Gail Herring ‘79 Elected Chair

Gail Herring of Wilmington, NC has been elected chair of The Women’s Roundtable at East Carolina University Board of Directors for 2015-2016, effective January 1.

Gail graduated from East Carolina University in 1979 with a bachelor of science in business administration. She is the senior vice president of Retail Banking at First Citizens Bank for Pender and New Hanover counties.

She joined The Women’s Roundtable in 2009 and served as chair of the 2010 Incredible Women event committee, and chair-elect for 2013-2014. As chair, Gail will lead an organization that is creating a legacy of women leaders at ECU. She is also a member of the East Carolina Alumni Association, the Pirate Club and First Baptist Church.

“Some of the best years of my life were spent on East Carolina’s campus,” Gail said. “So, 30 years after graduation, when I had the opportunity to join The Women’s Roundtable Board of Directors, and give back to the institution of higher education that shaped and defined me, I did.”

Gail added, “My service on The Women’s Roundtable Board of Directors continues to be one of my most gratifying experiences.”

Gail is a passionate leader, a proud alumna and Pirate parent, and a dedicated volunteer who brings years of experience with The Women’s Roundtable Board of Directors to this important role,” said Stephanie Bunn, director of women’s philanthropy. “I am so grateful to Gail and all our board members for their commitment to serve East Carolina.”

Read Gail Herring’s "Message from the Chair” on The Women's Roundtable website and visit the Member Spotlight’s page to read more about Herring.

Executive Committee Members Lead with Vision

“We’re Here to make Good Things Happen for Other People” is the mantra for WRT Executive Committee Members as they begin their service with ECU students in mind.

Executive Committee members kicked off their two-year leadership terms January 1, 2015 with a two-day Retreat and Strategic Planning Session in Greenville.

Results from the retreat, including the executive committee's bold and exciting 2-year plan for The Women's Roundtable, will be presented to directors at the Spring Board Meeting on Thursday, April 16.
Katie Swanner
East Carolina University junior
Katie Swanner, of Huntersville, is the highest ranking female officer in ECU's Student Government Association for the 2014-2015 academic year. As such, Katie is an ex-officio member of The Women's Roundtable Board of Directors and will participate in the April 2015 Board Meeting.

Katie is a College of Business student majoring in business administration with a concentration in risk management and insurance. She is vice president of finance for the Panhellenic Association Executive Board and student body secretary for the ECU SGA.

In this role she serves as chief communications liaison between the SGA Executive Council and the Senate and student body. Katie also collaborates with the chief information office and chief clerk pro tempore of the legislature branch in maintaining the SGA website and social media.

Katie finds her many responsibilities a positive influence in her life. "East Carolina has blessed me with multiple opportunities to grow as a student, a leader, and a woman," she said.

"I am grateful to have met Mrs. Gail Herring, an alumni leader that I can look up to as I focus on my career after college. Meeting with her in February was a great way to learn about her ECU experience and how she became the strong professional woman she is today."

As risk management chair for Delta Zeta Sorority, Katie created a monthly risk management program for her chapter and negotiated vendor contracts for her sorority's special events. In 2013 Katie served as executive treasurer for Delta Zeta and she is now special events chair.

"My advice to anyone I meet on campus, whether a freshman or a senior, is to take every opportunity that you are presented with. You never know who you will meet or where it will lead you and I am thankful Student Government has lead

Networking Event on April 16

Connecting members with fellow women leaders is one way that The Women's Roundtable builds leadership and service capacity among women. Programs and events also offer opportunities for women to learn more about the exciting advancements taking shape at ECU.

This year, The Women's Roundtable will host an ECU Women's Afternoon Networking Event following the spring board meeting on Thursday, April 16th.

Women's Roundtable members and guests are invited to participate. Please respond by April 9 to womensroundtable@ecu.edu or by calling 252-328-9597.

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at least 48 hours prior to the event at 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY).

Click the image at right for a larger view of the invitation, with parking map, in PDF format.

Sister Talk Book Club Announces New Selection

The Women’s Roundtable Sister Talk Book Club’s next reading selection is Executive Presence by Sylvia Hewlett.


Experience and qualifications as a leader are not enough for success, the author explains, without the “dynamic, cohesive mix of appearance, communication and gravitas” that is executive presence.

Hewlett developed her concepts based upon a nationwide survey of college graduates in a wide range of occupations.

We hope all Women’s Roundtable members will join us in reading this book over the coming months.

Beginning this summer, the Book Club will offer opportunities for members to participate in discussions about the book via social media. Stay tuned to The Women’s Roundtable Twitter and Facebook accounts for more details.

Social Media Campaign Focuses on Women in Leadership

East Carolina University communications major Heather Chappell, an intern with ECU Annual Giving and University Development, launched The Women's Roundtable's first ever social media campaign this semester to draw attention to women in leadership.
Toya S. Jacobs '97, '06

ECU Women's Roundtable Board of Directors member Toya S. Jacobs '97, '06 was selected as one of East Carolina University's Division of Student Affairs Inaugural 40 Under 40 award recipients.

The awards are presented to individuals who excel in their fields and show dynamic leadership qualities through impact on their communities, peers and colleagues. The inaugural “40 Under 40” class will be honored at the 2015 Student Affairs Leadership and Corporate Awards Dinner on April 11 at the Hilton Greenville.

Toya is the program specialist for diversity and inclusion programs in ECU's Office for Equity and Diversity. Her 15-year Pirate career has included leadership roles within Human Resources, Student Affairs, Institutional Planning, University Unions and Student Experiences, Intercultural Student Affairs and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

Prior to joining ECU, Toya served as community services served as community services

Prior to joining ECU, Toya Wright Cultural Center. Student Affairs and the Ledonia Experiences, Intercultural Unions and Student Institutional Planning, University Resources, Student Affairs, leadership roles within Human year Pirate career has included Equity and Diversity. Her 15­ programs in ECU's Office for diversity and inclusion Toya is the program specialist April 11 at the Hilton Greenville. Corporate Awards Dinner on Student Affairs Leadership and will be honored at the 2015 inaugural “40 Under 40” class will be achieved in part will guide East Carolina University over the next five years.

Those commitments are outlined in the new strategic plan for 2014­2019, Beyond Tomorrow: Our Commitment to the Future. The plan establishes a focus on those key areas while maintaining attention to established university values of scholarship, leadership, discovery and service.

Commitment 1: Maximizing Student Success will be achieved in part through increased attention to promoting excellence and increasing access for the underserved. Aggressive support is promised for two prestigious programs that bring the best and brightest to campus the ECU Honors College and EC Scholars programs.

Both programs cultivate leadership potential, intellectual strengths and burgeoning interests in community engagement through residential living­learning communities, service and engagement activities, a challenging and diverse curriculum and research opportunities that move participants toward high levels of achievement.

The prestigious EC Scholars program includes a $45,000 scholarship for exceptionally talented students who undertake rigorous coursework and research endeavors, study abroad and ongoing character building activities that promote service and leadership.

The five-year strategic plan sets forth a goal of a 10 percent annual increase in EC Scholars funding, as well a commitment to secure a naming endowment for EC Scholars. ECU will also commit resources aimed at building the Honors College into one of the top programs nationally.
Commitment 2: Serving the Public propels a long-held ECU core value into the future with a stated goal of becoming a national model for developing leadership through engaged research and service (Beyond Tomorrow).

Plans call for the development of a new North Carolina Center for Leadership and Service, along with expanding of existing successful programs in service learning, undergraduate research and creative activities. In addition to community outreach, ECU will continue to meet the needs of eastern North Carolina by graduating quality primary care physicians, nurses, public health officials and dentists committed to serve in rural areas.

Commitment #3: Leading Regional Transformation augments the university’s significant role as a positive force for progress and growth in the region. Areas of focus to achieve that goal include a renewed commitment to educating a skilled workforce that meets the needs of regional businesses and manufacturers, innovative partnership in public and private sectors, and mission-driven research that addresses regional challenges.

A proposed new School of the Coast will address needs of coastal communities, while a proposed Millennium Campus will engender new partnerships to encourage innovation and research throughout eastern North Carolina.

For additional information about the new strategic plan, visit http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/strategicplan/.

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