

East

THE MAGAZINE OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY®

WINTER 2016

Coming in first
Coach for life
Aiming for the pros



A healthy MATCH
School wellness program
stretches beyond N.C.

East

The magazine of East Carolina University
produced in partnership with the
East Carolina Alumni Association

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School wellness program stretches beyond N.C.

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On the cover: Chowan Middle School seventh-grader Chace Winslow stretches during a MATCH Wellness activity. Begun several years ago by Tim Hardison '82 '83 as part of his science class, the program has expanded through the Carolinas and to Mississippi. Story page 16.

Photo by Cliff Hollis

Nikki Beck, president of the Pirate Veterans Organization at ECU, places flags near Joyner Library in early November in a "Field of Honor," recognizing veterans and members of the armed services.

Photo by Cliff Hollis

Our editor, our Pirate

In the Winter 2006 issue of *East* magazine, brand-new editor Steve Tuttle introduced himself in this way to the Pirate Nation:

“I didn’t go to school here,” he wrote. “I am going to school here.”



A decade later, Tuttle’s two East Carolina University degrees hang in his office on the second floor of Howard House on Fifth Street, accenting the iconic view out his window of the Trustees Fountain and Wright Circle. He now holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication and also instructs students in that course of study.

It’s apparent that those 10 years transformed Editor Tuttle into a purple-and-gold icon in his own right. It’s equally apparent his steady and fastidious hand has transformed *East*, our university magazine, to a vehicle for compelling storytelling about ECU.

This issue marks Steve’s last with *East*. He will retire at the end of this year, trading in his editor’s pen for some free time and, from the looks of the camping-equipped truck he’s bought, a bit of the vagabond life.

As editing credentials go, Steve came up the hard way, through the rough-and-tumble of a newsroom at a daily newspaper. His approach to editing *East* reflects that grounding: Be thrifty with words, be timely, be factual and tell stories with a purpose.

After a decade under that kind of tending, *East* has matured from a fledgling alumni-oriented magazine into a comprehensive university magazine—a critical piece of growth that Steve has guided with teamwork and intentionality.

And, I would add, integrity.

When his choice of a photo for a story on an alumna who had won Miss USA was criticized as sexist, he took steps.

“I realized this was an important issue that obviously I was ignorant about, so I enrolled in a gender studies class. Over the next few semesters, I took several classes on the status of women in American society, and that’s now one of my favorite academic interests.”

What does Editor Tuttle have to say before he sets sail?

“Thank you for welcoming me into the Pirate Nation. And be sure to give back to ECU in thanks for what this university did for you.”

Thank you, Steve—our editor, our Pirate.

**WINTER 2016
VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2**

East is produced three times a year by East Carolina University in partnership with the East Carolina Alumni Association.

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Printed by RR Donnelley

C.S. 16-1431 29,500 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$14,669 or \$.50 each.

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The ECU Foundation supports many scholarships. Learn how to help a student struggling with finances at the foundation’s website, www.ecu.edu/ecuf.

Where is your money most needed? The colleges, schools and programs within ECU have defined their funding priorities and posted them here: www.ecu.edu/ecuf/funding-priorities.cfm.

Another way to support ECU is to join the East Carolina Alumni Association and receive the magazine as well as other benefits and services. Minimum dues are \$35. Visit www.piratealumni.com to learn how to remain connected.

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Clarification: In the fall 2015 issue of *East*, an article about the Stuart Wright Collection in Joyner Library also mentioned a collection of the work of poet A.R. Ammons. The two collections are separate.

Professor receives Holshouser award for work with veterans, others

For a career dedicated to improving the lives of others, East Carolina University professor Carmen Russoniello has received the 2015 Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service by the University of North Carolina system.

The annual award recognizes public service by faculty of the 17 UNC institutions. ECU is the only university with three recipients since it was first awarded in 2007.

"I'm awed by all that Governor Holshouser accomplished as a public servant and truly humbled to be recognized in his honor," Russoniello said. He accepted the award to a standing ovation Oct. 30 during the monthly Board of Governors' meeting in Chapel Hill.

Russoniello's contributions have spanned decades, beginning with his service as a Marine Corps machine-gunner and decorated Vietnam combat veteran. He has since focused on the use of recreation therapy in the form of

biofeedback and video games as an alternative to medicine for people with stress-related medical disorders, including veterans and victims of Hurricane Floyd.

"At ECU, we do value service. I'm a clinician, and as a clinician, I'm always looking for ways to help people," Russoniello said. He has undergraduate and master's degrees in recreational therapy and interdisciplinary studies from Eastern Washington University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Gonzaga University. He has more than 20 years of clinical experience as a therapist/counselor and works as scientific advisor to Biocom Technologies.

"What I learned through public service is what my mom tried to teach me: that doing for others is expected, and the rewards are the thoughts and feelings that maybe I've made as much of a difference in other people's lives as they've made in mine,"

Russoniello said.

At ECU, he is a professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies in the College of Health and Human Performance and director of the Center for Applied Psychophysiology.

Using biofeedback—the ability to view nervous system responses on-screen—in combination with recreational gaming, Russoniello has proved significant advances in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. Since 2000, he has been providing free services to residents of eastern North Carolina.

"That program saved my life," said U.S. Navy Corpsman Dustin "Doc" Kirby. "It gave me the tools that I needed to help myself instead of just numbing the pain and pushing it away." After four years of treatment in ECU's biofeedback lab, Kirby was able to attend college and start a family.

Severe anxiety, flashbacks, nightmares and uncontrollable thoughts are all symptoms of PTSD. The prevalence of it among previously deployed Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom service members is 13.8 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Traumatic brain injuries are also common in veterans and are similarly incapacitating.

Russoniello knows this well. He developed PTSD after losing a mentor, friend and fellow machine-gunner in his infantry platoon during the Vietnam War.

Years later, the experience would spark what he described as a "passion to determine the underlying physiological benefits of recreation or fun activities." Once he put his finger on that, he knew he would be able to use it to help people cope in significant ways.

Biofeedback technology turned out to be a big piece of the puzzle.



Cole Cruze paints the wall.

ECU, partners unite community through art

A colorfully painted cinderblock wall near campus helps illustrate an ongoing partnership between ECU and its neighbors.

The initiative, called Art + Community, brings ECU and the surrounding neighborhood together through the creation and installation of art. On Sept. 19, an estimated 500 people turned out at Third and Jarvis streets in downtown Greenville for a block party that included painting the wall, live music and fellowship.

"Some people painted for 10 to 15 minutes and others for two to three hours," said Kate Lamere, associate professor of art in the ECU School of Art and Design. "There was a sense of ownership."

ECU students and volunteers led by Scott Eagle, associate professor of art and director of graduate studies, spent several days outlining a whimsical underground scene on a retaining wall at the intersection, leaving lots of white space for block party guests to paint.

On Sept. 18, Eagle and Tim French, ECU graduate and art instructor at Pitt Community College, and ECU students Zack Cleghorn, Ritvik Verma, Lupita Nava and Shayla Thornton worked to finish the outline.

French, who is known for painting gnomes, had painted two or three on the wall. "I tend to hole up in my studio, so this was a chance to get outside and do something cool," French said.

Verma, a sophomore majoring in sports medicine, was out to gain extra credit for a class. "I'm not very good at art, but I love watching how art is made," Verma said. "I'm just going over the stray parts and outlining since I'm art challenged."

Cleghorn, a junior majoring in industrial engineering technology, said he loves helping people and giving back to the community. The Marine Corps veteran served seven years before a roadside bomb caused a brain injury that ended his military career. "So many people have put their hands on me and helped me along this path," said Cleghorn, who is the first in his family to attend college. "I have an awesome peer support group at ECU."

He is one of five ECU students picked as an inaugural Public Service Fellow, an outreach of the Art + Community initiative. The students will work 300 hours in local nonprofit or not-for-profit agencies this semester and will conduct a research project for the community. The fellowships are made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the State Employees Credit Union Foundation.

Art + Community started more than two years ago when a Greenville Police Department officer walked into the Jenkins Fine Arts Center, Lamere said.

The officer, Niki Cates, was seeking artists to create work for the force's Property Protection Initiative to reduce crime near campus based on the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

The thought is that residents who meet one another and get involved in making art will monitor and protect it, creating a sense of ownership and leading to a decrease in crime in the neighborhood.

ECU's Misun Hur, assistant professor of planning, had already formed a research team that was primed to work with Cates. Faculty in art and design, geography, planning and the environment and ECU Off Campus Student Services joined efforts with the police department, Tar River University Neighborhood Association, Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, University Neighborhood Association and Christy's Euro Pub to form Art + Community.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/artandcommunity or email artcommunity@ecu.edu.

—Crystal Baity



Carmen Russoniello



Jay Clark

Diversity commended

For the fourth consecutive year, ECU has been recognized by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine with its Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award.

National institutions are recognized with the HEED Award for exhibiting “outstanding efforts and success in the area of diversity and inclusion,” according to the award’s citation.

ECU is the only North Carolina institution to receive this distinction four years in a row.

“This award speaks volumes about the efforts across campus to increase diversity and inclusion at East Carolina University,” said LaKesha Alston Forbes, associate provost for equity and diversity. “We have initiatives and leadership in place at ECU that warrant the national recognition.”

Various committees and offices work toward making sure ECU has a diverse and inclusive environment, Forbes said, including the Chancellor’s Diversity Leadership Cabinet, the Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Women and the Diversity Committee in the Staff Senate.

ECU has prioritized diversity at every level, as shown in the 2014-2019 strategic plan. In the plan, 25 colleges and divisions include diversity as a goal.

In addition, the admissions office works with local minority organizations and Upward

BOUND programs to provide local students with exposure to a higher-education environment and information about the university. The office also works with grade-school and community college students to ensure that information about ECU is reaching underrepresented and minority students.

—*Jamitress Bowden*

Enrollment climbs

ECU enrolled 28,289 students this fall, the most in its 108-year history.

Undergraduate enrollment reached a historic high of 23,039, 3.54 percent above last year’s undergraduate enrollment, said John Fletcher, associate provost for enrollment services.

The new freshmen who entered ECU this fall are the best prepared in the university’s history with an average SAT of 1,061 and a weighted high school GPA of 3.76, Fletcher said.

Total graduate student enrollment remained steady at 4,731 students while first-time graduate students increased by 11 percent, said Paul Gemperline, dean of the Graduate School.

Enrollment figures are considered preliminary until reviewed and approved by the University of North Carolina General Administration.

—*ECU News Services*

Board initiates fundraising plans for Heritage Hall

ECU trustees voted Sept. 25 to raise \$300,000 by Dec. 1 to begin developing Heritage Hall, the place where the university will recognize people of historical significance to the university including the namesake of Aycock Residence Hall.

Trustees also voted to transition the Aycock name from the building as soon as possible once the money is pledged.

It’s estimated the hall will cost \$500,000.

“We as a board need to get behind Heritage Hall,” said Steve Jones, chair of the trustees. “We really need to get out and put some energy around raising this \$300,000.”

Jones asked that each board member consider making a personal donation. “If we don’t raise the amount by December, we need to keep working toward it and transition the name as soon as possible,” he said.

The vote came after concerns were raised at the trustees’ lunch meeting the previous day about a possible delay in transitioning the name since the hall will be part of a new Student Services Center that won’t be completed until 2018. The eventual Heritage Hall is intended to occupy a physical space in the student center as well as virtual space in a yet-to-be-developed timeline website.

Board members had not decided on a location for the hall when they voted to create

it in February. A working group was formed to make a recommendation on the location, which was approved by the board this summer.

Mark Matulewicz, Student Government Association president and ex-officio member of the board, said he was pleased with the board’s decision. “It’s a perfect example of how voicing student concerns can make a difference on the university as a whole,” Matulewicz said.

At the request of students and others, the board began discussions in 2014 about renaming Aycock Residence Hall, which honors Charles B. Aycock, a former governor, federal prosecutor and school superintendent who served as a spokesperson for white supremacy campaigns at the turn of the century.

In other news, the board voted to discontinue three centers and institutes whose work will be transitioned to existing departments. They are the Center for Health Systems Research and Development, the Center for Diversity and Inequality Research and the N.C. Center for Biodiversity. The board voted to keep the Center for Natural Hazards Research.

Trustees also approved hiring the firm LS3P (with AECOM) of Wilmington to design a new press box for Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

—*Crystal Baitly and Kelly Setzer*



Steve Jones



Molly Albecker

Graduate students share research on social media

Chances are ECU doctoral students are either in the field, in the lab, headed to one or just back from the other.

To find out, just log on to their social media accounts.

Biology students Molly Albecker, Daniel Newhouse and numerous others are among a new generation of researchers—graduate students and early career professors—who are embracing social media, blogs and websites to communicate with the public and their peers.

According to a 2014 Pew Research Center survey of scientists connected with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 98 percent of scientists talk with the public about science and research. Fifty-one percent speak with reporters, 47 percent use social media to discuss or follow science, and 24 percent have blogged about science and research.

Twenty-two percent described it as either “very important” (4 percent) or “important” (18 percent) for career advancement in their discipline to promote their findings on social media such as Facebook or Twitter.

“People are telling their stories sooner and see that need to tell their stories,” said Katie Mosher, communications director of N.C. Sea Grant. “They do want to share their science with broader audiences. It’s

extremely important, and I think the graduate students and early career faculty are recognizing that in greater numbers.”

Albecker, a doctoral student in the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy, said using social media allows researchers to communicate discoveries to people outside of academic circles. Social media also connects the researchers’ personality to the work they are doing, she added.

“I find that it is the easiest way to send out links to neat articles, display pictures of my research-in-progress, and other science-based things I find interesting or funny,” said Albecker, who uses her Twitter account (@Island_Frogger) as her primary means of science-based communication.

It also allows scientists to show their excitement and passion for their work, she added.

“In particular, connecting a face, a sense of humor and a real person to the research is especially important in recent times when scientists are sometimes portrayed as distant, unconnected and even untrustworthy,” she said. “Instead, researchers can show that they are regular people that are curious and motivated to understand our world and our place in it.”

Ariane Peralta, (@ArianePeralta) an assistant professor of biology, was one of a trio of biology faculty members who earlier this year

spoke with students about using social media to talk about science.

“The pros are that online networking through social media works for many types of personalities, it evens out the playing field—as an early career person you can connect with very established scientists in your field—(and) your reach is in real-time and global,” said Peralta. “Embracing social media as part of science allows you to enhance visibility of your work, curate your online presence and helps you keep up.”

Social media also makes it easier to stay in touch with colleagues and scientists in other disciplines.

But be careful, she warned. “There are no ‘take backs.’”

Nate Holland (@onecynicmedic), a doctoral student in the Department of Physiology at the Brody School of Medicine, says it’s important to give the public a chance to know what scientists are doing—and in terms the public can understand.

“I think services like Twitter are great for communicating with the lay public because the concise nature of the messages, such as character limits, really force me to distill my message to something easily digestible by the lay public and fellow researchers alike,” he said.

Newhouse (@oldhouse5), a biology doctoral student, said

he uses social media because it allows him to reach a much wider audience.

“Twitter is used by everyone, so it makes discussing research with scientists and the general public quite easy,” he said in an email. “Furthermore...I’m able to engage in discussions with researchers from all over the world.”

Social media also allows scientists to receive instant feedback about their methods and findings. “I see questions about which methods to use and how to analyze data every day on my Twitter feed,” Newhouse said. “Often times, several researchers will respond within minutes each offering their ideas.”

But social media feedback can go only so far.

“Nothing posted on social media is likely to reveal the nitty-gritty experimental and statistical methods that ultimately determine whether your conclusions are accurate and appropriate,” Albecker said.

Instead, she said, tweet links to publications.

Some scientific methods never get old.

—*Doug Boyd*



Daniel Newhouse



Chuck Bangley pilots the skiff with Ryan Mackenzie, grad student, at left.

Sharks put ECU graduate student in the spotlight

If you were at a North Carolina beach this summer, you might have wondered if a shark was swimming just beneath the waves.

With eight shark bites reported along the state's coast during a span of about four weeks in May and June, many people, including news reporters, were asking that same question. For shark expert and East Carolina University doctoral student Chuck Bangley, that meant more chances to talk about his work.

"North Carolina's not a very crowded market for shark people," he said. "I definitely appreciate being able to be helpful."

He guesses he did 15 media interviews during the summer, and he's also appeared on two *National Geographic Wild* specials, "When Sharks Attack" and "United Sharks of America."

In August, Bangley wrote a blog post for N.C. Sea Grant about his experiences with the media this summer following the shark bites. On Aug. 13, he spoke at a public

gathering at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences. A week earlier, he spoke at the N.C. Estuarium in Washington about his research of sharks in Back Sound near Beaufort.

"It seems overwhelming, but ultimately it's one of our jobs as scientists to provide answers to people when they need them," Bangley wrote in the Sea Grant blog.

Katie Mosher, communications director for N.C. Sea Grant, said Bangley is well-suited for that role. "Chuck has a natural ability to put research in terms the public can understand and he has an affinity—a need—to do that," she said.

In his media interviews, Bangley has emphasized one main point: Warmer ocean temperatures brought sharks to North Carolina this year sooner than expected.

From 2003-2014, coastal water temperatures rose 4 degrees Celsius in May and 1-2 degrees in June.

"It seems like we get these summer temperatures earlier, then they're here," Bangley said. "We're getting hotter faster."

What that means is sharks that would normally come into the area in midsummer are arriving in late spring—at a time when swimmers are just beginning to hit the water. Then as spring turns into summer, the sharks continue up the coast to New England.

"It's really a bright, clear connection to temperature," he said. And with 25 confirmed shark bites between 2005 and 2014, North Carolina ranks fifth in the nation for bites, according to *National Geographic*.

The warmer waters also appear to have created a new nursery for baby bull sharks: the Pamlico Sound. Looking at data from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Bangley has identified bulls along the west side of the sound and even into the rivers that feed it. He's found as many as 36 juvenile bull sharks in or near the sound.

"What it's showing is this species has the ability to find new nursery habitat if it has to," he said.

There is a benefit to having the sharks around. They keep patches of young aquatic plants free of fish that would feed on the juvenile fish that live among the plants.

But when a hot spring brings people to the beach at the same time the bulls are arriving, conflict is bound to occur.

"They're the apex predator shark that's most likely to overlap with people in the water," Bangley said. "They're big and powerful enough that an accidental bite can remove an arm."

Bangley contributes to the science blog Southern Fried Science at www.southernfriedscience.com. Follow him on Twitter at @spinydag. He blogs about "spiny dogfish, grad school and life" at yalikedags.southernfriedscience.com.

—Doug Boyd

Wave glider listens to and records ocean data

ECU scientists have been sending a small craft to navigate the North Carolina coast studying underwater noise and keeping tabs on tagged marine life all to better understand the ocean environment.

Called an acoustic wave glider, the device is an ocean-going robot that gathers data on acoustically tagged fish such as tuna, flounder and sharks; whales; plankton; and ocean environmental conditions. It's manufactured by Liquid Robotics and was funded by a \$281,393 grant from the National Science Foundation. ECU researchers have nicknamed the craft "Blackbeard."

ECU is among a handful of universities that have a wave glider and the only UNC-system school with one. Joseph Luczkovich, a biology professor

and specialist in the sounds fish make, said the device will provide a step forward in ECU's coastal research capabilities.

Cruising along the surface, it's about the size of an ironing board. ECU researchers tested it in August near the *Queen Anne's Revenge* shipwreck near Morehead City and Beaufort and deployed it again in September in the same area. Part of its initial work has been surveying an artificial reef established by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Important feeding grounds for endangered species of right whales are in the area off Shackleford Banks, and ECU researchers hope to document the songs of northern right whales as they swim past the coast, along with other fishes such as red drum, spotted seatrout and weakfish.



"There are less than 400 individuals of the northern right whales left on Earth, and most of them pass by our coast on their migration from the Arctic off Greenland to the tropics," Luczkovich said.

It also will provide data on the potential effects of oil and gas exploration and wind turbine development in coastal waters. These projects must be conducted and sited in ways that avoid or minimize impacts to whales and fish such as Atlantic sturgeon, an endangered species of ancient fish, Luczkovich said.

"Many of these fishes are tagged acoustically, so we can detect their movements with the wave glider as well," he said. Acoustic tags are small, surgically implanted sound-emitting devices that allow the detection and remote tracking of fish for fisheries research.

The wave glider can act as a stationary platform or be propelled to specific points using GPS technology. A submarine unit with wings or fins generates forward motion by wave action. Two solar panels provide energy for sensors.

ECU's model has a unique suite of sensors including a system for listening to and recording ocean soundscapes and sound-producing fishes and whales; an acoustic tag-detection system for finding tagged animals such as many fish species and sharks; and a fluorometer for measuring ocean color and plankton.

It also has a conductivity, temperature and depth sensor with oxygen-measurement capabilities. On the surface float

are instruments for monitoring waves, currents and surface meteorology.

"So far, we have detected bottlenose dolphins and striped cusk eels (a sound-producing fish) in our first deployments," Luczkovich said. "We are still analyzing the data; there was an acoustic algorithm match for right whale sounds, but that match has to be confirmed with our team after some additional work."

Blackbeard is operated over an Internet connection via a satellite link and reports regularly on its location and sends data to shore. It can be at sea for monthlong missions.

ECU researchers are collaborating with scientists at Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort and at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Scientists from the NOAA, N.C. State University, UNC Wilmington and the UNC Institute of Marine Science are also being kept abreast of the work the wave glider is doing.

"In addition, we are alerting the U.S. Coast Guard about the general location of these proposed wave glider deployments so they can produce a local notice to mariners," Luczkovich said. Boaters and commercial fishermen are urged to leave the wave glider alone. The device has warning labels on it, and people have been pulled overboard trying to grab a wave glider from a boat.

The public may follow the wave glider's deployments and key findings at its Facebook group, "Blackbeard Sails the Seas for Science."

—Doug Boyd



Rachel Roper, right, and research specialist Gwen Jones

Researchers aim for better vaccines, medicines

Scientists at ECU are taking a closer look at the intercellular war that goes on between viruses and the human immune system in an effort to design better drugs to target the germs.

Rachel Roper, an associate professor of microbiology and immunology at the Brody School of Medicine, is a principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health grant totaling nearly \$2.6 million to study the human-virus interaction.

“There’s a competition between a virus and the immune system as to which can amplify itself fast enough to beat the other,” Roper said. “If the virus wins, the human dies. If the immune system wins, the virus is—usually—eliminated

from the body.”

She brings special expertise to the research. In 2006, she discovered a poxvirus gene, A35R, which blocks the first step in the immune response. Methods of removing the gene from poxviruses, thereby increasing their safety and effectiveness, are now patented.

Her collaborator is Laurence “Ike” Eisenlohr of the University of Pennsylvania. At the time the grant was awarded, he was a faculty member at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Eisenlohr is an expert in immunology.

Researchers will focus on the relationship between CD4+

T cells—a certain type of lymphocyte, or white blood cell, which is critical for protection against most viruses—and two prototypical poxviruses that have developed ways to avoid being recognized by CD4+ T cells. Scientists will look to uncover those detection-avoidance methods and gain insight into how the immune system circumvents them.

What scientists learn about how A35R works inside the cell and how it blocks immune cell functions could point to improved vaccines and new ways to treat autoimmune diseases, Roper said.

Poxviruses have been commonly used to develop vaccines in humans, but a key limitation has

been what is called a “virulence gene.” Viruses, having co-evolved with humans over millennia, are adapted to exploiting vulnerabilities in human immune systems. These genes, including A35R, suppress the immune system to allow the virus to proliferate in the human host.

In addition, poxviruses are used to create vaccines for many other diseases—rabies, malaria and Middle East respiratory syndrome, to name three. Poxvirus-derived vaccines are also used to treat cancer and are the only ones thus far that have protected humans from HIV in clinical trials.

“Our data indicate that the use of our A35 discovery will improve the safety and efficacy of all these vaccines,” Roper said.

A35R may also provide a target for drug design. “If we can find a drug that blocks A35, we will have a new antiviral drug,” Roper said.

Finally, Roper said, if scientists can find out how to use A35R or mimic its actions, they might be able to turn off the responses that cause autoimmune diseases such as lupus or prevent rejection of transplanted tissues and organs.

Roper’s lab will receive approximately \$624,000 from the four-and-a-half-year grant. The title of the study is “MHCII cross-presentation as a driver of CD4+ T cell responses to poxviruses.”

—Doug Boyd

ECU awarded \$2.5 million to boost geriatric health care

North Carolina’s geriatric population is the fastest-growing segment of the state’s population. If projections hold, the number of adults over the age of 65 living in the state will double by 2030.

To help address the pressure these demographic shifts will put on the state’s health care system, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is giving the ECU College of Nursing a three-year, \$2.5 million grant through its Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. The grant will allow ECU to implement an interprofessional education model focusing on geriatrics, train primary care providers to meet the specific needs of elderly patients and deliver community-based programs that address the needs of older adults and their families.

“We’re building a comprehensive approach to caring for our region’s older adults,” said Sonya Hardin, the grant’s primary investigator and interim associate dean for graduate programs in the College of Nursing. “We’ve lacked this in primary care and it’s going to become very important as we have more patients with chronic illnesses needing more specialized resources.”

Here are the objectives of the ECU program:

- Implement interprofessional education where nurse practitioner, physician assistant and medical students treat

patients together at retirement communities.

- Train primary care providers through geriatric screening offices at regional facilities and through podcasts.
- Provide community-based education for farmers, loggers and fishermen.
- Extend dementia and Alzheimer’s education to students, faculty and the primary workforce of the region.

The College of Nursing will partner with the Brody School of

Medicine Division of Geriatrics, the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, the ECU-based N.C. Agromedicine Institute and multiple regional partners. Together, their work will focus on eastern North Carolina—a rural, underserved region where citizens are in poorer health than the rest of the state. Although the state ranks 38th in premature mortality, if only the 41 counties of eastern North Carolina were represented, it would rank 45th nationally.

Aging patients present specific challenges for the health

care system. They often have additional diseases that can complicate treatment. Geriatric patients also tend to take more routine medications, lack support systems and be at heightened risk for injury or death from accidents such as falls.

“This is a tough group of folks to take care of,” said Dr. Kenneth Steinweg, director of geriatrics at Brody. “They’re very frail, and they have reduced reserves, so you have to be very careful making adjustments for that.”

—Elizabeth Willy



Sonya Hardin works with patient Geraldine McCombs.

100 YEARS AGO

Wright pushes teacher standards



In his acceptance speech upon being elected president of the N.C. Teachers Assembly in 1916, ECTS President Robert Wright makes headlines by proposing to consolidate 108 local school systems, which set many of their own rules, under statewide uniform teaching standards and required credentials. He also calls for removing politics from the process of selecting county school superintendents.

75 YEARS AGO

Student teachers outgrow Greenville



In the 1941 winter quarter, 112 education majors need student teaching slots, but the Greenville city schools can accommodate only 100. “A new step in the development of the practice teaching system...is being taken this term in the placing of seniors in communities outside of Greenville to do their practice teaching and live in the community like a regular teacher,” the *Greenville Daily Reflector* reports Jan. 8, 1941. That means these students—all women—won’t be returning to their dorm rooms at night. But they aren’t going far. “Seven seniors have started this week to do their teaching in the high school in Ayden and five in Farmville,” the *Reflector* says.

50 YEARS AGO

Bennie Teel makes news



Bennie Teel '67 of Greenville becomes the first African-American chosen as managing editor of *The East Carolinian* student newspaper in spring quarter 1966. Later that year, he becomes the first black student from ECU selected for *Who's Who*. Teel continues his education at Harvard, where he works for five years as a tutor to students living in Adams House, one of Harvard’s most prestigious residence halls. He was about to complete his doctorate at Harvard in romance languages when he died in July 1985 at age 39. Adams House alumni created a cash prize to be awarded annually to “an Adams House senior who has served the house with the same generous, gentle, and happy spirit as Benjamin Teel.”

25 YEARS AGO

Nurse midwifery is born



East Carolina receives \$680,000 in grants in February 1991 to fund creation of a nurse-midwife degree program. The aim is to lower the infant mortality rate in the East, which then was 17.4 per 1,000 births, compared to 12.6 percent statewide. ECU partners with county health departments to deliver more prenatal care programs. The first class of nurse midwives graduates in 1992. ECU has the only nurse-midwifery program in North Carolina and one of only 39 in the U.S.



Mary Pinion, Anthony Thomas and Dr. James Powell

ECU a critical partner in nationwide blood pressure study

ECU has played a leading role in a clinical trial that may change the way health care providers treat high blood pressure.

Landmark research involving Brody School of Medicine faculty and patients has shown that more aggressive use of medications to lower systolic blood pressure below common recommendations significantly improves cardiovascular outcomes.

Nearly one in three American adults has high blood pressure, or hypertension, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The condition is a leading risk factor for heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and other health problems. Blood pressure levels can be influenced by genetics, diet and lifestyle.

The National Institutes of Health sponsored the multifaceted Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial—the largest study of its kind to date. Launched in 2009, it includes more than 9,300 participants ages 50 and older with high blood pressure and an increased risk of heart or kidney disease. Approximately 250 of those participants—the second-largest group within the national trial—are receiving care at the Brody School of Medicine.

“Due to the large representation of our patients in this trial, we feel very comfortable translating these findings into the patient population we serve here in eastern North Carolina,” said Dr. James Powell, ECU chief of general internal medicine and the primary investigator for ECU’s trial site, who enrolled the first patient of the entire trial.

According to the 2013 Behavioral

Risk Factor Surveillance System—managed by the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics—approximately 35.5 percent of adults reported being “told by a doctor that they had hypertension.” In the East, that rate was even higher at 38.9 percent. Even more alarming was the percentage of African-American respondents in the region who reported being told they had hypertension: 46.6 percent.

Patients in the SPRINT study were randomly divided into two groups. One group received an average of two medications to keep their systolic blood pressure at 140, while the other group was given “intensive treatment”—averaging three medications—to lower their blood pressure to 120. Systolic blood pressure is the “top number” in a blood pressure reading that measures the pressure in the arteries as the heart muscle contracts.

Initial findings demonstrate that intensive treatment reduces the rate of heart attacks, strokes and heart failure by a third—and the risk of death by almost 25 percent—in the patient population studied. Reaching that conclusion before the trial’s scheduled closure date prompted researchers to end this particular arm of the study earlier than expected.

“Optimum blood pressure targets have been debated by experts in recent years, but this is the first trial of any size that provides evidence of improved outcomes in all participants as a result of reducing systolic blood pressure to below 140,” said Dr. Paul Bolin, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Brody and sub-investigator for the trial.

Although the results still need to be confirmed, Bolin believes this study could potentially increase the number of hypertension diagnoses in America. “The financial consequences of that are enormous, so we need to get it right,” he said.

Bolin cautioned people to talk to their primary care providers to determine whether this lower goal is best for their individual care.

“Every time you add a medicine, you add the chance of a side effect. And every person is different. We have to remember that we’ve only been treating hypertension in this country for a relatively short period of time,” Bolin added. “This study may change the way we practice medicine in the future, but not the way we practice it today.”

Each patient in the study was prescribed medication based on medical history and protocol that would help the patient achieve their blood pressure goal.

“You look at potential side effects, you look at the patients and try to find the right (medication),” Powell said. “Every medicine that was used in this study is medicine that we have been using for a number of years. We were using meds that had been tried and true, and that’s what adds a lot of weight to the findings.”

Over the next several months, Brody’s SPRINT trial participants will transition back to their primary care providers for their health care. Bolin stressed that ECU researchers will maintain close communication with these providers as the remaining arms of the study unfold.

—Amy Adams Ellis and Alyssa Gutierrez

Three medical students earn top scholarship

Three medical students at the Brody School of Medicine have been awarded the university’s top graduate scholarship.

Anthony “Tony” Botros, John Hurley and Catherine Thriveni have been chosen for the Class of 2019 Brody Scholar award, valued at approximately \$112,000. Each will receive four years of medical school tuition, living expenses and the opportunity to design their own summer enrichment program that can include travel abroad. The award will also support community service projects the students may undertake while in medical school.

Botros, a Concord native, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2014 with degrees in biology and chemistry.

Hurley served the Army as a medic for 16 years—most of that time at Fort Bragg—before attending Campbell University. He graduated in 2014 with a degree in applied science.

Thriveni attended N.C. State University and graduated with a degree in biological sciences with a concentration in human biology.

In its 33rd year, the Brody Scholars program honors J.S. “Sammy” Brody. He and his brother, Leo, were among the earliest supporters of medical education in eastern North Carolina. The legacy continues through the dedicated efforts of Hyman Brody of Greenville and David Brody of Kinston. Subsequent gifts from the Brody family have enabled the medical school to educate new physicians, conduct important research and improve health care in eastern North Carolina.

Since the program began in 1983, 131 students have received scholarships. About 70 percent of Brody Scholars remain in North Carolina to practice, and most of those stay in eastern North Carolina.

—Amy Adams Ellis

Project slows, filters stormwater before it reaches stream

Three areas designed to hold stormwater runoff back from Greens Mill Run on the ECU campus are helping improve the water quality in the urban waterway.

Called bioretention cells, they are areas crews have excavated, rebuilt and planted with native plants to help hold runoff water, filter it and then let it soak into the soil or flow to the stream with fewer toxins.

“A lot of development at ECU began before we better understood how to manage stormwater,” said Eban Bean, an assistant professor of engineering and member of the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy at ECU. “The idea was to get it offsite as quickly as possible. It used to go straight into the storm drain, which goes straight into Greens Mill Run.”

ECU’s Main Campus is within the Greens Mill Run watershed, an impaired stream due to stormwater runoff. Named for the 19th-century mill it powered, the stream drains to the Tar River, which receives excess nutrients. About half of Main Campus has impervious surfaces, such as rooftops or parking lots, and is a major contributor of stormwater runoff to Greens Mill Run, Bean said.

That meant petroleum products, minerals such as lead, zinc and cadmium, sediment, nutrients and other pollutants went to ditches and streams that flowed to the

Tar. Now, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Sound Rivers (formerly the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation) and the N.C. Department of Justice, ECU has retrofitted three areas with bioretention cells and a stormwater wetland during the past six months.

According to Bean and co-investigators Michael O’Driscoll of the Department of Geological Sciences and Charlie Humphrey of the College of Health and Human Performance, preliminary results show the project is reducing runoff volumes and pollutants entering Greens Mill Run and the Tar River.

Capturing, treating and filtering stormwater into the soil reduces the impact of campus on local waterways. Toward that end, Bean began working with ECU grounds staff in March to install the three bioretention cells, or rain gardens, and converted a dry retention basin to a stormwater wetland.

The bioretention cells are within a parking island in front of the Student Recreation Center, on the east side of Umstead Residence Hall and behind the Carol Belk Building on Charles Boulevard.

ECU’s grounds department and a contractor excavated and graded the areas—which used to be relatively flat and covered in turfgrass—and layered sand, mixed media, silt and clay as a base to manage water filtration. Perforated pipe was also installed to move the water once it drains through the media. Topsoil went

on the surface, and Bermuda grass and native plants selected for their ability to hold soil and filter water were added.

The stormwater wetland is at the back of the park-and-ride parking lot across from the Belk Building. Unlike the image of sandy soils in eastern North Carolina, the wetland area was heavy clay, so the water that collected in the dry basin tended to run off before it had a chance to infiltrate the ground.

Among the wetland’s plants is pickerelweed. Altogether, students, faculty and staff planted approximately 1,000 plants there.

“One concern we had initially was mosquitoes due to the standing water,” Bean said. “However, we planted tall plants to attract dragonflies, which are a natural predator to mosquitoes.”

In addition to plenty of dragonflies, many frogs have moved into the wetland, and they also prey on mosquitoes. Stephanie Richards, who studies vector diseases in the ECU Department of Health Education, put traps out and found very few mosquitoes in the wetland and plans to use the site for her classes. The peninsula extending into the wetland was designed to separate inflow and outflow and serves as a gathering spot for discussions and teaching.

“It’s good for our students to see ... ECU be an example of what we should be doing with our stormwater management,” Bean said.

—Doug Boyd



Eban Bean



B. Grant Hayes was named dean and distinguished professor of the College of Education. He comes to ECU from the University of Central Florida, where he was professor of counselor education and interim dean of the College of Education and Human Performance. He succeeds Linda Patriarca. Hayes has published extensively in the areas of technological applications in counselor education, counseling children and adolescents, and character education/moral development in schools and youth settings. Before joining UCF, Hayes served in the Department of Psychology at James Madison University in Virginia. Hayes earned his doctoral, master’s and educational specialist degrees from the University of South Carolina and his bachelor’s degree from Limestone College.



Jeff Compher, ECU director of athletics, participated in the 2015 Senior Leader Engagement Program sponsored by U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter. The August program was Compher’s second military leadership tour in less than seven weeks after he attended the U.S. Marine Corps Executive Forum at the Pentagon in July. Compher was one of only 30 accepted from 400 nominees. He is the second ECU administrator to be selected; former Provost Marilyn Sheerer was chosen in 2005.



Best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize-winner columnist **Dave Barry** will speak on the absurdities of our everyday lives in his down-to-Earth style during his performance April 16 on the campus of ECU.

For more than 15 years, Barry's weekly column was a staple in more than 500 newspapers nationwide. His TV sitcom, *Dave's World*, ran on CBS for four years. And for 20 years, he has played lead guitar in the literary rock band The Rock Bottom Remainders with fellow authors including Scott Turow, Barbara Kingsolver and Amy Tan. The band has been described as "not musically skilled, but they are extremely loud."

Barry performs at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. The production is part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series. Tickets are \$50 for the public and \$20 for students and available March 1 at www.ecuarts.com.

S. RUDOLPH ALEXANDER PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

With a hot, driving band behind him, Steve Lippia interprets the best repertoire of the big-band era, leaving his audience begging for more in **Simply Sinatra: Steve Lippia and His Big Band**. Lippia brings to life the music and lyrics of Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, Sammy Cahn, Jimmy Van Heusen, Rodgers and Hart, and Stephen Sondheim. Lippia performs at 8 p.m. Jan. 22 in Wright Auditorium.

Kevin "Kev Marcus" Sylvester and Wilner "Wil B" Baptiste meld classical, hip-hop, rock, R&B and bluegrass in a genre-breaking act as **Black Violin**, performing at 7 p.m. Jan. 23 in Wright Auditorium. The group's latest release is *Stereotypes*. Sylvester told NPR in an interview that Mozart and hip-hop are the party music of different eras.

Described as a rare opportunity to experience remarkable young artists on the cusp of extraordinary careers, **Rising Stars of the Metropolitan Opera** brings four audition winners and a Metropolitan Opera pianist to Wright Auditorium for an evening of solos, duets and scenes from the Met's 2015-2016 repertoire. For more than 125 years, the Metropolitan Opera has been the artistic home of the greatest singers in the world. The performance will be 3 p.m. Feb. 28.

© 2013 Tomasz Rossa



From their successful debut at the American Dance Festival, **BodyTraffic**, above, brings its unique reflection of the diverse Los Angeles landscape to eastern North Carolina at 8 p.m. April 7 in Wright Auditorium. *The San Francisco Chronicle* says they are "limber, expressive and elegant artists. The kind of people you could watch dance anything all night."

Tickets for the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series productions are available through the ECU Arts website, www.ecuarts.com, or through the Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788.

The Down East Talent Search returns to Wright Auditorium at 7 p.m. March 4 with a top prize of \$1,000 for the second annual event drawing singers, dancers and musicians from across eastern North Carolina. While celebrity judges deliberate, the audience will vote for their favorite as well. Touted as "a jaw-dropping variety show that will exceed your expectations," the event supports the Friends of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series

ON CAMPUS

The **Voyages of Discovery Lecture**

Series will host two campus events during the spring semester. Both are free and open to the public; no tickets are required.

On Jan. 26, Derek Alderman and Alfred Brophy will speak on "What's in a Name? Memorials and Historical Memory" at 7:30 p.m. in Hendrix Theatre. A former ECU faculty member, Alderman is head of the Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Brophy is the Judge J. Parker Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law.



The contributions of the Navajo Code Talkers during World War II will be the focus of the Thomas Harriot Lecture "Navajo Code Talkers: In-depth with Zonnie Gorman" on March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Hendrix Theatre. Gorman has appeared in and served as a consultant to several documentaries on the men, including *True Whispers* and the History Channel's *Navajo Code Talkers*.

The **Contemporary Writers Series** will partner with several groups to bring two author events to campus in the spring. Kevin Powers, the 2013 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award winner, will be on campus March 16-17. A veteran of the Iraq War, Powers was recognized for his critically acclaimed first novel, *The Yellow Birds*. And Veterans Book Project visual artist Monica Haller is slated to be at ECU March 16-23. The Veterans Book Project is a library of books written collaboratively by Haller, an artist, and dozens of people who have been affected by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MUSIC



Jerome Kitzke, © 2013 Karijaka Studios

ECU's **North Carolina NewMusic Initiative** welcomes the Dorian Wind Quintet, above, on Feb. 6. Recognized by critics, audiences and musicians for its uniquely

polished and passionate performances, the Dorian Wind Quintet is one of chamber music's pre-eminent and longest continuously active ensembles.

On Feb. 8, the NewMusic Initiative presents ECU faculty sopranos Kathryn Mueller and Rachel Copeland with ECU pianist Catherine Garner in a rare presentation of Arnold Schönberg's *The Book of the Hanging Gardens*.

New York-based new music chamber group loadbang brings its unique lung-powered instrumentation—bass clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone voice—to the Initiative stage March 3.

All North Carolina NewMusic Initiative events will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall; the concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, see www.ecu.edu/music/newmusic or call 252-328-4280.

The ECU **Opera Theater** presents *Susannah*, a musical drama in two acts by Carlisle Floyd, conducted by J. Christopher Buddo, directed by John Kramer and starring student members of ECU Opera Theater on March 20 and 21 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 faculty/staff/seniors and \$5 students and are available at www.ecuarts.com or by calling 1-800-ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4788.

The ECU **Symphony Orchestra** will present a concert Feb. 13 with faculty violinist Ara Gregorian and a world premiere composition by ECU composer Ed Jacobs. On March 19, the Symphony Orchestra partners with the North Carolina NewMusic Initiative for a performance of the winning composition of the ECU School of Music Orchestral Composition Competition. In addition, the March 19 performance includes the premiere of *Concerto da Camera for Guitar and Chamber Orchestra* by ECU composer Mark Taggart with guest guitarist Elliot Frank.

The season concludes April 15 with the orchestra performing with the winning soloist of the 2015-2016 ECU School of Music Concerto Competition. Also in the program is Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 *New World*.

All three concerts will be at 7:30 p.m. in Wright Auditorium and are free.

ECU's **Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival** presents two concert residencies at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall: Quartet Classics on Feb. 4

at 7 p.m. and Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. and the season finale April 7 at 7 p.m. and April 8 at 8 p.m. The festival reprises the concerts at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh on Feb. 6 and April 9. For tickets, visit www.ecuarts.com or call 800-ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4788.

Four Seasons Next Generation concerts are scheduled for Greenville in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Jan. 21 and at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh on Jan. 24. Next Generation concerts feature guest artists and ECU faculty artists in collaboration with former and current ECU students. They are free.

The Four Seasons Winter Workshop on Jan. 4-9 brings string and piano students from throughout the world to Greenville to study and perform chamber music with renowned artists in a focused six-day format. Students and teachers will perform free public concerts Jan. 8 and 9 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

For more information, call 252-328-6019 or visit www.ecu.edu/fourseasons.

The ECU **Symphonic Band and Concert Band** will perform Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a free Bandorama spectacular April 12 featuring the Concert Band, the Symphonic Band and the **Symphonic Wind Ensemble**. Both will be in Wright Auditorium.

The ECU **Wind Ensemble** and the ECU **Jazz Ensemble** join forces for the All-District Bands concert at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 in Wright Auditorium.

The **ECU percussion ensembles** will keep the beat in A.J. Fletcher Music Building Room B110 at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4 and April 20, and there is a swinging ECU jazz chamber music recital in Fletcher Recital Hall on March 29 at 7:30 p.m. Trombone is the focus in the recital hall for Trombone Week concerts at 7:30 p.m. March 23 and 24. The ECU **Flute Symposium** presents concerts in Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 and 27, and student performers and student composers present their skills at Frequencies and Premiere Performances concerts at the same time in the same venue Feb. 18, March 31 and April 14 as part of the North Carolina NewMusic Initiative.

The **Zamba Yawar world music ensemble** expands eastern North Carolina's musical horizon with a

concert in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. April 5.

All are free, and the public is invited.

Many acclaimed **ECU faculty and guest artists** will perform in Greenville in spring 2016. Guitarist Elliot Frank is in concert Jan. 13; cellist Emanuel Gruber performs Jan. 29; mezzo-soprano Jami Rhodes is joined by pianist Eric Stellrecht on Feb. 1; the Bath Duo presents a violin and piano Valentine's Day concert Feb. 14; baritone John Kramer joins Stellrecht in concert Feb. 15; Douglas Monroe performs on the clarinet Feb. 20 at 3 p.m.; tenor Daniel Shirley and Stellrecht perform Feb. 22; and pianist Catherine Garner welcomes guest vocalist Serena Hill-LaRoche on Feb. 28 at 3 p.m.

All faculty concerts are in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, are free and are at 7:30 p.m. unless noted.

Guest organist Paul Weber, director of sacred music at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Louisville, Kentucky, performs Feb. 26 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville as part of ECU's 10th annual Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. Retired Chicago Symphony hornist Gail Williams comes to A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall for a concert April 1 as does the Juilliard School's New York Woodwind Quintet on April 16.

All are free and open to the public.

DANCE

Featuring choreography from renowned guest artists and original works by ECU's faculty, **Dance 2016** will be presented Jan. 28-Feb. 2 by the ECU School of Theatre and Dance on the stage of McGinnis Theatre. The performance will range from classical ballet to bold contemporary and explosive tap. Tickets are \$15 for the public; \$10 for ECU students/youth. **The Spring Day of Dance**, featuring ballet, jazz, tap and modern dance classes for dancers age 10-16 will be Feb. 20 in Messick Theatre Arts Center. Call 252-328-4916 for more information.

An exciting mix of cutting-edge choreography from the ECU School of Theatre and Dance faculty and students will be presented in the **Contemporary Dance Concert** Feb. 27-28 in the Archie Burnette Studio Theatre.

The Senior Choreography Showcase April 23-24 will feature ECU senior students who have created unique

works for presentation. From the risqué to the ridiculous, the audience should be ready for anything when the shows are performed in the Burnette Studio Theatre. Tickets available for all dance productions at www.ecuarts.com.

STAGE PRODUCTIONS

The ECU/Loessin Playhouse brings two productions to McGinnis Theatre this spring. Based on the book by John Weidman with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, **Assassins** combines beautiful music with a culture of celebrity and violence for one of the most controversial musicals written. It brings together presidential assassins from different historical periods to meet and inspire each other to harrowing acts in the name of truth, justice and the American Way. Performances will be Feb. 25-March 1. Tickets are \$17.50 for the public and \$10 for ECU student/youth.

The School of Theatre and Dance brings **Machinal** by playwright and journalist Sophie Treadwell to life April 21-16. Inspired by a real-life case, the main character is a stenographer living with her mother. Soon, her lust for life cannot be restrained when she has an affair with a younger man and they are tried for murder. Tickets are \$15 for public and \$10 for ECU students/youth.

All performances are in McGinnis Theatre at 8 p.m. except for Sundays at 2 p.m. Parental advisory suggested for both productions. Tickets are available at www.ECUARTS.com or by calling the theatre box office at 252-328-6829.

The title of the show, **Random Acts**, describes what attendees can expect from School of Theatre and Dance students April 2-3. Dance, musical theatre, poetry and other styles of performance art will be represented in the performance in the Burnette Studio Theatre. Tickets are \$5.

FAMILY FARE

Combining circus high jinks, mime, original music and audience involvement, **Garry Krinsky: Toying with Science** will open the spring ArtSmart and Family Fare Series events Feb. 19. Krinsky and audience members will investigate basic scientific information and delve into the imaginations of scientists.

ECU Storybook Theatre presents **The Giver**, based on Lois Lowry's book of the same name. The story follows Jonas, who is born into a society with no suffering, hunger, war and hardly any decisions. He is given the assignment of Receiver of Memory, the keeper of painful memories necessary so members of his society can avoid the mistakes of the past. As he learns, he begins to think about how he might change his world.

Both events will be at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 students/youth and \$11 adults and available at www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/familyFare.cfm.

ON EXHIBIT

The ECU **Metals Symposium Exhibition** will be featured in the Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery Jan. 13-March 7. The exhibition is in conjunction with the College of Art and Design's annual Metals Symposium, slated for Jan. 15-17, featuring lectures, demonstrations and workshops. Details and registration information are available at ecusymposium.wordpress.com.



The Wellington B. Gray Gallery presents **The Quickenning Image: The Wax-Resist Drawings of David Dodge Lewis and Ephraim Rubenstein** exhibition Jan. 21-Feb. 19. Wax resist is a new drawing technique—a layered, large-scale, multimedia one that uses wax as a resist for subsequent ink and charcoal washes. The exhibition features an artist talk Jan. 21 at 5 p.m. in Speight Auditorium and a reception in the gallery at 6 p.m.

The 2016 **School of Art and Design undergraduate exhibition** will be in the gallery March 3-April 1 with the judge's talk March 2 at 5 p.m. and the awards ceremony March 3 at 5 p.m., both in Speight Auditorium. A reception follows the awards ceremony in the gallery. The 2016 **MFA Thesis Exhibition** is April 15-May 20. The reception is April 15 at 5 p.m. The shows are free and open to the public.



ECU nursing student Brianna Horne, far left, completed the MATCH Wellness program as a seventh-grader. Today, some of the same lessons, such as growing and eating fresh vegetables, help keep kids healthy at her mother's Martin County child care center.

Youth wellness program yields healthy habits

Smiling Faces Child Care Center stands like a beacon in rural Martin County, its clean, white siding contrasting with the deep green of the soybean fields around it.

Tiny vegetable gardens in raised boxes line the front walk and fenced-in playground beside the building. One collard plant is tall enough to shade the smiling face of the 3-year-old standing beside it.

Director Bernadette Rodgers '08—who holds a master's degree in education from East Carolina University—and her daughter Brianna Horne lean over some pepper plants, pointing out “red” and “green” to a group of curious preschoolers.

“This class helped plant our peppers and collards this year,” Rodgers says. “We grow blueberries, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes. . . . We use these fresh ingredients in the children's meals.”

Horne is a senior nursing student at ECU. In 2006-2007, as a seventh-grader at Williamston Middle School in Martin County, she was one of 110 inaugural participants in a wellness program created by her science teacher, Tim Hardison '82 '83.

A winning recipe

Hardison learned that year that his fellow Martin County residents had the shortest life expectancy in the state. Further research revealed his rural, economically challenged county also had high rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease—illnesses often linked to obesity. Determined to help his students avoid those diseases, he developed a Web-based curriculum that combined physical activity and nutritional education with real-time data management. He called it “Motivating Adolescents with Technology to Choose Health” or MATCH Wellness (www.matchwellness.org).

Today MATCH Wellness is housed under Hardison’s direction within ECU’s Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment

Center and reaches more than 5,000 youth in 34 public schools throughout the Carolinas and Mississippi—the state with the third-highest adult obesity rate in the nation.

Recently MATCH was awarded \$470,000 by the North Carolina chapter of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education organization to expand into as many as 100 schools by 2018. Another \$750,000 from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation is helping the team prepare for 10 times that capacity. Meanwhile, the USDA is exploring ways to promote expansion of MATCH into eight southeastern states.

Making wellness fun

When we started doing the MATCH program, [Mr. Hardison] had the nurse weigh us on the scale. I started out weighing 161 pounds. Now since I am involved in different kinds of sports and physical activity, I have lost a total of 10 pounds so far.

—Horne, from an essay written in spring 2007

Horne and Rodgers describe with laughter their first foray into aerobic dance using videos Horne discovered through MATCH.

“It was so much fun, I decided to bring some videos to the day care for the kids to do,” says Rodgers, who’s operated the child care and early education center since 1987. She still exercises most mornings before work. And she sees to it that her students stay active with activities such as swimming and gymnastics.

As a middle-schooler, Horne relayed what MATCH was teaching her about nutrition, and those morsels were incorporated into the center’s operations, too. Staff moved the children from 2 percent to skim milk. They began substituting tortillas and whole grain bread for white bread in their sandwiches and serving fruit instead of crackers and cookies.

In 2011, the center received two awards from the Child and Adult Care Food Program, a federally funded program of the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service.

“They were impressed by our on-site gardens,” Rodgers says. “We were ahead of the curve with government regulations like healthier menus, reduced screen times, increased activity levels.”

On weekdays, the center feeds 140 children from newborn to age 12. Preschoolers typically get two meals plus a snack. Monthly newsletters sent home with the children are packed with easy, healthy, affordable recipes and fun nutritional information.

Smiling Faces is a model program, frequently hosting visitors from other day care centers

who seek input and inspiration for growing their own produce, incorporating more activity into daily schedules and serving more nutritious food.

Rodgers—or “Miss Bern,” as her students call her—attributes most of this success to what her daughter learned through MATCH.

Solving a problem

In fall 2006, when Hardison had his students calculate their body mass index, he discovered more than half were overweight or obese.

“I knew they were at risk for obesity-related diseases—and shortened lives—but I also knew those outcomes are mostly preventable when people have the knowledge to make good choices,” says Hardison, who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physical education.

He set out to empower his students to make healthy choices for a lifetime. He created turnkey lessons such as “Re-think Your Drink” and “Portion Distortion” to align with educational standards—and to be delivered over 16 weeks across the curriculum to avoid overburdening individual teachers.

MATCH participants might journal about food choices during language arts class then calculate their BMIs in math. At every turn, they have opportunities to identify their individual strengths and weaknesses, set personal goals, monitor their behaviors and practice decision-making. A built-in “badge” system motivates students without the need for teacher manipulation.

The MATCH program has really impacted my family. I have gotten them to start eating healthy foods, stop eating fast and fried foods every day, and I’m making them do aerobic dances. We started to walk at the track twice a week and stopped eating in front of the television.

—Horne, 2007

Horne penned those words around the time Hardison was remeasuring the students in her class—and realizing just how well his program had worked. Nearly three-quarters of the overweight and obese students had improved their BMIs.



Tim Hardison and Dr. Suzanne Lazorick

Physical education teacher Allen Harrell works with Krysta Styons in the MATCH Wellness program at Chowan Middle School in Tyner.



To build support for his program, Hardison turned to Dr. Suzanne Lazorick, pediatrician and obesity researcher with ECU’s Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center. The unique academic-community partnership that followed has garnered about \$2.75 million in grants from groups such as the N.C. Joint Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity, the N.C. State Board of Education and the BCBSNC Foundation.

Bolstered by Lazorick’s work, MATCH became the only school-based obesity intervention program in the country to earn a “research tested” designation from the Center for Training, Research and Translation—an independent group that evaluates programs for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“The federal government wants evidence-based programs,” Lazorick says, “and MATCH has been consistently improving BMI in seven out of 10 overweight adolescents.”

Outstanding outcomes

Jennifer MacDougall, senior program officer for the BCBSNC Foundation—which has invested more than \$1 million

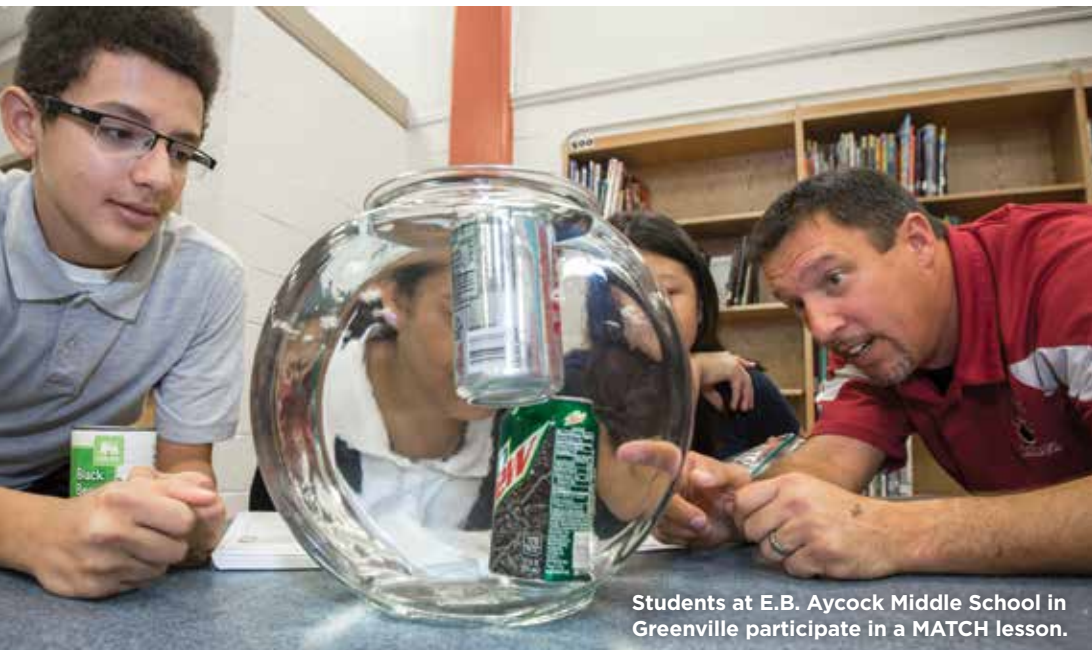
in MATCH—says “astounding” results sparked their interest in the program, and consistent results have kept them at the table.

“Looking across school-based programs in North Carolina and the nation, we had never seen results as dramatic as MATCH,” she says. “MATCH has achieved significant results in the schools in our state with some of the highest rates of health disparity. . . . It is a critical component to combating the epidemic of childhood obesity and . . . could ultimately be a key factor in turning the tide.”

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, childhood obesity has quadrupled in U.S. adolescents during the past 30 years. In eastern North Carolina during the past two years, the rate of extreme obesity (weight above the 99th percentile)—at 9.3 percent—was double the national average.

It’s no surprise the N.C. Institute of Medicine’s Task Force on Rural Health included MATCH in their recent action plan, recommending the state Board of Education include obesity prevention in middle grades.

“We have a much bigger problem than most



Students at E.B. Aycock Middle School in Greenville participate in a MATCH lesson.

people realize,” Hardison says. “If we don’t get a handle on this now, we’ll be in a world of hurt before long. We don’t even know all the problems these kids will have without intervention.”

Dr. Brian Caveney, vice president and senior medical director of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, the largest independent health insurer in the state, says MATCH is “the most doable, scalable, reasonable” approach he has seen to deal with obesity-related problems.

“Obesity affects all organ systems,” Caveney says. “It diminishes the body’s ability to respond effectively to injury and illness. When you look at the downstream impacts of childhood obesity, the total cost explodes. Why wait 30 or 40 years for diseases to fully develop, and have to put someone through the health care system to fix those problems, when that’s the most expensive place—and the place we’ll get poorer outcomes?”

Economic payoffs

An independent 2012 report by RTI International economist Lee Mobley estimated that implementing MATCH statewide could save N.C. Medicaid up to \$330 million over five years in charges avoided by student participants alone.

Two years ago, Be Active North Carolina—a nonprofit committed to empowering North Carolinians to live healthy, active lives—calculated that a 3 percent conversion of overweight adults to healthy weight would save N.C. employers \$3 billion annually in direct medical costs, lost productivity and workers compensation. Hardison notes the average conversion rate for MATCH graduates measured at age 17 is five times that.

John Chaffee, president and CEO of N.C. East Alliance, the lead economic development organization serving eastern North Carolina, says these savings estimates aren’t surprising, considering the myriad health issues faced by obese adults.

“Anything we can do to improve the health of children and adults is good for employers and government,” he says. “If you can save \$300 for every dollar [invested], that’s a no-brainer. Any investor would love that kind of ROI.”

‘I crave healthy things’

Heather Winslow, a physical education teacher at Chowan Middle School in Chowan County, says MATCH motivates students by helping them compare their personal fitness levels to their peers’.

“Some of my heaviest kids might be the most flexible, so that’s cool for them to see,” she says.

She says the lessons that resonate most with her students are the ones about diseases that diet and activity can impact, because most have family members living with those diseases.

Eighth-grader Jadon Melendez says MATCH motivated him “to aim for the top” in his fitness goals. He reaches for water now instead of sodas and high-calorie sports drinks.

Classmate Brianna Miles—who rides her bike almost daily—was surprised to learn the ingredients in foods she thought were healthier. “I used to eat sugary cereals and donuts for breakfast,” she says. “Now I tell my family to get bran and whole-grain cereals.”

And therein lies the key to MATCH’s success, Hardison says. “Thirteen-year-olds are starting to feel independent—capable of influencing their own outcomes. Arm ‘em with knowledge, and they’ll become agents of change. You can’t shut ‘em up.”

This program has also helped me and my grandmother with our asthma. I feel like I have really made a huge difference in our lives. Now I am helping the children at my mother’s day care center by making her serve healthy foods and getting the children fit so they won’t have to go through these life-threatening behaviors.

—Horne, 2007

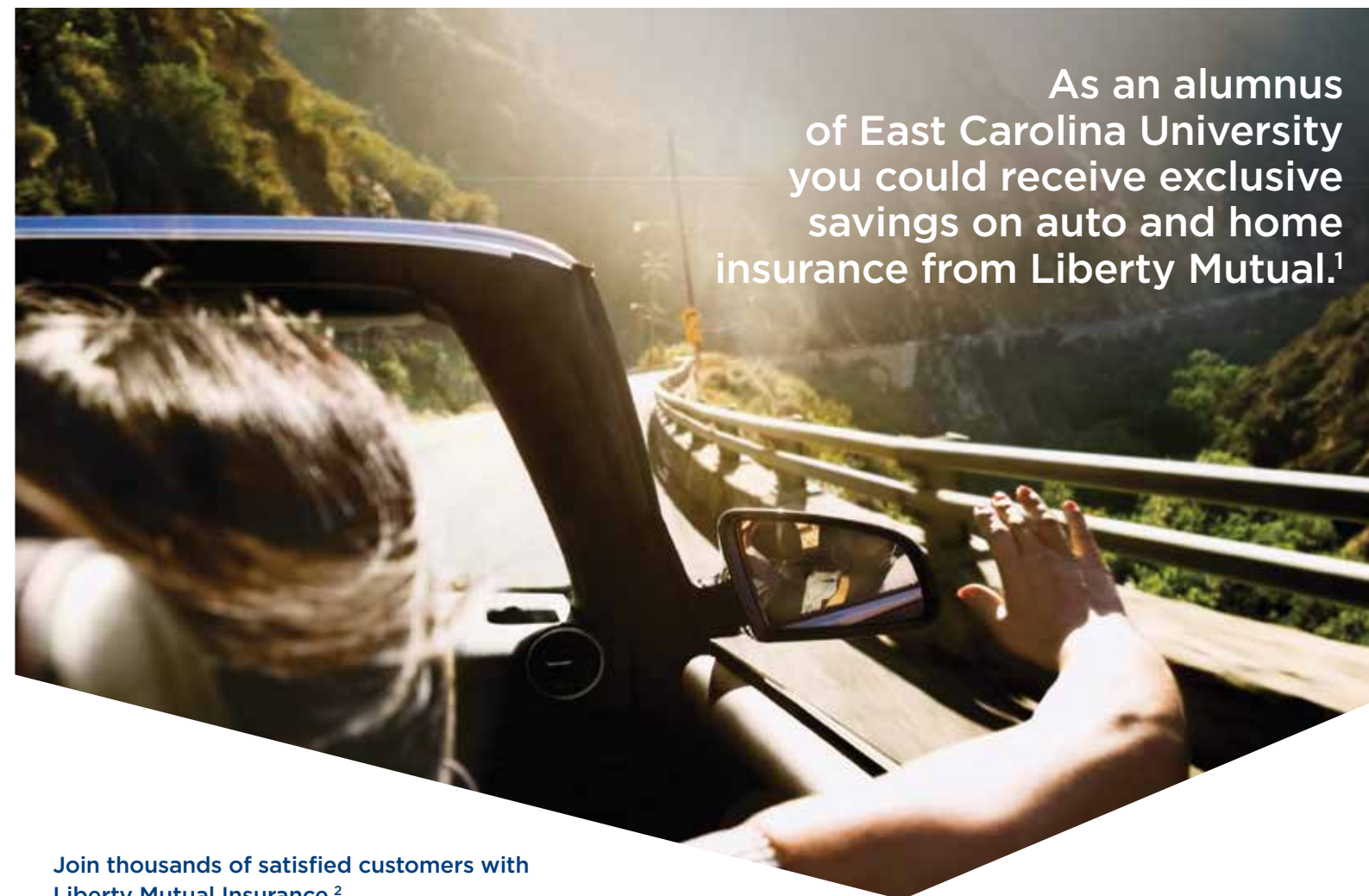
Horne confesses she reverted back to some unhealthy habits after middle school, gaining more than 40 pounds by the time she was a high school sophomore.

“People thought I was pregnant,” she says. “I was eating lots of fatty, processed foods. But I remembered what I learned from MATCH. I started back exercising 30 or 40 minutes several times a week. I cut back on sugars, fats and starches.

“I changed my lifestyle habits. During my freshman year at ECU, I got back down to my seventh-grade weight.”




These days, a demanding schedule of nursing classes, clinical rotations and work can mean rushed meals and limited food options, but Horne’s undaunted.

“My body has adjusted to new tastes now,” she says. “I crave healthy things.” **East**



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Jessie Smith, Glensha Berryman and Emmanuel Moreno-Ortiz

Coming in first

ECU's first-generation college students set a standard for success

Nicole Blevins '00 was halfway to East Carolina University with her whole family and her luggage in tow when it hit her for the first time: She was going to college.

"I said, 'We have to pull over,'" Blevins recalls. "I needed to breathe. It was surreal."

What was a natural next step for many newly minted college students was monumental for Blevins: She would be the first in her family to attend college. As a first-generation college student, she faced the challenges and triumphs that each new student would encounter, but she had to navigate the ins and outs of college while at the same time fulfilling dreams of her entire family.

"I didn't want to fail for me," she says, "and I didn't want to fail for my family."

Today's first-generation students at ECU echo that sentiment. While they learn how to be successful students and balance their goals with the expectations of those around them, the university looks for ways to encourage and retain them.

This student population is finding itself increasingly in the spotlight. That's not only because of student success, but also because first-generation students are setting the bar for future generations in their families—and for a vibrant, prepared workforce in the region and beyond.

Like Blevins, first-generation students often lack the guidance that other students begin college with, so they adapt and learn by trial and error and by finding what helps them succeed in the classroom and in life. After graduation, Blevins created a program in the Union County Division of Social Services that focuses on educating parents accused of or involved with child abuse or neglect.

As her family drove away on her first day at ECU, Blevins smiled to herself and welcomed the journey.

"Let's do this," she said.

Charting a course

At ECU, efforts are underway to more clearly identify incoming first-generation students, and many of them and their parents take advantage of information sessions during New Student Orientation. Many students sign up for special sections of COAD 1000: Student Development and Learning in Higher Education, which works on students' decision-making, time-management and study skills.

The course is taught by Linda Mellish, associate director of research and assessment in Campus Living and the Office of Student Transitions. Mellish contacts each student eligible for the class, and she becomes a personal cheerleader and disciplinarian for each one who signs up. She wants them to succeed, and she knows first-generation students face a range of emotions when they begin college.

Those feelings can range from guilt from being the only one in the family to have the opportunity for college to outright financial worries. Then there is the "impostor phenomenon," which presents students with constant internal arguments that they do not belong in college, that they can't cut it.

"These students are the first," Mellish says. "They are taking a giant leap into this unknown territory for themselves and their families."

She should know. Mellish herself is a first-generation student, earning two music degrees from ECU before going to Purdue University to complete a master's degree and a doctorate.

"I have a belief in these kids," she says. "I am one of them, and that has never left me."

Her students know that. Brittney Woodle, a junior elementary education major from Robbins, was determined to go to college to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. While she would be the only person in



Brittney Woodle

her family to pursue higher education, she knew it was a vital step, although she was intimidated.

"There were more people on this campus than there are in my hometown," she says.

Woodle's first semester didn't go as planned—she sank into a depression because of the academic expectations and the pressure surrounding her and began skipping class. Her GPA crashed.

"It was like a flashback to my teen angst years," she says. "I felt like no one understood me."

Woodle enrolled in a "probationary" section of COAD 1000 and found the motivation and resources she needed to repair her GPA and to believe in herself.

"It taught me to not only think about what everyone else is expecting of me but about what I expect of me," Woodle says.

She now shares her story with other students as a Pirate Mentor and would like to create a mentorship program that partners new first-generation students with those who know the ropes.

"I think my experience will definitely make me a better teacher," she says.

Sophomore public health major Seth Whitlow is determined to become a physician assistant or doctor. During his first year, he wrestled with a singular question: If his parents found success without college, why couldn't he, too? But he says he recognized the opportunity in college and embraced it.

"I found what I need to be here," he says. "College has defined me as a person."

Pressure and pride

For many first-generation students, it's a struggle not to let that label define them or ostracize them. Even so, universities want to identify the population in order to make the college experience more accessible and more successful for them. ECU's Division of Student Affairs has begun tracking first-generation students in hopes of creating programming that lends a helping hand.

COAD 1000 is one of the first steps in that process. Mellish's fall 2015 course sections have 82 students enrolled, an increase from past classes. The increase, she says, is partly because of a special session during New Student Orientation especially for first-

generation students' parents. Her first order of business is to make them uncomfortable.

"I say to them, 'Your kid is coming here to a place that is brand new for the first time,'" she says. "Even the sheets on the bed are new."

Mellish then challenges the parents to do something outside their comfort zone for 30 minutes before they send their student to college. She wants them to experience what their children will feel when they set foot on campus. She also wants them to know they're stepping through new doors, too.

"I tell the students, 'You're their investment; you are their legacy,'" she says. "I tell the parents, 'This is your degree, too.'"

During a morning COAD 1000 class, a handful of students considered the impact of being a first-generation student. Talking about it took some getting used to, but with encouragement, they warmed to the topic and raised their hands.

"Being first generation is motivational to me," says one student as others nod their heads in agreement, "because I have two younger sisters who look up to me."

Another student sighs and says, "Sometimes



Melenis Lopez

it makes me want to scream." That admission is met with an understanding silence as the students turn back to their books.

Other "first-gens," a nickname that's gaining momentum at ECU and other campuses, choose to navigate their paths through other programs or groups on campus.

Melenis Lopez, a freshman public health major from Charlotte, always knew she would go to college. Her mother was

'This pioneering adventure'

East Carolina University is making first-generation students a special study as universities nationwide do likewise.

By identifying and tracking the first-generation student population—as ECU is doing with those who began classes in fall 2014—the university can determine what services and programs it needs to be offering those students.

"It's more than just identifying another student population that needs assistive measures," says Linda Mellish, associate director of research and assessment in Campus Living and the Office of Student Transitions. First-generation students come to campus stuck with stereotypes that they're more likely to fail because there has been no one before them to achieve what they are striving for and because there

are skills they have to learn before they even set foot in a classroom.

Knowing who's a first-generation student depends on whether the students fill out a Federal Application for Federal Student Aid and identify as first-generation. That information is neither required nor verified.

Students may also identify themselves as first-generation on a survey during new-student orientation and on the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement. According to results from the 2014 BCSSE, 33 percent of students who responded to the survey reported as first-generation with neither parent having any college education.

On the same survey, 55 percent of students reported as first-generation with neither parent earning a bachelor's degree or above—meaning one or both parents might have attended



college but never completed it or earned a degree.

The College Board, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to expand access to higher education, offers a section on its website to counselors and educators about the special challenges first-generation students face and how to identify

and assist them.

"What we're doing," Mellish says, "is attempting to remove the barriers—real or imagined—for these students as they take on this pioneering adventure. We are simultaneously creating opportunities and supporting them as they navigate their path."

—Spaine Stephens



Jessie Smith

always adamant about that next step after high school, and Lopez dove headfirst into scholarship applications that proved fruitful. She received an Access Scholarship and is also in the Walter and Marie Williams Leadership Awards Program, among other honors.

Lopez says she is adjusting well to her first semester and is ready to get involved in student government, club sports and other activities. She also wants to create an organization for Hispanic students to meet and form bonds. Her experience as a first-generation student partly fueled that drive.

"It's important because it shows that college is for everyone," Lopez says. "It shows that diversity and openness."

EC Scholar Glensha Berryman also is embracing the opportunity on campus. Even while living in South Korea as part of a military family, the freshman English education major now from Fayetteville knew she wanted to be in North Carolina for college.

"I just didn't want to mess up," Berryman says. "But it's definitely a motivator. I just like making my parents and my family proud. It's a cool thing to celebrate."

Promises for tomorrow

Jessie Smith almost has her degree. Tears welled in her eyes as she filled out her application to graduate in December. The communication

major from Winterville will be the first in her family to earn a college degree. Smith completed the university transfer program at Pitt Community College before enrolling at ECU. She worked on the requirements of various majors and almost gave up hope before she found her niche and flourished. The rocky road was worth it, she says.

"We as first-generation graduates are unlocking the door to our future and the ability to help grow our nation in a positive direction," Smith says. "We may have nothing to lose, but we have everything to gain."

Nursing student Emmanuel Moreno-Ortiz sees opportunity before him as well. He is slated to also graduate in December with plans to pursue a career in anesthesiology or elsewhere in the medical field.



Emmanuel Moreno-Ortiz

"I'm still reaching new waters, but it's been mostly positive pressure," Moreno-Ortiz says. "I'm using school to find my destiny."

Moreno-Ortiz was the first in his family to attend high school, so pursuing a college degree makes his parents proud, even if they don't always understand the subject matter in his textbooks.

"It's important for universities to retain first-generation students because it will fuel others to come in," he says, "other generations of the same family. A big part of that is that I'm already here."

Building that access to education across families has implications that reach further.

"East Carolina has always been about access and service to the region," says Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for student affairs.

To Regina Whittemore '14, that commitment from the university, her family and herself helped her earn a degree in information technologies. She grows emotional when she recalls the struggles she overcame from academics to financial responsibilities and red tape that broke more easily for other students.

"I feel that my time at East Carolina and these difficulties I had molded me into a stronger individual, a leader and a go-getter," Whittemore says. "Too many times I could have buckled under the pressure when things got difficult, but I'm a Pirate. We don't give up."

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From foul balls
to fair calls

Sheilah Cotten '75 '77 expanded athletic opportunities for women

BY JACKIE DRAKE

PHOTOGRAPY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

Growing up in Fuquay-Varina in the 1960s, Sheilah Cotten's only chance to participate in competitive sports before she entered high school was retrieving foul balls during boys' baseball games.

Like everything else this venerated coach and athletics administrator went on to accomplish in her life after graduating from East Carolina University, Cotten put her considerable energy and competitive spirit to the task.

"There was not a foul ball to be lost if I worked a game," she recalls with a laugh. "I participated in anything I could, but I couldn't really play; women's opportunities were very limited back then."

Things have changed when it comes to women's competitive sports. Cotten has helped make that change.



A leader in the field of women's collegiate athletics, Cotten has pursued equality and opportunities for all. She was a record-setting member of the ECU women's basketball team shortly after conference play began. She also played on the volleyball team and in 1981 became the first female athlete inducted into the ECU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Cotten coached women's sports and some men's sports at Louisburg College for 28 years. She was also a key figure in the National Junior College Athletic Administration from 1992 to 2000, where she worked

to expand sports opportunities for women at two-year and community colleges in the Southeast and throughout the country.

Cotten does not describe those things as accomplishments but rather as teaching young women to do their best and to push themselves to the limit of their capabilities.

"I chose to be the best I could be on the court, in the classroom and as a coach because it simply feels good to know you have given your all," Cotten says. "To value the opportunity, do your best, have no regrets, that is still what I share today with the students I teach."

East Carolina is where she learned how to do that. Playing basketball at ECU and competing at such a high level, says Cotten,



gave her the confidence to speak up in the classroom as a teacher, on the court as a coach and in the boardroom as an administrator.

Opportunity opens

Cotten played basketball in high school but didn't think she could continue at the collegiate level. But during her junior year of high school, she began to hear about women's basketball teams forming on college campuses. She first heard about ECU when head basketball coach Catherine Bolton came to watch her high school play in Rocky Mount during her senior year and recruited her for the Pirates.

"I was excited for the opportunity to play basketball on a college campus and to continue my career in sports," Cotten says. "That's what brought me to ECU. I didn't really know anything about ECU until she came and watched me play."

Bolton was ECU's first professional women's basketball coach. Women's basketball has more than 100 years of history at East Carolina, with intramural teams formed as early as 1915. Competitive play against other colleges began in the 1930s. Official conference play began under Bolton's direction in the 1969-1970 season, shortly before Cotten arrived on campus.

"From the time I could dribble a basketball, I had always watched the boys play," she says. "I knew I wanted to go to a university where there would be a strong athletic program."

Cotten remembers playing in pinnies, or scrimmage vests, during her first year and not getting official uniforms until her second year.

She helped lead the women's basketball team to a 47-17 record during her four years on campus. She set several single-game and season records, including most points in a game (33) and highest rebound average for the season (8.3 rpg). She finished her



career with 1,152 points, helped win a state championship and played in district championships and a national tournament.

"That experience emphasized to me that I wanted to go on to be a coach," she says. "I knew I wanted to be involved in sports in some capacity, providing opportunities for other young girls like myself to be able to enjoy competition and learn how to become leaders."

Cotten majored in health and physical education and remained at ECU to complete her master's degree in health education.

Her physical education instructors and her coaches were her role models, she says, for learning how to teach and coach others.

"ECU began to open my eyes to all the opportunities for women in sports," she says. "It provided me with... outstanding peers who I could learn from."

An ECU advisor also helped her find her first job, pointing to an opening at Louisburg College and allowing her an extension on her thesis so she could go ahead and begin her career.

Opening opportunities for others

Cotten arrived at Louisburg College in August 1977. She has never left.

Northeast of Raleigh, Louisburg College is a private two-year college with about

750 students. Founded in 1787, it is the oldest two-year college in the nation and the only residential two-year college in North Carolina. Several sports teams play under its mascot, the Hurricanes, in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region X, encompassing North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Cotten coached women's volleyball, men's tennis, women's basketball and slow-pitch softball at Louisburg. But she is best known for her tenure as coach of the fast-pitch softball team from 1986 to 2005. Her overall record was 516-293 (.640). Several of her teams won region and district championships, many going on to national NJCAA tournaments.

Her record speaks for itself:

- More than 600 career wins
- 15 NJCAA All-Americans
- 14 Academic All-Americans
- A graduation rate for her players of more than 90 percent since 1990
- 56 graduates received scholarships to NCAA Division I or Division II schools
- NJCAA Region X Coach of the Year multiple times

In 2003, the softball field at Louisburg College was named the Sheilah R. Cotten Softball Field. She is retired from coaching, but teaches sociology, among other subjects.

"It's clear that this college, and myself as

a small part of it, is making a difference in the lives of these kids. That's a great accomplishment every day," Cotten says. "That's what ECU did for me, and that's what I hope I can give back to the young people I work with."

Cotten also opened doors for countless others at schools throughout the region through her leadership in the NJCAA. She established sports procedures for women's fast-pitch softball, implementing divisional play and even international play. She oversaw various sports and held several positions culminating in NJCAA Region X women's director of athletics.

In 2007, she was inducted in the Louisburg College Athletics Hall of Fame, and in 2010, she was inducted into the NJCAA Sports Hall of Fame. She was recognized as one of the "Top 100 Female Athletes for 100 Years" by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

"She's a pioneer in women's athletics," says Louisburg College Athletic Director Mike Holloman. "She brings a lot of passion and excitement and she's always looking for teachable moments. She's touched a tremendous amount of lives here at Louisburg and in our region. And she hasn't slowed down."

"I've never been to work a single day. I just go and play every day," Cotten says.

Turning opportunities into lessons

Cotten is clear about why she chose the path she did: Sport builds strength of character, she says, along with a belief in self and a greater appreciation of what can be done with teamwork and a common purpose.

Participation in sports is one way to reduce the fear of failure and discover hidden gifts and talents, she says.

"To learn how to compete can bring out

the best in yourself," she says. "Something as simple as being able to throw the ball back into the game... I can remember the exhilaration of that, being able to pick up that baseball and throw it to the coach."

All kids enjoy competition, she says. "That is not a gender-related thing at all. It's universal to all kids. They want to be able to play."

Heather Ross, a faculty member at Brenau University in Georgia who played basketball and softball under Cotten in the 1990s, described her coach as "energetic and excited about the game."

"Her spirited approach to the game was contagious," Ross says. Yet Cotten's lessons went beyond the playing field.

"She was an ardent advocate for our team and each one of us as individuals," Ross says. "I believe that coach Cotten took everything she learned and accomplished in her own career and tried very hard to instill those lessons and skills onto each one of her players."

Students and players say Cotten's impact on them has been permanent.

"I have referenced many life lessons that I have learned from coach Cotten throughout my career as a coach, teacher and educational leader," says Brandy Frazier, a career and technical education coordinator for Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. "She taught me how to not only play the game of softball but prepared me mentally, emotionally and physically for the game of life."

'A second chance'

For one student in particular, Cotten's confidence and mentoring in college made a life-changing difference.

Jomaica Johnson, who graduated from Louisburg in 2005 and now holds a doctorate degree, is an infrastructure branch manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She works to save the

lives of others. In her region of FEMA, she is the youngest branch manager and the only African-American female branch manager.

Cotten offered Johnson a chance to play softball at Louisburg. But shortly after Johnson got there, she fell in with a group who used marijuana and got caught, she says.

"Coach Cotten sat me down and told me there would be consequences, but that she wasn't going to suspend me or expel me," Johnson says.

Just as important, Johnson says, is that Cotten took time with her and supported her as her life improved.

"Coach Cotten offering me an opportunity to play set me on the road to success," says Johnson. "I was going through a lot of personal things and dealing with depression and low self-esteem. Coach Cotten helped me find myself."

That second chance, Johnson says, may have saved her life. "I really messed up... If she had sent me away, I don't know what I would've done. I may have considered suicide."

Johnson credits Cotten's caring leadership and high expectation for her success—and passes what she learned from her along to other young people.

"She taught us how to carry ourselves, how to dress and speak professionally, to speak the truth and own what you're saying," Johnson says.

Johnson is involved with AmeriCorps, a program where teens work with FEMA to get a grant for college. "What coach Cotten instilled in me, I instill in these young people," Johnson says.

Cotten says her leadership style is based on thinking positively.

"Forever the optimist, I consider a failure or a great challenge a valuable learning opportunity," she says.

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BY DOUG BOYD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

Now in her final season with the East Carolina University women's basketball team, Jada Payne could have her own media guide. It would read something like this:

- All-American Athletic Conference first team
- AAC 2014-2015 honor roll member
- ECU Female Athlete of the Year
- Most three-pointers in a season
- Best free-throw percentage
- On pace to score 2,000 points
- Potential WNBA draft pick

What was that last one? Yes, it's true: If she does what her coaches think she can do, Payne could become the first Pirate to play in the women's professional basketball league.

"Jada's going to break ground and show kids what a gold mine it is at East Carolina," said head coach Heather Macy. "We're looking for big things from Jada and some really exciting stuff."

Payne doesn't talk much about the prospect of playing professionally. She just sticks to what has gotten her to this point.

"Knowing what your goals are and working toward that every day is something I intend to do," she says.

Creating her shot

Already armed with her degree,

Jada Payne sets her sights on a pro career

Determination pays dividends

It's July, and Payne is in the women's practice gym and talking about getting ready for her final year at ECU. Boys attending a basketball camp dribble and shoot on the other end of the court. Payne remembers the days when she was the skinny kid looking up to the college players.

"Not too long ago, we were all in that same position," she says. She recalls attending a girls basketball camp at the University of Tennessee and one of the Volunteer players taking time to write her a personal note. That meant a lot.

Now, she's the one inspiring young players at camp and teammates at practice and in games.

How did she reach this point? Dedication, determination and desire.

"It's always something I had to work for," she says of her success on the court. "A lot of times I was overlooked, especially in high school. I completely committed myself and devoted myself to getting better."

Macy calls Payne "the blueprint" for what makes a successful team.

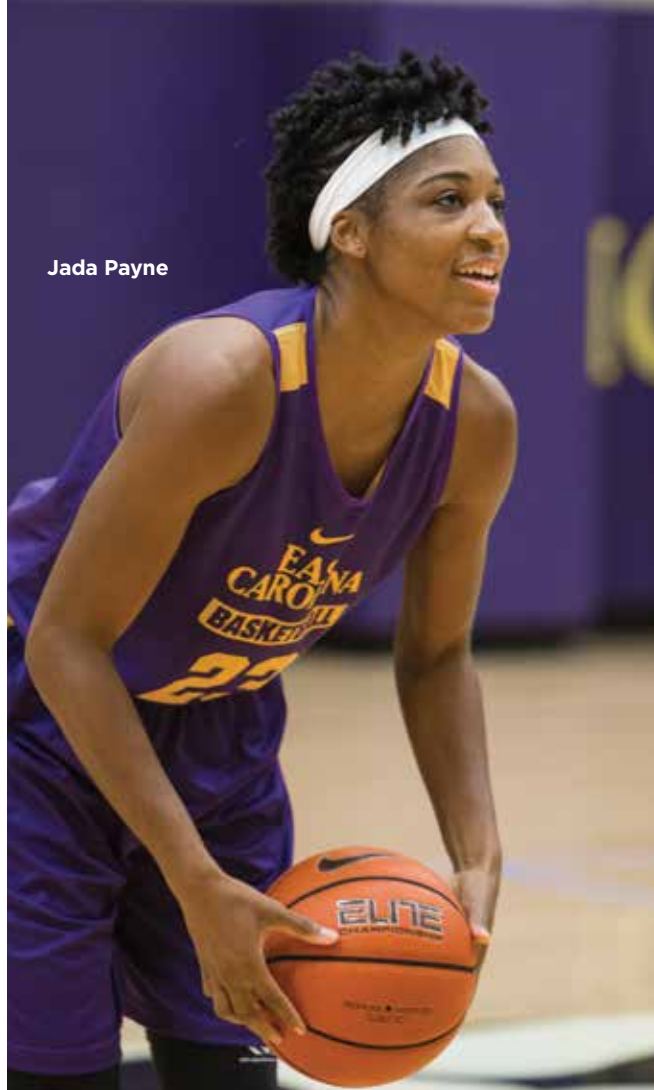
"Jada's the example," Macy says. "When every single day one of your best players is one of the hardest workers, that makes a difference.

"She wants to make sure she has no flaws in her game."

Such characteristics are why senior forward DeVaughn Gray says Payne is the model player and teammate.

"She sets the standard for everyone, and that's the level of intensity everyone has tried to reach up to," Gray says.

And the 6-foot-2 redshirt senior also leads in the classroom. She's already graduated with a communication degree and is enrolled in graduate school at ECU. When freshmen players ask her why she doesn't have to go to



Jada Payne

study hall, she has some advice. And it's the same as on the court.

"Well, that's because I worked hard and I worked my way out of it," she says.

Proving her potential

Growing up in Hickory, Payne played basketball from a young age—younger than the rules allowed. "I was the smallest," she recalls. "My mom begged them to let me play at 4.

"Basketball was always a constant. I never stopped playing."

Her mother, Amanda Forney-Freeman, was a college basketball player at Lees-McRae and West Virginia Tech and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at WVU Tech in 2011.

"She's everything a parent would want in a child," says Forney-Freeman. "And she always keeps God first. I know that's where all her success has come from."

During her senior year of high school, Payne grew about 3 inches and led her Hickory High School team to a 28-3 record and the state finals in 2010-2011. She was a McDonald's All-America nominee. Even though she showed potential, she was slender and hadn't played enough at the AAU level to draw the eyes of many college coaches. She liked the staff at La Salle University in Philadelphia, so she headed north. There, she made the Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team and was named the team's rookie of the year.

Her mom had encouraged Payne, who had never been far from home, to broaden her horizons, but Philadelphia might have been a little too far too fast. After her freshman year, she decided to transfer.

"ECU was one of the schools I kept in the back of my mind," she says. Macy offered her a chance to play for the Pirates, and Payne took it.

After redshirting her first season at ECU, she started all 31 games and led the Pirates in scoring in 2013-2014 at 18.4 points per game. She earned All-Conference USA First Team honors and was a member of the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll and the ECU Athletics Director's Honor Roll.

Last season, she started 32 of 33 games, scored in double-digits in 31, led the Pirates in scoring in 23 games and scored 20 or more points 11 times.

She finished last season ranked 17th on the Pirates' all-time scoring list with 1,132. By the end of the season, she had made 80 three-pointers, breaking her own school record. She also broke her own school record in free-throw percentage with a mark of .865, which also topped the conference.

"She did what it takes people a career to do," Macy says. "She basically did it in a year-and-a-half. Jada's breaking Jada's own records."

During the season, she averaged a team-best 17.1 points and 5.5 rebounds. In the

Women's NIT, she scored a total of 41 points in two games.

She also was selected to the All-American Athletic Conference First Team. She twice received player-of-the-week accolades and made the conference weekly honor roll five times. ECU named her its Female Athlete of the Year. She also made the 2014-2015 American Athletic Conference All-Academic Team.

She's also added about 25 pounds of muscle to her frame, a tangible sign of the effort she puts into getting better.

It's part of the game plan for Payne.

"Anywhere you go requires a lot of hard work and dedication," she says.

Pro prospects

The 2016 draft will be held Sept. 24, and Payne ranked 38th among eligible players before the season started. For now, that puts her just outside the 12-team, three-round draft—but very much in the draft conversation.

"Her versatility and athleticism, her ability to guard multiple positions and her accuracy behind the 3-point line would mean WNBA teams should look at her in the draft," says Trudi Lacey, a former college basketball player at N.C. State and coach and general manager in the WNBA.

And if she is drafted, the benefits from ECU would be significant.

"For the overall program, it speaks to ECU women's basketball's commitment to excellence and total player development," Lacey says.

Payne's success in the classroom could also play in her favor.

"As long as she can carry those smarts over to the basketball court, she'll be fine," Lacey says.

For now, Payne is focused on this season. She wants to be more aggressive, get in even better shape and hit even more big shots.

"I want to be the best I can be for this team," she says. "I want to give every last bit of effort and energy I have for this team." **East**



Heather Macy

After three straight 20-win seasons that included postseason play in the Women's NIT, ECU women's basketball coach Heather Macy is clear about her expectations this season: a run in the NCAA Tournament.

"I really feel like it's going to be a breakout year for our program," she said at the Oct. 6 women's basketball media day.

"We're expecting to be in the Sweet 16," said senior forward I'Tiana Taylor. "That's what we're saying in practice and that's what we hold ourselves to in practice."

The Pirates opened their season Nov. 13 against Texas-Rio Grand Valley in the Islanders Classic in Corpus Christi, Texas. The 18-game conference slate begins Dec. 30. Several games will be broadcast on the CBS Sports Network, ESPNU and other networks. The full schedule, including game times, is available at www.ecupirates.com.

2015-2016 SCHEDULE

Nov. 13	vs. UTRGV in Corpus Christi, Texas
Nov. 14	at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
Nov. 17	vs. Alcorn State
Nov. 20	vs. Presbyterian
Nov. 22	at Delaware
Nov. 26	vs. Creighton in Austin, Texas
Nov. 27	vs. Eastern Washington in Austin, Texas
Nov. 28	vs. Northwestern in Austin, Texas
Dec. 5	at Auburn
Dec. 18	vs. Chattanooga in Wilmington, N.C.
Dec. 19	vs. Ohio in Wilmington, N.C.
Dec. 20	vs. South Carolina in Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Dec. 30	at Tulsa
Jan. 2	vs. USF
Jan. 5	vs. Tulane
Jan. 7	at UCF
Jan. 14	vs. Houston
Jan. 17	at USF
Jan. 20	vs. Cincinnati
Jan. 23	at Tulane
Jan. 30	vs. Temple
Feb. 3	vs. Tulsa
Feb. 6	at UConn
Feb. 9	at SMU
Feb. 13	vs. Memphis
Feb. 17	at Houston
Feb. 20	vs. UConn
Feb. 24	at Cincinnati
Feb. 27	at Memphis
Feb. 29	vs. SMU
American Conference Championship	
Home games are shown in bold.	

The Greenes encourage '66 classmates to attend reunion

Eddie Greene '66 and his wife, Joan Greene '66, are looking forward to reliving many happy memories of their time at East Carolina when their class reunites this spring.

The Greenes are helping the East Carolina Alumni Association recruit members of the class of 1966 to attend the Golden Alumni Reunion, which will be held May 5-6. Every year, the alumni association invites members of the 50th reunion class to revisit campus during commencement weekend.

"I had so many great experiences at East Carolina; it was a lot of fun," Joan said. "We hope we get a lot of participation in the reunion. East Carolina provided a foundation for so many people. Getting back together will be really exciting."

Joan came to East Carolina from Alexandria, Virginia, on the recommendation of a family friend. Eddie's high school principal in Biscoe, a small town in Montgomery County, recommended East Carolina to him.

Eddie and Joan said meeting each other during their junior year was a highlight of their college experience. Joan was a counselor in Cotten Hall and worked at the front desk, where visitors such as Eddie had to wait.

"It's so different now," Joan said. "Then, there were very strict times when we could go out or had to be in. And the girls had to sign in and out. We had a dorm mother to keep an eye on us."



Eddie and Joan Greene

Eddie and Joan have been married 49 years. During their time on campus, they were involved with student government, with Eddie serving as president during his senior year, as well as the homecoming committee.

"There were so many fun activities," Eddie said. "We made lots of friends, and many of those continue to be our friends today."

Eddie went on to law school at UNC-Chapel Hill and worked more than 30 years as a lawyer and judge. He is now a lawyer with Wyrick Robbins in Raleigh. Eddie also served on the ECU Board of Trustees in the 1970s and on the ECU Board of Visitors when it was established.

After completing her education degree, Joan went on to graduate school also at Chapel Hill, concentrating in literacy to become a reading recovery teacher. She has taught ever since and still teaches part-time today.

Last year's Golden Alumni in the class of 1965 started a Golden Alumni Scholarship. So far, more than \$4,700 has been raised to support scholarships of \$2,500 for all ECU students.

More information on the Golden Alumni Reunion and the Golden Alumni Scholarship is at PirateAlumni.com/2016GAR.

Heath Bowman named associate vice chancellor



Heath Bowman has been named as ECU's new associate vice chancellor of alumni relations and president of the alumni association. His first day at ECU was Oct. 12.

Bowman has 10 years of management and higher education leadership experience. Most recently, he served as director of outreach at the University of Arkansas Alumni Association, which has more than 26,000 dues-paying alumni members and nearly 2,500 dues-paying student members.

"This is a tremendous honor and, honestly, very humbling," said Bowman. "Pirate Nation has so much to be proud of. To be trusted to lead and grow alumni relations efforts at such a respected and innovative institution is the opportunity of a lifetime and a responsibility that I will take very seriously. I am excited to build on past successes and to blaze new paths for East Carolina and its alumni association."

At Arkansas, Bowman led a team charged with outreach and engagement through innovative programs and collaborations with campus and community partners targeted to students, young alumni and alumni around the world.

Bowman has a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from Texas Tech University and a master's degree in higher education leadership from the University of Arkansas.

Bowman has been married to his high school sweetheart, Ashley, since 2008. She is a speech-language pathologist specializing in treatment of geriatric patients recovering from post-operative and post-stroke impairments.

"Heath brings a wealth of knowledge, management skills, connections across the profession and vision to the position as well as commitment to make ECU and eastern North Carolina his family's home," said Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Christopher Dyba.

"The excitement here is contagious," Bowman said. "The moment my wife, Ashley, and I set foot in Greenville, we knew that this was the place we were meant to be. It immediately felt like home. I feel lucky to be in a place where I can use my skill set and past experiences to benefit a place as special as ECU."



- Dec. 1** Greenville Networking Event
- Dec. 13** Bring the Whole Crew, Mike's Farm, Beulaville
- Dec. 17** Senior Celebration Dinner, 6 p.m., Murphy Center
- Jan. 15** Bring the Whole Crew, Rush Hour Karting, Garner
- Apr. 16** Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run, Greenville



- Glenda Moultrie '79**, Chair
Derwood, Md.
- John Israel '82**, Vice Chair
Norfolk, Va.
- Oliver "Tim" Willis '12**, Treasurer
Durham, N.C.
- Mark Garner '77**, Secretary
Greenville, N.C.
- Neal Crawford '85**, Immediate Past Chair
Norfolk, Va.
- Heath Bowman**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations
Greenville, N.C.
- Michael Aho '02**, *McLean, Va.*
- Sheridan Barnes '86**, *Micro, N.C.*
- Jim Dill '79**, *Richmond, Va.*
- Neil Dorsey '65 '66**, *Winterville, N.C.*
- Ralph Finch '67**, *Midlothian, Va.*
- Jeff Foster '83**, *Winterville, N.C.*
- Keith Frazier '94**, *Raleigh, N.C.*
- Robin Good '80**, *Katy, Texas*
- Duane Grooms '80 '82**, *Columbia, S.C.*
- James Hammond '66**, *Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*
- Kathy Herring '90 '95**, *Greenville, N.C.*
- Melanie Holden '79**, *Raleigh, N.C.*
- Phil Houston '77**, *Greenville, N.C.*
- Wesley Johnson '85**, *Powder Springs, Ga.*
- Angela Moss '97 '98**, *Raleigh, N.C.*
- Joy Ruhmann '81**, *Raleigh, N.C.*
- Tyna Sloate '90**, *New York, N.Y.*
- Dan Spuller '06 '07**, *Raleigh, N.C.*
- Lynnette Taylor '97**, *Winterville, N.C.*
- Linda Thompson Thomas '81**, *Charlotte, N.C.*
- Jason Tomasula '00 '03 '10**, *Wake Forest, N.C.*

Board chair Glenda Palmer-Moultrie '79 aims to connect students and alumni

Glenda Palmer-Moultrie '79 is a Pirate in more ways than one. As an alumna, parent, volunteer and leader, she knows a lifelong passion for East Carolina University begins well before graduation.

"We need to get students more involved in the alumni association," said Palmer-Moultrie, who is serving as the chair of the East Carolina Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2015-2016. "They need to see us on campus throughout their time here, not just read about us after graduation. The alumni association has value to students. This is their organization."

Among Palmer-Moultrie's goals for this year are expanding alumni association visibility on campus and increasing communication with students to let them know what the association offers them. These offerings include scholarships, opportunities to network with alumni and the chance to join the alumni association as a lifetime member at a reduced rate.

"It all starts with students,"

Palmer-Moultrie said. "Once the students are involved, they get their parents involved, and then they get involved as alumni, and then they may send their children to ECU or recommend ECU to other young people in their lives. That's how ECU grows stronger."

Originally from Delaware, Palmer-Moultrie had three friends in high school who were coming to ECU. She traveled a lot growing up and completed an exchange program in Belgium, so going somewhere new for college was an exciting prospect.

"I saw ECU for the first time at orientation," she said. "I got here and I loved it."

Palmer-Moultrie arrived at ECU not long after integration had occurred on campus, but overall, she said, race was not a big issue for her, and her time on campus was very positive.

"Because of the experiences I had with traveling, I immersed better than most people," she said. "I was busy just being Glenda. You have to be you. I made friends and got involved in lots of activities, including three years



on the dance team. I had a great experience at ECU."

She started as a nursing major but switched to recreation therapy. She got a job right out of college at a school in Texas for children with profound mental disabilities. After that, she provided therapeutic recreation services for the city of Newport News, Virginia, where she advocated for people with disabilities. Then she worked in injury recovery at a hospital in Houston before moving to Rockville, Maryland, where she worked for more than 20 years organizing children's camps and other recreational opportunities.

"I was so blessed to be surrounded by people who supported me," she said. "I wouldn't have gone into this profession if it weren't for my experience at ECU."

When the city of Rockville began making budget cuts, she decided to turn her passion for traveling into a second career. She opened L&L Travel and Tours in 2010 and recently celebrated the company's fifth anniversary.

"I decided to step out of my comfort zone and take on this challenge to turn my passion

into another career," she said. "In both my careers, I want to help people enjoy life. And I'm able to do all this because of everything I learned at East Carolina."

Her children, Josh and Jessica, decided on their own to come to ECU as well. Josh graduated in 2014 with a music performance degree and now teaches music in Montgomery County, Maryland. Jessica is studying communication and political science.

"I didn't want to make them come here, but I was so happy with their decisions," she said. "We have friends and a church family here, so I felt very comfortable sending them here. It's like a second home."

Palmer-Moultrie likes helping students from Maryland make the transition down south to ECU. She first got involved with the alumni association by attending Freshmen Sendoffs, now Pirate Sendoffs, to welcome incoming students and help them start their voyage to campus. She is also an active member of the Black Alumni Chapter.

"I'm blessed to be a Pirate, and I love helping others discover their Pirate passion," she said.

Career Services links employers with students and grads

Amber Murray '15 is just one of many Pirates who had a full-time job lined up before graduation thanks to the relationships ECU Career Services has with employers.

Before becoming the executive team leader for human resources at Target in Rocky Mount, Murray completed an internship at the Greenville store as part of a relationship between ECU and Target. Target recruits ECU juniors to fulfill a 10-week executive internship in the summer before their senior year, which often results in a job offer and continued training leading up to graduation. Target also recruits seniors to take on leadership roles upon graduation.

"It was a great experience to have during college, and knowing I could continue with the company was exciting and a big relief. The internship definitely broadened my horizons," said Murray, who majored in marketing but found her calling in human resources through the internship. Murray was hired by another ECU graduate, Shawn Langdon '94, the Rocky Mount store team leader and campus recruiting captain for this district.

"Target is more than just retail," Langdon said. "There are so many opportunities here. Everything we do at Target is as a team, and teamwork is a big thing ECU taught me. I'm passionate about both Target and ECU. Students at ECU work hard, and the professors and advisors provide a great foundation for them to begin their careers. To me that's the reward, to see other Pirates do well here at Target."

Langdon has been with Target for 11 years. In the past four years that he has served as campus recruiter for ECU, Langdon has hired 14 interns and 10 executives. His district now has 13 ECU graduates or senior students working at local Target stores.

Employers don't have to be ECU alumni to work with Career Services. Many company leaders hire ECU graduates for their leadership, service and job preparation.

"The coaching and development that ECU students get really makes a difference," said Kristina Kanspedos, talent acquisition manager for Enterprise Holdings. "ECU has so many opportunities for students to get involved on campus



Shawn Langdon and Amber Murray

through clubs and organizations. We really like to see that on applications and resumes."

Enterprise Holdings, which owns Enterprise, National and Alamo,

is the largest rental car provider in the world. During the past year, Enterprise has hired 32 ECU graduates into the management trainee program in eastern North Carolina alone.



Glenda Palmer-Moultrie with daughter Jessica at the Homecoming parade

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RUDY ALEXANDER '52, '53
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"Cypress Glen has cornered the market on customer service. With all the places I have visited, I have never seen a stronger desire to please the customer. Every staff person cheerfully does their job."

A Wayne County native, Rudy Alexander graduated from East Carolina University in 1952 earning a degree in social studies. He later returned to ECU and earned an M.A. degree in administration in 1953.

Rudy proudly worked at ECU for 33 years beginning in 1962. His lengthy tenure involved numerous responsibilities such as managing Wright Auditorium, directing the student center, and chairing the Performing Arts Series.

Booking diverse artists and entertainers was always a joy for him and he worked with hundreds of top name performers. Some of his favorite performers were classical pianists Arthur Rubenstein and Van Cliburn, and violinist Itzhak Perlman. He fondly remembers booking comedian Flip Wilson for his very first college performance.

Rudy was humbled when he learned that the Performing Arts Series was named in his honor upon his retirement. The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts has presented more than 500 world-class artists and served more than one million patrons and students through its programming.

Rudy has been married to his wife Jennie 35 years and are discovering old and new friends living at Cypress Glen.



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Alumni Scholarship applications due Jan. 31

The East Carolina Alumni Association is accepting online applications for Alumni Scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year through Jan. 31.

Each spring, Alumni Scholarships are awarded to full-time

undergraduate students with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher for the following academic year. In addition to academic success, scholarships are awarded to recipients based on demonstrated leadership and volunteer service.

Along with the application form, students should include one signed letter of recommendation. Both must be submitted online. To receive a scholarship, recipients must be present at the Alumni Scholarship Luncheon, which will be held April 30.

From its founding in 2005 through the 2014-2015 school year, the Alumni Scholarship program has awarded 224 scholarships totaling more than \$300,000. More information is at PirateAlumni.com/Scholarships.

Moment for Membership

Members of the East Carolina Alumni Association receive many benefits including special communication, access to exclusive services and discounts on alumni events.

One benefit is a weekly MemberGram, an e-mail featuring a discount at a particular retailer or restaurant. We've partnered with Alumni Access to provide our members with discounts at local and national companies such as Microtel Inn & Suites, Dunkin' Donuts, Papa John's, Pugh's Tire & Service Centers, Dress Barn, Men's Wearhouse, Edible Arrangements, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and more.

In addition to this and other benefits, members enjoy feeling pride in supporting scholarships for students, awards for alumni and faculty, and other programs that strengthen ECU. To learn more about all our benefits and become a member, visit PirateAlumni.com/MemberBenefits, call 800-ECU-GRAD or e-mail ecualumni@ecu.edu.

Become a Privateer!

The East Carolina Alumni Association is always in need of

volunteers all across Pirate Nation.

Now known as Privateers, these volunteers serve as initial points of contact for alumni in their region, helping to keep alumni connected and informed. Privateers can plan events or just help spread the word. Training is provided through an orientation session, and staff assistance is always available.

For more information, to become a Privateer for your area or to volunteer in any other capacities, contact Shawn Moore '91 '98, director of alumni programs, at 252-328-5775 or mooresh@ecu.edu.

Join our Board of Directors

The East Carolina Alumni Association Board of Directors seeks new members to serve starting in 2016. Applications are being accepted online through Dec. 15.

The association seeks an enthusiastic and diverse group of alumni and supporters to serve ECU. Board members guide staff and volunteers in carrying out the missions of the association and university. Gain service and leadership experience while working to advance ECU.

New terms start July 1 and last three years. Board members, who serve on a volunteer basis, are expected to maintain active membership in the alumni association and attend four meetings a year, among other expectations as stated online.

Applications from all class years and degree areas are welcome. Those who did not graduate from ECU but still wish to serve may also apply. The application and more information are available at PirateAlumni.com/BoardApplicationProcess or by calling 800-ECU-GRAD.

Sponsor Spotlight

PotashCorp Aurora, also known as PCS Phosphate, is one of the largest employers in eastern North Carolina and is a presenting sponsor of the East Carolina Alumni Association's signature events for 2015-2016. These include Buccaneer Buffet, the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic, the Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner, and the Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run.

PotashCorp Aurora sources phosphate ore (the remains of ancient sea life) and produces

fertilizer, feed and industrial products to be shipped around the world. Located in Beaufort County, it is one of the largest such facilities in the world.

The decision to become a presenting sponsor was an easy one, according to W. Ray McKeithan, a 1987 graduate of ECU and the manager of public and government affairs for PotashCorp Aurora.

"The alumni base is a loyal, influential, passionate group devoted to success at East Carolina University and throughout the region," McKeithan said. "It speaks to the value of shared experiences and the quality of an ECU education."

"Sponsorships allow more proceeds from events to go to our scholarship fund and other programs, so the benefits go right back to students and alumni," said Shawn Moore '91 '98, director of alumni programs.

To learn more about sponsoring an alumni association event, contact Moore at mooresh@ecu.edu or 252-328-5775.

#PirateNationGives: ECU to participate in #GivingTuesday

Giving Tuesday, a global day for celebrating charity and giving, falls on Dec. 1, and ECU is gearing up to participate for a second year as #PirateNationGives. Alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff, and parents are encouraged to make a charitable donation online

or over the phone to any area of the university.

Last December, ECU participated in its first Giving Tuesday, with more than 130 Pirates raising \$67,000 in a 24-hour period to benefit scholarships, experiential learning,

study-abroad opportunities, the arts and research. This year, ECU will rely on those who already support the university as well as those interested in making their first gift to make #PirateNationGives an even bigger success.

Please join us on Giving Tuesday by making your gift online or by calling 252-328-GIVE or visiting www.ecu.edu/PirateNationGives. Encourage others to do the same through your social networks with the hashtag #PirateNationGives.

BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.

#PirateNationGives

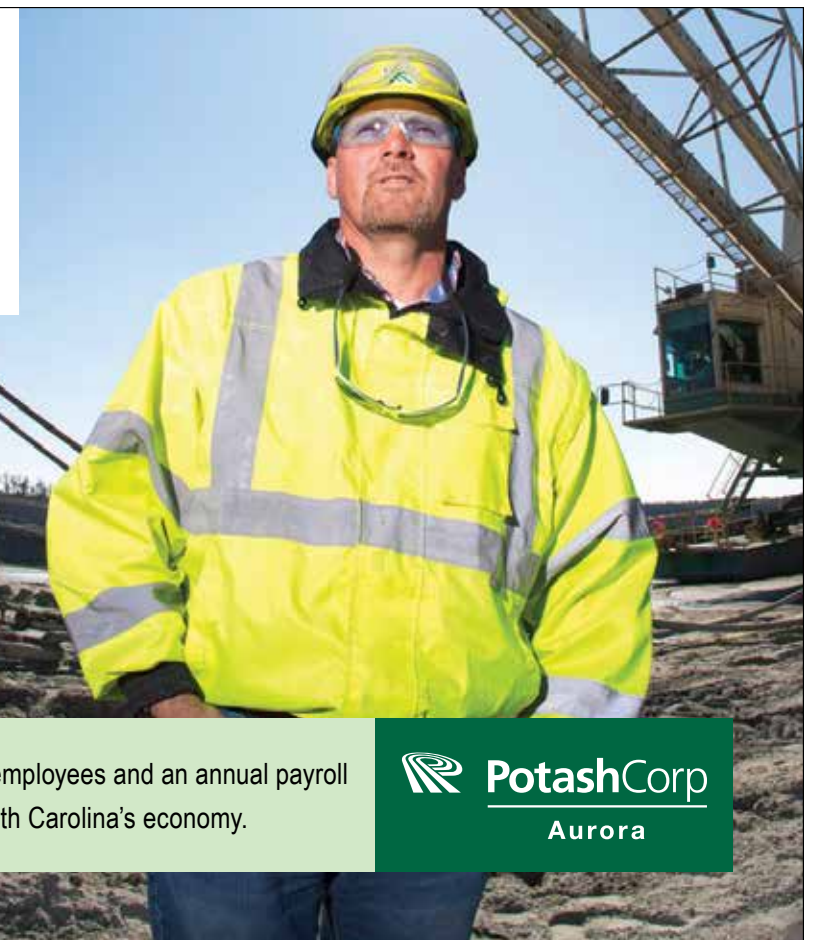
DECEMBER 1, 2015

#GIVINGTUESDAY

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC and ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Employees, the driving force of our operations

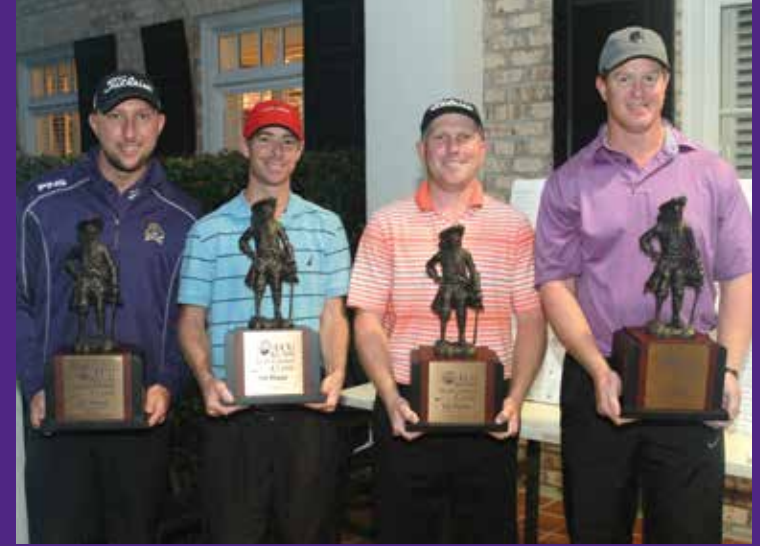
We're more than a mining company. With more than 800 employees and an annual payroll of \$75 million, PotashCorp-Aurora helps drive eastern North Carolina's economy.



The recipients of the alumni awards were recognized during Homecoming weekend at the Awards Ceremony and Dinner, in the Homecoming Parade and during halftime of the football game. This year's recipients (l-r) **Beverly Cox '67**, **Max Ray Joyner '55**, and **Catherine "Kitty" Joyner '59** (posthumous) received the Virgil Clark '50 Distinguished Service Award; **David Brody**, **Jeff Charles**, **Ray Martinez** (not pictured) and **Dr. Mary Raab** received the Honorary Alumni Award; and **Michael C. Aho '02**, **W. Kendall "Ken" Chalk '68 '71**, **Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Clark '84** and **Jeremy Wallace '01** received the Outstanding Alumni Award.




East Carolina
 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 PHOTO
 GALLERY



Two flights of golfers battled rainy weather Sept. 25 to participate in the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic sponsored by Hilton Greenville and PotashCorp Aurora. This year's winners, who will represent ECU at the Acura College Alumni Team Championship in Pinehurst, were the "Old Pros," **Brian Edgerton**, **Stephen Latham '13**, **Eric Miller** and **David Watkins**.



The Black Alumni Chapter Awards Banquet and Gala was held during Homecoming weekend. From left to right, the award recipients are **Tarrick Cox '96 '07**, **Ledonia S. Wright Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award**; Brig. Gen. **James R. Gorham '81**, **Dr. Andrew A. Best Trailblazer Award**; and **Danny R. Scott '84**, **Laura Marie Leary Elliott Courageous Leader Award**.



Danny R. Scott '84, recipient of the **Laura Marie Leary Elliott Courageous Leader Award**; **Rachel Elliott Byers**, daughter of **Laura Marie Leary Elliott**; **Joseph Bryant**, recipient of the first **Laura Marie Leary Elliott Endowed Scholarship**; and **Reginald Elliott**, son of **Laura Marie Leary Elliott**.



Hundreds of fans attended the away-game tailgates hosted by the East Carolina Alumni Association and Pirate Club at Florida and Navy.



The Black Alumni Chapter of the East Carolina Alumni Association held its second annual golf outing with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the **Laura Leary Elliott Endowed Scholarship**.



Pee Dee recently visited Charleston, South Carolina, to participate in an ECU-themed scavenger hunt with alumni.



The East Carolina Alumni Association and Office of Parent and Family Programs hosted the second annual **Pirate Alumni Legacy Brunch** during Family Weekend. This event recognizes families with two or more generations of Pirates.





Dennis and Barbara Pelletier endow education scholarship

Dennis and Barbara Pelletier have been in eastern North Carolina for nine years, but they've been supporters of education their whole lives. Earlier this year, they decided to start an endowment for a scholarship in the College of Education at East Carolina University that will benefit local students who want to become teachers.

The Pelletiers came to North Carolina after retiring from lifelong careers in education in Maryland. Dennis began his career in the community college system and then worked for 26 years at the University of Baltimore, retiring as the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. Barbara worked for many years as a second-grade teacher in

Howard County.

When it came time to retire, they looked at five states before deciding on North Carolina and then searched all over the state before settling in Chocowinity, 30 minutes east of Greenville.

"We wanted university culture, continuing education opportunities and, of course, the medical school was a big draw," Dennis said.

"At the time, both of our children were living in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.," said Barbara. "Now our son is in Charleston, and our daughter is in Richmond. It's great to be so close to family while enjoying the community here. It's remarkable, and we're very fortunate how everything worked out."

The Pelletiers wanted to stay active during retirement, so they looked to ECU for opportunities.

"One of the things we saw that was needed at ECU was more options for continuing education," Dennis said.

ECU had offered free classes for seniors before, but they were discontinued during budget cuts. So, Dennis helped start the Lifelong Learning Program at ECU. The Lifelong Learning Program provides affordable courses, seminars and trips to local adults 50 and older so they can continue to enjoy learning without tests or grades. Dennis served on the program's board for three years.

Then he got an email saying the College of Education was

looking for volunteers to evaluate scholarship applications.

"That was a natural fit for me," Dennis said. "That was what started the idea to fund a scholarship."

The first scholarship from the Dennis and Barbara Pelletier Teacher Education Scholarship Fund will be awarded in the 2016-2017 school year, thanks to an additional contribution from the Pelletiers while the original endowment grows. The scholarship will go to an upperclassman first-generation college student in financial need from North Carolina who wants to stay and teach in the state.

"We were able to customize it to how we wanted to help," Dennis said.

The Pelletiers were the first in their families to graduate from college. Originally from New York, they met at State University of New York at Oneonta. Like ECU, Oneonta started as a state normal school for teachers.

"We have an appreciation for what our education gave us. We're both products of public education," Dennis said.

"We know how tough it is to be a public school teacher," Barbara said. "We like the idea of helping someone get started. It's so important to have good teachers. If we can help them get ready for their careers, we can also help so many children that way."

Though they did not attend ECU, the Pelletiers have enjoyed supporting and getting involved with the university. Many of their neighbors in Chocowinity are also involved with ECU.

"It's important for the community to support the university," Dennis said. "The community gains so much from the university, it's only fair to give back."

I would recommend getting involved with the university," Barbara said. "It helps current students and enriches life here. It's a win-win for everyone."

—Jackie Drake

Cardiology professorship endowed as part of planned 'grateful patient' program

For people who recover from major heart surgery, the main goal is getting back to normal. But East Carolina University alumnus Travis Burt wanted to do more than get back to normal.

After recovering from bypass surgery in January 2013, Burt and his wife, Cassie, wanted to give back to the Brody School of Medicine, whose doctors had provided such excellent care for their family.

The Burts established a distinguished professorship in honor of Dr. J. Mark Williams, chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, who performed Burt's surgery.

After an initial \$50,000 endowment, the Burts wanted to increase their gift and found that the state of North Carolina will provide a 1:2 match for professorships starting at \$333,000. The Burts decided to pledge an additional \$283,000 over the next five years to reach the match requirement. The state's match will be \$167,000 for a grand total of \$500,000.

"When we were reviewing our options, and the professorship came up with the match from the state, it was a no-brainer for us," Burt said.

The Travis and Cassandra Burt Distinguished Professorship will be used to recruit outstanding faculty to the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, who will go on to educate East Carolina's next generation of heart doctors.

"The heart center can use these funds to benefit other people's lives 20-30 years from now," Burt said. "We are very thankful and humbled at the opportunity to help in this way."

While the Burts have been loyal supporters of the Pirate Club for 30 years, this was their first gift to medicine at ECU.

Burt is the co-founder and partner at Transportation Impact, a distribution company that helps high-volume small package shippers reduce costs. After a long and accomplished career with UPS, Burt and his colleague



Keith Byrd decided to leave the world's largest shipping company and start their own business based in eastern North Carolina. Transportation Impact is now one of the fastest-growing private companies in the state.

Burt was in his office in Emerald Isle when he had a cardiac episode that included pain in his arm and a bad taste in his mouth. Over the next nine days, he underwent several tests and saw five doctors including Williams, all of whom agreed he should be admitted for surgery as soon as possible.

"As we were going into the new heart center, Dr. Williams was showing me pictures of the X-rays," Burt said. "This can be very difficult to talk about, but Dr. Williams explained everything clearly. The surgery went perfectly. We were blessed to have him as my surgeon. I am very thankful."

For Burt, who is in his mid-40s and used to being active, it was a tough few weeks after surgery, but he was back to normal in a few months.

"I look at it as a hiccup, but I

know my family members were worried," he said. "ECU had the expertise, equipment and staff to make me and my family feel as good as possible throughout the whole process."

The Burts have lived in Emerald Isle for four years. But they still consider Greenville home, after living there for 30 years. They met when they attended ECU in the early 1980s. Cassie Burt says they are glad they decided to keep seeing their doctors in Greenville even after they moved.

"We want to let people know that East Carolina is the best option; they don't have to go to Raleigh anymore," Travis Burt said. "ECU isn't just up-and-coming, we're on top."

"People here in Carteret County always went to Duke or Raleigh, and they'll continue to go if they don't see other options," Cassie Burt said. "We want to make sure people know East Carolina is the best option."

The Burts have two children who attended Campbell University. Travis is a member of the Campbell University Board of Trustees, and Cassie recently

joined the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors.

The Burts' endowed professorship marks the beginning of a planned "grateful patient" program at ECU. University Advancement is in the process of hiring a new gift officer, preparing written materials and building relationships for this program.

"East Carolina provides excellent care, so we have many grateful patients who are looking for a way to give back," said Mark Notestine, president of the Medical & Health Sciences Foundation. "Our main goal is to help patients figure out the best way they can help based on their interests and our needs. It's important to cultivate other sources of revenue so we can continue to provide a high level of care."

Patients who would like to support the Medical & Health Sciences Foundation at ECU may contact Notestine at 252-744-3480 or notestinem14@ecu.edu.

—Jackie Drake



Charlie Cox and Joe Strechay

He taught 'Daredevil' how to see without eyes

Actor Charlie Cox gives the credit to Joe Strechay '01 for the good reviews of his performance as Matt Murdock, a blind lawyer who is imbued with extraordinary senses, in the new Netflix series *Daredevil*.

Strechay, who works for the American Foundation for the Blind, was a consultant to the producer when *Daredevil* began filming. He spent several days teaching Cox the subtle movements needed to be convincing in the role. The show debuted in April and quickly gained an audience. Netflix has signed up for 12 new episodes for 2016.

Student and teacher were back together in June at the 2015 Helen Keller Achievement Awards in New York, where Cox was recognized for raising public awareness about the blind.

"He is a genuine guy, and he portrays a positive role model any way you look at

it," Strechay says about the British-born actor, who first attracted attention in the 2007 film *Stardust*.

Cox says the hardest acting lessons came when Strechay blindfolded him and led him on brisk walks down busy New York City sidewalks. "He was kind of freaked out, but he didn't tell me that initially," Strechay says. "I just wanted to show him how I travel."

Strechay came to ECU from New Jersey with his twin brother, Daniel Strechay '01. He says he lost most of his eyesight to a congenital condition during his freshman year. He and his brother pledged Sigma Pi and were active in Greek life. Joe majored in communication, and Daniel majored in political science.

After graduation, Joe enrolled at Florida State University for a master's degree in methods to improve employment



prospects for people with limited vision.

He joined AFB in 2008 and lives in Huntington, West Virginia. He remains connected to campus through CommCrew, an alumni support group for the ECU School of Communication. His brother is manager of sustainability communications for PepsiCo and lives in the New York area.

Joe Strechay believes job opportunities are increasing for people with limited vision.

"What I say is, we haven't reached the pinnacle yet, but I can see progress being made."

—Steve Tuttle

2015

ShaLexus Danzy is a HealthCorps coordinator at Latta High School, Ada, Okla. **Jarrod Dennis** is assistant superintendent for Person County Schools. He was director of technology and accountability for the school. Dr. **David Lawson Harrington** is an associate dentist in the office of Drs. Michels and Gauquie, Greenville. He was in the ECU School of Dental Medicine inaugural class. **Jekoi Lassiter** is a fourth-grade teacher at Rocky Mount Prep, Rocky Mount. **Victoria Lauren Whitfield** wed **Credle Allen Harris** on May 16 in Chapel Hill. The wedding party included **Christian Caraway** '08, **Kristopher Pupilli** '11 and **Tara Whitfield** '11. He is a dentist with Kennedy Dental Group, Chapel Hill.

2014

Maclain Copeland is assistant events manager at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Charleston, S.C. Air Force Airman 1st Class **Kyle T. Hedgpeth** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. **Katie Kirk** repeated as Carolina Women's Amateur golf champ at Treyburn Country Club, Durham. **Haley Alexis McKeel** wed **Russell Michael Ward** '13 on May 2 at Shiloh Church, Wilson. The wedding party included **Jordan Eatmon** '13, **Chelsea Ezelle**, **Sarah Glover**, **Kayla Grant** and **Chelsey Brienne McKeel** '13, sister of the bride. She is a financial associate at Trinity Concepts Corp. He is a police officer with the Wilson Police Department. **Ashley Oakes** joined Gastroenterology East P.A., Greenville, as a registered nurse. **David Justin Oliver III** wed Anna Elizabeth McNeill on May 16 at The First Baptist Church, Whiteville. He works for Liberty Healthcare, Raleigh. **Mark Perew** is an officer of Wells Fargo Bank in the technology infrastructure services group in Winston-Salem. Army Spc. **Shemina L. Royal** graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

2013

Liz Elam is an office and library assistant with Margaret Donaldson Interiors, Charleston, S.C. **Taylor Kathleen Ellington** wed Jarrod Brooks Miron on July 12 at White Plains United Methodist Church, Cary. The wedding party included **Emily Collins** '12, **Samantha Elchook** '11 '13, **Charli Leto** '13 and **Hannah Troutman** '14. She works

at Informatica in Raleigh. **Hailey Sumner** and **Jennifer Inman Stephenson** '98 '00 partnered to open a Lilly Pulitzer Signature Store boutique, Pink of the Pines, in Southern Pines, a lifelong dream for both women. **Stacy Elizabeth Sutton** wed Ethan Aaron Cobb on April 4 at Marlboro OFWB Church, Farmville. She works at Greene County Intermediate School, Snow Hill.

2012

Michael K. Brantley published his first book, *Memory Cards: Portraits from a Rural Journey*, which revisits his growing-up years in eastern North Carolina. He is a visiting assistant professor of English at N.C. Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount. **Catherine Dahl**, a Clarkson University doctor of physical therapy student, received the Samuel B. Feitelberg Physical Therapy Endowed Fellowship for 2014-2015. **Crystal Dixon** is principal at Pamlico Primary School, Bayboro. **Kyle Robert Olson** wed Hannah Elizabeth McCain on April 25 at The Pavilions at Angus Barn, Raleigh. He works at Fidelity Investments, Durham. **Wes Shivar** was promoted to vice president and agricultural banker for the Greenville region by PNC Bank. **Kathryn Webb Stell** wed Zachary Paul Schmidt on June 27 at Bay Leaf Baptist Church, Raleigh.

2011

Trent Coyne Barker '11 '13 wed Lindsay Ruth-Kate "Katie" Moore at MacPherson Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, on June 13. The wedding party included **Eric Martin** '10, **Thomas Sallenger** '09 and **Cullen Stutts** '10. He is an associate quality specialist at Merck Pharmaceuticals. **Carrie Elizabeth Daniel** wed Jeremy Kyle Roberts at First Christian Church, Wilmington, on May 16. She works for Wells Fargo in Charlotte. **Tremayne Smith** is working on a master's degree in political management at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. He was director of bands at Rocky Mount High School, Rocky Mount, for three years. **Chelsey Marie Williams** wed **David Allen Griffith** '12 on May 23 at the home of the bride's grandparents in Wilson. She is a commercial agent and bond contractor with Towne Insurance of Greenville. He is an estimator and project manager with Superior Concrete of North Carolina and Sascorp, Winterville.

2010

Adria Finch is project manager for the Office of Innovation, Syracuse, N.Y. She was an economic development specialist at the Downtown Committee of Syracuse.

Pitt County Teachers Honored

Kathryn Cargile '93, eighth-grade science teacher at Hope Middle School, is Pitt County Schools' Teacher of the Year. Finalists were **Kristen Coleman** '08, C.M. Eppes Middle School; **Matt Robinson** '09, Northwest Elementary; and **Jill White** '93 '99, Elmhurst Elementary. Other teachers honored by Pitt County were **Tammy Baker** '96, **Julia Lynch** '07 '10, **Claire Maxwell** '05 '06, **Amy McGregor** '90, **Lisa Moore** '94, **Richard L. Rozier** '07, **Carrie Smith** '04, **Torie Smith** '01 '07, **Tara Speicher** '97, **Sarah C. Willhite** '10, **Yolanda Brickhouse** '07 '09, **Tequilla Taylor** '99, **Stephanie Hall** '94, **MaLisa Davies Jessie** '96, **Michael P. Wells** '02 '07, **Rebecca Harrell Woolard** '92, **Melissa Zurawski** '10, **Elyse Jacqueline Cannon** '11, **David Madigan** '04 and **Alice Hyatt** '89.



Nick and the Babes: Rob Wank, Graham Bailey, Nick Bailey and Dail Reed

You may not have heard the music that **Nicholas Bailey** '03 plays at night with his band, Nick and the Babes, but you probably have heard the music he writes at his day job.

Bailey composes the theme music used on many cable TV shows. His music can be heard during *Duck Dynasty*, *The District*, *Crime 360*, *My Deadly Appetite*, *Pit Bulls and Parolees* and *Lock Up*. He contributed musical passages to the 2014 PBS show *The Editor and the Dragon*, narrated by Morgan Freeman.

These pieces run from 30 seconds to two minutes long and set a musical mood to match the script without distracting from the action on screen.

"If you notice the music, something is not right," says Bailey, who lives in Raleigh. "I try to enhance the vibe of the show without overkilling it. I'm just trying to sonically frame what is happening on the show."

He got started in the TV theme music business seven years ago when a piece he wrote was chosen for an episode of *19 Kids and Counting*. He eventually wrote music used on 48 episodes of the show. "I never really watched the show, but it was great to see it on the royalty check," Bailey says with a laugh.

Writing TV theme music pays the rent while Bailey pursues a bigger musical dream. He wants to get back out on tour with Nick and the Babes, the Americana rock band he formed in 2008 with twin brother Graham Bailey '03. Also in NATB, as the band is known, are Robert Wank '01 and Dail Reed '96. The Baileys and Wank met in high school in New Bern.

NATB contributed a song to the 2011 Christmas album *My Favorite Gifts*, which also features the Avett Brothers. The band's 2014 seven-song CD, *Morning Light*, is available on iTunes. The band has been off the road lately to rest and write new material while Nick churns out TV theme music.

He says NATB has acquired a different sound. "For a long time we were doing strictly acoustic shows," he says. "The venues that we were booking were more of a listening room atmosphere, and now we've gone fully electric and just playing as loud as possible. We're definitely not restraining ourselves."



Two ECU graduates are serving as chair and vice chair of the State Board of Community Colleges. **Scott Shook** '93 (left) of Greenville is serving a two-year term as chair of the board, and **Clyde Higgs** '99 (right) of Charlotte is serving a similar term as vice chair. Shook is vice president and financial advisor with BB&T Scott & Stringfellow in Greenville. He is married to **Karen Selby Shook** '89. Higgs is vice president of business development at the N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis. Gov. Pat McCrory appointed Shook to the board two years ago, and Higgs was appointed four years ago. Shook is a member of the board's Accountability and Audit Committee, the Finance Committee and the Presidential Search Committee. His term expires in 2019. Higgs is chair of the Personnel Committee and serves on the Cabinet Committee, the Finance Committee and the Presidential Search Committee. His term expires in 2017.



Jim Matheny '99 won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for outstanding achievement in electronic journalism at small-market TV stations. The award is presented annually by the Radio Television Digital News Association. His piece, which aired on WBIR-TV Knoxville, was about the Barkley Marathons, a race in which runners attempt to cover 100 miles in 60 hours over rugged terrain in East Tennessee. Matheny also won a regional Murrow award for news writing. He is the brother of **Sam Matheny** '90, an executive with the National Association of Broadcasters who was this year's outstanding alumnus for the School of Communication. Jim Matheny is married to **Ellen Bureson Matheny** '99.

Dr. **Kawan A. Swain** joined Eastern Nephrology Associates, Greenville. **Brittany Waters** joined the staff of Gastroenterology East P.A., Greenville.

2009

Steven Anderson was named one of the 67 Influential Educators Who Are Changing the Way We Learn by Noodle Education. He is a speaker and consultant who helps educators understand technology and social media. **Amanda Kay Forsythe** wed Benjamin Guy Bell on June 1 at Peace's Chapel Baptist Church, Kittrell. She works at Maria Parham Medical Center, Henderson. **Megan Leigh Garner** '09 '14 wed Tyler Len Hardee on June 13 at the Washington Civic Center, Washington. The wedding party included **Kelly Dixon** '03, sister of the bride, **Sarah Edwards**, **Casey Goodall**, **Courtney Hardee** '10, **Grayson Riddick** '08 and **Beth Wantz** '15. She is a fifth-grade teacher and softball coach at Chicod School, Pitt County, and assistant director of the ECU Summer Science Camp. **Christian Yungbluth** was promoted to vice president of business development at Star Lang Holman Toastmaster, a division of the Middleby Corp., Buffalo, N.Y. He was director of sales for Star brands.

2008

John Carrere is new student orientation coordinator and student development services counselor at Pitt Community College. He and wife, Amy, welcomed their second child, a son, in March. **Rachel Gallaher** received three Emmy awards for one weekend news clip and two evening news clips that she produced at WWBT, Richmond, Va., at the 57th Emmy Awards from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences. She began her career at WNCT-TV Greenville.

2007

Keli Harrell '07 '10 is an assistant softball coach at the University of Louisiana, Monroe. **Shannon Holcomb** '07 '11 '15 (left) joined Coastal Dentistry, Morehead City, as its first female dentist. She was a member of the first class of the ECU School of Dental Medicine.

2006

Grant Caraway is manager for the Watercraft Center at the N.C. Maritime Museum, Beaufort. **Jill Doub** (left) is senior director of public engagement at the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. **Keith Moore** is vice president of analytical services

at Metrics Contract Services, Greenville. **Kristin Ann Mooring** wed James Ross Simeon Jr. on Aug. 8 at La Grange Christian Church, La Grange. She is a speech pathologist at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington. **Brandon Needham** is a project manager with SouthCon Building Group LLC, Mount Pleasant, S.C. He was with Frank L. Blum Construction, Lagle Crane and Steel and Vannoy Construction. **Jamie Rochelle** is head boys basketball coach at Topsail High School, Hampstead.

2005

Paul Briney '05 '08 '12 is principal of Farmville Middle School, Pitt County. He was assistant principal of Lakeforest Elementary School, Greenville.

2004

Lucy Grist is senior district executive for the Boy Scouts of America Occoneechee Council, which includes more than 1,000 scouts in 10 counties in central North Carolina. **Kristen Hedderly Souza** wed David Lee Barham on May 16 at The Umstead, Cary. The wedding party included **Lauren Bowers Crabtree** '03 and **Melissa Franchi Riggle** '11. She teaches special education in the Wake County Public School System.

2003

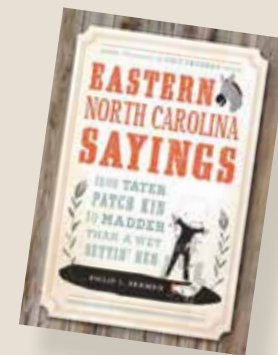
Andrew Harris is CEO of Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies, a charter school in Elizabeth City. **Christopher Meadows** '03 '06, N.C. Principal of the Year in 2014, was selected as principal of Pamlico High School, Bayboro. He was principal of Jones Senior High School, Trenton. **Charles Purser** is dean of the Edenton-Chowan campus of the College of the Albemarle. He was COA's State Board of Community Colleges and R.J. Reynolds Teacher of the Year in 2012.

2002

Mike Davis is a reporter with *Bay Times and Record Observer*, Centreville, Md. **Caroline Godwin** is principal of Burgaw Middle School, Pender County. She was an assistant principal and a curriculum specialist for grades 6-12 in Bladen County. **Michael R. Mascarenas** is a senior formulation scientist with Metrics Contract Services, Greenville. He was a principal process expert with Sandoz. **Preston Mitchell** '02 '04 is Reidsville city manager. He was Nashville town manager. **Nick Perlozzo** is assistant strength and conditioning coach at Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va. **Kimberly Wade** is a family nurse practitioner at Physicians East, Kinston. She was a staff nurse in the critical care unit at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. **Aaron Walker** is strength and conditioning coach at Gaffney High School, Gaffney, S.C.

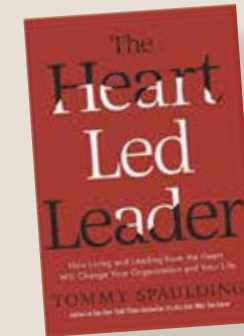
BOOKS AND MUSIC BY ALUMNI

Retired educator **Phil Beaman** '73 of Elon was raised in a family of nine on a tobacco farm in rural eastern North Carolina, so he has been surrounded by country folk and their colorful language his entire life. Beaman chronicles this language in a humorous collection of the region's most down-home sayings.



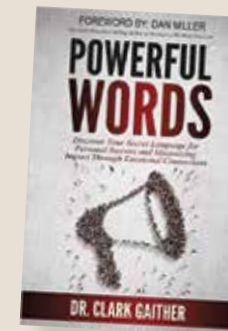
Eastern North Carolina Sayings
History Press
ISBN 9781626191839
144 pages, \$9.99

Authentic leaders lead from the heart, according to **Tommy Spaulding** '92. In this, his second book, he writes that the values and principles that guide our lives and shape our ability to lead others are far more important than our title, our ability to crunch numbers or the impressive degrees we display on our walls. Illustrated with stories from his own life and from some of the leaders he has met and worked with over the years, Spaulding unpacks what those qualities mean, talks about the 18-inch journey from the head to the heart—from our intellect to our emotions—and shows us how to incorporate them into our careers.



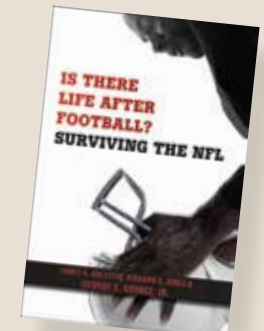
The Heart-Led Leader
Crown Business
ISBN 055341903X
256 pages, \$19.06

Dr. **Clark Gaither** '86 '89, who practices at Goldsboro Family Physicians, is widely known as a motivational speaker, and now he's distilled his ideas for entertaining audiences in a new book, *Powerful Words*. He says becoming a good public speaker requires connecting with thoughts and ideas that "come from the depths of our individual personal histories."



Powerful Words
Lifestyle Entrepreneurs Press
ISBN: 0996340211
336 pages, \$17.97

Former ECU football player **George Koonce** '06 knows one sad fact about most former pro football players. "Statistics say that 24 months removed from playing in the NFL, there is a 78 percent chance you are going to be broke," he says. "A lot of players struggle with what's next, and I was no different." After a Super Bowl career with the Green Bay Packers, Koonce came back to ECU and earned a master's degree in sports management in 2006 while working as an assistant athletic director for development. In 2012, he earned his doctorate in sports management from Marquette University. He teamed with two sociology professors, James A. Holstein and Richard S. Jones, to write *Is There Life After Football? Surviving the NFL*, an insider's take on the financial downside of sports fame. Koonce now is vice president of advancement at Marian University in Wisconsin.



Is There Life After Football? Surviving the NFL
NYU Press
ISBN: 9781479862863
336 pages, \$27.95



Cynthia Spell '02 '07 has released *Avenues*, a CD of 17 classical guitar music duo arrangements and eight solo pieces with David Norton. The duets and solos range from Elizabethan England to first recordings of works by Andrew York, Benoit Albert, Laurent Meneret and Andrew Shiels. Originally from the mountains of North Carolina, Spell now lives in Salt Lake City.



Steve Dvies/Getty Images

Harold Varner III '12 made his PGA Tour debut in October at the Frys.com Open in California, where he stayed near the top of the leaderboard for most of the tournament. Varner moved up to the major tour after finishing in the 25th spot on the Web.com Tour's 2015 money list.

2001

Pernell Griffin is assistant principal at New Life Christian Academy, Rocky Mount.

1998

Julie Finch is principal of C.G. Credle Elementary School, Oxford. She was principal of Mary Potter Middle School, Oxford. **Robin Faith High** '98 '06 wed Lemuel Green Tant Jr. on May 2 at the Legacy Restaurant, Elm City. She works at the Pitt County Public Health Department. **Deborah Kirkland Hunter** was promoted to social work supervisor for the care coordination team at the Edgecombe County Health Department.

1997

Bryant Buck is executive director of the Mid-East Commission, a regional council of governments organization based in Washington, N.C. **Kim Clayton** exhibited her baskets in the Apple Gallery of the Stokes County Arts Council, Walnut Cove, in summer 2015. **Erik Harris** is a middle school administrator at Faith Christian Academy, Rocky

Mount, where he plans to establish a band program. He was director of bands at Northern Nash High School, Rocky Mount, for 18 years. **Bobby Simmons** is principal at West Pender Middle School, Burgaw. **Gregory Siuta** was named to the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme, Calif. He is a strategic business development professional with Booz Allen Hamilton in Camarillo, Calif.

1996

Alison J. Garten is co-vice president of the American Association for Women Podiatrists. She is a podiatrist with Foot and Ankle Specialists of the Mid-Atlantic, LLC, Washington, D.C. **Scott Chase** is town manager for Swansboro. **Cheryl Sharp** '96 '01 of Annapolis, Md., was one of several individuals recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with a 2015 Voice Award. She works for the National Council for Behavioral Health in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes SAMHSA employees and media professionals who educate the public about behavioral health.

1995

Michael Cowin '95 '01 is assistant city manager with the city of Greenville. He was Pitt County Schools' assistant superintendent of finance. Dr. **William S. Yancy Jr.**, associate professor in the Department of Medicine at Duke University Medical Center, is program director for the Duke Diet and Fitness Center. Dr. **Michael Watterson** is a rheumatologist with Summit Medical Group at Rheumatology Associates of East Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. **Chris Whitaker** is a mortgage loan consultant in the mortgage division of Four Oaks Bank, Raleigh.

1994

Michael Perry '94 '02 is superintendent of Westmoreland County (Va.) Public Schools. He was superintendent of Hertford County Public Schools.

1992

Sherrie Burns '92 '94 is principal at Mary Potter Middle School, Oxford. She was assistant principal for the past four years. Dr. **Charles "Ken" Dunham** '92 '98 '03 has

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been appointed physician service line leader for behavioral health for Novant Health. **Ronald Leigh** is principal of King's Fork High School, Suffolk, Va. He was principal at Hillpoint Elementary School in Suffolk.



Mark Poteat, department head of the visual and performing arts program at Western Piedmont Community College, received second place in "Carolina's Got Art, The Salon Show," at Elder Gallery, Charlotte. His entry, "The Factory," is a semi-abstract depiction of an industrial building's skeleton frozen in space. **D. Paul Powers Jr.** '92 '94,

senior vice president and manager of the Pitt County Commercial Banking Unit for Southern Bank, was recognized as the top commercial banker in his region at Southern Bank's annual banquet.

1990

Jon Samuel Decker is director of golf instruction for New Albany Country Club, New Albany, Ohio. He was named the 2015 Southern Ohio PGA Teacher of the Year. **Debra A. Griffiths** opened The Law Offices of Debra A. Griffiths PLLC, in Raleigh specializing in family law. **Delilah Jackson** '90 '96 '13 is superintendent of Washington County Schools. She was Pitt County Schools' assistant superintendent of human resources. **Tim Slavin** is corporate director of federal accounts for the eastern U.S. with Sunovion Pharmaceuticals.

1988

David McKenzie is an account executive in the Pittsburgh office of UnitedHealthcare. He was a senior sales representative at OneAmerica.

1987

Don Adkins, an Edward Jones

financial adviser, received the Edward Jones Award, recognizing his superior client service. **Lisa Alcott** teaches math at the Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies, Elizabeth City. She previously taught math at Lakewood High School Center for Advanced Technology, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Anthony "Tony" Jackson is superintendent of Vance County Schools. He was superintendent of Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. Her husband, **Garret Freeman** '83, is a network planner with Century Link, and their twins, **Jeremy** and **Joshua**, attend ECU. **William J. Roger** founded PV&P Consultancy LLC, an organizational development consultant for NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va. **Susan Dawn Tacker** received a master's in human factors in information design in 2014 and is manager of user experience at Teradata Applications, Raleigh. She founded the Houston, Texas, chapter of the User Experience Professionals Association and is director of sponsorships and

1986

Debra S. Holley '86 '89 is vice president for academic and

student services at Danville (Va.) Community College. She was associate vice president of institutional effectiveness at Wilson (N.C.) Community College. **Don Lancaster** is a senior vice president and market executive with Citizens Community Bank in Louisburg.

1985

Shirley Pitchford Freeman '85 '90 was promoted to exceptional children preschool intake specialist with Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. Her husband, **Garret Freeman** '83, is a network planner with Century Link, and their twins, **Jeremy** and **Joshua**, attend ECU. **William J. Roger** founded PV&P Consultancy LLC, an organizational development consultant for NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va. **Susan Dawn Tacker** received a master's in human factors in information design in 2014 and is manager of user experience at Teradata Applications, Raleigh. She founded the Houston, Texas, chapter of the User Experience Professionals Association and is director of sponsorships and

memberships for the Triangle UXPA.

1984



Doug Hamilton, vice president and general manager of WNCN-TV in Raleigh, was honored with the Wade Hargrove Community Service Award by the N.C. Association of Broadcasters. The station was lauded for news coverage of issues related to clean groundwater, safer school bus traffic laws and greater transparency in the regulation and disposal of coal ash. **Sylvia Hobson Hancock** co-chaired the second annual Dreams Take Flight Golf Tournament at New Bern Golf and Country Club in September. She is human resources director at Monarch, a nonprofit that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance abuse challenges from more than 50 North Carolina counties.

1983



Susan Fecho '83 '84 '88 was promoted to dean of the School of Visual, Performing, and Communication Arts at Barton College, Wilson.

Janet Rose '83 '87 retired from

Shawboro Elementary School, Currituck County, after 32 years of teaching. She joined RE/MAX in Moyock.

1981

David Dodge Lewis '81 '86 was featured in the summer 2015 issue of *Drawing* magazine detailing his art process that mixes media blurring the line between drawing and painting. "The Quickening Image," an exhibit of his work, will be at ECU's Gray Gallery from Jan. 21 to Feb. 19.

1980

Amy Bissette Barber '80 '96, associate registrar of technology at ECU, completed her term

as president of the Southern Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers.

1978

Kathryn Elaine Birke retired in 2013 from Reid Ross Classical School, Cumberland County Schools, Fayetteville, after 37 years as a school media coordinator at middle and high schools in North Carolina and Alabama. **Caryl Graham** has one of her science fiction murder mysteries, *Helen Once, Helen Twice, Helen Once Again*, available on Kindle. **Don Walter Lewis** is senior geologist advisor for Noble Energy Eastern Mediterranean and Rest of the World New Ventures.

1977



Mark Garner was appointed vice chair of the ECU Board of Visitors. He was also elected secretary of the ECU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

William Harrison '77 '80,

superintendent of the Alamance-Burlington School System, was inducted into the N.C. High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

1976

Joyce Gallop retired as a fifth-grade English language arts and social studies teacher at Camden Intermediate School in Camden County after a 30-year career.

1975

Carol Ann Proctor Cobb '75 '93 retired as lead social worker for Edgecombe County Public Schools in 2015. Before this position she worked for the Pitt County and Edgecombe County departments of social services for 21 years. **Deborah Sue Cox** retired as school library media coordinator at Broadway Elementary School, Sanford, after 37 years. The library was named in her honor at her retirement.

1974

Joan Baillie, Salem Community College president, retired June 30 after 25 years of service to the college in various administrative and instructional roles.

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1973

Grover Truslow retired from Therma-Tru Doors after 15 years of service. He was district sales manager for the South Atlantic division.

1972

David Lloyd of Cary published *Leadership Skills to Support High Functioning Teams*. He is founder and president of M.T.M. Services and a 2015 Robert Wright Society Leadership Award recipient.

1971

David S. Warren of Portsmouth, Va., who directs the school chorus at Tidewater Community College, was appointed repertoire and standards chair for two-year colleges for the southern division of the American Choral Director's Association.

1969

Dennis Chestnut was ordained a bishop in July and is the presiding prelate of the United Pentecostal Holy Churches of America. He has served as pastor of Mt. Olive Holiness Church, Tabor City, for 32 years and UPHCA vice bishop since 1982.



Linda McMahon was elected vice chair of Sacred Heart University Board of Trustees, Fairfield, Conn. She is a principal of the Vince & Linda McMahon Family Foundation and co-founder and former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment.

1966

D. Ann Neville '66 '68 of Lynnville, Tenn., retired as vice president of student services at Martin Methodist College after a 40-year career in higher education.



Betty J. Clark Vaughn published *Run, Cissy, Run*, which won the award for historical fiction from the N.C. Society of Historians in 2013. Her two other historical novels,

Turbulent Waters and Muddy Waters: And the Man in the Chimney also received the historical fiction award from the N.C. Society of Historians.



1965



Joan Briley and **William Robert Elmore** '65 '68 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August in Lincolnton. **Barbara Trader Faires** retired as professor of mathematics at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa. She is secretary for the Mathematical Association of America.

1963

Ted Gossett joined the N.C. Wesleyan College Board of Trustees. He is a real estate broker in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area.

IN MEMORIAM

1930s



Aleen Hunt Baggett '34 of Wilmington died July 19 at 101 in Richmond, Va. She taught at Erwin High School, Harnett County. She was part owner of Pender

Furniture Co. on Front Street and later on Market Street in Wilmington. At ECTC she was president of Phi Sigma and played tennis.

1940s



Mary Tysor Johnson Clark '43 of Clarkton died July 27. She taught English at Clarkton High School for 43 years. She and her husband, Luther, helped

desegregate Bladen County Schools in the early 1970s. **Horace Abel Cohoon** '47 of Elizabeth City died July 3. A Korean War veteran, he retired after 30 years with the N.C. Wildlife Commission. He and his wife later owned and operated Old Hickory Antiques.



Dorothy Reed Miller Gordon '40 of Efland died March 28 at 95. At ECTC, she was twice selected as "Queen of the May." She taught

elementary school in Wilmington before her marriage to a West Point graduate led to 20 years of traveling around the world and 20 years as the wife of a university instructor. **Eunice McKeithan Mottley** '43 of Richmond, Va., formerly of Burkeville, Va., died June 6 at 93. She was a home demonstration agent with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, primarily in Prince Edward County. **Margaret Crowell Worth** '41 of Greensboro died Aug. 9 at 96. She retired from Western Piedmont Community College, Morganton. **Gertrude Parker Yount** '42 of Charlotte, formerly of Newton, died June 7. She taught elementary school in the Newton-Conover School System for 34 years.

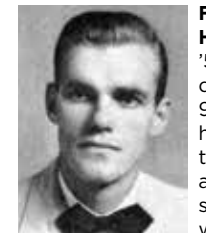
1950s

Harry Humphrey Albritton Sr. '58 of Farmville died Aug. 2. An Air Force veteran, he retired as executive vice president of sales at Sara Lee Corp. **Joyce Marie Bagley Ayers** '52 '56 of Charlotte died June 30. She taught high school. **Raymond Andrew "Buddy" Bass Jr.** '56 of Belmont died June 4. He owned Bass Construction and Realty, Fayetteville, and received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He played football at ECC.



Billie "Bill" Donald Cline '56 of Gastonia died May 24. He was owner/operator of Building Contractors. For more than 25 years, he and his crew staged the Southern

Christmas Show and the Southern Spring Show in Charlotte. He played baseball at ECC. **Charles Augustus Edwards** '54 of Arden died June 16. He served in the Navy during WWII and the Korean War, where he received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Dr. **James Conrad Faulkner** '54 of La Grange died June 14. He was an optometrist for 50 years.



Franz Foster Holscher Sr. '50 '51 of Gastonia died May 23 at 94. During WWII he was a ball turret gunner on a B-24. He was shot down over

Yugoslavia. He was awarded the Purple Heart and other medals. During his senior year he was captain of the football team. He retired in 1987 as CEO and board chairman of Thurston Motor Lines. **Edna Elizabeth Long Johnston** '53 of Sanford, formerly of Wilson, died July 14. She taught English and English literature at Atlantic Christian College for 37 years. **Dowdy Hardy Miller** '52 of Summerville, S.C., died Aug. 12. She taught school in Wayne and Greene counties. She was inducted into the ECU Educators Hall of Fame. **Walter Walker Moore** '58 '65 of Newport died June 7. A Navy veteran, he worked for Borg-Warner Acceptance Corp., Charlotte, and was a teacher. **Clarice Rose Merritt Page** '59 of Carrboro died June 10.

For nearly 30 years, she taught at Holt Elementary, Storybook Farm and Carrboro elementary schools. **Helen Liles Page** '59 of Charleston, S.C., died July 17. She was a teacher at Wallace Middle School and Drayton Hall Middle School and a tutor at Sylvan Learning Center. **Shirley Lewis Pate** '57 of Pikeville died June 1. She taught in the Wayne County Public Schools. **Charles E. Russell** '58 '61 of Southern Pines died Aug. 20. He was a coach, teacher and principal for many years. At ECC, he played baseball. **Leon Gray Sexton** '55 of Raleigh died July 2. For 36 years, he was a teacher, guidance counselor and coach at Hugh Morson, Enloe and Cary high schools. **Iris R. Smith** '55 of Sebastian, Fla., died July 8. She and her husband, Bill, owned the Waterway Restaurant in Southport. **Caroline Swaim Smithman** '59 of Salisbury died July 10. She taught English at Salisbury High School. **Larry E. Stewart** '57 '58 of Robbins died June 20. An Army Korean War veteran, he coached and taught in Duplin County for eight years and was principal of Elise Elementary School in Robbins. **Carolyn Jean Whaley Taylor** '52 of Oak City died May 28. She taught 37 years in New Jersey, Pitt and Martin County schools and for 23 years at Hobgood Academy in Hobgood. **Mary Jane Tucker** '54 of Alexandria, Va., died May 23. She retired as a teacher for the Fairfax County School System in Fairfax, Va. **Thomas M. Vicars Sr.** '52 of Greenville died May 20. He worked for the E.I. DuPont Co. for 35 years.

1960s

Willis Jackson "Jack" Aman '61 of Maysville died Aug. 8. A Coast Guard veteran, he owned Aman Family Farms, Maysville. At ECC, he was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. Capt. **Elbert "Bert" Pilston Felton** '66 of Southport died June 1. For 20 years, he was an aide to U.S. Rep. Steve Neal in Winston-Salem. In 2005, he earned his captain's license and led Solomon T river tours of the Cape Fear region. **Shirley Dean Scott Harris** '63 of Raleigh died June 22. She taught science in several N.C. high schools and later worked for several firms in Research Triangle Park. **Henry Harsch** '65 of Asheboro died Aug. 2. He was retired from Randolph Community College, where he was chair of the art and design department. **William "Bill" E. Inabinett** '60 '63 of Lexington

died June 10. For 30 years, he was dean of instruction at Davidson County Community College.



Tom Mallison '66 of Greenville died Sept. 6. His weekly radio show, "An Evening with Tom the Jazzman," ran on Sunday nights for decades on

WTEB in New Bern. Mallison donated his large collection of albums to Joyner Library in 2009. The alumni association recognized him with its Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1998. **David Rice Marshall** '69 of New Bern died Aug. 16. A Marine Corps veteran, he retired from the SBI and worked as a private arson investigator. **Harold E. Martin** '62 '63 of Seneca, S.C., died June 10. A Navy Korean War veteran, he retired in 1986 after 30 years as a teacher and principal. **Sandra Joy Mintz** '64 of Shallotte died July 19. She was a retired educator. **William Truston "Bill" Parker** '62 of Goldsboro died June 20. For 30 years, he taught industrial arts and driver education in Onslow and Wayne counties. **Charlie Rose** '66 of Southern Pines died June 23. He taught at junior high and high school levels. **Frances Anne Foster Shaw** '64 of Winston-Salem died July 16. She taught at Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and at Forsyth Tech.



Rebecca Ann "Becky" Stasavich '67 of Greenville died July 10. A daughter of legendary ECC football coach Clarence Stasavich, she was dean of women at Pfeiffer College before becoming associate dean of students at Lenoir Rhyne College. She later served as church administrator for 23 years at First Christian Church, Greenville. **John Collins Sykes Jr.** '60 of Rocky Mount died June 5. For 30 years, he directed junior high and high school bands in Rocky Mount. In 2012, he was honored by the ECU School of Music with its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

1970s

Gene Perry Ayscue of Burnsville died Sept. 11. He was site manager



Donna Mooneyham (left) with **Abigail Reznak**, a swimmer from Maryland who competed on the U.S. aquatics team that Mooneyham coached at the World Special Olympics in Los Angeles

The U.S. aquatics team coached by **Donna Mooneyham** '84 '91 won 86 medals at the World Special Olympics in Los Angeles this summer. But one of those medals was special to Mooneyham, an adjunct faculty member at the College of Health and Human Performance who lives in Oak Island. "I had an athlete from Kentucky and...he wasn't really gung ho for the competition. I found out he was a big NASCAR fan, and so am I. So we started talking about racing," Mooneyham contacted **Greg Morin** '01, who is a pit crew coach at Hendrick Motorsports in Charlotte. Morin sent the

athlete several items donated by NASCAR drivers. After that, "he started getting very excited about swimming, he smiled more and he seemed to really take off with this encouragement. (At the next competition) he had his personal best time in swimming." On the last day of competition, Morin sent the athlete a video of NASCAR great Jeff Gordon congratulating him for achieving his personal best time in the pool. "That was such an inspiration that he went out and medaled," Mooneyham said. She also was an aquatics coach at the 2011 World Special Olympics held in Greece.



Mezzo-soprano **Deborah Nansteel** '07 premiered the role of Lucinda in the Santa Fe Opera Festival's world premiere production of *Cold Mountain* during the summer. The opera is based on Charles Frazier's 1997 novel of the same name. Born in Japan and raised in Havelock, Nansteel has performed with the American Opera Initiative; the

Seattle, Dayton and Merola opera companies; and the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi in Milan. She is in her second season at Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. The North Carolina Opera, a co-commissioner of the opera, plans to present *Cold Mountain* during its 2017-2018 season.

of the Bellamy Mansion Museum, Wilmington. **Marie Mulliner Stewart Brewster** '78 of Virginia Beach, Va., died June 16. For more than 20 years, she provided child care at the Northend. At ECU, she played tennis and swam. **Willie Mack Byrd Jr.** '74 of Wilmington died June 28. He worked for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for 22 years. **Naomi Brown Eaton** '74 of Kinston died May 27. She retired as a teacher of middle school math in Kinston. **Lucy Ann Carney Glover** '73 of Wilmington died July 28. She retired as a librarian at New Hanover High School. **Aline Maas Hamblen** '79 of Springfield, Mo., died July 12 at 90. She joined the Air Force as a flight nurse in the Korean War. She accompanied baseball legend Babe Ruth on a train ride to visit Boys Town orphanages and kept him comfortable as he was dying of throat cancer. Later in her career, she earned a master's degree in nursing from ECU. **Linda Mears Howard** '71 of Tarboro died Aug. 17. For more than 20 years she taught at Tarboro Edgecombe Academy, Martin Middle School and Edgecombe Community College. **Lynn Ann Mullen James** '74 of Ellijay, Ga., died May 7. She retired

from J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. **John "Jack" Gordon Kellogg Jr.** '75 '78 of Manassas, Va., died May 7. A Naval Air reservist, he retired from Kellogg Supply Co., Manteo. **Michael Everett Koonce** '78 of Jacksonville died May 11. He was a yards and grounds supervisor for Craven County Public Schools. **Linda Cheryl McIntosh** '78 of Atlantic died June 23. She retired from Camp Glenn School. **Jeanne Morse Moore** '70 of Leavenworth, Kan., died May 27. She taught English at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria, Va., for 15 years. **Joan Wooten Murphrey** '74 of Walstonburg died May 30. She taught 18 years at Frink Middle School in Lenoir County and later in the Greene County Schools. **Nancy Bobbitt Ormond** '75 '81 of Henderson died July 12. She retired from the Vance County School system after 26 years and was active in The Arc. **Vicki Ellis Plummer** '73 of Denton died Aug. 16. She taught in the Northampton County School System, at Martin Community College, at the College of the Albemarle and the Countryside Church of Christ School, Edenton. **Eugenia "Jeanne" Lea Register Price** '77 died June 17. For more than 30 years, she was a teacher and administrator

in public schools in North and South Carolina. **Donald Hamilton Sayce** '71 '78, of Hampstead died May 14. A Vietnam War veteran, he retired in 1977 after 20 years in the Marine Corps. He then had a 20-year career as a principal at Belhaven High School, Beaufort County, and Snowden Elementary, Aurora. **Michael "Mike" Scharf** '75 of Johnson City, Tenn., died July 8. An Air Force veteran, he worked as an artisan after retiring from teaching. **Nancy Croll Sell** '71 '76 of Lititz, Pa., died July 21. She was a computer analyst, trainer and director of IT services for 25 years. **Mary Josephine "Jo" Haworth Simons Snelling** '71 of Bear Creek died May 12. She taught music at UNC Wilmington and English in several public schools in eastern North Carolina. **Harry Williams Stubbs IV** '74 '77 of Greenville died Aug. 19. He retired from the FDIC in Washington, D.C. He was an active member of the Pirate Club and the alumni association. Memorial contributions can be made to the ECU Education Foundation, c/o The Harry W. Stubbs IV Scholarship Endowment Fund, Ward Sports Medicine Bldg., Suite 304, Greenville, NC 27858. **John Parker Thomas** '77 of South Bristol, Maine,

died July 10. After an insurance career in New Jersey, he moved to Maine where he painted houses and worked on boats. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. **Susan Phillips Townsend** '78 of Halifax, Va., died July 28. She taught in private Christian schools before teaching at Meadville Elementary School, Halifax, Va., for 10 years. **Jo Ann Merritt Ward** '78 of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., died June 26. She worked at BellSouth from 1978 to 2001 and then was managing partner of Atlantic Interior and Antiques. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority and a little sister at the Phi Tau fraternity.

1980s



Maj. **Jan Beaman Cannon** '88 '05 of Walstonburg died Sept. 2. She was part of the inaugural class of the ECU nurse anesthesia program. **Patricia "Pat" Shambley Harden** '82 of Charlotte died Aug. 13. She retired after 28 years in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system. **Shepard Duane Hayes** '86 of Lumberton died June 9. He was

self-employed with Expense Reduction Consultants. **Anna Scott Liland** '88 of New Bern died May 22. She was a nurse in the neuro ICU at Johns Hopkins Hospital and later was a contract travel nurse for several N.C. hospitals. **Ray Newton Moore** '81 of Colorado Springs, Colo., died May 28. He was a graphic designer/art director. **Paul L. "PL" O'Brien Jr.** '88 of Silver Spring, Md., died July 31. He was director of marketing and sales at PwC. **Philip William Scates** '83 of Pittsboro died June 17. He retired as a molecular biologist at GlaxoSmithKline.

1990s

Dr. **Hakeem M. Abdul-Karim** '95 of Winterville died July 23. A dentist, he owned Contemporary Dental Home, Winterville. **Judy Fay Casteen Adkins** '94 of Belhaven died July 21. In 2009, she retired as lead school nurse of Washington County Schools. **Cynthia Edelmann Billings** '90 of Fayetteville died Aug. 11. She was a retired teacher for the Cumberland County schools. **John F. Burch Jr.** '91 of Deptford, N.J., died July 19. He was a construction engineer in North Carolina for many years. **Debbie Aiken Chase** '97 of Fayetteville died July 28. She worked for 18 years at the Allen County Department of Welfare, Fort Wayne, Ind., and was a school social worker at Max Abbott Middle School, Fayetteville, for 19 years. **Amy Leigh Ellis** '98 of Rocky Mount died July 10. She was a library media coordinator in the Nash-Rocky Mount Schools for 10 years. **Vanessa Joy Gaskill** '99 of New Bern died July 15. She worked in a library at Carteret Community College. **James Ford Griffin** '89 of Norcross, Ga., died Aug. 8. He worked for Niemann Marcus Department Stores. At ECU, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. **Patti Fulghum Howell** '90 of Pikeville died Aug. 5. She taught at Forest Hills Middle School in Wilson for 23 years. **Jean Veronica Wharton** '99 of Raleigh died July 31. She taught at Montessori School of Raleigh.



Scott M. Yelverton '97 of Greenville died May 29. A Marine Corp veteran, he operated 501 Fresh Restaurant, Greenville.

2000s

David A. "Lil' David" Cornileus Jr. '06 of Orlando, Fla., died June 19. He worked for Chase Bank. **Molly Spahn French** '02 '07 of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., died May 27. **Karen Michelle Winningham** '01 of Clayton died May 30. She worked as a DNA analyst in the SBI Crime Lab. She

was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

2010s

Devin Johnson of Charlotte died May 26. He was attending ECU.

FACULTY

Ruth Holmes Benedict of Greenville died July 16. She retired from ECU as an assistant professor of nursing in 1998.

Janet Patricia Roberts Fletcher of Greenville died July 20. She was a teaching instructor and academic adviser for the ECU Department of Nutrition Science. She was married to John Fletcher, ECU associate provost of enrollment services.



Linner Ward Griffin of Greenville died July 5. She was one of the first African-Americans to integrate the student body at UNC Greensboro and graduated from there in 1964. She held academic appointments at West Virginia University and Temple University before coming to ECU in 1990 as an assistant professor in the School of Social Work. She retired in 2013 as associate vice chancellor for academic programming and development. She was married to Bobby Griffin, who retired from ECU's Department of Materials Management. Donations may be made to the ECU School of Social Work Scholarship Fund, ECU Foundation, 2200 S. Charles Blvd., Suite 1100, Greenville, NC 27858.



Charles E. Stevens '54 of Greenville died Sept. 4 at 89. He was a member of the music faculty for 30 years and a dean of the department, accepting emeritus status in 1990. Survivors include daughters Margaret Mauney '76 and Mary Charles Jenkins '79 and son-in-law Jack Jenkins '78. Memorial contributions can be made to the Charles E. and Margaret S. Stevens Endowment, ECU Foundation, 2200 S. Charles Blvd., Suite 1100, Greenville, NC 27858.



Evelyn Perry, the second dean of nursing at ECU, died Sept. 10. She was appointed dean in 1969. Under her leadership, the Nursing Alumni Association was

established, Sigma Theta Tau Beta Nu chapter was chartered and the master's degree program in nursing was launched. She retired from the deanship in 1981.



Marguerite Austin Perry of Greenville died Aug. 24 at 96. She taught French at ECU from 1939 to 1987, retiring as professor emerita from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. As department chair in the 1970s, she helped establish the International House for Students. She was the first director of campus radio and a member of and served many years as co-chair of the Entertainment Committee that became the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series. She was one of the founding members of the Retired Faculty Association in 1987 and a member of the Friends of Joyner Library, which awarded her a Lifetime Membership in 2000. As the most senior faculty member, she carried the mace at graduation ceremonies for many years.

STAFF

Betty Ann Saunders Cashion of Greenville died Aug. 1. She was secretary to ECU's basketball coach. **Betty Simpkins Heath** of Chocowinity died May 21. She worked in housekeeping at ECU. **Jane A. Maier** of Green Bay, Wis., died May 25. She worked in the ECU co-op program assisting students in obtaining jobs within their fields of study. She was married to the late Robert Maier, former ECU vice chancellor of academic affairs. **Barbara Winn Montgomery** of Raleigh died July 21 at 91. She was a medical technologist at ECU's Student Health Services until retiring in 1989. She was married to the late Wilkins B. Winn, who taught history at ECU from 1966-1987. **Dianne Barkman Norris** '75 of Greenville died June 19. She retired as a lab manager for ECU's biology department in 2009. **Michael Raymond Webb** of Farmville died July 24. He worked in telecommunications with ECU's police department.

FRIENDS



David Jordan Whichard II, former president and co-publisher of *The Daily Reflector*, died Aug. 9. He was a member of the ECU Board of Trustees from

1963 to 1973, chair of the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation and member of the N.C. Board of Higher Education. He graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill and chaired that school's Board of Trustees. **R. Frank Davis** of Concord died Aug. 24. He served on ECU's Parents Council. **Barbara Alice Ward Hall** of Greenville died June 13. The wife of the late Col. (Ret.) Ellis Franklin Hall Jr., who worked in the Brody School of Medicine, she was an honorary member of the East Carolina Alumni Association. **Edwin Morris Small Jr.** of Edenton died June 29. Vice president and branch manager of Yadkin Bank, Hertford, he was a member of the ECU Pirate Club. Donations may be made to the ECU Pirate Club, ECU Educational Foundation, Ward Sports Medicine Bldg., Suite 304, Greenville, NC 27858. **Susan Lorena Ambrose Sawyer** of Greenville died Aug. 10 at 92. She retired in 1988 after 16 years of service with ECU at the news bureau, Department of Pediatrics and the office of the late Dean William Laupus, Brody School of Medicine.



On Aug. 19, ECU lost an irreplaceable member of the Pirate Nation. **Harry W. Stubbs IV** '74 '77, a native of

Greenville, lived most of his adult life in the Washington, D.C., area, where he was an active volunteer for the DC Metro Chapter of the East Carolina Alumni Association and Pirate Club. After retiring in 2011, he returned to Greenville to be closer to family and his beloved ECU. At the time of his death, Harry was serving as a member of the alumni association Board of Directors.

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Contact us for more information or visit eculegacy.org.



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Single Life		Two Lives	
age	payout rate	age	payout rate
55	4.0%	55/55	3.5%
60	4.4%	60/60	3.9%
65	4.7%	65/65	4.2%
70	5.1%	70/70	4.6%
75	5.8%	75/75	5.0%
80	6.8%	80/80	5.7%
90+	9.0%	90/90	8.2%

He spiced up cafeteria food

Paul Julian in the new South Dining Hall in 1959.



Paul Julian must have been shocked when he took his first look around the East Carolina dining hall in the spring of 1947. Examining the cooking and refrigeration equipment, which was more than 20 years old, he could see why a batch of spoiled milk had sickened several students recently.

"Student complaints about food and service at the college dining hall are loud and numerous," the *Tecoan* student newspaper reported May 16, 1947.

President John Messick had recruited Julian to run the dining hall for one reason: Julian knew how to serve good food for a crowd, fast. Most recently he had owned the Fairwater, a popular seafood restaurant in Norfolk, Virginia.

Julian saw the dining hall was cooking and serving food the same way it had for 40 years. Only one or two entrees were prepared for each meal. When enrollment doubled, recipe amounts were doubled. Everyone ate the same bland, overcooked food. Students had to hurry because the dining hall was open just 90 minutes for lunch and dinner.

Julian persuaded the school to buy new ovens, freezers and steam tables. Then he trained the staff to operate the kitchen as a cafeteria with a broader menu and open longer hours. He moved into a basement apartment near the kitchen to lead the transition.

The conversion occurred during the break between the end of spring quarter and the start of summer school.

"With the new cafeteria set-up," the *Tecoan* reported June 27, 1947, "the students are offered a larger variety of foods to select from, and because smaller quantities are cooked, better food is prepared."

Students soon were lining up to fill their plates. Particularly popular was an exotic new dish Julian added to the menu—spaghetti.

But tastier food created a new problem. There were no cash registers; students simply showed ID cards and ate as much as they wanted. The school's solution was meal books, which students were required to buy beginning that fall quarter.



Many work-study students had jobs in the cafeteria. Julian's son, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Julian '55 of Goldsboro, said his dad had a soft spot for students with empty stomachs and wallets. "Let's just say there were one or two free meals served after the cafeteria closed," he said with a wink.

With enrollment pushing 4,000 in 1959, the school unveiled a two-story addition to the old cafeteria. Students thought the new South Dining Hall was a modern marvel, with self-serve soda fountains and conveyer belts whisking away dirty plates. Today, it houses the school's financial aid offices.

Julian continued running the cafeterias until he retired in 1968. He died in Greenville in 1981 at age 81.

Today, ECU has two cafeterias on Main Campus—Todd Dining Hall on College Hill and West End Dining Hall—and 26 other places where students can get a bite to eat.

—Steve Tuttle

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Approximately 4,700 guests, including more than 1,500 prospective students, visited campus during fall Open House. Presented by the ECU Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the event gave future Pirates an opportunity to gather information on admissions, financial

aid, campus living and dining, as well as the academic and student life aspects of campus. Visitors enjoyed campus tours, a peek inside residence halls and lunch at one of several campus eateries.

Photo by Patrick Fay