Primed to practice
The inaugural School of Dental Medicine graduating class
Scout, a golden retriever, stands beside student Adam Pierce at Joyner Library during fall semester finals. The library teamed up with Pet Partners to present three pet therapy sessions, which brought animals into the library to interact with students. Library officials said research shows interactions with dogs and cats help students unwind from the stresses of final exams.

Photo by Cliff Hollis
Primed to practice
From their recruitment through four years of education, ECU School of Dental Medicine students strive to serve and are committed to rural health.

A passion for the world
Jennifer Horsfall takes ECU’s motto—Servire—to the global community.

The graying of rural medicine
As doctors in the East near retirement age, the Brody School of Medicine is preparing graduates to fill their shoes.

Two under par
The Conover brothers took different courses to golf success, but both led to ECU.

STEM STUDIES
T’san Griffin, a seventh-grader at Riverside Middle School in Williamston, is participating in an after-school, STEM-based program where students study drug addiction using tapeworms in a partnership with ECU. The students placed tapeworms in solutions of caffeine and sugar to measure how addictive the common ingredients are and behavior patterns from use. Shaia Miles, an associate professor in the ECU College of Education, and Scott Rawls, an ECU alumnus and associate professor at Temple University, were awarded a four-year, $1 million grant to engage K-12 teachers and students with health care professionals, pharmacists and scientists in the study.

On the cover: Graduating dental students, from left, Diana Luckhardt, Lara Holland, Kyle Duncan, Alex Crisp and Kyle Given pose in a patient-care area in Ross Hall. Photo by Jay Clark
We invite you to learn more about how ECU trains dentists and somebody who values service above self.”

“We want to see ties to the state. We want somebody who has residency status to roots,” Wilson tells writer Kathryn Kennedy.

“We only admit North Carolina residents, but we look beyond North Carolina to practice. Because of the unique educational model ECU pioneered, it’s also expected that many will choose to practice in underserved areas of the state.

Nearly 50 years later, East Carolina saw that thousands of rural residents did not have access to dental care simply because of where they lived. North Carolina ranked 47th nationally in the number of dentists per capita, and four counties in the Northeast had no dentists at all.

ECU leaders committed themselves to addressing this problem and, with the support of the UNC Board of Governors, asked the General Assembly in 2006 for money to build and operate a dental school. Even though the Great Recession would cripple state finances, during a three-year period legislators came up with a total of about $90 million to establish the ECU School of Dental Medicine.

In May, the first class of dental students graduates, and ECU will celebrate another milestone in its long history of service to the state.

It’s expected that most of these 50 new dentists will remain in North Carolina to practice. Because of the unique educational model ECU pioneered, it’s also expected that many will choose to practice in underserved areas of the state.

In our cover story in this issue, which begins on page 20, we’ll take a look at the new dental school. The story about Max Ray Joyner. He is the consummate gentleman and a wonderful parson. I first met Max Ray and Kitty a number of years ago at a Chancellors’ Society function, and from that day forward knew I had met a man with great character, wisdom and selflessness. My wife and I will always be grateful for his contributions to the university.

“My husband, Glenn Johnston ’73, just received the Winter 2015 magazine. We were so excited to see the article on Petra, Jordan. We just returned from a 12-day trip to Israel and Jordan. We spent a half-day at the site in Petra—a unforgettable experience! We will look forward to reading more about this project and especially any type of exhibit that may be sponsored by ECU.”

—Tricia Johnston, Grimesland

How do I subscribe?
ECU sends East magazine to friends and donors. To begin receiving the magazine, mail your check using the postage-paid reply envelope inside. How much is up to you but we suggest a $25 minimum contribution.

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

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

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Send class notes to ecuclasnotes@ecu.edu or use the form at left.
ECU created $2.8 billion in added state income in FY 2012-13

Locally, a $13 billion impact was observed in the eight-county priority zone around ECU, which comprises Edgecombe, Wilson, Martin, Pitt, Beaufort, Greene, Lenoir and Craven counties.

Included in this zone with additional economic influence are Lenoir Community College, Martin Community College, Craven Community College, N.C. Wesleyan College, The University of Mount Olive, Barton College, Edgemcove Community College, Pitt Community College and Beaufort County Community College.

“Our area institutions are leaders in the state for offering students different pathways to education,” said John Cheffes, president of the NC East Alliance. “Moving students from non-degree to the community colleges to the universities is a key part of that – offering more online programs, and certainly less vulnerable to layoffs. I’ll always be grateful for this educational opportunity to improve my circumstances.”

ECU has been named the No. 1 “Best Bang for the Buck” among colleges and universities in the Southeast in a new report that ranks universities on outcomes and the degree of opportunity afforded students.

A Washington Monthly book, The Other College Guide: A Road Map to the Right School for You, gives ECU the top ranking in the Southeast region. It also ranks ECU 41st among all colleges and universities nationally and 20th among universities that offer all levels of degrees. In addition, ECU ranked 14th nationally in a 2014 social mobility category, designed to measure the extent a university’s graduates earn more and obtain a better quality of life.

“Student success is the first commitment of our mission, so we are always pleased when rating systems measure the difference we make for our students and the return on their investment,” said Chancellor Steve Ballard.

The book is an outgrowth of college rankings that have been published annually by Washington Monthly since 2005. Those rankings take into consideration a school’s dedication to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research and service.

The guide’s rankings are different from others, its authors say, because it focuses on outcomes such as graduation rates, student loan default rates and the ability of graduates to land a good-paying job.

ECU leaders say those measures of effectiveness align well with the university’s mission, which focuses on student success, regional transformation and public service.

The focus of the Washington Monthly report is similar to other systems that specifically measure the value added to the college experience. Ballard said, such as the Collegiate Learning Assessment and the Educare to Carewell.

“We believe the Washington Monthly ranking gives an accurate picture of how students benefit from an East Carolina education,” Ballard said.

The report included in its ranking criteria the first percentile of students receiving Pell grants, the cost of tuition after reductions for low family income, the percentage of applicants admitted, and ACT and SAT scores.

To be considered for the “Best Bang” list, schools had to combine better-than-expected graduation rates with an affordable price. Ranked schools had to have a student body with at least 20 percent receiving Pell Grants and a default rate of at least 50 percent; and have a loan default rate among graduates of 10 percent or less.

Of all 1,540 colleges and universities in the U.S., the book considered only 386 worthy of inclusion in its “Best Bang” list. ECU was ranked second.

UNC Pembroke was seventh, UNC Greensboro was eighth, Appalachian State was ninth, UNC Charlotte was 10th, Elizabeth City State was 17th, Fayetteville State was 18th and NC Central was 19th.

Written by Jane Sweetland, a former dean at Carolina State University-Orlando Islands, and Paul Glastris, the editors of Washington Monthly, the guide is aimed at affordability and outcomes in higher education.

It was published by a nonprofit, The New Press, with support from the Kresge Foundation.

—Steve Tuttle
It was a purple-and-gold welcome for the University of North Carolina Board of Governors when it met on ECU’s campus in April for the first time since 2007. The governing body of the UNC system was treated to a campus tour, featuring destinations such as the School of Dental Medicine at Moss Hall and a walk-through of the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. The governing board of the UNC system was treated to a campus tour, featuring destinations such as the School of Dental Medicine at Moss Hall and a walk-through of the Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors met April 10 to approve ECU’s request to designate four parcels of property as a millennial campus—sites where the university can collaborate with private companies to commercialize research discoveries and offer advanced training to benefit the region’s high-tech industries.

Officials said the parcels would be known collectively as the East Carolina Research and Innovation Campus. ECU officials said millennial campus activities would initially begin on a 22.3-acre site in Greenville’s warehouse district on 10th Street a few blocks west of Main Campus. The site, which ECU sold 10 years ago, covers seven blocks and includes three tobacco warehouses listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the warehouses, the Export Tobacco Leaf factory known as the Haynie Building, is expected to be the initial focus of EGRIC once it is refurbished. Built in 1894, it fronts 10th Street and covers the entire block between Pitt and Greene streets three blocks west of Main Campus. Millennial campuses are geographic areas where anchor institutions—usually research universities—join with education, industry, government, military and other partners to discover, invent and produce new commercial products. Under state law, the millennial campus designation gives ECU regulatory flexibility to finance regenerative medicine and biotechnology building and leeway to collaborate in business ventures with industry partners. ECU has received eligibility certification to apply the N.C. Historic ISD Rehabilitation Tax Credit toward the cost of renovating the warehouses, said ECU associate vice chancellor for business services. Buck said those tax credits could defray 40 percent or more of the cost of the renovations. The focus of the millennial campus will be creating partnerships with private companies that will foster economic growth in the region and create jobs attractive to ECU graduates, said Ted Morris, ECU associate vice chancellor for outreach and program development. “ECU’s commitment to economic development and regional transformation is predicated on the right spaces and the right freedoms needed to interact creatively with the private sector,” said Provost Ron Mitchell. “I couldn’t be more pleased and thankful for the trust and the support shown by the UNC Board of Governors.” It’s anticipated that EGRIC will lease space in the Haynie Building to one or more partner companies, angel investors and some business start-ups, Mitchell said.

In addition to the warehouse district property, the Board of Governors granted millennial campus status to three other ECU parcels:

- The university’s uptown properties—19 acres that lie on both sides of Roade Street from Fifth Street to First Street and the riverfront park.
- The Health Sciences Campus.
- The Stratford Arms and Blount Fields properties across Charles Boulevard from Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Nearly all nurses pass exam

The ECU College of Nursing saw 96 percent of its bachelor of science graduates pass the national licensing exam in 2014, according to an annual report received by the UNC Board of Governors. Of the 233 members of the College of Nursing’s Class of 2014 who took the National Council Licensure Examination, 224 passed, according to the report, which the board approved at its April 10 meeting on the ECU campus.

Passing the national exam is required to receive a license from the North Carolina Board of Nursing. Twelve UNC campuses have nursing programs. Of those, ECU had the largest number of bachelor of science nursing graduates taking and passing the NCLEX-RN exam. UNC-Chapel Hill, which had 91 of its 169 test-takers passing the exam, was second largest. The average 2014 exam passing rate for all 12 UNC-system campuses with nursing programs was 92 percent in 2014, the report said. The national average was 85 percent.

The N.C. Board of Nursing requires a nursing program’s three-year average of graduates passing the exam be at least 95 percent of the national passing rate in order to remain in good standing. Thus, the minimum passing rate for UNC nursing programs in 2014 was 81 percent. ECU’s exam passing rate for 2012-14 was 95.5 percent.

Enrollment in the nursing program at N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro was suspended by the Board of Governors last year because it did not meet the three-year minimum graduation rate. In 2014, ECU had 706 students enrolled in its bachelor of nursing program, 432 enrolled in its master of nursing and 103 in its doctorate of nursing practitioner program, the report said.

That total enrollment of 1,241 accounts for nearly 20 percent of the enrollment in all nursing programs.
The board and the N.C. General Assembly are expected to refinance outstanding construction projects to the tune of $80 million. The board gave the go-ahead for ECU to issue $80 million in special obligation bonds. The UNC Board of Governors approved ECU’s request to issue special obligation bonds to renovate space inside the university’s Health Sciences Campus.

The board approved ECU’s $550,000 acquisition of a half-acre tract in uptown Greenville. The property, at 159 S. Cotanche St., is a former Hill County ABC store. With the acquisition of the property, ECU now owns the entire block bounded by East Fourth Street, East Second Street, and Cotanche streets. ECU will use auxiliary overhead receipts to buy the property.

Approved ECU’s request to spend $2.5 million to plan a major renovation to Clement Residence Hall. Officials said the 10-story dorm, built in 1965, is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The renovation is estimated to cost more than $20 million and will also provide additional housing. During the renovation, the interior spaces and bathrooms in empty areas will be redone, and the building exterior will be repainted. ECU is in the process of negotiating a facility lease with the state.

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Gateway East and Gateway West towers, connected by an enclosed aerial bridge, seen at the top of College Hill

Gateway will house 720 students on the roof of the new building. The $89 million building was designed by Davis Kane Architects of Raleigh. Barnhill Contracting Company of Rocky Mount and Raleigh is the construction manager. Contractors include Cooper Electrical Construction Company of Morrisville, Kirlin Mechanical Service Company of Southfield Piping Company of Wilson and Manning Masonry of Williamston. Approximately 250 people work every day at the site, which has a “construction cam” available at oxblue.com/open/ECUBelk to view progress online.

Gateway will be the first residence hall to open at ECU since the 1960s, although many have had extensive renovations, Shoemaker said. “This really will be the crown jewel and capstone for College Hill.” As its name describes, the hall will serve as a gateway to College Hill, which was demolished last year. Gateway will be home to several university living-learning communities, where students with the same major or interests live in the same hall, including biology and the Honors College.

“We have a lot to be proud of here,” said Aaron Lucier, director of housing operations at ECU. “This is an amazing addition to College Hill. It truly will be a core part of campus.”

The Gateway East and Gateway West towers will be connected by an enclosed aerial bridge on the second floor, said Gina Shoemaker, the project manager and assistant director of facilities and architectural services at ECU.

If certified, it will be the first residence hall at ECU with Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design certification for building sustainability. “We do have other buildings on campus with that status but no residence halls,” Shoemaker said.

Heavy downpours didn’t dampen the celebration of a construction milestone for Gateway Residence Hall at ECU on Jan. 12. At a rainy topping-out ceremony, representatives from ECU and construction contractors signed a beam that will be added to a truss construction.

“Construction contractors signed a beam that will be added to a truss construction,” said Virginia Manning Masonry of Williamston. Approximately 250 people work every day at the site, which has a “construction cam” available at oxblue.com/open/ECUBelk to view progress online.

Gateway will be the first residence hall to open at ECU since College Hill Suites in 2006. Before that, no other newly constructed residence hall had opened since the 1960s, although many have had extensive renovations, Shoemaker said.

—Crystal Batty

Scientists receiving funds to study sea level rise

A new grant will allow ECU and partner institutions to address a saltwater issue affecting the ecosystems and economy of eastern North Carolina. Saltwater from the ocean is making its way into freshwater sources along the coastal plain, causing a myriad of problems. By joining forces with N.C. State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University, ECU researchers plan to examine these problems through a multidisciplinary lens.

Mauricio Ardón, assistant professor in ECU’s biology department, is the university’s principal investigator for the five-year project. He is overseeing $354,775 of the total $1.5 million awarded by the National Science Foundation’s Coastal Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability program.

“Primarily we’re looking to understand the consequences to agriculture and to natural ecosystems when you have increasing salinity in the inner banks,” Ardón said. Their research focuses on the peninsula surrounded by the Albemarle, Pamlico and Croatan sounds.

Researchers already have good projections about the impact of sea level rise in the next 100 years, but this group wants to study exactly what to expect just 10 or 20 years down the road.

“We won’t simply wake up one day and find this peninsula permanently inundated by saltwater,” said Ryan Emanuel, the project’s lead investigator and assistant professor of hydrology at N.C. State. “Rather, the complex interactions between humans and nature will determine when, where and how saltwater will invade this region over the next several decades.”

This saltwater intrusion—the landward movement of salinity from the coast onto the coastal plain—has major consequences for the lives of residents in the area and the economy of eastern North Carolina; timber companies and agricultural corporations own a majority of land on the sounds.

“When you have increasing salinity (in freshwater), it leads to several issues: It causes plant mortality, which is very bad for agriculture, and it can decrease water quality by causing soils to release too many nutrients,” Ardón said. “It’s also a problem for drinking water, which can become expensive to desalinate, he added.

The project team will study the natural and human causes of saltwater intrusion, which Ardón explained is most likely to improve or worsen based on how people change their behaviors. “A lot of it will have to do with the decisions that people make: whether or not to use pump stations (in ditches and canals), whether or not to build more or fewer canals in agricultural fields, when to pump and how much to pump,” he said.

An important piece of the study will be interacting with residents who live in the area. As the social scientist on the project, Todd BenDor, associate professor of city and regional planning at UNC-Chapel Hill, will coordinate these stakeholder meetings.

“Very few assessments of sea level rise really look at how people actually react to changes in the landscape,” BenDor said. “They take it as a given that landowners will eventually be forced out of the coast as saltwater starts to inundate their properties. However, we know that this process will take time and that in the interim, a lot of efforts will be made to change the way land is managed.”

Working with government and private entities in the region, the team will communicate possible consequences based on their saltwater monitoring data. They are planning to host at least one stakeholder meeting for each year of the grant, where they will share updates in an easy-to-understand and relevant way.

“The first set of workshops is mostly for us to collect information and, at the same time, we’ll be collecting the field data,” said Ardón. “In subsequent years, we’ll present the results and use different scenarios to illustrate what is most likely to occur, and most importantly, give them a toolkit that they can use to make better decisions.”

Also working on the project are Emily Bernhardt and Justin Wright, who are ecologists at Duke University. Ardón is excited to have a diverse group of researchers with various areas of expertise and from different schools. “It’s pretty unique to have experts from these four large universities working together,” Ardón said. “It doesn’t actually happen that often. So that’s very exciting.” —Kelly Setzer

ECU biology professor Mauricio Ardón, foreground, and graduate student Tori Goehrig gather data for research on the intrusion of saltwater along North Carolina’s coastal plain.
Gov. Pat McCrory announced his March 2 visit to the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU that his budget will allocate $16 million over the next two years to stabilize the financial challenges at the Brody School of Medicine.

“With those funds, my goal is for all of us to use the next two years to develop a long-term plan for a sustainable economic model that will allow the school to continue producing the doctors North Carolina needs for generations to come,” said McCrory.

Following a private meeting with ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Rick Niswander and Brody administrators, the governor toured the heart center’s Robotics Lab and tried his hand at a robotic surgery simulation. Also in attendance were Dr. Aldena Wos, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services; N.C. Sen. Louis Pate and N.C. Rep. Brian Brown.

At a news conference following the tour, the governor said, “The Brody School has continued to deliver on the mission our state Legislature set forth for it. Now we need to find a way to build upon those successes and expand them.”

“I don’t see ECU as being only for eastern North Carolina. I see it as being all of North Carolina,” he added.

Wos said, “It’s critical that we continue to fulfill the promise of 1974—to provide access to care for the citizens of this region. The only way to do that is to have a viable medical community here that’s training the next generation of providers. The majority of physicians who train here stay here. And I want to thank Brody for that.”

Ballard told McCrory, “I assure you that ECU will do our part. We’ll continue to spruce up the long-term plan we’ve been working on. It focuses on increasing efficiencies and continuing the excellent relationship we have with Vidant Medical Center, which is instrumental to our long-term plan.”

“The funding means a flagship program of ours will be sustained,” he said, “and we’ll be able to continue impacting health care and economic development in the East.”

—Amy Adams Ellis

ECU’s Office of the Registrar celebrated its re-opening less than a block from campus Feb. 12. The office moved from the Whichard Building to a leased 8,062-square-foot space at 207 E. Fifth St. Formerly a nightclub, the renovated building features large windows, reclaimed hardwood floors and exposed brick walls.

“The entire uptown community has been very welcoming,” said Angela Anderson, university registrar.

The office is the first of several university plans to move downtown, said Rick Niswander, vice chancellor for administration and finance. A few, including financial services and information technology, are already off campus. “This is the first step in a multi-step process,” he said.

In the next two years, the registrar’s office, Financial Aid, admissions and related student services are expected to move downtown to free up space on Main Campus, Niswander said. “The concept is it’s a one-stop shop.”

Twenty-nine staff members in the registrar’s office are responsible for student records, class registration for students, assigning classroom space, issuing grades and transcripts, satisfying degree requirements, mailing diplomas to graduates and maintaining a student database.

Students, prospective students and parents will be able to park near the building or take an ECU Transit bus that has a stop nearby. Most functions can be handled electronically, which eliminates the long lines of students that used to wrap around the Whichard Building during registration, Anderson said.

“They can do many things online but a lot of students still want to come in and see somebody,” Anderson said. “The fact that we’re adjacent to campus is a very good thing.”

The office is in the process of digitizing all records dating back to the first students who enrolled in 1909. “Those were done in pencil and on very thin paper,” Anderson said.

Officials are planning uses for the vacated space in the Whichard Building. Niswander said.

More information is online at ecu.edu/registrar, by emailing registrar@ecu.edu or calling 252-328-6524.

—Crystal Baity

First student teachers
75YEARS AGO

Alma mater debuts
50YEARS AGO

Med school legislation passes
35YEARS AGO

Halloween ‘rioters’ go to court
25YEARS AGO
DSM Dyneema to fund EC Scholar award

High-performance materials manufacturer DSM Dyneema will fund an EC Scholar award to be earmarked for an engineering student beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year.

DSM Dyneema, which has a Greenville manufacturing facility, and ECU made the announcement March 17 in the Marvin Jenkins Building, the administrative home of the Honors College.

“This is an exciting day for the EC Scholars program and the start to a variable relationship benefiting students and the EC Scholars Award Program,” said Todd Fraley, director of the EC Scholars Award Program. “The commitment shown by DSM Dyneema to the development of our students is truly appreciated.”

EC Scholars is the most prestigious undergraduate award program offered at ECU. The four-year merit scholarship recognizes outstanding academic performance, commitment to community engagement and strong leadership skills. Recipients receive an Honors College scholarship for four years, along with a stipend for study abroad, a guaranteed paid internship, a ceremonial check symbolizing the manufacturer’s donation. With a goal of transforming eastern North Carolina’s advanced manufacturing industries and workforce,

For the first time ever, most of East Carolina University’s extensive African art collection was exhibited simultaneously at six different sites during February. With close to 600 pieces, ECU has one of the most important university-held teaching collections in the United States, said Ken Willburn, professor at ECU.

“The functional and ceremonial African art—mainly from central, western and southern Africa—includes headaddresses, sculptures, vessels, jewelry, weapons, musical instruments and rare examples of figures and masks. ECU amassed the pieces over the past 25 years from three individuals: William Quinn—professor at ECU. Hayden Griffin, chair of ECU’s Department of Chemistry, said ECU’s Department of Chemistry has partnered with industry scientists for many years to offer our graduates a leg up when looking for jobs in the pharmaceutical industry,” said Keith Holmes, grant project manager. Department of Chemistry teaching instructor and retired pharmaceutical executive. “We are proud that our work has culminated in this exciting grant and partnership, which will expand our laboratory and personnel to develop a true capstone course for students from many disciplines. Regional employers are focused on expanding their expertise and operations in the form of pharmaceutical development services such as drug design and discovery, sterile formulation, packaging, development and manufacturing, analytical development and quality control/assurance, and other supporting services.”

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ECU continues to play a leading role in the growth of North Carolina’s advanced manufacturing industries and workforce,” said Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor, head of ECU’s Office of Innovation and Economic Development and co-principal investigator on the project. The Pitt County Development Commission reports that more than 8,000 people are directly employed in pharmaceutical manufacturing in Johnston, Nash and Pitt counties.

“The partnership we have developed between the Department of Chemistry and ECU’s Office of Innovation and Economic Development is such an effective way to meet the needs of industry,” said Allison Daniel. She is the Department of Chemistry’s interim chair as well as grant director and lead principal investigator on the project. “We are excited to have such significant support from the Golden LEAF Foundation, which will benefit so many ECU students and workers in the region.”

Pictured at the announcement of the Golden LEAF Foundation grant are, from left, Maria Pharr, N.C. Community College BioNetwork executive director; Thomas Gould, vice president of academic affairs at Pitt Community College; Dan Gerlach, president of the Golden LEAF Foundation; Provost Ron Mitchelson; and Associate Vice Chancellor Ted Morris.

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For the first time ever, most of East Carolina University’s extensive African art collection was exhibited simultaneously at six different sites during February. With close to 600 pieces, ECU has one of the most important university-held teaching collections in the United States, said Ken Willburn, professor at ECU.

“The functional and ceremonial African art—mainly from central, western and southern Africa—includes headaddresses, sculptures, vessels, jewelry, weapons, musical instruments and rare examples of figures and masks. ECU amassed the pieces over the past 25 years from three individuals: William Quinn—professor at ECU. Hayden Griffin, chair of ECU’s Department of Chemistry, said ECU’s Department of Chemistry has partnered with industry scientists for many years to offer our graduates a leg up when looking for jobs in the pharmaceutical industry,” said Keith Holmes, grant project manager. Department of Chemistry teaching instructor and retired pharmaceutical executive. “We are proud that our work has culminated in this exciting grant and partnership, which will expand our laboratory and personnel to develop a true capstone course for students from many disciplines. Regional employers are focused on expanding their expertise and operations in the form of pharmaceutical development services such as drug design and discovery, sterile formulation, packaging, development and manufacturing, analytical development and quality control/assurance, and other supporting services.”

ECU continues to play a leading role in the growth of North Carolina’s advanced manufacturing industries and workforce,” said Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor, head of ECU’s Office of Innovation and Economic Development and co-principal investigator on the project. The Pitt County Development Commission reports that more than 8,000 people are directly employed in pharmaceutical manufacturing in Johnston, Nash and Pitt counties.

“The partnership we have developed between the Department of Chemistry and ECU’s Office of Innovation and Economic Development is such an effective way to meet the needs of industry,” said Allison Daniel. She is the Department of Chemistry’s interim chair as well as grant director and lead principal investigator on the project. “We are excited to have such significant support from the Golden LEAF Foundation, which will benefit so many ECU students and workers in the region.”

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Theater professor finds magic in children’s book

Through a series of events, Grubb acciden tally lost some of the manuscript pages which set off a heroic adventure of discovery. Amazon.com editors quickly selected Funaro’s Odditorium for their Best of the Book month list during January, while Booklist, com chose it for their Winter’s Best Children’s and Middle Grade Books list. It’s rated with 4.5 stars on Amazon and 3.83 on Goodreads and has received positive features on websites such as Hypable and the Publishers Weekly Review. “I'm thrilled that it's getting such positive reviews, but what means the most to us is that kids love it,” Funaro said. “I get notes about it from kids, and their parents tell me my child doesn’t like to read but couldn’t put your book down. All the reviews in the world don’t compare to that.”

It was this casual pastime that led him to explore the inventive and otherworldly plot of adventures of a 12-year-old boy in 19th century London, an ECU associate professor has discovered a magical world of his own. Gregory Funaro is earning glowing reviews for his whimsical story Alistair Grim’s Odd Aquaticum, published in January by Disney. “It’s a book about family. It’s a book about friendship, and ultimately—it sounds corny, but it’s about how love conquers all,” Funaro said. Trained in theater, Funaro began channeling his creativity into composing screenplays and books as a hobby while part of an acting troupe nearly 15 years ago. “I didn't exactly plan on being a writer—it just happened,” he said. “I wish I had a natio nal moment where I was inspired to do it, but it was a fun time-killer for me initially.”

Funaro was inspired to write the book after exploring the concept of an animus, a mysterious glowing blue energy that he invented for a planned series. “It’s a magical world of his own,” Funaro said. “I wish I had a revelatory moment where I was inspired to do it, but it was a fun time-killer for me initially.”

Funaro said he has found his niche, although his earlier writings were part of a darker genre. His first two published books were thriller features characters different from young Grubb and Mr. Grim. The birth of his daughter, Tonia Zyburt, inspired him to shift focus. “I spend so much time doing research, getting into the minds of horrible characters (as a thriller writer)—and then you have to turn that off and play with your new child,” he said, “I just felt uncanny.”

His second book in the series, Alistair Grim’s Odd Aquarium, is scheduled for release in spring 2016.
Aycocck legacy will transition to Heritage Hall

The ECU Board of Trustees voted Feb. 20 to transition the name of Charles B. Aycock from a residence hall to a new space where the building’s nameake and others will be recognized.

Trustees called for the creation of a “heritage hall,” which will be a permanent place where people of historical significance to the university are acknowledged in an “authentic and comprehensive context.” The Aycock name will be transferred to the hall as soon as it was developed. It was a no-contest on a possible new name for the residence hall.

“We believe that Aycock’s legacy to education and his role in the history of ECU will be better recognized and understood in Heritage Hall,” ECU Board of Trustees Chairman Robert Brinkley, Chancellor Steve Ballard, the Student Government Association, ECU’s faculty and staff senate and the ad-hoc naming committee recommended renaming the residence hall, which opened in 1960 and honors Aycock—a former governor, lawyer, federal prosecutor and school superintendent who served as a spokesperson for white supremacy campaigns at the height of the century.

The board’s decision comes after more than 500 people attended two public forums and an informal online survey about renaming the residence hall that received more than 2,500 responses. Earlier this week, a panel of faculty members hosted an information session on Aycock’s legacy that was attended by more than 50 people despite wintry weather that closed classes early.

The board voted capping a week of advocacy organized by students called “Judgment Week,” which included a sit-in at the residence hall and students lining the steps to Mendenhall Student Center’s Great Room, where trustees held their bi-monthly meeting.

Tyrone Morrison, president of the Black Student Union, said the week had given students a way to express their views. “With the length of the process, it discouraged some students,” Morrison said. “We just wanted to make sure we got that student opinion out there.”

Morrison wiped away tears and hugged other students after the board’s vote. “There is a high sense of accomplishment,” Morrison said. It affirms in our halls in our university that our student’s voice, opinion and culture really matters to the trustees and administrators on campus.”

Requests to revisit the naming were first heard from alumni and the Black community early last year.

Jake Shredrick, ECU’s Student Government Association president, who was sworn in at the start of the meeting, said Judgment Week reflected the leadership of students taking a powerful stand. He said renaming the residence hall is supported by a majority of ECU’s 27,589 students, many of whom wrote letters to trustees, participated in discussion boards and attended forums to learn more about the issue.

“My name will be transferred to the hall as soon as it was developed. It was a no-contest on a possible new name for the residence hall.”

“Renaming the residence hall, an informal online survey about including two public forums and the Athletics and Advancement Committee will develop a plan for the creation of Heritage Hall. University Advancement will seek private donations to pay for the hall, and the Athletics and Advancement Committee will recommend its location.

Also, the board’s University Affairs Committee was asked to study the implementation of a mandatory curriculum on the university’s history and the times of its founding. The committee will evaluate the chancellor’s proposal on a Center for Racial Diversity, its content, objectives and costs, and ways to demonstrate ECU’s commitment to minority recruitment.

ECU becomes the first state-supported university in North Carolina to make a decision regarding buildings named for Aycock and his contemporaries. Several UNC-system schools are considering name changes. Duke University voted last year to rename a dorm that previously served as a spokesperson for the university are acknowledged in Heritage Hall, “as it’s developed. There was no understanding in Heritage Hall,” Brinkley said. ECU’s commitment to minority recruitment.

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From their recruitment through four years of education, ECU School of Dental Medicine students strive to serve and are committed to rural health.

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The plan also noted that only 13 percent following year.

The school has created jobs, improved access to dental care in rural and underserved areas, and continues to pioneer a new model for teaching dental medicine. It’s reach extends far beyond Greenville. The dental school stretches into Albemarle and Elizabeth City, Lillington and Lumberton, Davidson County in the Piedmont and the mountain towns of Sylva and Spruce Pine. A statewide challenge

Pafford’s desire to work in her home region exemplifies the mission of the dental school. That is to address North Carolina’s oral health challenges, which Dean Greg Chadwick describes as “a perfect storm.”

A decade ago, North Carolina was rapidly growing, and the population was shifting from rural areas to the state’s urban centers — creating pockets with limited access to dental care. The state ranked 47th nationally in the number of dentists per capita, according to the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The national average was six dentists for every 10,000 people. In the rural areas of North Carolina, there were half that many.

One example is Maggie Pafford, a Nashville, North Carolina, native, who plans to practice in the East after completing an advanced general dentistry at ECU’s soon-to-open Brunswick County community service learning center.

“The past four years have been such a learning experience, not only dental-related but personally,” says Pafford, who got married during her senior year. “Dental school has taught me so much about myself, the person I am and the person I want to be.”

At the time, four counties, all in the Northeast, had no dentists: Tyrrell, Gates, Hyde and Camden.

“Eighty-five of the 100 counties in North Carolina are rural,” says Dr. Alec Parker, executive director of the North Carolina Dental Society. “Although these rural counties are sparsely populated compared to the remainder of the state, the people living there deserve access to oral health care provided by a licensed dentist.”

There were also concerns about the number of dentists approaching retirement. A third of North Carolina dentists are age 55 or older.

“Everyone agreed we’re going to need more dentists,” Chadwick says. What wasn’t clear was how best to meet that need.

“Many believed that increasing the enrollment at the UNC School of Dentistry by 50 additional students was a better option since it would require less state funding than creating a new institution,” Parker says.

But the model East Carolina administrators proposed — and the tenacity of community members and the local legislative delegation — won over the Board of Governors and, eventually, the Legislature.

“We would educate the next generation of dentists,” Chadwick says, “but we would also deliver the care. We’re changing the model of dental education.”

An innovative teaching method

For the 204 students enrolled at the School of Dental Medicine, their education consists of two novel approaches: an innovative curriculum that relies on technology and online instruction such as discussion forums and electronic assessment tools. Add to that a network of dental centers spread across the state — yet connected to Greenville via teledentistry — where they hone their skills as fourth-year students and residents.

Their first two years of studies are a grind. Basic science classes and labs keep students working around the clock before they ever peer into a patient’s mouth.

Our lab experience stands out for senior Micah Naylor of Marion. “I was a moment in pre-clinical when I had completed a composite restoration on my plastic patient,” he says. “Dr. [Cheryl] Seno inspected the restoration and told me she would be proud to call the restoration her own work. That meant a lot to me, and I think it will always hold a special place in my memories of ECU.”

By the third year, a student’s typical day combines course work and patient care at clinics in Ross Hall, the home of the school. Once their fourth year rolls around, students leave Greenville in their rearview mirrors to go master complex procedures, exercise critical thinking and learn what working in a small-town, stand-alone practice is like.

They do that at the eight community service learning centers in rural and underserved areas across the state. It’s an innovative model for educating students that also has the immediate benefit of improving access to dental care statewide.

“It has been such an important part of my education to go to different cities and work with different patient populations,” says Bridgett Rutledge, who works at the clinics in Elizabeth City and Sylva. “It also allows us the opportunity to experience more real-world dentistry and learn from faculty with varied experiences. Lastly, it has allowed me to bond with my classmates.”

Worked away from the graduation of its first class of 50 dentists, the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine is already improving oral health for North Carolinians.

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ECU officials tried once in the early 2000s to get approval to build a dental school, but that effort fell short.

But a second attempt, fueled by a report ECU and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill created called "The Plan for Dentistry in North Carolina" received the backing of state funding of $25 million the following year.

The plan called not only for a new school at ECU but also for UNC-Chapel Hill to expand its dental classes to 100.

The plan also noted that only 13 percent of dentists are minorities, compared to 34 percent of North Carolinians. Educating minority dentists is an area of focus for ECU.

From two employees in the mid-2000s to 50 full-time employees and 20 advanced general dentistry residents working at Ross Hall, the community service learning centers and Vidant Hospital. Among those are 100 full- and part-time faculty members, plus many instructors who volunteer their time.

---Doug Boyd

---Ledyard E. Ross, Hall, home of the School of Dental Medicine

The first two years of the school, students took classes in the Brody Medical Sciences Building. At the opening of Ross Hall, student (and 2015 graduate) Alex Chrisp of Burlington said he felt like "I finally moved off my brother's couch and got my own apartment."
Each center is approximately 7,800 square feet and features modern treatment rooms, X-ray equipment, educational space and more. Each center has 1.5 dental faculty positions as well as a business manager, five to six dental assistants, two to three dental hygienists and two general dentistry residents. Thus, they create a local economic impact, which Chadwick estimates at more than $5 million per center, while ensuring a consistent educational experience for students.

Any member of the community—including Medicaid patients—may receive dental care at the centers.

“Oral health is very important, and for many folks it goes unmet, undone,” Paula Carden, director of the Jackson County Health Department, said at the June opening of the Sylva center. “This great facility is going to lower the burden on our emergency rooms. The School of Dental Medicine, from East Carolina, is going to give western North Carolina its smile back.”

Monica Thomas, director of the Department of Public Health in Davidson County, where officials cut the ribbon on an ECU dental center in December, says access and cost can often be barriers to oral health care.

“No one in our community has the same access to good health care and the opportunity to make healthy choices,” she says. Thomas and others across the state believe ECU’s community service learning centers are changing that.

Numbers attest to that belief. More than 14,000 patients have received care at the centers and Rosa Hall combined.

In addition, the students at the centers act as informal ECU ambassadors, helping attract patients to the clinics and future students to the school. Fourth-year student Jorge Arragnada says he and his classmates are sometimes stopped as they run errands in their scrubs. People are curious about who they are and why they’ve come to their community, he says.

Chadwick hopes students continue to seek out these interactions with the public.

“They’re developing an understanding about people across the state,” Chadwick says. “Why (people) might not have access to care, why they might not hold oral health as a high priority.”

**Student recruitment is key**

Some dental students are getting their first exposure to rural communities and small-town life during their fourth-year rotations. But wherever they come from, they’ve been carefully selected to meet the challenge and for their commitment to their state.

“We want students who are not only academically capable, but who also have excellent non-cognitive skills, the ability to develop relationships…establish rapport, to show compassion,” says Wilson, the associate dean. “Having the most gifted oral surgery skills doesn’t matter so much if you can’t relate to your patients.”

Wilson says the school has received approximately 400 applications a year for the school’s 50 student slots. East Carolina has become a destination for dental training, she says, and the mission appeals to prospective students.

Fourth-year student Kyle Duncan is one example.

“I feel like I am going to leave here knowing a lot about people,” Duncan, a Bakersville native said at the opening of the dental center in Spruce Pine. “It’s just a special place for me. A lot of the people I treat here, it’s going to be when we started it,” Chadwick says.

“Flashing back: Aug. 23, 2011, the first day of classes. “It’s been exciting,” said Bridgatte Jones of Winston-Salem, a graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta. “I’ve been looking forward to it for over a year now. We’re making history.” She said she chose ECU because the school and university had a family atmosphere.

Today, she’s headed for a general practice residency program in Asheville. “My four years at ECU have been a roller coaster, but it has been the best four years of my life,” she says. “My favorite memories would be spending time with my classmates. Whether it be stressing over a test, celebrating passing, or staying up late studying with them, they have made my time at ECU truly wonderful.”

—David Boyd

The university’s commitments are engraved in its School of Dental Medicine. The faculty members serve the state’s residents while training the next generation of dentists to do the same.

“Our mission is to provide public service, to be a national model for regional transformation,” says Chancellor Steve Ballard. “We have no better example of what East Carolina tries to do for regions than these service learning clinics.”

Some students admitted are first-generation college students or have followed non-traditional paths to higher education. And they’re promised an excellent, technically advanced education, manifested in the strong performance of this first class of students on the National Board Dental Examination.

“There’s been a lot of excitement, a lot of lessons learned,” Chadwick says. “But we’re going to be graduating the next generation of dentists. This group has been pioneers as the school has developed.”

After graduation, Chadwick hopes the school can take a moment to catch its breath. Leaders need to make sure their model is developing in the most effective way. This includes ensuring patients continue to make their way to Rosa Hall and the service learning centers for treatment. And Chadwick sees numerous opportunities for research related to community health and primary care.

“Nobody realized what a big job this was going to be when we started it,” Chadwick says. “But this was a project that the people of eastern North Carolina needed—that the whole state needed.”

—Maggie Pittard

Class of 2015

The bonds formed between my classmates and professors will be some of the most treasured memories of my life. We spend so much time together; it truly is more of a family than a group of people you work with. Every struggle has been met with such great success, and it is all due to a great support system and such a wonderful caring group of people.”

—Doug Boyd

Class of 2015

East

“...”
A passion for the world

Jennifer Horsfall takes ECU’s motto—Servire—to the global community

BY CRYSTAL BAITY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CÉSAR CORONA

It takes at least five fingers to count the cities and countries where East Carolina University alumna Jennifer Renquist Horsfall ’03 has lived and worked. Her passport includes stamps from Saudi Arabia, France, Turkey, the Dominican Republic and now Mexico, where the U.S. diplomat and foreign service officer’s most recent assignment is in Mexico City. There, Horsfall embodies ECU’s mission to serve.

“It expands your mind to be able to experience different cultures,” she says. In Mexico, Horsfall’s work with the United States Agency for International Development supports the Merida initiative, a bilateral security agreement between the United States and Mexico. She leads crime- and violence-prevention efforts with a special emphasis on vulnerable communities and youth at risk of getting involved in illegal activity.

It’s important because 50 percent of Mexico’s population is under age 24. In the last decade, about 38 percent of homicide victims were youth. Fewer than half of students complete eighth grade. And in 2012, about 25 percent of youth were not employed or enrolled in school or training programs.

As a representative of the U.S. government, Horsfall meets regularly with colleagues in Mexico’s government—at the federal, state and local levels—to coordinate ways to combat crime and violence. She also provides technical assistance for Mexico to plan, design and implement its own programs and develop public policies on crime prevention.
Horsfall and her team also work closely with private sector partners to increase resources and invest in crime-prevention programs that ultimately will be sustainable and impactful.

As part of her job, Horsfall often travels to the border where the majority of USAID’s programs are being implemented in high-crime communities. She recently visited a Monterrey detention center for youth whose crimes ranged from petty theft and robbery to homicide.

“It was inspiring to hear from the young men who participate in our life skills program about how they are going to apply those skills to find jobs and have a better life when they leave the center. Horsfall says, “We are trying to connect with these kids who often, due to the nature of their difficult family and community situations, find themselves turning to crime. We want to give them skills to make it easier for them to go back into their communities and be productive and dissuade them from re-engaging in criminal activity.

Mexico matters to the U.S. not only because of its shared 2,000-mile border, but also because of strong economic, cultural and social ties.

While kidnappings, drug cartels, organized crime or illegal border crossings often make headlines, USAID—established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961—has had some success in its prevention efforts. Since 2008, USAID/Mexico has dedicated close to $50 million to support crime and violence prevention initiatives primarily on the U.S.-Mexico border in nine target communities in Ciudad Juarez, Monterrey and Tijuana. Horsfall’s work supports the Merida initiative, a bilateral security agreement between the United States and Mexico.

Ever since Horsfall graduated magna cum laude from ECU in 2003, her life’s calling has been clear: Two of her three siblings are younger brothers, and she saw them and others in her community benefit from development work. “I’m very thankful for the opportunities I’ve had. It’s been very interesting to work in different countries, cultures and contexts,” Horsfall says. “That’s kind of how I fell into this current career. I’m very thankful for the opportunities I’ve had. It’s been very interesting to work in different countries, cultures and contexts.”

USAID is the lead U.S. government agency that focuses on international development. Officers work in more than 100 countries around the world. When Horsfall joined USAID in 2008, she participated in an intensive orientation and training that ended with a “flag ceremony,” where officers found out where they would be going.

“You had no idea before the ceremony where you would be sent, so it was interesting to be scrambling even though we did swear an oath that we would serve anywhere in the world,” Horsfall says. Her first assignment was in the Dominican Republic. Since Spanish was needed to serve there, she spent several months learning Spanish and other job duties before leaving the United States.

That’s when she met her husband, Dan, a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State. They served in the Dominican Republic for two years before being assigned for four years to Mexico.

They soon will be bidding on a new country. But the next move will include their son, Carder Joseph, who was born in March 2014 in Mexico City. He has dual citizenship and was named after his maternal grandfather, a U.S. foreign service officer.

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The graying of rural medicine

As doctors in the East near retirement age, the Brody School of Medicine is preparing graduates to fill their shoes.

Drs. Charles Sawyer and Colin Jones at the Ahoskie Comprehensive Care Center
Pediatrician Beverly Edwards ‘88 shakes her head when she thinks about retiring. “I don’t want to, which is good because I can’t afford to,” she says with a smile.

She loves caring for her patients but says it’s often a struggle to run Ahoskie Pediatrics, a solo practice she has owned for 24 years. She often worries about paying bills and making payroll for herself and her nine employees. In the middle of a Medicaid reimbursement crisis 18 months ago, she had to withdraw her life savings—$400,000—and lend it to her practice to keep the doors open.

At 57, Edwards is on the younger end of a Baby Boomer bulge health policy leaders are watching anxiously. They are concerned that a statistically significant number of primary care doctors in the East are nearing retirement age at a time when most of them must work harder to get paid less under Medicaid and most private insurance policies.

Fortunately, East Carolina University’s formula for recruiting students likely to stay in their home state to practice is ideal for taking on this challenge of replacing physicians who retire. According to 2014 data from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the school ranks at or above the 90th percentile among U.S. medical schools in the percentage of graduates practicing in rural areas (19.5), underserved areas (40.6), in the same state as the school (55), in primary care (41.8) and in family medicine (20).

And recent developments such as a $1 million American Medical Association grant to remake medical education are adding to the ECU’s toolbox for populating the East with physicians.

What’s the matter?

Increasing the number of primary care doctors in North Carolina is a key component of the mission of the Brody School of Medicine, along with improving the health of eastern North Carolina’s residents and improving access to a medical education for minorities.

Addressing the issue of retiring doctors is one Brody is eager to take on, but it won’t be fast or easy for a number of reasons.

“If we started today it would take a decade-and-a-half to get to where we might need to be,” said Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the medical school.

Data compiled by the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill highlights this graying of rural medicine in the East:

- Primary care doctors here are older than doctors in the rest of the state. Statewide, 18 percent are 60 or older, and the average age is 48. East of Interstate 95, about 25 percent are 60 or older, and the average age is 51.2.

- Of the 15 counties in the state with the highest average age of primary care physicians, eight are east of I-95.

Officials say the situation is especially worrisome in northeastern counties. That region contains six of the 10 North Carolina counties that suffer from persistent physician shortages, according to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.

So, there aren’t nearly enough doctors to begin with in northeastern North Carolina, and half or more of them are aging out.

Cunningham practiced in rural Bertie County before joining the ECU faculty in the 1980s. He says he knows many of these older doctors still practicing in small towns across the region.

“Many of us who have served in rural areas . . . are facing imminent retirement, and we need to consider the need for replacing them in these rural communities,” Cunningham says. “Very soon, it will become more acute.”

ECU’s history shows it’s ready to tackle the problem. More than half of the school’s 2,200 graduates practice in the state, and nearly one in five does so in eastern North Carolina. Among all Brody graduates who
enter primary care, statistics show three-fifths of them are still doing primary care five years after graduation. No other medical school in the state comes close to that record.

But indications are more is needed to offset the numbers of older physicians leaving their practices.

Spending to keep practicing

Due to expenses Edwards incurred keeping her practice open as it shifted to a new electronic medical records system and online reimbursements—and the fact she had to withdraw her life savings to do that—she won't be retiring anytime soon.

With the evolving economics in the medical marketplace, her type of solo practice isn't alone in facing obstacles.

“Small practices are a dying breed,” says Tom Bacon of Chapel Hill, the longtime executive director of the N.C. Area Health Education Center program. “Used to, when a small-town physician retired, he could sell his practice to a young doc just out of medical school. That just simply isn’t happening anymore.”

Debt from medical school and lifestyle options force many young doctors into different choices, Bacon says. That creates a dilemma for many older doctors in rural communities; they can’t sell their practice, and it’s too expensive to hold on to it.

That’s one area where Brody has an advantage. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, ECU medical graduates on average leave school with $85,877 in debt. That number seems staggering, but is lower than the average of 90 percent of the nation’s other medical schools.

Dr. James Peden, associate dean for admissions at the medical school, says he’s heard graduates say the low cost of their medical education allowed them to enter the specialty of their choice rather than feeling pressured to pursue a more lucrative medical career path that wasn’t as appealing to them.

Peden oversees an admissions committee made up of faculty physicians, basic scientists and medical school upperclassmen that populates the Brody rolls with students who believe in the school’s mission.

“I have they shadowed doctors, volunteered in clinics, seen what physicians do on a day-to-day basis?” Peden says of what committee members look for in applicants. In addition, rural roots point to the likelihood of returning to the small towns and country crossroads that lack adequate services.

“Our goal is to accomplish just that, provide care to the woefully underserved eastern region of the state,” Peden says.

Brody’s success in preparing primary care physicians for the state showed in this March’s annual National Residency Match Day. More than half of Brody’s 80-member Class of 2015 will be go into residencies in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics or OB/GYN. Of those, 10 will enter residencies at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville. ECU statistics show that graduates who complete a residency in Greenville tend to stay in the region.

“It starts with our admissions process that reveals the students come from backgrounds that predict they are predisposed to practicing in smaller rural communities,” Dr. Elizabeth Baxley, senior associate dean for academic affairs and professor of family medicine, told the Greenville Daily Reflector newspaper at Match Day. “Their curriculum has them out the very first year into practices all around the state, and they get opportunities to work in rural areas and see the joys of working in smaller practices.”

In addition to student recruitment, Brody is adding interprofessional educational opportunities where health sciences students learn to work as a team.

“We have a good recipe, and we know it works,” she told the newspaper.

Honoring a promise

Edwards is the younger of only two private-practice pediatricians in a county where
A number of factors place Brody in an unusual fiscal position. Unlike other academic medical centers in North Carolina, Brody does not own its hospital. Instead, it partners with Vidant Medical Center, a private, not-for-profit hospital, to provide a teaching setting for all health sciences disciplines, including medicine.

Brody also must keep tuition and costs low so graduates can afford to practice in small or underserved communities.

Finally, Brody serves a population that statistically ranks among the sickest and poorest in the nation.

State appropriations made up 53 percent of Brody’s budget in 1990 compared to just 21 percent today. Shifts in Medicaid reimbursement policies also impact the school’s budget disproportionately.

Brody has received national acclaim for producing graduates who choose to practice primary care medicine in North Carolina. Continuing to send those graduates into the region is paramount.

One of those is Brad Beamon of the Class of 2015. In July, he will begin a pediatrics residency at Vidant.

“My family is originally from Wilson, so I have experienced firsthand the value of care to patients in eastern North Carolina,” he says. “Also, having done my undergraduate and medical school at ECU has deepened my love for the people in this region.”

During a fourth-year medical rotation in Seattle, he found he missed the patients of his rural area. “I do not think bigger is necessarily better when it comes to delivering good health care in a rural community,” Schwartz says. “But having a deeper talent pool, more modern facilities and easier access to funding, that does make a difference.”

“Is this the new face of rural health care?”

Dr. Darlene Keene ’83 ’89 and Jamandea Jones ‘10

“I wanted to serve the children and families of this underserved area of North Carolina,” said Jamandea Jones. “The demographics of this area add additional barriers to receiving adequate health care services.”

Keene is a native of Ahoskie, so RCCHC is allowing her to live her dream and pay the rent. “This place is home to me, and I am so pleased to be back and providing pediatric care to the area,” she says.

“I don’t think bigger is necessarily better when it comes to delivering good health care in a rural community,” Schwartz says. “But having a deeper talent pool, more modern facilities and easier access to funding, that does make a difference.”

Schwartz says RCCHC is not in competition with small-town doctors such as Edwards. She says it makes her sad when RCCHC is allowing her to live her dream and pay the rent. “I want to serve the children and families of this underserved area of North Carolina,” said Jamandea Jones. “The demographics of this area add additional barriers to receiving adequate health care services.”

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Two under par

The Conover brothers took different courses to golf success, but both led to ECU.

BY DOUG BOYD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY CLARK

“I helped Tim transition into college a little bit better, showed him the ropes,” Wes says. “I’m glad we ended up together.”

Tim and Wes Conover
So far this year, I’d say I’ve gotten to him. I taught him some things,” Tim says matter-of-factly.

They’ve taken different paths to this point. The Conovers are one of a handful of family teams playing together on the 2013-2014 season.

In February, when cold enough to make fingers shiver, East Carolina University and the Conovers were hitting balls, honing their games for the spring season.

“Look how many people you passed,” Jack Whitsell, described him as a “great kid, works hard, hard-nosed.” He’s not surprised that when he turned to golf, he got very good very fast.

Growing their games

When the family lived in New Jersey, Tim would practice on the putting green at a local public course. “We would shine the headlights of our car to give him light in the dark,” his mother, Jackie, recalls. “He wouldn’t leave until he chipped one in.”

They’re taken different paths to this point. Younger brother Tim, a freshman, has been playing since he was big enough to hold a club. Wes was a baseball star before picking up clubs as a teenager and trying to get good enough to beat his kid brother.

“I taught him some things,” Tim says matter-of-factly.

“This is a really interesting dynamic,” says coach Press McPhaul. He met Wes while recruiting Tim and offered Wes a spot on the team. Twice named the Tri-9 4A Conference Player-of-the-Year. In 2012, he played in Pinehurst, the heart of North Carolina’s golf community. Tim’s shot a 78—his lowest 18-hole score is 70, which he shot at tournaments in South Carolina and Chapel Hill. He led the team’s opening round in the first two matches of 2015.

Tim’s high school golf coach, Sam Greene, has plenty of praise for the brothers on and off the course. “They were good students, someone any teacher would want in the classroom,” he says. “Pick a sport, pick a situation, their attitude is unbelievable. You can count on it.”

Greene recalls the state 4A championships Tim’s ninth-grade year. The rounds were played in Pinehurst, the heart of North Carolina’s golf community. Tim shot a 78 the first day, putting himself far out of reach of the leaders. He didn’t get down, however, and returned the next day to shoot a 72. He didn’t win, Greene says, “but I told him, ‘Look how many people you passed!’”

That experience was valuable for Tim. “I was young, so it was really nice to do that in a big tournament;” he says. “It gave me confidence.”

Before long, Greene says, someone told him about Tim’s older brother, who by that time had started playing weekend golf tournaments and was doing pretty well.

“They said, ‘Well, you know, Tim’s brother, Wes, is just as good if not better;’” Greene says. “I said, ‘Really? Can I see this guy?’”

Once he did see him play, Greene thought about how much Wes could help his golf team. “I was always asking the baseball coach, ‘Can I have Wes for just a couple of matches?’” Greene says with a laugh, mentioning the blank spot on his office wall where he believes a state championship plaque would be if Wes had played for him.

Since the baseball and golf seasons were at the same time of year, Wes never did join the golf team. But by the time he graduated on 2011, he had lettered four times on the baseball team, was a three-time all-conference player, a member of the 2011 4A state championship team and a team captain. He also played a season of varsity basketball.

His high school baseball coach, Rod Whitsell, described him as a “great kid, works hard, hard-nosed.” He’s not surprised when he turned to golf, he got very good very fast.
“I think he enjoyed the camaraderie and competition of a team sport,” Whitsell said. “I’m sure some of that competitive fire he had in baseball carried over into golf.”

Whitsell describes a time in practice before the 2014 River Landing Intercollegiate in Wallace, where a 4-under-par 212 over the three rounds. McPhaul believes the coaching background of their grandfather, Dick, played Division I baseball. Their father, Barry, played college basketball and also coached college basketball.

An athletic lineage
Tim and Wes come from a sports family. Their father, Barry, played college basketball at Green Mountain College in Vermont, an uncle played college basketball, and four cousins played Division I baseball. Their grandfather, Dick, played three seasons of basketball at Syracuse University and also coached college basketball.

McPhaul describes a time in practice before the 2014 River Landing Intercollegiate in Wallace, where a 4-under-par 212 over the three rounds. McPhaul believes the coaching background of their grandfather is an important ingredient of the brothers’ success.

“A fast start
Wes came to ECU in the summer of 2013 and immediately became a starter for the 2013-2014 golf season. Before coming to Greenville, he had been a member of the club golf team at N.C. State University and a student in that school’s professional golf management program. In his first year with the Pirates, he posted the second-lowest scoring average on the team, 74.29. He was named Conference USA Newcomer-of-the-Year and twice was named conference golfer-of-the-week.

The first weekly award followed his play at the Sea Best Invitational at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida—the course where the PGA Tour holds its Players Championship. There, he carded an ECU-career best 5-under-67 in the final round. He received his second weekly accolade after capturing individual medalist honors for the first time, winning the 2014 River Landing Intercollegiate in Wallace with a 4-under-par 212 over the three rounds. McPhaul thinks Wes’ experience playing baseball, where a 40 percent success rate at the plate is amazing, helps him handle the ups and downs of golf, where every shot counts.

Wes agrees. “Playing baseball, you get to learn to deal with failure a lot,” he says. “I think it’s easier to hit the golf ball, but in golf, you have so much time to think about all the things you’re doing wrong.”

He says the 67 at Sawgrass is his most memorable round. “I could see the players on the holes I was playing,” he said, referring to tour pros such as Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods. “That round kind of showed me I’m supposed to be here playing college golf!”

While the 67 stands out, his best-ever round is a 63 at a course in Gulf Shores, Alabama. That’s also Tim’s best score; he shot it at Devil’s Ridge in Holly Springs.

Wes says his favorite course is Sawgrass. Tim’s favorite is Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia.

Their parents’ perspective
Jackie Conover sent the following email, lightly edited, summing up how she and her husband, Barry, feel about their sons playing golf at ECU.

“(W)e are beyond thrilled that they are in school together and playing together. We think in the next year-and-a-half they will do great things together for ECU. It makes it easier for us and it is really fun going to watch them, especially when they are right behind one another.

“To us, golf is one of the hardest sports to watch your child play through. It is an emotional roller coaster on every hole. We love the coaches at ECU, and the boys’ teammates are a great group of boys.

“From the time they were walking, they were always playing sports...they had great hand-eye coordination from a couple of months old. Wes was walking at 8 months old, and they would play every sport possible in our basement with their dad with sports on TV every day.”
T

wo East Carolina University alumni were the principal investigators in the October discovery of two shipwrecks from an important World War II naval battle off the North Carolina coast.

Joe Hoyt ’04 ’08 and John Bright ’08 ’12 led a team of divers and scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in identifying the remains of the freighter Bluefields and the German submarine that sank it. Hoyt and Bright are recent graduates of ECU’s master’s in underwater archaeology program.

The ships went down July 15, 1942, about 30 miles off Cape Hatteras during the storied Battle of the Atlantic phase of the war.

The U.S. Navy Kingfisher aircraft and severely damaging two other ships. U.S. Navy Kingfisher aircraft then bombed the U-576.

The crew of the Bluefields was rescued without any casualties. The 45-man crew of U-576 was lost.

The Bluefields was in a group of 19 merchant ships being escorted by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida, to deliver cargo to aid the war effort. The German submarine U-576 attacked the convoy, sinking the Bluefields and severely damaging two other ships. U.S. Navy Kingfisher aircraft then bombed the U-576.

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The discovery is a window into the underwater battlefield landscape of WWII, said David Alberg, superintendent of NOAA’s Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

“Most people associate the Battle of the Atlantic with the cold, icy waters of the North Atlantic,” Alberg said. “But few people realize how close the war actually came to America’s shores.”

Hoyt said it should not be surprising that ECU played a key role in the discovery. “The ECU diving program is one of the best there is in the country, the world even,” he said.

—Steve Tuttle

ECU-trained scientists discover Battle of the Atlantic shipwrecks

Institute were partners in the five-year-long NOAA project to survey and document vessels. Their discovery culminated a realization how close the war actually came to America’s shores.”

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Bring the Whole Crew!

The East Carolina Alumni Association has started a new series of family and social events called “Bring the Whole Crew.” The focus will be on organizing Pirate gatherings at sporting events, themed parks and more. Open to alumni, students and family members, the goal is to provide opportunities for Pirates to get together in addition to networking events and football tailgates. More information is available online at PirateAlumni.com or by contacting Megan Howard 07, assistant director of alumni programs, at 252-328-5557 or howardmehl@ecu.edu. She’s also taking suggestions for future events.


June 20 Jungle Rapids Family Fun Park, Wilmington, N.C.

July 18 ECU Day at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, Charlotte, N.C.

Aug. 28 ECU Night at the Carolina Mudcats, Zebulon, N.C.

Pirate Sendoffs

Each summer, the East Carolina Alumni Association hosts a series of Pirate Sendoff events to welcome students to ECU, including freshmen, transfer students and their families are invited to attend a Pirate Sendoff in their city where they can meet and talk with fellow Pirates as they prepare to come to campus. Alumni are invited to attend and share their ECU experiences and advice. These events are free for students, prices for family members and guests will vary depending on the location. More information is available at PirateAlumni.com/PirateSendoffs.

Former East Carolina University soccer star Hall Oughton ’13 was interviewed by the media many times during her college career. Now she’s the one holding the microphone as a reporter for the American Athletic Conference. Oughton hosts the American’s weekly Web video show, The Flie. Oughton travels to films episodes on the campuses of the 11 conference members. “It’s funny how things work out,” she said. “I get to work with my alma mater on a day-to-day basis as well as schools I have previously competed against on the soccer field when we were in Conference USA.”

2014

Jessica Chiello is a communications assistant with the American Benefits Council, Washington, D.C. She is the 4-H agent for Lenexa Cooperative Extension.

2015

Brittany Anne Beck and Dr. Jordan Hayden Taylor ’08 on June 14 on the beach at the Resort at Longboat Key Club, Longboat Key, Fla. The wedding party included Elizabeth Beck 08, Jen Kurwiczk 07, Dana Mazie 07 and Jason Taylor 08, brother of the groom. She works for Wells Fargo Bank, Bradenton, Fla. He is interninng at H5 Homecare, Memorial Hospital, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Army Spc. Allen Beazer graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Army Spc. Patrick Hay graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

2012

Jessica Lynette Beasley and Johnson McIneny York on Oct. 4 at Moon’s Springs Manor, Westfield. She is a second-grade teacher at Petree Elementary School, Winston-Salem. Samuel McCormick Byrum and Lindsey Hazel Evan on April 26 at Archdale United Methodist Church, Archdale. The wedding party included Dr. Graham Vence Byrum III 08, brother of the groom. He is an associate wealth-management advisor. Jordan Leigh Pate and Christopher Aaron Forbes on Nov. 8 at Fellowship United Methodist Church, Hamlet. The
Four East Carolina alumni—believed to be the most ever—
are serving in the 32-member University of North Carolina Board of Governors. The board is the policy-making body charged with managing and governing the 16-campus University of North Carolina system. Their terms run through 2017.

Craig Souza ’71 of Raleigh chairs the board’s Educational Planning, Policies and Programs Committee. Souza previously served three terms on the Board of Governors from 1997-2009 and was its co-chair. He is president of the North Carolina Healthcare Facilities Association, which represents more than 380 licensed nursing homes in the state. He served two terms on the ECU Board of Trustees and was chair from 1993-95. As a student, he was a Phi Kappa Alpha, served on the Men’s Glee Club, Durham.

Harry Smith Jr. ’92 of Greenville chairs the Influential Budget and Finance Committee. He is vice chairman of the board of Flanders Corp. in Washington, North Carolina, and a retired CEO of the company. Flanders is one of the world’s largest manufacturers and distributors of air filters. A director of the Pirate Pride Club, Smith made a $1 million donation toward construction of ECU’s new basketball practice facility, now known as the Smith-Williams Center. He is married to Tammy Painter Smith ’92.

Don’t miss the boat. Be sure to stop by your nearest Armda and get the inside scoop from your ECU Coaches and Administrators.

Clockwise from top left, Craig Souza, Harry Smith Jr., and Robert S. Rippy.

The following Vidant Medical Center nurses were recognized in the 2014 list:

Sam D. Bundy Elementary School and Washington School; Sandra Lenzi and Kayla Anne Walker ’10 of the year winners:

Jami Dickerson ‘99 School of the Year. She is a marketing

Senior and cigarettes. She is a member of the University of North Carolina School of Public Affairs and University Governance committees. A Phi Kappa Tau brother, Rippy is owner of Jungle Rapids Family Fun Park. He is a former member of the ECU Board of Visitors, the ECU Foundation and the Cape Fear Community College Foundation. He is married to Jennifer Rippy ’73.

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“Dr. Porius is a leader and educator who paved the way for his colleagues and students to reach their full potential,” Cammisa said. “He uses a combination of humor, common sense and analytical thought to get to the bottom of any problem.”

Porius is a leader in the Brody School of Medicine at ECU. The goal is to raise $333,000 that will be matched with $167,000 from the N.C. Distinguished Scholars Program to create a $500,000 endowment, said Dr. Paul Cammisa, a Greenville physician and one of the fundraising committee co-chairs. Since fundraising began in March, roughly $187,871 had been raised as of mid-December, Cammisa said. Porius is widely known for the Greenville gastric bypass surgery that he pioneered and is now the standard of care for bariatric surgery. That said the groundwork for ECU to be known nationally and internationally for obesity-related research and clinical practice.

Porius is a professor of surgery, biochemistry and kinesiology. Porius received the ECU Lifetime Achievement Award for Research and Pories is an expert in the field of discovery decades ago that Pories and his collaborators identified an essential role for animals and plants, an advance that led to sharp improvements in animal feeds and nutritional supplements for cattle in 2011, he was awarded the John D. Watson Achievement Award in Nutrition. For more information or to make a contribution to the fund, contact Kathy Brown at 252-413-4744 or via email at brownk@ecu.edu.

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“I did minor in business, which has been a huge advantage,” he said. “But construction management does lend itself to business.”

Three years ago, Delaney quit his job managing a construction project in Texas after he read an article in an airline magazine. The story predicted that—following an explosion in the number of wineries and craft beer breweries in North Carolina—the next big thing would be small distilleries producing spirits with a distinctive Tar Heel taste.

Today his Muddy River rum is sold in most liquor stores in North Carolina. He’s also produced four batches of a premium version of the rum, called Queen Charlotte’s Reserve, which has sold out every time.

“What I was taught to do (at ECU) was to assess a problem and then devise a means for solving it and how to identify all the small steps in between start and finish,” Delaney said. “As for the work to get all the required local, state and federal permits, well, I was used to doing detailed paperwork for the government when I was working on the low-income housing project I did (in Texas).”

He and his wife, Caroline, an N.C. State graduate and project-management director at Stantec, have been giving a lot of tours of his distillery, which occupies an old textile mill on the banks of the muddy Yadkin River in Belmont.

“I spend every bit of 90 hours a week with the business,” he said. “There’s almost never a day when I don’t come down to the distillery and do something.”

Robbie Delaney ‘06 of Charlotte doesn’t think it’s odd that a construction management major has found success running a distillery.

“Why,” he said, “if the construction management program at ECU has a success story that’s the way it should be?”

His distillery, Muddy River, produces a premium rum and is now in the works on a graphite and resin company.

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Twenty-eight educators and education advocates will be inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame in October. They join more than 400 outstanding educators who have been inducted since the program began in 1999.

Each inductee was sponsored and a monetary gift of $1,000 or more was contributed to the Educators Hall of Fame Scholarship endowment on his behalf. Annual interest from the endowment is used to fund marsh-bred scholarships for College of Education students. To date, the program has raised more than $512,000 for scholarships. The goal is for the endowment to reach $1 million.

This year’s inductees are Alan R. Bailey ’84 ’93 of Ayden; Nancy Glaser Bray ’89 of Grifton; Suzanne Brooks ’21 of Keene, Virginia; Herbert R. Carlson ’52 ’54 of Greenville; Anne Barker Faulkenberry ’73 ’76 of Trent Woods; Diane L. Frost of Asheville; Barbara Gaston of Washington; Kathryn Carroll Gower ’60 of Dunn; Bruce Elliott Gray ’71 ’78 ’85 of Ayden; James Henry Jones formerly of Garysburg; Jena Gurganus Kerns ’70 ’78 of Greenville; Jerry E. Mc Gee ’62 of Wintopia; Debbie Metcalf of Greenville; Cynthia Parker Miller ’89 of Newport; Dorothy Hurst Muller of Greenville; Jane Peel ’70 ’78 of Greenville; Deborah Wiggins Seashom of Raleigh, Deanne Smith ’86 ’89 of Greenville; Gail Dilanbunt Smith of Greenville; James Russell Smith Jr., ’84 ’86 of Morehead; Patricia Ann Hewpath Smith ’60 of Conway; Mary Ann Southern ’74 ’76 of New Bern; Betty S. Spair ’63 of Greenville; Becky Howard Taylor ’76 ’83 of Bath; Frank Pleasant Teague Jr., formerly of Kinston, and Sherry Tipton ’78 of Greenville. Previously inducted honorees receiving additional stars this year are Gwen P. Jeffreys ’43 of Greer and Gene Daniel Lanier ’55 of Atlantic Beach.

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The Caper Brothers, a novel by former Charlotte Observer journalist Tom Tozer ’76, is a mystery about the loss of the innocence of youth. It begins with the murder of young boys in Marietta, Georgia. However, the most likely candidate for solving the case, the libidinous, renegade detective Sean Gerard, is engaged with his own demons. When he quits out of trading the killer in order to chase down his past, Sean finds himself traveling back to his hometown in Ohio. There he relives events that shattered his life in the summer of 1967 on the shores of Lake Erie. This book is an easy read that explores how one man’s determination to tell the truth underscores his enduring character and the ultimate need for redemption. Tozer is married to Dana Bishop Tozer ’77.

John Choquette ‘71 originally thought he would be entering the music business. Then he was inspired to write a young adult trilogy called Burwood Forest. The series is about Michael Pumpernickel, a funny, fast-paced 11-year-old who is trying to figure out life. A mysterious letter forces Michael to grow up quickly as he travels through the magical Burwood Forest. Filled with fantasy, comedy and adventure, the book can be enjoyed by children and adults who are children at heart. Before receiving his master’s degree in health and human performance at ECU, Choquette studied journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Choquette, who is also a writer for an emerging music website and sports blog, published his novel Burwood Forest and its own lifestyle design and publishing company, Pumpemclick Art. His work can be found in music online and print publications. Burwood Forest Pumpemclick Art 150 pages Paperback, $12.00 program. He is vice president of Michael D3 and is married to Kimberly Kelly Clark ’90. Two daughters, Ashley and Catherine, are freshmen at ECU. Joe Norris is vice president of information technology at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington.

Louise Peele, a pediatric nurse practitioner, joined Eastern Psychiatric & Behavioral Specialists, Greenville.

Mark Caddell ’85 ’97 ’99 is principal of Southern Nash High School and Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Principal of the Year.

Michael Bennett was promoted to captain in the Durham Police Department and assigned as a community liaison officer. L. Cherry opened Signet Counseling, a national counseling practice in Greenville. Libbe Williams Sanders was elected president of N.C. Association of Professionals in Infection Control. She will serve as president-elect for 2015 and as state chapter president in 2016. She is an infection control practitioner at Vidant Edgecombe Hospital. Kathie Stancil ’85 ’98 was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She retired from services at Department of Defense in 2002.

Martha Bonds is a loan officer at Citizens Financial Group, Charlotte, N.C. She was a loan officer at SunTrust Mortgage. Will Hinton, ’64, chairman of visual art at Louisburg College, is the Cecil W. Robins III Professor of Counseling, a national counseling practice in Greenville. Libbe Williams Sanders was elected president of N.C. Association of Professionals in Infection Control. She will serve as president-elect for 2015 and as state chapter president in 2016. She is an infection control practitioner at Vidant Edgecombe Hospital. Kathie Stancil ’85 ’98 was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She retired from services at Department of Defense in 2002.

Mark Gamar was appointed secretary of the ECU Board of Visitors. He is vice president of Rivers and Associates Inc., Greenville. Home Owners is a commercial banking officer with First South Bank, Wilson.

William H. “Bill” Steeve ’67 ’75 was named to the Wilson Community Foundation and the N.C. Community Foundation board of directors.

J. Henry Oehmann III was appointed to the board of directors of Rivers and Associates Inc., Greenville.

Jerry Hardesty Jr., a retired general officer, was elected to the board of directors of Wingsgate.

Jerry McGee ’63 was appointed as president of Wingate University in May after 23 years in federal government service, most with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Retiring to Greenville, he chairs the Greenville Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission and also the Friends of Greenville Greenways. He was re-elected to the ECU Alumni Association board of directors.

J. George Jackson is professor at Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, Va. He is an associate professor in the College of Business & Economics at Longwood University.

J. Fleming Bond is a professor at East Carolina University. He is author of 25 books and articles and editor for The Hardwood Post.

Brenton O’Hara ’13 is completing a master’s degree in opera studies at the University of South Carolina. He and partner Kate McKinney received $20,000 for winning the Maxwell Social Impact prize as part of USC’s Provost’s Social Entrepreneurship Competition. They will use the money to support their non-profit organization, Project Opera Camp, which seeks to bring performing arts and life skills among underserved children through the arts.

The summer camps and after-school programs for one of our last set to the song of the same name from the band’s 2009 hit album, Love and You.

The installation appeared in the museum’s East Building from Jan. 3, through April 13. Two other works by Mitcham, Run Away, a video without sound, and Three, featuring music by Meredith Varr, also were part of the installation.

Addie Allegood of Ayden was honored at a 50th wedding anniversary celebration Nov. 1 at Ayden, Christian Church. The reception was sponsored by her children, Linwood Allegood of Ayden and Donna LaFette and husband, Paul, of Greenville. More than 75 people attended the reception. She was delighted in seeing some of her past colleagues, who were teachers at Continental Elementary School.

Robert “Bob” Hill ’56 was honored at the Order of the Long Leaf Pine at the 77th anniversary of WGBR radio at the Paramount Theater in Goldsboro in 2014. The recognition included 56 years as a newsman by newscasters briefings at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

The Church of Golf
Saint Pete Press 370 pages Paperback, $14.25 Kindle, $4.25

The series is about Michael Pumpernickel, a fanny-eyed, renegade detective Sean Gerard, is engaged with his own demons. When he quits out of trading the killer in order to chase down his past, Sean finds himself traveling back to his hometown in Ohio. There he relives events that shattered his life in the summer of 1967 on the shores of Lake Erie. This book is an easy read that explores how one man’s determination to tell the truth underscores his enduring character and the ultimate need for redemption. Tozer is married to Dana Bishop Tozer ’77.

The Caper Brothers
CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform 220 pages Amazon, $11.66

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The East Carolina Alumni Association invites you to join us at these upcoming events.

**Networking Lunch**
JUNE

**Networking Reception**
JUNE

**Bring the Whole Crew**
MAY

**Away Game Tailgate at Florida**
AUG

**Away Game Tailgate at SMU**
OCT

**Scavenger Hunt**
Charlotte, NC

**Orvis**
Charlotte, NC

**ECU Alumni Scholarship**
Fairmont High School, "Buddy" Johnson '46 '49 of Tarboro died Oct. 1. After a 33-year career in school administration in North Carolina, at ECTC, he was on the staff of the student newspaper and the yearbook. He is survived by Rose Graham Johnson '48, whom he married on her ECTC graduation day.

**Maeve Sawyer Land**
41 of Elizabeth City died Oct. 17 at 95. She taught school in Pender County and coached the boys' basketball team. Rebecca Gray '43 of Goldsboro died Aug. 3 at 81. She taught for 36 years in the then-Goldsboro City Schools. Jesse Louis McDaniel '49 '50 of Kinston died Sept. 8 at 91. A Navy veteran of WWII and the Korean War, he was an educator for more than 40 years, retiring as president of Lenoir Community College.

**Mary Horne Odum**
'42 of Richmond Hill, Ga., died Aug. 27 at 93. She was an educator for more than 50 years. At ECTC, she was president of the Woman's Student Government Association. She was honored at a ceremony at ECU in 2015 and interviewed for the oral history library, discussing her time at WWI. Jacque Johnson '54 of Elizabeth City died Aug. 19 at 90. Dorothy Louise Pearson Home "44 of Greenville died Dec. 18, 2017. She was vice president of her senior class and on the staff of Piece of Fruit and Tico Echo. She taught school in Wilmington and Ayden before marrying Charles OY. Horne, Jr. and making Greenville her home. She was the mother of Lou McIlwaine '36, the retired assistant to Chancellor Steve Ballard. Mildred Copeland Jenkins '44 of Raleigh,formerly of Potecasi, died Nov. 9 at 90. She taught at Woodruff-Doyel School, Woodland, and later founded the economic extension agent in Northampton County.

**Vincent J. Johnson**
'46 '49 of Wilmington died June 14 at age 93. He retired as principal of Farmont High School in 1980 after a 33-year career in school administration in North Carolina. At ECTC, he was on the staff of the student newspaper and the yearbook. He is survived by Rose Graham Johnson '48, whom he married on her ECTC graduation day.

**Madeline Bardous Brooks**
Winston-Salem died Dec. 13 at 90. She was a member of ECU's first class to graduate from ECTC and was a television and radio personality. She was a native of Dover, Delaware, and is the one

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The East Carolina Alumni Association invites you to join us at these upcoming events!

**ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic golf tournament**
PirateAlumni.com/Golf

**Away Game Tailgate at SMU**
Dallas, TX

PirateAlumni.com/SMU2015

**Away Game Tailgate at Florida**
Gainesville, FL

PirateAlumni.com/UIF2015

**Away Game Tailgate at Navy**
Newport, NC

PirateAlumni.com/Navy2015

**Bring the Whole Crew**
U.S. National Whitewater Ctr.
Charlotte, NC

PirateAlumni.com/Wilson2015

**Bring the Whole Crew**
Jungle House, MD

PirateAlumni.com/JungleHouse2015

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56

Gordon Everette
worked for his father for many
operated Munn’s Coal and Oil and
in 1999.

Charles Raye Munn
Department of Transportation.

JoAnn
Sue
Jr.

Francis West

Eric Michael
School. Dr.

Keith Cargon Horne
Franklinton died Oct. 11.

Y. Brian Parker
Service, serving
Public Health

Robert Patrick “Bob” Alexander
1980s

performance and served as director
of admissions. He also
returned in 1958 as registrar and
became a member of the philosophy
faculty. Upsilon Zeta Chapter,
was a member of Omega Psi Phi
Officers Association and active
member of the Black Commissioned
OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP. At ECU, he
was a member of Omicron Pi Epsilon,
and was a member of Sigma Sigma
Committee, named to Who’s Who
ECU she was
from East Forsyth

Y. Brian Parker
was a lieutenant

He was a U.S. Army WW II veteran, he
died in 1981 as a private science professor. He
chaired the Commission on Religious Freedom
from 1966-79. He also served
as director of the Institute on
Democracy and Totalitarianism at
Appalachian State University and
in 1990 as director of the Institute on
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Leo Jenkins’ phone rang about 11 p.m. on Nov. 7, 1961, and the Greenville police officer on the line urged the East Carolina College president to get downtown fast. The officer said about 1,500 angry students were staging a noisy protest near Five Points, and police feared matters were getting out of hand.

The students were outraged that a $61.7 million statewide bond issue for higher education and other state needs—for which they had worked so hard over the past three months—had just been defeated at the polls.

Jenkins rushed downtown and pushed his way through the crowd of chanting students. He grabbed a bullhorn, climbed atop a police car and appealed for calm.

“We are among friends here!” Jenkins yelled. “I share your disappointment,” he repeated over and over. Then he implored the students to follow him back to campus, where he said they would talk things over.

The students hesitated, then fell in line behind him as he walked up Fifth Street. From the steps of Old Austin, Jenkins applauded the students’ courage at fighting for their cause. “We have just lost a battle but not the war,” he told them. In reply, they chanted, “We will rise again,” according to a story in the Greenville Daily Reflector that described the raucous evening.

As Jenkins spoke, the cheers of hundreds of women students echoed across the mall from the women’s residence halls nearby. It was after curfew, so they were prohibited from leaving their dorms. Watching through the lobby windows, they chanted, “We want out, we want the bonds.”

If they had passed, the bonds would have provided East Carolina about $3.4 million for a new classroom building to replace Old Austin (which had been condemned but was still in use), two new residence halls (students were packed three to a room in several dorms), a major addition to the library and other improvements.

“This election was a tremendous disappointment to the students (because) they had worked untiringly to convince the citizens of the genuine need for the facilities,” Jenkins told the Daily Reflector as explaining what had caused the protest.

Greenville police reported only one student was arrested during the protest. “The orderly manner in which (the protesters) conducted themselves is a compliment to them and reveals that their interest was genuine,” Jenkins told the paper.

The bonds passed only in Pitt and nine other counties with college campuses.

Voter rejection of the bonds elsewhere was a major setback for Gov. Terry Sanford and was seen as a backlash against his move earlier that year to extend the sales tax to food to raise money for schools.

In the months before the election, students at East Carolina and other campuses created a pro-bonds group called the Student Committee for a Better North Carolina. The committee, advised by Jenkins, organized rallies and extensive letter-writing campaigns. ECC’s share of the proposed bond proceeds also included $50,000 toward construction of a new football stadium. The SGA had contributed $10,000 to jumpstart the fundraising, and a local group had raised $235,000 to build what would become Ficklen Stadium.

But the defeat of the bonds left a big hole in the stadium budget. In a demonstration of Greenville’s support for East Carolina and its budding sports program, the local group raised another $50,000 in two days.

East Carolina’s first political protest

“We are not here to destroy the old and accept only the new, but to build upon the past…”

—Robert H. Wright, Nov. 12, 1909

From his inaugural address and installation as East Carolina’s first president

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Mary Catherine Cox, a senior from Southern Pines who’s majoring in violin performance, practices before Winter Celebration: The Seasons, part of the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival.

Photo by Jay Clark