Margaret O’Connor, two Pulitzer Prizes for 9/11 photography

Pirates & Pulitzers
Meet four graduates who’ve won a dozen
PIRATES & PULITZERS
By Roy Martin
Four alumni have won 12 of journalism’s highest honors, which goes to show that ECU people understand the power of a story well told. Cover photograph by Michael Nagle

ALL THE PHOTOS FIT TO PRINT
By Steve Tuttle
Margaret O’Connor ’71 taught The New York Times to think of photography as visual journalism and then won two Pulitzers for her work on 9/11 and its aftermath. The odd thing is, she isn’t a photographer.

TOWN AND GOWN = HAND IN GLOVE
By Bethany Bradsher
Faculty, staff and students are actively engaged in strengthening the community because that’s the East Carolina way.

VISITING AFRICA, COMING HOME
By Marion Blackburn
Students in the African and African American Studies program travel to Ghana and end up learning a lot about themselves.

THE HEART OF A DOCTOR
By Leanne E. Smith
Steven Powell is a legend at the Brody School of Medicine because he puts his whole heart into training vascular surgeons.

MR. HOLLAND’S OPUS
By Bethany Bradsher
Athletics director Terry Holland taught East Carolina how to win again simply by making the Pirates believe they can.

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LIFTING SPIRITS
The cheerleaders rouse the crowd before the West Virginia game.
9/11 in New York, seven years later

My taxi had traveled three blocks in 30 minutes and the driver was fuming. I knew traffic would be bad in Manhattan today due to Fashion Week, a huge event with a big impact on the city’s economy, and ceremonies marking the seventh anniversary of 9/11, with McCain and Obama both in town. Again I think: You should have taken the subway.

Giving up, I pay the cabbie and start walking west and south at a brisk pace. I don’t want to be late for my appointment at The New York Times with Margaret O’Connor ’71, who won two Pulitzer prizes for her work on 9/11 and its aftermath. She’s one of four East Carolina graduates we profile in this issue who’ve won a total of 12 Pulitzers.

I stop to catch my breath after reaching The Times building at 40th Street and Eighth Avenue. On the opposite corner, hundreds of people are streaming up from the subway and flowing down the sidewalk. Across the avenue, hundreds more are hurrying out of the Port Authority Bus Terminal. How many of them, I wonder, had taken this same route to work on this morning, seven years ago? Did they look up at the sound of airliners flying so low overhead?

Upstairs, I meet O’Connor in her office just off the main newsroom, and she invites me to tag along with her to the daily gathering of top editors who decide which stories go on the front page. She was photo editor and now is the paper’s director of news design. She jots notes as the group settles on five stories and two photos for Page One, a list that her staff will follow in laying out tomorrow’s edition. The editors linger over one photo; it’s a firefighter, a tear in his eye, at one of that morning’s 9/11 tributes.

Back in her office, she leans back and considers my question. Where were you when you heard about the attack? She’s a newspaper veteran whose journalistic instincts would have quickly kicked in, so I expect a just-the-facts response. But as she talks I am reminded that to everyone there that morning, 9/11 isn’t a news story, it’s a personal tragedy. The Twin Towers fell and quickly accumulated on the streets. Memories flooded over me.

It was the middle of December 1943. Late in the evening a beautiful, wet snow began to fall and quickly accumulated on the streets. Our group of friends could not resist, so we pulled socks over our shoes (no overshoes— it was war time!) and with joined hands we skipped down the middle of Fifth Street into town, giggling all the way.

In Kares’ we crowded into booths and pulled stools over to the counter. Men without women, in American and English military uniforms, pulled down their helmets, pulled out their cigarettes, and lit up. We enjoyed them, these young American men, so different from the Massachusetts Yankee whom I met during a snow storm in Greenville when I was an 18-year-old junior at ECTC. As I read, the memories flooded over me.

Today I sat on my head deck reading (drowning?) the latest edition of East. I am also observing my 64th wedding anniversary to the love of my life, now deceased, a 100-year-old junior at ECTC. As I write, the memories flooded over me.

From the military camps in eastern North Carolina. This group of Marines was from Cherry Point but they were stationed in Greenville to build the air base for Marine flight squadrons. Our girl introduced each man but I saw only one. In August we married, in Greenville.

I did not return to school that fall. Traditional parents did not send married daughters to college in those days, and military pay of less than $75 per month would not cover tuition and books. Because of the war-time teacher shortage, I was recruited by the school superintendent and I subsequently taught math and science in Pitt County and elsewhere on a “B” certificate. ECU is still in my blood. Numerous family members have attended, including a daughter. And my mother, who is now an 89-year-old junior at ECTC, is still in my blood. Numerous family members have attended, including a daughter. And my mother, who is now an 89-year-old junior at ECTC, is still in my blood.

Photograph from 1944. Photo courtesy of University Archives

—Frances Coker ’45, Raleigh, N.C.

From Our Readers

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Send a check to the ECU Foundation, using the postage-paid reply envelope stuffed in every issue of the magazine. How much is up to you, but we suggest a minimum of $25. Your generosity is appreciated.

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Send letters to the editor to easteditor@ecu.edu at 1036 Charles Blvd. Building 588, East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. 27858.

Send class notes to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu or use the form on page 50
The enrollment task force appointed by Chancellor Steve Ballard says East Carolina should raise its admission standards and restrict the size of next fall’s freshman class to 4,000. The group’s report to the Board of Trustees came as officials announced that enrollment has surged to 27,703, up about 1,700 students from a year ago. The student body has grown by roughly 6,000 in the past five years.

The task force—a broad group of faculty, staff, administrators and trustee Carol Mabe—recommends a cutoff point for admission at students scoring below 900 on the SAT with predicted college grade point (GPA) averages below 2.35. About 600 freshmen admitted this fall would not have met that higher standard.

Making it tougher to get into East Carolina would have some impact on diversity. Judi Bailey, senior executive director of enrollment management who leads the task force, told trustees the change would reduce the number of minorities in next year’s freshman class by 2 percent, falling from 21 percent of freshmen now to 19 percent. The freshman class also would be 1 percent smaller, dropping from 21 percent of freshmen now to 19 percent.

Curtailing enrollment growth is a difficult issue for ECU leaders because it could be seen as closing the door to higher education for some disadvantaged students in eastern North Carolina. ECU for decades has striven to provide a college education to as many high school students in the region as possible. Doing so is widely viewed as a critical element in lifting the region economically and socially.

However, the task force concluded that rapid growth in enrollment has pushed ECU beyond capacity, producing crowded classrooms and the perception that the quality of education here has suffered. It also has dilluted East Carolina’s efforts to improve its graduation and retention rates. The average SAT score of in-state freshmen has declined from 1046 in 2003 to 1016 in 2007. That 30-point drop compares with a 1-point drop across all 16 UNC campuses, according to Board of Governors statistics. The task force also recommends tightening admission standards for students transferring here from other colleges. Beginning spring semester, a priority will be given to students who have completed two years of community college, Bailey said.

The task force recommendations, which Bailey described as “a hallmark document that will guide this institution for the next 10 years,” were presented to the faculty and students in three forums held in late October in Mendenhall Student Center.

In his remarks at the annual Faculty Convocation, Chancellor Steve Ballard said the university must balance enrollment growth against the mandate to deliver a quality education to students. “This year, we expect to have the largest freshman class in our history and a total enrollment of over 27,000 students. At the same time, our retention rates have dropped and we know that retention is affected by academic preparation,” he said.

Ballard said enrollment growth also has put pressure on the university’s ability to protect the campus community and to provide necessary services. “We must stop for a moment and address the question ‘What is the right pace of growth?’ and ‘What are the immediate priorities for improving our infrastructure?’”

The chancellor said East Carolina “must invest more resources in enrollment management, enrollment services, student services and especially financial aid” because the surging enrollment demands “everything from more counselors to mentors to honors program staff.”

ECU aims to improve graduation rates

For every 100 freshmen who enroll at East Carolina, about 58 leave with a diploma within six years, a percentage that’s better than the national average for schools of the same type and size, according to a report by the UNC Board of Governors. Still, ECU officials say they aren’t satisfied and are trying to improve the school’s graduation rate by reducing the number of students who drop out.

“Those aren’t bad numbers but they can be better,” said Judi Bailey, senior executive director of enrollment management. She said East Carolina is aiming to improve its retention rate—the percentage of freshmen who successfully make it to sophomore year—from around 77 percent now to 82 percent in four years.

“That will be hard for us to accomplish, given that East Carolina places such importance on providing access to higher education. We are opening the doors to a college education to a wider diversity of students, not all of whom arrive here completely equipped to succeed. Our challenge is to increase the services and support we provide these students so they have a better chance of making it through to sophomore year.”

In 2003, 53.3 percent of East Carolina students graduated in four years. Nationally, only 26 percent of college students graduated in four years. ECU’s retention rate was 77.2 percent in 2006, down from 78.8 percent in 2003. The current national average for universities like East Carolina is 75.5 percent.

Studies have shown that most students who drop out of college do so during freshman year. East Carolina provides extra support and academic counseling services to students during those crucial semesters. One new service this year is the Pirate Tutoring Center, which offers homework help in one-on-one sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

For statistical purposes, the Board of Governors groups the 16 campuses by size and type. N.C. State and UNC Chapel Hill are the largest campuses in the system and have the most selective admissions standards. Thus, they also have the highest retention and graduation rates of the 16 campuses. East Carolina is one of the UNC Greensboro, UNC Charlotte and N.C. A&T East Carolina had the highest retention and graduation rates within its group, the Board of Governors report said.

Six-year graduation rate at:

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East Carolina 58.8 59.1 60.9 58.2 51.0


eCU aims to improve graduation rates

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Chen began her research with grants last year from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, to study the function of claudin-7, a protein that makes up part of the barrier that controls the flow of molecules between cells. Chen’s preliminary research has shown that claudin-7 interacts with an enzyme called WNK4 kinase and forms a pathway for chloride ions to enter the bloodstream. Interaction of claudin-7 with a mutated version of WNK4 may lead to high blood pressure. Understanding the role of claudin-7 in these intercellular barriers and pathways could lead to medicines that could help people with high blood pressure as well as kidney disease, Chen said. It could also help people whose blood pressure is too low. “We need to find out the mechanism of this claudin-7 in the control of ionic balance in people with kidney disease,” Dr. Yan-Hua Chen, an associate professor of anatomy and cell biology at the Brody School of Medicine, said. Chen, who has received the five-year grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, to study the function of claudin-7, a protein that makes up part of the barrier that controls the flow of molecules between cells, is working with two drug firms, ImmunoGen Inc. and sanofi-aventis, that have expertise in formulating antibodies into cancer therapies and taking them to clinical trials.

Pathologist Anne Kellogg has developed a monoclonal antibody that could play a vital role in treating the most common form of ovarian, breast and other cancers. She is working with two drug firms, ImmunoGen Inc. and sanofi-aventis, that have expertise in formulating antibodies into cancer therapies and taking them to clinical trials.

Antibody offers hope for cancer

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Chen began her research with grants last year from the ECU Division of Research and Graduate Studies and the N.C. Biotechnology Center, which allowed her to collect necessary data to revise and reread her federal grant request. —Doug Boyd

Teaching financial fitness

You usually think of wellness in terms of your physical health, but two ECU professors want students to think about wellness in terms of their financial health. Mark Weitzel and Len Rhodes teach Finance 1904, which is becoming one of the more popular classes offered by the College of Business. Weitzel and Rhodes are “team teaching” two sections of 250 students each. That’s 500 students taking the class now compared to just 60 seven years ago. Open to all majors, Finance 1904 is offered in conjunction with the Financial Wellness Institute within the College of Business. We asked Weitzel and Rhodes what they’ve learned teaching students how to balance a checkbook and other such skills.

Q: What are the two most important principles you try to teach students about handling money?

A: We install the importance of constant financial planning and thinking early about retirement. We encourage students to take advantage of free money—such as matching 401K contributions. After all, where else can you get an immediate, 100 percent return on your investment? We also teach students to be savvy consumers and how to protect themselves—especially from individuals who prey on the financially illiterate. After taking our course, students will have learned the skills to make the most of their money through the lifelong principles we teach.

Q: What is the worst mistake students make managing their money?

A: Borrowing more than they need. Between credit cards and student loans, students get in over their heads without even realizing it. It’s a one-two punch: students will use a student loan for things it’s not intended for, trying to buy a better lifestyle. That problem is compounded with credit card debt they can’t pay off. Students take on all of this debt without truly understanding the long-term financial impact after they graduate.
As of Oct. 1, more than $112 million had been raised toward the Second Century Campaign’s $200 million goal. Through the generosity of the thousands of alumni, donors, and friends who have supported the campaign, many more students and faculty will have the resources necessary to change lives and transform communities. Two important ways to support the campaign are through student scholarships and endowed professorships.

Endowed professorships represent long-term support for faculty members and their research and pioneer projects that offer potential breakthroughs and innovation. They honor ECU’s most distinguished faculty and help attract more outstanding scholars and teachers. Through the N.C. Distinguished Professor Endowment Trust Fund, the state provides supplemental grants for endowed professorships, matching $1 of every $2 donated. For example, a gift of $333,000 could qualify for a matching grant of $167,000 to establish an endowment of $333,000 could qualify for a matching grant of $167,000 to establish an endowment of $500,000. Of $167,000 to establish an endowment of $500,000 could qualify for a matching grant of every $2 donated. For example, a gift of $500,000 could qualify for a matching grant of $250,000 to support the campaign’s $200 million goal. Through renovations and additions, the school took 571 disciplinary actions for liquor law violations are spiraling, rising from five in 2006, the report said. While major crime rates are low, arrests for forcible sexual offense were reported on campus in 2007, the last year for which complete statistics were available, down from 126 in 2006, the report said.

HIGHEST PAID FOOTBALL COACHES

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<th>University</th>
<th>Coach</th>
<th>Total Compensation</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Bob Stoops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>Urban Meyer</td>
<td>$5 million</td>
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<td>Mississippi State</td>
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In 2008, Barbara ‘83 and Chris Bremer established the Barbara W. Bremer Distinguished Professorship in Language Learning and Literacy Disorders in the College of Allied Health Sciences. Barbara Bremer received a master’s in speech language pathology from East Carolina and her husband is professor emeritus of family medicine at the Brody School of Medicine. The first of its kind in the college, the Bremer professorship—and other professorships like it across the university—allow professors to concentrate more on research, collaboration and instruction.

Likewise, scholarships enable students to concentrate on their studies and student life rather than financial concerns. Currently, ECU can only support 60 percent of the financial aid requests of its neediest students. More than 80 percent of ECU graduates have college loan debt. Student scholarships help reduce that debt for students, increasing their opportunities after graduation.

Starting with the 2009–10 academic year, one of those scholarships will be awarded thanks to the generosity of the late Geraldine Mayo Beveridge, a native of Pamlico County. Beveridge included ECU in her will. After her death in May, the proceeds from her estate endowed an Access Scholarship fund for a full-time undergraduate student coming from one of four high schools in eastern North Carolina. The Access Scholarship program supports students with strong academic records for whom college might not be a possibility because of financial need. Access Scholarships are awarded to North Carolina residents with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and demonstrated financial need. This year, ECU awarded 62 Access Scholarships, with the goal of providing at least 100 annually. Contributions such as those of Dr. and Mrs. Bremer and Mrs. Beveridge are vital to East Carolina’s future. Scholarships and endowed professorships like those established by these two gifts help attract the best and brightest faculty and students, and ensure that the university can continue to provide a quality education experience that is uniquely ECU.

To support the Second Century Campaign by visiting www.ecu.edu/devt or by calling 252-328-9550.

The Board of Trustees approved a six-year contract extension for football coach Skip Holtz that will keep him in Greenville through 2013. The contract guarantees Holtz a compensation package of $4.07 million with incentives that could make the deal worth an estimated $9.5 million.

“I remain genuinely appreciative and grateful to the leadership we have at East Carolina for the confidence and support they have in the direction that our program is heading,” Holtz said.

The contract calls for a guaranteed base salary of $565,000 in 2008 with an increase to $605,000 in 2009 and $655,000 in remaining years. He will receive incentive and bonus compensation, including $25 per season ticket sold, and 5 percent of all donations to the Pirate Club annual fund. He also will be rewarded for student academic success, starting at $100,000 and increasing by $25,000 per year. Total potential compensation would be roughly $1.2 million a year. The agreement includes a $100,000 buy-out clause should Holtz leave ECU prior to the expiration of the contract.

Holtz, 44, has led the Pirates to two bowl appearances and consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1999 and 2000. He also has led the Pirates to their first national ranking since 1999.

The trustees also approved an amendment to Athletic Director Terry Hollands’ contract that raises his salary by $32,400 to $356,400 a year. The raise is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008. Robert V. Lucas, who chairs the board’s university affairs committee, said the board believes “we have strong leadership at ECU, and we want to recognize that leadership and keep the team in place.”
Watch Pirate TV on YouTube

East Carolina now has its own channel on YouTube, www.youtube.com/ecu, a site stocked with lots of programs about the school as well as pop music videos, Halftime accidents, “science” experiments featuring breath mints and dirt cola and other serious and funny stuff. The channel’s lineup will evolve over time, using videos created by departments, organizations and individuals across campus. Lectures, guest speakers, art performances and sporting events are among the type of videos available. “We see YouTube as an opportunity to push ECU’s educational efforts anytime and anywhere,” said Jack Brinn, ECU chief information officer.

The ECU Report

Teachers say Aarrgh! The Men’s Athletic Association Council votes on Feb. 28, 1934, to change the identity of East Carolina’s three intercollegiate sports teams—basketball and football—from the Teachers to the Pirates. It’s believed the switch to a more macho mascot will inspire “more spirit and enthusiasm” among the student body. To cement the switch in mascots, the 1934-35 yearbook publishes several drawings of swashbuckling pirates.

Me and my avatar go to ECU

East Carolina’s new Second Life virtual community makes online education less like online banking and more like the real thing. Now, when an online student logs on to Second Life, his computer screen becomes a window into a virtual ECU, complete with faithful, though animated, reproductions of campus landmarks like the Cupola, Flanagan Building, and the Clock Tower. Want to talk to the professor about homework? Your avatar—a digital re-creation of you—can sit down with the professor’s avatar anytime during office hours.

“Many more students are visiting my office in Second Life than my real office,” said Albie Brown, associate professor in the Department of Instructional Technology, and an early adopter of Second Life. She said Second Life and similar virtual communities give online students something that until now only traditional students enjoyed—the sense psychologists call “social presence,” the feeling a student gets from being immersed in the campus environment. It is the feeling they get walking to class, interacting with fellow students, and learning in a communal atmosphere. Social presence usually is lost with online education.

Second Life gives online students the sense of participating in a virtual classroom in real time with other students. These virtual communities have become a viable tool in higher education and a hotbed for new ideas in pedagogy. As ECU’s virtual campus continues to grow, Sharon Collins, program director for Academic Outreach, hopes it becomes even more evocative of the brick and mortar campus with a variety of things to do and people—or their avatars—to interact with. You don’t have to be taking online classes to visit this virtual East Carolina. Visitors to bank.aau.edu/secondlife/ are welcome to explore the site; programmers continue working to make the virtual ECU more closely resemble the real thing.

The university is interested in “letting alumni, graduate students, people interested in athletics know that this is a place that they can come if they can’t come to a football game or they can’t come to campus, but still feel a part of a campus,” Collins said. There’s more to do in Second Life than just attending classes. Visitors can conduct real-world business, listen to radio broadcasts of ECU football games, browse the Internet, meet up with old friends or just rummage about college days in Greenville.

—Brian Paris

Tornadoes kill 42
A “perfect storm” of four tornadoes rakes over eastern North Carolina on March 28, 1944, killing 42 people and injuring 800 others. One of the four storms touches down in Snow Hill in Greene County, killing six people, and cuts a 46-mile-long path of destruction 1200 yards wide into Ayden, Whitakers and the east side of Greenville.

The campus is largely spared any damage. In all, the F-4 tornado kills 12 people in Pitt and Greene counties, including six in Greenville, and destroys 350 homes. Damages are estimated at $15 million. Hundreds of East Carolina students volunteer in the rescue and recovery operations. The football team is sent to the airport to unload planes arriving with relief supplies.

Images courtesy University Archives

Renovation to two campus buildings have been completed. McAlonis Auditorium (left) reopened after a facelift to its iconic art deco exterior and modernization to its theater stage mechanics. Todd Dining Hall (right) on College Hill reopened after $3 million in renovations that transformed the cafeteria into a lively, market-style facility.

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Second Life gives online students the sense of participating in a virtual classroom in real time with other students. These virtual communities have become a viable tool in higher education and a hotbed for new ideas in pedagogy. As ECU’s virtual campus continues to grow, Sharon Collins, program director for Academic Outreach, hopes it becomes even more evocative of the brick and mortar campus with a variety of things to do and people—or their avatars—to interact with. You don’t have to be taking online classes to visit this virtual East Carolina. Visitors to bank.aau.edu/secondlife/ are welcome to explore the site; programmers continue working to make the virtual ECU more closely resemble the real thing.

The university is interested in “letting alumni, graduate students, people interested in athletics know that this is a place that they can come if they can’t come to a football game or they can’t come to campus, but still feel a part of a campus,” Collins said. There’s more to do in Second Life than just attending classes. Visitors can conduct real-world business, listen to radio broadcasts of ECU football games, browse the Internet, meet up with old friends or just rummage about college days in Greenville.

—Brian Paris

Tornadoes kill 42
A “perfect storm” of four tornadoes rakes over eastern North Carolina on March 28, 1944, killing 42 people and injuring 800 others. One of the four storms touches down in Snow Hill in Greene County, killing six people, and cuts a 46-mile-long path of destruction 1200 yards wide into Ayden, Whitakers and the east side of Greenville.

The campus is largely spared any damage. In all, the F-4 tornado kills 12 people in Pitt and Greene counties, including six in Greenville, and destroys 350 homes. Damages are estimated at $15 million. Hundreds of East Carolina students volunteer in the rescue and recovery operations. The football team is sent to the airport to unload planes arriving with relief supplies.

Images courtesy University Archives

Renovation to two campus buildings have been completed. McAlonis Auditorium (left) reopened after a facelift to its iconic art deco exterior and modernization to its theater stage mechanics. Todd Dining Hall (right) on College Hill reopened after $3 million in renovations that transformed the cafeteria into a lively, market-style facility.

East Carolina now has its own channel on YouTube, www.youtube.com/ecu, a site stocked with lots of programs about the school as well as pop music videos, Halftime accidents, “science” experiments featuring breath mints and dirt cola and other serious and funny stuff. The channel’s lineup will evolve over time, using videos created by departments, organizations and individuals across campus. Lectures, guest speakers, art performances and sporting events are among the type of videos available. “We see YouTube as an opportunity to push ECU’s educational efforts anytime and anywhere,” said Jack Brinn, ECU chief information officer.

The ECU Report

Teachers say Aarrgh! The Men’s Athletic Association Council votes on Feb. 28, 1934, to change the identity of East Carolina’s three intercollegiate sports teams—basketball and football—from the Teachers to the Pirates. It’s believed the switch to a more macho mascot will inspire “more spirit and enthusiasm” among the student body. To cement the switch in mascots, the 1934-35 yearbook publishes several drawings of swashbuckling pirates.

Me and my avatar go to ECU

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Rachel Raab MD ’02 joined the BSOM faculty in the division of hematology/oncology, continuing a tradition begun by her parents, Drs. Spencer and Mary Raab, who founded the division in 1977. She just completed a fellowship in the division of hematology/oncology and an honorary doctor of science degree in marine micropaleontology and geology and was named the 2008 University Life Professor for the Distinguished Faculty in the Division of Hematology/Oncology.

Stephen J. Culver, chair of the Department of Geographical Sciences, was named the 2008 Distinguished Professor for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Culver is a graduate of the University of Wales, where he received his bachelor’s in geology, has a doctorate in marine micropaleontology and geology and is an honorary doctor of science degree in biological sciences. After serving on the faculty of Old Dominion University from 1982–1994 and working at the National History Museum of London from 1994–1999, Culver joined the faculty of ECU in 1999. Over the past three decades, he has received 31 research grants totaling more than $1.4 million.

PerFORMING ARts

A Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and one of the world’s best-known sinologists will highlight the winter portion of the 2009-2010 St. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series. Martin Hamblik, who won the Pulitzer Prize for A Chorus Line, will appear with the ECU Symphony Orchestra Nov. 21 at Wright Auditorium. Auditioned by dinner and discussion, The King’s Singers will put the community in a holiday mood with a concert at Wright Auditorium Dec. 11. The world-famous quartet will present a type of traditional English carol service that mixes seasonal music with spiritual readings from works by English writers.

The Ninth Annual NewMusic@ECU Festival will take place Feb. 25–March 1, with the Daedelus Quartet and Pulsational among the featured guest performers. Seven concerts will be presented along with master classes with visiting composers, performers and conductors. New for 2009 will be an orchestra competition among the ECU Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Singers, and the Symphony Orchestra and NewMusic Camera. The ECU Jazz Studies program is teaming up with the Hilton Greenville Hotel for a series of Jazz at Night performances that entice into the evening for a variety of activities in the jazz program, as well as entertainment for the musicians, who will perform. The hotel will donate a portion of the proceeds to the university’s Jazz Studies program. Performances will be Jan. 23 and Feb. 20, each beginning at 8 p.m.

Student performing groups in the School of Music continue to enjoy a busy winter abroad. The University Chorale and St. Cecilia Singers will perform Nov. 16, the Choral Scholars will sing Dec. 2, and the St. Cecilia Singers and Choral Scholars will sing Feb. 8. The University Chorale will perform Feb. 22. Among smaller instrumental ensembles, the Percussion Ensemble will perform Nov. 19, Feb. 5 and Feb. 18. The Guitar Ensemble will play Dec. 1. Among larger ensembles, the ECU String Chamber Music Festival will perform Nov. 24. The Symphonic Wind and Jazz ensembles will perform Feb. 6, and the Symphonic Band and Concert Band will perform Feb. 17. The Symphony Orchestra’s winter concert will be scheduled Feb. 8, with guest conductor Dr. John Wustman.

The world-famous sextet will appear with the ECU Symphony Orchestra in a holiday mood with a concert that combines the annual NewMusic@ECU Festival, the Messick Theatre Arts Center, and the annual NewMusic@ECU Festival. The ECU Jazz Studies program is teaming up with the Hilton Greenville Hotel for a series of Jazz at Night performances that entice into the evening for a variety of activities in the jazz program, as well as entertainment for the musicians, who will perform. The hotel will donate a portion of the proceeds to the university’s Jazz Studies program. Performances will be Jan. 23 and Feb. 20, each beginning at 8 p.m.

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Editor’s Note: East Carolina’s new School of Dentistry takes a giant step forward with the arrival of James R. Hupp, its first dean. Hupp comes to ECU after six years as dean of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry, where he has a dental degree from Harvard University as well as degrees from the University of Connecticut, Rutgers University and Loyola College in Maryland. In an interview with writer Marri Stoddard, he described these experiences and his vision for the dental school.

In addition to your dental degree, you have an M.D., an M.B.A. and a law degree. How will this level of education serve you as dean of the School of Dentistry?

I think education gives you certain perspectives that are helpful in any profession, not just in dentistry. For instance, with the law degree you learn to think like a lawyer. You understand that there are many ways to interpret things, and you learn to analyze things in a way you might not have done without having been through a process like law school. It teaches you the process of critically thinking and dealing with a lot of situations. Before I make decisions, I contemplate a little more deeply the motives and ramifications involved. I’ve become more analytical, as a habit, not just once in a while.

Do you have any connections to North Carolina? I have lots of friends in the Raleigh-Durham area, and one of my closest friends is Dr. David Frost in Chapel Hill. Our families have grown up together, I also consider Dr. Ray Williams, chair of periodontology at the UNC School of Dentistry, a good friend, and we did research together when I was in dental school. Drs. Dale Minosh and Myron Tucker of Charlotte and Ray Fonsca of Asheville are also good friends. I look forward to developing friends east of I-95.

As part of your dental school, ECU will build and staff eight to 10 “service learning centers” in underserved areas across the state. Can you describe how these centers will be operated and how they will serve the school’s mission?

These centers are a very distinctive part of the dental school. There will be a “mother ship” in Greenville, our physical school, where students will study during the first three years. In addition, we’ll establish centers across the state in rural areas. Each student will spend their final year of education in a clinical site. They won’t spend three fourths of the year at the school. It will be in a community away from Greenville. Most dental schools serve as a safety net for the underserved communities in North Carolina. We’ve been warmly met by people in Greenville. Two years ago, I was one of the consultants who helped confirm that North Carolina would be able to sustain and benefit from a second dental school, and that having a school to educate community-minded dentists was a good strategy.

There is a special purpose for our School of Dentistry, just as there is for the School of Medicine.

Yes. The dental school will educate and train individuals who are prepared to be excellent general dentists, and who will seek opportunities to practice in rural and underserved communities in North Carolina. Other dental schools don’t have this kind of mission. They have no or very little in terms of a community service mission.

You’ve had a memorable experience in Mississippi, having endured Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. We lived through that, and many of our dental students and their families suffered a great deal. Though the university was far away enough to avoid a direct hit, we had a substantial burden afterward, along with the rest of the state. There were people coming in from the coast with nowhere to live, and dental patients who had to be taken care of. Mississippi is still suffering from that catastrophic storm, so it’s in many ways the defining event of my time at the University of Mississippi.

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East Carolina has never offered a major in journalism but a surprising number of graduates have succeeded in newspapers and television news, including four who have won journalism’s highest honor, the Pulitzer Prize, 12 times. Who are these people and why do they keep winning awards? We asked one of their ink-stained brethren to investigate.

By Roy Martin

Good writers have been coming out of East Carolina at least since my time there. As associate editor of the student paper and editor of the Rebel literary magazine, I worked with many fine writers such as Jim Stingley Jr., from Jacksonville, who was a reporter at the Los Angeles Times for many years. But this relatively recent bunch of Pulitzer Prize winners and other top media people is notable for their numbers and accomplishments.

One thing many of these East Carolina-bred journalists have in common is they worked for the college newspaper, the yearbook or the Rebel. Sandra Mims Rowe ‘70, who has won five Pulitzers as editor of the Portland Oregonian, and one before that as editor of the Virginian-Pilot, worked two years on the campus paper, which back then was called the Fountainhead. Then she moved to the school yearbook, the Buccaneer, where she was editor her junior and senior years.

Tom Tozer ’76, deputy managing editor of The Charlotte Observer, was a staff writer for the Fountainhead for three years and was managing editor his senior year. Down the hall from his office at the Observer is Mary Schulken ’79, who worked for the student paper and the Greenville Daily Reflector. She became an editor at the Reflector immediately after graduation.

Many of this crowd studied under Ira Baker, who taught English and journalism courses from 1968 to 1980. You usually don’t get far in a conversation with an ECU journalist before his name comes up. He was behind the creation of a minor in journalism here in 1970 and was faculty adviser to the student paper for many years, where he tutored a generation of student journalists. He also edited The Collegiate Journalist, the journal of Alpha Phi Gamma, the national journalism fraternity. Schulken is one of Baker’s many protégés. “Perhaps the most important thing he did for me was to teach me to work fast, be accurate and meet deadlines.” Tozer learned under Larry O’Keefe, a young assistant professor, who “told me there was a market for a clear writing style like mine.” O’Keefe focused on the basics: “Two key lessons East Carolina burned into my memory that I have lived up to all these years: Get it right, get it done on time and never miss a deadline.”

But some never had a college byline. Rick Atkinson ’74 was an English major who studied literature, which helps explain the two Pulitzers he’s won for writing books.

About the author: Roy Martin ’61 MA ’67 was the night metro editor and assistant news editor at the Washington Star during the Watergate era, and admits his newspaper got scooped lots of times by two cub reporters named Woodward and Bernstein at the crosstown rival Washington Post. Roy jumped to television news in 1978 as news director of WSLS-TV Roanoke. After five years at the NBC station, he changed careers again, becoming an English as Second Language teacher in the Roanoke Public Schools. He retired from that post in 2002. Roy started his career at the Daily Reflector and the old Raleigh Times, then was at the Greensboro Record from 1967–72, where he won a Washington Journalism Center fellowship in 1969; he was nominated for a Pulitzer there in 1971 for environmental reporting. A native of Greenville, Roy is author of the 1997 mystery novel Whisper My Name.
But he's also worked for The Washington Post for 20 years and has a Pulitzer for his newspaper reporting. Margaret O'Connor '71 studied art and design at East Carolina University and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree. She was a society girl who went to all the socials but had enough grit to run the photo department of The New York Times during 9/11. She won two Pulitzers for that work.

Then there's Dan Neil '82. To hear tell him, it didn't do anything but show up for work one day at The Los Angeles Times to write reviews about new cars and before his seat was warm they handed him the 2004 Pulitzer for criticism. He usually fails to mention that, after earning a master's from UNC Chapel Hill, he paid his dues working several years at The Raleigh News & Observer and Spectator magazine. Talk about a prolific writer: At one point after leaving the N-C he was writing about cars simultaneously for Autoweek, Car and Driver and Muslim magazines and The New York Times.

Why so many from one university? The answer to that question probably lies in the compelling events of the 1970s and early '80s, the time when most of those Pirates were in college. Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein, Benjamin Bradlee and Kathryn Graham of The Washington Post were becoming legends secured by the paper's painstaking and sometimes frustrating investigative reporting of the Watergate scandal. It was common knowledge then that enrollments in journalism schools across the country reached unprecedented levels due to Watergate. Colleges around the nation had to scramble to accommodate aspiring journalists wanting to be the next Woodward and Bernstein or whoever else was making headlines then by taking down Nixon and his cronies.

But enough reminiscing. Let's get acquainted with today's batch of ECU-trained journalists.

Dan Neil of the Los Angeles Times

"The Pulitzer is a funny thing. It is the only validation of journalistic excellence that the public knows or cares about. You can be a great in the field, a genius. And if you don't get a Pulitzer you're still a wannabe. It's actually quite unfair to the thousands of people who work their guts out every year to produce exceptional work."

That didn't happen to him. "I was a little embarrassed by the Pulitzer. I had been working at The Times for all of four months when they nominated me. So, I started in September 2003 and won the Pulitzer in April of '04 and I had to walk by those ink-stained wretches with 30 years on the job and nothing to show for it but a dingy coffee cup. I won for car reviewing, for God's sake. And yes, I did come to the paper with the expressed desire to win a Pulitzer. I just thought it might take a little longer."

Make no mistake, Neil is an excellent writer because no one had ever won a Pulitzer for writing about cars until he did. The judges marveled at his "one-of-a-kind reviews… blending technical expertise with offbeat humor and astute cultural observations."

Here's a taste, from his review of the $320,000 Rolls-Royce Phantom: "Not since torch-wielding peasants chased Frankenstein's monster through the town square has such a noble spirit been so mercilessly taunted.

One critic compared the… Phantom to a coffin maker's Executive Sumer Series/ another called it the world's most majestic air conditioner. Allow me to pile on. Man, this thing is ugly."

Sandra Mims Rowe of the Portland Oregonian

Her byline didn't appear on any of the news stories or editorials that have won six Pulitzers, but the journalists who did write those pieces she deserves a lot of credit. Rowe has edited The Oregonian, the most prominent paper in the Pacific Northwest with a Sunday circulation of 450,000, since 1993. Before that she edited the Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk and Virginia Beach and worked there for 22 years. She came by her ink stains honestly: Her father was editor of her hometown paper in Harmonsburg, Va. Under her leadership, the Portland newspaper has won five Pulitzers—so far—to go with the one she won back in 1994, since becoming editor of the Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk and Virginia Beach and worked there for 22 years. She came by her ink stains honestly: Her father was editor of her hometown paper in Harmonsburg, Va. Under her leadership, the Portland newspaper has won five Pulitzers—so far—to go with the one she won back in 1994.

"I would call it embracing complexity. Most of our stories aren't just about one thing. When we won for breaking news, [the story was about] this family tragically lost in the snow and mountains and nobody knew where they were. So, you begin thinking a..."
Rick Atkinson
3 Pulitzer

Atkinson learned he’d won the 2003 history prize for An Army at Dawn. No account of the World War II North African campaign, while pushing toward Baghdad as an embedded reporter with the 101st Airborne Division. He’s won Pulitzer along with two for newspaper reporting as well as the George Polk Award.

- History, 2003, An Army at Dawn
- Public service, 1999
- National reporting, 1982

...story is about one thing, but you assume there is complexity. You have the story of the drama and the tragedy. The drama may also be about a couple of people who are at the heart of the rescue or how the state bostched the search party. In that story, we recognized and embraced the complexity of the situation and the people in it.”

She’s honored by the recognition. “Whenever you win a Pulitzer, no matter how long you live, your children will say that you became a Pulitzer prize winner. Is it the highest recognition of your peer group? It’s something that will always be attached to you.”

Rowe is a major figure in the journalism industry and is considered the top woman newspaper editor in the country. She was a board member of the Pulitzer Prize Board at Columbia University from 1994–2003 and was its chairman in 2002–03. She was on the board of the American Society of Newspaper Editors from 1992–99 and was the organization’s president in 1997–98. She’s a past chair of the Knight Foundation Advisory Board. In 2004, she received the George Beverly Editor of the Year award from the National Press Foundation. “She’s been a mentor for everybody, particularly for women all over the country,” Amanda Bennett, editor and executive vice president at the Philadelphia Inquirer, said when Rowe won the Beveridge. “You’d be hard pressed to find a woman editor who hasn’t had some kind of inspiration or advice or help or something from her.”

Richard Atkinson, author

“Like many people, I blundered into my life’s work. So I’m not sure there were many influences from college in play. I didn’t work for the school newspaper. I studied literature so I came to appreciate fine writing but can’t say I practiced it much at that time.”

The seed was planted in Greenville and grew while Atkinson was earning a master’s in English literature at the University of Chicago. As a reporter at the Kansas City Times, he won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for pieces about the would-be assassin of Ronald Reagan, an Air Force officer who was springing for the Soviet Union and a series on the West Point class of 1966, which eventually became his first book, The Long Gray Line. That same year, Atkinson was among several Kansas City reporters covering the Hyatt Hotel catastrophe in which more than 100 people were killed when an overhead walkway collapsed in the middle of a dance. The Kansas City Times and its sister paper, the Star, were awarded the 1982 Pulitzer for local spot news reporting for revelations about the design and construction of the hotel. Atkinson does not count that prize among his awards. He joined the staff of The Washington Post in 1983 and has been a figure there ever since, with leaves to write books. He won the 1989 George Polk Award for national reporting and the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for public service for a series of investigative articles on unwarranted shootings by the District of Columbia police.

An Army beat who once was The Post’s Berlin bureau chief, Atkinson won the 2003 Pulitzer for history for An Army at Dawn, a narrative history of the American Army in North Africa, Italy, and Western Europe during the Second World War. He learned he had won his third Pulitzer while pushing toward Baghdad as an embedded reporter with the 101st Airborne Division. In 2004, he was Gen. Omar N. Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College.

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...story is about one thing, but you assume there is complexity. You have the story of the drama and the tragedy. The drama may also be about a couple of people who are at the heart of the rescue or how the state bostched the search party. In that story, we recognized and embraced the complexity of the situation and the people in it.”

She’s honored by the recognition. “Whenever you win a Pulitzer, no matter how long you live, your children will say that you became a Pulitzer prize winner. Is it the highest recognition of your peer group? It’s something that will always be attached to you.”

Rowe is a major figure in the journalism industry and is considered the top woman newspaper editor in the country. She was a board member of the Pulitzer Prize Board at Columbia University from 1994–2003 and was its chairman in 2002–03. She was on the board of the American Society of Newspaper Editors from 1992–99 and was the organization’s president in 1997–98. She’s a past chair of the Knight Foundation Advisory Board. In 2004, she received the George Beverly Editor of the Year award from the National Press Foundation. “She’s been a mentor for everybody, particularly for women all over the country,” Amanda Bennett, editor and executive vice president at the Philadelphia Inquirer, said when Rowe won the Beveridge. “You’d be hard pressed to find a woman editor who hasn’t had some kind of inspiration or advice or help or something from her.”

Richard Atkinson, author

“Like many people, I blundered into my life’s work. So I’m not sure there were many influences from college in play. I didn’t work for the school newspaper. I studied literature so I came to appreciate fine writing but can’t say I practiced it much at that time.”

The seed was planted in Greenville and grew while Atkinson was earning a master’s in English literature at the University of Chicago. As a reporter at the Kansas City Times, he won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for pieces about the would-be assassin of Ronald Reagan, an Air Force officer who was springing for the Soviet Union and a series on the West Point class of 1966, which eventually became his first book, The Long Gray Line. That same year, Atkinson was among several Kansas City reporters covering the Hyatt Hotel catastrophe in which more than 100 people were killed when an overhead walkway collapsed in the middle of a dance. The Kansas City Times and its sister paper, the Star, were awarded the 1982 Pulitzer for local spot news reporting for revelations about the design and construction of the hotel. Atkinson does not count that prize among his awards. He joined the staff of The Washington Post in 1983 and has been a figure there ever since, with leaves to write books. He won the 1989 George Polk Award for national reporting and the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for public service for a series of investigative articles on unwarranted shootings by the District of Columbia police.

An Army beat who once was The Post’s Berlin bureau chief, Atkinson won the 2003 Pulitzer for history for An Army at Dawn, a narrative history of the American Army in North Africa, Italy, and Western Europe during the Second World War. He learned he had won his third Pulitzer while pushing toward Baghdad as an embedded reporter with the 101st Airborne Division. In 2004, he was Gen. Omar N. Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College.
On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Margaret O’Connor BFA ’71, who then was the photo editor of The New York Times, was having breakfast in her Greenwich Village apartment when she heard a television news bulletin. It was something about an explosion at the World Trade Center a dozen or so blocks away. And thus began the most wrenching time of her life.

All the photos fit to print

By Steve Tuttle  Photography by Michael Nagle
I

n the wee hours of the next day she hurried home to grab a little sleep and some clean clothes before returning to work. Going home that night “was the easiest walk I have ever had. My neighborhood is never deserted, even at 2 a.m., but it was completely deserted that night. I remember walking by the New School, and all the windows were covered with these posters that people had made, with pictures of their loved ones. And above the pictures they all said ‘Missing.’ ‘Missing.’ ‘Missing.’ By then I knew what our photographers had known all day—just about anybody who was missing was dead. And that’s when it hit me; this was happening to my world, to my neighborhood.”

She rarely took a day off for weeks as thousands of pictures taken by her staff flowed across her desk and into the pages of The Times. She remembers a disagreement on publishing just one. “It was a picture of my neighbor. The Times’, about 15 years as an art director and as deputy designs director when she was elevated to director of photography in April 1998. At the time it wasn’t a promotion she wanted. One of the last major newspapers to adopt color photography, The Times still clung to the notion that readers preferred long columns of gray type.

Reacting to the emergence of the Internet and a few very big newspapers, most other newspapers had added eye-catching graphics and big, colorful pictures. The Times was making progress in informational graphics but still struggled with using photography intelligently. O’Connor had worked on a redesign of the paper in the late 1990s, so it seemed natural that, as the new photo editor, she would join an internal working group charged with refining how to use pictures effectively. O’Connor had been working for The Times about 15 years as an art director and as deputy designs director when she was elevated to director of photography in April 1998.

The Times garnered heaps of praise for its photography in the tumultuous period after 9/11, all of which she felt short of her team. “My staff was great. Everybody did exactly what they were supposed to do and they did it perfectly.” In the spring of 2002, the Pulitzer Prize judges agreed, handing The Times’ photography staff not one but two Pulitzers. The paper was honored in the breaking news category “for its consistently outstanding photographic coverage of the terrorist attack on New York City and its aftermath,” and for feature photography “chronicling the pain and the perseverance of people enduring protracted conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

Over the past century and a half, The New York Times had won about 100 Pulitzers for its writing. The two wins by O’Connor and her team were the first ones the paper ever won for staff photography. The odd thing is that O’Connor, the woman who just a few years earlier had taught The Times to think of photography as visual journalism, isn’t a photographer.

One World Trade Center begins collapsing.

One of 20 photographs, by 14 photographers appearing in The New York Times on the days following 9/11.

The crowd at a Taliban rally in Pakistan.

Days after 9/11, O’Connor sent Times photographers into Pakistan and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan to learn more about the people there.

Lipstick for the Gray Lady

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one closet, one telephone in the whole house, two bathrooms, one of which you couldn’t use the shower because it leaked. We called Margaret ‘Rose Garden.’ There was a song out then called ‘I never promised you a rose garden,’ and I’m not exactly sure why it started but that’s what we called her. She used to sign her name in notes as RG.”

The difference between them was “she could draw and I couldn’t,” adds Pfybron, a former member of the Board of Visitors who lives in Greensboro. “Margaret was working long hours as an art student, always working on some project.”

“I didn’t start out with journalism in mind at all,” O’Connor says now. “My interests and talents lay in graphic design and illustration. The photography classes I took made me fall in love with the process, which at the time meant the darkroom. ‘Photovoltaics’ for my senior show.”

“-process. I remember that I made a lot of mistakes in the darkroom, which at the time meant the darkroom. ‘Photovoltaics’ for my senior show.”

“Back then, we had no connection to home, just postcards,” Long continues. “We would tell people that we planned to be in some town on a certain date and when we got there we would stop at the American Express office. Occasionally we would get mail that way.”

O’Connor smiles remembering those carefree days. “I will never forget spending my 25th birthday in Madrid.” It was a memorable meal. Long says. “We usually had trouble with menus because we didn’t speak fluent Spanish. But this meal had gone well; we thought the waiter understood us. Then we got to dessert. The waiter brought out this lovely platter with fruit. Margaret looked at the banana and said I will have the banana. Judith holds up two fingers and says make that two. I hold up three fingers and said make that three. The waiter went to the kitchen and came back. For Margaret he had a plate with one banana, for Judith she had a plate with two bananas. My plate had three bananas.”

On to San Francisco

Returning from Europe, O’Connor went to Washington, D.C., where she found work at a small illustration studio. A year later she moved home to Roanoke and worked at a small ad agency. O’Connor had a steady boyfriend but sensed her sorority sister was in France finishing her degree and that her interests and talents lay in graphic design and illustration. She became close friends with one of the writers at the paper, Beverly Talbott, “We grew up barely close friends with one of the writers at the paper, Beverley Talbott. We became friends and I would write her letters.”

Beverley Talbott, who now is a technical writer for the International Herald Tribune, wrote, “We grew up barely close friends with one of the writers at the paper, Beverley Talbott. We became friends and I would write her letters.”

“In 1979, I was hired by the San Francisco Examiner as a designer and illustrator. She became director of news design, heading the graphics and photography department. Within five years she was promoted to deputy design director and oversaw the paper’s 90-member art department. After her seminal work as the paper’s photo editor, she was promoted to senior editor for visuals. Since January 2005 she has served as director of news design, heading a revived newsroom staff responsible for melding news, pictures and graphics to create the news pages. Each day she critiques the paper, paying particular attention to photographs and graphics. Where not at work O’Connor, who remains single, usually is traveling to some exotic locale. She lived in Paris on and off during all of 2004 helping to set up a design team at the International Herald Tribune, which The Times owns. She has journeyed, alone, to Bali, Australia and Sri Lanka. This past summer she endured the heat of Death Valley to experience its stark beauty. In 2007, she was named as one of East Carolina’s 100 most distinguished alumnae. Lately she has picked up another hobby, writing. ‘I’ve been trying to reinvent myself as a writer of personal essays,’ she muses. “I spent the last few years trying to figure out what I would like to do next. One of the things I think is important is that people can be a problem you have to live with for a long time. Hiring the right person pays off every day.”

Was her some experience in your past—maybe it was tramping around Europe after college—where you learned to see the world more clearly. I have done a fair amount of travelling and I think that does make a difference. Traveling, like photography, is about the discovery process. It’s also important to stay open-minded and ready for anything, especially adjustment of expectations. Some ‘word editors’ I know are disappointed when the photographs come back showing something different than expected. I think this applies to life as well. Opportunities come along that we don’t plan on, or even desire, but it’s important to take advantage of that and go with what comes along. An unplanned road can lead to unimaginable reward.

Questions for Margaret O’Connor

Assuming they survive the digital age, what do you think newspapers will contain and look like 20 years from now?

I remember being on some kind of committee a dozen years ago where we were asked to design the “newspaper of the future.” Only one person’s design was a computer screen, obviously the only one of us who had read foresight. I guess I think the web is the future and we are quickly and surely heading that way. Even I find myself checking the web site before the paper. I do think some print product will survive, but it will possibly become more like a daily magazine on newsprint. We already count on the web to break news quickly and run longer, analytical pieces in the paper. So, you may see more of that. Or, the paper could even become an “at a glance” guide to the web. What do you consider the most important decision you’ve made at work?

Hiring the right people is always an important decision and one I think I’ve done well with, I’m proud of the fact that I was able to bring some terrific photographers to The Times. I’ve also hired some excellent designers and journalists for the design department. A wrong person can be a problem you have to live with for a long time. Hiring the right person pays off every day.”

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By Bethany Bradsher

Maxine Ford is in the sixth grade now but she vividly remembers how nervous she was about a social studies test last year—the one that required her to know details about each of the 50 states. But she aced it because each afternoon leading up to the test she sat at a table at the Building Hope Community Life Center ensuring each point with her friend and tutor, Laura Edwards.

“We were doing the 50 states and she helped me with that,” Maxine says. “We made index cards and she helped me study and I got a 100. Well, actually a 150 because I knew all the state nicknames, too.”

Maxine’s outstanding score reflects the diligence of Edwards, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology; Edwards is one of at least a half-dozen ECU faculty and staff members who help make Building Hope’s after-school and community enhancement programs successful for the 300 kids it serves.

Building Hope director Robert Lee, whose board of directors includes Mark L’Esperance (Education) and Liz Workman (Athletics), says he can’t imagine how the seventh-year-old center would survive without the expertise and dedication of friends with ECU connections. “It’s huge,” he says, pointing to the invaluable help he gets from faculty and a recurring cycle of ECU interns with ECU connections.

“The relationship needs to be strong because both need each other.”

Once every quarter, officials from four entities get together for refreshments, information sharing and problem solving. As a reminder that no one party has the upper hand, the hosting duties of these Town- Gown Commission meetings rotate among the city of Greenville, Pitt County, the Chamber of Commerce and East Carolina.

The commission discusses topics like crime prevention downtown, transportation issues and diversity. According to Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn ’58, the city’s potential can only be maximized when ECU interests figure prominently into decisions.

“I think what we’ve seen as the university enrollment has grown dramatically is that it plays a greater role in our resident population,” Dunn says. “It’s in the interest of all of us that we work together, because the students are not going to go away and the city is not going to go away.”

Like any relationship, this one has varying dynamics, and most of the notable town and gown collaboration follows one of three trends: The community reaching out to the ECU students and faculty, the university reaching out to the community, or the university and community partnering in an equal partnership.

First Move: Greenville

When the city takes the initiative, students get educated about city ordinances, which leads to neighborhoods where permanent residents and students live together in harmony. One of the more comprehensive city-led efforts, the Take Heed program, literally brings Greenville to students’ doors each fall. On a Wednesday in September, more than 20 volunteers distributed some 1,500 brochures to students who live off campus.

The information covers topics like parking rules and other city ordinances, as well as services for students on and off campus. Also covered are Greenville recycling and trash schedules and emergency information. The program is spearheaded by the city but it dovetails with the university’s objective of teaching students how to be good citizens for a lifetime, says Lucia Bramson with the ECU Center for Off-Campus Living.

Bramson’s office offers coupons for reduced apartment rentals to any student who watches a “Take Heed” video. The center hosts monthly luncheons at Mendenhall covering topics like student legal issues and public safety, she adds. She is an advocate for the students who live off campus; Greenville City Councilman Larry Spell ’99 says a Take Heed Rally for ECU home football games. Other examples of strong town and gown relations are events like Freeboot Friday, which is organized by Uptown Greenville but is designed as a type of community pep rally for ECU home football games. Another example is the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center, housed in a former church building in West Greenville that was purchased by the city but is controlled by the university and used for student community outreach and internships for programs like
n passions with the community. an professors sharing their gifts and in every college and department at a small fraction of the efforts we heard efforts. space allows us to cite only a an impressive assortment of outreach informal poll of each college turned up which come to campus eight weekends series, free and open to the public, offers the great Decision speaker understanding of international events, eCU faculty and staff and local partners with greenville recreation and Parks to offer three choirs for kids with special needs. Children as young as 6 can participate in the choirs, which provide an inclusive social environment in which kids can develop vocal and rhythmic skills. faculty and students in the School of Music tutor elementary school kids who are learning stringed instruments. Using a Dana Foundation grant, the kids are bused to campus twice a week for intensive lessons beyond what’s available at most local schools. World Affairs Council, a group of ECU faculty and staff and local citizens committed to promoting understanding of international events, offers the Great Decision speaker series, free and open to the public, which come to campus eight weekends in a row. locals often say hearing the speakers is like a college education. The School of Music, Jazz Studies Program and the Hilton Greenville Hotel will partner starting this fall to host the six-week-long Jazz at hatties series, a new highlight of the local cultural calendar. The evenings will feature performances by guest artists as well as students and faculty. Dr. John Harer, an assistant professor in the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology, has started two sports leagues for kids with disabilities in Pitt County. Challenger baseball and Little League, at based Little League, opened in Greenville three years ago. Harer initiated the formation of TOPOsoccer an adapted soccer league that is the only one of its kind in North Carolina. Several ECU faculty and staff, including librarians Glenn Brown and Andrew Hammons, are associated with the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology and Joyner librarian Emily Blankenship, participate in pet therapy through the Delta Society. They visit nursing homes and adult care facilities in Greenville with animals trained to show love for the residents. The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, which usually acts as a liaison to other town-governed partnerships, ship of its own last year with the Fairytale Boutique. Gently used produce and formal occasion dresses are donated to the center. Girls from high schools who are unable to afford a new prom dress “shop” at the boutique for a dress and accessories. The boutique is entirely managed by ECU students. Faculty from the Teaching Resources Center in the Department of Library Science serves as judges and score keepers for the Pitt County Battle of the Books and Quiz Bowl. Numerous members of the faculty and staff also volunteer at and help coordinate the annual Shipyard Memorial Library book sale. Dr. Chris Walcott, assistant professor of psychology, led the planning team for the Washington/Beaufort County CROP Hunger Walk last October. Her team raised over $6,000 to fight hunger at home and throughout the world. Dr. Melissa Matchett, postdoctoral fellow in psychology, co-developed “The Privateer Organization,” which aims to engage ECU Health Psychology doctoral students to give back to the community. Their first project was a Pirate carnival they organized for Greenville and Pitt County. Several divisions of the university are engaged to serve the community. Doing that comes naturally at East Carolina, whose motto is Servire, “to serve.” Each year, the Service Society recognizes faculty, staff and students who contribute at least 100 hours of volunteer service to the community in the previous year. Fifty-seven faculty and staff members were so honored this year, representing thousands of hours of community service. East Carolina is active well beyond Greenville and Pitt County. Several divisions of the university are engaged in Pitt County and surrounding counties. Several community colleges and 65 other regional organizations and industries in eastern North Carolina are benefiting from training and resources provided by the College of Technology and Computer Science. East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership mobilizes nurses and nursing students to become effective leaders in creating healthier communities east of I-95. The Wounded Warrior East program run by the College of Health and Human Performance provides rehabilitation services to reduce posttraumatic stress and increase physical activity for soldiers returning to homes across the region. equal partners The third type of interaction between ECU and its environs is the true alliance where each entity thrives in a partnership relationship, the university is finding its own ways to be a good citizen by frequently leaving the ivory tower to serve the community. Doing that comes naturally at East Carolina, whose motto is Servire, “to serve.” Each year, the Service Society recognizes faculty, staff and students who contribute at least 100 hours of volunteer service to the community in the previous year. Fifty-seven faculty and staff members were so honored this year, representing thousands of hours of community service. East Carolina is active well beyond Greenville and Pitt County. 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African American experience by understanding to help students understand the African and nothing like what you see on TV. We're trying them to get a view of Africa close up, and it's continent. “Their experience was a kind of shows the truth about this vast and complex director. Visiting a successful African nation of Ghana with other students in first students to major in the program. Her experience is one of the reasons the home to me,” says Rosario, 59, one of the some of my history, it brought it all back “When I went to Africa and studied and ethnic backgrounds. For career-minded students, the degree opportunities and offer advanced degrees. “It’s also important for people who are not personal and academic need to better understand the African American experience. Indeed, the program is part of a national current in African American studies that places emphasis on research and community service, he says. “The first programs of this kind were usually established at historically white colleges and universities, when African Americans were first being admitted, and they found their schools were not offering information about their history and identity,” he says. “In some cases, they were managed by activists, and not by the academicians. We have moved away from that. Today, African and African American Studies are standardized academic programs, with scholarship and research.” At ECU, other factors are at work. Today’s campus is more ethnically diverse than ever: 16 percent of the student body is African American, and nearly 5 percent of students trace themselves to other minority groups. There are students from 56 foreign countries as well. What’s more, students are seeking disciplines that invite long-term research opportunities and offer advanced degrees. For career-minded students, the degree provides a solid foundation for careers in social work, health care—even at museums and state historical sites. No matter what their future path, all students need to understand the larger world around them, Dennard says. Changes here and abroad mean almost constant contact with people from other cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

Study abroad, act at home
Last summer, students spent 15 days in Ghana, one of Africa’s most successfully developed nations. “African Americans have a close relationship with Ghana,” Dennard says. “Ghana has been a progressive leader in Africa, by throwing off the yoke of colonialism in 1957, before the other African countries.” Students toured fortified “slave castles” or forts where Africans were held, often for months at a time, awaiting ships for transport. These forts were run by Europeans, first the Portuguese and Dutch and later the English. Back on campus, students are collaborating on projects that explore solutions to pressing social problems with particular relevance to the African American community, such as underage drinking, affordable housing and racial profiling. They examine theoretical information and its practical applications, and develop their own recommendations for improvement. There is a strong emphasis on devising solutions for the community, Dennard says. “Students in this program benefit from their own academic development, but they’ll also be able to change their communities,” he says. Sunday Ajose, a native of Nigeria who has been on faculty since 1988, chaired the committee that developed the African and African American Studies program. Although his primary appointment is in math education, he became interested in African and African American Studies when he realized he knew more about his adopted American home than about his native one. “Though I am an American, I still love Nigeria very much,” Ajose says. “It’s a very dynamic country. I believe very strongly in the concept of ‘Know yourself’. It’s important to understand your history, and for African Americans, there is an African part of our history and an American part.” It’s also important for people who are not minorities at ECU to know the true history of African peoples. This program will broaden these views, and make them better students. In the end, they’ll be better able to understand the world.” For Rosario, whose parents were sharecroppers, visiting Ghana means thinking about her life and future in a different way. “Until we can understand everything together, we can never bring about change,” she says. “We have to understand one another.”
By Leanne E. Smith

Whitney when he was 15, Steven Powell got a job as an orderly at his hometown hospital in Kentucky. He watched doctors whose skill and dedication inspired him to attend medical school. Thirty years after receiving his M.D. with distinction from the University of Kentucky, a visual reminder of his beginnings in medicine decorates his office wall: a shadowbox containing the mask and gloves from his first scrub. Powell downplays the accolades, but his colleagues still praise him. Powell is “unique as a leader and surgeon,” says Dr. Philip Brown ’95, who practices in Wilmington. “For all of us Powell disciples,” says Dr. William M. Bogey Jr., Frank M. Parker, and Michael Clinton Stoner—formerly mentor third- and fourth-year medical and physician assistant students. While many of the residents with whom Powell works focuses on general surgery, some specialize in vascular training. With the opening of the new Heart Institute, however, Powell says, “One of the goals is to have our own specialized training program in vascular surgery.”

Then, he says, more doctors and their patients would know that cardiovascular disease isn’t just about heart attacks and strokes. The same plaque buildup that can reduce or totally block blood flow to the heart and brain also can clog arteries that supply blood to other organs, arms, and legs. Such blockages—known as peripheral arterial disease (PAD)—reduce a patient’s quality of life and can eventually cause heart attacks and strokes. Whether patients choose a vascular path or not, Powell says supervising doctors are proud of their apprentices’ progress at different points. “Sometimes a resident or student will show such self motivation or accomplishment that in the short run there is immediate pride in what they accomplish. Other times, it is at the culmination of six years of training and feeling they are ready to practice independently as conscientious surgeons.”

Teaching and learning don’t stop with the doctor–resident team. Powell believes “There is not enough time devoted to teaching about vascular disease in medical school,” and as a result, “Some doctors perform too many procedures because they fail to keep up or have knowledge of the latest medical advances, which can in many cases avoid expensive, invasive treatment like surgery, or an angioplasty or stent procedure. If we can save patients from having one too many expensive tests or procedures, then we can go a long way in helping solve the financial crisis that is reaching the boiling point in our health care system.”

Powell and his team want new and experienced doctors, even outside a university setting, to be aware of current research and practice. He has given numerous guest lectures for professionals at satellite locations of the Eastern Area Healthcare Education Center, and facilitated outreach clinics in several eastern N.C. counties. He hopes his quartet of “experts in cost-effective diagnosis and treatment of PAD” can continue to “share knowledge with other providers who cannot be as up to date with the latest developments in diagnosis and treatment of vascular disease.”

Treating PAD, he says, shouldn’t just be about a doctor prescribing a drug or performing a surgical procedure. In fact, surgery should rarely be the first solution. Long-term PAD management requires patients to control risk factors don’t smoke; exercise regularly; maintain a healthy diet; and regulate diabetes, high blood pressure; and high cholesterol. The noninvasive treatment approach has been successful. Chitwood says, “He has developed a world class vascular surgery program at ECU with world class surgeons, who specialize in the least invasive procedures and operations for both complex and simple blood vessel disease and stroke prevention.”

Learning permeates life

Powell’s multifaceted perspective on medicine carries over into his life away from campus. He enjoys “gold, capitalism and the financial markets, all aspects of American history, fly fishing, C-SPAN’s Real TV, cosmology, history, writing and education.” His recent reads include Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation and The Last Lecture. On or off campus, learning permeates Powell’s life. He and his team look forward to the educational opportunities in the new Heart Institute that will help them add members to the team of doctors, students and patients who put patient health first.

“In addition to our commitment to educate the doctors of the future through our affiliation with BCOM and Pitt County Memorial Hospital, the new center offers a chance to implement a system of cost effective, total care of all aspects of the treatment of cardiovascular disease and to develop a support network for education of primary care providers who are dealing with patients with vascular disease in our region and beyond.”

“He’s a character, and his charisma inspired us,” says former pupil Brown, who practices with Wilmington Health Associates. “He’s a fabulous mentor, always available for advice. He’s an extremely gifted surgeon and enjoys what he does, whether it’s teaching or surgery, and Powell is a large part of the reason why I decided to go into vascular surgery. He challenged us to develop mastery over vascular disease treatment. He’s passionate about doing the right thing and really conveys that to his trainees.”
Mr. Holland's Opus

He's taught East Carolina how to win again simply by making the Pirates believe they can
By Bethany Bradsher

East Carolina fans were shocked when Terry Holland, in one of his first major moves after being named East Carolina's director of athletics four years ago, announced an ambitious football schedule that included multiple games against North Carolina, Virginia Tech and other big-name opponents. It seemed a daunting challenge for a team that had finished the prior year with a 1-11 record and had won a grand total of 11 games in three years. There's nary a Doubting Thomas in the Pirate Nation now.

These days, Holland, who is six feet seven inches tall, literally towers over the sports landscape in Greenville. He is widely respected for restoring the region's pride in East Carolina sports and for his folksy, down-home approach to the job. The football program has regained much of its former luster and most other sports teams have improved, both academically and in the win-loss column.

But if you're looking for some grand, complicated scheme behind Holland's philosophy, you won't find it. For example, he says he added powerhouse schools to the schedule because he knew that we could beat them, but I know we couldn't beat them unless we played them."

In June 2005 he announced an aggressive five-year plan. Holland is widely respected for restoring the region's athletic landscape. In 2001 he resigned as Virginia Tech's athletic director to become a special assistant to the college president. He led the fund raising for an $86 million expansion of the university's football stadium and spearheaded the construction of the new $130 million John Paul Jones basketball arena.

Ready for another challenge

After three years of helping Virginia meet the unshakable challenges of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Holland felt he was ready for one more task. Much to the Pirate Nation's surprise, he took ECU's cause with gusto. Within a few months of his arrival in September 2004, he orchestrated the mid-season resignation of football coach John Thompson and the hiring of Skip Holtz.

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Terry Holland already has achieved several important goals by constructing a self-sustaining sports program with the confidence to exceed regardless of SEC or BCS constraints. But challenges remain, especially in the areas of facility. When Holland arrived the tight ends were holding their position meetings in a broom closet.

Holland, who turned 66 in April, will retire when his assignment in shoring up Pirate fans' self-esteem makes it clear that an important part of his mission is to keep the Pirates at the forefront of any new developments. He's determined to keep the Pirates at the forefront of any new developments.

--C.J.

Another bit of unfinished business for Holland, at least in the minds of many who follow the Pirates, is the question of conference affiliations. Membership in Conference USA has given ECU the chance to compete against established schools and to attract potential coaches and leading clientele. East Carolina remains still one of the few Division I programs that are as well respected for their volleyball, men's basketball and women's basketball teams. A $30 million plan to shore up the Olympic sports program and competition venues is in the development stages now.

In brick-and-mortar terms, "We are way behind our competition," Holland says.

Since Terry Holland arrived:

- Women's basketball reinforced, winning the 2007 Conference USA Tournament championship and holding its own in the NCAA Tournament.
- Men's basketball, never one of ECU's strong sports, reached the NCAA tournament last season and tied the school record for wins in a season.
- The baseball team has recorded back-to-back winning seasons with its highest GPA in the history of the program.
- The women's soccer team tied the school record for wins, 11, in 2006.
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Scholarships race ahead

After awarding an unprecedented 24 scholarships to deserving students this academic year, the Alumni Association is using growing proceeds from its fund-raisers to award 30 in 2009–10. Supporting the scholarships are the Pirate’s Bounty Scholarship Auction, the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic and the Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run. Tax-deductible membership contributions and outright gifts to the Alumni Association also support student scholarships.

One of this year’s scholarship recipients is Tiffany Lee, a junior double major in biology and communication with a minor in neuroscience. Lee, who has made the Dean’s List five semesters, is an early assurance neuroscience student to the Brody School of Medicine. “This kind of recognition reinforces for me that I’m on the right path with my education,” said Lee, who participated in this year’s road race. “That race was the first I’ve ever participated in and now I have a new passion for running.”

Another scholarship recipient is current student body president Andrew Griffin, a senior finance major who has been on the Honor Roll for eight semesters. A member of ECU’s Men’s Rugby Club, Griffin was named Greek Man of the Year in 2007 and is an active volunteer. “This award has helped me in continuing my education at our outstanding university, and I will continue to do everything possible to uphold the reputation that comes with receiving an Alumni Association Scholarship,” Griffin said.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 and submit an application, a letter of recommendation and an official transcript. Students may apply for a scholarship each year they are enrolled as a full-time, undergraduate student. Graduating students who intend to enroll at ECU for graduate school may also apply for one of the scholarships. Completed applications are due by Jan. 31. Applications are available at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center at 901 East Fifths Street and online at PirateAlumni.com/scholarships.

Sail with the Pirates

Come sail away with the Alumni Association in June on cruises to the Caribbean and Bermuda. Open to all alumni and friends, the cruises are the perfect way to cultivate your passion for learning through travel. Setting sail from Norfolk, Va., on June 4, the Eastern Caribbean 10-day cruise on Royal Caribbean’s Grandeur of the Seas is sure to satisfy your desire for turquoise seas and pink sandy beaches. Wells stop in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas Virgin Islands; Samana, Dominican Republic; and Labadee, Haiti, you’ll have the complete Eastern Caribbean experience. Are you intrigued by the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle? Then book our five-day Bermuda Cruise for June 13–18 and explore the beauty and mystery of Bermuda. Visit PirateAlumni.com/piratevoyages or call 800-ECU-GRAD for details.

Pirate Career Calls

A new season of Pirate Career Calls is under way. Offered through a partnership with the Alumni Association, the Career Center and Human Resources, these monthly conference calls offer tips and advice to alumni and friends who are seeking employment. Held the first Thursday of each month beginning at noon, the hour-long Career Calls cover key job search and advancement issues. Supporting the discussions are PowerPoint presentations that will be e-mailed to participants who register at PirateAlumni.com/careercalls. Here is the schedule and topics:

Kelly King ’70 ’71 was promoted to president and CEO of Branch Banking & Trust Co., succeeding the retiring John Allison. King also was elected to the BB&T board of directors. He had served as COO of the bank since 2004, when he succeeded Henry Williamson Jr. ’68 ’71.

Allison’s retirement is the latest step in BB&T’s five-year executive management transition plan that also included the retirement of chief credit officer W. Kendall Chalk ’65 ’71.

King, 59, joined BB&T in 1972 and has been a member of BB&T’s executive management team since 1983. He was named president of BB&T Corp. in 1996.

“The board is totally confident in Kelly’s leadership and long-term commitment to our company,” said lead corporate director James Maynard ’65, co-founder and chairman of the Golden Corral restaurant chain. “Kelly knows BB&T as well as anyone. He knows the culture and knows the values and will keep both intact as CEO.”

King is a member of the Financial Services Roundtable and serves as chairman of the Piedmont Triad Leadership Group. He is a member of the Triangle Community Foundation Leadership Council and the N.C. Chamber of Commerce board. He is past chair of the United Way Tocqueville Leadership Society, and a former board member of the American Bankers Association. He has chaired the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, the N.C. Bankers Association and the East Carolina University Board of Visitors.

With $136.5 billion in assets, Winston-Salem, N.C.-based BB&T Corp is the nation’s 14th largest financial holding company. It operates nearly 1,500 financial centers in 11 states and Washington, D.C.
and Jason Bradley Brock of Angier were married Aug. 2 in Raleigh. She is a CPA, and he works in real estate. JENNIKA KNOX, a member of the Class of 2005, was named assistant treasurer at Greenville-based Select Pharmacy. She has four years of teaching experience and a master’s degree in education from ECU.

EMANUEL JENNINGS, a member of the Class of 2006, was named the new principal at West Rockingham Elementary School. He was a P.E. teacher at Washington Street School in Greenville. He was a finalist for Pitt County Teacher of the Year. A teacher at E.B. Ward Sports Medicine Building, Suite 304

The Pirate Club would like to thank the Pirate Nation for continued support and devotion to our Pirates! No student-athletes have dedicated themselves more than our football student-athletes. So, we need your help again in 2009.

Thank You For Being An ECU Pirate Club Member!

The Pirate Club would like to thank the Pirate Nation for your ongoing support. Once again, we surpassed our goal of $5.175 million in pledges. And remember, we will need your help again in 2009.

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GO PIRATES!
alumni spotlight

Alla Eis Debnam ’82, formerly dean of health programs at Fayetteville Technical Community College, was named executive director of the Council for Allied Health in North Carolina (CAHNC).

Debnam served as a member and president of the board of trustees of Cape Fear Valley Health Systems from 1997-2003, during which time the hospital converted from a public hospital to a not-for-profit, health system. Debnam also worked with the Robeson County School and Cumberland County School systems in implementing their school health programs and curricula. She recently published her second health textbook. From 1987-1996, Debnam was a fellow at the prestigious William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations, Wildcades Leadership Initiative.

CAHNC represents more than 20,000 allied health professionals from 22 professions. The council was established in 1991 by allied health practitioners, educators and employers who were concerned about chronic allied health workforce shortages and critical health care issues and needs. Debnam said her top priorities at CAHNC are continuing to build stronger partnerships with health associations, institutions and agencies. She said: “In the past 10 years, there has been a lot of emphasis placed on stable financial resources to support the councils vision, mission and goals.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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Class Notes

2001

JENNIFER DIANE ANGEVINI

Wilmington. She is a senior administrative assistant for the School in Hamlet...

CHRISti J. ROARK

Wintergreen Intermediate School in Greenville.

REyNOLdS

Virginia Theological Seminary.

SCOTT AVETT

is the new principal at Northwood High School in Pittsboro. He was a music teacher for 17 years and was principal of Leesburg High School prior to arriving in 2003.

AMANdA HUDDElSTON AVERY

at PCC. 

KENT STAMBOLITIS

KONStAdiNO JOHN

diANe ANGEVINi

TAkEn at PCC. 

JEROEN DIJIK

WAtKiNS

at Mount Olive College–W ashington.

iii

'02 '03 was promoted to office executive at The News, V a., and will keep his position as a guidance counselor for the...
Education. HERBERT GABRiel HARDISON and TARA REBECCA LILLEY of Greenville were married May 31 at Eastern Carolina Air in Columbia. She is a BBT bankcard services online products manager in Winston, and he is a school principal in Greenville. CHRISTOPHER ROBERT NUNN and Keith Lynn Wegman were married July 7, 2005, in Wilmington. He works in management at E.L. Capey. CHAD DAVID SARY, assistant planning director for Wale Ford, joined the American Institute of Certified Planners after completing training and passing an exam administered by the American Planning Association.

ROB GLICKMAN of Palm City, Fla., became a partner/shareholder in the Harley, Rogate, Miller, Cox, Waranch, and Womans law firm in St. Augustine and is managing partner for the Fort Lauderdale office. At ECU, he was Gamma Beta Phi president and an Omicron Delta Kappa member.

ANGELA DENSIE BEAMAN-WILLIAMS of Wilson was promoted to senior vice president at BB&T after working as a loan documentation manager. A Wilson native, she has worked with the bank since 1998. ALLISON BLACKMAN is a new account executive with EMECO. She was a senior marketing analyst with Hatteras Yachts of New Bern. DR. PAUL GARCIA ‘94 ’00 of Westminster, medical director of PsychMed Services at PCMH and a psychiatry and behavioral medicine resident, was named to the eight-member N.C. Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. MARIA RICE JENKINS was named the top teacher at Northwood Elementary School in Pitt County. STEPHEN MENNINGER was named the top teacher at Pasquotank School.

GINA PRESCOTT BEAMAN ‘98 ’06 was named Pitt County Teacher of the Year. In her 20 years in education, she has taught at Westview, Chocowinity, and in 2003, Croatan elementary schools. At EROWN CAMPBELL, a physical therapist at Natch Health Care, where she has worked for 20 years, received the Outstanding Clinical Instructor of the Year award from ECU. LINDA SANDERS LEICHT of Westerly Center retired after 26 years with Pitt County Schools. CATHY HILL POWELL of Greenville retired after five years with Pitt County Schools.

JOHN JOSEPH BENNETT ‘95 was named a finalist for Pitt County Teacher of the Year. He was a teacher at Ayden Elementary School for four years. SUZANNE BEALE BROWN of Frederick, Md., received her M.A. in clinical counseling, married Jeff Rosen, and is a stay-at-home mother of Blake, who was born June 4, 2007. After majoring in music education and performance, she sang on dinner cruises and was lead singer for the band Crocodile Tears. CLAUDIA H. GARCIA, a physical therapist at Nash Health Care, where she has worked for 20 years, received the Outstanding Clinical Instructor of the Year award from ECU.

DAVID DAVIDSON of Knotts Island is a Title I reading teacher at Knotts Island Elementary School. JOEY CRUTCHFIELD, a teacher in Duplin and Duplin counties and was a principal, director of programs for exceptional children, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. He is married to SHIRLEY H. BENSON.

Joey Crutchfield, a teacher at DHY Conley High School, was a finalist for Pitt County Teacher of the Year. ALPHONZO MCRAE JR. of Pittsboro, who is now president for atmospheric services at Robertson Community College, was appointed to the trustees at Southeast Regional Medical Center. JOSEPH NELSON ‘80, ‘85.
Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: Class Notes Editor, Building 198, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353; or fax to 252-328-4269. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can e-mail your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While East Carolina proudly prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Please, also when listing fellow alumnus in your news, please list their class year.

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recover about 7500 artifacts from the Revolutionary and Civil War era. He is also co-author of CSV: Nose. A Question of Bone. Though the Eyes of Salome: The Battle of Wyck Farm, Knoxville, North Carolina, March 7–14, 1660.

Daniel W. Rice Jr ’73, director of specialized services at Caswell Development Center in Kinston, received the 2007 Spring Hope Enterprise LIFE Mayors Scholarship at ECU. Dr. RAY PRUETT '39 of Franklin died Aug. 30 at 80. Editor of the state newspaper in 1969, he was teaching assistant at Louisburg College for 36 years, Louisburg College gave him a Distinguished Service Award when he retired in 1985, and in 1987, the school named its office of alumni relations, the first recipient of the Cecil W. Robbins Public Service Award. He retired from N.C. Operations Award, was granted for the homecoming parade in 1986, and was presented to MARGARET PRUETT ’40. HAZEL WHITEHURST ROSE ’52 of Wilson died Feb. 26 at age 89. She retired in 1973 after 38 years teaching elementary school. A charter member of the Omicron Chapter of Delta Gamma, she was also in the Wilson Women’s Club and First United Methodist Church. DOROTHY WOODSIDE UNDERWOOD ’33 of Durham died Jan. 15 at age 97. She taught for three years and was a homemaker and a resident in the Home October for Children in Raleigh.

JOHN L. “JACK” JOHNSON ’46 and ROYSE GRAHAM JOHNSON ’48 of Farmville celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at their Tidewater beach house and had lunch at Sunset Landing. Married in Greenville on Jul. 7, 1948, he was principal as she was at Farmville High School. They have two children, ROYSE MARY JOHNSON, WALTER ’72 and JOY JOHNSON MCHONE ’93, and four grandchildren, MARY KATHY MOWEN ’86. KATHIE of Lillington is one of the first governor-appointed members of the Farmville Area School Board. A retired teacher and former ECU trustee, she was named one of the 100 Incredible Women at ECU in 2007 and was on the state board. She and of the Cottey Foundation Board, she is married to former SEN. BERT R. MORGAN ’47.

FLORINE MAV BACHELOR ’55 of Tarboro died July 17 at age 58. She taught at West Edgecombe and Battle schools in Rocky Mount, and received Bachelor’s degree in 1974. She was active at Fuquay Chapel and Rocky Mount. RUBY EVELYN ROGERS BUXOLO ’52 of Greenville died Aug. 29 at age 100. Originally from Greenville and Wake counties, she taught school at Chappell, Reidsville, Chadb., and Stokes before retiring in 1969. A retired school teacher, she was 60 years at Mount Pleasant Christian Church, and was married to Gillett Buxol for 67 years. MARY ELIZABETH SINTON ’38 of Battleboro died July 31. She taught school for more than 30 years at Mount Pleasant Christian Church, and was married to Beverly Buxol for 60 years. BEVERIDGE ’39 of Beaufort died May 28. She taught in Carteret County for 40 years, and her late husband funded scholarships at three high schools, Carteret Community College and ECU.

JAMES RUSSELL BEDDARD SR. ’41 of Manning died July 7. He was principal and assistant principal of Manning Elementary from 1947 to 1988. He founded “Class noTes” as a social worker for the Baptist Children’s homes of North Carolina in 1941. He was a active in the book club, bridge club, Eastern Star, and Masonic Temple, and was president of the communications department chair at Trinity University from 1974 to 1993.

DAVIDS DICK SCHOCHARD ’40 of San Antonio, Texas, died July 3. At 36, he retired from the communications department chair at Trinity University from 1974 to 1993.

WALTON ’35 of Wilson died June 29. He taught in 25 years in Virginia Beach and in Wake County.

SARAH MAY JOHNSON ’46 of Roxboro died June 18. A retired teacher and former ECU trustee, she was named one of the 100 Incredible Women at ECU in 2007 and was on the state board. She and of the Cottey Foundation Board, she is married to former SEN. BERT R. MORGAN ’47.

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ERNEST BRASWELL AVEN'T JR. of Lenoir died July 25. He worked for Blue Cross &

RICHARD SANFORD WALTON '58 of Hobbsville died Sept. 6. He taught for the Chowan

of Rocky Mount died June 24. She taught for 20 years, most recently at James W. Smith Elementary School, and retired from teaching in June of this year. She was a full-time employee of the East Carolina University Retired Faculty Association.

ELIZABETH ANNE CROSS HARDY and was a deacon at Maple Springs Baptist Church. She was a member of the East Carolina University Alumni Association and a supporter of the ECU Libraries.

LINDA RAY CAIN of Raleigh died Aug. 30. A National Board Certified teacher, she was a member of the National Education Association and was active in several groups, including the Service League of North Carolina.

PARRISH JUDITH BELCHE of Monroe died Aug. 8. He was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and was active in several groups, including the Student Government Association.

JUDITH MILLER of Grant-Valkaria, Fla., died July 24. She was a proton beam therapist and was actively involved in the community as a member of the American Cancer Society and the East Carolina University Retired Faculty Association.
“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

UPON THE PAST

Meeting Eleanor Roosevelt
Excerpts from student reporter Clarissa Humphrey’s first-person account, published in Pieces of Eight, of a press conference given by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt at Dail House on Nov. 17, 1941.

“President [Leon] Meadows came in and welcomed us and then we sat, or perched, nervously and waited and waited and waited. [Pieces of Eight Editor Virginia] Spencer chewed all her fingernails off and was about to start on mine when, about twelve-thirty, I saw everyone stumbling to their feet and, looking up, I saw Mrs. Roosevelt come in the door.

“She is a perfect specimen of womanhood, with her large, well-proportioned figure. I thought she had especially small feet for her size. She wore black from head to foot, her only ornament being a strand of pearls at her throat. She wore three beautiful rings and a dainty watch. Her eyes were kind and very direct; her carriage was erect and her handclasp firm.

“Mrs. Roosevelt then drew a small upright chair to one side, ignoring the easy chair that had been saved for her, and announced that she was ready for questions. The first questions were about the war, the labor problems and national defense and how they affect college students. She was most gracious during the forty-five minutes she gave us, looking directly at the questioner and giving her undivided attention to each in turn. It seemed to me when she answered my question that no one else was in the room except she and I.

“Finally President Meadows came to tell her that a troop of Girl Scouts wanted to see her. The Girl Scouts came in and presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a bouquet of chrysanthemums, and shook hands with her. She willingly agreed to pose with them for a picture and went out on the porch to do so, then posed for five or six others for the college paper and the magazine. After shaking hands with all of us again, she went back in the house where guests were beginning to arrive for the luncheon.

“Spencer and I crossed the street with a shining light on our faces—or maybe we needed powder (I know Spencer did) and feeling as though we should cut off our right hands and preserve them.”

An excerpt from Mrs. Roosevelt’s daily newspaper column, “My Day,” published Nov. 18, 1941.

GREENVILLE, N.C., Monday—We arrived in Wilson, N.C., and were met by Dr. Leon R. Meadows, president of East Carolina Teachers College. The state highway patrol preceded us on the thirty odd mile drive to Greenville. They had evidently decided that I was an old lady with nerves and did not like to be driven at more than 30 miles an hour, so we drove at a snail’s pace. I was about to ask what was the matter, and then decided that it was not up to me to ask questions and I had better take advantage of the opportunity to look at the countryside.

The members of the press are to be here to see me at 12:00 o’clock. Luncheon will be at 1:00, after which we shall drive around the campus, visit the NWA community center, and I hope also to see the WPA art gallery, which is located in the Greenville Public Library. This being WPA Art Week, I want, wherever possible, to see the local exhibitions. In this way I shall obtain a better idea of what artistic talent and craftsmanship we are developing in various localities.

Mr. Roosevelt posing with Girl Scouts on the steps of Dail House

Miss Roosevelt to Appear Here Mond

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Mrs. Roosevelt posing with Girl Scouts on the steps of Dail House
A new generation of buses that are more colorful and more comfortable is joining the Student Transit fleet.

Photo by Forrest Croce