Curing time
Tobacco starts paying the health care bills
CURING TIME
By Marion Blackburn. For generations, tobacco paid the way to a better life in eastern North Carolina, but it also brought illness and disease. Now an ECU doctor is leading the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund that is addressing chronic health problems caused by tobacco.

UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE
By Steve Tuttle. Durham minister Rev. Ken Hammond ’73 ’83 ’85, part of an underground network that rescues teen gang members by paying them to start new lives in other cities, would rather save a child’s life than his own.

PIRATES RANTING
By Steve Tuttle. Pirate Rants, a popular feature in the student newspaper, often exposes the exquisite agony of college life these days.

STUDYING ABROAD, STAYING HOME
By Spaine Stephens. ECU’s global understanding classes allow students to see and talk to other students all over the world.

PAY IT FORWARD
By Bethany Bradsher. Ruffin McNeill built a solid coaching career by always stepping up and never over the people around him.

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Teen smoking

It was, thank goodness, one of those government reports that didn’t gather dust on a shelf somewhere. Back in 1999, in one of his last major initiatives before completing his fourth term in office, Gov. Jim Hunt created the Governor’s Task Force for Healthy Carolinians. I hunt asked a number of professionals and lay people to brainstorm and set healthcare goals the state should attempt to meet by the year 2010. After a year of work, the task force issued its recommendations, including one widely thought at the time to be overly ambitious: Slash by half the number of teenagers who smoke. Back then, nearly four out of every 10 North Carolina teenagers were using tobacco.

The recommendations initially received a flurry of media coverage but the story soon died. Then, in 2003, the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund accepted the task force’s challenge by launching several initiatives to reduce teen tobacco use. This spring, the trust fund released a survey of more than 7,000 students showing that the middle school smoking rate in 2009 had dropped to 4.3 percent and the high school rate dropped to 16.7 percent, an all-time low. In order words, we are right on track to achieve a seemingly impossible goal.

Among those numbers to translate into 53,865 teenagers who were saved from nicotine addiction. That’s roughly equal to the population of Greenville. It was, thank goodness, one of those government reports that didn’t gather dust on a shelf somewhere.

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 establishment of excellence, it recognizes the contributions of a diverse community, supports shared governance and guarantees equality of opportunity. © 2010 by East Carolina University

THE PHOTO WAS IN POOR TASTE

I received my copy of East magazine this week and I wish to commend you on an overall good publication. I appreciate the range of people featured in the magazine and I think that for the most part, the publication reflects well on East Carolina University. How unfortunate, then, that the feature piece on Kristen Dalton does not uphold the otherwise high standards of the publication!

It is certainly appropriate to report on the successes and achievements of a nationally known alum such as Ms. Dalton, and the cover photo of her appropriately shows her engaging in a public service activity, as do the photos on pages 22 and 25. The photograph spread across pages 20 and 21, however, entirely inappropriate for East magazine. Instead of displaying the myth that Miss America is little more than a Barbie doll that breathes, this article and the photo on pages 20–21 have trivialized Ms. Dalton and her accomplishments.

—Dr. Donna L. Lilburn Associate Professor, Discourse and Linguistics Associate Chair, ECU Department of English

The Editor’s note: A dozen other readers wrote to express similar reactions to the photo. We intended it to be dramatic but in hindsight I can see it to be sexist. As one writer said, “Way too New York for Greenville.” Ms. Dalton’s schedule was such that we had to rely on supplied art, mainly images available from the public information officers at military bases where she had appeared, usually as a part of USO shows. The cover photo shows her speaking at a Pentagon event promoting motorcycle safety. There were lots of pictures available from the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants, but we chose to use very little of that. For the dramatic opening photograph, we purchased an image from the Reuters News Agency, which had covered a joint public event for Miss USA and Miss Teen USA. I thought that by not including any swimsuit pictures we would avoid an appearance of sexism. I was wrong. East has strengthened its existing internal review procedures to begin screening photographs for gender issues, just as we already were screening content for racial diversity and other concerns.

TANGERINE BOWL WAS IN ’64

The entire magazine is testament to the outstanding things happening in Greenville and eastern North Carolina. However, I do have one correction to point out. On page 4 of the Spring issue, the bottom picture shows Coach Clarence Stanavich exiting our plane following a bowl trip to Orlando. The problem is the date. During my four undergraduate years at ECC, we played as three football bowl games, 1963 in the Eastern Bowl and in two Tangerine Bowls. In 1964 we defeated the University of Massachusetts 14-13 on a 2-point conversion. The pre-Denny World trip to Orlando was quite an experience for a young college student who had never flown on an airplane until then. We had some great teams and certainly some outstanding players in those years. As a freshman in 1963, I remember beating Wake Forest in the inaugural game in Fielden Stadium. The ECC Pirates ran the last single-wing offense
in America. Thank you for continuing to highlight both programs and people in the magazine. Those of us who have moved from the area and find it difficult to return during the academic year truly appreciate reminiscing about our days on campus.

—Fred Robertson ‘60, Alexandria, Va.

S.F. (‘60) sent me a clipping from the Raleigh News & Observer which noted that the College of Education at ECU was the first to have a leased house off campus. I believe either Lambda Chi or Sigma Nu was the first to purchase a house.

—Izard Cooper, Conway, S.C., and Andrew Di Giovanni ‘97

Editor’s note: Among other alert readers who spotted the error were Marc Duggins ‘66, 67 of Corvair, S.C., and Andrea Di Giovanni ‘97 of Raleigh. Something good came from this typo. Several old marauders got back in touch with each other and I learned more about an important bit of East Carolina history.

LIKED THE KEMP STORY

I enjoyed the article on Mark Kemp ‘89 by David Menconi. Also, the photography and layout were wonderful. I’m so glad to know more about Mark Kemp and his ties to ECU. What a talented guy! I devoured the Spring issue! Keep up the good work, and keep the magazine coming to us.

—Dana Stone, Tarboro

HONORING SENATOR EAST

Thank you for the 30 Years Ago remembrance regarding Sen. John East. We often read about teachers or professors who have the most impact on a student, and Dr. East was mine. He was without doubt the brightest and most intelligent man I have ever known, and he always had time for me. I was stationed in Germany when I read the States and Stripes front-page headlines that day in June 1986. Like so many others, I was shocked our country had lost such a patriot.

—David Whitley ’71, Prince Lake, Minn.

REMEMBERING MY FRATERNITY

Thanks for the mention of the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity in the Winter issue. I was a member of the fraternity (which was) the first to have a chapter room off campus (in the third floor above Fleming’s Gift Shop downtown) and the first to have a leased house off campus. I believe either Lambda Chi or Sigma Nu was the first to purchase a house.

—Fred Robertson ‘60, Greensboro

ECU again wins service award

For the fourth year in a row, East Carolina was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

“This is national recognition for the entire ECU community,” said Mike Lovell, volunteer coordinator for the university’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Center. The center strives to engage students in activities that strengthen communities, promote an enduring commitment to public service and enhance the academic experience. More than 11,000 students are registered at the VSLC, and students performed more than 161,700 hours of service last year for a wide range of projects and organizations.

“Our nation’s students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face,” said Patrick Corrington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the Honor Roll. “They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service.”

ECU has been named to the Honor Roll each year since the recognition program began in 2006. Awards will be presented at the National Conference of Volunteering and Service-Learning for the university in June.

—ECU News Bureau

Students volunteer to fight hunger

East Carolina is the first college in the UNC system to open a Campus Kitchen, a project that will bring student-powered hunger relief to Pitt County. ECU’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Center and Aramaek opened the kitchen in late February at Todd Dining Hall. Using surplus food from campus dining halls, student volunteers prepare and deliver meals to those in need through partnerships with the Ronald McDonald House and the Little Willie Center.

“I believe that when we fed the hungry in our community, especially children, we not only strengthened their bodies but their minds,” said Sarah Schaud, a member of Campus Kitchen’s ECU leadership team. Mike Lyght, resident district manager for Aramaek, said the company welcomed the partnership. “The big question I get asked all the time is, ‘What do you do with all that leftover food?’ ‘I finally have an answer,’” said Lyght.

The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center recently was honored by the U.S. Army with its Freedom Team Salute Award signed by Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. The N.C. chapter of Give2TheTroops nominated the center.

“Everybody’s touched by the military in some way, especially in this area. I think that it empowers students to feel like they’re doing something for the troops.”

—Fred Robertson ‘60, Alexandria, Va.
New transplant surgeons arrive

The outlook for people with kidney failure got brighter this year with the addition of two transplant surgeons at the Brody School of Medicine. Drs. Jason Rolls and Robert Harland are kidney transplant specialists who have made an impact since arriving in January. In the first three months of this year, ECU performed 18 kidney transplants compared to 38 in all of 2009.

Rolls came from New York Presbyterian Hospital, where he completed a fellowship in abdominal organ transplantation. He has a medical degree from Columbia University in New York and completed residency training at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Harland arrives from the University of Chicago Medical School, where he was associate professor and director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Fellowship Program. He has a medical degree from Duke University and completed residency training in surgery and a fellowship in transplant surgery at Duke. They join Dr. Carl Hasch on the ECU transplant surgery team.

“I saw that this was a tremendous opportunity, a good pool of patients and a great hospital,” Harland said of his decision to come to Greenville. He and Hasch also plan to restart the pancreas transplant program at ECU.

More than 2,700 North Carolinians are awaiting a kidney transplant, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing’s March figures. Another 382 need a liver transplant, 30 need a pancreas and 84 are waiting for a pancreas-liver transplant.

On his first day working as a dentist, he saw 16 scheduled patients and several other walk-ins and was so tired at the end of the day he had to rest at his desk before attempting the drive home. Dr. Ledyard E. Ross ’51 kept up the same sort of grueling schedule for the next 38 years at his Greenville orthodontists practice. Since retiring in 1991, he has given back to the community that gave him so many patients over the years, including a $250,000 gift last year to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pitt County and a $4 million pledge this year to East Carolina to support its new dental school.

In honor of Ross’ gift—one of the largest in East Carolina’s history—the trustees voted to name the dental school building Ledyard E. Ross Hall. Now rising on the Health Sciences Campus, Ross Hall, with about 100,000 square feet of classroom, labs and offices, will welcome its first class of 50 students in fall 2011.

Ross, 84, has supported several ECU initiatives over the years. He is a member of the Leo Jenkins Society and the Order of the Cupola, organizations whose members have made substantial gifts to the university.

“The difference between being a good dental school and a great dental school hinges on private giving,” said School of Dentistry Dean James Hupp. “Dr. Ross’ very generous philanthropic gift will propel us toward greatness, allowing us to accomplish our grand vision of improving the health and quality of life of North Carolinians by leading the nation in community-based, service-learning dental education. We cannot thank him enough.”

Chancellor Steve Ballard said Ross’ gift will be used for student scholarships, faculty research and other academic enterprises. “This generous gift...puts us in a position to support faculty and students at its inception,” Ballard said.

The General Assembly appropriated about $90 million for construction of ECU’s new dental school and 10 community-service learning centers in rural and underserved areas of the state. The first three locations announced for those centers are Sylvia Ahoskie and Elizabeth City. Dental school faculty members will be based in the centers, along with advanced dental residents and senior students who will receive enhanced dental education in real practice settings. The dental school is expected to have 65 faculty members and 100 staff members.

Ross attended Greenville High School and Hardburger Business College before being admitted to East Carolina College. He received a doctor of dental surgery degree from Northwestern University Dental School in 1953, and a master of science degree in orthodontics from UNC Chapel Hill in 1959. Before going to college, Ross served for three years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is married to Alta Dant Ross. He has four children, Dr. Dennis Ross of Greenville, Cynthia Trague of Raleigh, Kathryn Ross Pitts of Huntingtonville, and Judy Ross Olanurski of West Linn, Ore. Ross’s mother and sister attended ECU, as did one of his daughters.

Ballard told trustees that securing operating funds for the dental school is his top priority for this year’s legislative season. The General Assembly appropriated $3 million for operations last year, but the school needs another $11 million to begin hiring faculty.

“We understand the economic condition of the state, and we are taking nothing for granted,” Ballard said. “I need the help of every board member and everyone possible to make sure we stay on target.”

As a result of his 2009 gift to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Pitt County, a new club was constructed on the grounds of Ayden Elementary School. Named for Ross, the facility can serve more than 150 kids daily, over double the capacity of the facility it replaced.
Alumni giving grows

The number of alumni giving money to East Carolina rose sharply last year, which helped offset a decline in the value of the university’s endowment caused by the gloom on Wall Street, according to reports which indicated that ECU’s investments fared better than many other schools.

Year | Donors | Participation
--- | --- | ---
2005 | 7,783 | 71.5 %
2006 | 8,298 | 73.4
2007 | 8,311 | 74.4
2008 | 10,684 | 92.9
2009 | 12,594 | 103.8

In a report to the Board of Trustees, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Mickey Dowdy said ECU ranks third among its 15 peer institutions in alumni participation in fundraising and fourth among UNC campuses.

A separate report by the National Association of College and University Business Officers noted that the 6.3 percent drop in the value of ECU’s endowment last fiscal year is well below the national average. University endowments nationwide lost an average of 18.7 percent.

N.C. State University took a 4.8 percent hit to its endowment, while UNC Chapel Hill suffered a 19 percent decline. Duke University saw the largest drop, at 27.5 percent.

Roundtable to focus on women’s financial issues

The Women’s Roundtable will hold its third major event, a one-day conference focusing on women’s financial issues. The event, to be held Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville, is the largest drop, at 27.5 percent.

The event will conclude with the recognition of five outstanding alumnae as Incredible ECU Women and remarks by BB&T CEO and board chairman Kelly King ’70 ’71.

Gates Scholars say thanks

Three ECU students are getting a great education for free through the Gates Millennium Scholars initiative, the nation’s largest and most successful scholarship program for African-Americans, Native Americans and other minorities. Founded in 1999 and funded with a $1 billion grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the scholarships are unique in that they come in no fixed dollar amount, providing a full boat ride through undergraduate study, graduate school and post-doctoral work if necessary. The Gates Foundation works with the United Negro College Fund, the American Indian Graduate Center and other similar organizations. We asked the three to talk about how the scholarships have changed their lives.

Kristen Williams

Jean Chatzky

The Women’s Roundtable welcomes women from all walks of life. Participation in the roundtable is not limited to ECU alumnae. Contributions to the roundtable support ECU’s Access Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to a historically underserved group of students who demonstrate both financial need and proven academic potential.

The Women’s Roundtable is funding two Access Scholarships.

For more information about the roundtable and how to become a member, visit www.ecu.edu/womensroundtable or contact Marcy Romany at 252-328-9580.

Campaign hits $165 million

To date, East Carolina has raised more than $165 million toward its $200 million goal for the Second Century Campaign, which seeks to raise critical resources necessary for many aspects of the university. The Access Scholarship program is one initiative that has supported students across the university.

Last year, East Carolina provided 69 Access Scholarships sponsored by individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations such as the Women’s Roundtable. Many of these students might not otherwise have afforded a college education.

“Students who receive Access Scholarships are required to sustain solid academic progress and complete at least 20 hours of volunteer time through ECU’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Center,” said Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Mickey Dowdy. “With this volunteer requirement, we hope to instill in these students the importance of giving back to their communities to help those that come after them, like they have been helped.”

In these difficult economic times, private support for scholarships is more important than ever. Please consider supporting your university through the Second Century Campaign. For more information visit www.ecu.edu/devt or call 252-328-9550.

Jean Chatzky

Kristen Williams

Janessa Jean Long

Beatriz Reyes

Honors college for top students

East Carolina University is meeting forward with plans to open an honors college on campus, with the first students arriving this fall. A search committee will hire a dean, and officials are looking for a place to house the program on campus, Provost Marilyn Sheerer said. The university expects that in three to five years about 400 students will be enrolled in the prestigious program.

The creation of an honors college—an upgrade from the school’s current honors program which includes about 900 students —will allow the university to recruit better students and faculty, Sheerer said. The students in the current honors program are gifted, with SAT scores of 1200 or better and a high school GPA of 3.5 or better. Sheerer said the university loses about 100 such students every year, including some who choose to leave ECU because they are not challenged enough.

“They may come here and get a good academic average and then go on to a school that they perceive has a better academic reputation,” Sheerer said. “But we need to turn that around to keep them with us.”

—ECU News Bureau
when we went through our inventory we
“We’ve given away so many dresses, that
supplies for next year’s prom goers.
shoes, tiaras, unopened make-up and hair
through the fall to collect prom dresses, fancy
jewelry and accessories for deserving girls in
gently used prom dresses, shoes, costume
wear on one of high school’s biggest nights.
More than 60 girls from families with
hardships. Some of the girls have had
exhausting illnesses; others have lost parents
and are living with relatives. Some girls have
endured house fires that left them with
nothing. For all of them, going into a nice
dress shop and spending hundreds of dollars
for a single night is out of the question.
The Fairy Tale Boutique began at ECU as
part of a national movement giving new life
to the gifting, floristy outfits that rarely
grow more than one use otherwise. Local
businesses also rose to the occasion, with one
jewelry store offering earrings and necklaces.
Restaurants offered meals, and salons
volunteered to give the girls elegant haircuts
and manisurers.
ECU’s Fairy Tale Boutique is by invitation
only. Guidance counselors at area schools
select young women, who visit campus to
pick out their dress. Students help them
select a style and fit that’s just right.
For students, it’s a chance to learn skills like
managing inventory and working in small
groups. Students are now helping to advise
the boutique as part of a new committee
which met for the first time this spring.
The dress drive hopes to net around 400
dresses, giving students volunteer the chance
to have them pressed and ready for next year’s
prom season. The boutique will also accept
bridesmaids gowns and evening dresses, which
also make good prom attire. Donated items
should preferably come from 2005 or newer
and shouldn’t have any holes or tears. Nice
vintage gowns are also welcome.
“This shopping experience is really a blessing
to me,” wrote Jasmine, a student from South
Central High School. “I know that my mom
couldn’t afford to buy one right now because
she’s on a fixed income. What I really like is
that I got the color that I really wanted in a
prom dress—I really thank you guys for this
opportunity.”
With continued support, the Fairy Tale
Boutique could one day become an
independent community project. It may
also offer tutorials and formal attire for
young men. To contribute to the Fairy Tale
Boutique or donate a dress, shoes, costume
jewelry or other accessory contact the
Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, Old
Cafeteria Complex, East Carolina University,
Greenville NC 27858.
—Marvin Blackburn

Holland to stay through 2014
In a unanimous vote, the Board of Trustees
approved a three-year extension of athletics
director Terry Holland’s contract until
Dec. 31, 2014. The contract, which was
set to expire next year, continues Holland’s
annual salary at $356,400. Chancellor
Steve Ballard noted that none of his senior
administrators are receiving raises in the
current budget climate.
Holland came to ECU in 2004, has overseen
athletics department improvements such as
higher academic achievement by student-
athletes, increased attendance at football
games and enhanced facilities.
East Carolina’s sports programs are closing
on in another profitable year, with revenue
over budget, expenses under budget and a
projected surplus of more than $900,000
out of a $25.7 million budget. Giving
a mid-year report to the Board of Trustees,
Senior Associate Director of Athletics Nick
Floyd indicated most of the surplus comes from
football tickets and game guarantees.
The university had expected to generate
about $5 million in such revenue by mid-
year but actually brought in $5.9 million.
The conference football championship
game generated $708,550 in revenue, Floyd
said. Women’s sports programs, at $4.3
million, represent about 17 percent of the
entire sports budget. The athletic fund
was projected to have a $2.3 million fund
balance by June 30 of the fiscal year, up
from $1.8 million one year ago.
A lucky bounce for Lebo
Jeff Lebo, a three-time All ACC Tournament
selection and a point guard on Dean Smith’s
teams that made four straight Sweet 16
appearances, will try to jumpstart an ECU
basketball program that hasn’t had a winning
season in 13 years. Lebo, 43, who was
fired in March after six mostly successful
seasons at Auburn University, succeeds
Mark McCarthy, who accepted a job in
sports fundraising after three seasons as

basketball coach. Lebo received a six-year
contract worth about $3.4 million, excluding
performance incentives.
“I feel like the luckiest guy in the world right
now,” Lebo said at his introductory press
conference. “I have never been so happy in my
life to get a 4:00 am wake-up call to catch a
plane to come here today and be named head
basketball coach at East Carolina.”
He was unemployed less than two weeks.
Lebo becomes ECU’s third basketball coach
in four years and will attempt to do what
his predecessors couldn’t: produce a winning
team for a school that sits in the shadow of
several big-time college basketball programs
on a campus where it’s probably the fourth-
most popular sport, after football, baseball
and women’s softball. Lebo becomes the
11th coach during a stretch in which the
Pirates have had 28 losing seasons in 35
years, hasn’t been to the NCAA tournament
since 1993, and fast had a winning record
in the 1996–97 season. However, plans
are moving ahead to build a new basketball
practice facility, which observers say will
boost recruiting.
“We’ve been at some places where I was told
I was committing suicide. I was going
to be fired,” Lebo said. “That is certainly not
one of those places. I think it is a lot better
shape than some other places I have been.”
Lebo had coached Aubrons for six years
where he compiled a 96-93 record. He
began his head-coaching career at Tennessee
Tech in 1998 before moving to Tennessee-
Chattanooga four years later. He went to
Auburn in 2003. He compiled winning
records at all three schools.
“I can’t stand up here and tell you how many
wins we’re going to have, but I can tell you a
couple of things. One, you’re going to see a
team out there that’s going to play hard. The
one thing that I don’t coil that is effort. I
expect that. We want to play smart. We want
to play together. We want guys who understand
our core values: being accountable, dependable,
reliable and trusting. Those things aren’t just
important on the basketball floor. They’re
important in other areas of their lives as well,
like academics and social settings. Those are
the things I believe in and that we’re going to
insist in this basketball program.”
Lebo was part of a Tar Heel program that
posted a 116-25 record during his four years as
a starter. In 1989, Lebo was honored as
the school’s top student-athlete. He still
ranks eighth on Carolina’s career assists list
and 246th on its career scoring chart. He
is married to the former Melissa Mills of
Williamston and they are the parents of
two daughters and a son. Lebo’s father-in-law
is former ECU football letterman Dennis
“Dink” Mills ’66 ’76, the long-time football
coach and athletics director at Williamston
High School.

THE ECU REPORT

Making dreams come true
More than 60 girls from families with
modest incomes have been transformed into
prom queens for a day by a volunteer center
on campus that provided them with gowns to
wear on one of high school’s biggest nights.
The Fairy Tale Boutique, led by coordinator
Jessica Gagne Cloutier, started collecting
gently used prom dresses, shoes, costume
jewelry and accessories for deserving girls in
2008. After two years of making some big
dreams come true, the boutique is taking
a break to restock. A drive will continue
through the fall to collect prom dresses, fancy
shoes, tiaras, unopened make-up and hair
supplies for next year’s prom gowns.
“We’ve green away so many dresses, that
when we went through our inventory we
realized we didn’t really have enough to
have a good boutique this year,” says Gagne
Cloutier, coordinator at the Volunteer and
Service-Learning Center. “We didn’t have
the sizes they needed. When a girl comes in
and is so excited, and you have to send them
away, it’s a difficult moment for them to walk
out without one.”
A prom dress means a lot to a young
woman who’s already struggling with other
handships. Some of the girls have had
exhausting illnesses; others have lost parents
and are living with relatives. Some girls have
endured house fires that left them with
nothing. For all of them, going into a nice
dress shop and spending hundreds of dollars
for a single night is out of the question.
The Fairy Tale Boutique at ECU as

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News briefs

Research dollars swell: East Carolina was awarded $30.5 million in research grants in the second half of 2009, nearly doubling the $17.2 million awarded in the same 2008 period, according to a report to the trustees by Vice Chancellor Deirdre Mageean. She noted that ECU is being more aggressive in seeking public and private funding for research projects on campus, with 238 proposals submitted in the second half of 2009 compared to 210 in the year-ago period.

Bonds issued for construction: East Carolina will issue up to $38 million in special obligation bonds to finance construction of new Olympic sports facilities on campus and for completion of renovations to Wright Place and Tyler Residence Hall. Student fees and dorm rental income will be used to repay the bonds. Moody’s has given East Carolina bonds a relatively high rating of Aa3. The $11 million renovation of Tyler begins this summer and will be completed in 2012.

Language academy opens: East Carolina is opening an academy to provide intensive English-language instruction to international students and professionals from overseas. The ECU Language Academy will begin in June. The program will serve international students enrolling in ECU who are not totally proficient in English, and others, such as foreign professionals here on business and spouses of international faculty. Many community colleges offer similar programs, but those are often geared more for vocational work whereas the ECU program will focus more on higher-order communication.

Center accredited: The Betty Wellness Center at ECU received accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, part of the American Society of Surgery. ECU demonstrated compliance with standards of leadership, clinical management, research, community outreach, professional education and quality improvement.

Campus beautification begins: A growth spurt that adds 15 new buildings and doubles the size of Main Campus leaves the grounds cluttered with debris and ankle-deep in mud. Plans are laid for the “largest beautification project ever undertaken by the college,” according to the May 8, 1935, Tidewater News. Many roads and sidewalks around campus are paved, and work began on creating a botanical garden. Bridges are built over the lake in Davis Arbour, which had been a pig sty. The arboretum at the eastern end of campus eventually provides hundreds of the boxwoods, camellias, azaleas and other shrubs planted to beautify the campus. Many thrive to this day.

Nursing’s first dean arrives: Six women (at registration, that is) receive degrees in the spring of 1960 as the first dean of what becomes the School of Nursing. She hires a faculty of four (two of whom soon quit) and works furiously to be ready for the 47 students who register for the first classes that fall. By the time she retires nine years later, nursing has 17 faculty members and 238 students.

Medicine moves into Bagdasar: With funding from the state and city in hand, East Carolina’s new School of Medicine sets up shop in a remodeled Bagdasar Hall in 1975, and the first students arrive there two years later. Bagdasar remains the home of the medical school until 1982, when the current facility opens on the medical campus. Photos of the first two graduating classes are taken on the steps of Bagdasar. Many of those early students proudly display those photos to prove their status as pioneers.

Images courtesy University Archives

Biologists find monogamous frog: A trio of biologists, including two from East Carolina, have discovered in Peru the first confirmed species of a monogamous amphibian, Ranitomeya imitator, better known as the mimic poison frog—a finding that provides groundbreaking insight into the ecological factors that influence mating behavior. The findings, published in the April issue of The American Naturalist, may be the most solid evidence yet that monogamy can have a single ecological cause. “We were able to tie the evolution of monogamy and the evolution of biparental care to variation in a single ecological factor, and that’s rare,” said ECU biology professor Kyle Summers.

Student named top journalist: Carlton Purvis ’09, a double major in communication and anthropology who was a copy editor and news editor of the student newspaper, The East Carolinian, was named the College Journalist of the Year by the American College of Journalists. Purvis is the second journalist in the college’s history to earn this honor.

Teaching teachers to farm: “The public school teacher of the near future is going to be required to have a much more definite knowledge of farm life... To meet this need the school should own a farm,” President Robert Wright tells trustees in 1930. The school already is leasing 17 acres on which it raises crops and hogs that end up in the school kitchen. The first ECU farm was established in 1931. At the time she retires nine years later, running has 17 faculty members and 238 students.

Brainy ball players: East Carolina ranks in the top five nationally in the number of students on the baseball team who had earned their diploma before playing their senior season. Eight players on the squad had graduated by the start of the 2009 season and 14 others received diplomas during fall graduation exercises.

Golfer gets her card: ECU star golfer team member Emeline Lind ’08 earned her 2010 Ladies European Tour (LET) card after recording a 15th-place finish at the 2009 LET Qualifying School at the La Manga Club in Murcia, Spain. She is the first ECU women’s golfer to earn her LET or LPGA Card.

Wright Place remodeling: Starbucks comes to campus this fall when the company opens a store in the remodeled Wright Place food court adjacent to the bookstore. Also opening are a new Burger Studio and a Sbarro’s Pizza. The existing Einstein’s Bagels will be updated. While the food court was closed for the remodeling, two mobile food units were set up outside offering hot and cold meals.

These Delta Zeta sisters were among hundreds of alumnae who returned to campus in March to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the eight original sororities on East Carolina—Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Ommitcon Pi, Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, Delta Zeta, Kappa Delta and Sigma Sigma Sigma. Dozens of photos from the various reunion events can be seen at the Alumni Association’s web site, www.piratealumni.com.

Delta Zeta, Kappa Delta and sigma sigma sigma. Dozens of photos from the various east Carolina—Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha omricon Pi, Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi omega, these Delta Zeta sisters were among hundreds of alumnae who returned to campus in March to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the eight original sororities on East Carolina—Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Ommitcon Pi, Alpha Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, Delta Zeta, Kappa Delta and Sigma Sigma Sigma. Dozens of photos from the various reunion events can be seen at the Alumni Association’s web site, www.piratealumni.com.
honors seminars, advise honors students and work closely with the Dean of the Honors College, to be hired by summer 2010, in the design of curriculum and service-learning programs.

Melani Duffrin, assistant professor of nutrition, was the College of Human Ecology’s winner of this year’s Scholar-Teacher Award. The award recognizes faculty members who effectively integrate research and creative activity in classroom teaching. Duffrin and other Scholar-Teacher Award winners presented their research at a symposium on campus.

Staff and faculty crowded the Willis Building for a reception honoring Wanda Scarborough (right), who is retiring after a 40-year career with the university. She began as a teller in the Student Bank, then joined the staff of the Student Supply Store in 1971. She progressed through the ranks, becoming director of the student store in 1996, managing the bookstore on Main Campus and the medical bookstore at the Brody School of Medicine. She also oversees souvenir and merchandise sales at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Minges Coliseum and Clark-LeClair Stadium. Bryan Tuten, who had been associate director under Scarborough, was appointed interim director.

Michael Bassman was named the first Distinguished Honors Professor in the Honors Program, soon to become the new Honors College. He will design and teach Honors Program, soon to become the new Distinguished Honors Professor in the Honors College. He will design and teach Honors Program, soon to become the new Distinguished Honors Professor in the Honors College. He will design and teach

Michael F. Rotondo, professor and chair of surgery at Brody School of Medicine and director of the Center of Excellence for Trauma and Surgical Critical Care at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, was appointed chair of the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons.

Katie Walsh, athletic training program director in the Health Education and Promotion Department and one of the first females to work full time in men’s professional athletics, was named the most distinguished athletic trainer of the year by the National Athletic Trainers Association, the professional membership association for 30,000 certified athletic trainers worldwide.

Football coach Ruffin McNeill ’80 was honored by the 100 Black Men of West Texas for serving as a role model to Texas Tech, where he coached for 10 years, and the broader Lubbock community. Accepting for her husband, Erlene McNeill ’79 said, “If Ruffin was here, I’m sure he would say ‘Coaches don’t cry. Their eyeballs just sweat.’”

Jeff Elwell, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication since shortly after its creation in 2003, is leaving to become provost at the University of Alabama. Montgomery. Michael Dorsey, a former dean of both the School of Music and the School of Art, was named interim dean until a successor for Elwell is chosen. Under Elwell, the college grew to more than 106 faculty and 2,350 students.
The beach, the stars & music

ECU Summer Music Camps
The once-every-three-years Off-Orchestra program work for music teachers of students in grades K-8 will run June 21-July 2 in the ECU School of Music. The instructor will be Vivian Murray Caputo. The workshop combines music, drama, speech and movement into lessons that resemble child's play. Linda High of the ECU music school's music education program expects about 25 teachers to participate. For more information, call her at 252-328-4277 or send e-mail to highl@ecu.edu.

Band Camp This year it's June 13-18 for students in grades 6-12 with full concert band, small ensemble and solo performance opportunities. Special coaching will be provided in jazz performance techniques. The camp ends with a concert June 18 at 7 p.m.

Choral Conducting Institute Summer Choral Camp Designed for teachers, church musicians, graduate students and other aspiring conductors, the workshop consists of daily seminars, conducting master classes, discussions, peer interaction and ensemble singing. The camp is for rising seventh grade through 12th grade singers. The two programs run June 20-25.

Suzuki Institute Scheduled for July 4-9, the camp offers training for students and teachers that includes private lessons and small master classes, as well as group repertory for all levels from Book 1 through advanced study. Separate instruction in orchestra, chamber music, fiddling and cello are offered. The program will conclude with a concert July 9 at 3 p.m.

ECU Vocal Pedagogy Institute This summer's institute runs July 12-13 and will feature Clifton Ware, professor emeritus of vocal pedagogy at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, whose theme will be "Explorations: Discovering Your Authentic Voice."

Guitar Workshop This workshop, scheduled July 23-26, combines instruction with performance, and this year sees the return of popular Italian guitarist Matteo Mela and Lorenzo Micheli, who perform as Soloduo. American guitarist Jason Vieaux will perform, as will Stephen Aron and Duo Spiritoso, Andrew Zohn and Jeffrey McFadden. Mitch Waverka and Isaac Bustos, former ECU solo competition winners, will appear in a duo recital, and last year's solo competition winner, Chad L. Fordson, will play. The performers serve as teachers during the workshop, which is open to students of all skill levels.
Curing time

BY MARION BLACKBURN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FORREST CROCE

For generations, tobacco paid the way to a better life in eastern North Carolina, but it also brought illness and disease. Now, tobacco companies are paying millions into a trust fund, led by an ECU doctor, that is addressing chronic health problems caused by tobacco.
After a long, snowy winter, spring arrived in eastern North Carolina with freshly plowed fields dotted with tiny tobacco plants shooting up in perfect rows. If you were raised east of Raleigh, this pastoral scene likely evoked deep memories of hard work and reward. You may even know firsthand that for generations, when the end comes, it doesn’t come from the donations, and the tax base here for rural areas, there’s a tremendous difference and it’s all because of tobacco,” Davenport says. “If we had not had that industry here, I don’t think ECU would be here,” he adds. “The people who made money off tobacco wouldn’t have been here to fight to get it here. Then, the support that tobacco gave, from the donations, and the tax base here for the last 100 years—it has all been tobacco dependent. Everything came from tobacco. If not for tobacco, we wouldn’t be here.”

Despite the bounty tobacco brought the East, Willson says the time has come to shift our health habits. "Raising tobacco is an art," he says. “I watch my neighbor do it every year, and tobacco growing in a field is wonderful, but it does cause these health problems. We need to move beyond that and get into healthier lifestyles.”

The problems

An estimated 12,200 adults die each year from tobacco use in North Carolina, the trust fund reports. About 1,500 people die each year who don’t even use it; they die from secondhand smoke. Nationally, 400,000 tobacco users die and another 50,000 perish from secondhand smoke each year. In eastern North Carolina, smoking causes even more damage. Cancer could soon become the number-one cause of death in eastern North Carolina and in the state from its current number-two spot, according to the ECU Center for Health Services Research and Development, which works with researchers to gather and analyze information about health needs and status in eastern North Carolina and the state. In all, the death rate from cancer here is 9 percent higher than in the rest of the state. Among cancers in eastern North Carolina, those closely linked with tobacco use (cancers of the throat and lungs) are the top cause of death. Those cancers continue to be higher here than elsewhere in the state, and while they are going down among men,
2000
N.C. General Assembly creates trust fund to dispense one-quarter of state’s tobacco settlement money. Chuck Wilson is among original 18 commissioners.

2003
HWTF sets a 10-year goal of reducing middle school smoking rate to 7.5%

2005
Survey finds 41% of pupils have seen teacher or other school official smoke on school grounds.

2007
10.5% of middle schoolers think tobacco is “cool”

2008
HWTF launches youth smoking prevention program
High school smokeless tobacco use 9.5%.
Middle school smokeless tobacco use 4.5%

2009
Chuck Willson elected HWTF chair
115 out of 115 school district in N.C. are tobacco-free
N.C. raises cigarette tax to 45 cents
Beating 10-year goal, middle school smoking rate drops to 4.3%
Middle school smokeless tobacco use drops to 3.0%
Smokeless tobacco use down slightly to 8.5%
High school rate drops to 16.7%, lowest on record, on track to meet 10-year goal
Red flag report: 15.4% of middle schoolers think smoking is “cool”

Change since 2003
Middle school smoking rate down 52.7%
High school smoking rate down 38.8%

Evidence shows the death rate from them among white women is increasing. In terms of the regional disparity, there is hope: the lung cancer mortality rate for eastern North Carolina is decreasing, and at slightly faster rate than for the rest of the state.

Women are a special focus of many anti-smoking efforts by the Health and Wellness Trust Fund, which has largely key in on young people for meaningful prevention. The foundation successfully eliminated tobacco on school campuses through the Tobacco-Free Schools program which began in 2003 and today boasts that all the state’s 115 school districts indeed are tobacco free.

No doubt the highest-profile effort has been stripping smoking of its coolness among teenagers. The HWTF launched a major anti-smoking campaign across the state known as “TRU,” or Tobacco. Reality. Unlimited.

TRU television spots introduced viewers to the heartbreaking story of Rama Roberts, a young woman who began smoking at 13 and lost her voice box to throat cancer at 21. The striking image of her youthful appearance and the grating, mechanical sound of her synthesized voice provided immensely compelling evidence that cancer knows no age limits. Her story reached teenagers who may have thought tobacco’s dangers only happened after years of use—or to older people.

“One of the most powerful ads is when she says what she regrets most is her children will never hear her voice,” Wilson says.

The programs
Naturally the primary goal of the Health and Wellness Trust Fund is reducing smoking.

In addition to the Tobacco-Free Schools and TRU campaigns, the trust fund has awarded more than $29.4 million in Teen Tobacco Grants since 2003. These grants use peer groups to give presentations about smoking and support for quitting while pushing for tobacco controls especially for young people.

While there are no Teen Tobacco grant funded programs in Pitt County, another program, “YQ” (Youth Quality) has instructed young people from the area as anti-smoking peers.

These efforts have paid off. While smoking was already going down among young people in the years 1999–2003, since these campaigns started the rate of decrease has accelerated. Smoking went down more than 30 percent among high school students in 2003–2007 and dropped by more than 51 percent among middle school students in those same years.

“Where are they successful, they can be funded in the long term. It is no place at the state’s four medical schools.

In addition, the medical school received nearly $500,000 to study the Fit Together grant program. The university’s Department of Health Education and Promotion, part of the College of Health and Human Performance, received about $200,000 to study the A+ Fit School Designation Program.

Reflecting on the funds ambitions and accomplishments, Gov. Purdue bails the advances it’s made possible.

“The North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund is a leader in fighting obesity, eliminating health disparities and reducing teen smoking,” Purdue said in a statement for this article. “That’s why I along with the rest of the trust fund, did something that nobody thought we could do by reducing the number of teen smokers in North Carolina by more than 50,000 since 2003. North Carolina is healthier today in no small part because of the work done by the Health and Wellness Trust Fund.”

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more than $489 million from the trust to the General Fund for other needs, says Barbara Maryken, social marketing and communications director.

We're not alone. A study released in December 2009 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation showed that in fiscal year 2010, states will collect about $2.5 billion in revenue from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes, but will spend barely 2 percent of it—$567.5 million—on tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Only North Dakota currently funds tobacco prevention at the level recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The future

Hanging in his dining room is a large painting of a tobacco harvest, which Dr. Dale Newton admits may seem strange for a doctor. Newton, a professor of pediatrics, clinical professor of medicine and vice chair of pediatrics, well knows the harmful effects of tobacco use, but he also knows it defined life in eastern North Carolina for decades. His own family grew tobacco in Vance County, and among his many childhood jobs was pulling the slide, or leading a mule with a sled of leaves behind it. “We didn’t carry it into market in sheaves, we were still hand bundling it,” he remembers. Farmers graded their own tobacco, he says, after making a fist-sized ball from the golden leaves. “It was a beautiful aromatic display, and farmers were so proud when they were on the warehouse floor. It was an event to go to the auction. My father took me out of school, so I could experience it.”

That pride derived from the sweat of hired help and family members like himself. “It was very labor intensive,” he says. These days, he’s happy to be a physician. “It’s a lot less work.” As a pediatrician and internal medicine physician, he regularly sees the ranges of tobacco use, which includes chewing. He compares nicotine addiction to drugs like cocaine or heroin. With teenegers, he admits, you can’t simply say, “Don’t smoke, it’s dangerous,” and expect to see results.

“One of the challenges is that when you talk about future risks, it doesn’t work with adolescents,” he says. “You have to frame it in terms of something more immediate, such as, ‘The most popular students don’t smoke’. That you’ll get cancer carries no weight at all. You don’t ask, ‘Do you smoke?’ You ask, ‘Do your friends smoke?’ It’s safe for them to say, ‘Yes, a couple of friends smoke.’”

Changing attitudes from the ground up will take time, a redefinition of our culture Willson compares to other great historical shifts. “We’re seeing hypertension in 18-year-olds and more obesity,” says Jelene Jernigan, director of clinical operations for Student Health Services, where 118 students were treated for hypertension in 2009 compared to 57 in 2008. Jernigan says most of this stems from excessive alcohol use by students between the ages of 18 and 20. According to a 2009 study by the American College Health Association, 26.1 percent of college students were diagnosed as overweight or obese, then decreased in 2009 with 33 diagnosed as overweight or obese and three as morbidly obese. But Jernigan says obesity is on the rise again in 2010. The health center recently purchased a new scale to accommodate heavier students.

“We’re not as healthy as in the past on average because of obesity,” Jernigan says. Nationwide, 21.9 percent of college students are classified as overweight and 10 percent are considered obese, according to the American College Health Association. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 25 to 29 percent of North Carolina adults are obese. Stress, another major health issue across America, is often cited as the leading cause of poor academic performance. Shawnite Elbert, health educator for ECU Health Services, says the most common complaint she receives from students is feeling stressed by time-management problems and adjusting to the college environment.

Student Health Services is laying the groundwork for several quality improvement projects next year when new insurance requirements will give doctors easier access to students’ health histories. “Right now we’re really unable to see any pre-existing history,” Jernigan says. The main improvements will focus on chart reviews, pulling patient information like previous weight, blood pressure and blood sugar measurements and looking into a patient’s social history. By implementing these measurements, Jernigan says the health center hopes to establish a plan for student weight management and provide more accurate care.

These changes are the framework for a larger modification in student health. Beginning fall semester, “hand washing” student health insurance plan goes into effect at all 16 UNC campuses. Then, all students must have health insurance, either as a dependent on their parents’ policies or under a policy purchased through the UNC system. The UNC plan offers basic benefits for students and can be expanded to include coverage for a spouse and/or children. The annual premium for an ECU student will be $747 ($737 for the fall semester and $374 for spring). With a deductible of just $150, students covered under the UNC plan will cover the costs of all services delivered by the Student Health Services as well as a vision care plan, a basic annual dental exam with cleaning and several other services. ECU student Paris Coleman says the student health insurance plan is a positive addition to the health system. “I think it’s a great idea for college students to have insurance because it will become a responsibility as well as a huge need in the future,” says Coleman, a junior who is currently on her parents’ insurance plan but knows many who don’t have that option. “I know people who had to struggle because a loved one didn’t have insurance,” she adds. Jernigan says she’s optimistic about the student insurance plan. “Overall, student health’s decent, but could use improvement. This should help.”

When you look at the history of our economy, there was pain when we went from the horse-drawn carriage to the automobile,” he observes. “Change is inevitable. If we find that a product is causing so much disease—it’s important that we move on beyond that.”
The 75 pupils at Union Independent School may come from Durham’s most blighted urban neighborhood but each morning they arrive eager to learn, and cute as buttons in their blue and yellow school uniforms. A tall man in a stylish suit often is there to greet them outside this new $10 million school, laughing and calling kids by name. He is the Rev. Ken Hammond, the man who transformed the church across the street into a ministerial powerhouse, then challenged it to build this academically rich private school and open it, tuition-free, to the most deserving kids from the neighborhood.

Welcoming kids to school in the morning, and overseeing youth programs offered by his church, is what Ken Hammond ‘73 ‘83 ‘85 considers the most important part of his day job. In the dark of night he’s known to slip around Durham as part of his other youth ministry, one he’s uncomfortable talking about until he’s reminded that this work is what landed him on the front page of USA Today.

He meets cops, social workers and distraught parents who bring him teenagers, usually boys caught up in gangs whose lives are in imminent danger. As a local conductor on a modern day Underground Railroad, Hammond secretly relocates them to another state.

In the pulpit on Sunday morning and the street corner at midnight, Ken Hammond is the man with a ticket to a new life.

Unto the least of these
Johnson, a member at Union Baptist, designed entrepreneurship at the Kenan-Flagler distinguished professor of strategy and management. More than anything else, it required an academic’s understanding of education policy. More than anything else, it required financial savvy, knowledge of real estate and an academic’s understanding of education policy to pitch in for a worthy cause. But he knows his congregation can sometimes come up short; some, a conviction realized in the brick and steel of the 49,000-square-foot school across the street.

“I have given much focus to youth ministry for a number of reasons,” he muses. “First, youth today are confronting many more severe challenges than youth of previous generations without the necessary support systems that used to be available. As a result, the church has had to give greater attention and resources to youth to ensure that they don’t become a ‘lost generation.’”

Opening the elementary school took a lot of prayer and so many fundraisers over the past eight years at the church that folks lost count. But it also required financial savvy, knowledge of real estate and an academic’s understanding of education policy. More than anything else, it required a skill Hammond most definitely has—leadership, the ability to articulately a vision and motivate followers to achieve that dream. He also had an extensive network of friends and professional contacts he could persuade to pitch in for a worthy cause.

Hammond knows people like James H. Johnson Jr., the William R. Kenan Jr. Chair of Urban Ministry at Union Baptist, have produced 17 young men and women who are following Hammond into the ministry and following his example by becoming servant leaders.

“I see my role as that of a servant attempting to model the kind of behaviors I’d like to see in our congregation, I am quite comfortable in empowering others but also recognizing when I must step to the forefront. I consider myself a good leader as one who listens, is empathetic, persuasive, builds community, and is caring.”

Hammond directs a full-time church staff of nine, plus 13 part-time employees. Managing such an enterprise really is a juggling act, he says, because everyone is focused on the same goal: saving the lost, healing the sick, and—above all—loving and supporting kids. “We’ve had two staff meetings in this millennium,” he says with a smile. “That must be why his golf game remains in decent shape.”

By Steve Tuttle

A pioneer in integration

The youngest of five children of a Baptist minister who pastored churches in Pitt, Martin and Washington counties for 42 years, Hammond enrolled at East Carolina University because it was close to home. His four older brothers and sisters had left home for N.C. Central and N.C. A&T and were grown by the time he went to college. Living at home made it a little easier attending East Carolina then because the few African-American students enrolled at the time were experiencing stifling resistance as the school struggled, peacefully, to fully integrate. Actually, the environment then was a little worse than the record indicates, says Hammond, who turns 59 in July. “When I enrolled in 1969, the school said there were 61 black students here but I knew every one of them and all I could count was 45,” he recalls. Early on, Hammond took a course from professor Albert Conley, the man who Hammond now says was, after his father, the most influential person in his life. The older, white professor took the time to connect with troubled teens. “I look back on my days at ECU as the catalyst for what I do here,” he says. But he also points to a student newspaper editor Bob Thonen ‘77 when he was kicked out of school for publishing a letter to the editor critical of Leo Jenkins.

After completing his bachelor’s in history, Hammond was asked by Rudy Alexander, then the associate dean of student activities, to take a job leading student center activities. Hammond accepted and continued working on campus, either full- or part-time, until 1991. He began ministerial work in 1974, pastoring Mount Shiloh Baptist in Williamston and Cedar Grove Baptist in Greenville. For years he also was a part-time student, earning a master’s in education and a certificate in advanced study. To those ECU degrees he added a doctor of divinity from Shaw University, where he later taught. Hammond became senior pastor at Union Baptist in 1992. Gospel Tidings magazine named him one of America’s Most Beloved Pastors in 2001. He was named an Outstanding Alumnus of ECU in 2008. He’s a past president of the Shaw Theological Alumni Association and on the board of the Divinity School there. He is a director of the Greater Durham YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, the Durham County Hospital Corporation, New Vision Community Development and the Joyland Foundation. He serves on advisory boards for the Durham Scholars Program and the Durham Housing Authority. He is a director of Duke University Health Systems. For his past six years Hammond has led total immersion training programs for American pastors to partner them with local pastors in Ghana, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Italy. He and his wife are the parents of a son, Brandon, who is sales manager for a Raleigh company, and a daughter, Kernetta Hammond Perry, who is an ECU history professor.

“I look back on my days at ECU as the catalyst for what I do here,” he says. But he can give much more to the future. The new school across the street needs a $35 million endowment. And he might get a midnight call to meet a young man on a dark corner, to hand him a ticket to a new life.
You see it all over campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays when a new issue of The East Carolina student paper comes out. Students pick it up and immediately turn to the editorial page to read the Pirate Rants, an open forum where anybody can e-mail a thought about most anything they choose, anonymously, and see it in print, unedited. Under different names, the Rants column has been a staple of the student paper for several years; similar columns appear in the student papers at most other universities.

Many Pirate Rants are gross or shocking but amid the crude humor and sophomoric pith are some that expose student life for all its wonderful diversity, such as this confession: “When I’m alone in my car, I jam out to Christian rock.” Under the policy adhered to by the student paper as approved by the Student Media Board that supervises it, Pirate Rants cannot contain illegal or defamatory statements, threaten a certain person or organization, or be sent in by any Student Media professional or student staff. Otherwise, any topic is fair game.

We monitored the Pirate Rants column over the past calendar year to glean ones that seem to offer insights into what it’s like being a college student these days. They seem to fall into the categories below:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

- To the girl in the Greene Hall elevator: I’m sorry I dropped a case of water on your foot.
- To the guy at Chick-fil-A: Thank you for using your Pirate bucks for my meal. THANK YOU!
- To the person who turned my wallet into Bell’s THANK YOU!
- To the wonderful person who folded my laundry in Jarvis: THANK YOU!!!
- To the tall blonde girl with the clef lip: I think you’re absolutely beautiful. BTW, I’m sorry I dropped a case of water on your foot.
- To the blonde who sits across from me in the Greene Hall elevator: THANK YOU for making a great comment. I just got a Dear John text message. How pathetic is that?
- To the wonderful person who folded my laundry in Jarvis: THANK YOU!!
- To the boy who sits across from me in the Greene Hall elevator: THANK YOU too!
- To the girl in the Greene Hall elevator: I wish the guy who lived across from us would come out on their balcony so we could stare at them more!
- To the girl with the blue L.L. Bean book bag who walks between Dowdy and Rawl: THANK YOU!!
- To the girl who walks between Dowdy and Rawl: THANK YOU for making me laugh.
- To the person who turned my wallet into Bell’s: THANK YOU! You see it all over campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays when a new issue of The East Carolina student paper comes out.

TO THE REAL ME

- I have a 3.7 GPA and still feel like a failure.
- People have told me that I have changed, but the truth is I think I just found myself.
- I graduate next December and I still don’t know what to do with my life. Sorry mom. I no longer invest time thinking about the past, but the last time I saw you made me realize it was ALL my fault.
- Everyone thinks I’ve got my life so together. Sometimes it’s hard to keep up the show.
- Newsflash: You’re the boy. I’m the girl. You text me first or we don’t talk today.
- Sometimes it’s hard to keep up the show.
- Cottage Life is doing!
- You’re the boy. I’m the girl. You text me first or we don’t talk today.
- I no longer invest time thinking about the past, but the last time I saw you made me realize it was ALL my fault.
- Everyone thinks I’ve got my life so together. Sometimes it’s hard to keep up the show.
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Nathan Lean’s education went international after his first global understanding class at ECU in 2005. The course, the first of its kind at any university, connects students around the globe through simple technology to break down boundaries and expand students’ perspectives. Through a video link and e-mail chat, ECU students enrolled in the program connect with students at partner institutions to discuss customs, family, college life and a multitude of other topics.

“I enjoyed discussing controversial topics like gender roles, religion, stereotypes,” says Lean, who is now a graduate student in international studies. “What I enjoyed most about interacting with my peers in other countries was tackling the tough issues in an open way, addressing the elephant in the room.”

That open dialogue appeals to today’s ECU students—so much so that sections of the global understanding course fill up quickly during registration. The program’s founders, Rosina Chia and Elmer Poe, want to see additional sections added so that more students can experience learning from other students around the world.
What started as a conversation at a break during a committee meeting has had reverberations for students at ECU and its 28 partner institutions in 20 countries. ECU is changing the face of education, and putting a face on each and every culture explored through the global understanding course.

Chia, assistant vice chancellor for global academic initiatives, and Poe, associate vice chancellor for academic outreach, approached the concept in 2003 as an effort to boost ECU’s strength in online and distance education and to encourage more students to study abroad. The first global understanding course connected students at ECU and Soochow University in China, Chia’s native country. Chia bridged the partnership through her connections, and she and Poe were encouraged as they set out to build new, similar affiliations. They worked with the U.S. Department of State and foreign governments to attract institutions from potential partner countries.

Today, those partners include Russia, Pakistan and India. Poe and Chia continue to foster new relationships that can benefit ECU students and other institutions’ participants as well. Partnerships with countries like Namibia, Malaysia and Gambia allow students who may have been exposed to fewer educational opportunities to participate. The low cost of equipment and online readings (no textbooks required) put the world in their hands.

While the course, which is taught universally in English, has global reach, Poe says the experience for students remains personal. “I imagined the power of face-to-face dialogue changing and shaping student attitudes at all of the universities,” he says of his hopes for the course from the beginning. Leans experience struck a particularly personal chord. He enrolled in a second section of the course and won a scholarship through the global understanding program to study at one of ECU’s partner institutions in Morocco. Then a piano performance started his career.

He enrolled in a second section of the course from the beginning. Poe and Chia thought carefully about what format would best allow students to be exposed to multiple cultures during a semester. The course is divided into three five-week sessions that include four partner universities. Throughout the semester, the partners switch off so that each one communicates through video and e-mail chat with every other institution. Partners for a particular semester sometimes are chosen based on current world events, Chia says. For example, ECU began a relationship with institutions in Muslim countries in the world to stimulate that dialogue and understanding.

Different sections of the course focus on different issues and are taught by instructors whose area of expertise lie in fields like anthropology, psychology and sociology. One facet of the course, with support from the State Department, will focus on global climate and includes the United States, China, Brazil and India, countries with climate and includes the United States, China, Brazil and India, countries with important roles in global climate change. During the semester, teams made up of students from each country are asked to prepare a report that incorporates the format into their classes. “The program is helping the faculty see how they can incorporate these international experiences into their classes,” Poe says.

The ECU global understanding strategy is catching on. Each ECU student is required to keep a journal that records his or her personal growth in respect to beliefs and views of other cultures. No professor ever reads a student’s journal; it serves only as a measure for students to see what they’ve learned from their counterparts. “They really see in their own words how these cultures compare on all the topics,” Poe says. “They can see the differences and similarities. The students can see their own attitudes changing.”

About 1,000 students worldwide take the course each semester, and the planning behind it is no small feat. Chia, Poe or other technology and pedagogy experts at ECU travel to each new partner country—trips are paid for by the State Department—to meet face to face with facilities and government officials to establish a boot camp.

Equipment is set up, lighting and sound are tweaked, and the course schedule is lined up. Because of global time differences, students at ECU might convene early in the morning to meet in real time with their counterparts who attend class late at night. There have been several instances, Poe says, when inclement weather caused ECU to open late. The global understanding students came to class at their regular meeting time so as not to inconvenience their overseas classmates.

The low cost, far reach and full support of the university administration, ECU’s program has earned recognition, including the Institute of International Education and the American Association of University Scholars. The program has a bright future, Poe says, “because it was what all the new ideas to more students before they graduate from East Carolina. “The program has a chance to globalize the minds of ECU students,” he says. “The course has the capability of showing them that while learning can take place in a classroom, the real learning starts when they leave school and go out into the world.”
How many reasons are there to get a master’s degree focusing on sport management? About as many as the motivations that prompt people to pick up a ball and throw, kick or hit it. To that list you can also add the knowledge that sport is a dynamic business with an array of career opportunities. Any of those reasons can lead to a successful career if students understand athletics from the data-driven approach of a businessperson as well as the emotional investment of a fan.

“Sport is not like selling widgets,” says Stacey Altman, chair of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, one of the newer academic endeavors at East Carolina. “It’s a different product entirely. We love the passion for sport, but you have to be able to take a critical look, and you have to be able to apply some data, something more than your gut decisions about sport or based on your favorite team.”

When it awarded its first degrees in 2004, ECU’s graduate program in sports management became the first nationally accredited program in North Carolina and one of only 26 nationwide. The curriculum borrows from disciplines like finance, marketing, sociology and philosophy to place intercollegiate, recreational and professional sports in their larger contexts. Each of the 30 students in the program follows the same track, but each is given an opportunity to choose projects, practicum hours and internships. Because the program is small and the faculty committed to tailoring each student’s path, no two sport management experiences turn out the same.

“We’re always just trying to give the best product that we possibly can,” says Melanie Sartore, the concentration coordinator for sport management. “I think our students, they’re coming out, they know what they want and they’re going after it.”

Robin Taylor ’06 ’08 was one of those students with a clear goal in mind. As an undergraduate, she became interested in sports marketing while working in the ECU athletic department. From that point on she knew she wanted a marketing career in collegiate athletics. Today Taylor is the director of marketing and promotions for the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She says her master’s degree from ECU comes into play every day as she coordinates the school’s in-game and ticket promotions.

“Bringing business to the arena

ECU’s graduate program in sport management gives students a CEO’s appreciation of the business of fun and games

BY BETHANY BRADSHER
Take the American Junior Golf Association, which took an ECU student three years ago to be a part of its tournament operations. Interns train all over the country during junior golf events, an experience that gives the student a leg up on jobs that involve event management. Another student interned with Sun Life Stadium in Miami, a position that allowed her to be at the center of preparations for both the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl. Another dugoutly pursued and won an opportunity to work with the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii.

In sport management, success comes to those who take the initiative, and the program’s professors reinforce that point in the way they guide students through internship and job hunting. They offer some direction, but the ball is always in the student’s court. “Much of the onus is on them in finding where they want to go,” Sartore says. “They’re very proactive. We don’t necessarily place them, because we want their own interests to guide their decisions.”

The business of sports

Two decades ago, aspiring sports professionals had only a handful of schools from which to choose, including the program at Ohio University, which was founded in 1966 and has the highest number of graduates in sports careers in the country. In North Carolina, N.C. State has a large undergraduate sport management concentration, and smaller programs are operated by Western Carolina University, Wingate University and Elon University. N.C. State and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, like ECU, have master’s level programs, but ECU’s is the only one accredited by the Sport Management Program Review Council.

As the sports management curriculum evolved, it moved from a humanities slant to a business management focus. The required core courses in the two-year program include “Management and Leadership in Sport,” “Legal Aspects of Sports Management” and “Financial Management on Sport.” Because sports management overlaps so extensively with business, ECU developed a joint degree program for MBA candidates. Students can select graduate-level electives from the College of Business or from Recreation and Leisure Studies. One electives offered this semester, “Comparative Sport: International Aspects,” focused on sports in the global marketplace with an emphasis on diversity issues and the cultural and sociological implications of events like the Winter Olympics.

Sartore, who earned her doctorate at Texas A&M University, studied with George Cunningham, who was the first to introduce the topic of diversity to the study of the sports industry. “My research is heavily into the diversity side of things, which really carries over nicely to the sociological and social culture side of sport,” she says.

Even though most of sport management looks as much like business or sociology as anything else, the field still attracts plenty of former athletes who want to stay connected to the world of sports. Undergraduate sport management programs are full of such students but most of those are thinned out by the time they get to the master’s level.

“We love the passion for sport, but you have to be able to take a critical look, and you have to be able to apply some data, something more than your gut decisions about sport or based on your favorite team,” Altman said. “We really are focused on the process of understanding sports, of thinking about the questions.”

The family business

Corey Bass ’07 ’09 refers to sports management as “the family business”—his father, Jim, is ECU’s senior associate director of athletics for external operations. After earning his undergraduate degree in communication while playing on the football team, he worked as a graduate assistant in the marketing department while he earned his master’s. After a year with Elon University’s ISP marketing office, Bass was named Elon’s director of football operations in February. In his new role, he oversees areas from travel to academic services to quality control—everything that affects football players except what happens between the end zones. Even though he grew up watching his dad navigate the business side of sports, Bass said that the skills and concepts he learned from the master’s program have been invaluable in helping him make his own way in the business.

“I was exposed to so many angles of the sports business,” said Bass, whose goal is to become a university athletic director. “There’s no cookie-cutter way to be successful in this business. You have to learn to deal with different situations.”

Successful graduates like Taylor Bass now act as guides for prospective sports management students and as encouragements for the program’s faculty, who are increasingly convinced that sports is a world of boundless opportunities for those who are trained to navigate it.

“I think that’s one of our strengths, is that we give them the information they need so that they can go out and fully succeed out there,” says Sartore. “I always propose to them that they are the agents of change when they leave our doors.”

The Sculptor

As a child growing up in Rhode Island, ECU associate theatre professor Gregory Funaro suspected that the status surrounding his grandfather’s pool gave alive at night. Decades later, the idea of sculptures as living beings would form the basis of Funaro’s first novel, The Sculptor. The mystery novel introduces readers to Sam Markham, an FBI agent with a knack for tracking down serial killers. Markham is tasked with the most puzzling case yet: a missing professional football player has been found murdered, posed like a famous statue by Michelangelo.

With art historian Cathy Hildebrandt by his side, Markham must find the so-called Michelangelo Killer before he strikes again. The Sculptor has earned accolades from masters of the mystery/thriller genres, including New York Times bestselling authors Gregg Olsen and Kevin O’Brien. Some have drawn parallels between Funaro’s novel and Thomas Harris’ Silence of the Lambs. Although Funaro and migration language rights to the book have been sold, Funaro has a prequel to The Sculptor due out next January. He also has just finished a third novel, a family saga set in the 1940s that he wrote before The Sculptor and recently rewrite completely.

Funaro, who is ECU’s associate theatre professor and Dance, where he teaches, acts and directs, says that the book is the result of his years of research and inspiration. In his office, and see how things in the world can mean something to people.

When it comes to becoming a first-time novelist, differences in acting from one important respect. However, the lasting nature of the written word. In the theater, if you’ve thought that doesn’t go very well, you can make it up the next night,” he said. “This an entirely different process. It’s not just exciting and scary at the same time.”

—Karen Shugart

The Sculptor 352 pages in paperback

Kensington Publishing Corp./Pinnacle Books $6.99
Pay it forward

Ruffin McNeill built a solid coaching career by always stepping up and never over the people around him.
McNeill brings a new staff and a new offensive scheme to Greenville, but his is a familiar face in eastern North Carolina. He played defensive back for the Pirate football team in the late ’70s and graduated in 1980; his wife, Erlene, earned her master’s degree at ECU. He knows it sounds clichéd, but in every sense this was far more than a job change. It was coming home.

“It’s a blessing,” he said. “My simple mind started thinking about what was next, when really it was God’s plan the whole time.”

The elation the McNeills felt upon returning to Greenville was all the more pronounced because of the turmoil that had surrounded them in their last months at Texas Tech. There, head coach Mike Leach was fired over accusations that he mistreated a player, and as his top assistant McNeill felt the tension among players and the relentless media scrutiny. Amid the uproar, McNeill was handed the responsibility of preparing the team for Greenville, but his is a different kind of journey.

In a new office before hitting the road. As he returned to East Carolina, put on a purple cap and embraced his new job as the head coach more than any man I’ve ever known,” said new associate head coach John Wiley. “His excitement was truly moving.”

“Coach McNeill called, and the committee, and we interviewed, and it happened,” he said. “It was one of the most stress-relieving parts of our lives. Because, once, we were at a place where we were home. Two, all of our family is from North Carolina, everyone. It was an emotional deal, and I still get a little emotional, because of what we had gone through. To have a chance to come back, it was very awesome. We were just looking for some recovery, but this has gone far beyond recovery.”

“Coach McNeill’s interview revealed his strong commitment to doing things the right way and his love of coaching young men to grow in every part of their lives,” Athletic Director Terry Holland said the day McNeill was introduced. “His excitement for what ECU football can become in the future was contagious, and his deep and abiding appreciation for what East Carolina University has meant to him and his family was truly moving.”

Hello and goodbye
With national signing day looming only two weeks after he was named the new head coach, McNeill hardly had time to glance at his new office before hitting the road. As a product of Pirate football, he didn’t have any trouble selling the program to the young men he visited. Amid those recruiting trips, he also hired a staff, starting with 26-year-old Lincoln Riley as offensive coordinator.

Hiring, recruiting, community relations, facilities, budget and academics are just a few of the issues that cross a head coach’s desk in a given day, even when his chief role is to coach football games. As a head-coach-in-training the past several years, McNeill hasn’t been surprised by the many hats he finds himself wearing. His energy tackling the challenges he’s faced so far seems undimmed from the day he was introduced as the head coach.

“I really relish the challenge,” he said. “I know it’s hard work, but I’m not opposed to hard work. I was asked, ‘Am I overwhelmed?’ No, Because I’ve been prepared for it. ‘Am I intimidated?’ By no means am I intimidated, because I’ve made sure I’m prepared for this, and I’ve surrounded myself with men and women who are prepared to handle this with us.”

McNeill said he will do what is required to continue ECU’s football success, but he said he will never let what is necessary get in the way of what is most important—his responsibility to his players. “My main reason is to coach the football team, and that will never get lost in the shuffle, and I hope that everyone around the program understands that my primary responsibility is to the players,” he said. “Whenever I feel like that’s getting lost, then I’m going to take a step back, because the most important thing are our players, and their well being.”

Many who have played for or coached with McNeill say he is a consummate player’s coach. Texas Tech running back Eric Stephens captured his team’s admiration for McNeill after the Alamo Bowl when he said, “To the world outside Tech football this week was chaotic. But inside Tech football everyone knows Coach Ruff had this team under control.”

Coach and counselor
When his collegiate playing career ended, McNeill returned to his hometown of Lumberton as an assistant coach at Lumberton High School. After four years there, the door to collegiate coaching opened in 1984 when he took a job as a graduate assistant and linebackers coach at Clemson University. He credits coaches like Pat Dye and Clemson colleague Woody McCorvey with believing in him and helping him find opportunities during those years. But his time at Clemson proved to be a crucial rung on his career ladder.

While he was at Clemson, McNeill earned a master’s degree in counseling. Both of his parents and many of his relatives are teachers, and he knew that he would want to work in a school of coaching ever ran its course. Intended as something of a career insurance policy, the degree changed the way he coached. He learned how to listen to players, how to understand what they want and to help them redefine their limits.

“The thing with counseling is that you...
have to listen, and you have to analyze personalities, you have to analyze what each person is saying to you,” said McNeill. “And every word’s a pearl. So the counseling degree I’ve used probably as much as the coaching experiences when dealing with a young man.

“Sometimes it may not be what that person wants to hear, but if they come in here, I’m going to be very, very honest with them.”

McNeill, who names trust, commitment and caring as the three pillars of his coaching philosophy, expects a great deal from the young men on his roster, he said. He expects them to work hard on the practice field and on game day. But they also must give their time and energy to the community and to each other. “Sometimes I may not like what they’re saying to me, but I know that they’re better than what they’re saying to me,” he said.

McNeill’s staff is also notably diverse, with five African-Americans among the 10 new coaches that he has hired. He is the first African-American head football coach in ECU’s history, and one of only 13 in the nation in NCAA Division I. But he is not looking for a social crusade, just to do his job so well that ECU becomes a postseason mainstay and a viable threat to the BCS monopoly.

“ECU is a very special place and is a true ‘Pirate Treasure’ to the Ellerbe family,” Jonathan Ellerbe ’97 and Liz Ellerbe ’01 wrote in a message for the Alumni Association. “It was important for us to become life members of the Alumni Association as another way to show our support for the University, which we love so much. Our family has always had a strong bond and history with ECU and joining as Forever Pirates ensures that the tradition will continue. Meeting each other, graduating, getting married, and having a son are some of the many wonderful life events we have shared together because of ECU and we hope many more generations in our family will share in the same positive experiences. East Carolina University is a special place and is a true ‘Pirate Treasure’ to the Ellerbe family.”

Jonathan ’97 and Liz ’01 Ellerbe
Binkley welcomes an intern to Broadway
Howell Binkley ’77, one of the world’s top theatrical lighting designers, will welcome an East Carolina University student to Broadway this fall for a three-month internship. In a field that relies heavily on networking and experiential learning, Binkley wants to give up-and-coming designers a taste for work in the heart of America’s theatrical world. The ECU intern will work with Binkley and his team of 12 lighting professionals who are involved in shows on Broadway and in regional theaters. Binkley, 54, created the internship to give students still enrolled at ECU a concentration in design and production. They could receive course credit for the internship, which will be open to advanced professionals who are involved in shows on Broadway and in regional theaters.

In the flashbacks, the lighting has to take you out of reality and create a dream-like fantasy. The lighting is so much a part of the story-telling process.”

That process has developed significantly since Binkley graduated from ECU and headed out on the road with dance companies and touring rock ’n roll bands. Today, much of the lighting is wireless, and one fixture can carry up to 120 colors of light, which can be mixed to send just the right hue to the stage. “That’s the great thing about live theater—there is no exact science,” says Binkley, who grew up in Winston-Salem and won a Tony Award in 2006 for lighting the musical Jersey Boys. That show was among six productions showing on Broadway this fall for which Binkley designed lighting. The others are West Side Story, In the Heights, All About Me, Memphis, and Million Dollar Quartet, a new musical based on an actual story-telling process.”

Alumni welcome at outings
The Alumni Association’s summer outing series FredSendsOffs is a fun way for alumni to reconnect with each other and to meet the newest class of Pirates. Held across the Pirate Nation, these summer outings are open to alumni and friends who want to encourage Pirate spirit and instill the social and business connections that are so important in today’s market. Make plans now to attend one of the following networking events:

Richmond, Va., Networking Breakfast Wednesday, May 19 at Can Can Brasserie from 7:30-9:00 a.m.

Atlanta, Ga., Networking Evening Wednesday, May 26 at Ri Ra on Pachoire Street at 5:30 p.m.

Washington, D.C., Networking Evening Wednesday, June 2 in the Cabinet Room of The Old Ebbitt Grill at 6:00 p.m.

Networking events introduce alumni to other ECU professionals who can provide insight on the economic forecast and offer career advice. Those new to the city will also find networking events as useful tools to meet other ECU alumni in the area.

Regional Facebook pages
Alumni in regional areas have more than just Pirate Pride in common—they also have the same geography! To make it even easier and convenient for these alumni to stay connected with each other, share information, and plan terrific alumni events and activities, the Alumni Association has created regional Facebook pages. These pages are managed by our dedicated volunteers and provide a central location for open dialogue, offering event and program ideas, and promoting upcoming regional events. The following regions have Facebook pages:

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South Carolina
California
Charlieston
Greenville
Greenwood
Tennessee
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Nominate someone for an award
Each fall the Alumni Association recognizes alumni and friends through our Alumni Awards Program. Alumni are recognized through Outstanding Alumni Awards for those who have demonstrated uncommon achievement in their profession, in civic affairs, and/or in politics. Distinguished Service Awards are given to alumni who have given their time and talents to advance East Carolina through exceptional service. Honorary Alumni Awards are bestowed upon those who did not attend East Carolina, but have adapted it as their own through outstanding service, continuing commitment, and loyalty.

Nominations for the 2011 Alumni Awards are now being accepted. Please visit PirateAlumni.com/awardprocess for nomination materials and directions on submitting a nomination. Please call the Alumni Center at 800-ECU-GRAD with questions.

Network with fellow Pirates
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Washington, D.C.

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Let's just say that NASCAR was not a big deal to him in Waltham, Mass., when Greg Morin ’01 was growing up there. It still wasn’t even after he graduated and married a fellow recreational therapy major, Holly Jarrett ’01, who is related to two icons of the sport, great uncle Ned Jarrett and cousin Dale Jarrett. But in the past five years Morin has emerged as an elite trainer of NASCAR pit crews. For the second straight year he was named Pit Crew Coach of the Year and Pit Crew Coach of the Decade. Morin initially was a recreational therapist working with physically and sexually abused kids in Charlotte. The Charlotte suburb of Mooresville is home base for dozens of NASCAR teams and other businesses that support them, including Performance Instruction & Training (PiT), known around town as Pit Crew U. He enrolled in the school, graduated, and was offered a job training other students. He quickly became a master of the millisecond. “The technical side of the pit stop has not changed much over the last seven years, so the speed and the ability to take time off the pit stop has to come from improved athletic ability of the pit crew,” Morin says. “In addition to our strength training, conditioning and practice, our guys do yoga once a week, we do aquatics workouts. We have sports psychologists.” He’s now Pit’s director of motorsports in charge of training for all types of racing, including the Truck Series. Morin began the 2008 season with Hendrick Motorsports as the head pit crew coach for the No. 48 team, as well as Jeff Gordon’s No. 24 team. The No. 48 team won the 2008–09 Sprint Cup championship and Mechanix Wear MVP Pit Crew award worth $100,000. Morin says he keeps bumping into other ECU people as he moves around the NASCAR circuit, including Ed Watkins ’88, who now is jack man for driver Elliott Sadler and a parts manager for Gillette Evernham Motorsports; Jeff Kaer ’99, now with Stewart-Haas racing; who won the 2006 NASCAR Nextel Pit Crew Challenge as a member of Martin Truex Jr.’s pit crew; and Brian Rimpf ’03 of Ralflow, the former Baltimore Ravens lineman who recently joined the developmental program at Hendrick Motorsports.

JENNIFER FITZGERALD joined RE/MAX UNITED-Northeast Home Services as the ECU Alumni Marketing Coordinator for the Triangle area. RACHEL GAPPNEY is in an account coordinator with Media Partners Inc. in Raleigh. She was the local sales manager for University Departments in Greenville. JESSICA LYNN JONES sold Timothy Wayne Dunn on Oct. 17 in Snow Hill. She is a nurse at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. CHRISTINE KENT joined Marley & Basin CPA in Greenville as a staff accountant. CARLTON PURVIS was named College Journalist of the Year by the Southeast Journalsmiths Conference for his work as a copy editor and new editor at The East Carolinian, ECU’s student-run newspaper. He is a multimedia journalist at the Morning News in Florence, S.C. ALEXANDRA SALLERLY and Jeffrey Wayne Lankford were married Oct. 10 in Fuquay-Varina. She teaches first grade at Harvest Primary School in Dunn.

ELIZABETH MADGELLE BEAN ’08 and JEREMY TRAD GODWIN ’07 on Oct. 10 in Wilmington. She teaches music at Coke’s Winderley Elementary School in Edgecombe County, and he is the chorus teacher at Hunt High School in Wilson. AMY ROVERE SPEC and MELISSA LYNN RIEDER ’07 wed BRADLEY BROOKS EAKES ’06 on Nov 7 at the historic Benton Point Inn. She works at ECU; and he works with Tar Heel Amusements and The Pool Table Shop in Greenville. DIAMOND KOSEY is the assistant director in the Office of Student Life at High Point University in High Point. BRANDON W. MILLER, graduated from basic combat training at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, S.C. LINDSEY SAWYER joined OIC Family Medical Center as Rocky Mount in a physician’s assistant. WILLIAM LUCEScott IV and Karilyn McCoy Everett on Oct. 3 at Winterville. He is a health and safety director with the Nucor plant in Auburn, N.Y. ASHLEY DEWS SMITH of Winterville was named alumni relations director at Pitt Community College. She was executive director of the Martin County Chamber of Commerce. KLEAUNA VINSON was inducted into the East Wake High School Hall of Fame where she played basketball and volleyball and ran track. Among her honors, in her senior year she was named MVP and All-Conference in each of the three sports. She was named the Wake County Female Athlete of the Year and named the WRAL Athlete of the month.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CLASS NOTES
she is the volleyball and basketball coach at East Wake High School.

2007

Army 2nd Lt. BRYAN M. BEARD graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the distinctive Ranger Tab. LAURA KELLY TAYLOR ‘07 we Brad Hughes Boyd ‘09 on Nov. 21 in Waynesboro, Va. She works at NACCO Materials Handling Group Inc. in Greensboro.

2006

SPENCER TODD BRADLEY, principal at Reidsville Memorial Elementary School in New Bern, was named the 2010 Washington Principal of the Year for Craven County. JENNIFER M. GIBBS ‘09 was named principal at North Carolina School for the Deaf in Winston-Salem.

2005

RENEE T. JANSSEN of Greer, S.C., has been selected to receive the 2005 Outstanding PE Program of the Year for Wake County public schools, and he works at The Wooten Agency in Greenville.

2004

SUSAN CHESSON opened Set Salon in Greenville.

2003

KELLY MEREDITH GARNER and Hunter Gray Dixon on Aug. 29 in Yankee Hall Plantation in Greenville. She works at the Folk Funeral Home in Greensboro. GABRIELLE KARLIA JAMES and ASHTON NICHOLAS SLATE on Nov. 14 in Efland. He teaches in the Wake County public schools, and she works at The Wooten Agency; as an engineering consultant company; ANNA REBECCA LOPES and WILLIAM BRYANT WARDE on Nov. 14 in the King’s Crown Lanes of South Sea Resort, Captains Island, Fla. She is the NHL merchandise manager for Vanity Fair License Sports Group, and he is an assistant baseball coach for the University of South Florida. MELISSA YVONNE THORNE and Thomas Earl Owens Jr. on Oct. 2 at the Greensville Country Club. She is employed by ECUL. SYLVIA ADAMS WINGERлер second her PhD in educational leadership and cultural foundations from UNCG. She teaches art at Starmount High School in York County.

2002

STEPHANIE CLARK FOGARTY and Matthew Robert Rejwig on Sept. 26 in Greenville. She is a clinical counselor at the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Army 2nd Lt. graduated from East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353; or fax to 252-328-4269. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You should address Class Notes to: Class Notes Editor, Building 198, Mail Stop 108, East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353; or fax: 252-528-4269. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can e-mail 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 students in your news, please include their class year.

Make a Note of Your News and Accomplishments

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Honor, Degrees, etc.

I'd like to congratulate the following... (optional)

Alumni Spotlight

2001

WHITNEY OAKLEY, principal at Sylvan Elementary School in Stone, was chosen by the N.C. Physical Education Association as 2009 Elementary Distinguished Principal of the Year. She was also selected as the 2010 Alamance-Burlington School System Washington Principal of the Year. JAMIE TIER WILLIAMS ‘74 and JONATHAN WILLIAMS ’73 had a son, Aiden Edwin Williams, on July 6. REAGAN BLAIR WILLIAMS and John Daniel Wayne Dixon on Oct. 24 in Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church in Wilmington. She teaches social studies and chemistry at chord choir at Hayes High School in Greenville, MARC YELLOK, who played football for ECU from 1997 to 2000, was named ECU’s defensive assistant coach. He was a defensive assistant at Elon University for the past four seasons.

2000

LESLIE GRAY BUNCH was promoted to partner at Jone Murphy CPA, and JAMIE HURRICK ’77 changed her practice name to Murphy & Bunch CPAs. She works at Murphy & Bunch CPAs.

1999

She graduated from Mitchell-Hamline Academy in Farmington, Minn. She is a nurse at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville. She works at the Folk Funeral Home in Greensboro. GABRIELLE KARLIA JAMES and ASHTON NICHOLAS SLATE on Nov. 14 in Efland. He teaches in the Wake County public schools, and she works at The Wooten Agency; as an engineering consultant company; ANNA REBECCA LOPES and WILLIAM BRYANT WARDE on Nov. 14 in the King’s Crown Lanes of South Sea Resort, Captains Island, Fla. She is the NHL merchandise manager for Vanity Fair License Sports Group, and he is an assistant baseball coach for the University of South Florida. MELISSA YVONNE THORNE and Thomas Earl Owens Jr. on Oct. 2 at the Greensville Country Club. She is employed by ECUL. SYLVIA ADAMS WINGERлер second her PhD in educational leadership and cultural foundations from UNCG. She teaches art at Starmount High School in York County.

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2004

SUSAN CHESSON opened Set Salon in Greenville.
Where Do They Go?

Washington, N.C., writer Michael Bilbro '95 is working with a Florida nonprofit to donate copies of his first children's book, *Where Do They Go?*, to the children of Haiti. The book follows the magical journey of a young boy and his tooth to the dentist. Bilbro, who has a second child's book coming out this summer, is working dogon to contribute to a fund he will send to Haitian officials along with several hundred copies of his book.

Books by alumni

On her 31st birthday, Meredith Manoly McNerney '98 was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer, Merkel cell carcinoma. The cancer formed a tumor on her left cheek that required three surgeries to remove, followed by extensive rounds of radiation to her face. Not only to sit and curse fate, McNerney wrote a book about her experience and launched a foundation to provide support to people like herself. The book, *Facing Cancer: A Spiritual Journey from Pain to Peace*, is an exploration of how the disease affects the daily lives of sufferers with a special insight into how a woman deals with disfiguring facial surgery. The foundation, A Message of Hope Cancer Fund, is an all-volunteer organization that has to date raised more than $170,000 and provided financial assistance to about 25 cancer patients and their families.

Serving as the treasurer of the foundation is Elizabeth Klepper Wopher '98 of Matthews, McNerney, who won the Robert H. Wright Outstanding Alumni Leadership Award her senior year, was a gifted reading teacher at an award-winning public school in South Carolina, and was diagnosed with cancer. More information is available at the foundation’s web site, www.amessageofhope.org.

GOLDFORD '01 of Winfield had a son, Mason Dohey, on Sept. 5. Dwayne Ledford was inducted into McDowell High School (Marion, N.C.) Athletic Hall of Fame where he was a two-time All-Conference selection and led the team in tackles three straight years. He was an offensive lineman at ECU for four years and played for several NFL teams, including the San Francisco 49ers, Jacksonville Jaguars, Carolina Panthers, and the Cleveland Browns during his career. He was an offensive staff assistant at ECU for the 2008 and 2009 seasons.

ROBERT ELIZABETH MARY TUCKER wed Jennifer Staton Clark on Oct. 12 in Hartsville, S.C. He is district sales manager for Coca-Cola North America managing the Greenville, S.C., market. She is currently a sales manager at Winflo-Reynolds, a division of Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

JOHN M. PERSON CPA, PA, joined with Keith Dolby on Sept. 11. and Jennifer Leary Clark on Dec. 12 in Hartsville, S.C. He is district sales manager for Coca-Cola North America managing the Greenville, S.C., market. She is currently a sales manager at Winflo-Reynolds, a division of Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

BECKY HALLER-DUKE joined North Carolina State University as dean of Student Affairs, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Akins on Oct. 31 at Yankee Hall Plantation in Lenoir County.

Dr. Virginia Dare Hardy '71 and Darrell Danielle Alston on Oct. 31 at Yankee Hall Plantation in Lenoir County. Dr. Hardy is the director of public relations for student affairs at ECU. Victoria Elizabeth Vaughn '70 is Vice President Russell McClunten on Dec. 12 in Greenville. She is an academic advisor for ECU’s College of Allied Health Sciences, and he is a doctoral candidate in ECU’s educational leadership program and an academic advisor for ECU’s College of Business.

Dr. ROBERT B. SCALISE, an honorary alumnus who practices emergency medicine in Goldsboro, and younger brother Jon '04, ‘08, a second generation of the Kornegay family is training for his career in medicine at ECU. Physicians. Dr. Chad Kornegay '01 '05 (left) and Dr. Todd Kornegay '02-‘06, who are only 11 months apart in age, join older brother Henry Jr. '90-‘94, who practices emergency medicine in Goldsboro, and ‘95-‘98, following a different career path. He teaches in the ECU Department of Mathematics. The five are the children of Dr. Henry B. Kornegay Sr., an honorary alumnus who practices family medicine in Mount Olive, and Deborah K. Kornegay , ’76-‘81, who graduated in ECU’s first class of nurse practitioners.
Benjamin Keaton 57 ’61 of Chapel Hill, co-founder, music director and conductor of the Long Leaf Opera Company, was one of four individuals across the country honored by Opera America with a National Opera Trustee Recognition award during a February gala at the University Club in New York City. The award recognizes trustees of U.S. opera companies and organizations for their generosity and audience-building efforts. Based in Chapel Hill with most performances at venues across the Triangle, Long Leaf is in the midst of its 12th season. It is known as the only professional U.S. company presenting exclusively fully-staged operas originally written in English.

Keaton co-founded Long Leaf Opera in 1998 with Dr. Randolph Umbarger. Concerned with the lack of opportunities for young American composers, Keaton set out to recruit the finest regional and national composing talents and to follow a colorblind casting policy. Since then, Keaton has oversown the production of 33 operas, including seven world premieres. In 2007, he established an international competition for new operatic works, and to date over 100 compositions have been received from countries across the globe. At the University Club in New York, Keaton was a founding member of the Raleigh Regional Association of REALTORS. As a founding member of the Raleigh Regional Association of REALTORS, he is a real estate attorney in North Carolina. Keaton received the 2010 Intriguing African American “JUDY” ANN TYRANCE was one of five women named to the 2010 Leimuting African American Women of Onslow County. For 25 years, she was a substitute teacher, reading assistant, classroom teacher, and night school teacher. In 1965, she was one of seven students to integrate Dunn School. In her community, she has worked with more than a dozen organizations, including AmeriCorps VISTA and Concerned Citizens Association.

C. STEVEN EAGLE of Sunbeam, Ga., completed 10 years of service to the United Way Board of the Coastal Empire in 2009. He was the 2008 campaign chair, raising more than $7.6 million, and was Board chair in 2009. TERRY MIKESKO performed his new composition for Counterpoint at the Poole Global Education Center at UNC Chapel Hill. The work was commissioned for the center’s new exhibit “Ice Counterpoint: Encounters in Antarctica and the Arctic.” Since 1975, he has played banjo with the NC Symphony. RANDI MURPHY ’81 ’84 retired as defensive football coordinator at West Craven High School. He continues to teach U.S. history at the school.

JOHN F. CHILTON was awarded the contract to provide all the art for the new Holiday Inn Express in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., the first LEED certified green hotel in the area. His company, Earthquakes Photography, specializes in photographic art for the hotel/hospitality industry. New regional council members at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville include STEVE JONES who was named chair of the regional council of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. He is executive vice president of First American Financial Management Co. in Raleigh.

FREDDIE LEE HEATH was elected president of the N.C. Alliance for Athletics, Health, PE, Recreation and Dance. He is a dance educator for Wake County public schools and is working on a master’s in school administration at N.C. State. GABE LAWTON IV was named administrator of New Kent County in Virginia. He was the director of Harnett County, VA, DENISE WICKER OWEN published her first children’s book, Ewok-Oh! about a little girl who wonders what it would be like to meet a sea turtle. Her mother, Jo Wicker, illustrated the book.

JERRY L. POWELL ’85 was named associate medical director of Hospice of the Piedmont in High Point. He was a hospitalist with High Point Regional Health System. JOHN ROMODAN was promoted to director of the planning and community development department in Washington, N.C., where he was the planning administrator.

JOHN F. JORDAN JR., a real estate attorney in North Carolina, was elected chair of the board of trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jordan is the former chief credit officer at Select Bank & Trust and president of the university’s alumni association. Jordan has served as an officer of the University of North Carolina Alumni Association for more than 20 years.

JIM FORD and JIM CRUMMER opened the first branch, Breakfast, and Bed franchise in Whitehall, Northwest Territories, Canada. GARY NEMO/OKY ’85 and ANN THOMPSON NEMO/OKY ’86 had art exhibits at the Joest House Community Center in roseville sponsored by the Watauga Arts Council. He teaches art at Appalachian State University.

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MELISSA BRANTLEY HIGHT ’77 ’80 retired in 2009 as county director of the NCOSU Cooperative Extension in New Hanover County after 32 years. JAN MURPHY of Jan Murphy CPA promoted LESLIE GRAY BUNCH (’55) partner and changed the practice name to Murphy & Bunch CPA PA. STEPHEN W. PARKER was named CEO of D’Ann Garber, South Carolina’s oldest digital agency and a leading provider of digital media communications services and offline digital production solutions. He is based in San Diego, Calif. He was senior vice president with Visual Sciences. ROGER WHITSON ’77 ’99 was the chief of Staff of Dunn High School town council. He teaches social studies at E.R. Frank Middle School in La Grange.

PARKER CREECH was honored with the 2009 Annual Hall of Fame award from the Raleigh Regional Association of REALTORS. As a founding member of the Raleigh Regional Association of REALTORS, he is a real estate attorney in North Carolina. Keaton received the 2010 Intriguing African American Woman of the Year award for 2009.

Investing in Champions Establishing Excellence
Female high school basketball and soccer coaches who were members of the National Safe & Sound Network say they are more likely than boys to suffer a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the knee, and coaches should adjust their training regimens to protect them against such injuries, Dr. Lisa Rowland Callahan, MD, MPH, said at a major conference in New York City.

She cited studies showing that when boys jump, they tend to land on both legs, with bends to soften the landing, thus protecting the ligaments, while the other hand, are more apt to land on one leg that’s not bent. Female soccer players should strengthen their hamstring muscles, which act to reinforce the ACL, she said. Coaches can address both problems by teaching girls better body mechanics to protect their knees. “You see a lot of girls in high school tear their ACLs. Some have surgery, others need a good rehab program and come back to play. But there is attrition, Many are lost in high school, and they never come back to play at all,” Callahan said.

One of the nation’s leading experts on sports medicine, Callahan also warned that high school athletes, like hospital patients, must remain vigilant against the MRSA superbug, which has developed resistance to antibiotics. “The bug can cause skin and soft-tissue infections, and it can spread to the lungs or joints,” said Callahan, medical director of the Women’s Sports Medicine Center at the Special Hospital for Sports Injuries that the NFL’s former star, Dr. James “Jim” Edward Mahan, president of J. S. Mann’s in Whiteville. Dr. Mahan was honored when the school district named its elementary school for him. Callahan, who also is director of player care for the New York Knicks and New York Liberty professional basketball teams, says the bacteria can spread if athletes share towels or do not properly clean abrasions or athletic equipment. She says wrestlers and football players are most vulnerable, but others also must be careful when changing training facilities with those who play contact sports. “Something as simple as hand-washing can really help,” she said.

Among the estimated 30 million American children and teens who play youth sports, about 3.5 million require medical treatment each year.

—David McKay Wilson

1973

ROB GREY CVN joined retinal CLE of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Connecticut in 1973. He continued to serve in that role through the 1990s

1974

TERRY MANN was elected mayor of Winterdale after serving on city council for a number of years. He is president of J.S. Mann’s in Whiteville.

1975

FRANCES DEAN CURRIN, RN, 47 of Beaufort, N.C., died Dec. 21 at 93. For 36 years she taught in the Albemarle School System as a teacher and assistant principal. She was a member of the Albemarle School System as a teacher and assistant principal.

1976

ELIZABETH HALSEIP DENNING 62 of Branchton, died Jan. 31. She taught fourth and fifth grades in Johnston and Sampson counties. MATTIE LEE “PAT” JACKSON BARNES STRAUS 40 44 of Southern Poconos died Feb. 6. She was a teacher and counselor for more than 30 years. She attended high school in Round Rock, Texas. In 1973, she taught first grade in North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

1977

ANN HARRISON 54 51, a retired ECU faculty member, joined the regional board of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. For 10 years, she has directed the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church food pantry.

1978

CHARLIE ADAMS 59 62 was honored when the Cape High School gymnastics was named in his honor. He was an outstanding athlete at Cape High and later coached basketball there. The Greater Raleigh Sports Council awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as executive director of the NC High School Athletic Association from which he retired in 1996.

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BETTIE SMITH DRESSER 45 46 and Philip L. Desser celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2009. A native of Greensboro, she is a member of the North Carolina public schools in Pembroke, Concord, Augusta, and Wilmington and in Fairview County, Va.

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1981


1982

JAMES “JIM” EDWARD MAHAN 80 of Beaufort, N.C., died Dec. 21. He was a retired production control coordinator with Continental Can Company.

1983

ALFRED BAGGITT 72 of Greenville died Dec. 17. He relocated to North Carolina in 2010 after serving in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years. He also taught quality assurance at Southern Polytechnic University in Atlanta. EVELYN PENNING RIGGS 76 of Grenville, died Jan. 17. She taught for a few years after graduation. Dr. WALLACE EDWARD THOMPSON 88 of Elberton, Md., died Dec. 13. He sold real estate in North Carolina and Orange County, Md, where she taught as a senior, then retired.

1984

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—David McKay Wilson
Edward F. Colston ‘84 of King George County, Va., died Dec. 6. He was a retired physicist at Pittsburg State University in Kansas from which he retired in 1995. 

Julien D. Battelade Sr. ‘73 of Raleigh died Feb. 6. He worked in community association management as a founder of Talis Eye Associates. Pitt County Memorial Hospital for 23 years. 

BYRON STRATAS was the founding medical director of the LASIK and Luke’s Cataract & Laser Institute in St. Petersburg. He was the principal of Northside High School in Greenville died Dec. 8. She was a certified diabetic specialist at Pitt Community Memorial Hospital. Since 1990, she was an assistant librarian at Jenny Library.

For many years she portrayed the Lady of the Manse at the ECU Christmas Madrigal dinner. She was married to a ECU communication professor John Ross, who died in 2006. Ross was a former member of the Greenville community through voter registration efforts and the local Education Association’s efforts to improve neighborhood association activities. She was a member of the Greenville Historic Preservation Commission and on the board of the Friends of Jenny Library, of which she was a past president. She was active in the DMB and the Jamaica Society, among others, and had an ongoing interest in gastronomy. A ECU alumnus, she volunteered in the office and the food pantry.

Cynthia Summerlin Jones of Sanford, died Dec. 31 in Winston-Salem. He was a military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star medal with “V” device, Army Commendation medal and National Defense Medal (two), Army Good Conduct Medal (three), National Defense Service Medal (two), and Armed Forces Honor. He was honored by his wife, Emily, and their two daughters.

Two recent graduates have given their lives for their country while serving in Afghanistan. Capt. David J. Thompson P ‘02 of Greenville died Jan. 29 of injuries sustained while supporting combat operations in Operation Enduring Freedom in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. A U.S. Army Special Operations Command soldier from Fort Bragg, Thompson, 39, a native of Oklahoma, was on his second deployment to Afghanistan. He also served in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti as well as numerous tours with the NC National Guard. His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star medal with “V” device, Army Commendation medal and National Defense Medal (two), Army Good Conduct Medal (three), National Defense Service Medal (two), and Armed Forces Honor. He was honored by his wife, Emily, and their two daughters.

For many years she portrayed the Lady of the Manse at the ECU Christmas Madrigal dinner. She was married to a ECU communication professor John Ross, who died in 2006. Ross was a former member of the Greenville community through voter registration efforts and the local Education Association’s efforts to improve neighborhood association activities. She was a member of the Greenville Historic Preservation Commission and on the board of the Friends of Jenny Library, of which she was a past president. She was active in the DMB and the Jamaica Society, among others, and had an ongoing interest in gastronomy. A ECU alumnus, she volunteered in the office and the food pantry.
While hundreds more would follow them over the next few years, they were the first to sign up with the Educational Field Trips Committee, which had been charged with creating more mind-broadening opportunities for students. Working with a local tour operator, Rick’s Tours, the college had planned to offer a 21-day trip that summer through Philadelphia, New York, New England and Canada. But when that trip was first publicized in the Feb. 11, 1936, Teco Echo, interest was so high that two additional destinations were added—a 32-day jaunt to the Southwest and into Mexico and a 27-day trip to Florida with a cruise over to Cuba. Including transportation, meals and lodging, the tours cost from $85 up to $150 for the Florida-Cuba trip. Students earned between three and eight hours academic credit.

Elizabeth Evans Savage ’18, a sociology teacher, was a chaperone on several tours. She recalled one memorable moment in a 1981 interview. “When we got to New York I always took them down to Welfare Island to the Children’s Hospital, to the Henry Street Mission, usually down to City Hall, out to the Cloisters and to the Statue of Liberty. Anything we thought would be interesting. Out in front of City Hall is this statue called Civic Virtue, and it looks like a man with his foot on a lady’s neck. This mountain sprout, I don’t know her name, we always called her Mountain Sprout, but she was from up in western North Carolina, (looked at this statue and) said, ‘Is that the Statue of Liberty?’ Some man standing there said, ‘What’s this, a convention of farm women?’ I’ve never forgotten that. I had a good time.”

The summer field trips remained popular among students and faculty alike until the 1940s, when gas rationing at the onset of the war dictated their demise.
At this year’s Barefoot on the Mall, students enjoyed a day of fun between the end of classes and the beginning of finals. *Photograph by Cliff Hollis*