Scream if you like his movies
Kevin Williamson’s strange ride from Dawson’s Creek to Hollywood
SCREAM IF YOU LIKE HIS MOVIES
By David Menconi
His TV series Dawson’s Creek became iconic, then Kevin Williamson ’87 became king of the scary movie genre and now he has scripts about teenage vampires fill prime time TV. He’s had hits and some misses, so now he’s hoping to find an elusive balance in his creative and personal lives. “I’m not good at highs and lows,” he says.

HEART THROB
By Spaine Stephens
Professor Sam Sears, a leading authority on the psychology of living with what are called implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), helps patients adjust to living with the constant worry that the device will deliver a 700-volt punch. “It’s a modern-day paradox of safety and fear,” he says. “I see more courage on a daily basis than anyone.”

GENTLE GIANT
By Steve Tuttle ’09
For 24 years, Dean of Students James Tucker laid down the law on campus, from the time of the Big Yellow House Incident through the protests over the Vietnam War. But there was always a gentler face behind “that infamous Dean Tucker stare.”

CRISIS CREATES A CHAMPION
By Bethany Bradsher
East Carolina’s best men’s golfer in several years had trouble adjusting to college, with poor grades keeping him out of tournaments. But Harold Warner refocused his life, then charged up the leaderboard. Plus, read a roundup of spring sports teams.

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Our greatest generation

The In Memoriam pages of East were filled during 2011 with the obituaries of faculty emeriti and longtime supporters from all corners of the university. It is a sad fact that the greatest generation of East Carolina leaders is quickly passing away, and with their passing an important chapter in the university’s history closes. Their shoulders at the wheel helped create the business school, the nursing school and then the medical school. It was their dedication to academics that delivered on the promise of university status.

I was in this reflective mood when Richard Tucker ’71 called to ask if I would like to meet his father, Dr. James Tucker, who was dean of students here for 24 years, until his retirement in 1979. He said his dad, now 96, is still sharp and has hundreds of stories about working beside Leo Jenkins for so many years.

The afternoon I spent with Dean Tucker was like stepping into a time machine, transported to the East Carolina College of decades ago to hear the stories passed down of the world they knew. He had a problem with his classes, he got me into a dorm room, he found me a panty raid in 1956, the Big Yellow House Incident in 1959, the arrival of the computer, transported to the East Carolina College of decades ago to hear the stories passed down of the world they knew. He had a problem with his classes, he got me into a dorm room, he found me a machine, transported to the East Carolina College of decades ago to hear the stories passed down of the world they knew.

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The eCU rePorT

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The good news is that between now and August. By then, she will have studied her first real patients. That may come as early as September, when the new dental school building is expected to open. Once it does, they’ll see their first patients under the supervision of an attending dentist. Their practical training is spread over four years, starting with models their first year. This fall, they will treat patients under the supervision of an attending dentist. Their third year brings more complex cases and treatments.

By year four, they will be working under a faculty member at one of several planned ECU dental offices both at the dental school and outside Greenville, where they’re expected to complete three different nine-week rotations. These practices, known as community service learning centers, are under construction or planned in Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, Lillington, Sylva and Spruce Pine. Five more sites will be announced.

“The summer sessions are a departure from the familiar. She previously worked as a pharmaceutical researcher investigating new drugs to treat cancer and nerve conditions. But, she says, “it was a little too far from working with patients. And that’s what I wanted.” Her father is a dentist and her mom a hygienist, so she felt drawn to it. Since arriving at ECU, she hasn’t looked back.

“After we get into the lab—that’s when the real excitement sets in,” Ferguson says. “Instead of just book work, we were applying our dexterity. That was when it finally hit me: wow, this is great.”

—Marion Blackburn

Dental students learn the drill

Drill in hand, Shannon Holcomb ’07 ’11 follows the chewing grooves on the tooth she’s filling, a hand-to-teeth nodal far back in the patient’s mouth. She makes a tiny hole, then another, before stopping to review her notes and ask questions. Because she’s left-handed, using the instruments and mirror is taking some practice.

But that’s not a problem for her patient, a plastic model called Dexter. Although Holcomb got the drill only a few weeks earlier, she’s filling, a hard-to-reach molar far back in the patient’s mouth. She makes a tiny hole, a hard-to-reach molar far back in the patient’s mouth. She makes a tiny hole, then another, before stopping to review her notes and ask questions. Because she’s left-handed, using the instruments and mirror is taking some practice.

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He cured ECU Physicians’ balance sheet

After losing $14 million in red ink as recently as six years ago, ECU Physicians is experiencing healthier finances and actually turned a profit last year. While the medical school faculty continues providing uncompensated care to thousands of poor people in the region, the practice plan is seeing more paying patients at the much larger Family Medicine Center and through the addition of other services. The big news is that it has secured higher reimbursement rates from Medicaid, which could bring in as much as $1 million more each month. “I don’t like losing money,” said Brian Jowers, the ECU Physicians executive director who arrived in 2008 with a mandate to turn things around. “You had to figure out where the problems were and start working on them. We’re finally turning a corner.”

Most of 2011’s profit came from a deal with Pitt County Memorial Hospital to operate the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center as a joint venture. Unlike the university, the hospital can take advantage of higher federal payment guidelines for cancer treatments. A rigorous review and renegotiation of contracts and billing also have been key to the turnaround. More doctors, services and patients add to the healthiest bottom line in years. Indeed, without the cancer center deal, the plan would have only lost $430,000 for the year ending in June. ECU Physicians earned a profit of $17.6 million in the fiscal year ending June 30. The faculty practice plan continued its healthy ways by running a $1.6 million positive balance five months into the current fiscal year.

What do those numbers mean to the Brody School of Medicine? A lot. About 70 percent of the medical school’s financial operations come from the patient fees earned by faculty doctors and staff. In addition to bringing in Jowers as executive director in 2008, the medical school also named Paul R.G. Cunningham as dean the same year. “We’re reaching a foundation point which we anticipated with great hope,” Cunningham says about ending the red ink. “There are always complexities, because we live in a volatile world.”

Even with the overhaul, the future is anything but clear for the faculty practice. While Jowers intends for the plan to continue pushing for healthy cash reserves, looming cuts from state and federal sources will require flexibility and planning. Because ECU doctors see so many Medicaid patients, the school relies heavily on governmental reimbursement for these services and when those payments are cut, it means less revenue. Medicaid covers the poor and other qualified patients. Cuts to Medicare, the program for the elderly, have also been proposed as part of the effort to balance the national budget. There are 359 faculty members at the Brody School of Medicine. They teach medical students, oversee residents, and treat patients as part of the faculty practice. Their earnings come from patient charges, professional contracts, directorships and other services. Because of the region’s poverty, they treat many patients with Medicaid or no insurance at all. Of the estimated half-million patients they see each year, about 60 percent are covered by Medicaid or Medicare. Another third have commercial insurance, leaving about 7 or 8 percent self-paying—which usually means unpaid.

Estimated unpaid charges for fiscal year 2009–10 came in at $25.8 million and 2011 charges are about that high. Of that, faculty, staff and materials charges alone came to almost $10 million. While the state helped with a $2 million appropriation, that hardly covered the losses. In 2011, the Legislature trimmed ECU’s indigent-care reimbursement to $1.7 million, representing an overall 14 percent cut. “We’ve carried our indigent care costs with pride,” Cunningham said. When the state withheld reimbursements, “we weathered the storm braced and worse for wear.”

The low point was fiscal 2005 when the practice plan experienced a disastrous $14 million loss. In 2006 the university hired ECG Management Consultants of Boston to analyze contracts, billing and operations. By fiscal 2007, the plan had made a profit of $820,000. While it went on to have another losing year, the tide—and the mindset—was turning. One of the group’s recommendations was to hire an executive administrator schooled in the financial side of medicine. Previously, that responsibility fell to the medical school dean and the administration.

The deal to operate the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center—which had been losing nearly $3 million a year—jeweled with PCHMF is a clear example of this new emphasis on the bottom line. ECU sold its CyberKnife device, a high-dose system for treating tumors without surgery, to the hospital for about $4.7 million. The roughly $1 million annual cost of operating the machine also passed to the hospital. ECU Physicians also received a one-time payment of $4.2 million as the hospital’s 50 percent investment in the medical services practicing at the cancer center—ECU Physicians cancer services (hematology/oncology, surgical oncology, gynecologic oncology and radiation oncology)—and the purchase of two linear accelerators used for radiation therapy. While these devices will remain in Jenkins, the joint venture will pay for their operation. Likewise, the hospital will provide all chemotherapy services formerly offered at the cancer center, for which it paid about $5 million. The hospital qualified for a discount on chemotherapy drugs, which the medical school did not.

These changes should allow the cancer center to operate more efficiently and receive financial benefits associated with a hospital, such as greater reimbursements for some cancer treatments. The hospital and medical school will each share half of the doctor-generated revenue, which could amount to $1 million a year in the future. Another boost to medical school revenues from this year forward will be a higher level of reimbursements for patients covered by Medicaid. The school teamed up with UNC Chapel Hill, home of North Carolina’s other state-supported medical school, to apply for increased reimbursements. Both will now receive what’s known as the upper payment limit for Medicaid patients. Only 19 states participate in the program.

In November, the medical school received its first payment of $8,314,028. That covers the period of July 2010 through March 2011 and left ECU Physicians with a profit of $1,608,000 for the first five months of the current fiscal year. Jowers expects about $1 million more each month because of this higher payout. If in the past the school depended less on making money and counting on reserves to fund its growth, patient care is more important now. That’s to keep up with expensive new technologies as well as to attract—and keep—the best doctors.

Around the medical school, you hear the phrase “No money—no mission,” which refers to the need to fund the Brody’s three-part directorate: to train primary care doctors, to improve the health of eastern North Carolina and to increase the number of minority doctors. It’s anticipated that medical school revenues will continue to go up, which Jowers considers essential to its operation. “My goal is that we have a reserve account of $75 to $80 million,” he says. “Then I’ll feel comfortable.”

The reserves would allow the medical school to absorb fluctuations from reduced reimbursements and weather state budget uncertainties. In addition, cash reserves will allow the medical school to grow by expanding and purchasing new practices and subspecialties.

That growth will include a new cancer center building. Jowers says, “It’s seen its time and is ready for a major renovation or a new building.” That reflects an understanding that paying patients expect to be seen in offices comparable to private practice sites. The new center could open in three to five years.

The medical school’s ongoing financial health must remain a priority, but so must its mission, says Cunningham. “The demand is for physicians to make more money to support the mission,” he says, adding, “Medicine is a bright spot, economically. It provides economic benefits to our region and generates enormous social good.”
Rebel again wins national award

Rebel 53, the university’s student-run literary magazine, won the 2011 Pacemaker award at the 90th National College Media Convention in Orlando, Fla. Considered by many the Pulitzer Prize of college student media, the award was presented by the Associated Collegiate Press. The publication is the print version of the Rebel art show, which includes all traditional arts as well as poetry, literature, music and film. Rebel 53 was one of four magazines among hundreds of entries to win for general excellence in the four-year literary magazine category. Rebel, whose numbering begins with its founding in 1958, was the only winner from North Carolina and also won second place for Best of Show at the conference. Tarboro native Anna Vaughn Creech edited Rebel 53 with a staff that included Rich Griffin of Burlington, JoEllen Polland of Macon, and Alex Watson of Apex, all graphic design majors. Graphic design faculty members Craig Malmrose and Gunnar Swanson and Student Media director Paul Iosom advised Creech and her staff. “We were going on the theme of illumination—in raising awareness—and each category had a social issue paired with it,” Creech said. For the competition, the Rebel staff put out a call for entries to students. “We charged a $3 entry fee for every piece entered,” Creech said. “I believe we got around 500 (entries).” Fees collected from the entries were used to print the publication.

Since 1927, the Pacemaker has been the highest honor available to Associated Collegiate Press members and is considered one of the most prestigious awards in collegiate media. Rebel first won an Associated Collegiate Press award in 1962. It previously won the top Pacemaker award in 1984–1985, 1996–1997, 1999–2004 and in 2005.

Grant boosts coordinated care

A five-year, $799,876 grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration will fund development of the proposed Center for Integrated Care Delivery on the Health Sciences Campus. The center will focus on better coordination of health care along with the inclusion of behavioral and psychosocial aspects of chronic disease management.

The project will train students in several medical disciplines to work together after graduation as a team to meet patients’ needs for medical and behavioral care. Kenneth Steinweg, chair of family medicine at the Brody School of Medicine, is the principal investigator on the project. Dennis Russo, a psychologist and clinical professor of family medicine, is the other co-director of the project. Patients with chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes face critical behavioral choices daily in the management of their disease, and recent evidence suggests that up to 40 percent suffer from concurrent depression, anxiety and marital problems that limit their ability to care for themselves, said Doyle Gammings, a pharmacist, professor of family medicine and one of the project’s co-directors. These and other behavioral/psychosocial limitations lead to poor choices, inadequate disease outcomes and, ultimately, in premature morbidity and mortality, he said.

The center will further ECU’s goal of creating patient-centered medical homes. In that model, a patient’s personal physician leads a team that takes responsibility for the ongoing care of the patient. Care is coordinated and integrated across all elements of the health care system to assure that patients receive needed care when and where they need it and want it.

The grant is the second HRSA grant awarded to the Department of Family Medicine recently. The federal agency also funded a five-year, $480,739 project to place family medicine residents in underserved communities in eastern North Carolina.

—Doug Boyd

Football Coach Rufus McNeill has lost nearly 150 pounds in the year since he had bariatric surgery, followed three months later with a hip replacement. A noticeably slimmer and more mobile Coach Ruff roamed the sidelines this season, providing a positive focus to an otherwise frustrating season that saw the team miss a bowl game for the first time in five years.
1.5 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to research the forms of microbes living underneath the Earth's oceans and continents. Called the Deep Life Directorate, the project will include cooperation among 10 other universities and institutes. Schrenk will work with colleagues from seven countries to collect and analyze data over a two-year period. “The main goal of the research is to fill in the ‘black box’ of the rock-bottom subsurface microbial biosphere, which may be the largest habitat on Earth, but also that with the least data,” Schrenk said.

Network upgrade: A 10-gigabit upgrade to network services at East Carolina, which is a main network hub for most public institutions east of I-95, will boost broadband capacity throughout the region. The upgrade was completed through the Golden LEAF Rural Broadband Initiative, a $144 million expansion of the NC Regional Education Network, which serves the Intranet and Internet network needs of almost all of the state’s educational and research institutions. ECU Chief Information Officer Tom Lamb said the upgrade provides essential bandwidth and broadband capacity to service the school’s online and distance learning programs, videoconferencing, economic development and other essential services.

Full graduation: More than 3,300 students were recognized at East Carolina’s fall commencement exercises on Dec. 16, including approximately 2,220 bachelor degree candidates and 1,110 graduate degree candidates. “Today, as we say goodbye, we can look back on these last four years with a smile,” said Senior Class Officer Casey A. Windham. “Our education should never stop, even though our formal schooling has.” Dr. Thomas G. Jones, associate vice chancellor for health sciences and professor of pediatrics at the Brody School of Medicine, delivered the primary address. He recently received the Award for Excellence in Public Service from the UNC Board of Governors. “I hope every one of you will make a difference, and above all, that you will find joy,” he said.

Bacteria research: Md Mostafa, an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at the Brody School of Medicine, received a five-year, $1.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study Lyme disease. He is studying the bacteria Borrelia burgdorferi, the agent that causes the tick-borne disease, to determine exactly how the germ moves through tissue, reaches its destination and causes infection. Information about that process could help lead to a vaccine.

Most affordable med school: The Brody School of Medicine charges the least for in-state tuition and fees of all public medical schools in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report magazine. Brody’s tuition and required fees are $11,554, more than $2,000 less than the No. 2 school on the list, Texas A&M Health Science Center. ECU also charges nearly $3,000 less than the UNC-Chapel Hill medical school, ranked No. 4. The national average cost of in-state tuition and required fees at public medical schools is $26,418, the magazine said.

Grant boosts telemedicine: The ECU School of Dental Medicine will use a grant of $392,748 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand its rural residency program by implementing a teledentistry system. The system will allow dental residents to receive academic lessons via teledentistry equipment while working at three rural clinics in underserved areas of North Carolina. They also will allow consultation about complex cases with specialists in Greenville. The sites will be at the community service learning centers in Abbeville, Elizabeth City and Sylva. The school plans to apply for a federal grant to fund teledentistry at sites in Lillington and Spruce Pine. The funds will also pay for a central teledentistry site at the schools new Roan Hall, and construction on the Health Sciences Campus.

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N.C. a grad school magnet

North Carolina is a donor state in a regional consortium in which universities agree to change in-state tuition to an out-of-state graduate student if that same degree isn't available in the student's home state. Called the Academic Common Market, the compact encompasses the 16 states that are members of the Southern Regional Market universities. The report says the reciprocal tuition arrangement saved N.C. students about $6.5 million, while out-of-state students enrolled in UNC schools saved about $8.9 million in tuition.

Two programs in nation’s top 20

Two online graduate programs at East Carolina are among the top 20 such programs in the U.S., according to a new ranking by U.S. News & World Report. The College of Nursing ranked 18th out of 79 masters or doctorate of nursing practice programs. The online MBA program in the College of Business ranked 17th out of 161 graduate business programs. U.S. News ranked 52 online master’s degree programs in business, engineering, nursing, education and computer information systems in four categories: admissions selectivity, student engagement and accreditation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. Programs had to have at least 80 percent of their course content available online to be considered. The College of Nursing has been consistently named since 2004 by U.S. News as one of the largest distance-education programs in the country. But the new ranking assesses qualitative categories over size. Nursing offers seven online options in the master’s of science in nursing program: adult nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, family nurse practitioner, neonatal nurse practitioner, nursing education, nursing leadership and nurse midwifery.

The online program in the College of Business developed from a single course offering in 1998 to undergraduate and graduate degrees in numerous concentrations today.

Officials review response

Campus officials issued a positive assessment of measures taken during a lockdown Nov. 16 after a student walking toward campus with an umbrella was mistaken for an armed man. “This is the most critical piece,” Assistant Vice Chancellor for Environmental Health and Campus Safety Bill Koch said of the analysis completed in December. “We always uncover things we didn’t know before.” Koch said the decision to lock down the campus was the right one, and applauded the response by and communication between multiple law enforcement agencies. Parking and Transportation employees also reacted quickly to block vehicular access to campus and ECU Transit halted their routes, he said. “I think we did really well, especially on the big things,” Koch said. “All the things that would protect life, we did.”

The review identified areas needing improvement. Among the most important, Koch said, is communication with students about the lockdown. More frequent updates and alerts will be made in the future, even when little or no new information is available.

One issue that emerged that day involved students not receiving the university’s initial text message alert. The text problem was a result of human error, said Koch, when an operator missed a check box while initiating a notification. As a result, operators can now select “all” and text all subscribers.

Other means of notifying students including announcements scrolling on classroom plasma screens and projected from phones and outdoor speakers were found effective. The university will install an interior system to increase cell reception in some buildings. One factor no drill could predict was the flood of rumors throughout the nearly three-hour lockdown on social media sites. There was never a gun, no suspect existed or was spotted in the Rivers Building—which was evacuated—and no hostages were taken. So much false information created unnecessary anxiety, the report states.

Officers determined incorrect statements by witnesses who mistook an umbrella for a gun prompted the lockdown and subsequent search, Koch said it will be important to educate about how to best report suspicious activity. “Say what you observed,” he stressed. “Don’t make assumptions.”

—Kathryn Kennedy

1912 the women occupy both Wilson and Jarvis, and the few men students are left to seek rooms in town. The number of men students declines steadily until 1918, when there are none.

East Carolina’s new peers

Southern Illinois, Central Michigan, Southern Mississippi and East Tennessee State were new peers that East Carolina’s new peers

North Carolina State

East Tennessee State

Texas Tech

old Dominion

University of south Carolina

Wright State University

University of Louisville

northern illinois

University of NebraskaReno

University of Buffalo

Ohio University

Wright State University

University of South Carolina

East Tennessee State

Texas Tech

Old Dominion

Virginia Commonwealth
Trustees divided on tuition hike

The ECU Board of Trustees approved recommended tuition and fee increases of 9.5 percent for resident undergraduates and 9.9 percent for other students for the 2013–14 academic year. The 13-member board was split, with five members in opposition.

The 9.5 percent increase would mean a $505 increase in tuition and fees for full-time undergraduate residents, who would be paying $5,622 per year instead of this year’s $5,317. With the 9.9 percent increase out-of-state undergraduate students would pay $1,740 more, in-state undergraduate students would pay $547 more, and out-of-state graduate students would pay $1,584 more.

The increases include fees of $95 for all students. For students in the Brody School of Medicine, tuition would go up by $1,500. The jump would be $1,365 for students in the new dental school.

The trustees also approved incremental tuition increases of $202 per year for the next five years—already built in to this year’s increases—to “catch up” to what other comparable comparable-sized universities charge.

“Do not take those figures lightly; they will be tough for students and their families to bear,” Chancellor Steve Ballard said.

The UNC Board of Governors and the General Assembly must approve the decision. Most other UNC system campuses are enacting tuition increases to make up for dwindling state support. Trustees at UNC Chapel Hill voted for a 6.5 percent increase in in-state undergraduate tuition next year and by 15.6 percent over five years. N.C. State adopted a plan that would raise tuition by 6.4 percent near year and by 29 percent over the next five years.

The increases are expected to bring in roughly $14 million, of which 25 percent or about $3.5 million is required to go to the UNC-Chapel Hill base budget from the state, the university would still be $30 million short, Niswander said.

By 6.4 percent near year and by 29 percent over the next five years. N.C. State adopted a plan that would raise tuition by 6.4 percent near year and by 29 percent over the next five years. Most other UNC system campuses are enacting tuition increases to make up for dwindling state support. Trustees at UNC Chapel Hill in January received a faculty committee’s report analyzing academic programs that could be eliminated to partially offset a steep decline in state funding. The report by the Program Prioritization Committee evaluates which degree programs the university should eliminate or maintain at current levels and those that merit increased funding.

Of the 277 programs assessed, the committee found that 48 (about 17 percent) could be targets for reduced spending or elimination. The study said colleges and schools identified 67 programs as worthy of future investment. According to the colleges, the majority of programs (167, roughly 60 percent) should be maintained at essentially current levels of investment.

East Carolina lost $49 million in state funding last year, topping $106 million the previous three years.

Appointed by Ballard in April, the 13-member Program Prioritization Committee conducted forums for each college in October, and the initial compilation of data was released in November for feedback leading to the updated version presented to the chancellor.

Some undergraduate programs up for elimination include public history, fabric design, weaving and organ performance. Graduate programs that could get more resources include: health information management, studio art with an added emphasis on digital animation, communication, music education, dance performance and engineering.

Graduate programs that could get more resources include: health information management (the bachelor level would be eliminated), music education, nutrition science, accounting (bachelor’s in accounting would be maintained), communication and health, biomedical, molecular biology and biotechnology.

No decision on the fate of those programs is expected before late April. Officials said they do not expect any immediate, large savings from elimination of degree programs. The intent, the officials said, is to right size the university over the coming five to 10-year period.

The College of Education honored 20 Teachers of the Year from eastern North Carolina at a December event celebrating the work of outstanding educators and their positive impact within the region. The Teachers of the Year honored at the event were Janita Allen, Jessica Ballstzglier, Andrea Bell, Andy Cole, Shawn Coker, Justin Friedman, Tammy Hedgepeth, Dewanna Holt, Jacqueline Lariin, Lord Lewis, Brian McBride, Mike Mullins, Antonio Naidoo, Malinda Pennington, Melissa Southard, Elise Staats, Jennifer Tyndall, Chavalah Wizall, Donna Whitfield and Ronnie Wallace. Most are ECU graduates. The teacher represents schools that are members of the Latham Classroom Schools Network that comprises 36 counties in eastern North Carolina.

Stan Easkus is the new dean of the College of Business, succeeding Rick Niswander, who moved up last year to become vice chancellor for administration and finance.

Easkus came to East Carolina soon after completing his doctorate at Arizona State in 1990. He worked in banking for 10 years after completing an MBA at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1981. His graduate degree is from Washington State.

Last fall, the Princeton Review ranked the ECU College of Business among the best U.S. business schools, the fifth straight year the college received that distinction.

Seven professors in the College of Education with a combined 196 years of service to East Carolina retired, including Floyd Matthes, who for over 50 years was a science education professor, a department chair, and director of Summer Ventures. Alfred Muller was a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for 35 years. Veronica Pontellus was a professor in the Department of Library Science for 35 years. Others are Lynn Bradshaw, 15 years; Joseph Circhickis, 24 years; Ruth Hough, 28 years; and Sue Steinweg, nine years.

Mary Olson is the new assistant to Chancellor Sterling Ballard, succeeding Lou McNamee, who retired. Olson came to ECU in 2007 as executive assistant to the chair of the Department of Chemistry and has most recently served as executive assistant to the dean of the College of Health and Human Performance.

Elizabeth “Bettie Ann” Carroll is among four 2011 recipients of the Board on Human Sciences Awards presented by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. Carroll, associate professor of child development and family relations, accepted the award at the organization’s 124th annual meeting in San Francisco. A member of the faculty for 15 years, Carroll has worked to improve the lives of military families in North Carolina through the delivery of the program she developed in 2004, Essential Life Skills for Military Families. Using a $2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, she created the program to help strengthen marriages and couple relationships by providing an engaging, evidence- and skills-based curriculum for National Guard and Reserve families.

Gary A. Stringer, professor and scholar of English Renaissance Literature, is the 2011 Dared Julian and Virginia Auditor Whidbey Distinguished Professor in the Humanities. He comes from Texas A&M University-Stranger, who has received multiple National Endowment for the Humanities awards to support his research into the poet John Donne, will teach one course each semester in the Department of English. This spring semester he is teaching a graduate-level course related to digital humanities.

Lee Anna Hardcfe, a College of Education staff member since 1969, was recognized by the Greenville Optimist Club as Optimist of the Year. She was governor of the NC East District in 2010–11.

Suzanne Grieve, director of conservation for the Department of History, was honored by the Smithsonian Institute to help the Haitian Cultural Recovery Project supported by the Smithsonian, Grieve focused on conserving waterlogged organic archaeological materials.

Senior Rachel Caston of Falls Church, Va., studied in Germany in December courtesy of the German-American Fulbright Commission’s Berlin Capital Program, which provides opportunities for students and young professionals to learn firsthand about German culture and media. Caston was one of only 15 participants selected nationwide and the only participant from North Carolina.

Elementary education professors Liz Fogarty and Peggy Yates were finalists for the UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award, which recognizes excellent teaching.

Summer Wisdom ’11 was appointed coordinator of the LGBT Resource Office and Student Affairs Assessment by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Virginia Hardcfe. Wisdom came to ECU from Appalachian State University in January 2011 to organize the office, which serves LGBT, gender, bisexual and transgendered students.
World-renowned pianist Joseph Kalichstein, perhaps best known for his performances and recordings with violinist Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson, is scheduled to perform in solo recital Thursday, March 22, at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Kalichstein earned a master’s degree from the Juilliard School, a year after appearing at age 20 in a televised concert with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. He has played with leading orchestras throughout the world.

Seraphic Fire, a Miami-based ensemble, will present a concert of music for choir and organ as part of the Fisk-on-Fourth Concert Series Wednesday, Feb. 29, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, in a collaboration between the ECU School of Music and the East Carolina Musical Arts Education Foundation. The group, founded in 2002, consists of singers from around the country and performs a wide variety of music.

The 12th annual New Music@ECU Festival is scheduled March 14-18, with programs by visiting guest artists, the ECU Symphony Orchestra and ECU combined choirs and ECU faculty members. The program will include the world premiere of Marc Farris' Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra, with ECU faculty member Elliot Frank as soloist. Farris is a teaching assistant professor at ECU.

Among the festival’s guest performers will be the Bugallo-Williams Duo, pianists, and the JACK Quartet, a string quartet. Helena Bugallo and Amy Williams have been performing programs of contemporary music throughout Europe and the Americas since 1995. At the ECU festival March 14, they are to perform Three Dances for Two Prepared Pianos by John Cage, Myzel by Carola Bauchholt, Duelocity by John King and Diptych by Chris Arrell. The JACK Quartet, one of the nation’s leading quartets specializing in new music, will perform March 16. The quartet consists of violinists Christopher Otto and Ari Streisfeld, violist John Pickford Richards, and cellist Kevin McFarland.
natalie Cole

degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and Temple University, a master of theology for Yale University is completing The Secular Jesus: Religion and sciences. Carter is author of Race: A by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts sponsored of Discovery Lecture series at Wright Auditorium as part of the on Christianity and Culture March 13 at 7 p.m. Divinity school, will give the Jarvis lecture and black church studies at Duke University J. Kameron Carter WHO’S in TOWN? J. Kameron Carter, who teaches theology and black church studies at Duke University Divinity School, will give the Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture March 13 at 7 p.m. at Wright Auditorium as part of the Voyages of Discovery Lectures Series sponsored by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Carter is author of Race: A Theological Account, published in 2008, and is completing The Decolon. Jesus: Apologia and the Project of Civilization for Yale University Press. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and a doctorate from the University of Virginia.

ECU Symphony Orchestra
Scream if you like his movies

Kevin Williamson dominates the scary movie genre, and he’s back in primetime with *The Vampire Diaries*. Now, the *Dawson’s Creek* creator is hoping to find an elusive balance in his creative and personal lives. “I’m not good at highs and lows,” he says.
When I lived over in Hancock Park (a nearby L.A. neighborhood), the kids would be lined up for three blocks,” Williamson says as he pokes through boxes yet to be unpacked after his recent move. “Not because I was the ‘Scream’ guy, but because I really decked out the house for Halloween. I’d go all out—strobe lights, scary music, the works.”

Well, the man does have a reputation to uphold. Scream, the wildly successful 1996 slasher flick that Williamson wrote, was his big breakthrough. It earned $173 million at the box office. A year later he wrote the script for I Know What You Did Last Summer, a revenge-from-beyond-the-grave fantasy that sold $126 million in tickets. Williamson then traded gore for teen angst with the TV drama series Dawson’s Creek, which was filmed in Wilmington and ran for six ratings-filled seasons on The WB. He has returned to scarier territory lately with The Vampire Diaries, now in its third season on the CW television network.

He gives his guest a quick tour of his new home, which is nice but not huge. There’s a small outdoor theater for viewing parties on the patio out back, which also offers a hot tub. The master bedroom closet is crammed with artifacts from his movies, including the original Scream mask. Settling into an easy chair, Williamson offers his visitor candy from a bowl on a glass-top coffee table held up by a boat propeller—a nod to his family of fishermen back home in coastal North Carolina. Along with the expected assortment of lollipops and chocolate drops, the bowl also contains (gulp) a bunch of plastic eyes.

“My new show on Fox is about a serial killer who removes eyes,” he deadpans, an impish twinkle in his own piercingly blue, nonplastic eyes. “So to congratulate me on selling it, a friend of mine gave me a bunch of plastic eyes as a gift.”

Son of a waterman
Williamson was born in New Bern in 1965 in a waterman’s family. When he was an infant, his family moved to Texas, where the family lived for 13 years while his father worked as a shrimper in the Gulf of Mexico. When a series of oil slicks killed the shrimping business, the Williamsons moved back home to North Carolina. Young Kevin had become interested in community theater in Texas, and he kept at it while a student at Pamlico County High School in Bayboro. He and a few friends gravitated to the school drama club.

“We did a lot of one-act plays out of the Samuel French catalog,” he says about his high school days. “And we’d write, direct and star in our own shows, too. I wrote this nuclear-holocaust-type one-act about a survivor having a conversation with God—a big, big hit at the science fair. I was also the nerdy A/V guy wheeling the cart whenever someone needed a TV monitor.”

Williamson’s original college plan was to study journalism at UNC Chapel Hill. But on a weekend tour of East Carolina, where his older brother was a student, Williamson got a look at the theater department and changed his mind. As a freshman, he took set-design classes alongside another new student, Sandra Bullock ’87. Later, he was
“You could tell in the way he’d ask questions or explain his work as an actor that there was also a writer and a director there. Those are different intelligences and it’s unusual to find a good actor who’s a good writer—or vice-versa. I think the sensitivity in his acting transferred well to writing, producing and directing. He could play roles other people couldn’t, used the truth of himself in unusual ways. From early on, I thought he understood truthfully behavior and that transferred to his writing.”

Williamson acted in a number of East Carolina Playhouse productions and worked as a stagehand in several others. He starred with Bullock twice. He was Smer to her Tiger Lily in Peter Pan, which ran in October 1985. The next month he played Bullock’s Russian soldier brother-in-law in The Three Sisters.

But it was in his senior year in 1987 when Williamson found his acting touchstone. He won rave reviews in Children of a Lesser God as the teacher who falls in love with his deaf pupil—the role William Hurt made famous in the movie version. Directed by Biehn as a theater arts department collaboration with ECU’s program for the hearing impaired, Children was staged in McGinnis Theatre with sign language translators positioned at either side of the stage. Williamson plunged into the role, becoming fluent in sign language. ECU students and many deaf people from the area who attended the play gave it standing ovations.

A review on the April 14, 1987, issue of The East Carolinian, headlined “Playhouse closes with a winner,” said Williamson “has been preparing for this role since the fall, and his work has paid off with deft, fluid signning. He pours his energy into the nimble gestures.” (A quarter-century later, he can still sign.)

Biehn “can be proud of this production both as director and acting teacher,” the review concluded. “His two years of instructing Williamson show dividends on stage.”

“Kevin was a lot of fun, a crazy actor,” says Scott Charles Rymer ’86, who also acted in Peter Pan and The Three Sisters. “I’d get way out there with Peter Pan, then come back and do something really finite like Children of a Lesser God,” says Rymer, an actor based in St. Simon’s Island, Ga. “His work in that was just impeccable. He was a really good student of the work. Exceptional, I thought, one of the better actors I’ve seen out of ECU. I always felt like acting was where his real talent was.”

Set design for that 1987 production, as well as Peter Pan was by Robert Alpers, who recently retired from the faculty of the School of Theatre and Dance. After graduation, Williamson moved to New York hoping to break into theater while sharing a tiny apartment with the brother of actor Woody Harrelson, who introduced them. But between big-city culture shock and the difficulty of landing parts, he was miserable. It also didn’t help that he was trying to come to terms with his own sexuality after years of conflicted emotions.

“I was pretty much straight through college. I was struggling with coming out in my early 20s in New York, which was a big reason why I was depressed and hated those days. Just the travels of growing pains, struggling with your identity and how you fit into the world.”

Williamson spent more time waiting tables and working odd jobs than he did acting during those early years in New York. It was a harsh dose of reality that brought to his mind some wisdom Biehn had imparted at ECU: “Other people might strike it big right away, but you might take a while. So remember that slow and steady wins the race.”

During that handcranked four-year period, Williamson bounced between New York and North Carolina, doing production-assistant work in Wilmington and landing the occasional bit part in soap operas. After getting a job as assistant to a music-video director, Williamson began to focus more on the behind-the-scenes aspect of entertainment. But he always wrote, both meeting some professional writers on the set of the NBC soap opera Another World inspired him to take his writing more seriously. It was an instinct he came by honestly.

“My mom bought me a typewriter when I was 10 years old, because she wanted to write herself,” Williamson says. “I’m convinced she wanted to be Judith Krantz, or the female Sidney Sheldon. Ed stumbles upon chapters she’d written, really cool and interesting stuff. If I got humor from my dad, I get storytelling from my mom. She knew how to wear a story. Just talking about going to the grocery store, she could be mesmerizing.”

In 1991, Williamson moved to Los Angeles to continue working with the music-video director, who promptly fired him. He was broke, but he kept interviewing for jobs and writing. He even sold a script called Killing Mrs. Tingle, inspired by a real-life dressing-down he’d gotten from a teacher in high school. But the fee wasn’t much and Williamson continued struggling.

A scary inspiration

While houseinspecting for a friend one night in 1994, Williamson discovered an open window and became convinced someone had broken in and was lying in wait. Alarmed, he telephoned an old ECU classmate and fellow Don Biehn disciple, David Blanchard. As Williamson searched the house, he and Blanchard chatted nervously over the phone, making dark, satiric comments about serial killers and slashers movie such as Halloween and Friday the 13th.
There was no intruder, but it was a scary experience—and it started the wheels turning in Williamson's head. Not long after that, he went to another friend's house in Palm Springs, looked himself away for a weekend and wrote a screenplay he called Scream Movie. As inspired by that phone call with Blanchard, director Wes Craven, cost $15 million, it earns $172 million in ticket sales. As a writer, Williamson is an unabashed black comedy about a sadistic high school teacher who must kill their attacker if they hope to avoid becoming werewolves. Williamson wrote the script for this science fiction film in which the body in the ocean. But things happened fast. "I was so broke I had to borrow $15 to get a cartridge to print it out," he remembers. "I was in the worst financial shape of my life. But things happened fast!"

His agent took the Scream script to a market, and a bidding war broke out. The studio owned by the Weinstein Brothers bought it for $400,000. Retooled Scream and starring Drew Barrymore, Courteney Cox, Neve Campbell and David Arquette, the movie was a huge hit when it reached theaters in December 1996, eventually grossing more than $170 million worldwide. Williamson was off and running. Williamson finds TV ratings being particularly influential for him. Murder and mayhem fill his movies and TV shows, but also pop-culture references and ironic allusions to earlier horror flicks like Friday the 13th.

“Kevin’s an exquisitely sensitive man and a remarkably talented writer,” says Peter Roth, president of Warner Bros. Television. “He loves TV, and storytelling, characters, taking audiences on a journey—because he is first and foremost an audience member.”

KEVIN WILLIAMSON’S FILMOGRAPHY

CREDITS AS A WRITER, CREATOR OR SCREENWRITER

1996

Scream

Williamson writes the script for a movie about a high school girl who becomes the target of a mysterious killer known as Ghostface. The film, the first of his many collaborations with director Wes Craven, cost $15 million to make and earned $173 million at the box office.

1997

I Know What You Did Last Summer

Based on a novel by Lois Duncan, the film afforded Williamson the opportunity to use his father as a consultant, demonstrating creative ways to torture and kill people on a boat. Both Scream and Summer yielded profitable sequels; Scream #2 hit the theaters last April. Williamson also wrote screenplays for the movies De Foe, directed by Robert Rodriguez, and Halloween H2: Twenty Years Later, in which his old ECU friend David Blanchard, who those days teaches acting and splits his time between L.A. and Arizona, had a minor role as a waiter. Then came the wildly popular TV series Dawson’s Creek, which debuted in 1998. Williamson named the series after an actual stream near Oriental—the place where high school kids would go to party. He also based many of the show’s episodes and events on things that happened during his own wonder years. The TV series launched then-unknown actresses Michelle Williams and Katie Holmes to stardom. As a writer, Williamson is an unabashed popular who genuinely loves the pulp novels his mom had around the house when he was growing up (Sidney Sheldon’s Blessings

1998

The Faculty

Williamson writes the screenplay for this science fiction film in which the faculty and students at a high school are taken over by alien parasites. The film grossed $40 million.

1998–2003

Wasteland

Dawson’s Creek

The opening scene of Dawson sitting on a dock amid marsh grass was filmed in Masonboro. Creek eventually run for 128 episodes on the WB network.

2000

Cursed

Williamson tries to repeat the Dawson’s Creek ratings success with an hour-long drama about three L.A. post-college friends who lead conflicted lives. But ABC cancels the show after just three episodes.

2004

Teaching Mrs. Tingle

A 17-year-old girl who falls in love with a 162-year-old vampire. Based on a book by the same name, the show is now in its third season on the CW network.

2009–2012

Glory Days

Williamson and Craven produce this flick about a werewolf loose in Los Angeles who attacks three people who must kill their attacker if they hope to avoid becoming werewolves, too. Produced on a $35 million budget, the film grossed only $30 million.

2011

Hidden Palms

Another primetime miss with this TV series about kids living in Palm Springs. It ran for eight episodes on the CW network.

2011

The Secret Circle

Williamson transforms another book series into a TV show, this one about six teenagers witches with magical powers. It’s now in its first full season on the CW network. With Circle and Vampire Diaries, Williamson carries the network’s Thursday lineup from 8–10 p.m.

2015

The Vampire Diaries

Williamson finds TV ratings success with this drama about a 17-year-old girl who falls in love with a 162-year-old vampire. Based on a book by the same name, the show is now in its third season on the CW network.

2011

Scream 4

In this fourth collaboration by Williamson and Craven, Ghostface is still stalking the streets of Boggy Creek, Cox and Arquette, with Emma Roberts and Hayden Panettiere joining the fun. Produced on a $40 million budget, its gate was at $97 million and counting.

2011

Dawson’s Creek

Williamson and Craven

Dawson’s Creek strikes prime-time gold with a show portraying the lives of a cross-section group of teenagers as they change in high school and college. A multiple winner of Teen Choice Awards, it was filmed mostly at EUE Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington, with beach exteriors at Wrightsville Beach and college scenes at Duke University. The opening scene of Dawson sitting on a dock amid marsh grass was filmed in Masonboro. Creek eventually run for 128 episodes on the WB network.

2002

Glory Days

As a writer, Williamson is an unabashed black comedy about a sadistic high school teacher who is tortured by three of her students. This box office barely covers its $15 million budget.

2005

Cursed

Williamson named the series after an actual stream near Oriental—the place where high school kids would go to party. He also based many of the show’s episodes and events on things that happened during his own wonder years. The TV series launched then-unknown actresses Michelle Williams and Katie Holmes to stardom. As a writer, Williamson is an unabashed popular who genuinely loves the pulp novels his mom had around the house when he was growing up (Sidney Sheldon’s Blessings...
Meteoric rise, then a crash

The rush of success from Scream and Dawson’s Creek gave Williamson the clout to revive his long-dormant first script, although he had to change the name to Teaching Mrs. Tingle. He both wrote and directed the 1999 movie, which starred Helen Mirren. The movie bombed but it hardly seemed to matter. “My 20s were slow and starving,” he says. “That all changed as soon as I hit 30 and wrote Scream. That’s the overnight part, and it was bang-bang-bang for a few years. Then there was a spiral downward because I was so overworked and overtired. I went crazy. I was creatively spent, couldn’t write. I’d get wrapped up in projects I didn’t care about and they went south. I did not have the clout to get it done. I also had to deal with my personal life. My mom got sick, some relationships went sour. Life got in the way.” His mother died in 2004.

After a nearly decade-long funk, redemption arrived from an unlikely source. The WB was looking to get a piece of the vampire craze triggered by the Twilight series and wanted Williamson to take a crack at adapting a book series called The Vampire Diaries. Williamson overcame his initial hesitations and decided that working through personal issues by creating a show about people literally coming back to life was something he wanted to do. He was emerging from a long stretch of grieving over the death of someone close to him, and this was just the tonic. The first episode of Vampire Diaries debuted in September 2009, and the show is still going strong in its third season.

Vampire Diaries, he says, “is like a perfect combination of everything I’ve lived through. It’s an epic love story that reminds me of every Judith Krantz novel I read when I was 10—thank you, mom! Every episode is epic, which is the key word on that show. It’s epic melodrama like the best Sidney Sheldon. There are twists, turns, cliffhangers every week. It’s emotional, and my favorite genre is emotional horror. I like the emotions of horror, but I don’t like horror movies. You have to pull me in, wrap me up in it, make me care and then scare the hell out of me. Put together Dawson’s Creek and Scream, and you’ve got Vampire Diaries.”

‘I’m not good at highs and lows’

Where Williamson describes his 30s as glamorous, nowadays he says he leads a more sedate existence. He comes back to North Carolina frequently to visit his father and his older brother, John Wade Williamson ’85, who lives in Goldsboro. He has returned to ECU a few times over the years, including time spent visiting several fraternities and sororities for research while writing Scream 2 in 1997. While he was here then he sat in on an acting class taught by his mentor Don Biehn, who pulled a plot twist of his own by having a student stage a surprise attack on the class wearing a Scream mask.

These days Williamson has a circle of Hollywood friends he’s very generous with. “Kevin always remembers everybody’s birthday, and the cupcakes always show up,” says Andrew Rona, president of Silver Pictures, who has worked with Williamson since Scream. When he’s not writing and developing shows for television, Williamson is content to spend his time watching them. “I’m 46 now, and nothing beats laying on the couch watching TV every night,” he says. “I’ve got a good core group of friends, we go out to dinner, and then I come home and watch TV. It’s boring, but it’s life. I’m not good at highs and lows. The bottom is too far to climb out of, and it’s too easy to fall from the top. I’d rather be comfortable in the middle, so I’ll just try to keep it there.”

East

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Home alone, the girl answers the phone and talks to a stranger, and the conversation turns deadly.

Want: Home’s how to play. I ask you a question. If you get it right, Steve lives.

Case: Please, don’t do this.

Want: Come on, it’ll be fun!

Case: Please--

Want: It’s an easy category.

Case: Please.

Want: Movie trivia. I’ll give you a warm-up question.

Case: I don’t do trivia, I can’t.

Want: Name the killer in Halloween.

Case: E.

Want: Come on, it’s your favorite scary movie remember? He had a white mask and he stalked babysitters.

Case: I don’t know.

Want: Come on, you do.

Case: No, please.

Want: What’s his name?

Case: I can’t think.

Want: Steve’s counting on you.

SCRIPT FOR BIDAU

Page 28
Imagine walking around with a device implanted in your chest that will deliver up to 700 volts of electricity if it detects a heart arrhythmia—a life-saving jolt that feels like being kicked by a mule. Knowing it could go off at any time causes fear and depression in many patients, and helping ease that pain is Sam Sears’ mission. “It’s a modern-day paradox of safety and fear,” he says. “I see more courage on a daily basis than anyone.”
More than 1 million people worldwide wake up every morning with a tiny defibrillator implanted in their chests to protect them from an abnormal heart rhythm that could cause sudden cardiac arrest. While having the device is often described as like having a paramedic constantly at your side, many patients experience uneasiness, anxiety and depression from worrying it could go off at any second. It’s Dr. Samuel Sears’ mission in life to ease their pain.

Dr. Sears with members of the Heart Failure Team at the East Carolina Heart Institute (left to right): Angela Mayo, PharmD; Cindy Christian, RN; Amaaria Tippay, health psychology doctoral student; Tracey Vaughn, RN; Emily DiNatale, health psychology doctoral student; Sears; Trisha Evans, BSN; and Connie Feick, FNP.
incorporated what was happening locally into their curricula. He makes a point now to do so. “The world is really our classroom in terms of these issues,” he says.

The emotional impact of injury

Some of his lessons come from personal experience. From childhood, Sears longed to play football for the University of Florida. Approaching that goal like he tackles research and lab work, he walked on the team as a wide receiver and played some before knee and shoulder injuries sidelined him by his junior year. The emotional impact of the physical injuries sparked something in his brain, and he began to study how people coped psychologically with injuries as they worked toward recovery. Psychology research challenged Sears like no other topic had, and it turned into a career. Sears completed his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate at the University of Florida. He left Gainesville to join the ECU faculty in 2007.

His own experiences have lent themselves to his students, who can see their own futures in his success. He also brings to the table an unyielding confidence in East Carolina. His Rawl office looks like the ultimate ECU lair, draped in a life-size Pirate area rug and memorabilia hanging jauntily from the walls. The décor makes a statement, quelling any belief that Sears could want to be anywhere else. Sears believes ECU has given him opportunities that other universities can’t match. “Coming to East Carolina has been a creativity bonanza,” he says. “It’s allowed me to develop and grow my skill sets in a supportive and appreciative environment that I simply cannot imagine anywhere else.” That devotion to the university is infectious to students. “He brings a certain Pirate swagger to the Psychology Department that students are receptive to,” Cutitta says. “I hope to carry on and incorporate his enthusiasm in my future career. I think Dr. Sears’ teaching and practicing at ECU says that this school is just as competitive and advanced in research and medicine as any school in North Carolina.”

That pride and energy currently are pushing for ECU’s Ph.D. program in health psychology to become fully accredited by the American Psychological Association (and eventually the best in the state) and pushing students to see how far they can go in their careers while also balancing time between family, hobbies and a love of life. “That kind of energy has been a demonstration to me of how hard work and enjoyment can coexist during one’s career,” says Dr. Garrett Hazelton, a postdoctoral fellow in integrative medicine at Duke University. Hazelton studied clinical health psychology under Sears. “Dr. Sears has a knack for making a Tuesday feel like a Friday. You look up and the day is gone and you feel like you have done something worthwhile.” Students trust him to prepare them for the field, to achieve something meaningful. “The better we understand human motivation and behavior, the better we will be at preventing the physical, emotional and financial pain that accompanies diseases,” says Hazelton. Patients and medical experts trust him to provide the latest and best information about ICDs. Even with so many eyes at ECU, across the state and around the world trained on him and his work, Sears is humbled by the patients he affects every day. To him, his impact is stark and straightforward. “I like my work to be practical and useful,” he says. “The only reason my work is that the ICD saves lives.”

Research by Dr. Sears showed that providing patients with lots of information about the ICD, along with emergency measures that may need to be taken, made them feel more at ease. He created an application, or app, for cell phones that makes this information instantly available. Calling it the ICD Coach, Sears created the phone system after consulting with several ECU professors in business, marketing, visual design, graphics and technology transfer. The application blends Sears’ research and clinical experience into mobile phone applications around cardiac survivorship, confident thinking, confident behaviors, and confident relationships with interactive exercises and information. In November 2010 he created a start-up company spun off from East Carolina called Quality of Life Applications, or QOL Apps Inc. The company is focused on developing multimedia educational products focused on helping patients achieve quality of life. East Carolina remains a stakeholder in this endeavor.
East Carolina had about 2,800 students when President John Messick hired Dr. James Tucker as dean of students in 1955; it had more than 15,000 when Tucker retired 24 years later. He worked beside President Leo Jenkins all that time, leaving a year after Jenkins’ retirement. The staff Dean Tucker hired became icons themselves, including Rudy Alexander to head up student activities in 1958 and Jim Mallory as dean of men in 1962. Tucker kept a tight grip on campus from the time of the school’s first recorded panty raid in 1956, through integration in the ’60s, and the student unrests of the ’70s. He’s enjoyed a long retirement and at 96 still has a valid driver’s license. He lives with his wife at Sterling House assisted living center in Greenville. We visited with him just before the holidays.

BY STEVE TUTTLE
The first thing I want to ask about is the Big Yellow House Incident in 1959 and the students you expelled or suspended for putting on that now-famous off-campus party complete with girls, beer and a loud record player. My wife and I were at one dinner club meeting, playing bridge, and the phone rang. It was the chief of campus police—we had two then, the chief and the deputy chief—and he told me to come down there. They all looked pretty embarrassed. I didn’t want to throw them out of school but we did give some punishments. I think most of them eventually finished school. And you know, years later I got called by one or another of them, and they wanted to know if that suspension was still on their record, and if it was, could they do something to clear the record. So I asked Leo, and he said, “Didn’t he tell you? I said he said so. Most of them did. So Leo said, you just clean up those records, and I did.

“Finding enough dorm rooms was the real challenge. We had just one dorm then, Slap Hall, and then Umstead. One year a secretary in Admissions went a little crazy and checked the box guaranteeing dorm rooms to every boy that was accepted, way more than we had room for. We packed those boys in three to a room, even put them in the break room. Then we opened the dorms on College Hill [in 1960–61] and the tide really hit us.”

Who did you spend time with outside the office? “I was close friends with Coach Stas for many years. The year we went to the Tangerine Bowl in Florida, my wife and I rode down on the train as chaperones for the marching band. It was a great trip.”

You saw major changes to the campus in your career. Which one stands out? “In the early ’70s we got our first computer. It was so big we had to remove a window on the second floor [of Spilman] to get it in the building.”

You were here during the battle to establish the medical school. What was that like? “Well, I was here during the battle in the early ’60s to get the School of Nursing. And it was the same thing then as the medical school was later. Carolina just said, you don’t need a school of nursing because we already have one. So, Leo and the rest of us were pretty upset about that. He called me to his office to report to his office immediately. Like most students a call from the dean’s office could cause a crisis. I explained [all that] to Dean Tucker. He patiently waited for me to finish before taking a copy of the college catalog from his shelf, turning to the section on “graduation requirements,” and reading me the part from it that stated that in order to graduate from eCC a student had to pass the swimming Proficiency Test. The thought of me not graduating because I had not passed a basic swimming competency test was just too ludicrous to even enter the field of fantasy!

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East Carolina’s best men’s golfer in several years had trouble adjusting to college, with poor grades keeping him out of tournaments. But Harold Varner refocused his life, then charged up the leaderboard.
Harold Varner made North Carolina golf history last summer by winning both of the state’s major amateur tournaments—the N.C. Amateur and the N.C. Match Play Tournament. No other golfer had won both and he did it in the same year.

‘Every shot’s another opportunity’

Varner’s second overall collegiate title—at the Auto-Trader.com Collegiate Classic in November—came during the last tournament of his fall senior season. With the spring schedule featuring two big Florida invitations and the Conference USA Championships in April, Varner’s confidence is at a peak, and he hopes to add onto his string of victories as his ECU career concludes.

“One day, I figured out, ‘I can win; I don’t have to do anything special to win,’” he said. “I love winning. There’s nothing better than winning. You’ve got to hope for the best at all times. Every shot’s another opportunity. That’s how I approach life. Every day’s another opportunity.”

He spent last summer taking advantage of two big opportunities. He competed in both of the state’s major amateur tournaments—the N.C. Amateur in June and the N.C. Match Play Tournament in August—and won them both.

He entered the final day of the N.C. Amateur, played at Greensboro Country Club, tied for 116, and four strokes back. What followed was a classic case of everything clicking at the right time, as he carded seven birdies and an eagle for a 66, the lowest score of the day. He knew it was a great round, but with the leaders still on the course he didn’t know that victory was within reach. “He just kept doing what he does, and that is, pick good shots, execute them, and try everything he could to get into the hole,” McPhaul says. “He was just hanging around the clubhouse, and somebody said, ‘You might win this thing.’”

Two months after that feat, Varner made North Carolina amateur history by completing what is known as an “N.C. Am Slam” with a victory over Colin Chapman in the final round of the Match Play Championship in Bermuda Run. He became the first golfer in the state to win both events, and he accentuated that accomplishment by taking both titles in the same year.

As long as he was collecting milestones, Varner also learned that he was the first African-American male golfer to win the amateur championship in the 102-year history of the event. (Earlier in the year, Angela Stewart, an African-American woman from Greenville, won the N.C. Senior Women’s championship.) And while Varner loves stories of courageous stands taken against injustice—one of his favorite movies is Glory Road—he says he didn’t start playing golf in a quest to be a revolutionary.

“I don’t think about it much, but I get it,” he says. “If it opens up doors for other African-Americans who aren’t playing golf, that’s awesome.”

If young players of any background are looking for a role model, McPhaul considers Varner an excellent candidate. He routinely thinks of others before himself, and as part of a strong senior class of five golfers he has been working toward becoming a role model for the Pirate underclassmen. And with the spring schedule pointing to the C-USA Tournament and the NCAA Tournament, McPhaul knows that the time is ripe for Varner to emerge as a player with national potential.
Track and field
Two of the most accomplished Lady Pirates in recent years are poised to top their considerable accomplishments from the 2011 outdoor season. Junior high jumper Tynita Butts, who finished sixth at the U.S. Outdoor Championships, and 400m runner Aisha Goggins, the 13th place national finisher in her event, will both compete with strength for ECU in both the indoor and outdoor seasons. Butts, who finished seventh at the NCAA Outdoor Championships as a freshman, jumped higher than world record holder Chaunte Lowe at the USA Championships.

Softball
When the 2011 team went to the NCAA Regional at the University of Maryland last spring, they set a national record for freshman starters in a regional, with eight. And the ECU squad will look to that youthful group—and the maturity they gained through a 41-22 campaign—for leadership in 2012. Led by top hitters Alex Fieldhouse and Jordan Lewis, the sophomore class will look to pace the Pirates in head coach Tracey Kee’s 16th season.

Men’s tennis
The youth movement is also in play on the men’s tennis team, which was led during the fall schedule by the play of freshmen Nicholas Soriano, Chase Baker and Patriek Wolterbeek. Soriano and his doubles partner freshman Joran Vliegen, won their flight in doubles at the ECU Fall Shootout in September, and Baker and Wolterbeek won their respective flights to close out the fall season at The Citadel Invitational. The spring tennis schedule features matches at N.C. State and Conference USA foe Memphis.

Elsewhere in spring sports
Aisha Goggins and Tynita Butts
Network with fellow Pirates

In today’s difficult economic environment, networking can be the key to finding a job or advancing in your career. This spring, the Alumni Association is offering opportunities in select cities for alumni to meet and exchange ideas. Designed to help alumni who are seeking to broaden their professional and social networks, networking events generally are held in the morning or early evening. Make time to attend an event in your area. Visit www.PirateAlumni.com/networking for locations and complete details.

2012 PIRATE™ ALUMNI ROAD RACE

Race for student scholarships

The 5th Annual Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, April 14, in uptown Greenville. This 5K road race and one mile fun run benefits Alumni Scholarships given to deserving ECU undergraduate students. Runners of all ages are encouraged to participate and prizes will be given to the top three finishers overall and winners in eight age categories. A team component for students will also be continued this year. Registration is $15 by March 31 and $25 thereafter. Race day registration opens at 8 a.m. and the race begins at 9 a.m. Get complete details by visiting www.PirateAlumni.com/roadrace.

Gear up for Service Month

Each spring the Alumni Association encourages alumni across the Pirate Nation to participate in Service Month by volunteering in their communities. Whether you join fellow Pirates for a planned service project in your area or participate in community service on your own, live the university’s motto of service this April by lending a helping hand. Service can be as easy as donating gently used clothing to a local shelter, contributing to a food bank or helping out a neighbor. Please visit www.PirateAlumni.com/servicemonth for details on service projects in your area and to share how you plan to participate in Service Month.

GREEK REUNION

All Greek alumni—those who are members of IFC, NPC and NPHC organizations—are invited to come back to Greenville April 13-14 for a Greek Reunion. Details and registration soon to follow at www.PirateAlumni.com.

TRAVEL TO HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

Cruise the waterways of Holland and Belgium aboard an exclusively chartered ship for an eight-day adventure April 1-8. Experience the medieval architecture and unique ambience of Belgium with visits to Bruges and Antwerp, and then enjoy the colorful splendor of the famous Keukenhof Gardens and other famous landmarks in Holland. Sponsored by AHI Travel, alumni and friends of East Carolina are welcome to participate in this Pirate Voyage. Simply call AHI Travel at 800-323-7373.

Stop by and see us sometime.

Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center, 901 East Fifth Street
PirateAlumni.com
2011

SCOTT BARRINGER is the Pioneer League Athletic Trainer of the Year. He is athletic trainer for the Missoula Osprey, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Arizona Diamondbacks in Missoula, Mont.

AMANDA HOWARD BUIE wed BRITTANY KEITH THIGPEN ’10 on Sept. 24 at Englewood United Methodist Church, Rocky Mount. She works for Pitt County Schools, and he is attending graduate school at ECU.

BRADLEY CRAFT teaches freshman introduction to algebra at Northern Vance High School, Henderson, where he graduated in 2007.

HEATHER POPE is a fourth-grade language arts and social studies teacher at Selma Elementary, Selma.

JAMES “JJ” ARTHUR REGAN JR. wed Marcy Beth Hebert, who is attending ECU, on Sept. 3 at Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Harkers Island.

KELSEA LEANNE SANDERS wed John William Walters at Mount Olive First Pentecostal Holiness Church, Mount Olive. She teaches sixth grade at Grifton School, Grifton.

LACEY WINSLOW provides science support for K–2 students at Selma Elementary, Selma.

2010

BRITTANY NELAND BELL wed Lawrence Anderson Moye IV on Sept. 17 at St. Egbert Catholic Church, Morehead City. She is a nurse at Rex Hospital, Raleigh.

KRISTEN D’ANNE HEFFELFINGER wed Christopher Paul Wilson at Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Boiling Springs. She works for Coastal Carolina Cardiology, Greenville.

Dr. ALICIA MARIE MYERS wed Dr. James Quinto Lagasca on Oct. 8 at St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Greenville. She is an internal medicine resident at George Washington University Hospital, Washington, D.C., with plans to continue a fellowship in infectious diseases.

AMY LAND teaches fifth grade at Selma Elementary, Selma.

ELIZABETH PIKE is the assistant manager of Catalog Connection, a women’s boutique in Greenville.

JESSICA LYNN PORTERFIELD wed PHILLIP DEAN PRICE ’01 ’10 on June 11 at White Lake. She is working on a master’s in public health at ECU, and he works for Beaufort County Community College in Washington.

ALEXANDRA STEPHENS is a registered nurse at Gastroenterology East P.A. and Endoscopy Center in Greenville.

J. DEREK SWART teaches upper school English and history at the Oakwood School in Greenville.

2009

ANGELA GRACE MCDONALD and EDWARD CROFT MASSEY ’11 wed on Sept. 17 at Jarvis Memorial University Methodist Church, Greenville. She is a registered nurse in the Progressive Care Unit at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. He is an account services specialist with Epic Systems.

A jersey thought to have been worn by legendary East Carolina baseball coach Jim Mallory during the Pirates’ 1961 NCAA national championship season was donated to the school by Steve Loper ’01 of Cary. Accepting the jersey, current coach Billy Grooms (left), Loper, who collects ECU memorabilia, said he found the jersey offered for sale on eBay by a person in Australia. Mallory, who compiled a record of 161-60 during his 31-year career at East Carolina, also served as dean of men during a 35-year career at East Carolina.

Baltimore-based band Future Islands (left) is touring Europe and Japan to showcase its third album, On the Water, which was recorded at a waterfront house in Elizabeth City. Formed at ECU when they were art students here, Future Islands is composed of singer Sam Herring, guitarist Will Cashion ’06 and keyboardist Gerritt Welmers. Their first band at ECU, Art Lord & the Self Portraits, which featured Kymia Nawabi ’03, performed widely across the state until it broke up in 2005. Future Island’s music has been described as “post-wave,” “post-punk,” and “post-casual,” but the band calls it “synpop.” Since adopting Baltimore as home a couple years ago, the band has become a force in the city’s club scene. In reviewing the new album, which was released by the independent label Thrill Jockey, the Baltimore Sun said “the trio has cultivated a lush, nuanced sound, and Herring’s Jekyll-and-Hyde singing is its centerpiece.” The paper’s music critic commented on the group’s “growing catalog of danceable break-up songs” and Future Islands “sticks to what the members naturally gravitate to—propulsive backbeats, a sturdy low end, floating-in-mid-air synthesizers and Herring’s vocal bloodletting.” Lonnie Walker, a roots rock band fronted by Brian Coman ’03, often is the opening act when Future Islands performs in North Carolina. Lonnie Walker recently won the Last Band Standing contest at the Lincoln Theatre in Raleigh.
Westbrook Schuster ‘09 was a bridesmaid. TRACY MURRAY-WILLIAMS ‘09 and SEAN EDWARD GOUGH ‘10 on Sept. 24 at Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church, Greenville.

2008

BRITTANY ANN CRAGG and Jolissa Timothy Gay on Oct. 2 at the Duplin Wesley, Rose Hill. She teaches at Wayne County Schools. MELISSA BRAD ’99 and JOHN HUNTER were on the York House Plant in Farmville. Dr. CHARLENE LOCKLEAR joined Southeastern Medical Clinic North Lumberton where she will work with her sister, Dr. Andrea Sinistore ’05. NIIKI WALKER, media coordinator at Eastern Carolina University, Wilson, is a school’s 2012-13 Teacher of the Year.

SARA AMANDA ALLEN and JAMES WEST POTTER on Aug. 25 at Bethesda Baptist Church, Winterville. She teaches fourth grade at Winterville Middle School, Greenville, and he averaged an A in the Chapel Hill of the Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill. SEAN P. DOOLEY was promoted to senior analyst in Matrix Capital Group’s portfolio management group in Richmond, Va. LIONEL KATO, principal of Farmville Middle School, is the 2011 Media Administrator of the Year awarded by the N.C. School Administrators Association: Public Health Staff Recognition Award and the 2011 All-Star Award. He is director of health education and wellness/military affairs at Alamanus County Health Department, Burlington. BRANDON SHOFAR is the lndon county manager, where he was the town planner for nearly four years.

United Methodist Church, Bethel. She is a graduate school. Dr. NICHOLAS JERNINGA, a physician with Wintington Health in Leland, passed board examinations in internal medicine and pediatrics and met training, license and procedural requirements to become a board-certified physician. EMILY ROSE SEATON and Wesley Bryant Sheffield on Oct. 15 at Christ Episcopal Church, Charleston. She works for a private weight management team of Wells Fargo Advisors in Charleston. Dr. ERIK ROGER SWANSON works at Charleston East; and Thorn Associates, Charleston, S.C.

2004

LAUREN DWAYN ASBY is banking officer and branch manager in Southern Bank’s Greenville Medical Center Office. She completed her first year of the N.C. School of Banking in Chapel Hill. SEAN P. DOOLEY was promoted to senior analyst in Matrix Capital Group’s energy and multi-site retail group in Richmond, Va. LIONEL KATO, principal of Farmville Middle School, is the 2011 Media Administrator of the Year awarded by the N.C. School Administrators Association: Public Health Staff Recognition Award and the 2011 All-Star Award. He is director of health education and wellness/military affairs at Alamance County Health Department, Burlington. BRANDON SHOFAR is the Northampton County manager, where he was the town planner for nearly four years.

2005

JESSICA L. HAUSER on Sept. 17 at Trinity. The Wells Fargo Bank, 1st Bank, 1st. orienteering at the University of the New College of the Florida. BRIAN COLLINS, a former chair of the ECU board of Trustees, announced on July 9 that he will run for a fourth term in the N.C. Public Health Association: Public Health Staff Recognition Award.

2006

LAUREN COLDWELL BUCK is the manager of Catalog Connection, a women’s boutique in Greenville. Dr. MATTHEW COLLINS joined Eastern Urological Associates PA, after specialized training in laparoscopic and robotic surgical techniques for the kidney and prostate. TRAYSTAN NICHOLS and Jeremy Mark Stewart on Sept. 17 at Trinity. The Wells Fargo Bank, 1st Bank, 1st. orienteering at the University of the New College of the Florida. BRIAN COLLINS, a former chair of the ECU board of Trustees, announced on July 9 that he will run for a fourth term in the N.C. Public Health Association: Public Health Staff Recognition Award.
When making your estate plans, place East Carolina University among your loved ones.

We all hope to leave our legacy through family, friends and loved ones. Ultimately, we hope to leave behind our precious loved ones. Ultimately, we hope to leave behind our precious legacy at East Carolina University. Full support is provided for those who are most important to us. We all hope to leave our legacy through family, friends and loved ones. Ultimately, we hope to leave behind our precious

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We all hope to leave our legacy through family, friends and loved ones. Ultimately, we hope to leave behind our precious
development program to support businesses, organizations and individuals throughout Georgia.

We hope that you will join us in supporting the future of East Carolina University.

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STEPHEN JAMES HAMMOND 1994

MILTON EUGENE "GENE" HODGES 1993 ’99 is assistant county manager in Person County. LANCE L. METZLER is the Richmond County manager. He was the Montgomery County manager.

ABRITT DEES opened a new Chick-fil-A franchise in Winterville. He transferred from the Greenville Mall unit.

MARCUS D. GOODSON, executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers, Fla., was elected to a two-year term as president of the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

GEORGANN ATHANAELOS SAPP ’90 ’91 was named Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the N.C. Art Education Association. She teaches elementary art at Jackson Park Elementary School in Kannapolis.

STEWARDS OF YOUR NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: Class Notes Editor, Building 198, Mail Stop 108, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353; or fax to 252-328-4269. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You may also e-mail your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While East happily prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

Please send address changes or corrections to: Kay Murphy, Office of University Development, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, fax: 252-328-4904, or e-mail: murphyk@ecu.edu.

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John Cooper ’89 has brought a lot of news into the living rooms of TV viewers across the country over the past 20 years, from the attacks on the Pentagon on sept. 11 to steve Jobs' death. During that time he has worked for the NBC News Channel in Charlotte, an arm of the national NBC News network, including a brief stint to Family Dollar Stores for more than 35 years, he served Edgecombe Community College, Wilson Technical Institute before joining the newly formed Edgecombe Technical Institute in 1968. For 35 years, he served Edgecombe Community College, with the last 10 as president from 1994 to 2004.

JERRY MOGEE, the president of Winshape University near Charlotte who enjoyed a stellar welding career as a college football referee, is among eight individuals who will be inducted into the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame in May. Mogee pledged $333,000 to East Carolina to establish the Jerry E. Mogee Distinguished Professorship in the College of Health and Human Performance. Also in this year’s class of inductees is HENRY TREVATHAN ’55 ’61 ’81, a former assistant ECU football coach.

RICHARD CONDER of Rockingham, former ECU football player and 1982 alumnus of the year, was inducted into the N.C. County Commissioner Association inagural Hall of Fame. He is married to Barbara Spofford Conder ’57.

An exhibition of works by Aluminii. Kawasii ’03, entitled “Not far Long. My Forbiloc,” occupied much of the second floor of the Brooklyn Museum of Art for a six-week showing that ended Feb. 2. The exhibition included 12 paintings, two sculptures and a poem that represented her winning entry in the Bravo TV network’s Work of Art program. Crowded by a panel of art experts in December as America’s “next great artist,” she received a $500,000 prize and the opportunity to exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum. Much of her work is inspired by the Egyptian deity ‘Toth, who holds the universe in balance and who greets the deceased in the afterlife and is represented as a man with the head of an ibis. A first generation Iranian-American, Kawasii was born in San Diego, Calif., and grew up in Durham. She has been living in New York City since earning her master of fine arts from the University of Florida in 2006.

1989
BARBARA SPEIGHT CONDER of Rockingham, former ECU alumnus of the year, was inducted into the N.C. County Commissioner Association inagural Hall of Fame. She is the daughter of Frances Cahoon ’58 ’61 ’76 and Everett Bradley ’59 of Sanford and is married to RICHARD CONDER of Rockingham, former ECU alumnus of the year, was inducted into the N.C. County Commissioner Association inagural Hall of Fame. She is the daughter of Frances Cahoon ’58 ’61 ’76 and Everett Bradley ’59 of Sanford and is married to

57
IN MEMORIAM

NOTEABLE DEATHS OF 2011

As ECTTC transitioned to a four-year college in 1920, President Robert Wright wanted to impress on students that he expected them, as members of a higher-order academic institution, to assume more responsibility for their affairs. He worked with them to create the first student government association on campus, and gave it surprisingly broad powers. One year later, the school paused to evaluate this experiment in articles published in the spring 1921 issue of the Training School Quarterly. It was the last issue of that publication before being renamed the Teachers College Quarterly.

In SGA’s first year, ‘we had our ups and downs’

President Wright wrote: “This has been the easiest year we have had and I attribute much to the splendid work of the SGA. It is through the SGA that our students have prepared themselves for the responsibilities soon to come to them as citizens in our state and nation.”

Lady Principal Kate Beckwith, the SGA adviser, wrote: “Its council in its activities has been the exponent of the civic consciousness of the whole school. Hence its rulings have met with the hearty support of officers and teachers; though to gray-haired experience the sanity and fairness of its decisions and their sure executions have not yet lost the charm of welcome surprise.”

SGA President Helen Bahnson ’21 wrote: “We have had our ups and downs. There are many times in making decisions that we would much prefer laying our hands on the defendant’s shoulder and saying, ‘Go, my sister, and sin no more’. But that would neither be right nor just. So, for the sake of the right and justice, we, as members of a Student Government Association, must hold before us that fine thing—personal honor, our neighbor’s honor and our school’s honor. We must look for the best in others and give the best we have. We feel that we have accomplished something in our work; but we realize that much is yet to be done. We have tried to find a way and make a path and we believe it will be easier for our successors. Yet we know that they, in turn, will need to blaze more and more trails and broaden the old paths as the student body grows in qualities of self-government.”

FOOTNOTE: Student interest in the SGA was so keen that electing officers for its second year was difficult. “The mass meeting of the students was like a political convention,” reported the same issue of the TSQ. “Owing to the fact that a deadlock arose it took four and one-half hours to elect the president and two hours to elect the other officers. It was a very interesting meeting.”
Cindy Reaves, left, and Kristen King write the names of slain U.S. servicemen on a mural representing the number of troops killed in Iraq. The mural was created by Give2TheTroops, which collects donations for care packages and letters sent to soldiers overseas.

Photograph by Jay Clark