

East

THE MAGAZINE OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY®

SPRING 2016

Licensed to heal
Steve Ballard's era
MO-mentum



Prescription for Prosperity

Skilled graduates are one way ECU is leading economic development

East

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

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Skilled graduates are one way ECU is leading economic development.

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Tanya Darrow '07 serves patients and students in rural N.C.

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Chancellor Ballard reflects on his 12 years at the helm of East Carolina.

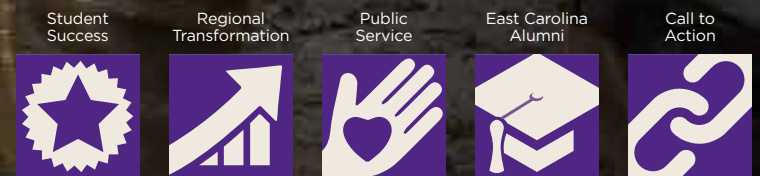
MO-mentum 38

A new coach and a new staff have injected energy into ECU's football Pirates.

On the cover: Alex Morsch '13 is a biomedical engineering graduate who is part of ECU's effort to boost economic development in the East—in her case, by providing a workforce with expertise in life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

Photo by Cliff Hollis

Pirate Battalion Army ROTC Cadet Christopher Rudkowski and other cadets get muddy as they navigate ECU's West Research Campus' new ROTC obstacle course in early April. The cadets were practicing for the eighth annual Patriot Mud Run there later that month. The run supported Eagle Rock Camp, a program that supports military families.
Photo by Cliff Hollis



With this issue, *East* introduces a set of icons to identify stories, photos and features with specific content. They are student success, regional transformation, public service, alumni and call to action. The first three are the commitments in ECU's strategic plan, the fourth indicates information with an alumni focus, and the final icon could have various meanings, from giving opportunities to a call to stay connected or take action on behalf of your university. We hope these images add to *East's* coverage of ECU and the people and stories related to the university.

Springing forward

Change has bloomed at East Carolina this spring alongside the dogwoods and azaleas.

And it's all in this issue of *East*, chock full of big news, inside information and Pirate insights.

Chancellor Steve Ballard, who has led ECU through an era of accomplishments and accolades, completed his final semester this spring. He will step down July 1 after 12 years leading our university. On page 32 check out the highlights of that era and how they shaped ECU, from the founding of a dental school and Honors College to landing a spot in a national athletic conference.

In that same story, get some insight into what makes this chancellor tick, including his views on public leadership and the role integrity plays in higher education.

On page 4, share the excitement about the next leader of East Carolina, Chancellor-elect Cecil Staton, announced April 27 by University of North Carolina President Margaret Spellings. Dr. Staton will begin his role July 1 and made it clear in his initial remarks he values East Carolina's focus on students, its commitment to service and its impact in the region. Look for a more comprehensive conversation with him in the Fall issue.

Speaking of President Spellings, who began her new role March 1, we share on page 6 her first official visit to ECU and the purple-carpet welcome she received. It was a big day for us, and I don't think it's boasting to say we wowed her with our spirit, our impact and our innovation.

Then, on page 38, there's our new head football coach, Scottie Montgomery, a North Carolina native. Read about his desire to be a Pirate, his philosophy and his plans.

In addition, *East* and the East Carolina Alumni Association continue to refine the relationship that has developed during the past year. With the guidance of Heath Bowman, the new president of the association, we've integrated alumni-related content throughout *East* instead of simply providing an alumni section in the magazine. Since much of our content has an alumni angle or connection in some way, this seemed a smarter way to highlight our alumni and their relationship to the university we love and serve.

Look in this issue as well for new visual features spotlighting alumni as well as features on students who are making the most of the opportunities provided for them through philanthropy to the university. We hope you notice that these tweaks—as well as our regular content—focus more intentionally on demonstrating East Carolina's incredible impact on lives and communities.

Keep in touch. As always, Go Pirates!



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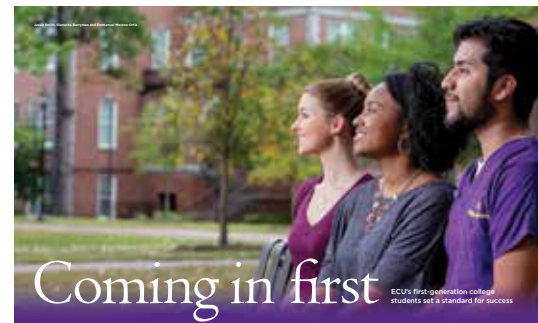
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East Carolina University is a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. It is a public doctoral/research intensive university offering baccalaureate, master's, specialist and doctoral degrees in the liberal arts, sciences and professional fields, including medicine. Dedicated to the achievement of excellence, responsible stewardship of the public trust and academic freedom, ECU values the contributions of a diverse community, supports shared governance and guarantees equality of opportunity.

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Having served as a long-time administrator in higher education, not many articles I read within my field move me to tears. Winter 2016's *East* article "Coming in First" by Spaine Stephens did just that for me. The issues and challenges that first-generation college students

face is real, and Stephens completely captures the essence of the experience in the piece. Even though I didn't attend ECU as an undergraduate student (though I did complete a doctoral program at ECU), I was a first-generation, four-year student and identified with the article immensely. Virginia D. Hardy has made an indelible impression on ECU by creating programming that pays special attention to "first gens" and arms them with the information and

skills they will need to be successful in the classroom and beyond. Meanwhile, over on the medical campus, Dr. Paul R.G. Cunningham, with whom I worked several years while an employee at ECU, has ensured that the Brody School of Medicine adheres to one of its early tenets: to educate medical doctors with special attention to recruiting, educating and training M.D.s from traditionally underrepresented populations.

Bravo to Hardy and Dr. Cunningham—both unsung ECU heroes—for making a difference every day for East Carolina University and the people of the East and beyond.
—T. Greg Prince '15,
Salisbury, Md.

MAKE A NOTE OF YOUR NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: **Class Notes Editor, Howard House, Mail Stop 107, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.** Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can email your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While *East* happily prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement

announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

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If you would like to receive *East* by mail, please make your donation by calling 252-ECU-GIVE (328-4483) or visiting the ECU Giving website at ecu.edu/give.

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Cecil P. Staton elected chancellor of ECU

Cecil P. Staton, interim president of Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia, has been named the 11th chancellor of East Carolina University by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Staton, 58, was elected April 27 during a special called meeting of the board. He will assume his new duties July 1, succeeding Steve Ballard, who has led ECU since 2004. Ballard announced last

year that he was stepping down and will return to the faculty.

“Dr. Cecil Staton brings to ECU a rare blend of leadership experience in higher education, the private sector and elected public office, as well as a practical understanding of how to bring diverse constituencies and organizations together to get things done,” said UNC President Margaret Spellings.

Staton said he’s looking forward to being part of ECU’s mission to serve students, the region and the state.

“I am very excited about this opportunity because of the wonderful assets at East Carolina University and the ability I think we have to use those assets to meet the challenges public higher education is facing today and to really be innovative and show excellence in every area of the

university’s work,” Staton said the day of his election. “That’s exciting to me, and I’m very happy to be here.”

Since 2014, Staton has served as vice chancellor for extended education for the University System of Georgia. In that role, he is responsible for strategic initiatives related to international education, continuing and professional education, entrepreneurial education and

military affairs. He is also USG’s liaison with the Georgia Research Alliance and supports USG’s economic development initiatives and efforts to match the resources of USG institutions with Georgia’s evolving workforce needs.

Since July 2015, Staton has also served as interim president of Valdosta State, a regional USG institution with 11,300 students. In that role, he has focused on retention, improving student success and better marketing and branding to reverse recent enrollment declines and associated budget shortfalls. He has also worked to expand VSU’s distance-learning offerings and competency-based education plan. As a result of these efforts, the university’s operating budget has been aligned with enrollment; applications for fall 2016 are up 60 percent over the previous year; and a capital campaign has raised more than \$46 million during the past 18 months.

Staton also served as associate provost at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, a multi-campus institution with professional programs including medicine, law, business, education, pharmacy, engineering and nursing. In addition to teaching in the College of Liberal Arts and serving as an administrator, he led Mercer’s University Press and secured more than \$4.5 million to help endow the academic publishing program.

Staton began his academic career at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia, where he was an assistant professor of religion from 1989-91.

Staton’s private-sector experience includes founding and leading three communications companies: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, a publisher of books and curriculum products; Stroud and Hall Publishers, a publisher of books on politics and current events; and Georgia Eagle Media, a holding company for broadcasting, newspaper and media properties.

In 2004, Staton was elected as a Georgia state senator representing the state’s 18th District. He served five terms before retiring in 2014.

“His skill set of the public sector, legislative and academia—I feel like we really got the total

package,” said Steve Jones, chair of the ECU Board of Trustees. “It’s an exciting time.”

John Stiller, chair of the Faculty Senate and a member of the chancellor search committee, said Staton “emerged as a strong candidate as we went forward.”

He added: “We have a tremendously strong leadership team here, tremendously successful and efficient shared governance. I’m going to do my best to work with the new chancellor.”

Active in professional and civic organizations, Staton has been recognized numerous times for his service and leadership. His awards and honors include the Georgia Independent College Association’s 2014 Miller-Deal Award for significant public service in higher education; Legislator of the Year awards from the Georgia Hospital Association, Georgia Technology Association and Georgia Rural Health Care Association; and the Georgia Ambulance Association Star of Life Award.

He also holds an honorary doctorate from Mercer University and received the inaugural Richard B. Furman Award from Furman University. He serves on the board of directors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the board of visitors of the University of Georgia.

Staton, himself a first-generation college student, said ECU has “world-class faculty,” a “student-focused” staff and “engaged students.”

“I’m very impressed with the students who are there, their backgrounds and how East Carolina prepares them,” Staton said. “I believe, too, (ECU is) in the business of changing lives. As we change lives, we change families, we change communities and maybe the world.”

Eliza Monroe, a senior urban and regional planning major and member of the search committee, was impressed with how Staton has worked to increase retention at universities and with his varied background.

“I think he’s a great choice,” she said.

Staton and his wife, Catherine, have two children: Cecil P. Staton III, a financial planner in Atlanta, and William Davidson Staton, a student at DePaul University in Chicago.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Staton has a bachelor’s degree in religion from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, master of theology and master of divinity degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest and a doctorate in Old Testament, Hebrew and ancient Near Eastern studies from the University of Oxford in England.

During the search, the 15-member committee evaluated 70 candidates, interviewed 11, brought five to campus for further talks and submitted three names to Spellings, Jones said.

—Doug Boyd



Staton shakes hands with officials from other system universities after his election.



Cliff Hollis

Mia Andriana Leone, left, and Janae Brown talk with UNC President Margaret Spellings in Mendenhall.

million in grant funding.

“You’re doing an experiment, and across the bench (someone says), ‘Oh, why don’t you do that?’” said Maria Torres, a fourth-year doctoral student in bioenergetics and exercise science. “That happens all the time.”

Drs. Carlos Anciano and Mark Bowling, lung specialists at the Brody School of Medicine, talked about image-guided interventions they use to diagnose lung cancer and remove malignancies. Nearly 500 North Carolinians die of lung cancer every month, Bowling said.

Using high-definition video of an actual procedure, Anciano showed how they remove lesions using tiny laparoscopic instruments. He then showed a follow-up procedure on the same patient.

“Now you’re just showing off,” Spellings quipped.

She also visited the School of Dental Medicine, where she participated in a remote presentation from community service learning centers in Elizabeth City and Spruce Pine.

Spellings, who assumed her role as leader of the state’s university system in March, visited ECU as part of a listening tour of the 17 system campuses.

—Doug Boyd



Cliff Hollis

Dr. Sean Bush, an ECU emergency physician and international snake expert, shows a cottonmouth and copperhead to Angie Glasgow, center, and Denali Broadky during Venom Week V, held March 9-12 at ECU. More than 250 experts in snake and spider venom attended the conference, including presenters from ECU, Duke University, the University of Colorado and the University of New Mexico.

Watch a video from Venom Week at <https://youtu.be/Ew5Y1gx-Ovw>.



Dr. Sean Bush, Dept. of Emergency Medicine

UNC president visits ECU as part of listening tour

During a March 30 visit to Greenville, UNC President Margaret Spellings learned about ECU’s work to promote innovation and economic development, improve access to health sciences education and health care, and more.

At the ECU Innovation Design Lab on Jarvis Street, Spellings saw the new MakerBot 3D printing lab and heard faculty innovators talk about their work to reduce sports injuries and improve adolescent health, explore the coast and help the military care for traumatically injured and brain-injured troops.

One word kept coming up.

“If I had a nickel for every time I’ve heard ‘partnership’ since I got through the door, I’d be rich,” Spellings said. “That’s what it’s all about.”

Among those partnerships is one with the life sciences sector in eastern North Carolina—particularly workforce development.

Andrew Moghaddam, a 2014 ECU chemistry graduate and analytical chemist at Mayne Pharma in Greenville, told Spellings ECU’s work with life sciences companies helped him get a job after graduation.

“The relationships they’ve built up with these pharmaceutical companies was huge in me being

able to find a job,” he said.

As psychology student Zack Evans, a senior, showed Spellings “augmented reality” technology he’s developing that literally puts people in other places, she said, “That’s cool. What a great learning experience. Go ECU.”

Earlier, Spellings toured the Health Sciences Campus. She noted the concerns she has heard across the state regarding the university system: affordability, accountability and access.

ECU leaders addressed those issues head-on. For example, Dr. Elizabeth Baxley, senior associate dean at the Brody School of Medicine, told Spellings ECU medical graduates leave school with nearly \$50,000 less debt than the national average. Because of that, they can choose primary care fields that pay less and are in higher demand than more lucrative specialty fields.

Provost Ron Mitchelson showed statistics indicating significant numbers of ECU students come from across North Carolina—not just from counties surrounding Greenville. And many of them are receiving need-based scholarships and learning through distance education. ECU leads the UNC system in the number of credit hours earned through distance education, Mitchelson said.

Sylvia Brown, dean of the College of Nursing, noted ECU produces

more baccalaureate nursing graduates—587 alone in the most recent academic year—than any other UNC-system school. Ninety-eight percent of students pass their licensure exam on their first try, and slightly more than half remain in eastern North Carolina to practice.

On the fourth floor of the East Carolina Heart Institute, scientists and doctoral students spoke with Spellings about their research and the collaborative nature of the labs there, where the East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute is working with approximately \$6

Spellings reacts after being shown augmented reality technology by Jim Menke and student Zach Evans.

Jay Clark



Biotechnology building to become reality with bond funding

With the March 15 passage of the Connect NC Bond Act, ECU officials will begin planning for a new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building.

Funded by \$90 million that will come from the bond, the new building will measure 150,000 square feet and house the biology and biomedical/bioprocess engineering departments, as well as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Development Center of Excellence.

Voters approved the bond by about a 2-to-1 margin.

“This bond will be a great help as we train tomorrow’s workforce and build economic capacity in the East,” said ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson.

In addition to the money ECU will receive, the 16 other UNC institutions, the state’s community colleges, state parks—nine of which are in eastern North Carolina—and the N.C. Zoo, the National Guard and local water and sewer projects will also receive funding from the bond. Officials have said the bond will not require a tax increase.

In talking about the bond in the weeks before its passage, Chancellor Steve Ballard pointed out the enrollment growth at ECU since the Howell Science Complex opened in 1969. Enrollment then totaled 9,000.

Today, it exceeds 28,000, with thousands of students taking biology-related courses and labs, Ballard has said.

—Doug Boyd

Board approves Legacy Hall

ECU trustees voted unanimously to rename Building 71, formerly Ayccock Residence Hall, as Legacy Hall during their Feb. 19 meeting.

At the request of students and others, the board began discussions in 2014 about renaming Ayccock residence hall, which honored former Gov. Charles B. Ayccock, whose tenure at the turn of the century has been associated with white supremacy campaigns.

In late December, workers removed the lettering and signage designating the building Ayccock Residence Hall. Since then, the building has been referred to by its campus building inventory number, 71.

During its September meeting, the board voted to transition the name from Ayccock once 60 percent of the cost to create Heritage Hall had been raised, which had occurred by December. The hall will be a permanent place to recognize people of historical significance to the university, including Ayccock.

The eventual Heritage Hall is intended to occupy a physical space in a new Student Services Center as well as virtual space.

—Jamie Smith



ECU recognized for international education

ECU is among seven colleges and universities nationwide recently named as winners of the prestigious 2016 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization.

The Simon Awards are granted through NAFSA: Association of International Educators and recognize outstanding and innovative achievements in campus internationalization.

ECU was recognized as a Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award recipient, which honors a specific international program or initiative that contributes to comprehensive internationalization on campus. Other universities recognized in this category include UNC-Chapel Hill and Texas Tech University.

“Over the years, I have looked to the previous Simon Award winners as a source of inspiration and ideas, so it is a huge honor to now be among that elite

group,” said Jami Leibowitz, ECU’s interim global academic initiatives director. “Receiving this award is also a testament to ECU’s willingness to invest in and allow to flourish innovative ideas that support its mission.”

The GAI program partners with 62 institutions in 33 countries to provide an interactive, student-driven global experience for approximately 300 ECU students each semester.

Since the program began in 2004, more than 17,000 students have participated in GAI activities worldwide. GAI’s largest section is Global Understanding, a course where students work with three distinct partner institutions for three to four weeks. Students lead real-time discussions about college life, family and cultural traditions, meaning of life and religion, and stereotypes and prejudices. Sixty percent of the class time is spent in video connections with



Top: Raqurra Ishman, foreground, one of the students in a foreign language class, talks to students at the Henan Polytechnic University in Jiaozuo, Republic of China. Students spoke via video or conducted one-on-one chats over a computer connection.

Above: Video image of class in China with ECU class in the corner

students from other countries.

“This is not a class, it is an experience,” said Meg Matthews, a sophomore majoring in public health. “GAI put a focus on trying to better interactions between people with differences, which

is extremely important in our globalized world.”

Simon, the late U.S. senator from Illinois, was a supporter of international education and foreign language learning.

—Jamie Smith

Cliff Hollis



Taj Nasser

Cliff Hollis

ECU leads among Golden LEAF Scholars

Growing up in the eastern North Carolina town of Wilson, Taj Nasser wanted to attend a college with the same sense of community as his hometown: ECU.

This commitment to community is also part of what earned Nasser four years’ worth of undergraduate scholarships from the Golden LEAF Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the economies of rural or tobacco-dependent communities such as Wilson. LEAF stands for Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation.

Each spring, Golden LEAF awards scholarships to high school seniors and community college transfer students heading to any of North Carolina’s public or private four-year colleges or universities. Recipients are selected based on multiple factors including GPA, financial need, length of residence in qualifying rural counties and an expressed commitment to returning to a rural county that is economically distressed.

Administered through the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, more Golden LEAF Scholarships are awarded to students at ECU than at any other school.

Nasser, who has a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from ECU in 2014, is now a second-year medical student at ECU’s Brody School of Medicine. After residency training, he wants to practice in the East.

“Eastern North Carolina is where

I have spent most of my life, so I envision staying here,” he said.

Nasser exemplifies the kind of student Golden LEAF wants to help.

“We’re trying to reach young people who have deep roots in eastern North Carolina and who are likely to return here and help them go to college,” said Golden LEAF President Dan Gerlach.

The scholarship program has existed since 1999 but underwent a change about six years ago. Instead of giving a certain number of scholarships to various schools to distribute, Golden LEAF now gives scholarships directly to students through a grant to the NCSEAA. Then students choose which school they will attend.

“More Golden LEAF Scholars have chosen ECU than any other school in the state by a wide margin,” Gerlach said. “This is because our mission aligns so closely with ECU’s mission of serving the public and transforming the region.”

Of the total 832 Golden LEAF Scholars across the state, 123 are at ECU, according to Gerlach. The school with the next highest number of Golden LEAF Scholars has 89.

“In general, ECU educates approximately 10 percent of the undergraduate population in the state, but around 15 percent, or one in seven of our Golden LEAF Scholars, choose ECU,” Gerlach said.

Golden LEAF receives applications from around 1,600 students a year and gives scholarships to 215. Scholarships are \$3,000 a year for up to four years.

Some scholarship recipients are part of the Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program. Participants attend leadership conferences and complete paid summer internships with funds from Golden LEAF.

The most common majors among Golden LEAF Scholars are in health care and education, according to Gerlach. “If students are interested in these areas, that’s often why they go to ECU,” he said.

Taylor Bradley is a senior education major from Washington who’s conducting her student teaching at Wintergreen Primary School this semester. She has received the Golden LEAF Scholarship for four years and was also a member of the leadership program. She chose ECU because she grew up a Pirate; her parents are alumni.

“It made sense to attend a school that was close to home as well as one that began as a teaching college,” said Bailey, who hopes to work in eastern North Carolina. “Projects through this scholarship have opened my eyes to the support that is given when living and working within a rural community.”

Thanks to the Golden LEAF Scholarship, Bradley will graduate debt-free from ECU in May.

“This scholarship has been the main support through my time at ECU,” she said. “It has helped me learn leadership skills, gain internship experience and allowed the opportunity to make connections within my field while connecting with other scholars from across the state.”

Without the Golden LEAF Scholarship, some students would not be able to afford college at all.

“Golden LEAF is my saving grace,” said freshman Robynique Willis-Brown of Greenville, an intended social work major. “I am an independent student paying my tuition out of pocket. Without the support of the Golden LEAF Scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to afford school this year.”

—Jackie Drake

Dental leader hosted

The ECU School of Dental Medicine earned some national recognition Feb. 29-March 1 as the American Dental Association president spent two days on campus.

Dr. Carol Summerhays is the 152nd president of the ADA and represents more than 158,000 members nationwide. Her mission on this trip, however, was to connect with the future of the field.

“It has been a huge priority to get out to dental schools around the country, because this is the future of dental medicine,” she said.

During town hall meetings held Feb. 29 in Ross Hall, she shared advice on leadership opportunities and fielded questions about efforts to reduce student debt and secure higher reimbursement rates for Medicaid-funded care.

Students, residents and faculty members from ECU community service learning centers around the state also joined the question-and-answer sessions by teleconference.

Summerhays visited the ECU dental clinic in Ahoskie and said she was impressed by the facility and what it represents.

“The model that ECU has with their clinics is a really fine example of bringing care to communities in need,” she said.

Community service learning centers are in eight rural and underserved areas across North Carolina. Fourth-year students and dental residents train at the centers under faculty supervision while providing dental care to local residents.

Two dental students who are members of the American Student Dental Association lured Summerhays to ECU after meeting her last year.

“We were both struck by her warmth and sincere interest in students,” said Jennifer Pan, a third-year dental student.

She said she hoped Summerhays sensed “our mission and dedication to service” during the visit. “That’s what’s unique about us,” Pan added.

The visit was not ECU dental medicine’s only connection to the ADA. Dr. Greg Chadwick, dean of the school, was president of the national organization 15 years ago.

—Kathryn Kennedy



John and Gladys Howell

Alumni Scholarship recipients share a love for each other, East Carolina



Now married, Ryan Wilson '11 and Samantha Cahill Wilson '10, once had only one thing in common: they were Alumni Scholarship recipients at ECU.

Now, they're encouraging other alumni to support the association in events such as the Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run held each spring. They ran in the 2013 road race before they got married and participated in the 2016 event as well.

They're glad to know they're helping students by running in the race and supporting the

scholarship program.

"We know it's less stress on the students," Ryan said. "It takes the pressure off to pay for college, and it rewards them. It reminds them they're doing something right."

"It makes me smile to think of current students getting this scholarship," Sam said. "I remember that exact feeling. We know firsthand how much it means to students. Even if it's just by running, we're happy to do our part."

—Jackie Drake



Samantha and Ryan Wilson

Support the Alumni Scholarship program by participating in the 2016 ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic golf tournament Sept. 9 or by donating at PirateAlumni.com/Donate. And be sure to look for information on next year's Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run April 22, 2017.

Howell remembered for his dedication to ECU

ECU Chancellor Emeritus John Howell, who served the university for three decades as a professor and administrator, died Jan. 3. He was 93.

Colleagues remembered him for his knowledge, leadership and service.

"His influence began long before he was chancellor," said Henry Ferrell, a former history professor and university historian at ECU. Howell was instrumental in creating the Faculty Senate and was one of the primary researchers who helped compile information that led to the founding of the Brody School of Medicine.

Howell served in the U.S. Army Air Corps for three years during World War II, after which he received a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in political science from the University of Alabama. He taught at Randolph Macon Women's College before attending Duke University, where he earned a doctorate in political science.

He was hired at ECU in 1957 after teaching at Memphis State University and became a full professor in 1961. He helped found the ECU Department of Political Science and was its first chair. He later served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, dean of the graduate school and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"He had a strong ability to organize and structure things," said Ferrell. "He was one of this university's outstanding

administrators. He was composed, he was humorous and he knew what higher education was about."

In 1982, Howell was tapped as interim chancellor following the tenure of Thomas Brewer.

"He was considered a good choice because he knew the campus, got along well with faculty and had the strong support of Bill Friday, president of the state university system," said John Tucker, professor of history and university historian. "He is known for his steady, stabilizing influence on campus and in relation to the community."

Howell's mission was not to create change, Tucker added, but to guide to maturity the advances begun during the tenure of Chancellor Leo Jenkins, especially the medical school. He served as chancellor until he retired in 1987. In 1991, the Howell Science Complex was named in honor of John and Gladys Howell. She is a retired member of the university's sociology faculty.

"Chancellor Howell served ECU with distinction," said Chancellor Steve Ballard. "Nancy and I will always remember the grace and warmth with which he and Gladys welcomed us to the Greenville community."

The Howells raised two sons in Greenville, both of whom now live in the Triangle area. For the last few years, Howell had been a resident of Golden Living Center.

—Jules Norwood



Lekisha Pittman

Campus Kitchens addresses food waste, hunger

A student-led project at ECU is marking six years of addressing hunger locally.

ECU has the only Campus Kitchens program in the UNC system and the largest of four programs in the state.

"We're still sustainable, and that's the beauty of this project," said Victoria Barfield, a graduate student in nutrition science and advisor for ECU Campus Kitchens Hot Meals.

Teams of students prepare nutritious meals consisting of a protein, vegetable, starch and dessert at Todd Dining Hall and deliver them on a rotating schedule to four community partners: Operation Sunshine, the Little Willie Center, JOY Soup Kitchen and the Ronald McDonald House.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, the team at ECU had more than 200 volunteers, saved 2,500

pounds of food, provided more than 1,900 meals and served 1,226 clients.

While the dining hall donates meat it would otherwise have discarded due to impending expiration dates, most of the vegetables and fruit come from the annual ECU Homecoming canned food drive. More than 1,100 pounds of food were collected in the fall and will be used throughout the year, Barfield said.

Student coordinators, such as shift leader Lekisha Pittman, are the heart of the program. One of the biggest things she has learned through volunteering is that "hunger has no specific face," she said. "You may have food today, but you may not have food tomorrow."

Volunteering with Campus Kitchens also has influenced her career choice. She intended to major in nursing, but switched to

family and community services with a concentration in family studies. "I want to do something that impacts hunger in the United States," said Pittman, a senior from High Point.

Sometimes students will get involved because they need service hours for an organization. But once they're in, they realize they want a more active role, said Jade Umberger, the nutrition outreach advisor for ECU Campus Kitchens who is in the middle of a yearlong service project with AmeriCorps VISTA.

"It means a lot to me," said Pittman, who started volunteering with Campus Kitchens in 2014. "It's great to give back to the community, and it's shaped my future career goals."

As one of 16 shift leaders, Pittman has completed Serv-Safe certification, National Restaurant Association food and beverage safety training that students can take into their professional lives after graduation, Umberger said.

"We're trying to educate our students about hunger in North Carolina," Umberger said. "There are 1 in 4 kids in North Carolina going hungry," she said. In west Greenville, where she primarily works, there is limited access to fresh foods and vegetables, creating a food desert.

To address the gap, Campus Kitchens started a nutrition outreach program last summer that provides four nutrition lessons each month to children from the Little Willie Center and Operation Sunshine.

"It allows students to serve with people, not to people, to make it a positive relationship," Umberger said. "I think both community and campus benefit."

At Thanksgiving, Campus Kitchens planned a Turkey Palooza which resulted in enough donations to support all the families at Operation Sunshine and several more at the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center. Twenty-five families received a box complete with turkey and all the sides.

ECU's Volunteer Service-Learning Center and Aramark opened ECU's Campus Kitchen in 2010. It's one of 45 at schools across the country.

—Crystal Baity

Grad programs ranked

ECU's online graduate programs in business, criminal justice, education and nursing are listed in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2016 Best Online Programs.

The College of Education's programs tied for 14th out of 252 schools. A total of 366 students were enrolled in the following ECU online education programs during the 2014-2015 year: adult education, business education, elementary education, instructional technology, science education, reading education, special education and middle grades education.

ECU's College of Nursing programs were ranked 23rd out of 147 schools. Last fall, 316 students were enrolled in the college's six online graduate options: adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist, neonatal clinical nurse specialist, neonatal nurse practitioner, nursing education, nursing leadership and nurse midwifery.

The online master of business administration program tied at 72nd out of 221 schools in the country. Of the 709 total students enrolled in the ECU MBA program last fall, nearly 80 percent selected online classes.

ECU's online graduate criminal justice program placed the highest in North Carolina and tied for 30th out of 51 schools.

U.S. News also ranked traditional ECU graduate programs in medicine, nursing and rehabilitation counseling.

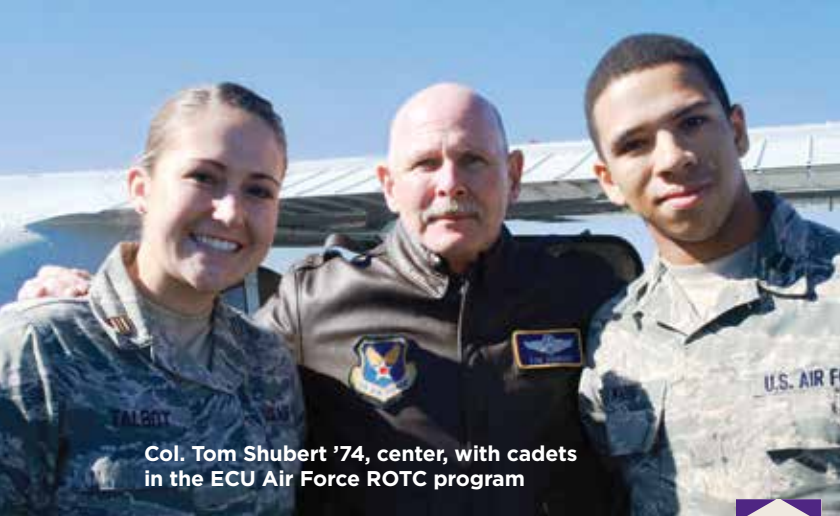
The Brody School of Medicine is ranked 32nd overall among primary care schools and 88th for research.

The College of Nursing is ranked 88th out of 259 graduate nursing programs listed, while the concentration in nurse anesthesia is ranked 29th out of 112 programs and nurse midwifery is ranked 15th out of 39 programs across the country.

The doctor of nursing practice degree program is ranked 80th out of 149 programs surveyed.

In addition, the rehabilitation counseling program in the College of Allied Health Sciences is ranked 18th among such programs by *U.S. News*.

—Crystal Baity



Col. Tom Shubert '74, center, with cadets in the ECU Air Force ROTC program

Art school to open 'glass station' in Farmville

The ECU School of Art and Design plans to open a hand-blown glass art studio in a building that formerly housed a service station in downtown Farmville.

Hand-blown glass is a new curriculum area for ECU and the first of its kind in the UNC system. Students will travel from Main Campus in Greenville for classes, which are expected to begin this fall, said Chris Buddo, dean of the ECU College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Because of the type of equipment and space needed, no more than six to eight students will be able to participate at a time. "We expect that demand will outpace our ability to meet it," Buddo said. "We expect this will become a growth area for us."

Hand-blown glass could become a new concentration in the art school. Initial interest is expected to come from ceramics and sculpture students, Buddo said.

The project is a result of a grassroots effort by The Farmville Group, a volunteer economic development association interested in growing the local economy through the arts. The Allen and Stowe families donated the building to the DeVisconti Trust, which is leasing it to ECU.

Community leaders contacted ECU in 2014 to talk about opening a studio or art gallery space as a way "to use art to breathe economic life into downtown," Buddo said.

In response, ECU proposed a glass art facility that would not only serve as a classroom for students but also become

a destination for anyone interested in learning about glass blowing. The studio will feature public viewing areas and offer workshops to the general public, including underserved populations who may never have been exposed to this type of art.

"Our hope is to make Farmville a go-to creative center in eastern North Carolina," Buddo said. "We are thankful to Farmville for building a vision around art."

The school will recruit two artists to serve as adjunct faculty members and purchase equipment needed for glass production. ECU also will be partnering with Pitt Community College and Pitt County Schools to make the facility available for instruction and other learning opportunities.

Todd Edwards, a member of The Farmville Group, wanted to create an incubator for young artists that would help retain talent in the area and have local economic impact. His construction company is contractor for the trust on the project.

"We want school kids to be inspired and to come here and be engaged," said Edwards. "This is a template and road map for all small towns. This will go beyond just this facility,"

ECU will pay approximately \$14,000 a year, plus utilities, to lease the building that officials are calling the "glass station" as a nod to the building's former life as a gas station on West Wilson Street. Built in 1946, the building will provide about 2,400 square feet of studio space.

—Crystal Baity

Jay Clark



Contributed photo

Military alumni chapter planned

The East Carolina Alumni Association is partnering with ROTC and Student Veteran Services to form a chapter for military alumni.

The chapter will serve a variety of populations, including veterans who came to ECU after serving, and graduates who entered the military after college, either through ROTC or independently.

The first step is to gather data and build a master list of military alumni. While any existing military alumni outreach has been fragmented, this effort would update information across the entire central alumni database.

"We've got to figure out a good way to make sure we're getting to everyone," said Nicole Jablonski, assistant director of Student Veteran Services. "We're so close to so many military bases, there's a big population we can pull from. We just have to find them."

Accurate numbers for military alumni at ECU are hard to come by. Prospective students applying to ECU have an option to self-identify as military, which doesn't always happen and wasn't always an option in the past.

There are roughly 1,500 graduates of the ROTC program at ECU, around 1,200 from the Air Force detachment and more than 300 from the Army detachment.

"There's a huge untapped potential there," says Tom Shubert, who graduated from the Air Force ROTC program at ECU in 1974. He retired as a colonel after 30 years of service and now works with the Civil Air Patrol, a civilian auxiliary of the Air Force. "What are these alumni doing now and what can they do to

help current students?"

Shubert helped the Civil Air Patrol organize incentive flights for Air Force cadets at the Pitt-Greenville Airport in November. Many of the pilots were ECU alumni. Shubert hopes the group will foster more experiences like this.

"I think military alumni would like to be more involved," Shubert said. "I think they'd enjoy meeting other alumni, but I think they really want to engage with cadets and help them along their careers."

Military alumni can provide valuable insight and guidance to students.

"A big thing when you leave the military is that you've lost your social network, and going to college and getting a degree can seem like an unattainable goal," Jablonski said. "It can be helpful and motivating for students to see alumni who were once in their situation who have now gotten jobs or started businesses."

One of the goals for the chapter is to host a military event as part of homecoming, as well as other events where alumni could mingle with students and network.

"This group could help alumni make connections with potential employers," Jablonski said. "A lot of companies are interested with working with military alumni. It's a win-win for everyone."

To find out more or get involved with the military alumni chapter, contact Lindsay Raymond-Weston, assistant director for alumni programs, at 252-328-1958 or raymondweston115@ecu.edu or visit PirateAlumni.com/MilitaryAlumni.

—Jackie Drake

Alumni adds recent grad membership level

Recent graduates will be able to join the East Carolina Alumni Association for \$25 starting July 1, while other membership dues will rise.

Annual individual memberships will increase to \$40 from \$35 on July 1, and the annual couple's membership will increase to \$60 from \$50.

This is the first rate increase since the membership program began in 2006.

"The economic landscape has changed so much since then; it really was time for an increase," said Neal Crawford '85, past chair of the association board of directors. "Joining the alumni association remains one of the more cost-effective and impactful ways to support ECU. We help make it possible for alumni and supporters to have a lifelong relationship with East Carolina."

Not only is membership a great way to support ECU, it also provides many benefits such as member-only communications

and opportunities to network and connect with other Pirates, said Crawford.

"We're always trying to find ways to engage young alumni, and this (recent graduate) rate will make it easier for them to join and stay connected to the university," Crawford said.

Benefits include discounts on registration for Buccaneer Buffet tailgate and Bring the Whole Crew family outings, East magazine and more (see glance box). Membership support allows the association to host networking and social events for alumni and their families, provide scholarships to students, give awards to honor the accomplishments of alumni volunteers and leaders, and offer services and communications for 165,000 alumni worldwide.

Membership is open to anyone who wants to support ECU, including former students, spouses, parents, faculty, staff and community members.

—Jackie Drake

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- Every issue of *East* magazine
- At least a 25 percent savings on registration for most alumni events, including Buccaneer Buffet tailgates and networking events
- VIP (Very Important Pirate) experiences at select alumni events
- The monthly e-newsletter *ECUupdate*
- Weekly MemberGrams with discounts at local and national retailers
- Exclusive access to the online alumni directory
- Free registration for the Pirate Career Casts series



Doug Smith



Cliff Hollis



DT Nguyen uses a power tool to cut parts of a car.

ECU medical students participated in a disaster day drill with the Winterville Fire-Rescue-EMS department. The Emergency Medicine Interest Group at Brody coordinated the event to give students a better understanding of what happens before patients get to the hospital. An EastCare helicopter was on site, and after students worked with several wrecked cars to simulate a patient extraction, the patient mannequins were transported back to Brody, where a simulated emergency department was set up for students to continue "treatment."



Ballard accepts award for ECU's community engagement

Chancellor Steve Ballard received the Leo M. Lambert Engaged Leader Award from the North Carolina Campus Compact at its 16th annual conference held Feb. 10 at High Point University.

The award recognizes North Carolina chancellors or presidents who are committed to meaningful engagement in their communities, highlighting the role leaders play in setting priorities at their institutions.

"This is really a recognition of ECU and the commitment of hundreds of people to make a difference in the community," Ballard said after the ceremony. "Engagement with the

community means everything to what kind of university we are."

Ballard arrived at ECU in 2004, "and East Carolina has never been the same since," said Nido Qubein, HPU president and chair of the N.C. Campus Compact Executive Board. ECU has become an economic engine in the region and has been nationally recognized for its community engagement efforts, Qubein said as he introduced Ballard.

The UNC system's longest-serving chancellor, Ballard was recognized for his efforts to make ECU known as a leadership university, focusing on student

success, service to the state and regional transformation in eastern North Carolina.

For example, ECU's support of the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center, a campus-community partnership started in 2007 to support children and families in west Greenville, was nationally recognized in 2012 with the C. Peter Magrath University/Community Engagement Award. ECU also partners with the Wounded Warrior Project to assist soldiers returning to civilian life.

The chancellor has also established academies to provide intensive leadership training for

Nido Qubein, High Point University president, presents the Leo M. Lambert Engaged Leader Award to ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard.

faculty, staff and students, and he started the Engaged Outreach Scholars Academy to support faculty and students who work with community partners on mutually beneficial research projects. To date, hundreds of faculty, staff and students have participated in these programs.

On average, 45 percent of North Carolina students are active in civic and community engagement, well above the national average of 39 percent, according to Leslie Garvin, executive director of the compact.

"This is a movement," Garvin said. "We are committed to transforming North Carolina one institution at a time. We couldn't be more excited about the future of service learning, and we couldn't do all this without leadership."

N.C. Campus Compact is a collaborative network of colleges and universities with a shared commitment to educating engaged citizens and strengthening communities. Presidents and chancellors from more than 48 public, private and community colleges and universities have joined since the compact was founded in 2002 at Elon University. ECU joined as a charter member the same year.

—Jackie Drake



Volunteers organize alumni events and chapters across U.S.

From the nation's capital to the Pacific, alumni volunteers are hosting events and organizing chapters to connect fellow Pirates.

"When I first moved to Northern Virginia right after graduating, I knew one other local Pirate. Now, I know more than 50, and there are over 2,000 in this area," said Courtney Dunn '13, a volunteer who helps organize events for the DC Metro Chapter in Washington, D.C.

Dunn, who holds a degree in history, is now an event coordinator for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. She helped organize a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in December

2014. More recently, she and her co-volunteer Drew Leisure '12 have started to organize monthly happy hour events as a way for alumni to socialize and expand their networks without the pressure of a traditional networking event.

"We held our first event in February and had a terrific response, so we look forward to what this program has the potential to grow into," Dunn said.

It's easy to be friends with anyone from ECU, says Nicole Blood Coleman '06, a volunteer in the Dallas area. "It brings me a great sense of pride, especially being so far from home. It's so exciting to see how the spirit of the Pirate Nation

travels across the country."

Last fall, Coleman coordinated an alumni event at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where more than 200 Pirates gathered for some barbecue flown in from eastern North Carolina. "It was such a huge showing of school spirit. Even Shane Carden stopped by," she said.

Pirates are known for their spirit in Greenville and across the country.

"Even my co-workers know that graduates of ECU always support their university and have true Pirate pride," said Karla Jones '00, who works at Central Piedmont Community College and serves as a



volunteer for the Charlotte area. "Keeping connected with fellow Pirates is very important because we are what keeps each other strong in a sea of unfamiliar faces," said Los Angeles volunteer Wayne Sampson '08.

Building a network galvanizes the resources of the Pirate Nation, said Michael Dudley '10, a volunteer in Charleston, South Carolina. "This allows each of us to give back to our alma mater, enhancing what ECU has to offer and producing quality alumni who can, in turn, add their own resources to the network of Pirates," he said.

People need not worry that the alumni association just wants to ask for money, said Dunn of Virginia. "That's not the point at all," she said. "We would like you to give back to ECU, sure, but personally I would much rather see you help out a fellow ECU grad who may be new to the area or just help us cheer on the Pirates like we're back in Dowdy-Ficklen."

The alumni association is working to strengthen chapters in Washington, D.C., southeastern Virginia, Charlotte, Raleigh and Greenville-Pitt County. If you live in these cities and would like to get involved with other Pirate alumni in your area, contact Lindsay Raymond-Weston, assistant director for alumni programs, at 252-328-1958 or raymondweston115@ecu.edu.

—Jackie Drake

100 YEARS AGO

School physician named state medical society president



Dr. Charles O'Hagan Laughinghouse, a local doctor and ECTS school physician, is named president of the Medical Society of North Carolina. A staunch advocate of public health and preventive medicine, Laughinghouse, in a speech during "Better Babies Week," urges Greenville residents to clean up a mosquito-infested ditch near the grade school and high school to reduce the spread of malaria. "Is it possible that you have eyes that see not and ears that hear not the things that have been told you by the United States Public Health Service, by the state public health service, and by your local public health service, and by the physicians of your town? If it was making your chickens and horses and cows sick, you'd stop it," he tells the crowd.

75 YEARS AGO

Flight training offered at East Carolina



As war rages in Europe, East Carolina, along with the Civil Aeronautics Administration, begins offering flight training at the local airport. Twenty students, including two women, enroll. The next year, more students join. Among those are John Johnston and Matt Phillips (pictured). Both would be killed in World War II.

50 YEARS AGO

Recommendation made for life sciences institute



A consultant's report recommends the development of an Institute of Life Sciences and Community Health at ECU. The report says such an institute would provide the base for the development of a medical school. It also offers advice on the expansion of undergraduate science programs and the planning for a new building to house the expanded programs. The concept behind the Institute of Life Sciences and Community Health leads to the development of the School of Allied Health Sciences and Health Professions the following year. The school would call the Belk Building (pictured) home from 1972-2006.

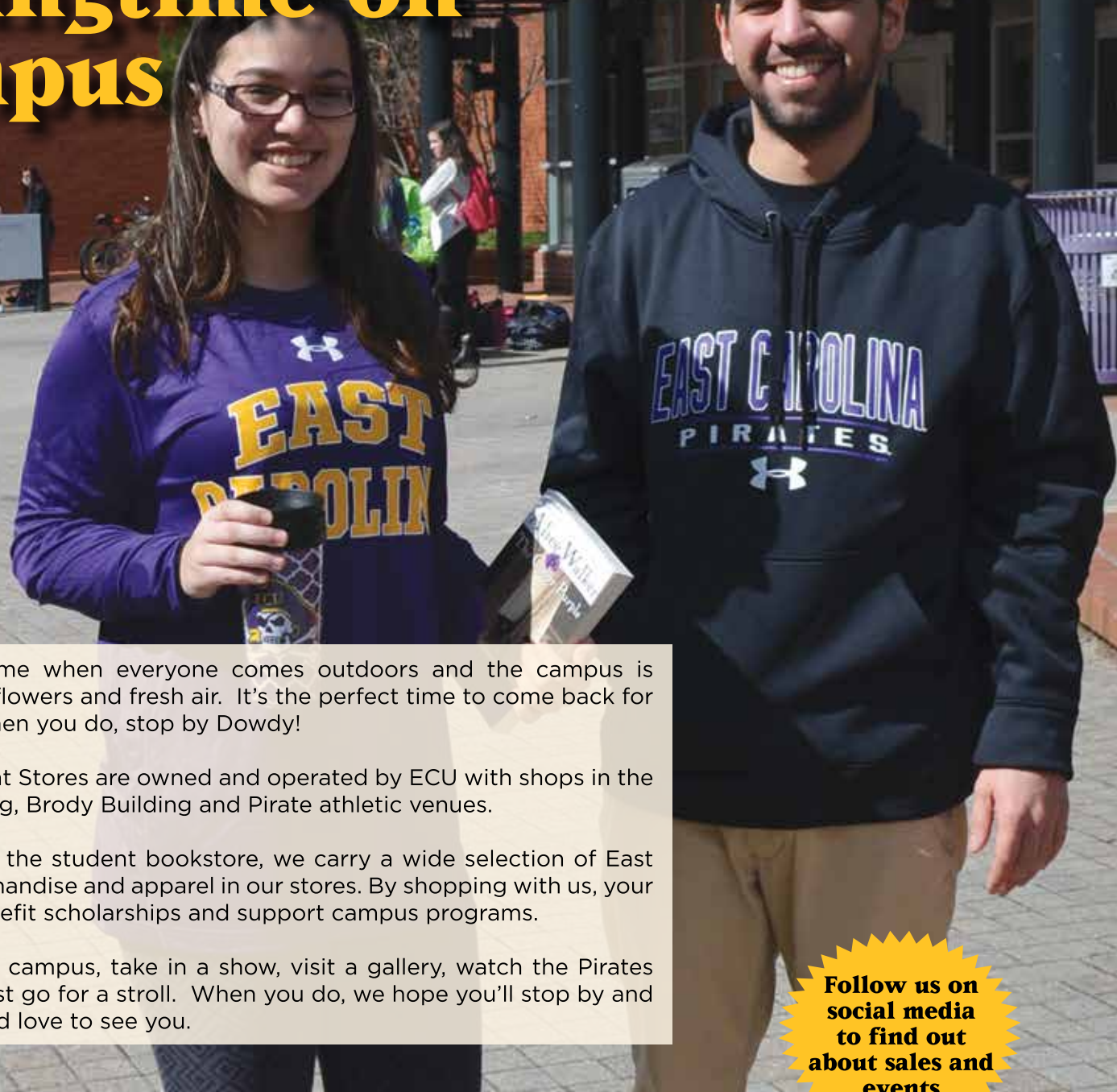
25 YEARS AGO

Pirates capture third straight conference championship



The Colonial Athletic Association plays its 1991 baseball tournament at ECU's Harrington Field, and the Pirates make the most of their home-field advantage. Defeating James Madison twice, George Mason once and Richmond twice, the Gary Overton-coached team wins its third-straight CAA championship and goes on to the NCAA baseball tournament. Third basemen John Gast (number 28 at left) is named to the All-CAA team and named CAA Co-Player-of-the-Year.

Rediscover Springtime on Campus



Spring is a time when everyone comes outdoors and the campus is bursting with flowers and fresh air. It's the perfect time to come back for a visit. And when you do, stop by Dowdy!

Dowdy Student Stores are owned and operated by ECU with shops in the Wright Building, Brody Building and Pirate athletic venues.

We're not just the student bookstore, we carry a wide selection of East Carolina merchandise and apparel in our stores. By shopping with us, your purchases benefit scholarships and support campus programs.

Come back to campus, take in a show, visit a gallery, watch the Pirates play ball, or just go for a stroll. When you do, we hope you'll stop by and say hello. We'd love to see you.

Follow us on social media to find out about sales and events

Can't make it to campus? Visit us online at www.studentstores.ecu.edu



ECU Dowdy Student Stores



ECU Dowdy

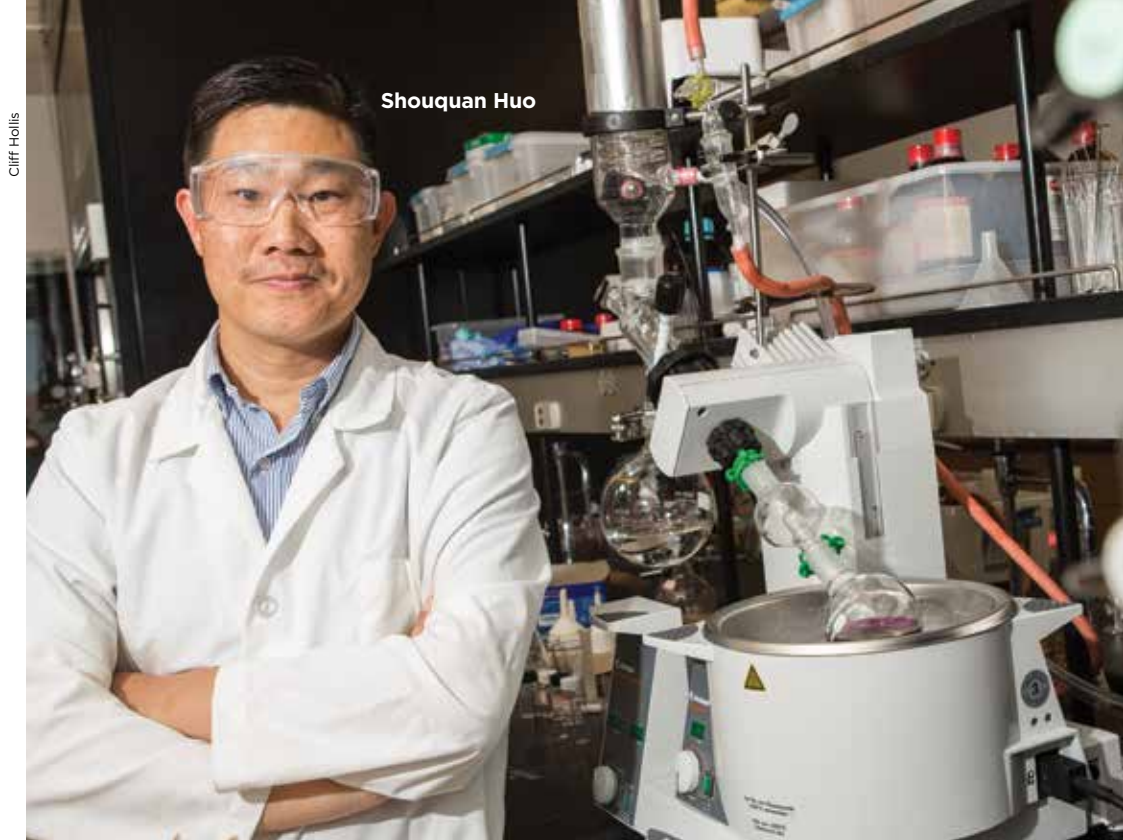


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Shouquan Huo

Professors recognized for their research, creative work

Four ECU faculty members were recognized for their research, engagement and creative accomplishments during ECU's 10th annual Research and Creative Achievement Week in April.

Bob Ebendorf, a professor emeritus of metal design in the School of Art and Design, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity.

Shouquan Huo, an associate professor of inorganic and organic chemistry, and S. Raza "Raz" Shaikh, associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a member of the East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute at the Brody School of Medicine, received Five-Year Achievement Awards for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity.

Paige Viren, an associate professor of recreation and leisure studies, received the Scholarship of Engagement Award.

Ebendorf is an internationally known master metalsmith and jewelry designer who incorporates cast-off objects into his works, pairing unusual items from broken glass to bottle tops in his one-of-a-kind designs.

He has taught undergraduate and graduate students for the past 19 years at ECU. He's also helped raise funds for art scholarships at ECU; there is an endowed scholarship in his name. He was named the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Art in 1999.

Examples of his work are in 29 museums around the world, including the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, The Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Through the years, he has completed large commissions for corporations, temples, churches and private clientele.

He's received numerous awards and accolades including the Society of North American Goldsmiths Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014, the highest honor given by the society.

Ebendorf has bachelor of fine arts and master of fine arts degrees from the University of Kansas and was awarded a Fulbright. Before joining East Carolina, he taught at the University of Georgia and State University of New York at New Paltz.

Huo's research focuses on selectivity in organometallic bond activation, the use of

phosphorescent materials and organometallic anticancer agents. Organometallic chemistry is the study of chemical compounds containing at least one bond between a carbon atom of an organic compound and a metal.

Huo has designed, synthesized and characterized a number of phosphorescent platinum complexes. A significant finding is one isomeric platinum complex that demonstrates higher toxicity against a series of human lung and prostate cancer cells.

Huo has a doctorate in chemistry from Nanjing University in China and bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Zhengzhou University in China.

He has written more than 40 peer-reviewed research articles, given more than 35 invited talks and is the owner of 13 U.S. patents, with two patents pending. He is a member of several academic and research societies.

Shaikh, an expert in lipid biochemistry, nutritional immunology and membrane biophysics, has a doctorate in medical biophysics from Indiana University and completed postdoctoral training in immunology at Johns Hopkins

University. He has established himself as a leader in several fields.

Since joining ECU, Shaikh has received continuous extramural funding from the National Institutes of Health as well as from industry groups including pharmaceutical and dietary supplement companies.

In 2012, he received the Early Career Award from the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids. His first—and perhaps most often-cited—published work demonstrated the underlying mechanisms by which dietary omega-3 fatty acids target the molecular organization of lymphocyte lipid membranes to modulate inflammatory responses.

Shaikh has published 37 research and review articles as co-author and senior author.

Viren's focus is on the development of sustainable community-based tourism. Applying her experience as a travel agent, she works to support economic development and protect and promote natural and cultural resources in towns along the Roanoke River.

Viren and her students crafted marketing plans and supported grants to secure funding for a wheelchair-accessible kayak launch and boat ramp in Windsor. The latest project is the construction of two treehouses and a "treeZebo," or observation deck connected by an elevated walkway, on the banks of the Cashie River, which are intended to provide additional accommodations in Windsor.

Viren also collaborated with Pitt, Pamlico, Craven and Carteret counties to develop master plans with strategies to increase recreational access in these communities.

Viren joined ECU in 2008 and has served as an affiliate faculty member with the Center for Sustainable Tourism. She has a bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure studies and a master's in leisure and tourism studies from Bowling Green State University and a doctorate in park recreation and tourism resources from Michigan State University.

She has published 17 peer-reviewed articles.

—ECU News Services



Dr. Gregory Chadwick, dean of the ECU School of Dental Medicine, has received the 2016 Paragon Award from the American Student Dental Association. The award recognizes people who have

significantly contributed to the advancement of the rights, interests and welfare of dental students throughout their careers. It is the highest and most notable award given by ASDA. Chadwick accepted the award during the ASDA Annual Session in Dallas on March 5.



Wanda Tyler has been named director of intercultural affairs at ECU's Ledonia Wright Cultural Center. She comes to ECU from the University of New Haven in Connecticut, where she worked for more than nine years.

Tyler has a bachelor's degree in psychology from James Madison University in Virginia and a master's in counseling and student personnel services from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. At ECU, she will be responsible for cultivating environments where students, faculty, staff and the region may engage in critical discussion and interaction about race/ethnicity, gender, culture, sexual identity, gender identity/expression and worldview.

Fifteen clinicians from ECU Physicians, the group medical practice of the Brody School of Medicine, have received national recognition for their skill in providing high-quality care to patients with diabetes. The three-year Diabetes Recognition Program distinction from the National Committee for Quality Assurance shows these providers have demonstrated they deliver the highest level of diabetes care based on five key measures associated with complications from the disease. Recognized were **Drs. Janice Daugherty, Justin Edwards, Jason Foltz, Susan Keen** and **Gary Levine** from the Family Medicine Center; **Drs. Tommy Ellis, Celeste Jackson, Kelly Philpot** and physician assistant **Mark Harrell** from the Firetower Medical Office; **Drs. Muna Mian** and **James Powell** from internal medicine; **Drs. Almond Drake** and **Robert Tanenberg** from endocrinology; and **Drs. Lacy Hobgood** and **Mary Turner** from internal medicine/pediatrics. They are the only health care providers in ECU Physicians' 29-county service area to hold this recognition.

College of Education embarks on assessment plan

The ECU College of Education is on a quest for excellence.



Grant Hayes, who has been dean and distinguished professor since August, opened his first faculty and staff meeting asking tough questions: "What does the ECU College of Education want to be known for?" and

"What can students get here that they cannot get elsewhere?"

To help the college answer these questions, department chairs are working with faculty to increase the impact, performance and visibility of their work.

"Grant is resourceful and prepared," said Art Rouse, chair of the Department of Educational Leadership. "From the time he interviewed and then came to ECU as dean, he could see that the college has major impact on the region, but it was not being told or seen by our various stakeholders."

Training more than 20 percent of North Carolina's teachers, ECU plays a crucial role in replenishing the 10,000-teacher shortage in the state. Graduates teach in 98 of the 100 North Carolina counties and have the highest employment rate of all UNC-system schools.

Enrollment dips have affected teacher-preparation schools and colleges across the country, according to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education. The office reported enrollment in teacher-education programs has dropped by about 10 percent between 2004 and 2012. ECU has experienced an 18 percent decline in enrollment in its education programs, while the UNC system has seen a 30 percent decline across 15 universities.

To address that, Hayes has implemented a three-year plan that focuses on strengthening academic programs, increasing partnerships, and generating collaboration and external support for research activity.

"We need to reclaim our profession," he said. "People are making decisions without our voice, and ECU faculty need to be heard as leaders of these discussions."

As a first step, each department in the college will establish benchmarks to measure impact over time. In year two, departments will refine their impact statements and develop a clear metrics plan. Year three will consist of data analysis and development of each department's first volume of impact reports.

"(Faculty) can step back and ask 'why are we doing this,' or determine that something isn't effective and needs to be revised to increase effectiveness and impact," said Hayes.

For example, the college introduced co-teaching. It places two interns with a teacher in the field, and they plan, deliver and assess instruction together. More than 100 interns are co-teaching in 91 classrooms representing seven teacher preparation programs at ECU.

Since 2011, the college has implemented edTPA, a capstone assessment taken by students before they graduate (comparable to the bar exam for law students). Students in all initial licensure programs are required to take the assessment.

On average, students in nine of the 13 programs are performing better than the national average. ECU received national recognition for implementing edTPA with limited resources and for using the assessment tool to improve teacher preparation.

Recently, the college launched a pilot program with a mixed-reality classroom of fifth-grade avatars called TeachLive, which provides on-the-spot teacher training. Focusing on classroom management, the avatars have diverse personalities and learning styles that education students must react to in real-time.

With TeachLive, students can face real classroom challenges in a safe setting. ECU is the first university in the state to use TeachLive for teacher preparation.

In response to losing good teachers to other professions and states, the college has made collaborating with a variety of partners to train and retain teachers in eastern North Carolina a priority.

The North Carolina New Teacher Support Program was established in 2012 by UNC General Administration. ECU delivers NTSP professional development and coaching for teachers in their first through third years of teaching in Duplin, Hoke, Lenoir, Pamlico and Perquimans counties.

Another example, which is funded by the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation, is the SECU Partnership East program, a degree-completion partnership with 20 North Carolina community colleges from Raleigh to the Outer Banks. With a mission to "grow our own," the program allows students interested in teaching to attend their local community college for two years and then take two years of ECU education courses online or face-to-face at a nearby site.

Since its inception in 2002, the program has prepared 674 teachers.

—Jessica Nottingham

5

Five minutes with Nneka Jones Tapia '03

Position: Executive director, Cook County Jail, Chicago

Degree: Master's in psychology

Hometown: Grifton

Last year, Jones Tapia became one of the first clinical psychologists in the country to work as a warden. At her institution, Cook County Jail in Chicago, up to one-third of the 9,000 detainees are mentally ill. It could be considered the largest mental institution in the country.

.....
"The need for mental health treatment and expertise in all correctional institutions is paramount. As state budgets continue to suffer, the typical result is the underfunding or elimination of community mental health services. As a result of those cuts, we have seen striking increases in the number of individuals with mental illness ending up in correctional institutions.

.....
"The Mental Health Transition Center offers mental health treatment, educational programming and job-readiness skills training. Many of the participants that have been released from custody have restored their relationships with their families, continued their educational programming and become employed.

.....
"My initial desire to attend ECU's master's program was rooted in its proximity to home. However, once I started attending, I grew most fond of the family-oriented spirit of the institution. The class sizes were small enough to allow my cohort to develop bonds with each other and our instructors.

.....
"My education at ECU was my introduction to the professional world of mental health. The internship experiences I had while there were formidable and solidified my desire to work with justice-involved individuals.

.....
"Throughout my life, including my time at ECU, I've learned the benefit of resilience. Once you're inspired to do something, you can do it. You just need the tools to succeed, and I try to relay that message to our detainees."

We want to hear stories from alumni about how their experiences at ECU shaped them today and how they pass those lessons to others. Send us an email at easteditor@ecu.edu.

Photograph by Joshua Lott/The New York Times/Redux



Tyree Parker and
Grace Baran in
the Bioprocess
Engineering Lab

Prescription for prosperity

Skilled graduates are one way ECU is leading economic development

BY DOUG BOYD

PHOTOGRAPY BY JAY CLARK AND CLIFF HOLLIS

In the office of Wanda Yuhas '75, purple is prominent.

The head of the Pitt County Development Commission wears a purple skull-and-crossbones scarf. The office suite features purple accents, restrooms included.

Even the logo on her business cards includes purple as one of its four colors.

It's not a coincidence.

"It reminds us every day that these are our closest partners," she says of the logo, which includes the colors of Vidant Medical Center, Pitt Community College and the city of Greenville.

But of the purple, she adds, "We can't ever overestimate the importance of ECU."



John Chafee

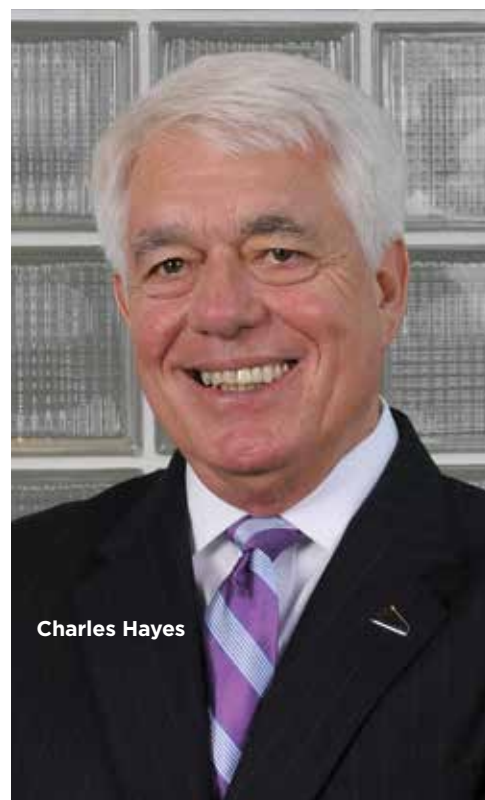
That refrain is heard over and over around eastern North Carolina, and East Carolina University's leaders are doing all they can to make sure it is sung loudly and clearly. For example, they adopted "regional transformation" as one of the university's commitments in the 2014-2019 strategic plan.

"It's intentional," says Provost Ron Mitchelson. "It's part of the mission, a clear part of the strategic plan.

"They want innovation," he says of the people and leaders of eastern North Carolina. "They want entrepreneurship."

Regional reach

Forbes and Chief Executive magazines rank North Carolina second and third, respectively, among the 50 states for business. That's not widely evident in the East.



Charles Hayes

According to the N.C. Department of Commerce, eastern North Carolina has 22 Tier 1 counties, meaning they are the state's most economically distressed. The department also says 19 eastern counties are losing jobs.

Only five eastern cities—Greenville, Jacksonville, Rocky Mount, Wilson and Goldsboro—rank among the state's 25 largest in terms of population. Meanwhile six eastern counties—Halifax, Northampton, Martin, Washington, Hyde and Lenoir—have lost citizens, according to the N.C. Office of State Budget and Management.

And the average pay in every county in the East is below the state average of \$44,969.

"The equation is education equals economic development," says John Chafee, chief executive of the NCEast Alliance, a non-profit economic development organization. But it's not just workforce development that boosts business. Universities also offer technical expertise, technology that can be commercialized and more.

In his 1990 book, *The Competitive Advantage of Nations*, Michael Porter forecasts that in most of the world, a nation's economic prosperity would no longer be tied to abundant natural resources and cheap labor. Instead, competitive advantage would increasingly be based on creative and scientific innovations. He says this new model positions colleges and universities as primary engines of economic growth.

For example, in 2014, ECU received \$44.4 million in external funding, had 14 active license/option agreements with small businesses, filed 13 patent applications and was awarded eight patents.

"ECU is as well-positioned as any university in the state to have a distinctive impact on its region," Chafee says.

Charles Hayes '72 '74, president and CEO of the Research Triangle Region, likes

continued on page 25



Stephanie Smith guides community members through a planning exercise in Windsor.

Rural communities face stubborn challenges

A glimpse of the economic struggles in northeastern North Carolina was revealing for Stephanie Smith '11.

She co-wrote an economic development strategic plan in 2014 for Bertie County when she was working on her master of business administration degree at N.C. Central University. Though she was born in Greenville, she grew up in Charlotte and Raleigh, so going up U.S. 13 and meeting residents of Windsor, Aulander and the other Bertie towns unveiled a new economic reality for her.

"I didn't even know eastern North Carolina existed in the way it did," says Smith, now a business operations analyst at Cisco in Research Triangle Park. "I just never thought of all the places I passed on the road and the conditions they live in." Those include substandard housing, inadequate educational opportunities and a lack of transportation.

About 40 miles north of ECU and bordered by the Roanoke River, Bertie County ranks near the bottom in most of the state's economic categories. A review of Census data by the website 24/7 Wall St. determined it's the state's poorest. Its median household income of \$29,388 compares to the state median of \$46,693. The poverty rate is 25.5 percent; unemployment is 7.8 percent.

To remedy some of that, Smith's plan included ideas such as Career Readiness Certificate testing for all high school students and improving county branding and marketing.

"Our plan isn't to attract those big

industries but what can people do at a grassroots level," she says. It's also inclusive.

In rural communities, she says, people can be resistant to change. And people who want change face obstacles such as inadequate education and reliable transportation. Making stakeholders feel like they're part of the plan can help lead to solutions.

"Bring people together, putting a plan together as a facilitator...but it has to be their ideas," she says. "And then be a champion for those things."

Buy-in from important constituencies is also important. In rural counties, black ministers are some of the most influential people around.

"A pastor explaining the importance of higher education on a Sunday is way more powerful than picking up a newspaper and reading about it," she says.

Smith did notice that as a black woman, people in the majority-minority county felt a link to her—and she to them. "Some of them still call me," she says. "When you have that connection, you're ready to do all you can."

She thought about that a lot two years ago on those drives between the Triangle and the Coastal Plain.

"At the end of the day, I can drive home, but they have to stay there," she says. "It hurt."

"Blueprint for Bertie" is online at unc.live/1VOHQQM.

—Doug Boyd



Ecotourism a piece of the puzzle for river towns

When I was growing up in Williamston, my grandmother warned me about the Roanoke.

If I got so much as knee-deep in the swirling water, she would say, currents might suck me under, never to be seen again, pulled down into what she called the “bottomless” stretches of the river.

So when I bought myself a personal watercraft for my 30th birthday, naturally I headed for the insidious Roanoke.

What I found was one of the wildest yet most serene places—and some of the clearest water—one could hope to experience.

“We have a beautiful place you can get to, leave your technology behind, and clear your head,” says Carol Jones Shields '94 '00, executive director of Roanoke River Partners, an economic development and tourism organization representing 11 communities along the river.

Toward that end, ECU faculty members and students have been working with the river communities to boost tourism, including subcontract work on a \$73,500 state grant in 2013.

To city dwellers, a day of canoeing or kayaking, eating local fare such as herring and barbecue, and watching wildlife might not seem like much to folks who grew up in the area.

But that attitude is changing as communities realize the textile factories and tobacco

warehouses are gone, and the land itself is one of their best hopes for economic revival.

From 2010-2013, 10 new businesses including campsites, outfitters, guide services, and restaurants opened in eight of the 12 municipalities along the river.

“They’re really looking for an authentic experience,” Paige Viren, an ECU assistant professor of recreation and leisure studies and affiliate faculty member in the Center for Sustainable Tourism, says of tourists to the northeastern region. “They’re not looking to go to Applebee’s or Starbucks. They want to go to the Oyster Bar in Williamston or the Cypress Grill in Jamesville.

“That’s the beauty of an adventure tourist,” Viren says. “You don’t have to have all that infrastructure. You develop what is existing. We can provide that in eastern North Carolina, we can charge for that, and it can be an economic value.”

In addition to the wild areas, historic sites such as Hope Plantation near Windsor, Somerset Place in Creswell and the Edenton waterfront offer glimpses into antebellum and Colonial North Carolina.

At Somerset Place, presentations and exhibits represent the lives of slaves who lived on the plantation, one of the first sites in the state to do an interpretive focus on the enslaved population of the region’s plantations.



Paige Viren

Keeping the tourists coming takes cooperation among stakeholders—not competition.

“Our small communities in eastern North Carolina are so economically challenged, we all need to find all the ways of working together for the good of the region,” Shields says.

—Doug Boyd

to say, “Higher education is economic development.” Government, business and academia must work together to create jobs and opportunity, he stresses.

“It takes a concerted and well-thought-out strategy and plan,” he says. “The university has to be sitting at the table to lead.”

And ECU leaders are embracing that work.

“It really is in our DNA as a regional institution,” says Michael Van Scott, interim vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement. “It started a focus on producing teachers for the region. What we’re seeing now is an extension of that mission into other programs that impact economic development.”

Jennifer Lantz, executive director of the Wilson Economic Development Council, says programs and people at ECU, such as the engineering department, are eager to help industries and municipalities grow and prosper. If a company needs a specific type of training program for workers, she says, “who we’re going to go to is ECU. Because of that entrepreneurial spirit. It’s going to be ECU whom we call first.”

Regional businesses will reap even more of the benefits of that entrepreneurial spirit next year when the Miller School of Entrepreneurship opens, says Stan Eakins, dean of the College of Business.

“Any company that hires anybody... they all are looking for an innovative employee, one that has entrepreneurial ideas and wants to push things forward,” he says.

Life sciences leadership

Though the Research Triangle gets the recognition, companies such as Patheon, Pfizer, Mayne Pharma and many others make eastern North Carolina the home of nearly 8,000 life sciences jobs.

“The largest life sciences sector per capita is in eastern North Carolina,” Lantz says. “ECU can play a pivotal role in growing that sector.”

ECU is already stepping up. The new

Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence, announced a year ago and funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation, is a partnership among ECU, Pitt Community College and the pharmaceutical industry aimed at training a superior workforce.

Alex Morsch '13 is just the type of student the center of excellence aims to produce. The bioprocess engineering graduate works at Pfizer’s facility in Rocky Mount as a process validation engineer. She ensures that processes are capable of producing products that will consistently meet predetermined specifications and quality attributes.

“I think ECU is incredibly important to economic development,” she says. “It helps develop eastern North Carolina in multiple areas, from engineering, teaching, improving medical practices, dental. With the variety of programs the school has to offer, it attracts people to move to the area and attend school.” Many then decide to live and work in the region, she adds.

Another life sciences boost is coming as ECU develops its Millennial Campus, a district where the university, industry, government and the military will work together on research and bringing ideas to market. Part of that campus might be the new biotechnology and life sciences building, to be constructed with funds voters approved in the Connect NC bond act, passed in March.

That building will be home to the biomedical and bioprocess engineering departments as well as the pharmaceutical center. Thousands of students will be their first dose of life sciences education as they take biology courses and labs in the new building.

“Education is the answer, and at the highest level of leadership, you need to embrace that and create strategies to accomplish that,” Hayes says.

Education aimed at jobs

In its 2015 rankings, Educate to Career put ECU fourth out of more than 1,200

universities in the nation in terms of “actual college outcomes data,” according to the California nonprofit.

The rankings indicate which schools do the best job of improving the earnings and job prospects of students, according to ETC.

The ranking matches what Justin Wood, manager of quality engineering at Sequence, a Morrisville-based consulting company started by Mike Putnam '98 '01, sees in ECU engineering graduates.

“One of the things that impresses me about this program is they come out prepared for the real world from day one,” he said. “They’re polished. Not only do they have a technical background, they have the communication skills you need and the other skills we look for.”

In the chemistry department, the good manufacturing practices lab prepares chemistry students to document their reports.

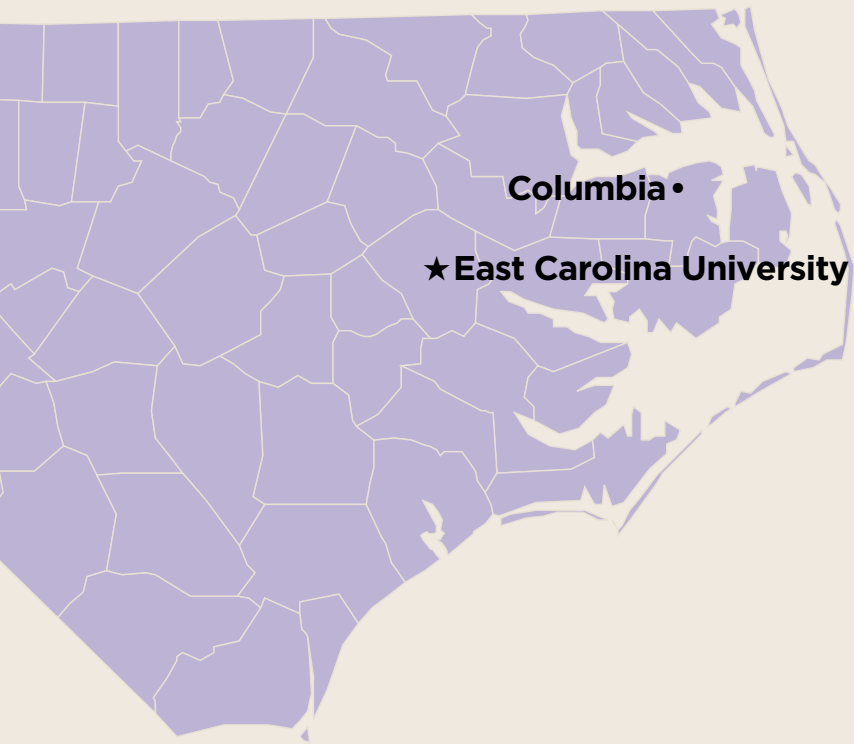
“They’re immediately employable,” Keith Holmes '68, one of two faculty members who lead the lab. “They’re much more experienced because they have documented what they have done in a regulatory-compliant manner.”

Funded by the Golden Leaf Foundation and supported by local companies, the lab opened in the early 2000s to teach how to keep logbooks and lab reports that meet FDA regulations.

The class cuts three to six months off the time a company must train a new employee, Holmes says. He recalls one administrator from AAIPharma Services in Wilmington calling him after hiring one of his graduates.

“They said, ‘Where did (she) come from? We’ve never had anyone who understood regulations and knew how to write, ever,’” Holmes says.

As part of the Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation, the chemistry department also has begun offering tailored short courses for industries that



Columbia •

★ East Carolina University

Helping communities help themselves

Eastern North Carolina has a history of economic challenges. That's why the ECU Office of Innovation and Economic Development is looking for ways to tackle problems and inject ECU's expertise into local, governments, schools and economies.

The Innovation Design Lab and MakerBot Innovation Center are examples. Another is the Talent Enhancement and Capacity Building Program, which is helping communities help themselves.

The program is a partnership that leverages resources at ECU and the N.C. Department of Commerce to provide financing, technical assistance, capacity building and comprehensive community development training to rural local governments.

Since 2009, the state has invested \$2.1 million in TECB, and ECU has partnered with 39 rural communities.

"The TECB program helps ECU and the state make a crucial investment in economic development in

eastern North Carolina and other rural regions across the state," says Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor for innovation and economic development.

In downtown Columbia, a town on the way to the Outer Banks, a similar ECU program helped the town map its economic future about a decade ago.

ECU experts helped the town and local landowners see how they could profit from the area's Scuppernon grapes. Now, a winery now operates out of a building that was on its way to the scrap heap. They also helped town leaders set goals for attracting an assisted living center, which will open this year. Most of all, they helped leaders prioritize.

"The important thing East Carolina was able to assist us with...was facilitation," says Town Manager Rhett White. "There's no shortage of ideas in small towns. Sometimes, it's tough to narrow those prospects down to where we can bite them off piece by piece."

—Doug Boyd

request it, as well as doing contract analytical work for firms that lack the specialized equipment ECU has been able to acquire.

"If they need something done, we want to do that," Holmes says.

The College of Business also has nine-month programs in topics such as data analytics and project management aimed at working people.

"We continue to roll out more certificates that are applicable to what the world currently needs," says Eakin, the business dean.

"We talk about lifelong learning, but if you're not responding to the lifelong learning needs of the employers, then it's just talking," says Chaffee.

ECU's reputation for working with business and industry is attractive to companies looking to expand.

"That keeps us on a list," Yuhas says. "A company's not looking for a reason to put us on a list. They're looking for a reason to mark us off. So the more we can have to keep us on the list, the better."

In December, the university opened its expanded Innovation Design Lab and announced the start of a workforce-development program funded by the Duke Energy Foundation to address the growing demand for trained innovators in high-skill, high-pay pharmaceutical and other advanced manufacturing careers throughout the region.

This facility includes the only MakerBot Innovation Center in North Carolina, where students can rapidly build scaled prototypes of their ideas to test, refine and perfect. The lab has also hosted schoolteachers from the region to train them so they can take 3D printing to their own classrooms.

Last summer, ECU hosted its first Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Academy. Funded through a \$1.25 million Golden LEAF Foundation grant, the academy is part of a larger project to open pilot entrepreneurship, science, technology, engineering, art and design, and math labs

in 13 area middle schools. The goal is to build an education-to-workforce pipeline for advanced manufacturing workers and entrepreneurs.

Again, education drives economies.

"In our world today, the places that have the most educated people are the places that are going to win, and that's not going to change," Hayes says. "Education is the answer, and at the highest levels of leadership you need to embrace that and create strategies to accomplish that."

Another way ECU helps the region is by sending hundreds of healthcare professionals into the workforce every year. The university also staffs or owns numerous medical clinics around the region and eight dental centers from the Smokies to the Albemarle Sound. Those centers contribute an estimated \$1 million annual economic impact to their respective towns, according to the dental school.

"That is an important part of the

marketability of a community, dental health care," says Dan Gerlach, president of the Golden LEAF Foundation.

Van Scott, the vice chancellor who oversees economic development, says these examples show "a culture that's developed here at ECU of taking ownership of the problems and opportunities. People aren't satisfied giving a little advice and walking away. People want to see real change."

In her downtown Greenville office, Yuhas puts it another way.

"Nobody is expecting the university to wave a magic wand and solve all our problems," she says. "But even knowing the university will be there with us in the proverbial trenches, always there and willing to participate—they really do want to help effect change in a region and state that needs help making this change.

"They're not a silent partner. They're a full partner."

East

Eastern N.C.'s economic clusters, representative companies and their products/services

AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE

Spirit Aerosystems, Kinston
—Aircraft structures and components

Tcom, Elizabeth City
—Surveillance blimps

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND LOGISTICS

Keihin Carolina System Technology, Tarboro
—Electronic assemblies

Transportation Impact, Emerald Isle
—Shipping logistics and cost-savings; co-owned by ECU alumnus Travis Burt

LIFE SCIENCES

Fuji Silysia Chemical USA, Greenville
—Synthetic amorphous silica

Purdue Pharmaceuticals, Wilson
—Pain-management pharmaceuticals

VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Mt. Olive Pickles, Mount Olive
—Pickle manufacturing

Hillshire Bakeries, Tarboro
—Sara Lee baked goods

If you need help starting or expanding a business in eastern North Carolina or with a public sector initiative, ECU offers these resources:



- **Center for Survey Research** provides access to opinion polling surveys and marketing analysis to local governments to guide their zoning and other long-range planning. Call 252-737-1342.
- **ECU Entrepreneurial Initiative** holds meetings where spin-ins (local start-ups that need ECU's technical help) and spin-outs (companies started by faculty that need help commercializing their discoveries) present their ideas to angel investors, venture capitalists and other entities supporting early stage innovations. Call 252-737-1345.
- **Community and Regional Development Programs** offers technical assistance, training, financial resources and other economic development products and service to rural local governments and nonprofit organizations to help increase capacity and build more competitive communities.
- **Small Business and Technology Development Center**, whose eastern regional office operates within ECU, provides business research, technical assistance in obtaining state and federal (often military) contracts, targeted assistance to local companies hoping to export their products, and one-to-one counseling to assist businesses in the commercialization of innovative technologies. Call 252-737-1368.
- **Small Business Institute**, an outreach program of the College of Business, assigns student teams to analyze problems encountered by the business, then develops possible solutions. Call 252-737-1057.
- **Bureau of Business Research**, the applied research arm of the College of Business, provides economic data and forecasting services to businesses, governments and individuals. Call 252-737-1441.
- **Center for Innovation in Technology and Engineering**, offered by the College of Engineering and Technology, provides an alternative for specialized industrial training and project implementation. Call 252-328-9654.

Licensed to heal

*Tanya Darrow '07 serves patients
and students in rural N.C.*



BY CRYSTAL BAITY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

"Family medicine" has more than one meaning for Tanya Darrow '07.

She and her husband, Mark, start each morning before daybreak with physical therapy treatments for their 6-year-old son, Gavin, who has cystic fibrosis.

About three hours later, after working out and feeding her

infant son, Luke, she drops Gavin off at school then heads for her job as a physician assistant at Vance Family Medicine in Henderson.

"It's a mix of urgent care and primary care all in one," Darrow says of her practice, which has thousands of patients, from "babies to geriatrics. It's truly 'womb to tomb.'"

At least two Brody School of Medicine graduates and a couple of other ECU P.A. graduates practice there, putting ECU's mission to serve the underserved to work every day.

"We're not quite ready to paint it purple, but we're close," Darrow says. "We're a big family here."



Working for health

Darrow has practiced at Vance Family Medicine since graduating from ECU with a master's degree in P.A. studies in 2007. In conjunction with a supervising doctor, physician assistants evaluate, diagnose and treat, provide counseling and prescribe medication.

The practice is open long hours and on Saturdays.

Situated on the Virginia line and Kerr Lake along Interstate 85 and U.S. 158, Vance County has a population of about 45,000. Henderson is the county seat and home to about 15,000. Unemployment is in the high single digits. More than a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, according to Census figures.

Life expectancy, at 74.9, trails the state number of 78.3, according to state statistics. Cancer death rates exceed state averages, and deaths from chronic kidney disease are worse than national averages, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Diabetes is rampant. Asthma hospitalizes children at a rate nearly 50 percent higher than the state as a whole.

Against that backdrop, Darrow works to make sure her patients grasp her explanations and participate in their care.

"If you don't understand something, she will explain it until you do," says 17-year-old Samaira Williams, who is interested in attending ECU to study anthropology.

"She makes things clear for you," says Samaira's mother, Samantha Williams. "She's got a lot of patience whether it's over the phone or face to face."

Darrow says it's important to educate children and their parents early about proper nutrition and exercise when looking at childhood obesity rates, especially in rural areas where access to playgrounds or fresh fruits and vegetables can be limited.

"We have to get creative," Darrow said.

One of the hardest parts of Darrow's job is referring patients to a specialist when test

results come back abnormal, something she's had to do at least a dozen times because of cancer.

Another challenge is when a patient dies. She recently attended the funeral of a woman whom she had cared for since she became a physician assistant.

"In rural medicine, you can't help but get close to your patients," she said. "Everybody knows everybody. It's like a part of your family has passed away as well."

Outside the clinic, Darrow is a team leader for the annual Great Strides walk, a fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Held in Durham on April 16, she joined more than 300 walkers to raise funds for research.

Darrow's team, "Gavin's Groupies," has been walking since her son was 1. She wanted to get more involved this year and served on the planning committee for the annual event.

"I want to see my child grow up and go to school and get married," says Darrow.

While cystic fibrosis has no cure, Gavin has been taking a new drug, ivacaftor, which targets the underlying cause of the disease in patients with a specific gene defect.

In people with cystic fibrosis, that defective gene causes a buildup of thick mucus in the lungs, pancreas and other organs. It clogs airways and traps bacteria leading to infections and extensive lung damage. In the pancreas, the mucus prevents the release of digestive enzymes that allow the body to break down food and absorb vital nutrients.

Since starting the drug last year, Gavin's weight has increased and he's gotten taller. "We're starting to see a turnaround," Darrow says.

Professionally, Darrow serves on the Government Affairs Committee for the North Carolina Association of Physician Assistants. The committee monitors state legislative activity that could affect how physician assistants practice in North Carolina.

At the national level, areas under consideration include continuing medical

education and certification exams. There also is concern about understanding the profession's role.

"There is a perception that we're glorified medical assistants," Darrow says. "We are licensed to diagnose and prescribe, and I'm trained to do certain procedures. The whole idea is for the physician assistant and the doctor to work together as a team to expand access to care."

Teacher and provider

Darrow worked as a research assistant and clinical trials coordinator at Duke University Health System before entering graduate school. Now, in addition to seeing patients, she mentors students as a preceptor, or clinical teacher.

"I like to think I'm providing students with a great experience that will help develop their skills and prepare them for providing excellent patient care," Darrow said.

ECU was Darrow's top choice because of its commitment to underserved areas of the state, as well as its low cost compared to other programs. "ECU's efforts to train people who go on to serve in rural areas of the state was and still is my main focus," Darrow says.

Darrow received a grant from the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation's Community Practitioner Program, which helps medically underserved communities across North Carolina attract and retain needed practitioners. The program pays back some of the debt Darrow incurred as a student.

Kim Stokes, clinical coordinator and clinical assistant professor in the P.A. studies program in the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences, saw Darrow's commitment to rural health when she was in Stokes' clinical rotation in primary care at Med Center 1 in Greenville.

"I noted a bright young lady with an eagerness to return to rural primary care, which truly meets the mission of our P.A. program," Stokes says. "Almost every day of her clinic life, she is educating someone in



Darrow walks with her family and more than 300 other walkers in the Great Strides walk held April 16 in Durham to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

the next graduating class. She never seems to burn out on educating students. We couldn't ask for a more dedicated preceptor."

At the outset, Darrow finds out more about each student, giving them an opportunity to ask questions or give suggestions on how they could learn better.

"Depending on previous rotations, some students are not as confident in certain areas and may need a little extra help," Darrow says. "I'm very flexible in my teaching style because we all learn differently. That helps me provide an exceptional learning environment when I can for students."

Darrow said it's important to provide learning opportunities for students across the state in a fast-growing field.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult for students to be placed in a quality environment where they can be exposed to various aspects of primary care," Darrow says. "In one week (here), you can see a variety of cases and procedures. An experience like that can really push a student forward in his or her training."

ECU alumna Brandy McBryde spent the summer of 2013 with Darrow at Vance Family Medicine.

"She always took the time to sit down

and educate patients. Even when time was running short, she was teaching," says McBryde, a P.A. in the emergency department of Harnett Health in Dunn and Lillington. "I believe this is a large part of our job. Managing someone's health care needs isn't a one-sided relationship, but a partnership that needs to be nurtured and guided."

She says Darrow was constantly reading and referencing new material from medical journals.

"I was able to see firsthand the dedication that is required to practice in medicine," McBryde says. "The learning doesn't stop after you receive your degree; you are constantly changing your practice and improving upon your knowledge."

Darrow said she enjoys teaching students, each of whom brings a different perspective and experience to the rotation. "They may have seen or heard something in another rotation that prompts them to ask a question that I can't answer," Darrow says. "We both continue to learn."

"As a P.A., you can grow as much as you want to," she adds. "It's why I chose it. The evolution is still there. It's constantly growing and changing."

East

Twenty years of training rural and underserved providers

Accredited in the fall of 1996, the mission of ECU's physician assistant studies program is to prepare primary care providers and increase access to health care for citizens in rural and medically underserved areas.

The program is one of nine departments in the College of Allied Health Sciences, the leading university provider of allied health professionals in the state.

ECU's first class of physician assistants graduated in 1999. Until recently, ECU had the only state-supported program in the University of North Carolina system. ECU has graduated 30 to 35 students a year since the program started, says Kim Stokes, clinical coordinator and clinical assistant professor in the P.A. studies program.

ECU has affiliations with 129 active clinical sites with 188 preceptors in North Carolina from Southport north to Edenton and west to Chapel Hill. "We focus on rural areas over urban," Stokes says.

About 91 percent of ECU P.A. graduates stay in North Carolina to practice. And ECU graduates have consistently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their state licensing exams.

Before they graduate, students work six-week rotations in family medicine, pediatrics, women's health, general surgery, internal medicine, behavioral medicine and geriatrics, exposing students to a variety of specialties to choose from when entering the workforce.

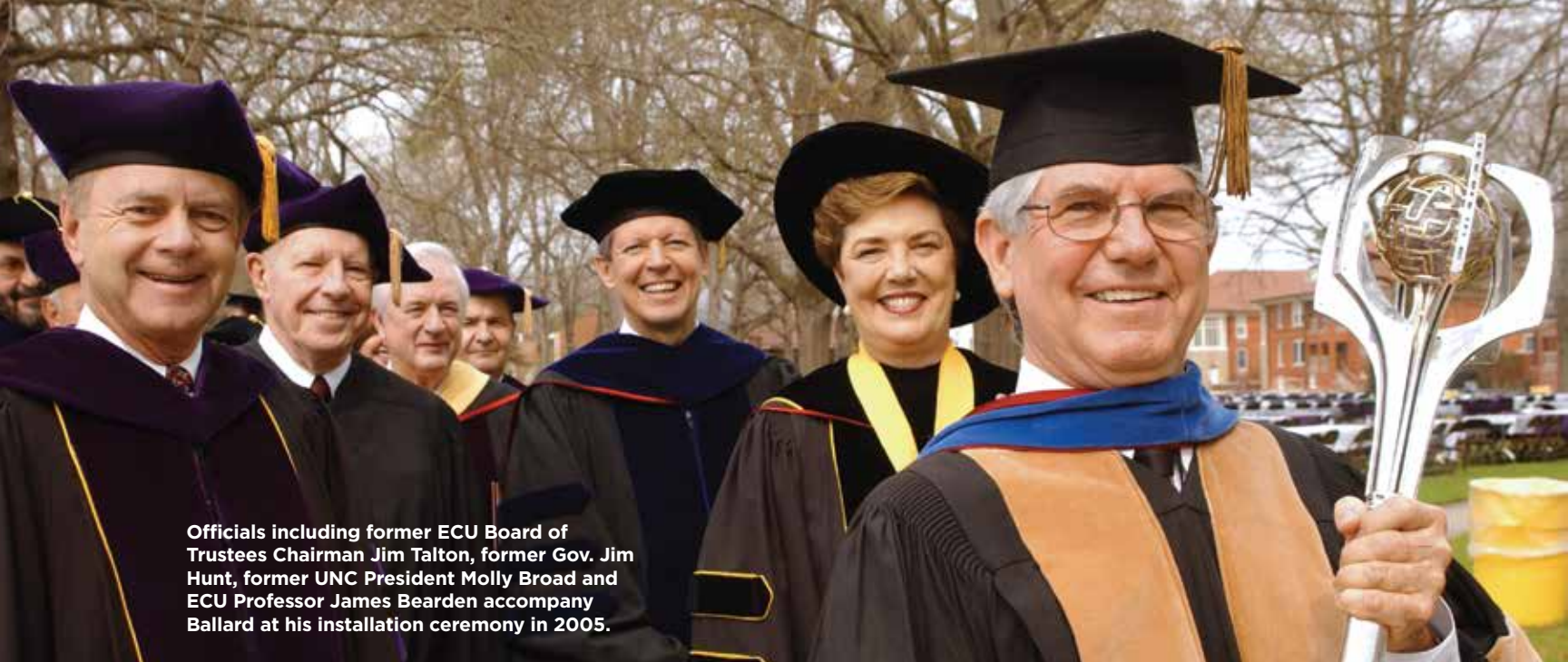
—Crystal Baity



Steve Ballard's Era

Twelve years of leadership and service

BY JACKIE DRAKE PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS



Officials including former ECU Board of Trustees Chairman Jim Talton, former Gov. Jim Hunt, former UNC President Molly Broad and ECU Professor James Bearden accompany Ballard at his installation ceremony in 2005.

Steve Ballard made a bold prediction in his March 2005 installation speech after being named East Carolina University's tenth chancellor for the previous year.

"In 2015, ECU will be recognized as 'the leadership university,' where each member of our community is empowered to achieve his or her aspirations," he said at the time.

"It is safe to say this goal you set in 2005 has been reached," says Kimrey Miko of the ECU Staff Senate at a reception earlier this year honoring Ballard.

"Kimrey, I can't believe you actually went back and looked at promises I made. Don't anybody else do that," jokes Ballard, who will step down as chancellor July 1. "You found one I delivered a little bit on."

Beneath his trademark humor and modesty, Ballard has delivered more than a little on this goal and others—namely, making ECU a national leader by focusing on student success, public service and regional transformation.

"It doesn't seem possible it has been 12 years," Ballard says as he reflects on his time in Greenville. "I think it has gone quickly because ECU has been such a good fit for me. We've gone from a university that there were some questions about to a major public university. And I don't take credit for that, I

give hundreds of people credit for that."

Ballard, the longest-serving chancellor in the University of North Carolina system, has seen four UNC presidents. He's presided over a growing student body, budget cuts and academic reorganization, the establishment of the Honors College and the School of Dental Medicine, financial challenges to the Brody School of Medicine, moving to the American Athletic Conference and expanding community partnerships.

"My whole professional career has been devoted to the difference that public universities can make for our society," he says. "Finding a place like ECU that was already committed to that made the work a lot easier."

Ballard had to get right to work when he started his job in May 2004. ECU was in a period of rapid leadership turnover; Ballard was the fourth person in three years to lead the university in either a permanent or interim role.

"But larger than that, in the system, ECU was not getting as much respect as many people here felt it should get," Ballard says. "In a way, that's a great time to enter a university, when everything seems to be down."

As he began his job as chancellor, Ballard felt ECU had a solid foundation built on service,

spirit, leadership and character.

It was this foundation that drew him and his wife, Nancy, to East Carolina. Both had experience that aligned with ECU's commitment to serving the region, particularly through the Brody School of Medicine.

"When he was looking at all the materials in the interview process, I was looking at them, too," says Nancy Ballard, who left a career in health communication to support her husband as chancellor. "I knew he believed in what this university stands for. He didn't have to convince me. To be part of the growth of this community is more gratifying than I could ever explain."

Leadership and service

Molly Broad, president of the UNC system from 1997 to 2006, hired Ballard for his experience in running complex public universities with medical schools and his enthusiasm for finding opportunities to serve the community. She called him "a superb leader."

"Steve has had a profound impact on ECU and has renewed the institution's focus on community engagement and economic impact for eastern North Carolina," says Broad, now president of the American Council on Education.

Ballard has been honing his ideas on leadership for decades. As shortstop and captain of the University of Arizona baseball team, he learned the importance of cohesiveness and commitment to any organization—sports team or otherwise. That's the essence of his leadership style, and he used it to build what's become a strong team of administrators.

Rick Niswander, ECU's vice chancellor for administration and finance, was dean of the business school, Faculty Senate chair and on the search committee that interviewed Ballard 12 years ago. Ballard's leadership style of hiring good people and letting them do their jobs without micromanagement helped convince him to take on a larger role at the university.

"You don't get there unless you're confident in your own skin, and he's confident in his own skin," Niswander says.

Ballard also worked with leaders around the community and region to make sure ECU is part of decisions affecting the region.

"One of the marks of a good leader is that he surrounds himself with good people, and Chancellor Ballard has done an excellent job of that," says Tony Cannon, chief executive of Greenville Utilities. "He has put the right people in place to position ECU, Greenville and the region for a bright future."

Joel Butler, who served as a university trustee from 2004-2013, says Ballard has held fast to what's best for ECU when he has had to make tough decisions or persuade others to do so, such as when dealing with budget restrictions or when the university was working to establish a dental school.

Ballard didn't think the initial dental school plan was right for ECU, Butler says. But as the plan evolved into one incorporating service-learning centers, it became a better blueprint.

"That allowed for political support across the state," Butler says. "I think in the Legislature, he is very thoughtful and very level-headed and very persuasive."

In addition, he says, during Ballard's



Chancellor Steve Ballard poses with seven former SGA presidents who prepared a surprise dinner for Ballard and his wife in March.

MODELING LEADERSHIP

Chancellor Steve Ballard's well-known passion for mentoring students, particularly student leaders, has helped them become successful leaders after they graduate.

"It's rare to encounter a leader that treats you as a peer," says Justin Davis '15, who served as ECU student body president in 2012, and as such was an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees.

"Serving on the board can be daunting for a 20-year-old," Davis says. "Chancellor Ballard really listened to us. That does something for your confidence and professional development. I learned as much on the board as I did in class. His character and commitment made us who we are as people today."

Davis is now the director of business development for a local catering company. His predecessor, Drew Griffin '08, recently founded a consulting firm in Washington, D.C., and serves as its vice president.

"The environment Chancellor Ballard created at ECU allowed us to learn about leadership and

entrepreneurship," Griffin says. "He set an example. He was so poised under pressure. We got to see that up close. That's definitely something I took away from ECU."

Griffin, Davis and several other past presidents, who have kept in touch over the years, decided they wanted to share these sentiments with Ballard before he stepped down. They quietly worked with Nancy Ballard to host a surprise home-cooked dinner for him at the chancellor's residence in March.

"We wanted to do something in an intimate setting and honor him in a personal manner," says Griffin, who coordinated the event. "We wanted him to hear how much we appreciated him in a way that he could relax and soak it all in. It was nice to put life to the words we've been feeling all these years." "His impact has been felt not only through the university but through this whole area," adds Davis.

—Jackie Drake



administration, service became a central part of ECU.

“He did more than speak about it,” Butler says. “He also made sure the idea of service was co-mingled throughout the curriculum of the university.”

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Virginia Hardy first worked with Ballard as interim chief diversity officer. She notes his “wicked” sense of humor, his integrity and that he challenges his team with insightful questions.

One of his top accomplishments is “developing and nurturing effective teams who are committed to shared decision making, collaboration and to being authentic to who we are as an institution,” she says. “He is a mentor, coach and friend.”

Ballard seeks out people who, like himself, put ECU first.

“He cares very much about the university,” Niswander says “His values and the university’s values are closely aligned. The notion of being part of something that’s bigger than yourself, that’s what it’s all about.

“Being a chancellor for 12 years—it’s almost unheard of anymore, and you don’t do it if you don’t enjoy it.”

Student success

One thing Ballard does enjoy is being

around students, and their success has been a priority while he’s been chancellor. “The most fun I have is when I meet with students,” Ballard says. “The soul of ECU is our students.”

Ballard notes that some universities are committed to generating the most research dollars, some to having the No. 1 football team or basketball team, some to being No. 1 in *U.S. News & World Report*.

“There’s nothing wrong with any of those things,” Ballard says, “but at ECU, our first obligation is doing all we can for our students.”

That commitment can be seen in the growing Honors College, an enrollment target of 1,000 engineering students and in other ways.

In addition, ECU is on its way to establishing a School of Public Health after several years growing that discipline on the department level.

Enrollment has consistently increased, and incoming freshman have higher GPAs and test scores than ever. New facilities such as the Gateway East and West residence halls and new student centers under construction along 10th Street and on the Health Sciences Campus demonstrate the university’s commitment to making the student experience second to none. Student-athletes have also seen gains during Ballard’s

tenure. Women’s sports have become fully funded, meaning they have the money to allot the maximum number of scholarships under NCAA rules.

The football team won consecutive Conference USA titles and has made several bowl appearances.

Swimming and diving continued their traditions of success, winning multiple conference championships, producing NCAA All-Americans, individual conference champions and nearly 200 all-conference performers.

The baseball team won the 2015 American Athletic Conference tournament title, and at least four other teams have won conference titles since Ballard arrived.

That brings up what is perhaps the top athletic accomplishment during Ballard’s tenure: getting ECU into the AAC after years of knocking on the door of major conferences only to be told Greenville’s media market was too small.

“We’re the only small-market school that has gone up so significantly,” Ballard says. “For us to make that jump was a huge accomplishment. And that wasn’t me; dozens of people helped with that. I’ve had chancellors at peer universities tell me they would never try to. All of Pirate Nation should feel good about that accomplishment.”

Continuing challenges

While ECU has gained access into a larger conference, maintaining competitive athletic programs will continue to be a challenge, Ballard says. Today’s college athletic landscape is uneven; ECU spends a fraction of what some schools in the South and Midwest spend on athletics.

“Pirates are really competitive, and I’m proud of how we’ve competed, but the challenge is competing in an environment where some universities have so much money,” Ballard says. “That disparity makes the competition more challenging. I think we’ve done really well on that, but it’s going to remain a significant challenge.”

If college athletics is an ever-changing challenge, it’s nothing compared to health care, particularly the unique issues faced by medical schools.

ECU’s Brody School of Medicine was founded in an era of relatively generous federal and state support for medical schools and health care in general. But cutbacks have added pressure on Brody. The university has worked to preserve the school and make sure legislators know its purpose, mission and structure, such as the fact the school doesn’t own a hospital.

“In the future, the question is, what do we have to do to ensure that the Brody School of Medicine remains fiscally viable in an era in which all the revenue streams and reimbursement variables have changed dramatically,” he says. “The world has changed. The competition has changed.”

As a result of the efforts of Ballard and other ECU leaders, in 2015 Brody received \$8 million from the state to help stabilize its budget, and the state has restored some of its ability to collect debt and bill Medicaid at higher rates for patient-care services.

Ballard’s advice for the next chancellor would be “don’t let anything come before your work on the Brody School and all the leadership in health sciences. That challenge is huge because the environment is 180 degrees different from when I got here.”

The overall ECU budget will also be a challenge. During the last six years, ECU has lost close to \$110 million in state appropriations, or close to one-quarter of its state funds. Those cuts led in 2011 to the formation of the Program Prioritization Committee, a group of administrators and faculty members that reviewed 277 academic programs and made recommendations for which ones to invest in, cut, merge or otherwise modify to improve efficiency and reduce costs. It was an example of how Ballard has been able to work with faculty on important issues.

“We all have to realize the future isn’t going to look like the past, in terms of budget,” Ballard says.

Lasting legacy

Hardy says Ballard has helped grow the awareness and reputation of ECU, particularly at the UNC system level and with the General Assembly.

“He has set the bar high for how we do things and doing them with a sense of integrity, authenticity, urgency and quality,” she says. “We have been able to do this with so many different initiatives, projects and programs that ECU is often looked at as a model by other campuses.”

In his 2005 speech, Ballard said, “North Carolina cannot be a great state without a thriving eastern region. North Carolina needs the East, and for the East to prosper, ECU must prosper.”

Twelve years later, Ballard is confident about ECU’s next steps.

“If we continue to emphasize academic quality for our students, there’s nothing in the way of ECU being as good and as important and as significant as we want it to be,” he says. “I have no doubts about what is here in the future.”

Or, to build on Ballard’s favorite phrase, it will keep on being a great time to be a Pirate.

East



Highlights of Ballard’s tenure

- One of only two universities to receive the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award
- Establishing the Honors College
- Establishing the ECU School of Dental Medicine
- Receiving the C. Peter Magrath University/Community Engagement Award from the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities for the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Center
- Joining the American Athletic Conference
- Establishing a Millennial Campus, a 22-acre site in Greenville’s warehouse district
- Recognition as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- Establishment of a school of entrepreneurship with a commitment of \$5 million from alumnus J. Fielding Miller ’84 and his wife Kim Grice Miller ’83
- Raising \$220 million in ECU’s Second Century Campaign

Administrators and faculty work together

When John Stiller became chair of the faculty in 2015, it was without any direct experience as a central faculty officer. He had never met with the academic council and had never had a one-on-one meeting with Chancellor Steve Ballard.

“At our first meeting, Dr. Ballard was so welcoming, so respectful of my role as faculty chair, and so open and direct, that I quickly lost any jitters,” Stiller says. “I felt the same way in my meetings with all our senior administrators. It exemplified for me, in a direct and personal way, how Dr. Ballard has helped to cultivate the strong

collaborative environment that means so much to our ongoing successes as a university.”

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors requires each chancellor to ensure the existence of a faculty senate or council at each campus in the system, and this model of shared governance has worked particularly well at ECU.

“Chancellor Ballard took this charge very seriously and worked to preserve this active and productive shared governance model at ECU,” says Marianna Walker, who chaired the faculty

from 2009-2012. “He made sure that the faculty, especially through the Faculty Senate, always had a voice, and he took that voice seriously.”

Walker and Ballard embarked on a series of meetings called “CH3: Chats with the Chancellor and Chair of the Faculty,” where faculty from all areas could discuss obstacles and opportunities.

Ballard’s administration and the Faculty Senate worked together on several issues through the years including tough budget decisions, academic

reorganization and a complete revision of the ECU Faculty Manual. This positive relationship between the chancellor and the chair of the faculty has continued.

“From both my own experiences and comments from my predecessors, I think Dr. Ballard is an exceptional team-builder,” Stiller says. “He recognizes the importance of involving diverse campus and community constituencies in planning and enacting key initiatives, particularly those with broad impact.”

—Jackie Drake

MO-MENTUM

A new coach and new staff have injected energy into ECU's football Pirates

BY JULES NORWOOD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS



Watch coach Montgomery lead practice
at https://youtu.be/w7uSRLA_Q_I





Rob Goldberg

From the moment Scottie Montgomery took the podium during his first news conference as head football coach at East Carolina University, the excitement and energy he brings to the program has been tangible.

Since then, he has wasted no time, assembling a talented staff and obtaining commitments from a full class of recruits despite having only a few short weeks to pitch ECU and its football program to high school players.

“Chaos? I don’t remember any chaos,” says Montgomery.
“Except maybe at home with my boys during bath time.”

While the outside perception may have been that there was much to do and little time to do it, Montgomery says it was all business inside the walls of the Ward Sports Medicine Building, which houses the football offices and the athletic department.

“Our families were extremely patient with us, and our coaches were patient with me,” he says. With so many ideas and recruits to analyze, “you have to be patient to evaluate people inside and out and not move too fast.”

Teaching and training

With winter conditioning and spring practice done, the focus is on the fall and developing his team into the best football players and young men they can be. The

new staff has implemented several programs and policies aimed at turning out not only athletes, but also productive citizens.

One example is Tie Tuesdays, when the members of the team are expected to wear ties. The event began with lessons in how to tie them.

It can be a difficult transition the first time a young man has to put on a tie for an interview, Montgomery says. “We wanted them to see what it feels like to be presentable in every single setting that they walk into.”

As students, the football players are expected to sit in the first three rows in class, to dress appropriately and not wear headphones. The team’s position groups compete on participation in community service activities.

“Our offensive line went to the children’s hospital, and they left there better than they went,” Montgomery says. “They left with a better understanding of how important it is for a guy that’s 6 years old or a young girl that’s 7 to smile. Just one day of smiling.

“They got to see the impact of spending 45 minutes or an hour with them. We spend that much time looking down at our cell phones and not impacting anybody.”

He pointed out that he and his coaching staff only have four years, five at the most, to work with the players while they’re in college.

“My challenge is that in that four to five years I have to make them better, leave them better than I found them,” he says. “And then we’re turning them loose to society to impact where we stand as a country, as a program and as a university.”

Like his predecessor, Ruffin McNeill, who coached the Pirates from 2010 to 2015, Montgomery will emphasize the relationships among himself, his players and staff.

“I’m a young coach in this business, and a head coach that has accomplished what (McNeill) has, I have a level of admiration for that,” he says. “One thing about me is the guys will know that they’re going to get a great level of honest. Sometimes brutal

honesty. They also know that any time they knock on that door, I’m available.”

Montgomery served as offensive coordinator at Duke under head coach David Cutcliffe, who says Montgomery’s experience playing and coaching in college and the NFL have prepared him for his new role.

“He understands how a student-athlete should represent himself, his family and his school, as well as what it takes for a young man to reach the goal of playing in the National Football League,” Cutcliffe says. “Scottie’s ability to relate to the young men will be evident from day one—he will undoubtedly have a positive impact on every individual in the program.”

As a coach, added NFL veteran Hines Ward, Montgomery has a natural understanding of the game and his players. Montgomery coached Ward as the wide receivers coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

“He’s a stickler for being fundamentally sound because it’s the fundamentals that win games,” Ward says. “Even though I was older than him, he was always pushing me to be better. At the same time, he wants his players to have fun playing the game, which brought a good balance to all of us. He commanded my respect, and he ultimately made me a better receiver and player.”

That focus on the basics will be essential in the American Athletic Conference, Montgomery says. There will be no easy games, no cupcake opponents. Technology has changed recruiting, providing access to highlights around the country, and that has created parity and a higher level of competition.

“The team that makes the fewest mistakes in this conference will win,” Montgomery says. “This is a team that’s going to play through the echo of the whistle. Our spring practice won’t be about schematics, it’ll be about fundamental football and getting better at the basics.”

The coaches have to be adept at delivering information in the classroom, and the players

have to be ready to learn.

“On the field we’re going to coach on the run,” says Montgomery. “We’re not going to spend a lot of time standing around talking, with guys not getting work. Our coaches are going to have to be in better shape, myself included.”

In practice and games, he wants to see a high-tempo, high-pace format on offense and defense, along with a high level of conditioning. But Montgomery is tight-lipped when it comes to the specifics of his scheme and the depth chart.

“One thing we don’t do is give ’em sugar before they put pads on,” he says. “I will say that this is one of the more athletic teams that I have been a part of, and this team is determined to not disappoint.”

Strength and conditioning coach Jeff Connors says Montgomery’s winter conditioning program was as detailed and disciplined as any he’s seen.

“I think what we did in our winter conditioning program is exactly what our team needs right now, putting the extra time into making sure that things are done right, that they’re detailed and highly disciplined,” he says. The tempo and excitement level are high, he added, which will feed directly into spring practice and into the fall.

The family team

In the midst of building a staff, meeting the team, bringing in recruits and preparing for conditioning and practice, Montgomery has also moved his family to Greenville. His wife and three sons love their new home, he says.

Cassius, 6, has started school, and Moses, 2, is happy as long as he has open space to run, Montgomery says. “The little one, Magnus, is learning to move around, explore, and Ebony is just unbelievable at handling and managing everything. And my in-laws have been very helpful as well.”

The community has already welcomed them by bringing food—“not just good food, excellent food,” says Montgomery.

2016 ECU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT. 3	WESTERN CAROLINA
SEPT. 10	N.C. STATE
SEPT. 17	AT SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPT. 24	AT VIRGINIA TECH
OCT. 1	UCF
OCT. 8	AT USF
OCT. 13	NAVY
OCT. 22	AT CINCINNATI
OCT. 29	CONNECTICUT (HOMECOMING)
NOV. 5	AT TULSA
NOV. 12	SMU
NOV. 26	AT TEMPLE
DEC. 3	AAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME (higher-seed campus site)

He credits his parents for their influence in teaching him and demonstrating the meaning of character and the importance of education.

“My mother, just watching the sacrifice from her made me realize what a parent needs to do to be successful at being a parent. She was driven to making us the best that we could be,” he says. As for his father, who took it upon himself later in life to further his education, “it changed our family, and it changed our community, because his getting educated inspired people in our community. It also changed the way that we carried ourselves, the level of pride.

“I’m very appreciative of him and everything that he did to get me to the point where I am now.”

His mentors in the field of coaching—high school coach Ron Greene, Cutcliffe, Bruce Arians and Mike Tomlin—also fall into the family category. Greene, he says, was a father figure for his players, who knew they had to answer to him if they got in trouble with their teachers. He could dole out sprints or take away playing time.

“We had so much respect for him because he sacrificed for us, for all 50-100 of us, the way that our parents sacrificed for us, and he still had his own family,” Montgomery says. “If someone said something negative about those people around me, that’s when I would probably not be able to hold my tongue. Just

like my family. I’ve trusted them, and they’ve given me opportunities that no one else has.”

Rounding out the football family are the support staff inside Ward, he says. It takes a team of people to make it all work, from administrative assistants to the custodial staff.

“As coaches we are going to get all the shine in the world, just like we get all the criticism... but what it takes to make it all run is the people. It’s not the façade, the brick exterior, it’s the interior of this place, of the university—it’s beautiful. I knew that it was going to be special, but I didn’t know it was going to be like this. They truly embody what Greenville is all about. This is family.”

Montgomery grew up in Shelby, where N.C. State’s David Thompson was a hometown legend. And as a high school football player, Duke was the only school that offered him the chance to play wide receiver.

“With the Duke blue, and the red that’s in my veins, I think that turns into purple,” he says, “and that really is the only color I’m concerned about right now.”

He’s excited about the football culture in Greenville, which he says is remarkable considering the size of the city.

“I knew football was a passion here, but I didn’t know it was going to be like this,” he says. “I’ve been in some passionate places, but this place is leading by far. In Cleveland

County we didn’t have a lot other than football. No distractions. Here in Greenville we’re fortunate to have a lot of the things that people can be distracted with but have still been able to maintain the football culture.”

The players feel it, and recruits get a sense of it when they come in from other places. Montgomery recalls one recruit who visited and had left town wearing some Pirate gear. Stopping to eat about 40 miles outside of Greenville, he was asked if he was an ECU player.

“He said, ‘No, but I’m a recruit.’ And as he was getting ready to leave three or four people all at once gave him the ‘Aaargh!’ and startled him and his family. You know he understands that passion now,” Montgomery says.

Sports journalist David Glenn says Montgomery’s personality and charisma will serve him well on the recruiting trail and in building relationships with his players.

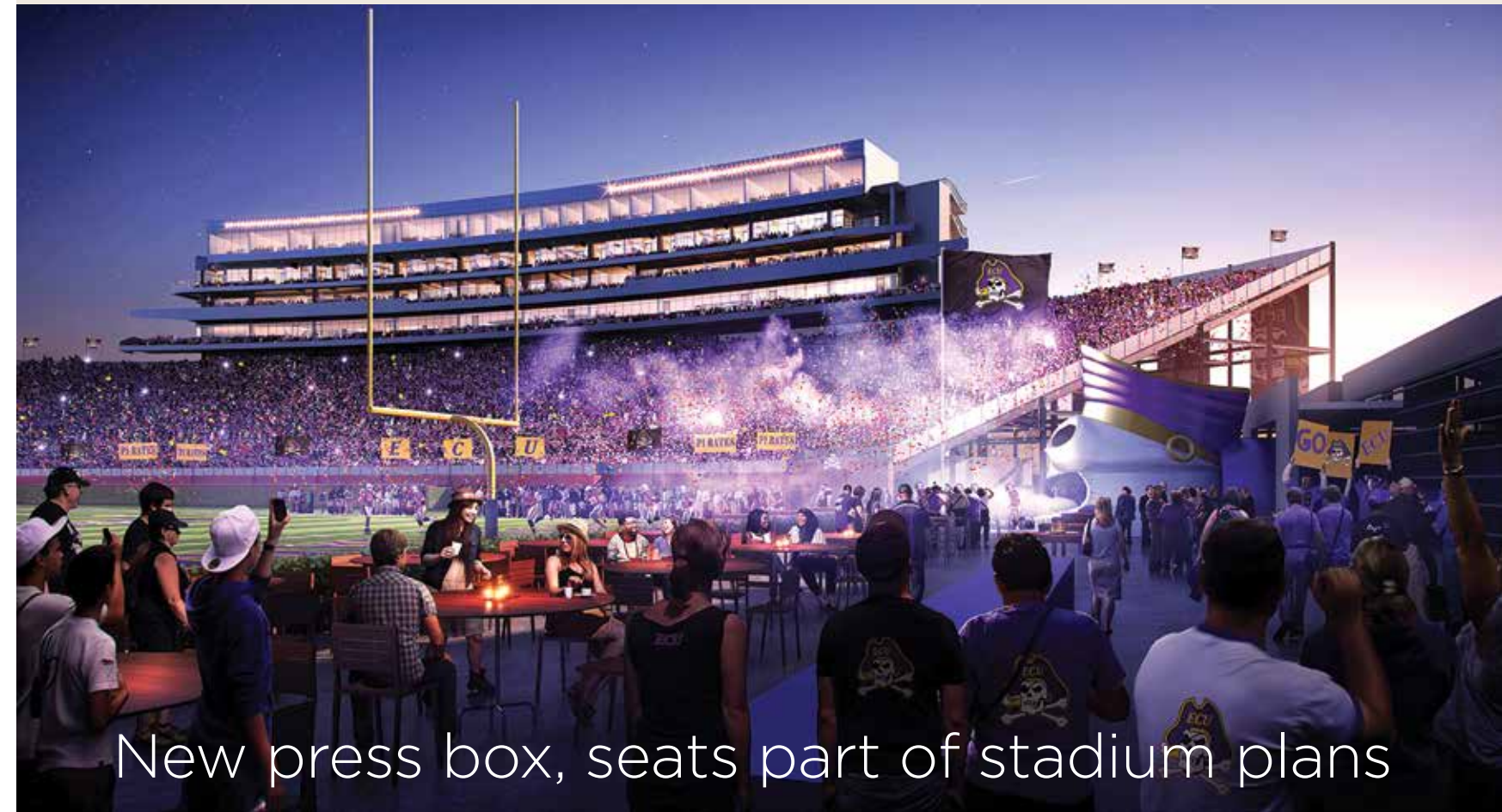
“He both played and coached in the NFL, which can provide an important connection with young prospects who want to see themselves there someday. His coaching experience has come with the Pittsburgh Steelers, a consistent winner in the NFL, and at Duke, where he helped with one of the most stunning turnarounds in major college football over the last few decades,” Glenn says.

It will be an entertaining year in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, with home tilts against in-state opponents Western Carolina and N.C. State as well as conference foes UCF, USF, Navy, UConn and SMU. Chances are coach Montgomery will be all business on the sidelines, but if fans are lucky they may get to see his moves.

“I always remember him dancing,” says Ward. “He would always dance and was up to date on all the latest dance moves and styles.”

Whether he dances or not, Montgomery’s enthusiasm and energy have already impacted the ECU football program and will undoubtedly spread throughout the stands and the city of Greenville.

East



New press box, seats part of stadium plans

A \$55 million project unveiled in April would add 1,000 seats, a new press box and more to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for the 2018 football season.

The Ward Sports Medicine Building would also see improvements, and a new hitting area near Clark-LeClair Stadium would benefit the baseball and softball teams.

The seats would be in a new club level and 20 loge boxes on the south side of the stadium. An 8,000-square-foot area is also planned between the west endzone and the Murphy Center to provide close-up viewing of on-field action.

In the Ward Sports Medicine Building, the football locker room and team meeting areas, athletics training headquarters and the equipment room would be modernized and expanded, and a football team lounge would be built.



The ECU Athletics Ticket Office would be relocated and team locker rooms added to Scales Field House.

The plans are subject to approval by the ECU Board of Trustees and the UNC Board of Governors and also depend on donations and premium seating commitments.

Construction should begin following the final 2017 home football game with completion scheduled by the 2018 home opener.

For information, contact the ECU Pirate Club at 252-737-4540 or ecupirateclub@ecu.edu.

—ECU Athletics

Changing Lives, Changing Communities Giving Back



Kali Bousquet

Hometown: Winterville, N.C.

Year: Junior

Major: Secondary mathematics education and mathematics

Career goals: Public high school teacher, higher education instructor

Scholarships make a difference

My family's financial situation had recently declined, and I was unsure of how I would be able to attend college. Because of the Abernathy Scholarship, I have not only been given financial support but have also had the opportunity to live with fellow education majors in the Education Living Learning Community. The community has become my family away from home, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

Broadening minds, opening doors

Last semester, I took a math education course where I was sent to a high school for observations. Being in that environment helped me to confirm my aspirations and gave me a strong desire to help my future students achieve their goals. This year, I have also had the opportunity to serve on the College of Education Dean's Junior Advisory Board and to speak at the Leo Jenkins scholarship donor event. All of my accomplishments were only made possible because of the financial support from the Abernathy Scholarship.

Real results

By supporting the College of Education, you are not only helping students attend college, but you are also providing schools with amazing teachers.

ecu.edu/give



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Betty S. Abernathy '51 '57 was a high school science teacher who spent most of her career at Fike High School in Wilson. She was a leader in science education and instrumental in the formation of the North Carolina Science Teachers Association. Her planned gift supports science and math education students through a four-year, \$20,000 scholarship awarded yearly to an outstanding high school senior.

For information on planned giving, call 252-328-9566, email plannedgiving@ecu.edu or visit eculegacy.org.

Ongoing gifts fund scholarships and more

From supporting scholarships to concerts and lectures, many donors to East Carolina University have found recurring contributions are a convenient and financially manageable way to give back.

"We decided early on that we wanted to begin giving back, not only with our talent but our treasures," said Ray Rogers '72. "Being a part of the working world and trying to raise a family, financially we could not amass enough to do a one-time gift, so we sought ways to work it into our monthly budget, and that has worked for us."

Rogers, an alumnus of the College of Business, completed his degree after interrupting his college career to serve in Vietnam. He has worked in the banking industry in Greenville and as financial administrator for Cornerstone Baptist Church. His wife, Eve '69, and daughter Adeea '05 are also alumni.

Rogers started giving through an employer match at Wachovia and has donated monthly since 2003. The Rogers' donations have supported the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, the Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery and the Laura Marie Leary Elliott Memorial Scholarship.

"I really developed a great appreciation for the education I received as well as the relationships during the final year before I graduated," Rogers said. "Over the years, there have been different things near and dear to my heart that I wanted to do more than give lip service to and have chosen to give."

Jennifer Watson, director of annual giving at ECU, said the university has options to make recurring donations convenient. "Donors can set a monthly,

quarterly or annual donation schedule that is automatic through our online giving site, our Telefund program or via bank draft," she said.

For Tina Hull '79, it was a coworker who helped her realize the importance of giving back.

"I would not be where I am if it weren't for ECU. I didn't just learn how to do the art, I had to learn how to source everything that I needed to create and produce my art," she said. "It made sense to help support another student who might need help getting through school."

Hull worked in insurance and banking before getting back to her roots with a promotional marketing business. "We do screen printing and embroidering, and I know a lot about textiles and how things are assembled. From ceramics and sculpting to printing and dyes, there are a lot of ways I have come full circle with what I learned at ECU," she said.

She started out with individual gifts but realized it would be more manageable to use the automatic withdrawal option to support the School of Art and Design priority fund.

"I think it's important, and it does add up," Hull said.

Chris Dyba, vice chancellor of university advancement and president of the ECU Foundation, agrees recurring donations are a good way budget for donations.

"We have heard our donors' requests to make giving easy, and recurring credit card gifts are the easiest way to ensure continued support of ECU," he said. "Every gift in any amount makes an impact on the students of ECU and the people of North Carolina."

—Jules Norwood



Laura Ann and Randy Strickland

Gifts benefit health sciences students, patients

An increase in private investment over the past year is expanding educational opportunities for health sciences students at ECU and improving quality of care for patients.

Through March of the current fiscal year, the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation had received gifts, pledges and commitments totaling nearly \$10.7 million, compared to \$5.2 million at the same time in the previous fiscal year. This includes more than \$5 million in bequest commitments from those who included the university in their wills.

These gifts will go toward scholarships, professorships, research and patient care.

"People are becoming much more aware of the quality and impact of our programs and are choosing to invest in health care through their personal philanthropy," said Mark Notestine, president of the foundation.

An anonymous bequest of \$2 million to the Department of Psychiatry in the Brody School of Medicine will provide \$1 million for an endowed professorship and \$1 million for research. This research would develop and promote prevention, early intervention and more effective treatments for mental illness, according to Dr. Sy Saeed, department chair.

A bequest of \$1 million from an anonymous retired Brody faculty member will support medical students working in the ECU Family Medicine Center on

obesity and/or nutrition. It can also be used to support students going on rotations at other medical schools or attending state or national conferences on these subjects.

Family medicine also received a significant bequest from Caroline Raby '70 to be used for scholarships for students pursuing a career in primary care medicine who demonstrate a commitment to service.

More occupational therapy graduates will be able to pursue advanced degrees thanks to a bequest from Randy Strickland '75 and his wife, Laura Ann Schluter Strickland, to a scholarship endowment in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

A recent \$300,000 gift from an anonymous foundation to the School of Dental Medicine will help provide patient care for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford treatment. It will also give students more opportunities to practice caring for patients as part of their education.

Finally, Jackie Jones Stone '64 and her twin sister Jeannette Jones '64, members of the first graduating class of nurses at East Carolina, decided to bequeath a significant portion of their estates to scholarships for undergraduate students in the College of Nursing. The scholarships will be given to students from eastern North Carolina and eastern Virginia with an interest in community health nursing or psychiatric nursing.

—Jackie Drake

All photos Cliff Hollis

Eve and Ray Rogers





Maurice Harris

EDUCATORS HONORED

Maurice Harris '98 '06, principal at Wellcome Middle School, is Pitt County Farm Bureau 2015-16 Principal of the Year. Other principal nominees included **Cathy Kirkland** '90, principal at Eastern Elementary School. **Shannon Cecil** '12, assistant principal at Pactolus School, is Assistant Principal of the Year. Other assistant principal nominees included **Alison Covington** '13, Falkland Elementary School; **Jeremiah Miller** '01 '03, South Greenville Elementary School; **Tabitha Stormer** '00 '04, South Central High School; and **Darryl Thomas** '02 '12, J.H. Rose High School.

THE 2015 GREAT 100 NURSES

The following ECU-trained nurses were among the 2015 Great 100 Nurses, which recognizes and promotes nursing excellence: **Lisa Alphin** '05 of LaGrange; **Anne Brown** '81 of Franklinton; **Emily Morgan Brown** '06 of Asheboro; **Laura Carmon** '08 of Winterville; **Felicia Collins** '94 '06 of Greenville; **Sonya Hardin** '08 of Hickory; **Denise Harper** '00 '10 of Washington; **Christine Herring** '93 of Robersonville; **Dana Johnson** '91 '02 of Apex; **Kelly Phillbeck** '96 of Stanley; **Cheryl Somers** '82 of High Point; and **Kathryn Vogel** '01 of Liberty.

2015

Isaac Joseph Boota wed **Sarah Willa Fisher** on May 23 at Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Greenville. The wedding party included **Hannah Blecher** '13, sister of the bride. He works for Mayne Pharma, Greenville, and she is an ECU student. **Daniel B. Casale** of Latham was commissioned as an Army second lieutenant after completing a ROTC program and graduating from ECU. **Darlene Cummings**, principal at Pembroke Middle School, is Robeson County's 2014-2015 Principal of the Year. **Angela Fields**, a family nurse practitioner, cardiac vascular nurse and clinical exercise physiologist, joined Southeastern Health Clinic Gray's Creek. **Kristen Lee Garrison** wed **Christopher Colt Marion** '14 on March 28, 2015, at the Brooklyn Arts Center, Wilmington. **Anne M. Stephano** joined Coastal Surgery Specialists, Wilmington, as a physician assistant. **Taylor Wooten** is an assistant cheerleading coach at ECU.

2014

Catherine Rebecca Cole wed **Tyler Seth Martin** '16 on Sept. 5 at Cypress Bend Vineyards, Wagram. She attends Wingate University School of Pharmacy and works at the First Health of the Carolinas pharmacy. He is completing bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and applied physics at ECU and is a sustainability intern at Keihin Carolina System Technology, Tarboro. **Erica Edmondson** is a project coordinator at Carney & Co., a marketing firm in Rocky Mount. **McLean Godley** won a two-year term on the Greenville City Council. **Kinnley Perkins** runs the house

bar and is general manager of DAP House restaurant, Greenville. **Freda Lauren Thompson** wed Nikolai "Nik" Leonid Sigmon on June 6 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Lenoir. The wedding party included **Lindsey Chaney**. She is a physician assistant with Carolina Rehabilitation and Surgical Associates, Raleigh.

2013

Kristen Cook is a community health educator with the FirstHealth Community Health Services health programs team serving Moore, Montgomery, Hoke and Richmond counties. **Laura Thomas** is fund development coordinator of Girl Scouts-N.C. Coastal Pines.

2012

Carrie Browder passed the N.C. bar exam and is a first-year associate at Dysart Law, Raleigh. **Lucie Katherine Edwards** wed **Donald Gray Strickland II** '14 on Oct. 3 at First United Methodist Church, Henderson. The wedding party included **Laurie Elizabeth Edwards** '08, sister of the bride, **Andrew Henderson Pierce** '14 and **Benjamin Luke Pulley** '14. She is a manager at Kitty Hawk Surf Company of Nags Head. He is guest services manager for Hampton Inn and Suites Resort, Corolla. **Samantha Paige Meinsen** wed **Andrew Michael Tilley** '10 on July 11 at Saint Thomas Preservation Hall, Wilmington. The wedding party included **Brittany Estep** and **Brendon Kennerly** '10. In Atlanta, she works at Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, and he works with the Large & Gilbert accounting firm. **Kristi Michelle Rogers** wed **William Andrew Haddock** on Oct. 24 at The Village Chapel, Pinehurst.

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Virginia sculptor **Cliff Page** '79 spent last year as sculptor-in-residence at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire. In addition to daily sculpting, he led classes and tutorials in sculpture and related topics for visitors to the site.

The site contains the historical home and studio of Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), one of America's greatest sculptors. Situated on 250 acres of rolling hills on the eastern shore of the Connecticut River, the site has been a haven for the arts since the late 1800s.

Saint-Gaudens became a national park site in 1965. It was the first national park to have an artist in residence, and it is the only one with a sculptor in residence, according to Page. The park is open from May to October.

Saint-Gaudens created sculptures of several key Union figures from the Civil War. He is best known for his bronze bas relief monument of Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts, a regiment of black soldiers, and a larger-than-life bronze statue called "Abraham Lincoln: The Man," also known as "Standing Lincoln."

Last year was the 50th anniversary of the national park site and the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination. To commemorate the 16th president, Page created molds for round bronze plaques of Lincoln's profile. Page is in the process of securing funding and a facility to cast six full-size plaques in bronze. One will stay at Saint-Gaudens, and others will be given to U.S. officials such as the president and the secretary of the interior. Page also plans to cast 300 smaller copies, which will be made available to members of the public.

Page has a bachelor of fine arts from Old Dominion University and a master of fine arts from ECU. He mastered his specialty of bronze casting while working in Naval facilities in Virginia and furthered his studies as a Fulbright Fellow in Milan, Italy. He has taught sculpture and other subjects at the public school and university levels in the U.S. and abroad.

Page has maintained a sculpture studio in Portsmouth, Virginia, for 40 years. His works have been exhibited and collected publicly and privately around the world.

—Jackie Drake



SCULPTOR COMMEMORATES LINCOLN



Cliff Page

The wedding party included **Amanda Gilmore Cutrell, Emily Jane Haddock '13**, sister of the groom, and **Kelsey Lauren Jewett '13**. She passed the N.C. State Bar Exam, and he is a CPA with Dixon Hughes Goodman, Raleigh. Dr. **Holly Stegall** is a primary care physician with Carolinas HealthCare System in Anson County. **Caitlin Walton** joined the law firm of Essex Richards, Charlotte.

2011

Whitney Elvis is a nurse practitioner with Physicians East in its Farmville office. **Olivia Hall**, sixth-grade language arts teacher at Roseboro-Salemburg Middle School, is 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year for Sampson County Schools. **Alexandra Susanne Herring** wed Edward Moore Venters on Oct. 2 on the beach in Emerald Isle. She works at Just Hair, Emerald Isle. **Tremayne Smith**, a graduate student at George Washington University, won a seat in the GWU Student Association Senate. **Brad Staley**, assistant principal at Northside High School, Jacksonville, is Onslow County School District's 2015-2016 Assistant Principal of the Year.

2010

Meredith Hill, media coordinator at Creekside Elementary School, Greenville, is N.C. School Library Media Association 2015 Media Coordinator of the Year. **Tyffani Alana Welch** wed **Chase Johansen Abel '09** on Aug. 29 in Havelock. The wedding party included **Joshua Abel '09** and **Sharon Ireland '13**. She is a registered nurse at N.C. Specialty Hospital in Surgical Services, Durham. He is a chemist for Dominion Power at the Brunswick County Power Station in Virginia. **Mary Elizabeth Woody** wed Evan Bodrie Gearino on Oct. 3 at Red Rock Canyon National Park, Las Vegas, Nev.

2009

Dr. **Adrian Jacobs** leads Red Springs' first pediatric clinic. **Sierra Jones '09 '12**, communications assistant for Greenville-Pitt County Convention and Visitors Bureau, received the Destination Marketing Achievement 2015 Rising Star Award at the DMANC/N.C. Tourism Industry Association's N.C. Tourism Leadership Conference, Charlotte. **Heather Larsen '09 '11 '15** is an adult

gerontology nurse practitioner with Gastroenterology East and Dr. Jack Cole's practice in Greenville.



Alfred J. Leonetti III published his first book of poetry, *A Poetic Wonderland*, on lulu.com. **Danielle Marie Sheppard** wed David Ross

Davenport on Sept. 26 at Rock Springs Center, Greenville. The wedding party included **Blair Taft '11**. She teaches at Southward Elementary, Kinston.

2008

Ashley Elizabeth Bissette wed **Joshua Andrew Wilson** on Oct. 24 at The Leaning Tree, Bailey. She works for BB&T in Wilson. He works for ELS in Kenly. **Eric Fitts**, principal of Brentwood Elementary School, Raleigh, is 2015 N.C. Principal of the Year. **Christie Hagan** joined Lumberton Children's Clinic as a physician assistant. **Melanie Nichols** received national professional certification as a financial planner.

Lynn Marie Pattillo wed Ryan Alan Moretz on July 11 at Kerr's Chapel Baptist Church, Elon. She teaches fourth grade at Caswell County Schools, Mebane. Dr. **Laura Slusher** is a radiologist at Middlesboro ARH Hospital, Middlesboro, Ky.

2007

Laura Salmons is head librarian for Currituck County with the East Albemarle Regional Library system. **Tim Watkins** is a project manager with Kjellstrom + Lee, Richmond, Va. **Charles Welch** is assistant director of athletics media relations at ECU. He was in the athletics communications division at UNC Greensboro.

2005

Justin Barnhill was promoted to equipment manager at Barnhill Contracting Co. **P.J. Connelly**, a real estate broker, won a two-year term on the Greenville City Council. Dr. **David Gilbert '05 '10** joined ECU Physicians Firetower Medical Office, Greenville. **Michelle Hunt Jackson**, a kindergarten teacher at Coopers Elementary School, is Teacher of the Year for Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. **Patrick Miller '05**

2004

Andrea Leigh McNeely wed Matthew David Zimmerman on June 27 at the University of Virginia Chapel, Charlottesville, Va. She is a programs administrator at the Robert M. Berne Cardiovascular Research Center, University of Virginia. **Trey Oglesby** was promoted to managing director, audit, at KPMG, Norfolk, Va.

'11, Greene County Public Schools superintendent, was inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame of the ECU College of Education in 2015.



Timothy James Morgan was appointed to the ECU Board of Visitors for a four-year term. He is a risk advisor with Towne Insurance,

Raleigh. **Elaine Scott**, an associate professor at the ECU School of Nursing and director for the nursing doctoral program, is N.C. Nurses Association Nurse Administrator of the Year.

2003



John Lee is executive director of First Tee of ENC serving children and schools in Craven, Jones, Pamlico, Onslow, Carteret and Lenoir counties through The First Tee Life Skills Experience. **Christina Revels**, a certified physician assistant, joined Children's Health of Carolina's Pembroke Pediatrics. **Nneka Jones Tapia** is executive

Bryan Tuten, director of ECU's Dowdy Student Stores, is serving a one-year term as president of the College Stores Association of N.C. **Sara Twiford**, part of the treasury and merchant sales team at TowneBank's headquarters in Suffolk, Va., was promoted to assistant vice president. **Jonathan Quinn Wehmann** wed Dr. Catherine Braxton Stanfield on May 30 at Snipes Farm Retreat, Chapel Hill. He is a real estate broker with Howard Perry and Walston, Durham.

2002

Katie Lomax joined Wrightsville Beach Family Medicine. **Quintin Mangano**, principal of Nashville Elementary School, is 2015-2016 Principal of the Year for Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. **Lenwood Morris "BJ" Murphy** of Kinston is a business-to-business certification trainer and field trainer with LegalShield.

2001

Jeremy Cayton joined NCEast Alliance as director of marketing and communications. He was marketing and research specialist for Wayne County Development Alliance. **Hattie Lee Hammonds** graduated from Clemson University in 2015 with a doctorate in educational leadership. **Jeremiah Miller '01 '03** is principal of Bethel School. He was assistant principal at South Greenville Elementary.

2000

Johnica Ellis-Kiser '00 '06, program chair and instructor of business administration/accounting at Edgecombe Community College, received the 2015-2016 Keihin Endowed Faculty Chair.

1999

Rhonda James-Davis is director of career and technical education for Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools. She was director of secondary education and career and technical education for Currituck County Schools. **Ira Varney '99**, art teacher at South Central High School, Greenville, is the N.C. Art Education Association 2015-2016 Secondary Art Educator of the Year.

1998

Ted Lockamon, sports supervisor for the city of Henderson, Nev., presented an educational session at the National Recreation and Parks Association annual conference in September. **Eric Meyer '98 '05** is a physician assistant on the palliative care team at Vidant Medical Center, Greenville.

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ALUMNUS WINS \$50,000 ON GAME SHOW

On the gameshow *Are You Smarter than a 5th grader?* **Caleb Cubbison '06** remembers the lights, the cameras and the sound of the crowd.

Yet the loudest sound of them all may have been his heartbeat.

"I was very excited, but extremely nervous. It was a crazy experience," Cubbison told his hometown newspaper, the Orangeburg, South Carolina, *Times and Democrat*.

The show, hosted by comedian Jeff Foxworthy, has contestants answer history, science, spelling, geography, astronomy, health, social studies and math questions designed for first-through fifth-graders.

"You have no idea what the subjects are going to be," Cubbison said.

He got on the show through a friend who knew the show's casting director. He went for an audition, had a phone interview with the producers and was cast.

During the game, Cubbison made it to the 11th question that was worth \$100,000.

"In mammals, what is the area called between the epidermis and the hypodermis?" Foxworthy asked.

"I didn't know the answer, so I opted to drop out of school," he said. That meant he was choosing not to answer any further questions and keep the money he'd won to that point, \$50,000, rather than risk losing it all with an incorrect answer.

The correct answer to the question is "dermis."

Cubbison said the highlight was when he correctly answered his \$10,000 question, which also netted \$10,000 for a school.

"They brought on like a video chat with this music teacher," Cubbison said. "He told his students if they would raise \$2,000 for cancer research, he would shave his head." The students raised \$11,000, and the teacher shaved his head.

"I was like 'Oh my goodness! That's amazing! I can't get this question wrong,'" Cubbison said.

In pursuit of acting, Cubbison attended ECU. He completed his bachelor's degree in theater arts in 2006. After graduation, he and his wife, Jillian, moved to Los Angeles. They live in Southern California and have two children: 5-year-old Liam and 1-year-old Audrey.

He works as a director of operations with Chick-Fil-A.



1996

Andy Kievit is Eastern Elementary (Greenville) School's Teacher of the Year. Since 1996, he has taught kindergarten, first, second, third and fifth grades. **Robert McGee '96 '98** is Cape Fear Community College's first dean of student affairs. He was athletic director at the school. **Allison Setser '96 '10** is principal of H.B. Sugg and Sam Bundy schools in Farmville. She was principal of Bethel School, Pitt County. **Nicole Smith '96 '98 '04** joined ECU's College of Education. She was principal of H.B. Sugg and Sam Bundy Schools in Farmville.



Ernest Solar published his debut science fiction novel, *Two Moons Rising*. He teaches special education courses at Mount St. Mary's University and lives in

Lovettsville, Va., with his family.

Drock and **Ashley Driver Vincent '95** welcomed a baby girl in 2015.

1995

Dorothy Dalton '95 '02, a fourth-grade teacher at Oakwood Elementary School in Hickory, is 2015 N.C. Council of Teachers of Mathematics Outstanding Elementary School Mathematics Teacher. Dr. **Angela Peace** joined Southeastern Health's physician practices division at Southeastern Medical Clinic in North Lumberton.

Ronald Villines is principal of Williston Middle School, Wilmington. He was principal of Graham Middle School, Graham.

Anne Wilson is a life enrichment/wellness director at Touchmark at Mt. Bachelor Village, Bend, Ore.

1994

Sharon Bell is executive director of SAFE Inc. in Wilkesboro. She was with Barium Springs Home for Children. Dr. **Victor Freund**, a board-certified neurosurgeon, joined Vidant Neurosurgery, Greenville. **Vevlyn Lowe**, band director at Sampson Middle School, is the Belk Foundation Honored Educator Scholar for 2015-2016.

Katina Lynch '94 '96, assistant principal of Red Oak Middle School, is Assistant Principal of the Year for Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools.

Grace Daughtry Smith, outgoing president of the N.C. Association of Zoning Officials, received the 2015 NCAZO Outstanding Member of the Year award. She is the first association member selected twice for the association's highest honor. **Brock Womble '94 '96 '01** is

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director of the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

1993

Lance Metzler has been appointed to the N.C. Department of Administration's Human Relations Commission. **Kristin Moore** is creative director at Hershey Cause Communications, a strategic communications firm in Los Angeles. **W. Scott Newton II** is senior vice president and city executive with Southern Bank in Goldsboro. **Mandy Pitts** is CEO of Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority. She was communications director and brand manager for the city of Hickory. **Jonathan Powers**, a financial adviser with Edward Jones, Greenville, received the A.F. McKenzie Award for his business-building skills and client services in 2015.

1992

Allen Thomas won reelection to a two-year term as mayor of Greenville. He serves as treasurer of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition.

1991

Cavan Harris was promoted to regional vice president of Wells Fargo & Co. Charlotte West commercial banking team.

1990

Valeria Lassiter was appointed to the NEA Foundation board of directors. She is CEO of Lassiter & Associates, a for-profit fundraising and communications consultant firm to the nonprofit sector.

1989

Willie M. Carawan is manager of Washington County. He was Chowan County's finance officer.

1988

Dr. **Michael C. Good**, a gynecologic surgeon, joined Heritage Medical Center, Shelbyville, Tenn.

1987

Kevin Cutler, principal of South Edgembe Middle School, is Edgembe County Public Schools 2015-16 Principal of the Year. **Merrill Flood** was promoted to assistant manager of Greenville from his position as the city's community

development director. Capt. **Michael White** retired from the U.S. Coast Guard in Seattle, Wash., in 2015. He is now senior maritime advisor for the National Security Division of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Wash. He and his wife, Dianne, live in Walla Walla, Wash.

1986

Tommy Stoughton was appointed by the Greenville City Council to a three-year term on the Greenville Utilities board of commissioners. He is a partner with Kittrell and Armstrong LLC, Greenville. **Richard "Trey" Williams** is senior director of sales for the aviation firm Erickson's government aviation services.

1984

Timothy Mertz is assistant state director of child nutrition programs for the state of Hawaii. He retired as a director of school nutrition services in Virginia in 2012. **Michael L. Parnell** is assistant director of campus recreation overseeing the aquatics center and fitness programs at UNC Pembroke.

1983

Mitzi Davis was inducted into the Alexander County Public Education Foundation and the Alexander County Sports Hall of Fame in 2015. She played volleyball/softball at ECU and is a member of the USSSA Softball Hall of Fame.



Hope Dougherty '83 '85 published two novels in 2015, *Irish Encounter* and *Mars...With Venus Rising*.

1982

Lt. Gen. **William "Mark" Faulkner**, deputy commandant of the Marine Corps for installations and logistics on board Camp Lejeune, retired in 2015 after nearly 34 years of service.

1981

Christy Welborn '81 '12, a certified nurse practitioner, joined Vidant Multispecialty Clinic-Tarboro.

1977

Mark Garner, vice president of Rivers & Associates, Greenville, received the Robert E. Linkner Private Sector Service Award from the N.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

1975

Meredith Dean "Buddy" Betts, a 1965 graduate of Milford High School, was inducted into that school's 12th Man Gridiron Club. He was a center on offense and a linebacker/defensive end on defense. A captain on the 1964 team, he was selected third team All-State that season. At ECU, he was a walk-on playing defensive end on junior varsity football for three years.

1971

Kenneth L. Daniels was elected to the boards of directors of United Community Banks and its subsidiary, United Community Bank. **Ray Franks** retired as CEO of the Boy Scouts of America's East Carolina Council after 40 years of professional Scouting

service, including 20 years as an executive and seven years as the council director.

1973

Ernest L. Avery '73 '90 retired in 2015 after 16.5 years as technical services librarian at Piedmont Community College, Roxboro.

1972

Leonard G. Green is senior staff attorney for the N.C. Utilities Commission focusing on the commission's regulation of electric and natural gas utilities.

1971

David S. Warren, adjunct instructor of music at Tidewater Community College, Norfolk, Va., and director of the TCC Chorus, was appointed repertoire and standards chair for two-year colleges for the American Choral Director's Association's southern division, covering 11 southern states.

1968

Walter E. Bostic retired in 2014 as vice president of global technical services after 22 years with Ralph Lauren. He was an all-conference,

honorable mention All-American and four-year letterman for the East Carolina football team from 1963 to 1967. **Monte McCraw** teaches at Southern Crescent Technical College, Griffin, Ga.

1967

Ronald E. Hignite published his first novel, *The Devil's Damsel*, a mystery thriller inspired by a true crime. He is a former educator who has written several books.

1966

D. Ann Neville '66 '68 retired as vice president of student services, Martin Methodist College, Lenoir, Tenn., after a 40-year career in higher education. In May 2015, she was inducted into the DAR after tracing her Orange County, N.C., ancestry.



Betty Johnson Vaughn's novel, *Yesterday's Magnolia*, was published by Total Recall Press in 2015. All three of her published novels have won the historical fiction

award from the North Carolina Society of Historians.

1964

Judith Joyner Smith '64 '78 '04 was inducted into Educators Hall of Fame at ECU. She spent her career teaching in Lenoir and Greene counties before going to work at ECU in 2007, from which she retired in 2015.

1962

James B. Kirkland of Lumberton received the Devoted Lion Award in honor of his 50 years of service to Lions Club International. The retired business owner has served as club secretary, bulletin editor and Tail Twister, among other positions.

1949

Milton P. Fields was inducted into the Twin County (Nash and Edgecombe counties) Hall of Fame in 2015. A U.S. Navy WWII veteran who was a photographer on the USS Saratoga in the Pacific Theatre, he retired from his law practice in Rocky Mount.

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Jeremy Woodard '01
Broadway actor
2015 Outstanding Alumni Award recipient

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IN MEMORIAM

1940s



Helen "Penny" Flanagan Doyle '40 of Virginia Beach, Va., died Sept. 26 at 95. Before beginning her teaching career, she used her math

degree doing research on wing design for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (currently NASA) at Langley Field and served with the Red Cross. She was the daughter of Mayor Roy C. and Helen P. Flanagan of Greenville.



Elizabeth DeCormis Peal Edwards '43 of Winston-Salem died Oct. 17 at 94. For more than 30 years, she taught in Henderson City Schools.



Wilmar Kearney Pleasant '46 of Angier died Sept. 12 at 90. She taught fifth grade in Harnett County for 27 years. Pleasant and her

identical twin sister, Illmar Kearney Nobles '46 '62, were featured in the Winter 2013 issue of *East*. **Ernestine Jackson Warren Rankin** '49 of New Bern died Oct. 10. A county home demonstration agent for several years, she retired after more than 30 years of teaching in Craven County schools. **Louise Brett Thomas** '43 of Farmville died Oct. 11 at 94. She retired from elementary school teaching in Greene and Pitt counties. **John Donald "Don" Whitehurst** '48 of Greenville died Dec. 11. He owned American Truck Center, Winterville. **Audrey Elizabeth Mazingo Worley** '44 of Princeton died Nov. 27 at 91. She retired from Cherry Hospital where she worked in vocational rehabilitation. **John Morgan Young** '48 of Beaufort died Oct. 11 at 91. A WWII U.S. Army veteran, he owned a dry-cleaning business in Beaufort for many years before moving to Virginia Beach but later returning to Beaufort. He played football at ECTC.

1950s



Joyce Gilbert Cherry '58 '63 of Kinston died Nov. 5. At Lenoir Community College, she served as an instructor, dean and in several

administrative positions, including two terms as interim president of the college. She worked in music programs at Parkers Chapel FWB Church, Greenville; LaGrange FWB Church, Kinston; and Armenia Christian Church, Kinston. She was one of the first 10 selected for the "100 Incredible ECU Women" award by ECU's Women's Roundtable.



Fred Allen Davenport '57 '60 '83 of Plymouth died Oct. 21. In 1996, he retired as associate superintendent of Washington County Schools after

40 years as a public school teacher and principal in Maryland and North Carolina. **Betty Jean Dewar Goodson** '53 of Greenville died Nov. 17. She taught in Pitt County Schools for 10 years and worked at Tammy's Day Care Center for 10 years, retiring in 1993. **Thomas Temple Grey** '57 '60 of Southern Pines died Nov. 30. He was a teacher and coach at Vass-Lakeview High School, a teacher in Southern Pines and guidance counselor with Richmond County Schools, where he helped design the curriculum for Richmond Senior High School. **Coy Ward Harris** '59 of Alexandria, Va., died Nov. 7. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a Herff Jones yearbook representative and co-owner, with his wife Sheila, of Victor O'Neill Studios. **Paul Franklin Hawkins** '59 '61 of Kinston died Nov. 9. A social worker and an educator in Harnett and Jones counties and the Camp Lejeune school systems, he retired from civil service in 1990 and the state system in 1993. **Rachael Lang Kinard** '57 of Highlands Ranch, Colo., died Oct. 18. She was a flight attendant and instructor for Eastern Airlines in Miami and New York City before becoming a full-time mother and homemaker. **Laura Frances**

"Lady" Matthews '51 of Richmond, Va., died Sept. 28. She was a retired elementary school teacher. She was married to Jack Sherrod Matthews Sr. '50. Lt. Col. (USAF) Ret. **Ernest L. McFarland** '57 of Belmont died Sept. 15. He served 22 years in the USAF of which 985 days were spent as a combat pilot in Vietnam. After retiring from the military, he taught for 18 years in North Carolina.

Patricia Bradshaw "Patsy" Perkins '59 of Greenville died Nov. 4. She taught for several years before partnering with her husband to build their company, Hatteras Hammocks, now The Hammock Source. **Riddick Revelle** '50 of Fayetteville died Sept. 13. A U.S. Army WWII veteran, he was an independent insurance agent serving Fayetteville and eastern N.C. for more than 60 years. He achieved life membership in the industry's International Million Dollar Round Table. Retired Maj. **George Bernard Rose** '55 of Williamsburg, Va., died Sept. 16. He served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, including three tours in Vietnam. He then served 20 years in Navy civil service. **Theodore Page "Ted" Smith** '55 '59 of Vass died June 22. He retired as principal of Intervale Elementary School, Parsippany, N.H. His brother is Don Smith '57. **Alice Little Stancill** '59 '75 of Greenville died Nov. 21. She retired after 30 years of teaching in Chesapeake, Va., Kinston and Fayetteville. **Leonard B. Starling Jr.** '53 of Duncanville, Texas, died Sept. 18. He served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1978. He later taught music at the high school and college levels. **Alice McKenzie Sweeney** of Kingston, Tenn., died Oct. 2. For more than 25 years she taught at Kingston Junior High and Cherokee Middle School.

Rita Potter Tetterton '56 of Washington died Nov. 15. She retired as an income maintenance representative out of the Greenville Regional Office with the State Division of Social Services. **Henry N. Whitener** '56 of Chesapeake, Va., died Nov. 9. A U.S. Army veteran, he was assigned to the 7th Army Band and Symphony Orchestra and Stuttgart Ballet in Germany and as principal arranger, composer and



pianist, he toured with Special Services shows, performing on military bases and playing goodwill concerts throughout Europe. Highlights of his career include performing with The Hi Los, Charlie Byrd and Tommie Newsome. He was band director in the Chesapeake (Va.) City Schools for 41 years. Memorial donations can be made to the Herbert L. Carter Scholarship Fund at East Carolina University, 102 A.J. Fletcher Music Center, Attn: Friends of the School of Music, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.

1960s

Carolyn Taylor Allen '63 of Charlotte died Oct. 7. After a 25-year teaching career in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg school systems, she had several business careers. **Andrew Spencer Appleby** '69 of Norfolk, Va., died Sept. 13. A U.S. Army veteran, he did tours in Vietnam and Germany. **Bobby R. Blinson** '60 of Fernandina Beach, Fla., died Aug. 26. A U.S. Navy veteran, he retired as chief of audits for the IRS in Washington, D.C., in 1994. In 1990, he received the Clifford R. Gross Award for "Excellence in Federal Government Service." Cmdr. **John Blake Boyd Jr.** '65, USNR, died Aug. 26. After retiring from the USNR he worked for the Texas Employment Commission (Texas Workforce Commission) for 25 years retiring in 1996 to work as a flight simulator instructor for Lockheed Martin. **Edwin Osborn Bradbury** '69 '73 of Kinston died Aug. 22. He was a teacher and band director at Woodington Middle School, Kinston. **Edgar "Eddie" Alton Buck Sr.** '64 of Charleston, S.C., died Dec. 3. He was chair of Jupiter Holdings Co. and Buck Lumber Co., former Charleston County councilman and noted sport fisherman. **Margaret "Peggy" Braswell Claus** '69 of Madison, Ala., died Nov. 18. She retired as a registered nurse at Huntsville Hospital. **Don Graham Dempsey** '68 of Greenville died Nov. 20 at 90. A U.S. Army Air Corps veteran, he was a guidance counselor at Farmville Central High School, where the students referred to him as "Doc." **Bobby D. Branch** '74 '76 of Rock Hill, S.C., died Aug. 22. He was a U.S. Army veteran. **Sidney Louis Gaskins** '60 of Lenoir died Sept. 14. He taught science at West Caldwell High School, Ashley High School in Gastonia and South Mecklenburg in Charlotte. **Frances**

Jane Langston Henderson '60 of Newton Grove died Oct. 25. She taught sixth grade at Hobbton Elementary School from 1966 to 1977 and at Hargrove Elementary from 1977 until retiring in 1992.

Elaine Brewer Horne '64 of Raleigh died Nov. 7. She taught school for many years and retired as a real estate agent. She was a member of Chi Omega Sorority.

Ben F. Howard '69 '70 of Cary died Nov. 5. He was a teacher and principal at several schools, retiring from Alamance-Burlington School System Central Office in 2000.

Linda Newell Jennings '68 of Greensboro died Dec. 6. She spent her career as a nurse and later taught nursing.

Peggy J. Jessup '62 of Charlotte died Oct. 28. She was a CPA for 50 years.

Caroline Campbell Kearney '61 of Roanoke Rapids died Aug. 10. She taught in Jacksonville and at Johnston Elementary, Rocky Mount.

Evelyn Johnson Kirkland '61 '62 of Lumberton died July 13. For 30 years, she taught middle grades language arts in public schools in Greenville, Fayetteville and Lumberton. At ECC, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

Gary Edward Lakin '63 of Virginia Beach, Va., died Sept. 4. A U.S. Air Force Vietnam War veteran, he

became a commercial pilot for National, Pan Am and Delta airlines after leaving the military.

Jerry Dale Law '69 of Winterville died Nov. 13. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a program consultant for the N.C. Division of Medical Assistance for more than 42 years, retiring in 2014. He received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award for his dedicated service to the state of North Carolina. An advocate for Pitt County Girls Softball League, the Sara A. Law Softball Complex was named in memory of his daughter.



Benjamin Joseph Martin Sr. '64 '74 '78 of Hope Mills died Sept. 2. A WWII Army veteran, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge and helped liberate three concentration camps. He was wounded twice, receiving Purple Hearts and an Oak Leaf cluster. He was a teacher, principal, coach and high school basketball official in North Carolina. He was inducted into the Fayetteville Sports Club Hall of Fame in 2013.

Albert David McNeill '69 of Beaufort died Oct. 2.

A U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran, he owned and managed Eastern Pest Control.

Patricia Biggs Morrison '61 '69 of Burlington, formerly of Wilmington, died Nov. 4. She retired as an audiologist at New Hanover Memorial Hospital.

Susan Kinsey Jackson Noble '69 '87 of Greenville died Oct. 4. After 32 years in Pitt County Schools, she retired as a guidance counselor at Ayden Grifton High School. She was also a counselor and recruiter for Pitt Community College.

Ivey Harold Pittman '67 of Selma died Nov. 18. A U.S. Air Force Vietnam War veteran, he retired as a probation and parole supervisor with N.C. Department of Corrections and then worked with USDA in Johnston County with the department of farm services.

Betty Marie Andrews Robbins '62 of Bethel died Nov. 20. She taught in the Tarboro School System.

Crethie Storey Spence '63 '66 of Williamston died Sept. 12. She taught for many years in public schools and later was a counselor at Martin Community College.

Ralph E. Stone '64 of Gainesville, Va., died Sept. 5. He was a teacher and principal in Virginia public schools retiring in 1998 after 20 years as principal at Zachary Taylor

Elementary School in Arlington County, Va. In 1990, he received the Washington Post Distinguished Leadership Award for Arlington County.

James Richard Warner Jr. '66 of New Bern died Oct. 3. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran. The Rev. Dr. **Tony Davis Warren** '67 '69 of Williamston died Dec. 10. He taught at Farmville High School and Pitt Community College before turning to radio announcing and sales and agribusiness sales. In 1992, he entered the ministry serving as pastor in several N.C. churches.

Nancy Wordworth '62 of Wilmington died Dec. 3. She was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority.

1970s

Charles F. Atkins '75 of Sanford died Nov. 1. He was a businessman and real estate developer.

Joseph Whitmel "Whit" Blackstone Jr. '73 of Washington died Dec. 4. Since 1977 he owned Blackstone Realty Inc. T/A Pamlico Properties and was a realtor in Washington.

Wanda Wentz Dyer '71 of Greenwood, S.C., died Nov. 18. For more than 33 years, she taught in the Greenville County (S.C.) Public School System. Since 2006, she substitute taught at Pinecrest Elementary School in

Greenwood.

Nancy Parker Foster '70 of Greenville died Dec. 4. In 2009, she retired after teaching English in Pitt County Schools for 30 years.

Philip Alan Grochmal '74 of Norfolk, Va., died Oct. 25. He was an accountant and a financial planner before becoming a teacher of accounting at the University of Phoenix.

Marion Sandra "Sandy" Hardee died Nov. 2. For 32 years, she taught special needs students in Robeson County School System.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Ann (Phelps) Smith '77 of Kempton, Ind., died Aug. 28. She retired a year ago after more than 20 years of teaching at Tipton Elementary School, Tipton, Ind.

Myron "Gig" Shelton Staton '70 of Garner died Sept. 29. A U.S. Air Force Vietnam War veteran, he retired as finance director of the Wake County ABC Board.

Liles Newton '70 of Laurinburg died Sept. 22. She retired as a teacher with Marlboro Academy, Bennettsville.

Robert "Bob" Palsha '70 of Burlington died Oct. 27. He was a real estate agent for 30 years before becoming manager of Brookwood Condo Association.

Connie Ray Price '78 of Fremont died Nov. 7. He retired after 25 years as Wayne County planning director.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Ann (Phelps) Smith '77 of Kempton, Ind., died Aug. 28. She retired a year ago after more than 20 years of teaching at Tipton Elementary School, Tipton, Ind.

Myron "Gig" Shelton Staton '70 of Garner died Sept. 29. A U.S. Air Force Vietnam War veteran, he retired as finance director of the Wake County ABC Board.

1980s

Kathryn Lynn Sheats Brannan '84 of Wilmington died Aug. 28. She worked at Harris Teeter in Porter's Neck.

Peggy Joyce Gurganus Bunn '83 of Bath died Sept. 3. In 2014, she retired from teaching in Beaufort County Schools.

Sylvia Ann Rogerson Smith Carpenter '81 of Rocky Mount died Oct. 2. She was director of patient and family services at Beaufort County Hospital.

Constance "Connie"

Capps Cox '86 of Greenville died Oct. 14. She was a retired elementary school teacher.

Julia Katherine "Kat" Littlejohn Foard '80 of Hendersonville died Oct. 26. She was a CPA until retirement.

Shari Phelps Froelich '84 of Bozeman, Mont., died Oct. 31.

Allan Frederick Guy '88 of Manassas, Va., died Aug. 20. A third-generation artist, illustrator and designer, he worked in design and brand identity with many national and international companies in Manhattan and then Manassas, Va. At ECU, he wrote and illustrated a comic for the *East Carolinian* called "Walkin the Plank."

Mark Timothy Hendrix '88 of Plymouth died Oct. 16. He was CEO of The Soundside Group.

Lili Karen Johnson '82 of New Albany, Ohio, died Dec. 2, 2014. She was a former SBI agent, dean of Central Piedmont Community College and academic director of the International Law Enforcement Academy, Roswell, N.M.

Ernest George "Gavin" Miller Jr. '86 of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., died Nov. 18. He was a Web designer/specialist for ALGY.

Desiree Ann Moore '81 of Gibsonia, Pa., died Oct. 13. She was an elementary school teacher at a private school for many years.

George Ryan Morris

'84 of Hubert died Nov. 13. He retired from the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant and then had a career in sales.

Irene Bailey Overton '82 of Elizabeth City died Sept. 29. She was a lung transplant recipient in 2000 and an advocate of organ donations.

Jeffrey Clinton "Clint" Price '84 of Hampstead died Sept. 4. He worked in management in the furniture industry for many years, later establishing Absolute Quality Upholstery.

Clinton Swaringen Rogers '83 '86 of Durham died Oct. 6.

Carol Joy Sandhofer Sweetser '80 of Springfield, Va., died Oct. 27. She retired from Northern Virginia Community College as director of disability services.

Joseph Blalock Ward '83 '86 of Newport died Oct. 2. He owned and operated Pro Bait and Tackle, Atlantic Beach.

Beatrice Story Waters '82 of Plymouth died Oct. 14. She taught fifth grade in Washington County schools for 22 years, where she was recognized as a Teacher of the Year.

1990s

Robin Morrison Allison '90 of Asheville died Oct. 4. She was an occupational therapist with Care Partners Healthcare, Asheville.

Matthew Tyler Aten '99 of Marble Falls, Texas, died

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Antonia Dalapas
ECU Faculty 1971-1992
Cypress Glen resident since 2015

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Antonia Dalapas was born to Greek parents in Lawrence, Massachusetts and grew up in Maine. She received a BM and MM in voice and opera at the prestigious New England Conservatory in Boston. While earning her master's degree, she was chosen to sing operatic scenes on the inaugural program of WGBH-TV in Boston.

"Cypress Glen residents are an amazing and diverse group who enjoy learning and discovering new interests."

Antonia fondly reminisces about meeting ECU Chancellor Leo Jenkins, who chauffeured her around Greenville when she interviewed for the position which she accepted. She served on the voice faculty at the ECU School of Music from 1971-1992.

Her love of ECU continues at Cypress Glen where she still enjoys attending the plays, concerts, symphony and performing arts.

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Nov. 11. While working for Chancel Construction, he helped build some of the buildings at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, S.C. **George Richard "Richie" Creech** '97 of Sims died Oct. 18. He won the 1997 Colonial Athletic Association individual golf championship pacing the Pirates to a third-place team finish. He worked in the family-owned Carol Creech Promotions, an advertising business. **Sung Ho "Steven" Lee** '94 of Greenville died Sept. 18. He was an assistant golf professional at Greenville Country Club and later worked in accounting. **Frank Jeffrey "Jeff" Long** '92 of Raleigh died Oct. 1. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, he later joined the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a major in 2008. **Donald "Donnie" Robert Mansfield** '99 of Chesterfield, Va., died Sept. 24. He was a general contractor for 20 years. **James E. Rogers** '91 of Brooklyn, N.Y., died Oct. 22. He was a lawyer.

2000s

Joreka E. Allen-Benson '04 of Topsail Beach and Kenansville died Sept. 28. She retired as a teacher and librarian in the Duplin County School System. **Caroline Johnson Ennis** '04 of

Wilmington died Oct. 28. She was an administrative representative with Verizon. She was a member of Sigma Sigma Sorority. **Carla Morris Gormley** '07 of Richmond, Va., died Sept. 19. While still in school, she taught a community college psychology course in Dare County and did substance abuse counseling. She was a Rotary Paul Harris fellow. **Devin Lance Hatley** '00 of Charlotte died Oct. 26. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was sustainability co-coordinator and an environmental educator at UNC Charlotte's Office of Waste Management and Recycling. **Jai Chandler Kamke** '00 of Memphis, Tenn., died Oct. 5. He taught music to youth through church programs and private teaching schools and performed on classical guitar with bands and solo. **Gwendolyn Alice Melton** '00 of Morehead City died Nov. 17. She taught children with special needs. **Tammy Murrelle Presnell** '02 of Greensboro died Nov. 14. She was a physician assistant. **Sunny Daniel Thompson** '02 of Tucson, Ariz., died Nov. 21. She taught music in grades K-6 at Tanque Verde Elementary School. **Jennifer Lea Wemple Tynch** '01 of Edenton died Sept. 18. She was a bookkeeping accountant for

several area businesses and co-owned with her husband All Season's Garden Shack & Landscape and Evans Florist.

2010s

Laura Michelle Bodenheimer of Denver, N.C., died Sept. 15. She was a graduate student in the physical therapy class of 2017. **Katina "Tina" L. Ferguson** '14 of Wake Forest died Oct. 30. She taught elementary school in North Carolina. **Barrett Jerry Foushee** '10 of Timberlake died Dec. 4. He worked in the family business, Foushee Electric. **Samuel Matthew Mayo** of Lucama, an ECU sophomore engineering student, died Oct. 18. **Justin Ryan Pierce** '14 of Elizabeth City died Aug. 28. He worked at Jordan Company.

FACULTY

Abdul-Shakoor Farhadi of Greenville, professor at ECU's School of Art and Design from 1986 until 2011, died Oct. 26. He was instrumental in the renovation of eastern N.C. communities, including Uptown Greenville, Washington and Plymouth. His low-income housing designs for refugees were adopted by the United Nations. He also designed more than 10 Islamic

Centers throughout the South, including in Greenville, Raleigh and Durham. He was married to Maliha Farhadi, who retired from Joyner Library in 2011.

Charles Edgar Stevens '54 of Greenville died Sept. 4. A lifelong educator, he began teaching music in Washington, N.C., public schools, later retiring as dean of ECU's School of Music, where he was on the faculty from 1960 to 1990. He was the piano accompanist for many faculty performers and directed many church choirs. He was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia where his "little brother" was Andy Griffith.

Ruth Jensen Broadhurst of Morehead City died Nov. 18. She was a professor of nursing at ECU from 1961 to 1989.

Constantine "Connie" Anthony Ciesielski of Rhodelia, Ky., died Nov. 21. He retired from teaching construction management at ECU.

Gary Gilliland of Greenville died Sept. 30. He taught in ECU's Brody School of Medicine.

Walter Rex Houston of Greenville died Nov. 5. In 2015, he retired as a counselor in ECU's College of Nursing, where he had served since 2000.

Joong Ho Kim of Clifton, Va., died Sept. 11. He taught mathematics at ECU from 1968 until 1993.



Raymond Harold Martinez of Greenville died Dec. 16. His wife, **Inez Norris** died Oct. 15. In 1954, he was ECC's first

head swimming and diving coach leading ECU swimmers to several team and individual championships in the 1950s and 1960s and developing groundbreaking training practices and assisting in facility development. In 1986, he retired as professor emeritus and administrator in the College of Health and Human Performance. He and his wife, Inez, opened Raynez Swim School in 1960 teaching children to swim. She helped to start ECC's School of Nursing, where she taught from 1960 to 1988.

Paul R. Mehne of Havertown, Pa., died Sept. 14. In 1975 he came to ECU as an assistant professor in the School of Allied Health Sciences, later becoming associate dean

for student affairs and medical informatics at the Brody School of Medicine from 1976 to 1989.

Allan A. Okech of Edna, Texas, died Aug. 11. He was an assistant professor in ECU's educational leadership department from 2006 to 2010.

Evelyn Louise Perry of Raleigh died Sept. 10. In 1981, she retired as dean of ECU's School of Nursing, where she was on the faculty from 1962 until 1981. She was a staff nurse in the U.S. Army serving in South Korea during the Korean War among other nursing positions before coming to ECU.



Alfred Shih-p'u Wang of Missouri City, Texas, died Sept. 20. He taught literature in ECU's Department of English from 1967 to 1994.

He and his wife, Veronica, taught British and American literature (and, on occasion, Chinese culture) to ECU undergraduate and graduate students for a combined total of 60 years. Their generosity

made possible The Wang Distinguished Medical Initiative at the Brody School of Medicine.

STAFF

John F. Boseman of Pitt County died Aug. 28. He worked in ECU facility services until retiring in 2006 due to health reasons. **Barbara Boyd Clement Gibbs** of Washington died Oct. 9. She retired as secretary to the dean of ECU's College of Business. **Olive Jarvis Jones** of Columbia, S.C., died Nov. 2 at 100. She retired after 44 years of nursing, starting at the original Pitt County Memorial Hospital and finishing with 17 years in ECU's college infirmary. **Thelma Brinson Sawyer** of Greenville died Oct. 4 at 92. She formerly worked at ECU Student Health Center. **Gary Rogers Stanley** of Greenville died Oct. 22. A U.S. Air Force Vietnam War veteran, he worked in ECU's comparative medicine department until retirement.

FRIENDS

Dr. **Jose Geraldo Albernaz** of Greenville died Oct. 3 at 91. In 2006, his son and daughters established the Jose G. Albernaz Golden Apple

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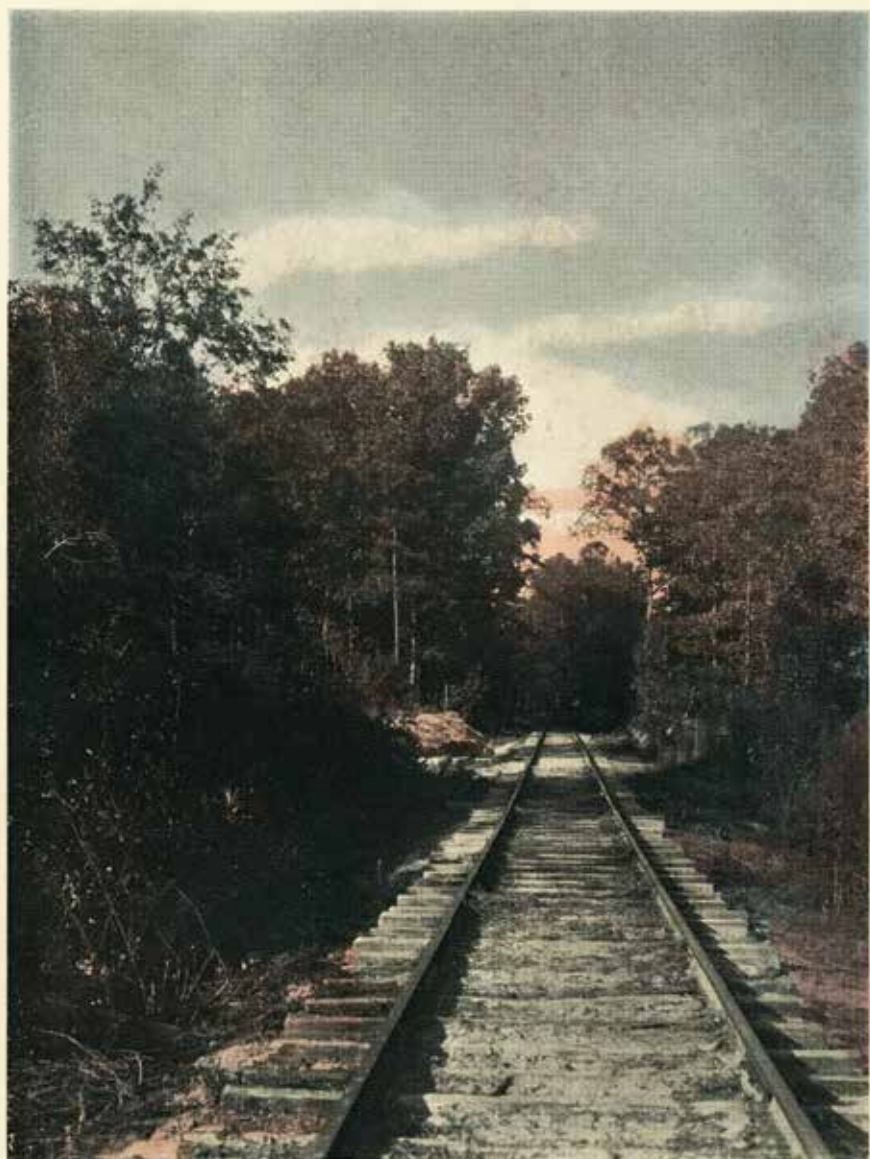
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"It leads me with an idle ease,
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A hand-tinted black and white photograph from the 1927 *The Toccoan*.

Visitors to East Carolina University during the next year or so will see 10th Street converted to a modern thoroughfare to overpass one of the city's inconveniences: the railroad track that runs just west of campus, regularly stalling traffic along 10th and Dickinson Avenue.

But in the formative years of East Carolina Teachers Training School and into the 1940s, the railroad was more like a lifeline—the primary way students from out of town traveled to and from campus. It even was a reason the school was built here in the first place.

The Atlantic Coastline Railroad was built through Greenville in 1889, and the Norfolk Southern line intersected Greenville and the Atlantic Coastline in 1907, making Greenville accessible to the rest of the state and a possible location for a normal school. The first students at ECTTS came to Greenville by train, and then took the school jitney, or bus, from the train station to campus. Students continued to come primarily by train through the 1940s.

A new campus power plant opened in the late 1920s where Bate now stands, and a supply track was built from the Norfolk Southern tracks south of campus to haul coal to it. According to Henry Ferrell's history of ECU, *No Time for Ivy*, students referred to the tracks as "Our Own College Railroad."



WEEKDAYS



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More than 5,000 students put an exclamation point on the spring semester April 21 at the 37th annual Barefoot on the Mall. Performing live were Battle of the Bands winner Eastern Comfort, The Score, Gumbo and ECU students Xavier Brodie and Trey Scarborough. Students also sang during live band karaoke, and more than 100 student organizations set up information tables to talk about their groups.

Photo by Cliff Hollis