

PIRATES SOCCER PREPARES FOR NEXT SEASON'S SCHEDULE

Turn to A6



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 06.23.21



VOLUME 95, ISSUE 33



ROSE BOGUE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

"A Great Place To Be Outside" the latest mural, located alongside the 4th Street Parking Deck in Greenville, North Carolina, Uptown area.

Latest mural rejuvenates Uptown

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Uptown Greenville, North Carolina, received a new look with the addition of a mural on the 4th Street Parking Deck from East Carolina University alumni Karena "Kidd" Graves and Rakia Jackson's "A Great Place To Be Outside" and will continue to see improvement from multiple other art projects as a part of the city's Emerald Loop Project.



Emerge Gallery & Art Center Marketing Coordinator Sarah Lazure said the 4th Street Parking Deck mural project was put on hold in the spring of 2020 due to social distance guidelines put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper. She said the "A Great Place To Be Outside" painting began with a mural in February titled "Bubbles," by ECU alumnus Helen Lewis.

Jackson and Graves, the two artists who worked on the mural project, executed a creative idea to blend their mural with "Bubbles" by Lewis, according to Lazure. She said the mural features two hands connected to symbolize the connection to "Bubbles."

"It (the mural) will certainly be more engaging than just the concrete and brick," Lazure said. "These murals will tell stories. Karena (Graves) and Rakia (Jackson) were great about incorporating the bubbles from Helen Lewis' mural into theirs, so it actually connects content wise."

Additional future art projects are set to come to the Uptown Greenville area, Lazure said, one of which includes pavement artwork, titled "The Emerald Loop," set to be located at the Evans Street and Reade Circle intersection. She said the "The Emerald Loop" is the first of a series of works in a five-year Emerald Loop Project which will connect other artistic projects around Uptown Greenville.

"The Emerald Loop" pavement artwork is the first addition to the larger project, according to the timeline of the project on the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Instagram page. The Intersection Pavement Art will be located on Evans Street and Reade Circle and will begin June 27. The page said the pavement art was designed by artist team Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan from Seattle, Washington, and will feature multiple artists' work.

"The Emerald Loop is a conceptual necklace connecting Greenville's existing and envisioned cultural gems," the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge website said. "The 'Loop' is a multimodal circuit encouraging pedestrian traffic within the inner loop, and vehicular traffic within the outer loop. The goal is to connect our artistic and cultural gems, while simultaneously bringing together our neighborhoods and community."

Graves said the City of Greenville offers beautiful scenery with spaces to enjoy a variety of activities outside, so she and Jackson wanted to depict the beauty of nature in the city. She said the pair started "A Great Place To Be Outside" mural on June 11 and finished the art project on June 18.

"A Great Place To Be Outside" was a great opportunity to display representation of the

Greenville community in nature, Graves said. She said she wants people to look at the mural and feel included because they can see themselves in the mural.

"My favorite part about this ('A Great Place To Be Outside') is that I've been able to collaborate with another Black artist on the project, and being able to create another public piece, that will last a bit longer on a public space in Greenville, because the last set of murals we did together were only temporary," Graves said.

Jackson said she was excited to collaborate with Graves, another Black artist, on "A Great Place To Be Outside." She said she and Graves wanted to highlight Black people in the same spaces as other people while they enjoy the outdoors.

Jackson said she and Graves were able to execute their aspirations and they were able to integrate their idea with the existing mural "Bubbles" by Lewis. She said she is grateful for this mural project because she is one of the first artists whose artwork is included in the new public murals in Greenville.

"It's my first big collaboration. I've done the street mural on 1st Street, but this is a permanent one ('A Great Place To Be Outside')," Jackson said. "That was major for me to do a permanent project also created by Black artists, and it shows Black representation."

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



Rakia Jackson

Courses for next session set to begin

Chris Young
TEC STAFF

Second summer session courses at East Carolina University, which will be both in-person and online, start tomorrow and will run until July 30 as faculty and students continue to prepare for a successful academic season.

Assistant Vice Chancellor and University Registrar Angela Anderson said ECU's second summer session normally offers fewer courses to students.

"In the summer, students are often trying to make up lost credit hours or gain extra credits," Anderson said. "Most students in summer classes just want to make more progress toward earning their degree."

Anderson said she is excited to see ECU students return before the university's fall 2021 semester starts.

"We try to emphasize that we do have a lot of in-person things happening this summer," Anderson said. "The campus is alive, it's vibrant and students and staff are back moving around on campus."

Anderson said many academic courses offered in the fall and spring semesters at ECU do not operate as well in the summer's condensed time frames. She said the second session summer courses offered to students need to be completed within 38 days.

ECU Accounting Professor Douglas Schneider said he will teach an accounting course for the second summer session. He said while some summer courses are in person, his class will operate entirely online.

"I already have pre-recorded lectures for students to watch that I developed from scratch," Schneider said. "I will also hold continuous live sessions that will be open and available for questions and materials."

Schneider said he understands it may be harder for students to focus on their course load over the summer. He said his goal is to give students the best opportunity to succeed in their academic courses.

All summer courses will have weekly exams as opposed to what is scheduled throughout a regular academic year semester, according to Schneider.

"It's important to create some interaction and contact with the students in these summer classes," Schneider said. "The recorded lectures give students the chance to jump ahead on the syllabus and prepare for these exams."

Schneider said students in summer courses need to be extremely engaged and productive on a daily basis. He said students must also keep in close contact with their professors and other students to stay on track.

Over the second summer session, Schneider said he makes sure to schedule academic courses and activities to suit students' schedules. He said students need to be able to dedicate time each week throughout the remainder of the summer to study for their courses.

Junior biology major Jessica Bidwell said she will take the Community Health courses in the second summer session in a face-to-face format. She said she looks forward to this summer session as she has taken previous health courses throughout her freshman and sophomore year.

Summer courses help ECU students ease their schedules, stress and time loads throughout the academic years at ECU, according to Bidwell.

"I'm so excited to start my summer course. I've always enjoyed summer courses," Bidwell said.

Keeping in touch with professors and academic advisors is recommended for all ECU students, Bidwell said. She said the advisors and the entirety of the ECU community cares deeply about each and every student and wants to see them succeed.

"I absolutely love how ECU offers summer sessions for each major," Bidwell said. "Students are always able to ask their peers, advisors, faculty, for help or assistance whether it be for a specific course or their major or literally anything."

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

Vaccine incentives raise concern

Michelle Mazzei
TEC STAFF

In preparation for the fall 2021 semester, East Carolina University's administration plans to select random students who have obtained their COVID-19 vaccine and uploaded their vaccination card to MyPirateChart to receive incentives for the upcoming term, as the ECU community reflects on this decision.

In an email statement from ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers entitled "Campus Compliance and Immunization Update for ECU Students" sent on June 1, he said students will be randomly selected to obtain ECU football game tickets, sideline pregame passes along with A1 and B1 parking passes who have their vaccine. Students will also be exempt from COVID-19 testing, quarantine requirements as well as isolation that those students who are unvaccinated will be required to participate in.



Philip Rogers

"This fall, it will take all of Pirate Nation to get us back to the traditions we all know and love with as few restrictions as possible," Rogers said in the email statement. "The higher the vaccination rate on campus, the fewer controls we will need to stay safe."



COURTESY OF CLIFF HOLLIS | ECU NEWS SERVICES

Sydney Lewis receives a COVID-19 vaccination from Amy Welsh with Student Health Services.

Rogers said students and the entirety of the ECU community should continue to be compliant with the university as well as with North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's and North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 regulations.

The ECU community, Rogers said, can get their vaccines from Student Health Services (SHS) on ECU's campus or they can go to the "find a vaccine location" website to find a vaccination site in the Greenville, North Carolina, community.

"Please remain vigilant throughout the summer to stop the spread of COVID-19. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated," Rogers said in the email statement.

With these initiatives and incentives in place, the College Republicans of ECU posted a statement to its Instagram and Twitter accounts on June 1 where it said the incentives planned for students will divide the university community into two classes: those who

> COVID page A2

ONLINE

»Check out our poll on the 4th Street Parking Deck mural online

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

@theeastcarolinian

Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian

@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

'Body Blast Boot Camp' to continue registration

Today, through July 9, East Carolina University Student Affairs, Campus Recreation and Wellness and departments of Personal Training and Fitness will continue registration for the "Body Blast Boot Camp Session 2" at the Outdoor Pool Lawn of the Eakin Students Recreation Center. The program starts on July 5 and will run until July 28. Students will have opportunities to complete stations around functional, cardio and bodyweight exercises during sessions.

'Getting started on Research' to educate students

Today, the East Carolina University Office of Faculty Excellence will host "Getting Started on Research: How to Plan a Meaningful and Realistic Thesis/Dissertation Study" from 10 to 11 a.m. via virtual format. Attendees will obtain a link to view this seminar once they register for the event on the ECU Events Calendar website. Throughout the seminar, participants will discuss how to plan a research thesis, ask research questions, sample sizes as well as data analyses.

'Dishing up Data' seminar to be held

Tomorrow, the East Carolina University Office of Faculty Excellence will host "Dishing up Data - Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Part 2" from 11 to 11:30 a.m. via a virtual format. A link will be sent when attendees register. Discussions will be centered on IPEDS and how the program benefits universities all across the United States.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



CONTRIBUTED BY CLIFF HOLLIS

The mobile healthcare van implemented by East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine which offers Greenville community members general medical screenings.

BSOM provides mobile healthcare

East Carolina University's medical school continues van on the go

Chris Young
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine will continue to use specially equipped vans to provide healthcare and general medical screenings for Greenville's residents.

Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine in ECU's Brody School of Medicine Dr. Paul Bolin said the healthcare van can be used by any division at ECU but is most commonly used by the Health and Sciences Division. He said the project began last July when the division observed people didn't get treated for illnesses because they didn't have time to go to the doctor.

"People became interested in improving their chronic health conditions because of COVID," Bolin said. "We knew especially during that period of time, access to care was very difficult because people couldn't leave their homes."

Bolin said the Health and Sciences Division of the Brody School of Medicine decided the best way to get people medical treatment for high risk factors was to bring it to them. He said the other goal for the project was to go treat the most vulnerable patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since people either didn't have money or found the process of seeking medical attention too difficult, the Health and Sciences Division would screen people's mobility for high risk factors, Bolin said. He said the division would give these people advice on how to correct these factors such as heart and lung conditions.

"We haven't charged our patients anything for these screenings," Bolin said. "They're either paid for by the work sites which we operate on or we receive money through grants and foundations by the CARES Act."

Bolin said the goal of the Health and Sciences

Division is to continue the healthcare project after COVID-19 has concluded. He said the Health and Sciences Division will continue to provide healthcare and medical assistance to those in and around Greenville who can't receive it.



Paul Bolin

The healthcare project has taken place at over 15 work sites, such as the newest one in Dudley, North Carolina, according to Bolin. He said the van has more sites to go to and continues to

look for more locations in the community to assist residents with their medical needs.

"The project is really spread mostly by word of mouth, and we try to become involved with larger business organizations," Bolin said. "The project has been incredibly well received, and we've had a number of volunteers."

Professor in the Brody School of Medicine Paul Shackelford said the medical screenings which are conducted in the van are used to determine if someone has any high risk health conditions.

Shackelford said the project was used to screen people who were not in the school's medical records. He said this process helped to get more research on medical conditions and benefit people who couldn't get the medical attention they needed.

"(The van) targets people who work for a living and don't have time or resources to get medical attention," Shackelford said. "The best way to do this was to work with small businesses, where the van would set up and screen the employees."

Shackelford said the goal was not to make people come to them, but to reach out and provide healthcare to these people. He said time and money created issues for these families and the goal of the

project was to eliminate those two factors.

The healthcare project began as a way to conduct research for COVID-19 but has now become a way to provide general help to those who want it, Shackelford said. He said after the Brody School of Medicine acquired vaccinations, the project focused less on COVID-19.

"The project started before there was a vaccine, so we began looking for people we could do interventions on," Shackelford said. "The project was used to help educate people on how to avoid COVID and medicate for other health issues."

Shackelford said the goal of the project is to support the community, whether it be financially or medically. He said the healthcare van is used to both conduct research and provide medicine to those who need it.



Paul Shackelford

Junior accounting major Josh Toler said the mobile healthcare project is a great way to get the Greenville community involved. He said as a student at ECU it's nice to know that we have given back to the community.

"ECU has done something great for Greenville," Toler said. "With COVID ending and the focus being turned towards recovery, it's great to see that we are helping with that and providing help to people."

Toler said because many people don't have the money to afford medical treatment, especially since some people lost their jobs from COVID-19, this project was a great way to get people the care they needed.

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

COVID continued from A1

are vaccinated and those who are not. The social media posts said the College Republicans hope Rogers and the university reevaluate the approach they have set thus far for the upcoming fall 2021 semester.

Chairman of ECU College Republicans Zachary Kwiatkowski said the decision to post on social media about the COVID-19 incentives brought forth by the university administration was a group effort. Kwiatkowski said he and the entirety of the College Republicans believe in the freedom of choice and ECU students should have a choice as to whether or not to receive their COVID-19 vaccination without incentives put in place.

"They (College Republicans of ECU members) were all offended by the idea that people can get different parking passes that aren't even available to purchase (to students), you know, football, ticket perks," Kwiatkowski said.

The College Republicans of ECU alongside Kwiatkowski met with the university Student Vice Chancellor Virginia Hardy as well as Director of SHS Lanika Wright to discuss the statement approximately one week after the email statement from Rogers. He said he and Hardy both agreed the statement could've been more clear in terms of why the administration wants to have the ECU population get vaccinated.

Kwiatkowski said he believes the email statement from Rogers was thought to be misleading to students as the statement could be interpreted to solely persuade the ECU community to get their COVID-19 vaccines just to obtain the incentives offered. The College Republicans of ECU's statement still stands as of date of publication.

"I would have it (the email statement) go through multiple people that actually talk with the organizations on campus that represent large amounts of bodies of students that have different perspectives," Kwiatkowski said.

Vice Chairman of ECU College Republicans Joseph Verykoulis said it is unfair that ECU's administration offers incentives to those who are unvaccinated. He said if students choose to get vaccinated, their reward is that they're more immune to COVID-19 than those who are not.

It is unfair, Verykoulis said, that the administration of ECU would divide the university into one group of vaccinated individuals and then the other, unvaccinated people. He said the College

Republicans of ECU will continue to provide and voice its opinions to the ECU community and make sure all students are aware of all perspectives.

"Not everyone is going to agree with us. We do have to continue to speak out," Verykoulis said. "We're not pursuing conformity of thought or opinions, so we'll continue to voice the concerns of our members."

The ECU College Democrats have not had any comments about COVID-19 incentives as of date of publication.

Junior exercise physiology major Brianna Terranova said she does not agree with The College Republicans of ECU posts nor does she agree with the claims of discrimination The College Republicans have made.

Terranova said every student has a choice whether or not to obtain their COVID-19 vaccines and ECU's administration has and will continue to do what is best for the safety of the university population. She said although ECU's administration is and will not force vaccinations upon anyone, it is highly encouraged that everyone who is a part of the ECU community get vaccinated.

"Their most recent Instagram post included injudicious statements that stemmed from feelings of being 'left out,'" Terranova said. "Everyone has the right to freedom of speech. However, claiming to contact ECU for reevaluation of the incentives and making the university change their already hard decision, is childish. No one is being hurt by the incentives and if you want them, get your vaccine."

Terranova said students get incentives from organizations on campus, such as the Student Pirate Club or the university's Student Government Association for being a part of the group or going to the scheduled events. She said students who have an opportunity to get football tickets or parking passes are no different than those ECU organization's incentives.

It is understandable why some students may be hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine since it is fairly new and is not FDA approved, Terranova said.

Senior political science and security studies double major Xavier Williams said he does not



JASMIN RUSH | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University students walk on main campus with their face masks on due to COVID-19.

agree with The College Republicans' Instagram post about campus compliance and the incentives offered. He said he commented on the posts to voice his opinions of disagreement.

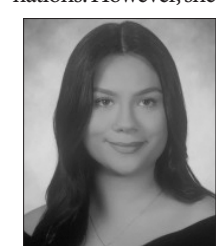
"It's a random selection. It's based on if you turn your vaccination card in. That's all. That's the point of it (the incentives) and it's not segregating people," Williams said. "It's very much like the lottery or if you buy into something, you have a chance of getting a reward, but you're not guaranteed that. You don't buy into it."

Williams said the incentives offered to students for getting their COVID-19 vaccines and uploading their vaccination cards are not intended to divide the ECU community. He said the university gives students these incentives and opportunities in order to have a successful, safe and in-person fall semester.

ECU could have given students, faculty and staff a different approach, Williams said, as the incentives are in place to decrease the separation between students. He said to not further create a divide amongst ECU students, The College Republicans of ECU need to be fully aware of the university's goals as well as the university community's hopes for the fall 2021 semester.

"I just wish that organizations like the (ECU College) Republicans would be conscious of what they put out online, because they do have a large following, whether they realize it or not," Williams said. "Words mean things. Things that we say may have a negative impact, whether we see it or not."

Junior biology major Reagan Taylor said to have a more normal fall 2021 semester, the ECU community should obtain their COVID-19 vaccinations. However, she said she does not agree with



Reagan Taylor

the university incentives that are offered. She said students should not be rewarded for doing the right thing.

Taylor said she feels as if the College Republicans of ECU are trying to somehow be oppressed for something that is not oppression.

"People and groups affiliated with political parties at East Carolina (University) shouldn't be making this any sort of a political argument when it is more in fact the health and welfare of students and faculty," Taylor said. "It's not necessarily political at this point. You can't honestly really be oppressed because you're not getting the free incentives that people who are vaccinated are getting just because you're not."

Taylor said ECU continues to do everything they can while the COVID-19 pandemic nears its end. She said the Daily Screening emails the ECU community obtains via the emails everyday is a beneficial initiative brought forth by the university administration.

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

EVENTS

TODAY

Outdoor Yoga with Purple Blossom

Town Common
100 E. 1st St.
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
252-364-2917

Open Mic Night

Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
8 to 10 p.m.
252-227-4151

TOMORROW

Concert on the Common

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

FRIDAY

Aerial Workshop

Purple Blossom Yoga
302 Evans St.
6 to 7:15 p.m.
252-364-2917

Chirba Chirba Food Truck

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

Pride 2021 Celebration

Greenville Museum of Art
802 Evans St.
6 to 8 p.m.
252-758-1946

SATURDAY

DIYOGA: Tie-Dye & Yoga

Greenville Museum of Art
802 S. Evans St.
9 to 11 a.m.
252-758-1946

NAMI Pride at Town Common

Town Common
105 E. 1st St.
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
252-329-4200



The Burp Wagon food truck posted at Pitt Street Brewing Company in Greenville, North Carolina, offers menu items from several local restaurants in the city.

The Burp Wagon elevates flavor

Christy's Euro Pub owners work to expand Greenville cuisine

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Owners of Christy's Euro Pub Tandi and Jacob Wilson, have added a new food truck to Greenville, North Carolina's, cuisine, The Burp Wagon, which will feature a combination of menu items from their other Uptown restaurant, Dickinson Avenue Public (DAP) House and upcoming South American fusion restaurant, Side Bar.

Jacob Wilson, the executive chef at DAP House, said he had the idea to name a food truck The Burp Wagon for years. He said The Burp Wagon will continue to serve a combination of menu items such as egg rolls, wings and smoke-house nachos, all similar to food from the menus at Christy's Euro Pub, the DAP House and Side Bar.

"It's a fun, funky name," Jacob Wilson said. "I've always wanted to name it (food truck) something glutinous and playful. We thought people would love it or they would hate it. In the food truck business you have to stand out."

There are no designated locations for the food truck right now, according to Jacob Wilson. He said he will continue to work with different breweries and locations around the City of Greenville, such as Pitt Street Brewing Company and Jarvis Street Bottle Shop, to figure out a secure routine schedule for the truck. However, community members can go to The Burp Wagon website, Instagram or Facebook pages to see the truck locator.

Jacob Wilson said they plan to have a sched-

uled route once they are situated so people will know where they are around town every day of the week. He said they plan to be near the East Carolina University campus in the fall of 2021 and hopes students will like their menu items.

"It's highly likely we'll be spending some time at the University Auto Care parking lot," Jacob Wilson said. "We're going to be at First Street Place for move-in day and during the week days. We'll be catering a lot to the ECU campus, and then on the weekends we'll be at other locations."

Tandi Wilson said she and her husband will partner with Christy's Euro Pub Kitchen Manager Kevin Kayes for their new restaurant, Side Bar. She said Side Bar will be located in the building where Trollingwood Brewery once stood, which is next to their sister restaurant DAP House.

The grand opening date for the Side Bar restaurant will be announced sometime in the future, according to Tandi Wilson. She said they hope to open the restaurant before the end of the summer of 2021.

"We are partnered with the Junior League for the concert on the Commons" Tandi Wilson said. "We're doing one of the umbrella markets in July, Pitt Street Brewing Company, Jarvis Street Bottle Shop."

The Burp Wagon Manager and Chef Eric Amato said he has worked closely with Jacob Wilson and Tandi Wilson for over three years. He said the menu idea for The Burp Wagon is a combination of menu items served at DAP House, Christy's

Euro Pub and Side Bar.

Amato said Side Bar will serve South American fusion dishes, drinks and a bar menu. He said the restaurant's menu will have all different sorts of unique recipes, however, prices have not yet been set for the restaurant.

"Egg rolls from Christy's (Euro Pub), pulled pork that comes with pepper jack cheese and slaw that comes with Carolina mustard on there; exactly what they do at Christy's," Amato said. "We have peach barbecue wings, smokehouse nachos. Something new to the truck is a fried chicken sandwich dunked in kind of what's trending all around is the Nashville hot sauce with a smoked gouda and an Alabama white slaw"

ECU students can eat affordable quality food at The Burp Wagon, according to Amato. He said the food served on the food truck is well portioned and at an average price from \$9 to \$10.

Amato said there are affordable appetizers like fries for \$3, wings and egg rolls from \$6 to \$8. He said there is nothing dull on their menu and he recommends people try the food out for themselves.

"I think (ECU) students are going to love this truck; it's like a no holds bar kinda place," Amato said. "Everything is a little bit spicy, a little bit cool. It's trending stuff. There's nothing about it that's going to be boring. We're excited to be a part of the community and be where we can be at all times and around as much as we can so people can come check us out."

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



Jacob Wilson



Eric Amato

Alcohol makes return to Umbrella Market

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

Uptown Greenville's Umbrella Market held each Wednesday at Greenville's Five-Points Plaza, located at 500 Evans St., welcomed the recent return of alcoholic beverages on June 2 after their absence in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Robin Ashley, market manager of the Umbrella Market, said the market has now completed the full return to normal operations after the COVID-19 pandemic. A beer garden provided by Uptown Greenville and live music from various musicians has returned to complement and complete the Umbrella Market's environment.

Both alcohol and live music have returned to the weekly Umbrella Market as of June, Ashley said, following a gradual return to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic. Ashley said alcohol was left out of 2020 and early 2021 Umbrella Markets since large gatherings were not encouraged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's COVID-19 restrictions set in place.

John Benson, the musician for the week's Umbrella Market event, took the stage for a classic rock performance at the June 16 Umbrella Market to provide live music, Ashley said. Live music officially returned to the Umbrella Market after the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2021.

"It's really just a lot of fun. People enjoy coming out to the market to just hang out," Ashley said. "So, you know, grab something to drink, and walk around, listen to the music, have something from the food truck, and just spend some time browsing through the different vendors and what they have to offer, and just kinda take the time and enjoy the afternoon. It's really a great social event."

One new vendor at the market, Ashley said, includes artist Kat Jones who sells handmade gifts and pins. Ashley said Jones will be at the June 23 Umbrella Market event as well as future weekly events. She said the Greenville Museum of Art also plans to work on a promotion at the Umbrella Market as markets continue throughout this summer of 2021 until August.

She said the Umbrella Market patrons can expect fresh produce such as fruit in the form of blueberries



John Benson



The Umbrella Market of Uptown Greenville, North Carolina, provides community members with the return of alcoholic beverages.

and blackberries, from vendors such as Southside Farms in Chocowinity, North Carolina.

"It's a really good way to support the local community and local businesses. All of the vendors are from eastern North Carolina, from the area, mostly Pitt County, a few from outside," Ashley said. "It's a good way to see what the community has to offer, as far as fresh produce, art, crafts, gifts, soaps, you know, just all kinds of different products."

Lori Cortright, owner of Happy Hummus, said she attended the weekly event as a vendor. Cortright's goods offered to Greenville community members at the Umbrella Market included small batches of hummus which consisted of several varieties such as rosemary and olive oil. Cortright said she acquired the business in the fall of 2020 and decided to join the Umbrella Market in May of 2021.

Janet Rollins sold handmade jewelry and other gifts for her business, Designs On You at the Umbrella Market on June 16. Rollins said she worked at East Carolina University within the student media organization until 2019. Rollins said she has practiced her hobby of making jewelry for 30 years. She said she sells and

will continue the jewelry products she crafts to local residents of the City of Greenville at the Umbrella Market events.

"It's fun. It's nice to be outside, to make new friends, meet new people and put a little money in your pocket," Rollins said.

Miriam Lewis said she acts as the face of Little Creek Market, an eight-year old business and seven-year Umbrella Market attendee family owned farm. Lewis said the Little Creek Market sells items such as pecans, kale, pork and other vegetables and fruits raised on the farm.

Lewis said she's come to get to know the patrons of the weekly Umbrella Market, and looks forward to the Umbrella Market every Wednesday throughout the summer. She said the Umbrella Market gives the chance for people in the community to get to know the people who produce their food in the area.

"We try to grow things that are different from the regular meat and potatoes kind of gardening staple," Lewis said. "We always grow tomatoes, but like kale, spring peas, and we grow heirloom tomatoes and heirloom potatoes. The more strange, and more unusual the vegetable, the more we try to grow it."

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



Lori Cortright

OUR VIEW

Study abroad return will benefit ECU

After over a year of COVID-19 halting study abroad and international travel for East Carolina University, the ECU Office of Global Affairs (OGA) plans to restart study abroad programs once more for all students due to pandemic regulations easing.

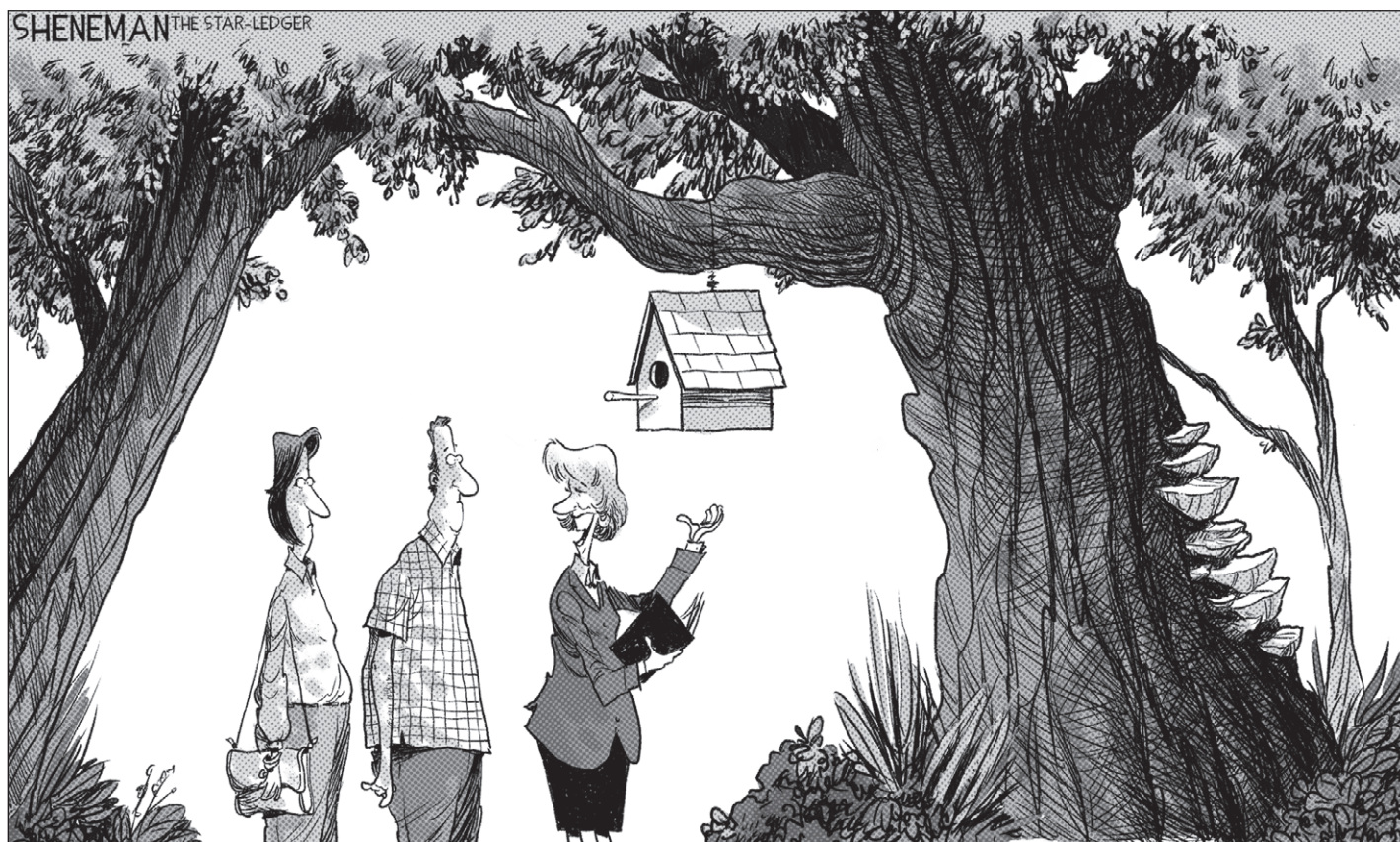
Director of Global Affairs Jon Rezek announced the OGA has approved the study abroad trip to Tuscany, Italy for the 2021-2022 academic school year. Rezek also said the OGA will accept proposals from faculty members for faculty-led study abroad programs for summer of 2022. The office will evaluate the locations of the proposed programs based on the COVID-19 rates in the country and its healthcare system.

The office will implement a new program in spring 2022 and summer 2022 called the Virtual Exchange to Study Abroad (VESA). VESA was created to link virtual exchange programs and connect ECU students to students from other countries across the world.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, appreciate the efforts the OGA is taking to resume study abroad programs for ECU students while keeping the COVID-19 pandemic in mind throughout the decision making process. We also appreciate the alternative solutions the OGA has found for students who are not completely comfortable with traveling abroad but want to gain a global experience.

Studying abroad provides students with important knowledge about the world and offers them the experience to learn what other cultures are like.

We encourage students to take advantage of the study abroad programs offered while still being mindful of the ongoing pandemic. We also hope the OGA will do the best it can to monitor the pandemic in other countries to keep our fellow Pirates safe when they decide to travel abroad.



Political division is unnecessary

People should not be ridicule for their personal beliefs



Chris Young
TEC COLUMNIST

Whether it is a belief or just an opinion, it seems one's own ideals are always wrong. A lot of people in today's society refuse to hear about views that oppose their own and this way of thinking has begun to cause conflicts.

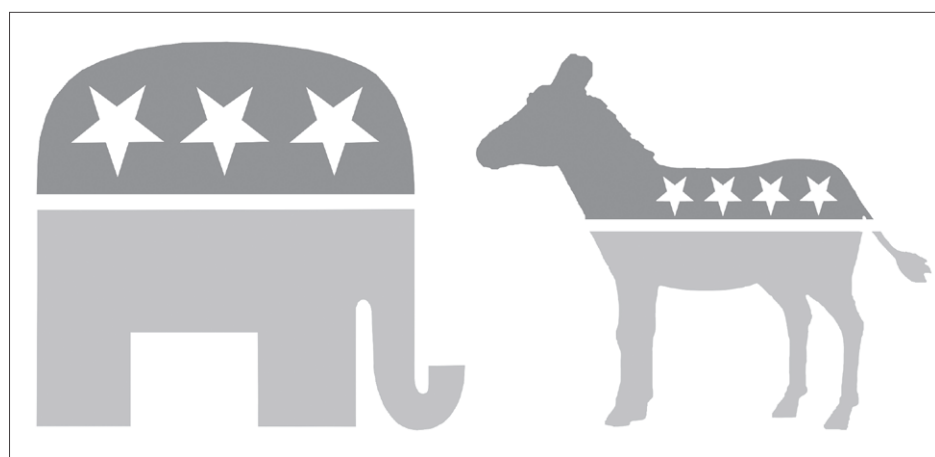
Politics are some of the most controversial topics in the world and this is because we have been taught to oppose any belief that isn't ours. When someone of a certain party has an opinion that another party disagrees with, they are ridiculed for it.

There is no winner in politics because no matter what you do or say, you can't please everyone. This is only made worse when people jump to conclusions or attack others when they hear anything they deem wrong.

With today's technology, research on any sort of topic can be found on your phone in just a few clicks, and yet some people still refuse to look into the issues they defend or oppose. Fear of being proven wrong has led many people to be blinded by their ideals.

There are so many examples of these kinds of topics, where people give an opinion on the matter and are bullied and harassed for it. Opinions on topics such as abortion, regardless of which side you're on, are met with hate.

Another great example of this divide between us is voting. On one hand, if you



DESIGNED BY SAM HEIDSICKL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Individuals are free to make their own political beliefs without being harassed or judged for it.

vote for the Democratic party, you are deemed a communist and sensitive or if you vote for the Republican party, you are racist and sexist.

People need to stop taking one bad experience and using that to justify hating an entire group or idea. This is exactly why racism is such a big problem, no one race or person is better than another.

Regardless of race or gender, we are one people and we can only succeed together. The only way to move past this is to listen to what others have to say and attempt to be more understanding.

The best solution for this problem is simple, people need to spend more time listening and doing research on the topics they disagree with. For many people, their first instinct is to respond with negativity which only leads to more disagreements and eventually even violence.

I always try to hear both sides of a story before making a decision and

I can't justify responding with hate to something you disagree with. In this era of beliefs and opinions, there are no winners because so many people just refuse to listen.

Opposing ideas are everywhere and each person is entitled to their own beliefs. When we continue to be intolerant of the things we dislike, we push the divide between us as one people further and further.

No matter the circumstance, people will always disagree with one another, but the problem lies with the inability to accept that. It's OK to have a different opinion, but it is never okay to use it as a reason to ridicule someone.

Young is a junior majoring in communications and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

OUR STAFF

- Chloe Easton** Editor-in-Chief
- George Martin** Managing Editor
- Giana Williams** Copy & Opinion Editor
- Michelle Mazzei** News & Arts Editor
- Cayla Menges** News & Arts Chief
- Brendan Cavazos** Sports Editor
- Rose Bogue** Creative Director
- Celeste O'Brien** Production Manager
- Frank Liu** Assistant Production Manager

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

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

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

Contact Info

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

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Student debt should not be feared



Jennifer Sieg
GUEST COLUMNIST

If there's one thing students are most aware of, it's that college can be extremely expensive. Aside from tuition alone, there are several expenses that come with being a college student, but it's important to remember to have a positive mindset.

There will always be fees, rent, insurance and so much more to tackle alongside day-to-day courses and tasks as a student, but the student-debt perspective needs to change. In general, the word "debt" sparks a sense of trouble and fear, especially for someone who has yet to experience debt at all.

When it comes to the idea of student debt, so many people become concerned, anxious and worried. I believe this stems from the negative tone the term "debt" has associated with it. Yet, an education is not detrimental, it is a tool used to further a career.

Future students and current students should be taught the concept of money, loans and debt before they go to college with the idea of having thousands of dollars of loans under their belt.

"I don't want to be in debt if I go to college," is what I hear most people say. To be fair, it's what I said to myself when I tossed the idea of a four-year university around during my junior year of high school. To

"Future students and current students should be taught the concept of money, loans and debt before they go to college with the idea of having thousands of dollars of loans under their belt."

-Jennifer Sieg

my 17-year-old self, the idea of spending thousands of dollars that I did not have on education was an insane thought for me. It's an insane thought for many.

This anxiety can be overwhelming and distracting. It can lead to missed opportunities and unwanted stress. Students spend years worrying about what will happen post-graduation, asking themselves if they will be able to land a job that will cover monthly student loan payments, rent and other expenses at the same time. Worrying about money is time-consuming, and students need to learn how to manage it.

A large amount of worry only causes a spiral of emotions and a potential set of unfortunate events in its footsteps. It's important to learn how to turn a negative mindset into a positive mindset to ensure success during a student's college years and post-graduation.

A college student's education is an asset that nobody can take from them. When someone takes out a loan for school, ultimately, they've now invested in an education that can never be taken away. Student

loans should not be a scary thought, it should be motivating.

Students already have enough on their plate when it comes to handling a full course load, working a part-time or full-time job and just simply learning how the adult world works for the first time. Don't get me wrong, it's crucial to worry sometimes. The key, however, is to manage that worry and not let it consume the mind.

A degree is not a car, it's not a house and it will never depreciate in value. It is something to be proud of and the overly frightening idea of student debt should not keep anyone from pursuing what they wish to pursue.

As a first-generation college student and one who works diligently for my education, my advice to others would be to not worry so much and take action. Study hard, work hard and instill a sense of value in your education.

Sieg is a senior majoring in communication and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.



Head coach of the East Carolina University women's soccer team Jason Hamilton leads his team as it stands at attention during the national anthem in preparation for the match ahead. COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

Pirates soccer prepares for full schedule

Head coach Jason Hamilton looks to challenge his team in the 2021 season

Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

Last season, East Carolina University soccer ended the season with a 3-6-2 record, and this season head coach Jason Hamilton was able to put together a schedule to give his team the best chance at winning.

The Pirates' season came to an end on April 15 when they fell to the University of South Florida Bulls 0-1 in the American Athletic Conference (AAC) Women's Soccer Championship. ECU was ranked No. 4 at the end of the season.

Graduate student defender Carsen Parker and graduate student Kim Sanford made AAC All-Conference Second Team. Sophomore defender Annabelle Abbot made the AAC All-Rookie team last season and sophomore goalkeeper Maeve English was unanimously selected for the team as well. Hamilton said he was ecstatic for four of his players to earn such awards.

"To be recognized as someone who can make an immediate impact in this conference is truly an honor," Hamilton said. "They (Parker

and Sanford) have played a lot of minutes over the past three years for us and have been a huge part of our success."

This 2021-22 season, the Pirates will be able to play a full schedule with 17 regular-season games. Hamilton set up the schedule in a way where his team will play its conference games in the second half of the season. The Pirates will have eight AAC games and nine non-conference. Eight of the 17 games will be hosted at the Johnson Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina.

The team's season will start with two exhibition matches. On Aug. 10, the team will travel to Longwood University in Virginia and on Aug. 14 they will host the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The regular season will officially begin on Aug. 19 when the team returns to Virginia to play Old Dominion University in the season opener.



Jason Hamilton

"We have put together a very challenging schedule for the 2021 season," Hamilton said "We wanted to push ourselves in the non-conference schedule to help us prepare more for the AAC."

ECU will have its first home games on Aug. 22 and Aug. 26 against Virginia Military Institute and the University of South Carolina. The Pirates will be back on the road on Aug. 29 when they play High Point University. Two home games will follow as ECU hosts Campbell University on Sept. 2 and Virginia Commonwealth University on Sept. 5.

The last three non-conference games are Sept. 9 versus Duke University, Sept. 12 against Williams & Mary and James Madison University on Sept. 19.

"Some of the teams like VCU and Old Dominion, we know we will get a tough game as always, then we've added Big South Conference champions High Point and Big South Tournament champions Campbell, who were both great this year," Hamilton said. "South Carolina and Duke will be two bigger

challenges that we haven't seen since I've been here. It is always exciting to play teams like that."

Conference games will begin in Tampa on Sept. 16 when the Pirates will see the University of South Florida for the first time since the Bulls knocked them out of the AAC tournament last season. ECU will play Southern Methodist University on Sept. 23 and then get back on the road to play the University of Cincinnati on Sept. 30.

Temple University will travel to Greenville on Oct. 7. The last two away games will be played on Oct. 10 and Oct. 17 against the University of Houston and the University of Tulsa. After the Oct. 21 game against the University of Central Florida, the regular season will come to an end on Oct. 24 against Memphis University.

As the team will begin preseason workouts in August, Hamilton said she is thrilled to get a start on the upcoming season.

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

Men's golf welcomes the return of Kevin Williams

Markayla McInnis
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University men's golf ended its 2020-21 season on April 25 after tying for fifth place in the American Athletic Conference (AAC) Championship, in the upcoming 2021-22 season the team will strive for victory with help from new head coach Kevin Williams.

After last season ended on May 13, former head coach Andrew Sapp resigned and marked an end to his fourth season as a Pirate. Throughout the season, the Pirates placed highest in the ECU Intercollegiate tournament where they tied for fourth place.

In Sapp's last season, he led three players to all-conference honors and also helped the men achieve 12 top-five standings. Sapp not only led the team in golf but he helped lead them in the classroom as well. The Pirates received All-American Scholar Team Awards in 2018 and 2019.

Williams is a North Carolina native who graduated from ECU in 1985 and has also coached the Pirates in the past. From 1995 to 2005 he was the men's golf coach, head coach for women's golf from 2000 to 2005 and then again for the



Kevin Williams

women's team from 2006 to 2019.

"We are excited to welcome Kevin Williams back home," ECU athletic director Jon Gilbert said according to ECU Pirates. "Kevin has all the characteristics we were looking for in a coach. He brings a winning mentality, he is an outstanding recruiter and our team will benefit from his leadership and expertise on and off the course."

In Williams' past coaching years in Greenville, North Carolina, he collected 44 individual championships, a .710 winning percentage, 23 All-American selections and 35 team titles. Those records included six tournament trophies for the men and 12 individual medals. For the women, he led them to 10 regional appearances and was named two-time Conference USA Coach-of-the-Year selection.

During his coaching career at ECU in 2000 Williams was head coach of the women's golf team as the program began that fall. In the first years of the program, four Pirates achieved player-of-the-year awards and 35 were all-conference picks. In his return, he hopes to build the men's program up and bring more awards home to Greenville.

"This opportunity provides the chance to take care of some unfinished business from my first stint as the men's coach," Williams said in a press release from ECU Pirates. "We have a



Head coach of the men's golf team Kevin Williams coaches senior women's golfer Dortha Forbrigg. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES

tremendous, yet exciting challenge ahead of us and I cannot wait to get started. Go Pirates!"

Before coaching, Williams was a golf player himself and he attained many honorable awards. He has qualified and competed in the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Club Professional Championship and Williams has managed to rack up eight Carolinas PGA Pro-Am Championships. Additionally, he has served on the board of directors with the Carolinas PGA Section for six years.

Williams was also the head golf professional of golf operations at the Kinston Country

Club for eight years. Before his current return to Greenville, Williams served as an assistant coach for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks where he helped lead the women's team to six titles and one overall top seed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Since men's golf is a spring sport, the team has not begun pre-season workouts. Next season's schedule has not been released yet but is set to begin in February 2021.

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

Gilbert explains new AAC positions, reveals responsibilities

Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University Athletics Director Jon Gilbert revealed his responsibilities for both the Finance Committee and the Athletic Directors Executive Committee as he was appointed to both committees by the American Athletic Conference on June 3.

Gilbert was reappointed to chair the conference's Finance Committee for a second consecutive term, where he will serve until 2022. He was also appointed to serve in a new position on the Athletic Directors Executive Committee through 2023.

Gilbert said his return to the Finance Committee will work similarly to his previous term in 2020 and be mainly focused on budget plans.

"It's an important role, as far as committees are concerned, where we work on budget and expenditures," Gilbert said. "And I am happy to represent ECU on that (finance) committee."

During Gilbert's first term, the committee held several meetings a year and was in regular

communication with the conference in regards to budget and other financial matters. Gilbert said he is glad to return to the position.

Athletic director of the University of Central Florida Terry Mohajir will join Gilbert on the staff of the committee and he will continue to serve through 2023.

Similar to his responsibilities on the Finance Committee, Gilbert said in his new role on the Athletic Directors Executive Committee he will be in conferences throughout the year to discuss several topics in the AAC.

"We'll have multiple calls/meetings a year to talk about the operations of the AAC," Gilbert said. "Policies, procedures, compensation, budget, anything of a significant nature, this executive committee would be prior to meeting with the full board of presidents and athletic directors." Along with Gilbert, athletic director at the



Jon Gilbert

United States Naval Academy Chet Gladchuk Jr. was appointed to the Athletic Directors Executive Committee and both will serve through 2023.

Gilbert mentioned that his position on this board will be beneficial for ECU athletics because of the university's involvement with the AAC.

"Well, it (the position) will have a positive effect," Gilbert said. "Because having a seat at the table to talk through the pertinent issues in the AAC is a direct benefit to ECU."

Decisions that are made during these conference meetings will affect all the sports teams in the conference. For example, during the AAC meetings from June 1 through June 3 in which Gilbert was appointed, there were rule changes in several sports that will be implemented into conference play in fall 2021.

Volleyball will no longer have an AAC Championships tournament, effective at the start of the 2021 season. Instead, the conference teams will play a 20-match double-round-robin

conference schedule during the regular season, and the team that finishes with the highest record as the No. 1 seed will earn the automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship. There was also a decision made which will allow video replay challenges for home facilities.

Other decisions included the return of four-umpire crews to AAC baseball games. The crew was initially dropped down to three umpires during the COVID-19 season. There was also a decision that will allow referees and assistant referees to wear headsets during men's and women's soccer conference matches.

ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers was also appointed to a new position on the Board of Directors Audit Committee, effective as of June 4. Jeannine Hutson, who works with ECU Campus Personal Relations, has not responded to an interview request for Rogers as of date of publication.

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