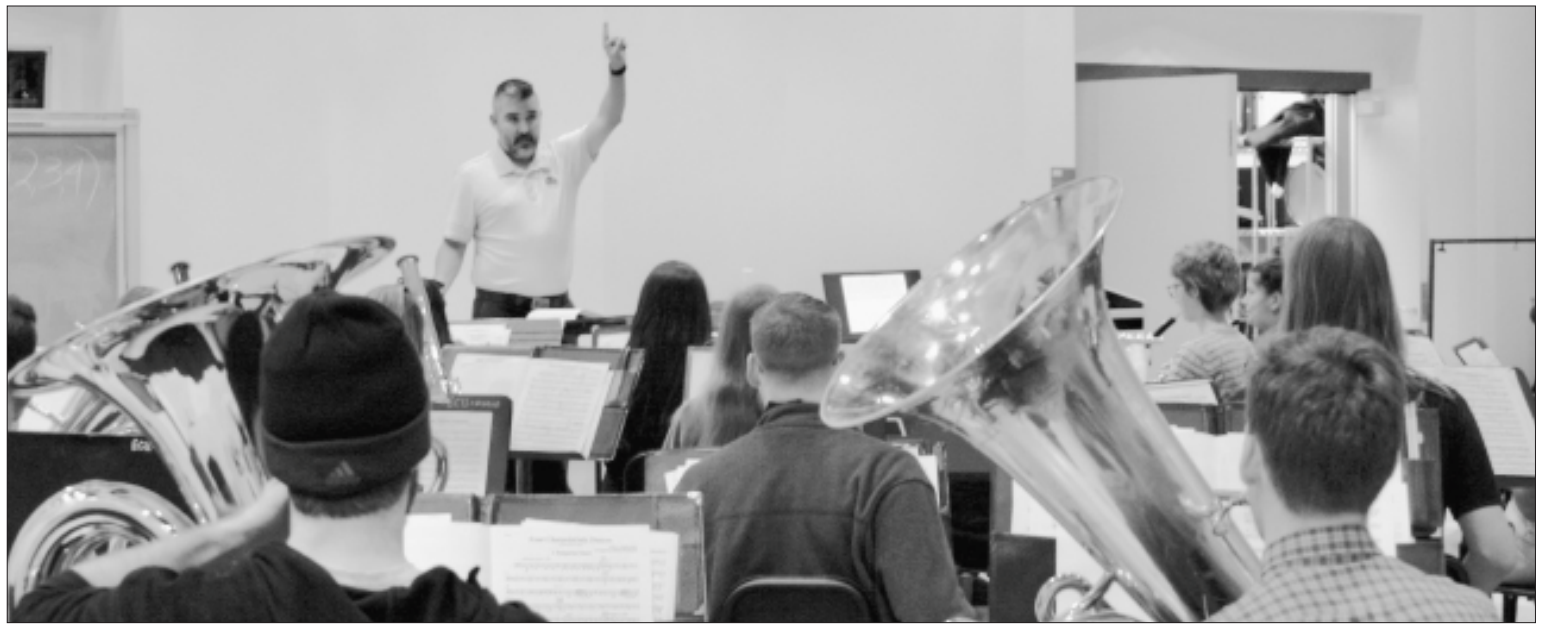
College Night at Stumpy's

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

FRIDAY

Fine Arts Celebration

Greenville Museum of Art
802 S. Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-758-1946



East Carolina University School of Music students rehearse in November 2019 for the 2019 "Bandorama" concert, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Bandorama' concert to return

SoM bands to livestream multiple virtual performances

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University School of Music will stream its "Bandorama" concert which includes ECU's Concert, Symphonic and Symphonic Wind Ensemble bands tomorrow from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and will be available on the ECU School of Music Live Video Stream website.

Director of Bands Bill Staub said he and the students have put a lot of work and effort into this concert. He said each band recorded their performances in Wright Auditorium over a few weeks to be edited into an online video.

"The students worked to create a good music experience for themselves and for the audience they are playing for. Being performing artists right now during the pandemic has been incredibly challenging. Our students have found ways of overcoming and adapting," Staub said.

This year's concert is a large-scale production and was recorded with different angles to be edited together, according to Staub. He said students performed while

socially distanced and wore face masks, which made their performance more difficult.

Staub said the bands will play a variety of music in smaller groups. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble will play pieces which include brass fanfare and compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Junior guitar performance and music composition major Jay Dudding will also premiere his original piece "Prism."

"The music the groups are playing is really good and fun music. Specifically, the (Symphonic Wind Ensemble) that I conduct, the music we are performing is some of my favorite music in the entire repertoire, so I can't wait to showcase it," Staub said.

Dudding said he composed his piece "Prism" last summer and sent it to Staub when he asked the composition department for a piece to add to the concert. He said he did not have a message behind "Prism,"

as it was just an experiment for him when he tried out new software on his computer.

The hope is "Prism" shows off what the ensemble can do because it has a lot of different "sound colors," Dudding said. He said he originally wrote "Prism" as an orchestra piece but changed it for the ensemble.

"It's one of those pieces I think people will be able to bob their head along to. People will be able to groove with it a little bit. It's also something that I hope is easy to listen to," Dudding said. "A lot of classical music at this point in time is difficult to listen to because it's not what we hear as part of our popular music. The kind of music I want to write is something that anyone can accidentally hit the wrong track on Spotify and be happy with it."

Dudding said Staub told him "Prism" is the hardest piece in the concert to play. He said as a composer, this means the piece is less likely to be played in the future. He said he has learned from this experience and will keep it in mind.

Even though the performance

is streamed, Dudding said the students had a limited amount of time when they could be in rehearsals together, so they had to make sure to get it right when they had the time together to rehearse.

ECU graduate music theory and music history student Cameron Stephenson is a bassist in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and said rehearsals were different due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Stephenson said he hopes the audience can have a good time and enjoy the music as they watch the online concert.

"This (recording) process helps a lot. It really helps you fine-tune everything. With a live performance, ultimately you have to present the product in whatever shape it is at that point in time. However, in recordings, you have time to get close to perfect as you can. This process has helped me and a lot of other musicians to get our music to a higher level than sometimes we're able to," Stephenson said.

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



Bill Staub

ALBUM REVIEW

Brockhampton releases sixth studio album



Juan Hernandez
GUEST COLUMNIST

American boy-band Brockhampton returns with its sixth studio album "ROADRUNNER: NEW LIGHT, NEW MACHINE," released on April 9, which marks the upcoming end of its eclectic discography with a victory lap, as it will be the band's second to last album, though it does have some misses.

In the short span of five years, Brockhampton has gone through massive musical and internal line-up changes. The band immediately caught attention with its "SATURATION" trilogy, released in 2017, and demonstrated colorful production over melodic yet emotionally charged lyrics.

With "ROADRUNNER: NEW LIGHT, NEW MACHINE," Brockhampton not only begins the end of its triumphant rise to fame on a proud note but pays homage to its initial drive that brought them success.

The album opener, "BUZZCUT," begins with a crazed intro "Who let the dope boys out?" Indeed, it's nothing short of classic Brockhampton openings, as it follows the trend of having frantic album openers, such as with "BOOGIE" on "SATURATION III."

Kevin Abstract, also known as Clifford Simpson, a founding member of the band, reminisces in the song about the people who have pushed the group to the top. Brockhampton rarely collaborates with other artists but on this album features Detroit rapper Daniel Sewell, also known as Danny Brown, as a guest artist. In typical fashion, Sewell raps in his nasally pitched voice and comments on his place in the game while mocking those who act "alpha" and act up.

The features are a welcome addition to the otherwise chaotic and melodic nature of the band. Brockhampton already has 10 members, and with so many members they did not have a need for guest artists.

The featured artists all bring their signature styles and flow, and compliment the frantic nature of their respective tracks nicely. Tracks such as "CHAIN ON" with rapper Barrington Hendricks, also known as JPEGMafia, have a cynical attitude with swagger laced through it. Both the band and the featured artist ride the calm and ascending boppy-beat.

On "BANKROLL," with its aggressive and thumping groove, artists Darold Ferguson Jr., also known as A\$AP Ferg, and Rakim Mayers, also known as A\$AP Rocky, ride the otherwise ragged beat with sporadic stride which doesn't detract from the quality of other members within

the band.

The softer moments on the album bring out the band's knack for fusing hip-hop with contemporary R&B. "I'LL TAKE YOU ON," which features singer Charlie Wilson, looks back to individuals who lifted members out of their initial rut pre-fame but carries a smooth yet immediate sense of longing.

"I'LL TAKE YOU ON" has a sparsely and reverb infused guitar placed in its production and carries a surprising amount of harmonization from members Ciaran McDonald also known as Bearface, Russell Boring, also known as Joba, Clifford Simpson and Matt Champion.

In the last third of the album, the sense of hope and determination serve as major themes. Only then does the album carry a larger picture toward its fanbase and a message for those struggling with inner demons.

The album ends with "THE LIGHT," which serves as a reminder for better opportunities to come. Clifford Simpson calls back to the band's initial come-up and shuts down the people who doubted him and the rest. The second half carries a grim story that details a near suicide attempt from Boring.

With slight dips in certain member appearances and a lack of cohesion until the last third of the album, the project contains enough hits to make it worth the



HENOCK SILESHI | COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

The cover of Brockhampton's new album.

listen. With first-time feature appearances that don't detract from the core team, the album contains enough variety to make it a listen that refreshes.

Brockhampton might soon be no more, but has proved its doubters wrong throughout its career and have championed a new generation of artists to come. The once proclaimed "All-American Trash" has rightfully earned its "World's Great Boyband" moniker, and its journey has been nothing but chaotically genius.

RATING:



4 out of 5

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

BFA continued from A1

prepare them for finding work as an artist after graduation.

"Danielle (Boyd) and Emily (Thomas) had never even talked to each other about their work beforehand, but both of them are very entrenched in nature, and that they have a lot of common elements, so it was really fun to see them as they were setting up and seeing all these similarities," Lazure said. "And then both Madison Groom and Madison Gurley have super strong narrative and concept for their photos."

Groom said while she has been working on her exhibition, "We Survived," for much of the semester, she's had the idea for her project for years. Her work was inspired by research into sexual assault victimhood.

The exhibition features photos of sexual assault victims, Groom said, whom she asked, "How have you changed since your sexual assault?" Groom said the subjects were asked to write their responses by hand, which hang next to their photographs.

"I was just in shock at how horrible the numbers were, and how high the likeliness

for women to be sexually assaulted is and it's not just a typical crime that people tend to come forward, and share their stories, and a lot of people end up walking, just completely, no consequences whatsoever," Groom said. "I just wanted to be able to create a safe space that survivors felt that they could come forward without being judged or shamed or told that they're lying."

Boyd said in an email statement she discovered metal working her freshman year and has since fallen in love with it. Her exhibition centers around natural textures.

Metal, Boyd said, allowed her creativity

an outlet in a way that other mediums did not. She said the process and precision of metalwork requires a lot of problem solving and thinking, which she enjoys.

"The exhibit is entitled 'Nature of Metals' and the body of work reflects nature's unique textures and architecture. I often find inspiration in nature and enjoy trying to translate what I see into the metal. The brooch series entitled 'Tree Series' in the exhibition was based on a tree in my backyard," Boyd said.

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

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Take care of practical obligations. Romance could seem complicated. Fun could get preempted by responsibilities or unscheduled deviations. Clarify misunderstandings patiently. Rest and relax.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Personal doubts could hold you back. Don't take risks or raise unrealistic expectations. Let criticism roll off your back. As you gain strength you gain options.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Anticipate changes with your educational plans or exploration. Adapt to prioritize practicalities. Heed the voice of experience. Make sure you know what's required.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Domestic matters have your attention. Reinforce infrastructures and support systems. Clean messes and organize spaces. You get more with honey than with vinegar.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Lay low and get organized behind the scenes. Avoid chaos, crowds or noise. Figure out what's next and adjust plans for new circumstances. Recharge batteries.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Collaborate to manage shared accounts, especially with risk of delays or breakdowns. Leave a cushion for unexpected expenses. Avoid controversy and play it cool.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Secrets and scandals get revealed. Miscommunication and mistakes can delay the action. Patiently repeat. Slow down and articulate clearly. Keep a low profile.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — Avoid a team controversy or conflict of interests. Provide steady support despite misunderstandings, delays or mistakes. Practice optimism to discover that it's contagious.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — You can either have patience or argue with your partner. Unexpected changes or delays could frustrate. Avoid risk, hassle or expense. Find ways to compromise.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Costs could be higher than anticipated. Cut expenses and avoid upsets. Focus on practical priorities. Adapt and adjust. You may not have the full picture.

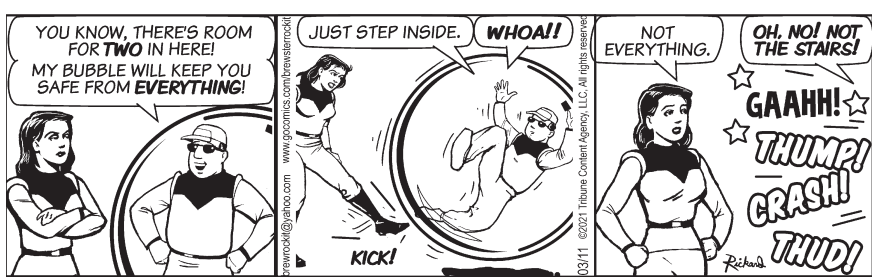
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Don't push with a professional project, despite delay or mishap. Wait patiently for things to come together. Observe to determine what's missing. Gently coordinate.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Slow down to get done faster. Don't push into a brick wall. Take extra care around sharp objects. Reduce risk or fuss. Prioritize health and safety.

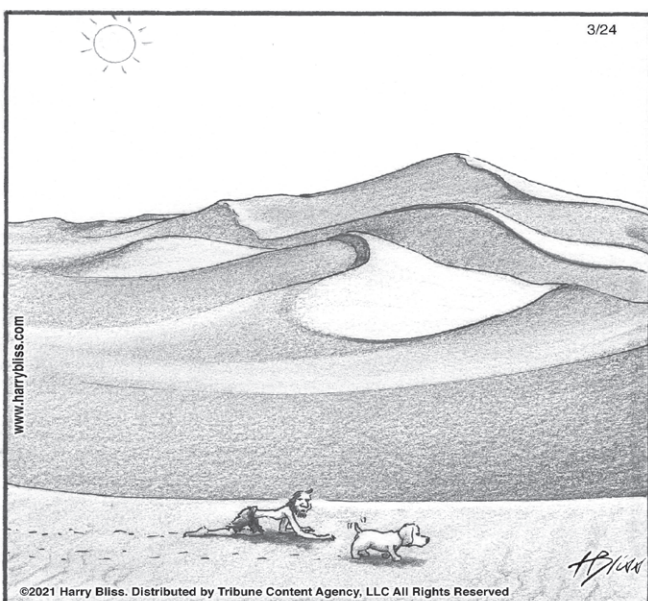
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BLISS

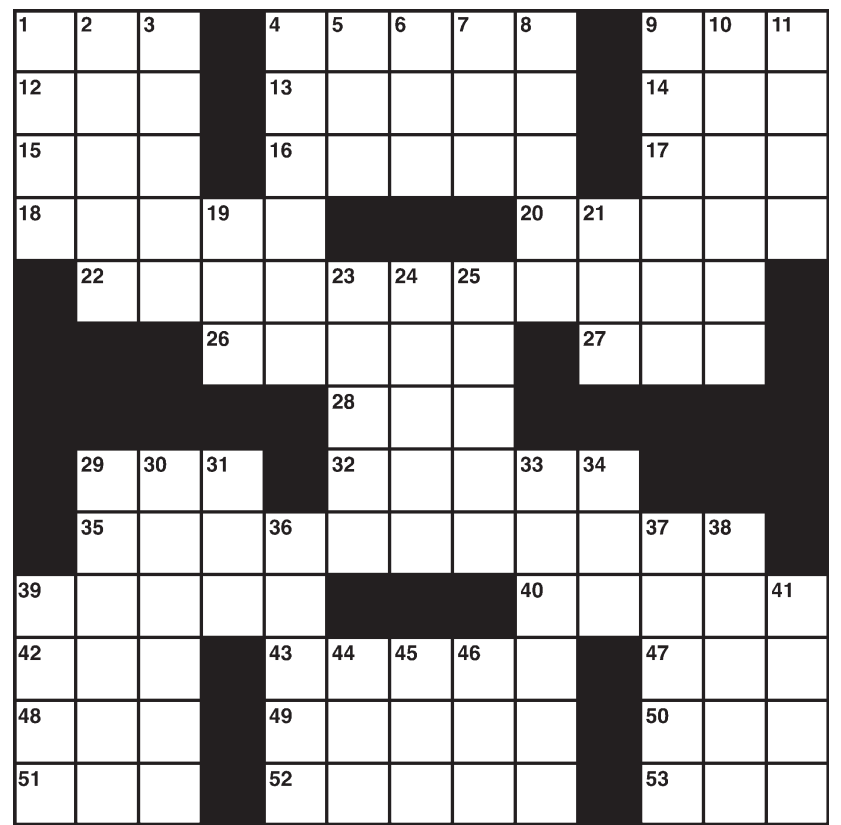


"Next walk, we're going to the park."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

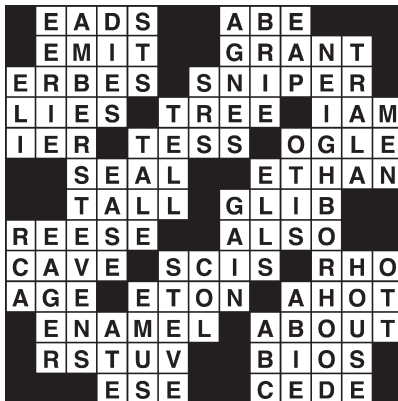
- 1 Elly __ Clamnett
- 4 Actress Kathy __
- 9 "Fresh __ the Boat"
- 12 Apple pie __ mode
- 13 "Return to __"
- 14 Suffix for event or habit
- 15 Lowe or Estes
- 16 Actor Ed
- 17 Night we watch "The Kids Are Alright": abbr.
- 18 Shish __; BBQ favorite
- 20 Prince Harry, to Charlotte
- 22 Actress on "The Conners"
- 26 Island nation south of Italy
- 27 Cobb & Burrell
- 28 Cochlea's place
- 29 "What Kind of Fool __?"
- 32 Actor Alan & his family
- 35 Actor on "FBI"
- 39 Stephanie Zimbalist's dad
- 40 "__ It to Beaver"
- 42 Abbr. on an encycl. spine
- 43 "War and __"; Henry Fonda/Audrey Hepburn film

- 47 Actress __ Michele
- 48 "__ See You"; Stallone movie
- 49 "World __ Center"; Nicolas Cage film
- 50 Goof
- 51 Nov. 1 honorees
- 52 Middle East nation
- 53 Actor Mineo

DOWN

- 1 Hamill or Harmon
- 2 African lilies
- 3 "__ Dabba Doo!"
- 4 "__, black sheep, have you any wool?..."
- 5 Mornings, for short
- 6 "__ Cup"; Kevin Costner movie
- 7 Suffix for Japan or Nepal
- 8 Bush
- 9 Passionate shout
- 10 Shortcomings
- 11 Escape
- 19 Upper limb
- 21 Butterfly catcher's need
- 23 Sparkle
- 24 Where to find Florence
- 25 Cooking fats
- 29 Retired NASCAR champ
- 30 Haggard & others
- 31 Anger
- 33 __ Quinn of "Annie"
- 34 180 degrees from NNW
- 36 "__ Nest"
- 37 "__ from the Crypt"
- 38 __ barrel; in a helpless position
- 39 Arden & Plumb
- 41 "My Name Is __"
- 44 Prior to
- 45 Monogram for Winnie the Pooh's creator
- 46 File drawer, perhaps

Solution from 04/14

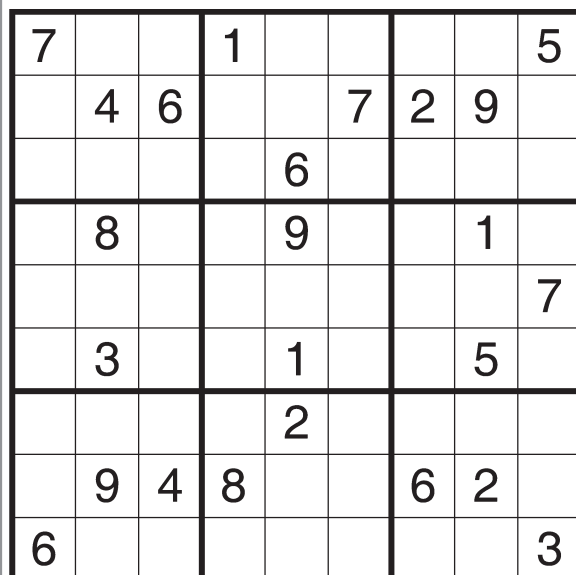


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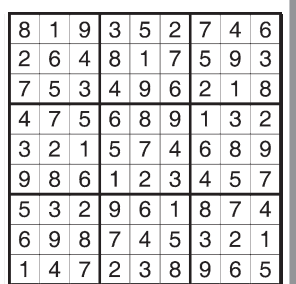
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



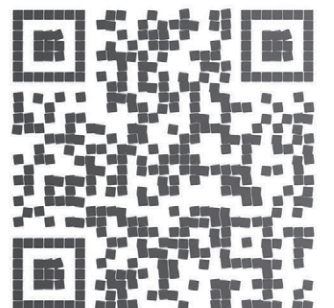
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 04/14



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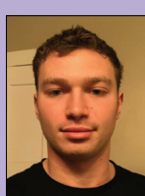
The East Carolinian - WZMB 91.3 - Anchor's Away
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TEC 'sports

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

Jess Sabin

Men's basketball reporter
@jess_sabin

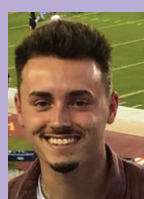


ECU baseball vs. UCF on April 23 through April 25
Who Wins? ECU wins series 3-1
Why? The Pirates

will be well rested but potentially a little rusty after their Houston series was postponed. The University of Central Florida will hand ECU its first AAC loss.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



ECU softball vs. UNCG on April 21
Who wins? ECU wins 6-4
Why? Despite being in the

midst of a losing streak, this non-conference matchup should favor ECU due to the AAC schedule it has already played. The Spartans and ECU are similar in record, but the Pirates should have the upper hand.

Stephen Babich

Track and field reporter
@stephenbabich1



ECU track and field at the Aggie Classic on April 24
Who wins? Ryan Davis will finish top three in

hammer throw event
Why? Davis' record-setting hot streak will continue at the Aggie Classic and he will finish with high marks in the hammer throw event.



Senior thrower Ryan Davis poses with a poster and a plaque celebrating his ECU career at the Bill Carson Invitational on April 3.

Davis continues 2021 dominance

Thrower selected as April TEC Male 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.

Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

Sixth-year senior thrower Ryan Davis has had a strong statistical season for the East Carolina University track and field team in 2021 and he has been named The East Carolinian's Male Athlete of the Month for April after breaking a school record as well as several meet records so far this month.

"I used to always talk to my dad, he is a military guy and one of the things he always talked about was continuous improvement," Davis said. "Getting better on what you can get better on. As long as there is somebody out there better than you, there are more things you can be working on, so I always think of it like that. I never think about it in terms of this record or that record; I just think about what I can do to get better."

Davis won four individual event titles over the course of the 2020 season and he set the third best indoor shot put mark in school history at 17.49 meters.

The dominant performances have continued in his 2021 campaign, as he has already been named an American Athletic Conference (AAC) Male Athlete of the Week for the third time in his career on March 31 and has broken his own school

record for the hammer toss with a throw of 69.51 meters at the Gamecock Invitational on April 10, a record which he had already broken earlier in the season on March 27 at the Weems Baskin Invitational hosted by the University of South Carolina.

Davis hasn't just set a school record this year, he has set multiple meet records as well. At the Bill Carson Invitational on April 3, Davis broke the meet records for both the hammer toss and discus throw with marks of 67.42 meters and 56.95 meters, respectively.

Davis said he wants to compete in the Olympics, a goal throwing coach David Price feels is within his reach.

"He has a really good chance in the Olympic trials," Price said. "He is gonna do well. He still needs to keep throwing because in the United States we don't have anyone that meets the Olympic standard. You could win the Olympic trials in the United States but you still might not get into the Olympics because you haven't met the Olympic standard."

The Olympic standard for the hammer throw is 72 meters, while Davis' personal best is 69.51, and with more throws and practice, Davis should be right there soon, according to Price.

Davis first appeared on ECU's radar as a shot put and discus thrower in high school. In high school, he won the 2014 North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4A State Championship in the outdoor discus throw and indoor shot put while he also placed second in the shot put. He didn't participate in the hammer toss

until he got to college, according to Price.

"He had no idea about the hammer throw because he didn't do it in high school," Price said. "So he came here and his first year he was more of a discus and shot put guy and that is what he really wanted to do. I was trying to show him the hammer throw and he showed promise."

According to Price, during his high school career Davis injured the ACL in his left knee and didn't get it fixed in the proper time period, so he has accomplished everything he has to this point with no ACL in his left knee, which is his pivot foot for the shot put, discus and hammer toss events.

Right now, Davis is focused on small improvements to take his throws to the next level. According to Price, Davis has reached the point where he is competing against Europeans who have been practicing the hammer toss since they were 10 years old and have thousands more throws under their belts.

"I have changed up my diet," Davis said. "I am eating a little healthier. Just trying to do little things to see improvement in my throws. The weight room has not been the same, but it has been taking its toll. It is all just a work in progress really."

Davis will compete next at the Aggie Classic in Greensboro, North Carolina, on April 24. After that, the AAC Outdoor Championships are set to begin on May 14 and will go through May 16.

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



Ryan Davis

UNCG continued from A1

record. The Pirates have been 5-0 on the road against the Spartans since their first matchup on March 22, 2007.

In the last matchup between the two universities, ECU was able to secure a victory on the road by a score of 2-1 at UNCG on Feb. 17, 2012.

This season, the Spartans have 258 total hits in 931 at-bats for a team batting average of .277. In addition, UNCG has scored a total of 232 runs through 35 games played, with 213 of those batted in.

The Spartans have reached a total of 501 bases and they have an on-base percentage of .395 this season. UNCG has hit 60 home runs and has a team slugging percentage of .538. The Spartans have also been walked a total of 156 times on the year while their opponents have only been walked 117 times.

UNCG has been led at the plate this season by sophomore infielder Maycin Brown who has a team high batting average of .338. Redshirt senior second baseman/shortstop Jasmine Palmer has 34 total hits of her own and a team high on base percentage of .469.

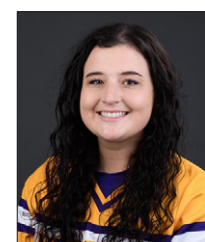
Senior catcher/outfielder Makenna Matthijs leads in home runs with eight total and she is first on the team in runs batted in with 31. Junior catcher/infielder Samantha Lagrama is second on the team in runs batted in with 24 total and she also has 18 hits in 79 at bats for a batting average of .228 this season.

The Pirates, as a team, have scored a total of 142 runs in 35 games so far this season and 122 of those have been batted in. In addition, ECU has 238 total hits in 928 at bats for a team batting average of .256 on the year.

On the diamond, the Pirates have hit

a total of 26 home runs and they have a team slugging percentage of .376. ECU has reached 349 bases and it has an on-base percentage of .354. The Pirates have also been walked a total of 113 times this season while they have walked their opponents 124 times.

Redshirt senior utility Rachel McCollum leads the Pirates at the plate as she has a team



Rachel McCollum

high batting average of .361 and 39 hits this season. Senior outfielder Olivia Narron is tied for first on the team in runs scored with 22 of her own and she has an on base percentage of .394.

Junior infielder Ashleigh Inae is second on the team in total runs scored with 16 of her own and she also has reached a total of 34 bases this season.

Junior infielder Chandley Garner leads ECU in home runs, as she has nine of her own to go along with a team high of 22 total runs batted in. Freshman outfielder Taylor Woodring has recorded a total of 13 hits in 49 at bats and she has also batted in six runs this season. In addition, Woodring has reached 17 total bases and she has a team high on base percentage of .463.

After the Pirates face off with the Spartans, they will get back into AAC play with a four-game series against the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane (17-10, 8-3 AAC) from Friday through Sunday in Greenville, North Carolina. On Friday the Pirates will begin the series with a doubleheader, with one game at 2 p.m. and the other scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

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

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