



# ECU TRACK AND FIELD SENDS DAVIS AND KNIGHT TO NCAA

Turn to A6



# The East Carolinian

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Wednesday, 06.02.21



The old Dowdy Student Store at East Carolina University, located in Wright Place, will soon become the Isley Innovation Hub.

## Wright Place sees renovations

### Innovation hub to become a space for collaborative projects

Chris Young  
TEC STAFF

Cayla Menges  
TEC STAFF



The old Dowdy Student Store at East Carolina University, located in the Wright Place, will soon transform into the Isley Innovation Hub, which can be accessed by students, faculty and staff for school projects, academic research and collaboration.

Director of the Miller School of Entrepreneurship Mike Harris said the goal is to have the Isley Innovation Hub open at the start of spring of 2022. He said this renovation has been made possible due to a donation of \$2 million from current Board of Trustees member Van Isley and his wife Jennifer Isley back in 2017.



Mike Harris

"The Isley Innovation Hub will house equipment and technology to help ideas come

to life," Harris said. "It will also benefit the ECU community by providing access to ECU faculty and resources."

Harris said the main purpose of the hub will be for students, faculty and staff to collaborate and work together to launch new ideas for ECU. He said the new space is welcome to all entrepreneurially-minded people on campus.

Van Isley said he and Jennifer Isley are both extremely pleased that their vision for the innovation hub has come to fruition. Isley said the innovation hub is a great complement to the Miller School and the College of Business.

"We hope that it will truly serve as a space for multidisciplinary collaboration," Isley said. "It will continue the success that the Miller School team is demonstrating."

Project Manager Michael Talton said the new innovation hub will serve as a collaborative facility for students and staff from across all college departments at ECU as these students and faculty create new technologies and businesses.

"It (the innovation hub) will become

a catalyst to attract prospective students to ECU and be the core facility for development," Talton said. "These (ECU) colleges need areas to work individually, in small groups and participate in large joint lectures."

Talton said the construction was delayed after the old Dowdy Student Store closed due to the fact other locations on campus were considered at first for the hub. He said after studies were conducted, the Wright Place seemed like the optimal choice.

The old Dowdy Student Store was selected after studies were done by the Innovation Hub Design Team, according to Talton. He said the total cost of the project was \$4.9 million, but it could be slightly lower now.

"I believe the process would be more accurately described as finding a space to house the Innovation Hub program, rather than developing a program to fit an empty space," Talton said. "Many of the proposed spaces in the building are

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## SHS plans for COVID test locations

Yasmine Curmon-Ward  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University plans to construct multiple COVID-19 testing sites available for community members as one of many other safety precautions as part of the plan to return to campus for the fall 2021 semester.

On June 1, Chancellor Philip Rogers released a campus compliance and immunization update which encouraged staff and students to upload their vaccination cards to MyPirateChart so they may be exempt from COVID-19 tests and quarantine requirements throughout the fall 2021 semester.

Rogers said in the statement because of students and faculty who have uploaded their COVID-19 vaccination cards, ECU has a more accurate headcount of those university members who are in-fact vaccinated. Those who do not upload their vaccination cards to the MyPirateChart, he said might be subject to testing in the fall.

"It is expected that employees and students with an on-campus presence in the fall including – employment, in-person instruction and/or residential living – will be required to participate in reentry and/or surveillance testing to closely monitor the potential spread of the virus on campus. Those who have provided proof of vaccination may be exempt from certain testing requirements," Rogers said in an email statement.

Students who upload their COVID-19 vaccination cards to MyPirateChart are eligible to receive football tickets for future games or A1 or B1 parking passes.

ECU is committed to the safety and well-being of all students and employees, the statement said. Decreasing the spread of COVID-19, Rogers said in the email statement,

is also top priority. He said throughout the upcoming fall, it will take all of Pirate Nation to get traditions back in place with more eased COVID-19 restrictions.

ECU Associate Dean of Students Lauren Thorn said ECU students are not required to be vaccinated to return to campus for the fall semester. She said Student Health Services (SHS) currently provides the COVID-19 tests to the ECU community. Individuals who are a part of ECU, she said, are able to get their COVID-19 vaccinations throughout the summer of 2021. SHS, she said, also offers the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines.



Lauren Thorn

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## Pirates play in conference tournament

Stephen Babich  
TEC STAFF

The No.11 East Carolina University Pirates Baseball team (41-15) won three out of five games in the American Athletic Conference tournament from May 25 through May 29 at BayCare Ballpark in Clearwater, Florida.

In the first game of the tournament, the Pirates fell to the University of Memphis Tigers (18-39, 7-25 American Athletic Conference) 11-1 in seven innings. According to ECU Pirates.com, senior pitcher Tyler Smith recorded his third loss of the season as he gave up five runs off of two hits and walked three hitters.

Sophomore second baseman Connor Norby led the Pirates with one home run and one RBI. Junior catcher Seth Caddell, freshman first baseman Josh Moylan and freshman infielder/outfielder Jacob Starling each had one hit.

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## ECU Dining expands options

Michelle Mazzei  
TEC STAFF

Cayla Menges  
TEC STAFF



East Carolina University has extended its dining options for its main campus community with updated hours and a new menu for the 1907 Grill as well as the addition of Mama Joyce's, a pizzeria.

Associate Vice Chancellor for ECU Campus Living Bill McCartney said he has continued to work with Dining Services to ensure a wider variety of food options for students, faculty and staff on campus. He said Mama Joyce's will replace Olilo in the Wright Place and the 1907 Grill in the Main Campus Student Center (MCSC) will have an updated all-day breakfast and extended hours.

"Closing Olilo's and going to a new pizzeria was really a result of the new student center opening and Au Bon Pain offering so many healthy options, that we have seen an interest in people to Olilo's decreased dramatically," McCartney said. "Talking



The 1907 Grill, located in ECU's Main Campus Student Center, sees menu changes.

with students, like we always do about what food items that are a routine for campus options, one of the things we heard, we noticed there is no availability for pizza other than the dining halls."

The multiple dining options will be beneficial to, students, faculty, staff and visitors who come to ECU, according to McCartney.

Renovations for Mama Joyce's restaurant is set to be completed by the fall 2021 semester, McCartney said. He

said he expects there to be heavy foot traffic at the new restaurant as well as within the 1907 Grill with the addition of the all-day breakfast menu.

Tamashe Smith, Grill Cook for the 1907 Grill said the restaurant, located in the Main Campus Student Center, has extended its hours from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays to 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. On weekends the grill will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. He said the

> DINING page A3

### ONLINE

»SPORTS: Baseball earns No.1 seed in Greenville Regional

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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@TEC\_Newsletter

## BRIEFS

## Faculty Excellence office to educate on photography

Today, East Carolina University's Office of Faculty Excellence will host "Photovoice, Digital Storytelling and the use of Photography" from 1 to 3 p.m. This event will give participants an overview of how to practice digital storytelling as well as basic information on digital photography data collection techniques. Individuals will also hear examples of photography ethics, disciplines and analysis. In order to participate, individuals must RSVP on the ECU Events Calendar website.

## COB to hold 'Adopt a Street Clean Up'

Today, East Carolina University's College of Business (COB) will host "COB Adopt a Street Clean Up" from 3 to 5 p.m. Students, staff and faculty of the COB will pick trash and debris on Jarvis St. throughout the event. Participants are encouraged to park across from 211 Jarvis St. prior to the event and must register on the ECU Events Calendar website in order to attend.

## Coding workshop to be held

Tomorrow, the Office of Faculty Excellence of East Carolina University will host "Coding in Qualitative Excellence" from 9 to 11 a.m. Participants will have opportunities to learn the types and approaches of coding, practice coding qualitative data and use codes to develop coding themes throughout this virtual research workshop. Those who wish to attend must register through the ECU Events Calendar website and are encouraged to bring their personal qualitative work to practice coding on.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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

## STORAGE UNIT FIRE



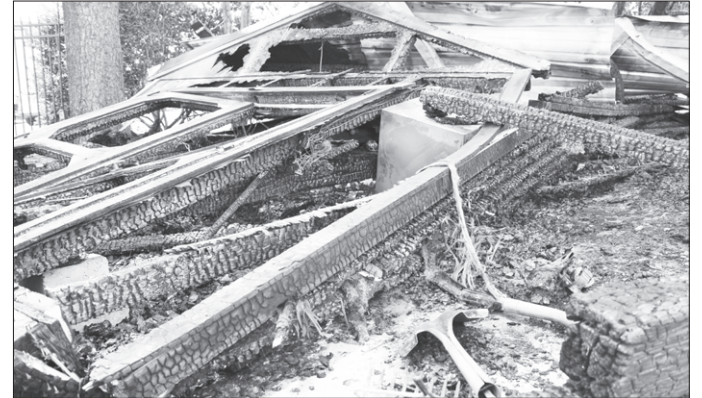
CHLOE EASTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Remnants of the storage unit sit behind the dumpster of Luna Pizza Cafe after they were moved from the unit's site on May 22.



CHLOE EASTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Debris and unknown objects lay in the remains of the storage unit.



CHLOE EASTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Various rubble from the storage unit was congregated into a pile.

# Storage unit fire unexplained

## Cause of fire remains unknown but ruled accidental, owner identified

**Michelle Mazzei**  
TEC STAFF

**Chris Young**  
TEC STAFF



An unexpected fire on the afternoon of May 21 in Greenville, North Carolina, which burned down a storage unit on Clark Street, has been ruled as accidental and was said to have resulted in zero injuries to bystanders or damages to surrounding businesses.

Greenville Fire/Rescue (GFR) Marshal and Battalion Chief Bryant Beddard said he was unsure of the plans for the remains of the storage unit. He said while the investigation is over, the contents that were inside of the building are still unknown due to the damage the fire caused.

"We (GFR) always tell people to make sure they have working smoke alarms," Beddard said. "In the city, we have a restriction on burning so that we can prevent stuff like this from happening."

Beddard said the owner of the storage unit was Greenville resident Michael Glenn. As of date of publication, Glenn has not provided a statement on the fire.

General Manager of the Pitt Street Brew-

ing Company Brianna Long said the fire did not occur on brewery property and the building did not sustain any damage.

Greenville community member Gracie Cooper said she drives through that area by the storage unit all the time when she goes to work at the local PetsMart.

"It was so unexpected. I didn't even realize and, you know, it's really tragic," Cooper said. "Although it was just a storage unit, that unit is still a part of the Greenville area and who knows, maybe it could have been a more popular building."

Cooper said she is grateful for GFR as it was able to quickly put out the fire. She said GFR is always quick to help the Greenville community in any way they can. Especially in college towns, fire departments need to be alert and proactive, Cooper said.

"(Businesses) can make sure all appliances are always in their proper area and not near water, make sure customers are not smoking or have any flammable objects and just when everyone leaves, making sure and double checking everything is turned off," Cooper said.

Jonathan Owens, a Greenville commu-

nity member, said local businesses in the community should make sure all their safety equipment is up to date to ensure fires and other hazards are less likely to happen. He said it is important for businesses in Greenville to make sure no safety equipment on their property is faulty.

Owens said he was driving on E. 10th Street when he saw smoke from the fire.

"I don't think anyone really knows what happened, but I'm glad no one was injured. It was just so unexpected," Owens said. "Usually you don't see huge smoke like that or fires that break out in Greenville. I'm glad it was able to be put out quickly after the fact."

Smashed Waffles, located at 718 Dickinson Ave., has not provided a statement on the fire as of date of publication.

Halo Home, located at 801 Dickinson Ave. owner Jess-Lee Ceravone said she and other employees witnessed the storage unit fire.

"It didn't affect us, we just went outside and watched it burn," Ceravone said. "There's not really much else to say."

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

## SITES continued from A1

"We are really working toward as normal of fall (semester) as possible and in order to do that, it takes all of the ECU community," Thorn said. "Our faculty, staff and students help us to reach that community immunity status, so we really do encourage students to make their own decision regarding whether or not to receive the vaccine to do their research."

Students who are not vaccinated and who plan to live on campus or are members of a university club sport or other high risk population may be required to participate in the COVID-19 testing surveillance program, according to Thorn. She said the surveillance program started in the fall of 2020 and continued into the spring 2021 semester, so students should be familiar with the process.

Thorn said the goal is to reach herd immunity. She said students are highly encouraged to get vaccinated and to upload their vaccination card to My Pirate Chart, so students who are vaccinated are accounted for.

"The more individuals that we have in the ECU community that are vaccinated, the higher likelihood we are of reaching a positive community immunity status," Thorn said. "So that helps us as far as limiting the number of who have to be part of our surveillance testing, limiting individuals who have to quarantine based off of exposure and then, of course, reducing the strain on our medical and hospital systems should individuals contract the virus and getting sick."

The plan, as of now, is to have five to six COVID-19 testing sites at different locations on campus, Thorn said. She said the locations for the COVID-19 testing sites have to be finalized and will be announced in a few weeks.

Thorn said students can go to ECU's vaccination website to make an appointment for a COVID-19 test or vaccine. She said a testing site is set up in room 125 in the Main Campus Student Center and an appointment is needed in order to be tested.

"If that (vaccination required to come back to campus) situation was to change, it would be based on the decision by the UNC

(University of North Carolina) System and the state of North Carolina to determine the immunization requirements, but we are anticipating that being something that happens prior to the fall. Of course, all of this is subject to change," Thorn said.

ECU senior nursing major Rachel Hansel said she is fully vaccinated and will attend face-to-face classes on campus this fall. She said she still plans to wear her face mask in classes because there can be up to 120 students in one lecture hall.

Hansel said the nursing department does not require their students to be vaccinated to attend classes on campus but students who are not vaccinated will be required to fill out a form to state that they are not vaccinated and they will have to wear face masks while practicing social distancing.

"I think it would be a much safer situation if the school required vaccines but I know that's a very touchy subject for a lot of people," Hansel said. "How nursing school works, we have a giant lecture hall that the entire class is in all day for lectures so it's usually all 120 of us in one lecture hall so pretty close together, so I'll probably be wearing a mask," Hansel said.

Sophomore public health major Leslie Osorio said she hasn't used any of ECU's COVID-19 testing sites on campus, but has heard positive word about the services. She said she hopes students utilize the testing sites on campus, as many individuals may not be vaccinated.

She said she believes students who are vaccinated shouldn't be required to wear a face mask inside.

"Personally I don't mind wearing it (a face mask) at all but I know some people it bothers them and stuff like that," Osorio said.



Leslie Osorio

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

## HUB continued from A1

accurately described as finding a space to house the Innovation Hub program, rather than developing a program to fit an empty space," Talton said. "Many of the proposed spaces in the building are envisioned as places for groups to work and study simultaneously in a collaborative and innovative environment."

Talton said the Isley Innovation Hub will be equipped with tools to help all students and staff who use the facility to excel in their projects. He said these tools include, but are not limited to a 3D printer, power and hand tools as well as a studio to record audio.

Junior computer science major Nick Johnson said he would use the innovation hub as a means to collaborate on projects and research with other ECU students. He said the innovation hub will allow him to connect with professors in his field and gain additional academic experience.

"It (the innovation hub) allows students and staff to have a designated area for all sorts of things," Johnson said. "Whether it be for research or work, it's something outside of the classrooms that gives students access to learn and achieve their goals."

Johnson said because the hub is on ECU's main campus, students, faculty and staff can have the ability to work on extracurricular activities together. He said this will allow students to have a broader experience that lectures may not be able to give.

Tools such as 3D printing can't be accomplished at home or in classrooms, according to Johnson. He said the Isley Innovation Hub is a great way to optimize what the university has provided to the ECU community.

"An environment like this hub will be very appealing to future ECU students," Johnson said. "It will definitely incentivize more students who are interested in technology to choose this school over others."

Senior political science major Morgan Fried said the addition of the Isley Innovation Hub will positively serve all students

at ECU. He said renovated spaces such as the innovation hub provide multiple opportunities for students to study in various spots on campus.

Fried said he wondered what would be made of the vacant space, as he believes all space on campus is valuable and should be utilized.

"You don't always have to go to the library, you can go to this innovation hub and it could be tailored to certain majors," Fried said.

It's beneficial for the university to renovate vacant spaces into areas students can use, according to Fried. He said there may be students who need a specific space to complete tasks which cannot be done at the library or at other spots on ECU's campus.

Third year criminal justice and psychology major Adriana Rodriguez said while she hasn't heard much about it, the Isley Innovation Hub is a brilliant idea. She said it will benefit students and professors alike.

"Professors can utilize the new tools to create lesson plans," Rodriguez said. "Students can do more hands-on work and I learn a lot when I am able to do work in an environment like that."

Rodriguez said she believed student and professor relationships are very important. She said because each individual student learns a different way, the innovation hub is a great way to involve every kind of student.

Teachers will also be able to use the innovation hub to find out what each student needs in a classroom, according to Rodriguez. She said it will help students and staff to better understand each other.

"I think the innovation hub will bring a lot of positive attention to our school," Rodriguez said. "It will attract more students and even increase our graduation rate."

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



Morgan Fried

## EVENTS

## TODAY

**Bonitas and Bikes  
Tandem Bike Dinner Tour**

Villa Verde  
2601 E 10th St.  
6 to 8 p.m.  
252-689-6005

## TOMORROW

**COB Adopt A Street Clean Up**

Jarvis Street  
211 Jarvis St.  
3 to 5 p.m.  
252-328-6354

**Concert on the Common**

Town Common  
105 E 1st St.  
5 to 9 p.m.  
252-329-4200

**Pitt Street Run Club**

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

## FRIDAY

**El Jefecito Food Truck**

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

**Black, White And Read All  
Over**

Greenville Museum of Art  
802 S Evans St.  
5 to 8 p.m.  
252-75801946

**Patrick Reid at Jarvis St.  
Bottle Shop**

Jarvis Street Bottle Shop  
211 S Jarvis St.  
6 to 9 p.m.  
252-364-2840

**Richard Benjamin Forever  
Fest**

Greenville Theatre Arts Center  
629 Albemarle Ave.  
6 to 11 p.m.  
252-830-0963



The Greenville Theatre Arts Center is located on Albemarle Avenue and will host a concert to honor musician Richard Faulkner on June 4 and June 5.

## Performance to honor musician Center to host benefit concert to celebrate life of ECU alumnus

**Yasmine Curmon-Ward**  
TEC STAFF

The Greenville Theatre Arts Center will host a benefit concert to honor the late local artist and East Carolina University alumnus Richard Faulkner to raise money for his four children's trust fund while also celebrating the life of the mixed genre musician.

The two night concert will be held on June 4 and June 5 from 6 to 11 p.m. at The Greenville Theatre Arts Center located at 629 Albemarle Ave. and will feature both local and national musicians who will perform some of Faulkner's favorite songs, create a live painting, give away raffles and offer food to attendees.

Faulkner majored in religious studies and history at ECU and moved on to study at the Charlotte School of Law. Faulkner then owned his own law practice in Greenville, North Carolina, titled Faulkner Law Offices, PLLC.

Heather MacIntyre, a close friend of Faulkner, said the proceeds from the benefit concert will go to Faulkner's four children. She said the concert will feature musicians who worked with Faulkner throughout his music career from around the country as Faulkner performed styles of folk, hip hop and shoegaze music himself. She said people who are not able to make the benefit concert can



**Heather MacIntyre**

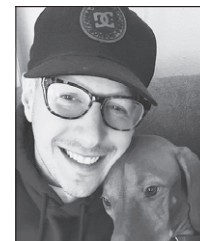
support Faulkner and his family through a Gofundme page.

"We want to have fun. That's half of it. It's a memorial, not a funeral. It's a celebration," MacIntyre said. "That was Richard. He wanted to have fun and the most important thing to him was his kids, so we want to make sure we raise money for their trust fund."

Local Greenville businesses, such as BackDoor Skate Shop and The Bodega Convenience Store, have shown their support with special offers and products for the raffles each night of the benefit concert, according to MacIntyre. She said face masks are preferred and there will be a live painting and food provided by Uncle Fred's food truck.

Matt Greenfield, a musician and another close friend of Faulkner, who also goes by the stage name "MC Homeless," said he will perform some of Faulkner's favorite songs at the benefit event. He said he is honored to be a part of the benefit concert to honor a close friend who he has toured with and collaborated to produce new musical works.

"It really means everything to me and to be able to provide an outlet for people because he passed away during COVID (-19), so a lot of people were not able to get proper closure, so I am hoping to provide people with some proper closure and be



**Matt Greenfield**

able to do it in a way Richard would want it. It's a celebration instead of a mourning," Greenfield said.

"That's Mayan" owner Bryan O'Keefe said he met Faulkner when he was a student at ECU a few years ago and they remained good friends over the years. He said he has donated a hand painted hat which Faulkner purchased as a raffle prize. O'Keefe said he is a sponsor for the benefit concert because Faulkner was supportive of his business back when it was just an idea. "That's Mayan" is an online store based in Greenville which specializes in handmade Guatemalan inspired clothing jewelry and art.

O'Keefe said he encourages ECU students and Greenville community members to attend the benefit concert because they will have a great time and to celebrate the life of Faulkner. He said this is also a great way to raise money for Faulkner's four children.

"To the music community, he was a huge influence on a lot of people. He brought a lot of bands from all over the world. He's toured all over the world," O'Keefe said. "He was a brilliant lyricist. His lyrics were just poetic. He touched many, many people. He was big in the Greenville music scene."

Those interested in attending the benefit concert to honor Faulkner can purchase tickets prior to the event on EventBrite, as well as purchase tickets on the day of the event.

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

## MOVIE REVIEW

## Disney's 'Cruella' prequel is an evil delight



**Michelle Mazzei**  
TEC COLUMNIST

"Cruella," the new Disney live-action film, which premiered on May 28, is a refreshingly evil delight, which asks audiences to reconsider everything they thought they knew about the original antagonist in both the

1991 and 1996 "The Hundred and One Dalmatians" classics.

Directed by Craig Gillespie and starring Emma Stone as Cruella De Vil and Emma Thompson as The Baroness, the two-hour movie is filled with excitement and twists. The Baroness, in summary, is a very well-known fashion designer in London, and Cruella seeks to be the brilliant fashion designer The Baroness once was.

Stone plays the part as the villain character in a very riveting way, which makes the audience believe she is a true menace to society. However, the film seems to glorify that individuals should seek vengeance against those who have caused harm and have done wrongs against them.

"Cruella" often cuts its titular character too much slack while it goes about explaining what made her into the person she is. Although, without giving away any

spoilers, the tragedy that happened to Cruella early in the movie does work to build audience sympathy with a character. The entirety of the movie seeks to explain why Cruella De Vil acts the way she does and why she is the way she is, but there could be more positive aspects of the film.

A wrong-doing does not make another wrong-doing OK or justified, and this theme, although briefly touched on, is not the main theme of "Cruella." The film makes excuses for Cruella, as well as The Baroness, even though it does touch on cycles of revenge. The theme of "Cruella" also seems to humanize the villain. However, she is a villain. Every villain has a backstory that describes who they are, why they do the things they do and the way they do them.

Both Stone and Thompson play their roles very well and the film is a joy to watch. From the very start of the movie to the credits, each scene grabs the audience's attention and intrigues them, but also leaves them wanting more.

Stone and Thompson are not the only actors who understand the assignment and play their roles to the best of their ability. All characters are played by phenomenal actors who play their parts well but also have fun with it. It was noticeable that every person who plays a part, whether it be behind the scenes



COURTESY OF LAURIE SPARHAM | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

Actress Emma Stone performs as the main character Cruella in Disney's prequel movie.

or in front of the camera, not only took their role seriously but had fun while they filmed "Cruella."

The "Cruella" film is filled with seriousness, however, the film doesn't shy away from scenes and interactions that are sarcastic, witty and humorous. There is not a single part of the film that was boring as it is a fast paced, yet intriguing, Disney movie.

The soundtrack and music, by Nicolas Britell, is exceptional throughout the film. There are multiple times when goosebumps are formed because the song choice fits perfectly with what occurred. The soundtrack varied with songs from various genres and artists.

The costume design, by Jenny Beavan, and makeup for the film is

outstanding with various extravagant, vibrant looks for the actors throughout the movie. Each intricate look seems as if to take a lot of time, hard work and dedication went into them and it definitely paid off. Each design is different from the previous one, beautiful and eye-catching.

The end of the "Cruella" film leaves audiences wanting more as it sets the stage for there to be a possibility of a second movie.

## RATING:



4 out of 5

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

## DINING continued from A1

restaurant has updated its menu with additional breakfast items, such as pancakes and french toast combos and breakfast wraps, served all day.

Smith said the grill hasn't received much business as of late due summer break, but believes once the fall 2021 semester starts the grill will pick back up.

"Our menu is basically mainly breakfast, the only things we have besides breakfast is like a burger, salad, fish wrap," Smith said.

The grill currently offers service via GrubHub orders, according to Smith.

Alex Davy said the addition of new restaurants on campus, such as Mama Joyce's will expand the options for students, according to Davy. He said he gets tired of eating from restaurants such as Panda Express and

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers.

Senior social work major Alexis Bailey, who works at the service desk at the MCSC said prior to the addition of the new menu, the 1907 Grill acquired a good amount of foot traffic from students, faculty, staff and those who visit campus. She said she looks forward to the fall 2021 semester as she thinks the new menu will attract more students.

"I've heard their breakfast was good, but I've never actually been there or ate there, but I might in the future," Bailey said.

Some individuals who come to campus and to the 1907 Grill don't know they can only order through GrubHub.

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

## OUR VIEW

### RAs return to campus is necessary

As the COVID-19 restrictions continue to be eased by both North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, resident advisors (RAs) at East Carolina University are set to return to full-occupancy residence halls for the fall 2021 semester.

RAs were forced off campus and out of residence halls in the fall of 2020 two weeks after the start of the semester due to COVID-19. RAs did not reside in residence halls in the spring of 2021 as well due to residence halls not being at full capacity.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, are appreciative of RAs return as they will help the university in its transition back to normal campus operations as they are a hallmark of university life. If ECU is going to be fully operational in the fall of 2021 with eased COVID-19 restrictions and in-person classes, RAs are a part of that operational process, especially as on-campus residence halls go back to full capacity.

Freshmen will come to campus in the fall of 2021, and while the pandemic has affected all students across the nation, freshmen may need RAs for assistance in their college transition, academics or any other obstacles they may face throughout the semester.

RAs should still take all necessary precautions in the fall to not only keep the ECU community safe but also to have as much in-person engagement as possible. RAs provide those living in residence halls a valuable resource through events and community building.

We look forward to seeing RAs and freshmen make a safe return to ECU's campus in fall 2021. RAs can offer guidance to incoming students and this resource is invaluable for those coming to college after over a year of distance education.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



"PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO WORK ANYMORE. THEY'D RATHER SIT AT HOME COLLECTING UNEMPLOYMENT WHEN THEY COULD BE OUT HERE ENDLESSLY PUSHING THIS BOULDER UP A HILL."

## Pride Month deserves attention

### Williams' World



Giana Williams  
TEC COLUMNIST

The month of June begins Pride Month, where we celebrate the visibility of the LGBTQ community and also raise awareness of the social oppression these individuals have faced throughout their lives

due to family rejection or anti-LGBTQ laws made by the state or federal government.

The month is not meant to celebrate only the glitter and rainbows of the community. It also serves as a tribute to the LGBTQ members who have lost their lives fighting for the rights of the community, individuals who were killed from hate crimes and those who ended their life due to lack of support.

Last month was known as Mental Health Awareness Month, and we recognized how mental illnesses have affected millions of people in the United States. We are working our way to not make it a stigma and to spread awareness and encourage individuals who struggle with mental illnesses to seek help. However, not many people know the LGBTQ community makes up a good chunk of individuals who are affected by a mental illness.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) adults are more than twice as likely as heterosexual adults to experience a mental illness, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) website. LGB individuals make up 44.1% of the annual prevalence of mental illness among United States adults. LGB youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth and 46.8% of LGB high schoolers had experienced some form of serious



COURTESY OF WALLY SKALJ | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

People carrying the Pride flag during the annual Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco on June 20, 2013.

suicidal thoughts.

Furthermore, according to NAMI, transgender individuals are four times more likely than cisgender individuals to experience a mental illness. Also, transgender adults are almost 12 times more likely to attempt suicide than the general population, 40% of them have attempted suicide in their life compared to less than 5% of the population in the United States.

The denial of civil and human rights, discrimination and social rejection are just some of the few examples that could lead to new or worsen symptoms of mental illness, according to NAMI. Especially if racial or socioeconomic identities are intersected.

Highlighting these mental health statistics of the LGBTQ community serves as a reminder that our fight for LGBTQ rights is not over. Pride Month has a much deeper meaning than the rainbow merchandise sold at stores or various brands changing their social media profile pictures to something rainbow related to show support.

As many know, the first Pride was a riot on June 28, 1969, known as the Stonewall

Riots. Since that day, we are still continuing to fight to be able to express ourselves without being discriminated against and turned away from opportunities such as, but not limited to, basic health care or employment.

We must continue to show support to the community, especially to youth who are slowly discovering their sexuality and/or gender at a young age. Support our transgender individuals, who are denied access to health care or even be able to participate in activities such as sports due to anti-transgender laws in various states.

As we proceed through this month, I would like to remind individuals that the mental health and lives of the LGBTQ community matter and should not be singled out for any reason. There's so much more work we have to do in order to keep our LGBTQ community safe and we must continue to advocate for their mental wellbeing and safety.

Williams is a senior majoring in communication an anthropology and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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## Letter to the editor | LGBTQ Center celebrates Pride

In June 1969, a small group of people, led by Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, fought back against police harassment at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. Their act of defiance led to two nights of riots and protests, and thus began the fight for LGBTQ equality in the United States.

The first campus LGBTQ center opened in 1971 at the University of Michigan, and it took another six years for the second university LGBTQ center to be established at Minnesota State University Mankato. Following the murder of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard in 1988, there was an increase in the number of LGBTQ centers on college campuses across the United States.

At East Carolina University, the LGBT Resource Office was founded in 2011 and was originally housed in the Brewster Building. With the opening of the Main Campus Student Center in 2019, the office relocated to its new home and became the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center. We are named after our benefactor, a native of eastern North

Carolina whose leadership gift in 2014 helped to create what is now the largest center of its kind in the University of North Carolina system. Jesse's vision was to establish a center that would have a positive impact on the lives of students for decades to come. This year marks our 10th anniversary.

In our young life, we have experienced phenomenal growth. Pre-pandemic, we would see more than 7,000 visits to the center annually. We offer a full calendar of events throughout the academic year including programs such as National Coming Out Day, our weekly Coffee House discussion group and the Queer Film Series. The center is a social outlet and offers study space and a lending library, in addition to resources and referrals to other campus support. Student engagement is central to our success, and we have enthusiastic support from faculty, staff, alumni and community members.

We work every day to contribute to an environment where sexual and gender minorities can thrive and grow. We stand on the shoulders of all those

who have come before us—student pioneers at ECU dating back to the 1970s who sought to establish safe spaces for the LGBTQ community, as well as the faculty and staff who supported their efforts, sometimes quietly or secretly out of fear of jeopardizing their job security.

We are well aware of the work that needs to be done at local, regional and national levels. Sadly, despite the advances we have made, we still see regular acts of hate and discrimination directed at the LGBTQ community—from the Pulse nightclub shooting to anti-transgender legislation, to name a few.

This June, 52 years after Stonewall, we celebrate Pride at ECU. We strive to be a beacon of hope, support, advocacy and connection. In 48 years, on the 100th Anniversary of Stonewall, we envision thousands of alumni returning to ECU for a celebration of pride, unlike anything we have ever seen.

Sincerely,  
Mark Rasdorf  
Senior Associate Director  
Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Did someone say FREE?

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



## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Rest and review. Fluff the feathers in your love nest, with Venus in Cancer for a month. Your heart is at home with family.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — Allow yourself more quiet time, with Venus in Cancer. Intro-spective contemplation suits you fine. Savor rituals, tradition, nostalgia and milestones. Notice dreams and wishes.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — Home is your power center. Lucrative opportunities develop, with Venus in Cancer. This phase is good for generating money. Collaborated for common gain.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Connect and network. Research leads to fascinating discoveries, with Venus in Cancer. Write, craft and express your story. Share a subject close to your heart.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Collaboration flowers. You're especially popular, with Venus in Cancer. Participate with teams and community projects. Social activities benefit your career and bottom line.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Communicate, network and connect. Partnership flowers this month, with Venus in Cancer. Compromise comes easier. Share your heart with someone special. Love abounds.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 9 — The next month can get profitable, with Venus in Cancer. Get into your productive and easy zone. Savor work you love. Pursue a passionate heartbeat.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 9 — Energize your work and workout. Watch for career advances. Assume authority, and your professional status rises. Accept new responsibility, with Venus in Cancer.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — Things could get lucrative. There's profitable work coming in over the next month, with Venus in Cancer. Work gets fun. Beauty and creativity pay.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 9 — Your luck in love improves immensely, with Venus in your sign for a month. You're especially charismatic, confident and powerful. Focus on personal passions.

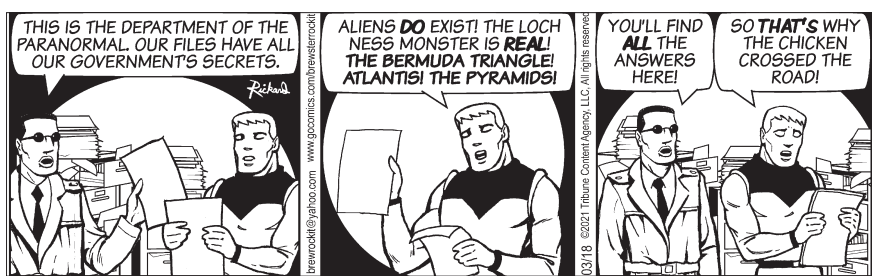
**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Prioritize fun, family and romance. An exciting exploration develops over the next month. Get involved in a fascinating study, with Venus in Cancer.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — You're attractive and attracted. Artistic efforts work in your favor. You're especially lucky in love this month, with Venus in Cancer. Connect hearts.

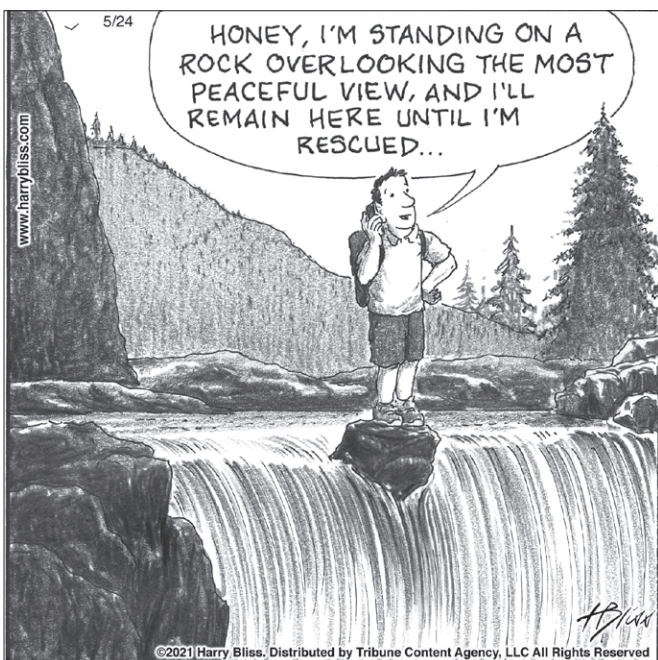
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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



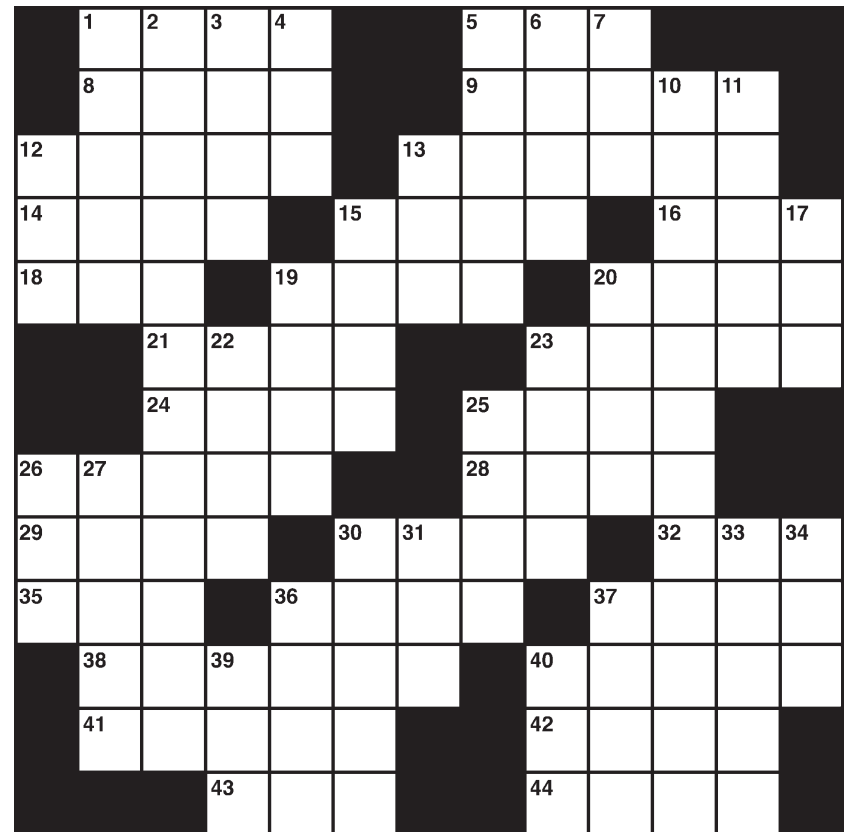
### BLISS



## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

- Paquin or Faris
- "The \_\_\_ Squad"; Michael Cole series
- Name for 12 popes
- Linda Lavin series
- Actor Gregory & his family
- Actor Ted \_\_\_
- "Kourtney & Kim \_\_\_ Miami"; reality series
- "The Adventures of Huckleberry \_\_\_"
- Actress McClanahan
- Setting for "Evita"; abbr.
- "\_\_\_ Wives"; Catherine Bell series
- "The Blind \_\_\_"; Sandra Bullock film
- Actress Kathryn
- Ashley or Mary-Kate
- Pay attention to
- Clothing fastener
- Loses one's hair
- Kelly of "Live! with Kelly"
- News, for short
- Moss type

**DOWN**

- ...and a partridge in \_\_\_ tree"
- Actor on "Chicago Med"
- Heat in the microwave
- Beast of burden
- \_\_\_ Delgado; "Modern Family" role
- Actor Ken
- Use a shovel
- Actor on "Happy Together"
- Piano piece
- "Harper Valley \_\_\_"
- Novak or Delaney
- Pebbles' pop
- Suffix for velvet or eight
- Lincoln & Vigoda
- "The \_\_\_ Maxwell Story"; Dabney Coleman series
- \_\_\_ a room; change the decor
- "Step \_\_\_!"; cry to a slowpoke
- Mmes. in Madrid
- "The \_\_\_ Bang Theory"
- Actress Potts
- Colorful garden flower
- "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's \_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_ for an eye, a tooth..."
- "Say \_\_\_ to the Dress"
- Jethro Bodine's portrayer
- Opera solo
- Major's superior; abbr.
- "The Little Couple" network

**Solution from 05/26**

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## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** **2**  
**3** **4**

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

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](http://sudoku.org.uk)

Solution from 05/26

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

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COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECU PIRATES

The women's basketball team will welcome multiple new players to their team for the 2021-2022 season where the Pirates will seek to improve under the guidance of head coach Kim McNeil.

## Women's basketball welcomes transfers

### A total of seven new athletes will join roster alongside three freshmen

**Markayla McInnis**  
TEC STAFF

This offseason, the East Carolina University women's basketball team has recruited seven new team members to join the Pirates this upcoming 2021-22 season, which includes four out-of-state transfers.

Laila Acox, Iyecz Adams and Paige Lyons will begin their collegiate careers at ECU this fall. Acox is a forward from Ridge View High School in South Carolina. Adams is a forward from North Carolina's Quality Education Academy. The Pirates third freshmen, Lyons is a guard from Wesleyan School in Georgia.

For the transfers, head coach Kim McNeil attained junior guard Danae McNeal and redshirt senior forward Tylar Bennet from Clemson University, redshirt senior guard from Virginia Tech University Da'Ja Green



**Kim McNeil**

and senior center Brittany Franklin from the University of Kansas.

Last season the Pirates ended with an 8-14 record which landed the team sixth in the league, with the addition of seven new players the team now looks to improve.

"In order for us to be where we need to be in the league you know we need to get bigger," McNeil said.

Junior McNeal is a guard transfer who played at Clemson for two seasons and averaged 3.18 points in her 33 games. In high school, she was named the South Carolina Gatorade Player of the Year and she had the 10th most points in South Carolina history with 2,641. In 2019, McNeal was ranked No. 47 in the class of 2019 ESPNW rankings.

Green is another guard McNeil recruited for the team this season from Virginia Tech as a sophomore.



**Da'Ja Green**

Green played all 25 games VT had in her freshman year as a Hokie. Before her collegiate career, she made history at her high school with 162 assists and was in the top 10 rankings for three-pointers. She began at VT with 1,038 career points.

"They (McNeal and Green) add to the depth in the guard position," McNeil said. "They give us more size, more length, versatility and are definitely going to help us with our defense mentality."

Bennet from Clemson will contribute to the Pirates as a forward. Bennet is a fifth-year player after her four seasons with the Tigers. She has a shot percentage of 43.24 and has scored in double digits five times in her career. In high school, she was named to "BCAM's BEST" All-State Team. McNeil said she looks forward to the height Bennet will bring to the team, as she stands at 6 feet, 4 inches.

Franklin will also help in height as she is a 6-foot 5-inch center from Kansas. Franklin is another fifth-year player. Due to

injuries, her time as a Jayhawk did not go as planned, but in her redshirt freshman year, she played in 29 games with an average of 1.7 points and 2.6 rebounds.



**Brittany Franklin**

Before Kansas, Franklin was named conference player of the year and helped to lead her high school to conference and regional championships. "We're looking at big (height on the team) because of the way we play, we can't just get any big, we need a kid that can move, that's mobile, that's athletic and both Tylar and Brittany bring that to the team this year," McNeil said.

As of now, both Clemson transfers Bennet and McNeal are in Greenville enrolled in classes and are taking part in some voluntary workouts.

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

## Davis, Knight qualify for NCAA national meet

**Brendan Cavazos**  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University track and field team sent six athletes to participate in the NCAA East Preliminary in Jacksonville, Florida, and two Pirates will move on to the NCAA Outdoor Championships from June 9 through June 12.

Senior thrower Ryan Davis and junior pole vaulter Sommer Knight will represent the Pirates at the championships after they both qualified at the preliminary meet. Davis will participate in the hammer throw and Knight will pole vault.

The East Prelims started on May 26 where Davis secured his spot at the national meet. He earned 10th place in the hammer throw with a mark of 65.70 meters on his third and final attempt. He is the first ECU track and field athlete since 2018 to earn a spot at nationals. This will be the first time he will go to the NCAA Outdoor Championships in his career.

Davis has shown continuous dominance over the course of the season after he

qualified for the prelims with a school-record hammer throw of 70.77 meters in the American Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships on May 14. This throw won him the AAC title, which prepared him well for the preliminary meet. He also won the discus throw at the AAC meet.

Knight earned her spot at nationals on May 27 during the pole vault event. She won a jumpoff with a mark of 4.17 meters, which secured the 12th spot she needed in order to go to the NCAA Championships. Knight hit this mark on her first attempt, but then failed to hit 4.27 three times.



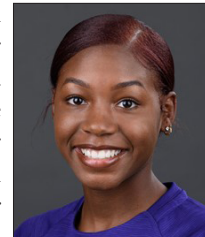
**Sommer Knight**

This will be Knight's first trip to the national meet as well.

At the AAC Championships, Knight was able to clear a school-record 4.28 meters and became the first pole vaulter in ECU history to qualify for the national meet. Several events were held the same day and showed

further representation from the ECU team.

Freshman sprinter Melicia Mouzzon participated in the 100-meter dash and finished with a time of 11.52 in the fifth heat and she finished 27th overall. Junior jumper Brooke Stith posted a time of 13.60 in the 100-meter hurdles. Her time placed her in 37th for the event. Senior sprinter Shellbi Chapman ran in the 400-meter hurdles and finished with a time of 1:02.97.



**Brooke Stith**

On May 28, ECU was represented by freshman jumper Niejel Wilkins, who competed in the triple jump. He hit a mark of 15.63 meters and placed 18th overall, after posting 15.70 meters at the AAC Championships.

Davis competed in the discus throw on the same day. He placed 23rd and threw for a mark of 53.39 meters. He did not qualify to compete at the NCAA Outdoor

Championships in this event, but in the AAC Championships, Davis won the event with a mark of 54.89 meters along with his hammer throw title. His personal record for the discus came several weeks ago at the Bill Carson Invitational on April 3, where he threw for 56.95 meters.

On the final day of the East Prelims, Stith was the last Pirate to compete. She participated in the triple jump on May 29 and tied her personal best of 12.76 meters, which she also hit at the conference championships. She finished in 22nd place overall.

Two Pirates will move on to participate in the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Davis will participate in the hammer on June 9 at 5:30 p.m. and Knight in the pole vault on June 10 at 7 p.m. The national meet will be held in Eugene, Oregon where both athletes will face off against the country's best competition.

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

## PIRATES continued from A1

On May 26, the Pirates defeated the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (29-26, 18-14 AAC) 13-9. Redshirt senior relief pitcher Matt Bridges picked up his fourth win of the season and pitched 2.2 scoreless innings and recorded five strikeouts. He allowed three hits and a walk.

The Pirates got out to a 5-0 lead after the bottom of the second inning. In the top of the fourth inning, with the bases loaded, senior infielder Wyatt Stapp hit a sacrifice fly ball which allowed junior outfielder Paul Komistek to score and cut the deficit to four.

ECU scored six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take a 9-1 lead. Cincinnati had a response of their own and scored five runs in the top of the sixth inning. Graduate student infielder Jace Mercer hit a two-run RBI double followed by graduate student infielder Joey Bellini's three-run home run, his fourth home run of the season.

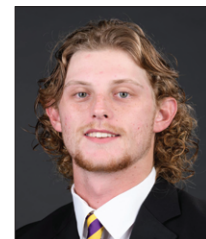
The Pirates remained in the driver's seat in the bottom of the eighth after Cincinnati had climbed back, which brought the game to an 11-8 lead for ECU. Junior outfielder Bryson Worrell hit a home run

and sophomore outfielder Lane Hoover hit an RBI single, which made the score 13-9. Cincinnati scored one more run in the top of the ninth, but ECU had secured a 13-9 win.

On May 27, ECU shut out Memphis 12-0 in seven innings in a rematch after their May 25 game. Junior pitcher Gavin Williams got his 10th win of the season and remained undefeated after he recorded a complete game and threw 10 strikeouts.

Norby led the team in RBIs with three, while sophomore infielder/outfielder Thomas Fransisco recorded two of his own. Norby, freshman pitcher Zach Agnos and freshman outfielder/infielder Alec Makarewicz recorded two hits each in the shutout while Norby also hit two home runs.

In the first game of the double-header on May 29 against the University of Central Florida Knights (31-29, 18-14 AAC), ECU defeated the Knights 5-2. Freshman left-handed pitcher Carson Whistenhunt picked up the win as he recorded six strikeouts and allowed one run along with one hit.



**Carson Whistenhunt**



COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECU PIRATES

Sophomore Conner Norby fields the ball and looks to make his next move against Tulane University.

Fransisco recorded two runs in the game. He also led the team in hits with three and RBIs with one. Norby had four at-bats and recorded one hit. Moylan also recorded one run and one hit.

In the second game of the double-header, the Pirates fell to the Knights 2-1 and were eliminated from the conference tournament. Junior pitcher Jake Kuchmaner recorded his fourth loss of the season after he allowed one run in two innings.

After trailing 2-0, Makarewicz hit a RBI single which allowed Hoover to score in

the bottom of the ninth inning. The Pirates could not score again, which secured a 2-1 victory for UCF.

On May 30, the University of South Florida Bulls (28-27, 14-14 AAC) won the AAC championship after defeating UCF 8-7. USF's redshirt freshman infielder/outfielder Daniel Cantu was recognized as the tournament's most outstanding player.

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