

# REVIEW: MAROON 5'S 'JORDI' LACKS FULL POTENTIAL to A3



# The East Carolinian

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## Knight celebrates past season

**Brendan Cavazos**  
TEC STAFF

In her first appearance in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Outdoor Championships on June 10, East Carolina University track and field junior pole vaulter Sommer Knight capped off a spectacular season with a third place finish in the national meet and hit a school-record mark of 4.35 meters.



Sommer Knight

Her performance was rewarded with First-Team All-American honors and she became the third athlete in ECU women's track and field history to be named to the first-team.

"I was really relaxed at the competition, which I feel like not a lot of people are at that level," Knight said. "But I have had a consistent year. I went in kind of knowing, kind of expecting to hit at least the 4.30 mark."

Knight strung several strong performances in a row that led up to her successful appearance at the NCAA Championships. To earn her spot in the national meet, she placed 12th overall at the NCAA East Preliminary on May 27 with a mark of 4.17 meters.

She set her previous career-high and school-record mark with a jump of 4.28 in the American Athletic Conference Championships on May 15. This jump won her the conference title in the event, and her performance earned her recognition from the conference as the AAC's Performance of the Year. Senior thrower Ryan Davis was also awarded the same recognition for his performance in the hammer throw and discus events.

Director of men's and women's track and field and cross country Kurt Craft said Knight's regular season prepared her well for the national meet. He said even before the outdoor season began, he could sense something special with Knight.

"This national championship was a

> **KNIGHT** page A6



The Town Common located at the Greenville, North Carolina, Toyota Amphitheatre.

## City of Greenville to honor Juneteenth

**Michelle Mazzei**  
TEC STAFF

**Alexys Woolard**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

While East Carolina University will not host events on June 19, also known as Juneteenth, a day which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, the City of Greenville, North Carolina, has several events planned for the day.

Program Specialist for Diversity and Inclusion Education and Training for the Office for Equity and Diversity (OED) Meredith Morgan said former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln declared all enslaved individuals in the country free in 1863. However, due to a lack of communication and enforcement, the state of Texas did not hear word of these freedoms until 1865.

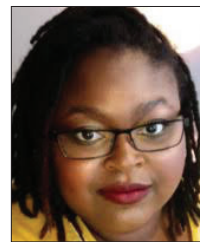
"In 1865, on June 19, an order was issued in Texas that said enslaved people are free, so that was the last of the enslaved people who were freed," Morgan said. "It's (Juneteenth) important, because we have to celebrate this victory. I think that we still have worked so that we're all liberated, but this is a very important moment in history."

Although June 19 is just one day out of the year, Morgan said ECU and Greenville community members can take time each day to remember those enslaved individuals within U.S. history and the importance of their freedom.

"I think this (Juneteenth) is similar to celebrations of heritage months, like Black History Month, Latino History Month and Native American History Month," Morgan said. "If we don't celebrate these months, these heritages, these cultures, all through-

out the year, then we kind of whitewash history and the present. It's important that we celebrate Juneteenth throughout the year, so that we can remember where we've come from and where we need to go."

Associate Director of the ECU Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) Shaun Simon said the university has no plans to host Juneteenth events because most students are not on campus or in the Greenville community over summer break.



Shaun Simon

Simon said Juneteenth is an important for the ECU community to recognize and to remember all the people who were freed after being enslaved for numerous years in the United States.

"Juneteenth is important, because it is the chance to recognize that not everyone was free on July 4, 1776," Simon said. "It was a time wherein our country, our infrastructure, was built off the backs of enslaved people."

Simon said there will be a social media campaign organized by the LWCC that gives ECU as well as Greenville community members information about what Juneteenth is and what it entails.

The LWCC has not hosted any in-person or virtual programs centered around Juneteenth since Simon has been at ECU as of 2018. However, she said the LWCC has worked to create educational programming to inform the university community about

> **CITY** page A2

## Fall study abroad set to return

**Cayla Menges**  
TEC STAFF

**Alexys Woolard**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University Office of Global Affairs will continue its efforts to prepare and promote study abroad and international travel opportunities for students as the COVID-19 pandemic hindered all previous international travel throughout the spring, summer and fall of 2020 as well as spring and summer 2021 sessions.

Director of ECU Global Affairs Jon Rezek said the Office of Global Affairs has approved ECU Tuscany, the office's first program for the 2021-2022 academic year. He said the program is one of two in the University of North Carolina school system to operate year-round, as North Carolina State University has its program in Prague, Czech Republic.



Jon Rezek

Rezek said ECU students will have the opportunity to participate in the study abroad program in the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters, as well as the summer 2022 sessions.

"So that program (Tuscany) is set in a small medieval village in Tuscany so it's isolated from much of the rest of the country so it's a very safe location and we have connections with the mayor there and such so we'd be able to run a very safe program for our students," Rezek said. "We're excited for that for the fall."

Rezek said The Office of Global Affairs will continue to accept proposals from faculty members for faculty-led study abroad programs for the summer of 2022 until Aug. 31, 2021. The Office of Global Affairs will evaluate proposed program locations based on how COVID-19 rates are in the country they will visit and the country's healthcare system.

The Office of Global Affairs has implemented a new program to take place in spring 2022 and summer 2022 for ECU Students, Rezek said. The Virtual Exchange to Study Abroad (VESA) will link virtual exchange programs and ECU students to other study abroad programs and people.

"This is kind of a unique way of connecting,

> **ABROAD** page A2

# ECU alumnus rewinds fashion in community

**Yasmine Curmon-Ward**  
TEC STAFF

Tailgate Classics owner Cameron Higley, who is also an East Carolina University alumnus, has grown his online retro clothing business to a storefront, Tailgate Classics, located in the Uptown District at 304 Evans St. where students can find vintage jackets, shirts and other apparel.

Higley said he started Tailgate Classics while he was a freshman business management major at ECU in 2016. He said he got a lot of compliments from his friends and classmates on his style and they wanted to buy his clothes from him.



Cameron Higley

"I've always had a large collection of hand-me-downs from my dad and my grandfather. '80s and '90s clothes I thought were really cool and people would come by (my house) to see all the stuff I would wear," Higley said. "A lot of people weren't wearing '80s and '90s style then (2016) and would ask 'where did I get that (retro clothes) and 'can I buy this off you?' So they started to buy my collection from me."

Tailgate Classics started as an online store on Instagram. Higley said he decided to sell his collection in 2016



Tailgate Classics, a store located in Uptown Greenville, North Carolina, features vintage apparel such as jackets and shirts.

and the business has been successful ever since. He said the store caters more to men right now but he plans to add more apparel for women soon. Apparel and clothing items from the store range from \$20 to \$50.

Higley said he decided to open Tailgate Classics in Greenville in 2019 and the business did well. He said when the COVID-19 pandemic started their lease at the first Uptown Greenville store ended, so he went back

to just the online store. He said they moved to the new location in Uptown Greenville in April of 2021, while he continues to keep an online presence on Instagram to cater to all individuals within the Greenville community.

"We started off with just vintage. Now that we've gotten bigger and we have a little bit more competition,

> **TAILGATE** page A3

### ONLINE

»Check out our poll on the Juneteenth events in Greenville online

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

### SOCIAL MEDIA



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## BRIEFS

## 'Body Blast Boot Camp' to begin registration

Today, the East Carolina University Student Affairs, Campus Recreation as well as the Wellness, Fitness and Personal Training departments will host registration for "Body Blast Boot Camp Session 2" at noon at the Outdoor Pool Lawn, located at the Richard R. and JoAnn M. Eakin Student Recreation Center on ECU's main campus. Students can register for training sessions, which include cardio, functional training or bodyweight exercises, for July 5 through July 28.

## 'HITT The Ground Running' registration to open

Today, the Fitness and Personal Training departments, Campus Recreation and Wellness and East Carolina University Student Affairs will hold registration for "HITT The Ground Running Session 2" from 7:15 to 8 a.m. at Cross Training Court at the ECU Health Sciences Campus. These training sessions will be a 4 week long period and will last every Tuesday and Thursday until July 28. ECU students, throughout these sessions, will engage in strength and cardio exercises.

## Manufacturing seminar to overview Lean concepts

Today, the ECU Center for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering as well as the College of Engineering and Technology will host the "Lead 100 Simulation for Manufactures" seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Science and Technology building on ECU's main campus. ECU and the community will explore the Lean analysis and concepts at the event.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



Employees work and provide service to local customers at the University Book Exchange, which is located in Uptown Greenville, North Carolina.

# Businesses see customer increase

## Safety remains a top priority as COVID-19 restrictions ease

Chris Young  
TEC STAFF

The effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Greenville, North Carolina, businesses and residents have begun to fade as most businesses have removed COVID-19 restrictions which continues to leave the community on the road to recovery.

General Manager Yvonne Perry of University Book Exchange (UBE), located at 516 Cotanche St., said as COVID-19 regulations are lifted due to the updated orders from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Greenville businesses have started to return to normal. She said she was excited and anticipates a large uptick in customers soon.

"We have noticed a lot more foot traffic in our store," Perry said. "A lot of customers are entering our building and many of them aren't wearing (face) masks because they are vaccinated and the ones that aren't vaccinated still wear masks."

Perry said 2020 was hard for everyone, especially local Greenville businesses. She said many businesses weren't able to survive the pandemic but UBE was fortunate enough to remain open throughout the crisis.

UBE continues to use plexiglass to separate the cash registers and lanes while the staff often sanitizes the whole building to keep customers safe. Perry said the employees at UBE have still done what they can to maintain a sanitary environment for workers as well as customers.

"All of my employees are vaccinated and we still maintain social distancing six feet apart," Perry said. "I think our customers are very comfortable and safe inside our establishment."

Perry said the ease in COVID-19 restrictions has done nothing but improve the economy. She

said now that many people are vaccinated, stores have fully opened back up and it has made a positive impact on the entire community.

As the City of Greenville continues to recover from the pandemic, Perry believes more individuals will obtain their vaccine. She said the opportunity to get vaccinated will also allow more people to go out and support these local businesses.

"With everything opening up, we have had to order everything in advance," Perry said. "Because businesses have opened back up, demand has risen and everything is selling out already."

Logan's Roadhouse, located at 603 Greenville Blvd. SE, Manager Terrance Dorsey said because COVID-19 regulations have decreased in the state of North Carolina, the overall morale of the employees has gone up. He said employees have been more proficient and have worked harder because of the increase in business.

Dorsey said the lessened regulations will attract more customers but there will still be people who are cautious about the virus. He said COVID-19 is still a factor and individuals will still be wary and take precautions about going out in public.

"The fewer restrictions will boost the economy because there will be more people out spending money and putting into these businesses," Dorsey said. "Those that were already concerned about the virus will still choose to be cautious, but it will allow for more people to go out."

Dorsey said it will take time for restaurants to fully recover from the pandemic because several of the staff members felt uncomfortable in a

work environment that required face masks and other regulations which restricted employees. He said now that face masks aren't required, some employees have had issues at work with others not wearing face coverings.

The workplace will be very different for numerous individuals in the Greenville community, according to Dorsey. He said at every work establishment, there will be controversy about face masks and safety regulations for the pandemic.

"I believe the pandemic has changed the consumers," Dorsey said. "Most people don't understand the rules businesses had to follow during this virus, so people have become more entitled."

Greenville resident Gabe Hartle said COVID-19 no longer affects his day-to-day routine as much since the restrictions have eased throughout the state. He said because businesses have become more relaxed, more people will begin to go out and spend money to support the community.

Hartle said he believes more people should be comfortable in public settings in the community.

However, he said people should still have concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic overall, but with vaccine availability on the rise, Hartle said he believes there isn't much to be scared of anymore.

"The lowered restrictions will definitely have a positive impact on Greenville's economy," Hartle said. "Since people are becoming more comfortable, it will create more opportunities for businesses."

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

## CITY continued from A1

why Juneteenth is an important day to honor and recognize.

"Celebrating this day recognizes that our history as American's isn't perfect and provides the opportunity to reckon with that," Simon said.



Randall Leach

Randall Leach, Junior H. Rose High School art instructor, said his group, "The Black Creatives of Pitt County (BCPC)," is a group developed for Black & minority art expression who operate under the Pitt County Arts Council. He said he and BCPC will be in attendance at the "In the Black: Business Pop-Up Celebration."

An artist within the group by the name of Marlon Westray will auction off a painting at the "In the Black: Business Pop-Up Celebration" event in which he will be competing live at the celebration.

"We have this strong talent of Black and brown artists, and we want to let everybody know that all we need is these opportunities to display the work and to be able to have the spaces to create work," Leach said.

The City Of Greenville plans to host the "In The Black: Business Pop-Up Celebration" on June 19 for minority community members to learn more about small businesses in lieu of Juneteenth. This event will take place on 415 S Evans St. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denisha Harris, financial services manager and overseer of the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program (MWBE), said the inspiration behind "In the Black: Business Pop-Up Celebration" event was to provide Greenville community members with a chance to learn more about small businesses and see the opportunities that Greenville has to offer.

Harris said she hopes Greenville members who plan to start their own business can come to the event and learn strategies from the Incubate to Accelerate Initiative. The initiative was created to help small minority and women-owned firms in the City of Greenville and offer future local business owners tools to create a successful

business.

"So, incubate accelerate, actually provides full-service support to those businesses in providing affordable physical space, access to capital and back-office support," Harris said.

It is important, Harris said, to bring awareness to Black-owned small businesses in the Greenville community to increase economic activity within the city.

When minority businesses are not allowed to participate in our economy, Harris said it creates financial insecurity within those groups and a lower quality of life. The more Black businesses that arise in Greenville, the more financial opportunities there will be for the community, according to Harris.

"Black businesses have experienced the largest disparities and economic opportunity, and supporting our Black business community helps reduce those disparities and create opportunities for financial security and wealth creation," Harris said.

It is exciting, Harris said, to see what opportunities will be showcased and brought to the Greenville community as well as to small minority business owners in Greenville throughout the "In the Black: Business Pop-Up Celebration" event.

"I am excited about all of the opportunities because that's what I love about it, even though it's from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There's something new and exciting at every stop," Harris said.

The MWBE will also host a Juneteenth Awareness Walk at 10 a.m. at the Sycamore Gateway Plaza located at 105 E First St as well as the 1st Annual Juneteenth Food and Music Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Town Commons Park. The City of Greenville Ribbon Cutting ceremony and the Open House for New Small Businesses Co-Op space will be held from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at 415 Evans St.

The Greenville Theatre and Arts Center and the African American Cultural Trail will host "Live on the Block" at 3 p.m. at 629 Albermarle Ave.

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



A previous East Carolina University study abroad trip in Tuscany, Italy, prior to COVID-19.

## ABROAD continued from A1

doing a little bit different type of study abroad where you're actually connecting with individuals, student counterparts in other countries virtually first, working with them first then going to their countries, completing projects and learning a little bit more about their culture, language," Rezek said.

There is a consistent number of requests from international students to come to ECU as the COVID-19 pandemic closed international embassies and influenced abilities to obtain visas for travel, according to Rezek. He said the Office of Global Affairs anticipates an increase of international students for the 2021-2022 year.

Assistant Director for Education abroad Katie Erickson said the Office of Global Affairs experienced a significant decrease of students who were interested in the Study Abroad program due to the risk and safety concerns that went along with study abroad travel.

"We definitely saw a decrease in the number of email inquiries, we didn't receive many phone calls but with so much being virtual now we knew we were seeing a decrease in students interested which was understandable considering if we're not even going to school face to face, how could they expect to think they could travel overseas," Erickson said.

Students who will participate in study abroad programs must sign a conditions of participation form when they travel, which states they agree to

abide by any COVID-19 guidelines set in place by the country they will travel to.

Senior elementary education major Beija Thorne said she participated in the ECU Tuscany study abroad program through the university in the spring of 2018. She said she encourages all ECU students to study abroad.

"Studying abroad is such an amazing experience that you really can't get anywhere else," Thorne said. "I had no idea that the experience in Tuscany would still stick with me today and have a lasting effect."

ECU students should really take advantage of the study abroad programs offered by the university, according to Thorne.

"I learned so much while I was there (Tuscany)," Thorne said. "It really was a breathtaking trip, and I'm so happy and forever grateful I got this amazing opportunity. Studying abroad will really change your (students) life. I definitely recommended this program or any of the others offered by ECU."

Thorne said encourages all ECU students to at least study abroad once. She said ECU Global Affairs cares about each student and wants them to experience what it is like to learn in another country.

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



Katie Erickson

ONLINE | FULL STORY

## EVENTS

## TODAY

## Uptown Greenville Umbrella Market

Five Points Plaza  
104 W 4th St.  
5 to 8 p.m.  
252-561-8400

## June Wine Tasting

Jarvis Street Bottle Shop  
211 S. Jarvis St.  
5 to 7 p.m.  
252-364-2840

## TOMORROW

## Concert on the Common

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

## Networking Event for June

Pitt Street Brewing Company  
630 S. Pitt St.  
5:30 to 7 p.m.  
252-227-4151

## FRIDAY

## Greenville Grooves Music Festival

Town Common  
100 E. 1st St.  
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
252-561-8400

## United We Can Food Sculpture Contest

Town Common  
100 E. 1st St.  
3 to 9 p.m.  
252-329-4200

## SATURDAY

## Juneteenth 90's Festival

Pitt County Fairgrounds  
3910 M.L.K. Jr Highway  
3 to 8 p.m.



Chanelle Turnbull, Connor Hawkins and Madison Deschenes, East Carolina University students for the School of Theatre and Dance practice their choreography.

## ECU SOTD student honored

### Abigail Telenko chosen to receive the URCA award for choreography

Yasmine Curmon-Ward

TEC STAFF

East Carolina University senior dance performance, choreography and communication double major Abigail Telenko has taken the name of the Spring 2021 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (UCRA) award winner for her experimental choreography in her work "Encapsulate" around the importance of physical touch for humans and the effect COVID-19 has had on physical touch.

Telenko said she submitted her two-week choreographic process research project on Jan. 29, 2021 to evaluate the effects on a lack of physical touch from the COVID-19 pandemic. She said she carried out her choreography performance on the School of Theater and Dance stage on June 5 with three other dance students Chanelle Turnbull, Connor Hawkins and Madison Deschenes.

"The research is about how physical touch is important for not only dancers, but for humans in general, and I wanted to see how it would impact the rehearsal process, how it impacted me as the choreographer to include partnering and the overall vibe of the dancers as well to see how it felt from going a year without partnering to having partnering," Telenko said.

The title of the choreography piece, "Encapsulate," Telenko said, is to show that even when isolated people are still connected.

The research shows how physical touch is a way for humans to connect, according to Telenko. She said dance students have not been able to touch each other for over a year now due to the COVID-19

pandemic and the regulations which accompanied it. She said due to the halt of normal dance operations at ECU, it made a huge difference to how they practice and perform choreography.

Telenko said ECU Associate Professor of Dance Teal Darkenwald mentored her for the research project. She said Darkenwald assisted her with the proposal to make sure everyone understood dance terminology.

Darkenwald said as Telenko's mentor, she watched Telenko grow as a creative choreographer as she worked through the choreography and research process.

Telenko worked on the choreography herself and was confident in her craft, according to Darkenwald. She said she gave Telenko feedback on her work and encouraged her to get feedback from others to get their perspectives on the project.

"In the case of Abby (Telenko) she was interested in looking at the effects of COVID-19 and touch, so her piece was playing with the idea after going through a full year without really having any physical touch. What that felt like, reintroducing that into the movement process and also playing with ideas how each dancer responded to that touch."

Research Economic Development and Engagement (REDE) provides support to ECU students' research and creative projects in order to help them make the transition from college to the career world easier especially for students who want to become choreographers.

Darkenwald said students at ECU should take advantage of all on-campus opportunities to add experience to their resume before they graduate

from college. She said the URCA program helps students exercise the skills they learn in the academic classroom from course instructors.

"The step after college is a really difficult one if students want to become a choreographer because you need to have longer, more full scale, fully produced work in order to, for example, apply for grants, work for festivals," Darkenwald said. "This helps give them exceptional choreographic aptitude and the ability to expand beyond what they would normally do in a composition class or their senior capstone project."

REDE Administration assistant Heather Christman said ECU students should visit the REDE website to submit their research or creative project ideas.

Christman said the REDE staff makes sure students' research proposals are relevant, achievable and they are able to budget well.

"We try to do all aspects of the university. We want all majors to be included in this hands-on experience, so that they have this type of opportunity not just for the sciences," Christman said.

Christman said the URCA is a great way for students to build their resumes and be able to present their work to employers when they apply for future careers. She said students gain the knowledge they need to work in the professional career field.

"These projects give them (students) real world experience," Christman said. "They're doing the work their mentors are doing. When they have those experiences under their belt, they can apply for grad school, and they can say 'I've done these things, and there is nothing that can replace real hands-on experiences.'"



Abigail Telenko

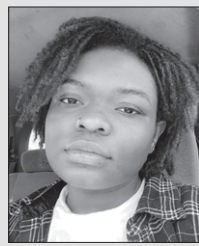


Teal Darkenwald

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

## ALBUM REVIEW

## 'JORDI' album meaningful but not memorable



Giana Williams  
TEC STAFF

American pop rock band Maroon 5 released their seventh studio deluxe album titled "JORDI" on June 11 which highlights the band's signature pop sound but with a more emotional twist with diverse features.

The 14 track album is titled after the nickname of the band's late manager Jordan Feldstein who died in December 2017 from a pulmonary embolism. The album includes popular singles such as "Memories" which was released in 2019, "Nobody's Love" released in 2020 and their most recent single, "Beautiful Mistakes," which was released on March 3 of this year and features rapper Megan Pete, also known as Megan Thee Stallion.

The album includes numerous features from other well known artists such as singers Stephanie "Stevie" Nicks, H.E.R. (Gabriella Wilson) and Jason Derulo (Desrouleaux) and late rappers Juice WRLD (Jarad Higgins) and Nipsey Hussle (Ermias Asghedom). Each of these artists add their own music style into the songs mixed with Maroon 5's lead singer Adam Levine's signature tenor voice for some musical diversity across the album. However, the songs on "JORDI" are just your average Maroon 5 songs and hardly have anything

new to offer to audiences.

"JORDI" fails to showcase any new style of music Maroon 5 could potentially be capable of. It's not as if they were playing it safe with the album. The last few songs on the album such as "Lifestyle" featuring Jason Derulo are a little bit different from the stereotypical Maroon 5 style of music. The album is a very easy listen and has songs people may enjoy for casual listening but it fails to be memorable overall.

The album starts off with "Beautiful Mistakes," and it's a nice introduction to the album, something soft and easygoing which serves as a tonesetter for the rest of the album. The song features Megan Thee Stallion's signature rap style, but what is unique about this track is it showcases her singing voice as well. Considering she is known for hardcore rap style and explicit lyrics, Megan Thee Stallion's melodic singing was a nice touch to the song as she does not often use this side of her artistry and proves her diversity as an artist.

Although the track fails to really stand out, "Remedy" is a nice upbeat song which features Nicks, who is known for her involvement in American-British rock band Fleetwood Mac. The song has the perfect vibes to just blast while casually driving down backroads, kind of like most Fleetwood Mac songs. A turn-off on this track is that it never showcases Nicks' unique singing style, with her left to sing the chorus with Levine.



Maroon 5 lead singer Adam Levine performs at the halftime show at Super Bowl LIII in 2019.

The two singers sound well together on the chorus, but Nicks' abilities are underused throughout the track.

"Memories" is one of the most meaningful songs on the album which Levine explained was a song for anyone who has experienced loss. The song was written based on Feldstein's death and it was an important song for the band, according to guitarist James Valentine. This song has not lost its ability to resonate with individuals who have experienced some form of loss in their life. Following this track, there is a remix version to the same song which features rapper Keaton Jackson, known by his stage name YG and Nipsey Hussle.

"Memories Remix" is a more explicit version of the original track but continues to express the theme of loss. The language used

in the verses by the rappers may be off-putting for some people who may not be used to that style of rap. However, the sentiment behind the lyrics tells a deeper story of a person's struggles with not only loss of loved ones but relationships with others.

The album is still a good listen, but more could've been done. It had meaningful moments and gave the audience good hits to listen to throughout the summer. One day that time will come, but this album was just not the case.

## RATING:



2.5 out of 5

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

## TAILGATE continued from A1

we do some brands that are licensed called retros. They look like the '80s and '90s stuff, but they are made in this day and age," Higley said. "About half of it is vintage and the other half is stuff that we make."

Tailgate Classics employee Josh Richardson, who is also an ECU alum, said he has a degree in fashion design and merchandising which makes the store a perfect place for his creative freedom.

Richardson said the Tailgate Classics store is unique and

a lot of young people enjoy the nostalgic '80s and '90s college and sports apparel. The store will soon release a summer line of polos and shorts as well as more items geared to women's fashion.

"People should come and check out the variety of things we have, '80s, '90s and early 2000s retro style stuff that a lot of people that are in college now grew up on and saw their parents wear," Richardson said. "It's nostalgic. It's a good style to have."

Senior communication major David Jasanganey said he found out about Tailgate Classics from a colleague of his and has visited the store a number of times. He said the store offers a great variety of quality vintage clothes to its customers.

Jasanganey said ECU students should support this local business because they have a wide variety of unique university and sports apparel. He said his favorite items he purchased from the store are vintage ECU hats, flannel and graphic T-shirts. He said he also enjoys their brand of clothes as well.

"I love their variety of vintage clothes," Jasanganey said. "I like their ECU vintage apparel and I like their brand apparel as well and it's at an affordable price."

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

## OUR VIEW

### New softball coach will benefit team

On May 28, East Carolina University Athletic Director Jon Gilbert welcomed Shane Winkler as the new ECU softball head coach after former head coach Courtney Oliver resigned on May 15.

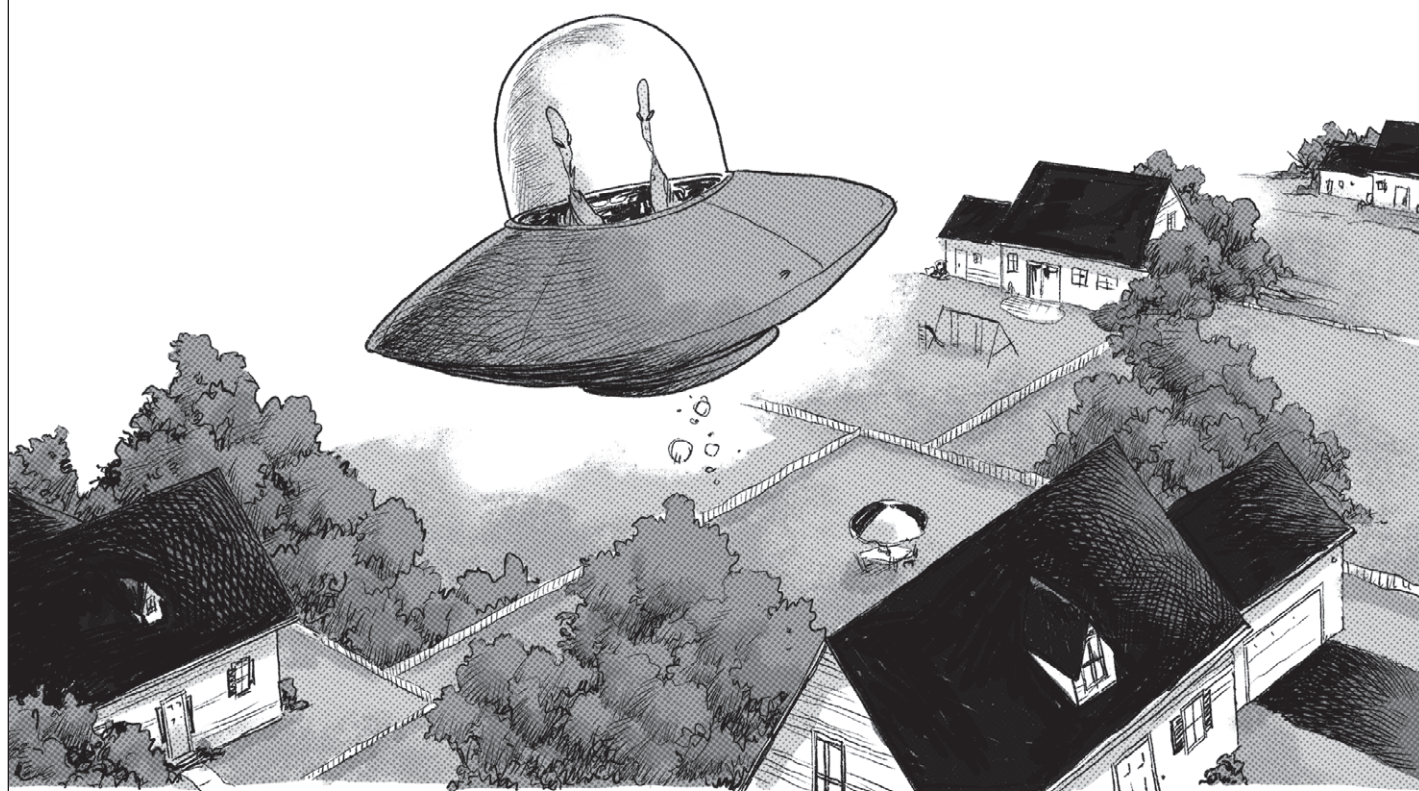
Winkler was a coach at George Washington University for three years and had a career record of 91-43. His achievements also include the first two Atlantic 10 championships in GW history, 12 of his players earning all-conference awards and 11 players earning all-region accolades. He will be the first male coach in ECU softball history.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, welcome Winkler to Pirate Nation and hope his time at ECU will help improve the softball team. Winkler's history and credentials will be a great asset to the ECU athletic program and we hope he will be able to rebuild the ECU softball team for the 2022 season.

The ECU softball team finished off the 2021 season 16-33 overall after their 2020 season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pirates have won two conference tournaments in program history in 2010 and 2011, according to the ECU softball 2021 Fact Book. The Pirates also made four appearances in the NCAA regional, the last time being in 2011 and made its appearance in the 2017 American Athletic Conference Softball Tournament where they ranked sixth out of seven teams.

The softball team has been mediocre for far too long and has not had a groundbreaking season in about a decade. The team and university deserves to see revitalization within this program. With Winkler coming to take over, the softball program may start to look up and possibly see positive changes not just for the team but for the ECU athletic program as a whole.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



"ALL I SAID WAS 'TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER' AND THAT STARTED A 20-MINUTE LECTURE ABOUT HOW THE ELECTION WAS STOLEN THAT ENDED WITH THE HUMAN STICKING COINS TO THEIR HEAD TRYING TO PROVE THEY'D BEEN MAGNETIZED."

## Religion should not be forced

People have freedom to form their own personal beliefs



Elizabeth Riegel  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Growing up with Southern Baptist Christianity, I was always taught that to question authority was to question God. Discipline and corporal punishment were normalized in the church and in the household that I grew up in. Rather than honing a community of love and acceptance, the church and branch of religion I grew up in was home to fostering bigotry and hatred. Christianity as a whole is not a religion of hatred when interpreted in the way it was meant to be. As a gay woman, I have been slungshot into a world of questioning my self worth and my validity in my faith. This is what I have found.

I remember the first moment I overtly and publicly questioned my religion, it was in the ninth grade. I had only been in the public school system for two years at this point, and while I still viewed the world through Christian-colored glasses, something finally slipped through.

I was sitting in math class one day, across from an acquaintance: Timmy. I don't remember how the conversation started but I remember we started talking about how hot Taylor Lautner was. I remember thinking how strange it was that it didn't feel wrong to talk with a

"Question the reality you have been primed to believe in and when your own beliefs are formed, stand firm in them."

-Elizabeth Riegel

boy who found boys attractive. Later that week, Timmy came out to me as gay, I was apparently the first person he told. I was a Christian who was prepped and primed to be hateful toward any member of the LGBTQ community and yet he chose me. What was even more intriguing to me was that I didn't care. I didn't feel that "ick" you feel when you are confronted with sin, and that was the moment I began to question why queerness was inherently wrong through the worldview of the Christian faith.

As I left for college, I began to notice that my parents' reach dwindled and with that, my own opinions began to surface. Because I was raised to believe that any independent thought had to be filtered through the church, my parents and the bible, I never stopped to question my own sexuality and place in the world. I am an independent thinker now, but for the longest time, Christianity held me in the submissive role I was prepped for. For the longest time, I didn't know that there were

branches of Christianity that supported love over submission.

With time and distance, I have come to realize that Southern Baptist Christianity has been used time and time again to control women, people of color, the LGBTQ community and many other marginalized groups. Rather than allowing your religion to shape your personal worldview, oftentimes Christians will use it as a means to force that shaping onto people of other religions, ethnicities and sexualities.

This is not an accurate representation of what Christianity was meant to be. If you identify as a Christian, research the Bible and all its translations. Question the reality you have been primed to believe in and when your own beliefs are formed, stand firm in them. At the end of the day, you choose what you want to believe and you choose what you want to support. Never let someone take that power from you.

This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## OUR STAFF

- Chloe Easton Editor-in-Chief
- George Martin Managing Editor
- Giana Williams Copy & Opinion Editor
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### Contact Info

The East Carolinian  
Mendenhall Main Floor,  
Greenville, NC, 27858-4353

Email: [editor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:editor@theeastcarolinian.com)

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

## Pop culture consumes intelligence

More with Michelle



Michelle Mazzei  
TEC COLUMNIST

In this day and age, it is not uncommon for individuals all over the world to be more concerned and informed about pop culture rather than general knowledge, which can ultimately be harmful to people and society as a whole.

Knowing a lot about pop culture is not necessarily a bad thing, but it can develop into a harmful mindset over a long period of time. I am for sure guilty of being heavily informed of pop culture in today's society. I follow numerous celebrities on my various social media accounts, have tabloid subscriptions and watch several reality shows which highlights the influencers we all know of. But there comes a point where knowing too much about pop culture and not enough about common knowledge is detrimental.

It is important for when individuals are in elementary, middle and high school as well as throughout one's college years to learn about the important things in life, such as how to pay taxes, how to buy a car and a house, how the United States became to be a nation, past and relevant wars, cultural issues as well as specific knowledge about their college major.

I asked my friends the other day if they knew how World War II started just out of curiosity. None of them knew. WWII occurred in 1939 in Nazi, Germany, when Adolf Hitler invaded the country of Poland, according to a Britannica article. The website said the U.S. entered the war in 1941 after



COURTESY OF JEAN-BAPTISTE LACROIX | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Reality T.V. star Kim Kardashian and her family are well known figures in mainstream pop culture.

Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was bombed. WWII is a crucial time and a very important event in the history of the United States. This war increased political and economic power and enlarged agriculture, science, technology as well as business corporations.

WWII is very important for individuals to know because that event played a big role in making the U.S. what kind of nation it is today. If an individual were to type into the Google search engine a question about any topic, sometimes they will have the opportunity to test their knowledge on the Google homepage about the topic of choice.

When I typed in "how did WWII start?" the first trivia question centered around why the U.S. entered the war. 82% of those who answered were correct. Although that is a high percentage, the percentage should be 100%. WWII, along with many other significant events, such as the Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade, which made abortion in the U.S. legal but allowed states can restrict this

procedure, the lunch counter sit-ins, which occurred in Greensboro, North Carolina, in the 1960s to protest against racial injustice.

In terms of more recent events, climate change, police reform as well as the Black Lives Matter movement and other societal issues we are currently facing, are all necessary to be aware of since these current events will be taught in future history classes in schools. It is important to not only know what has previously happened in and outside of the country, but also what is currently happening.

After I brought up WWII and other past events, it was clear to me that a few of the people I know are really uninformed and uneducated. How do people expect to expand their knowledge if they don't continue to educate themselves?

Mazzei is a junior majoring in communications and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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## 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 — Flow around unexpected physical obstacles. Slow to adapt. Use gentle pressure rather than force. Prioritize health and vitality. Hunt for efficiencies. Find restful, meditative moments.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Your mind is full of ways to make money. Drop fantastical options for now. Take advantage of lucrative conditions. Gain and stash resources.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Work takes priority. Prepare professional presentations. Meet deadlines and keep your customers satisfied. Choose privacy over publicity. Quick action reaps unexpected bounty.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Listen to your heart. Focus on here and now. Don't overlook family obligations. Romance can take you by surprise. Connect with kids, pets and elders.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 9 — Imagine perfection. Focus on personal priorities. Ignore illusions or distractions. Avoid trolls or naysayers. Grab an unexpected opportunity to advance in a promising direction.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Open doors to unexplored terrain. Avoid risk or expense. Take the simple route. Research reveals a whole new world. Dig deeper. Try new flavors.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Adapt with domestic changes. Confer with family for solutions. Don't get overly elaborate; keep it simple. Come up with creative ideas. Implement at least one.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Lay low and get productive behind closed doors. Indulge your inner introvert with peaceful organizational tasks. Put away what's complete. Consider possibilities and plans.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Make strategic financial plans with your partner. Collaborate to get farther, faster. Distractions and illusions abound. Handle paperwork, documentation and filing. Update the accounting.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Imagine victory. Visualize winning. Provide leadership to realize that vision. Study the situation. Read and research. Creative negotiation wins big. Practice persuasive arts.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Learn by teaching. Benefits flow through social connections. Participate with a team effort. Go around barriers and obstacles carefully. Provide optimistic support for practical objectives.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Partnership grows through adversity or challenges. Rely on each other. Remind someone how much they mean to you. Surprises can spark unscheduled synchronicity.

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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



### BLISS

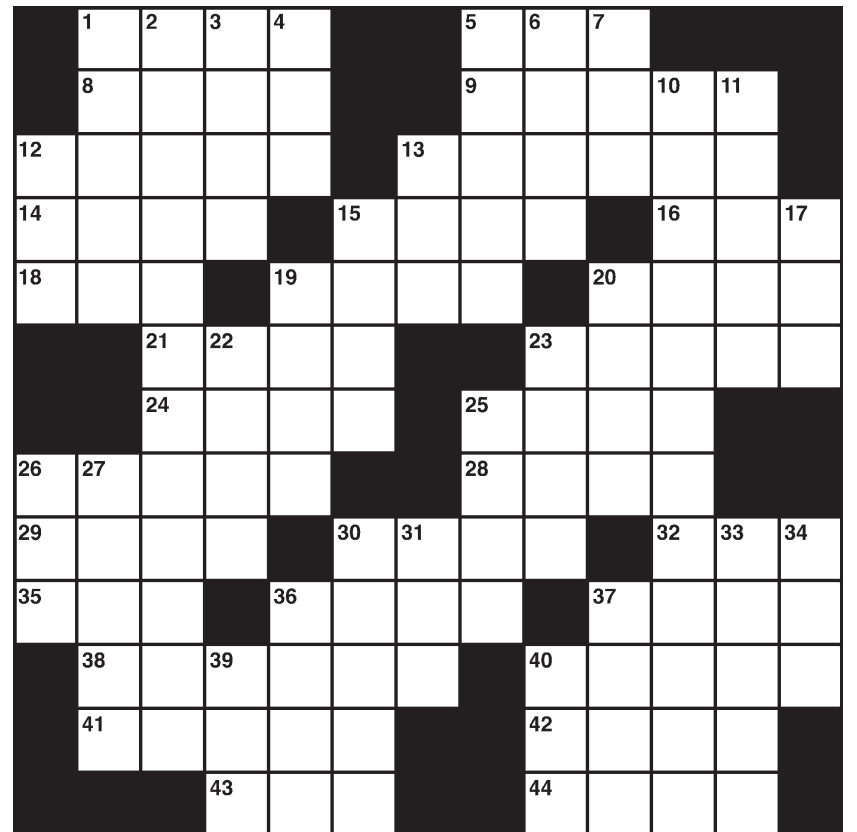


"There goes the neighborhood."

## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

- \_\_\_ Granger; "NCIS: Los Angeles" role, once
- "This Is the \_\_\_"; James Franco film
- Lay concrete
- Bart's mom
- Legal series for Alan Rachins
- Geraldo \_\_\_
- Misfortunes
- Tyne or Tim
- "The \_\_\_ and I"; Fred MacMurray movie
- "McFarland, \_\_\_"; Kevin Costner film
- Actor Danza
- Jim Nabors' role
- Outer garment
- Ole or Merlin
- Miscalculates
- Actor John \_\_\_
- "Everybody Loves Raymond" role
- \_\_\_ even keel
- John of "Good Times"
- Explorer Marco

Solution from 06/09

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

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**DOWN**

- October birthstones
- "Chicago Fire" role
- Gabor & Longoria
- "Orange Is the \_\_\_ Black"
- Bob's wife on "The Bob Newhart Show"
- "McHale's \_\_\_"
- Role on "Black-ish"
- Series for Patrick Dempsey
- "\_\_\_ Eye"; Shia LaBeouf film
- Actress Lucy
- Galloped
- Specks
- MacArthur's title: abbr.
- Scarlett O'Hara's home
- Tearful request
- Hockey's Bobby & his family
- Cry of sudden distress
- Shoe bottom
- Brylcreem amount
- Sajak or Trebek
- \_\_\_ on; victimizes
- "... the ramparts we watched..."
- Rue & Ramirez
- "The Kids \_\_\_ Alright"
- "One Day at a \_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_ Like It Hot"; Marilyn Monroe film
- Elmo's color
- "Chicago \_\_\_"

## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

Level **1 2 3 4**

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

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 06/09

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

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ECU junior forward Xianna Josephs drives down the court against a defender from Virginia Commonwealth University on Dec. 9, 2020 at Williams Arena in Greenville, North Carolina. COURTESY OF HOUSTON MCCULLOUGH | ECUPIRATES

» ANALYSIS

## Pirates look to outperform last season's record

### Women's basketball will aim for improvement in 2021 after several offseason moves



**Markayla McInnis**  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University women's basketball team ended their 2020-21 season with an 8-14 record and this offseason the team has already acquired seven new players that will help bring the team's number of wins up this season.

The team ended their season with a 63-73 loss against the University of Houston in the American Athletic Conference (AAC) Championship. With their six conference wins, they ended their season ranked No. 6 out of 11 in the AAC. With the team's new additions, they look to make it further in the tournament in the future.

Along with the addition of seven players, on June 14 head coach Kim McNeil added Tamoria Holmes to the coaching staff. Holmes will join the team as assistant coach for the 2021-22 season. Holmes both played college basketball and has coached on the college level. While coaching at Howard University, she helped bring the school to record highs in winning and championships. With her coaching, the Pirates will have another strong leader to help lead them

to victory.

"Tamoria is a great person who will be supportive and a mentor for our young women on the court and in life," McNeil said.

At the end of the season, they lost five seniors, but as the team prepares to return for next year, they have added four transfers and three freshmen. After the team's last game, the student-athletes had two weeks off before four weeks of individual preseason training.

While some players have already returned to campus for summer classes, the full team will return to Greenville, North Carolina, later this month. The official schedule has not been released due to contracts, but McNeil has given a clue that the first game will be away. Past seasons have included 25 to 30 games, so that is a safe bet for this season as well.

Out of the top five scorers from last season, three of them will be returning for the 2021-22 season and will hopefully contribute to more Pirates wins. Junior guard Tanyiah Thompson, senior forward Maddie Moore and sophomore

guard Synia Johnson each scored over 100 points individually last season.

Two of the four transfers are fifth-year players and will help lead the team to more victories with their experience. Both five-year players, Tylar Bennet from Clemson University and Brittany Franklin from the University of Kansas, will also add to the team in height. Both women are over six feet tall, which will help the team compete with the other AAC teams that have a lot of height on their roster.

The other two transfers are Da'Ja Green from Virginia Tech University and Danae McNeal from Clemson University. Green is a graduate student guard who will help in scoring as last season's top scorer for the Pirates, Lashonda Monk, will enter the WNBA draft. McNeal will also join as a sophomore guard who averaged 3.18 points a game in her 33 career games.

The four freshmen that will add their talents to the team are forward Laila Acox from Blythe-wood, South Carolina, forward Iyce Adams from Kernersville, North Carolina, and guard Paige Lyons from Norcross, Georgia.

These four freshmen were officially signed on for this upcoming season on Nov. 12, 2020. McNeil is excited to have fresh faces on the team

as they will help the team improve.

"They will not only contribute at a high level on the court but also in the classroom," said McNeil.

Acox was rated the No. 1 recruit in her state by A1 Sports and SC Southern Hoops, according to ecupirates.com. In just her junior year, she surpassed 1,000 points. Adams was ranked No. 2 in the 2021 Top 30 list and earned all-conference in two of her four years in grade school. Lyons averaged 10 points and three assists as a freshman in high school and will be a "great leader" for the team.

Last season, the team's stamina was affected due to the deserted stands because of COVID-19. This season, the team is ready to be back in action with fans in the stands. With crowd interaction, the team looks to rank higher in the AAC and bring their number of wins over their losses.

"I don't think fans realize how much they play a part in our success," McNeil said.

Once the team's 2021-22 schedule is officially announced and pre-season workouts begin *The East Carolinian* will keep readers updated.

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

## ECU loses Nashville Super Regional, wraps up season

**Stephen Babich**  
TEC STAFF

The No. 13 East Carolina University Pirates baseball team (44-17, 20-8 American Athletic Conference) was eliminated from the College World Series after the Pirates lost two straight games to the No. 4 Vanderbilt Commodores (45-15, 19-10 Southeastern Conference) in the Nashville Super Regional on June 11 and June 12 at Hawkins Field in Nashville, Tennessee, which marks the end of the Pirates' 2021 season.

The Pirates finished the season with a 44-17 record and a 20-8 record in AAC play. ECU finished in first place in the American Conference for the 2021 season. However, in the conference tournament, the Pirates were eliminated by the University of Central Florida Knights (31-10, 18-14 AAC) in the semifinals.

In the first game of the Nashville Super Regional on June 11, Vanderbilt defeated ECU 2-0. Junior pitcher Gavin Williams took his first loss of the season after a 10-0 start. Williams gave up two runs on seven hits. However, he struck out 13 batters in 7.1 innings pitched.

For Vanderbilt, junior pitcher Kumar Rocker got his 13th win of the season. Rocker recorded eleven strikeouts and allowed three hits.

In the second game of the Nashville Super Regional on June 12, ECU fell to Vanderbilt 4-1. With the loss, the Pirates were eliminated from the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. Head coach Cliff Godwin showed praise for the



**Cliff Godwin**

effort that his players gave during this series.

"Our guys poured everything onto the field that they had and it just wasn't good enough," Godwin said. "That makes it hurt."

The game was scoreless until the top of the fifth inning when Vanderbilt sophomore utility Carter Young hit a two-run RBI single which gave the Commodores a 2-0 lead. The Pirates would respond in the seventh inning when freshman first baseman Josh Moylan hit a solo home run in the bottom of the seventh inning to cut the Pirates' deficit to one.

With the score still 2-1 in the top of the ninth inning, Vanderbilt added two more runs to extend their lead to three making it 4-1. The Pirates could not respond to the three-point deficit in the bottom of the ninth and the Commodores recorded three outs on three consecutive batters.

Freshman pitcher Carson Whisenhunt started for the Pirates and recorded his second loss of the season. Whisenhunt allowed two runs on two hits and recorded three strikeouts. For Vanderbilt, sophomore pitcher Jack Leiter got his 10th win of the season.

In the regular season, the Pirates had five series sweeps, in one of which ECU outscored the Appalachian State Mountaineers (21-31, 11-10 Sun Belt Conference) 28-6. From March 30 against the University of North Carolina Tar Heels (28-27, 18-18 Atlantic Coastal Conference) to April 23 against the University of Central Florida Knights (31-30, 18-14 American Athletic Conference), the Pirates recorded a 10 game winning streak, which was the longest of the season.

To conclude the last full baseball season ECU had back in 2019, the No. 10 Pirates lost to the No. 7 University of Louisville Cardinals in the Louisville Super Regional on June 7



ECU baseball huddles up before hitting the field to play UNC Charlotte at Clark-LeClair Stadium. MADISON GRIFALDO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

and June 8. ECU was swept in that series as well. With this loss, the Pirates' all-time super regional record now drops to 1-12.

Godwin said that the Pirates will continue to strive toward that trip to Omaha for the College World Series.

"We're doing the right things and our kids are doing the right things," Godwin said. "Percentages say that if you keep knocking the door, the door is going to open and we're going to knock it down at some point."

The Pirates finished the season with a 44-17 record and a 20-8 record in American Athletic Conference play and the Pirates were first place in the AAC. However, in the conference tournament, the Pirates were eliminated by the University of Central Florida Knights (31-10, 18-14 AAC) in the semifinals.

In the Pirates' last full season in 2019, they finished 47-18 and 20-4 in conference play. ECU was eliminated in the Conference tournament by the Wichita State University Shockers. After that, ECU won the Greenville Regional which included victories over the Quinnipiac University Bobcats on June 2,

2019, North Carolina State University Wolfpack on June 2, 2019 and Campbell University Camels on June 3, 2019. The Pirates were then swept by the Louisville Cardinals in the Louisville Super Regional.

Multiple Pirates have received national praise and national honors. Sophomore second baseman Connor Norby and junior pitcher Gavin Williams were named as semifinalists for the Golden Spikes award, which is awarded to the best amateur baseball player annually.

Furthermore, Norby is also one of the four finalists for the Bobby Bragan Collegiate Slugger Award. The winner will be announced in June as well.

Williams was recognized as the AAC pitcher of the year and as a Collegiate Baseball First Team All America choice. Freshman pitcher Zach Agnos and Moylan were also named to the College Baseball Freshman All-America team on June 9.

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

## KNIGHT continued from A1

culmination to everything, but obviously you could see it as the season went on. You could sense it," Kraft said. "And where you could really sense it, is she went to the conference championship and was the conference champ. You knew something was brewing then, as they say."

Kraft said that her confidence level was

at the highest that he has seen in her career. As she grew more confident, Knight was able to beat her own records repeatedly over the course of the regular season before she reached higher marks.

Her attempt at the AAC Championships broke her previous personal-best and school-record of 4.18 meters, which she earned on May 2 during the last regular season meet, the Virginia Grand Prix. This

jump won her the event at the meet and placed her at the No. 1 seed in the pole vault as ECU headed to the conference championship.

Prior to the Virginia Grand Prix, Knight won the pole vault event on April 3 at the Bill Carson Invitational with a meet-record jump of 4.11 meters. In the 2019-2020

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indoor season, she set the indoor program record with a mark of 4.15, and she came close to this mark on Feb. 5 with a mark of 4.13 at the Brant Tolsma Invite. As Knight heads into her senior season, much is expected of her after continuous success in her junior campaign.

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