Fast-tracking workers for jobs in the new economy
ECU quarterback Shane Carden dashes for one of three rushing touchdowns he scored against UNC-Chapel Hill on Sept. 28. Carden also threw for three touchdowns while piling up 376 yards through the air. ECU's 55-31 win over Carolina was the Pirates' first football victory in Chapel Hill since 1975.

Photo by Rob Goldberg Jr.
On the fast track
ECU's BSIT program teams with community colleges to train workers for tomorrow's industry jobs.

Meet the Monroes
These overachievers relied on family to realize their dreams—and to them, family includes ECU.

Dr. Venom strikes
Widely known snake expert Sean Bush arrives to improve the care of patients bitten by copperheads.

Making a splash
Two international students on the swim team practice time management, accountability and other old-fashioned American values.

Three of Count Dracula's vixens—ECU students Demetra Drayton, Jillian Brocki and Elizabeth Graves—attack London resident Jonathan Harker, played by ECU senior Robert DiDomenico, while he stays overnight at Dracula's castle during a business trip to Transylvania. The ECU/Loessin Playhouse produced the Steven Dietz adaptation of Dracula in McGinnis Theatre this September. The play was directed by associate professor Greg Funaro.

Photo by Jay Clark
accustomed to. And, we will continue to fill each issue with the magazine will remain unchanged. We will continue sending you I want you to know the two most important things about the your support, using the postage-paid reply envelope inside. Private If your last gift was several years ago, please consider renewing giving to the university. Foundation, the medical foundation or one of many other ways of According to colleagues in University Advancement who track the budget challenges continue this year with a further budget out for the News Services department that produces East in collaboration with ECU Creative Services. The only step we can take to meet that goal is to reduce circulation. The bills for printing and making the magazine are our two largest line items. I've spent some time thinking about how to trim the circulation list fairly. Here's my thinking:

East is sent by the university to the ECU family to keep us connected and to say thank you to friends and alumni. We do appreciate your financial support for scholarships, for alumni association dues, for boosting the Pirate Club, for gifts to the ECU Foundation, the medical foundation or one of many other ways of giving to the university.

For many of you that financial support is ongoing; you write a check every year. Another large number of current East readers as contributors during the university's successful Second Century Campaign. As we cut circulation to lower costs, it seems fair to continue sending East to ongoing and recent donors and to stop sending it to folks whose last donation was many years ago. According to colleagues in University Advancement who track these things, about 32,000 friends and alumni are current donors or who made a gift to ECU during the Second Century Campaign, which began roughly seven years ago.

If your last gift was seven years ago, please consider renewing your support, using the postage-paid reply envelope inside. Private giving is the lifeblood of East Carolina University. I want you to know the two most important things about the magazine will remain unchanged. We will continue sending you a print edition of East, as you have always done, with all the content you have come to expect. We also want you to know that as we continue to cut our costs, the magazine will become accustomed to. And, we will continue to fill each issue with the high-quality writing, design and photography that the ECU News Services and Creative Services staffs are known for. 

THANKS FROM MOM
I have been wanting to write to you to tell you that we truly appreciate the wonderful article you wrote about our son. We have been receiving copies of the magazine from many of the alumni (some we do not even know) telling us how wonderful the article was. We also had a few parents who wanted to talk to us about Type 1 diabetes and their children playing sports. Thank you for mentioning this in your article. People do not realize that life goes on after the diagnosis of diabetes. Needless to say we were disappointed when we found out that Matt could not return to football for his last year. We truly enjoyed watching him and being a part of the Pirate Nation. We agree with his doctor (who performed his surgery) that he could have long-term damage to his legs if he continued to play to and hip replacement surgery at 30 is not an option for him.

—Ann Marie T. Milner
Hilton, NC, Cary

IN ESTONIA, THERE'S ECU
Just letting you know your work of presenting East Carolina is so much appreciated and enjoyed. Also, my husband and our grown children were together on a family visit in Tallinn, Estonia, recently. We read about the work of East Carolina on the wall in the Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design. It is great to see East Carolina is far reaching.

—Margaret Steele Wolmon '64 '72
realtor, St. Augustine, Fla

Editor's Note: What the Wolmons saw is evidence that a program started in 1998 by art professor Carl Billingsley is still remembered. He took a group of 15 students to Tallinn that summer. Amid the city's medieval architecture, they demonstrated to other sculptors and students the techniques of casting iron. Sculptors in Estonia use mostly wood, clay or bronze for their sculpture. They loved learning to use iron. “Iron is much cheaper than bronze and there are plenty of old radiators in the country that can be melted down and cast into art,” Billingsley said then.

LIKE THE CO-TEACHING STORY
Communications to you and your staff for the excellentfall issue of East. Of particular interest to me was the article on the co-student teacher model. What a great supportive concept for the student teachers and benefit to the classroom teacher and students. Thanks to ECU’s Education Department, I cherish my 30 years in Charlotte-Mecklenburg System as teacher, principal and system administrator. I am appreciative of ECU’s Education Department’s dedication and love for teaching. Since retirement from CMS, I have continued to work with Davidson College students in education.

—Evelyn Crutchfield Garces
'61 '66, Charlotte

Editor’s Note: The writer was induced into the ECU Educators Hall of Fame in 2003.

TOUGH DECISION TO MAKE
I really enjoyed the article in East and I wanted to thank you for all your work on the magazine. It turned out that the doctor that did surgery on both his hips (concluded that) it was in the best interest of my health to forgof my seasonal. It was one of the toughest decisions that I have had to make.

—Matt Milner '13, Greenville

Can we talk? If we can sit down here at the kitchen table and talk about money? I’ve been trying to keep you in the loop about how East magazine is participating in the university’s drive for budget efficiencies. I’ve written here about moves we’ve made to continue producing a quality publication and save money. Some decisions were painful, such as discontinuing the summer issue. But we did deliver an online version of the summer issue, complete with class notes, a cover story and all the usual content of a print edition. We became more efficient by giving you four issues of East for the cost of three. (By the way, we’ve redesigned our website to give it a fresh appearance and to make the stories easier to read online. Give it a look at www.ecu.edu/ecd and tell us what you think.)

We took another efficiency step recently by adopting the U.S. Postal Service’s new intelligent barcode system, which gives East the lowest possible postage costs. On the back cover of your address is a long barcode. That’s saving about a penny per copy.

The budget challenges continue this year with a further budget out for the News Services department that produces East in collaboration with ECU Creative Services. The only step we can take to meet that goal is to reduce circulation. The bills for printing and making the magazine are our two largest line items. I’ve spent some time thinking about how to trim the circulation list fairly. Here’s my thinking:

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CONTACT US
Send letters to the editor to easteditor@ecu.edu or gurkinl@ecu.edu. To begin receiving the magazine, mail your check using the postage-paid reply envelope inside. How much is up to you but we suggest a $25 minimum contribution. The ECU Foundation supports many scholarships. Learn how to help a student struggling with finances at the foundation website, www.ecu.edu/efnd/. Where is your money most needed? The colleges, schools and programs within ECU have defined their funding priorities and posted them here: www.ecu.edu/ecuf/funding-priorities.cfm. Another way to support ECU is to join the East Carolina Alumni Association and receive the magazine as well as other benefits and services. Minimum dues are $35. Visit www.praelectionu.com to learn how to remain connected.

Customer Service
To start or stop a subscription, or to let us know about a change of address, please contact Lisa Gurkin, gurkinl@ecu.edu or 252-328-3581.

Send letters to the editor to easteditor@ecu.edu or Howard House Mail Stop 107 East Carolina University Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353

Send class notes to eclastnotes@ecu.edu or use the form on page 48.
$2.2 million gift to fund teacher education in rural communities

The first time, Judy Oglesby considered going to college, she was 36 years old “staring divorce in the face” and trying to figure out how she would support her two children moving forward.

A simple act got her interested in teaching—her son's kindergarten teacher noticed the skill she exhibited as a volunteer at the school. A year of encouragement led her to enroll at Halifax Community College and, two years later, at ECU.

Oglesby was part of the College of Education’s Partnership East program, which allows students to complete the first two years of an education degree at one of 20 participating community colleges in eastern and central North Carolina before transferring to ECU. The ECU teacher preparation classes can then be taken online and part-time.

The aim is to provide students with access to high-quality degree programs close to home, so that they might remain in those communities to teach after graduation.

And that’s what Oglesby has done—graduating in 2010 and now teaching second grade at Belmont Elementary in her hometown, Roanoke Rapids.

“It was a saving grace,” Oglesby said of the program. “It turned things around for my family.”

A generous gift from the State Employees’ Credit Union Foundationatures more non-traditional students like Oglesby will get that same chance.

The foundation awarded East Carolina University’s College of Education $2.28 million in July 17 to continue educating aspiring teachers in rural areas.

The donation funds scholarships for Partnership East students in their senior year, during which they cannot work because they are completing full-time internships in the classroom. More than 225 students are currently enrolled at ECU through Partnership East.

The $2.28 million gift will be distributed to students over the next five years.

Partnership East students earn a bachelor of science in elementary education, middle grades education or special education. More than 75 percent of program graduates are teaching in North Carolina and 94 percent of those are in eastern North Carolina.

“This serves the dire need we have for teachers in poor, eastern rural communities,” said ECU Provost Martlyn Sheerer, who is also a member of the SECU Foundation board but recused herself from the vote.

“It’s really exciting that the State Employees’ Credit Union is willing to do this,” said Mark Twisdale, executive director of the foundation, said of the grant.

“The State Employees’ Credit Union has a huge footprint in eastern North Carolina, and serving people in that area has always been an aim. It is difficult to find a project that sparks a net as wide in that area as Partnership East. This connects us with the community college system, public schools and East Carolina University. It’s not just sending money,” he added, “but giving people an opportunity they wouldn’t have had otherwise.”

Oglesby said it’s given her children new opportunities, too. They don’t doubt that they’ll go to college because they watched her do it, she said.

“We are all so indebted to the State Employees’ Credit Union for its support of our Partnership East Pipeline Teacher Preparation Program,” agreed Linda Patriarca, dean of the College of Education. “The gift helps us to fulfill our mission and commitment to prepare high-quality teachers for the region—especially for those rural communities.”

The SECU Foundation promotes local and community development by primarily funding high-impact projects in the areas of housing, education, health care and human services. For more information about Partnership East, contact program coordinator Laura Bilbro-Berry at 252.328.1123 or visit www.ecu.edu/ces-edu/partner_east/

Kathryn Kennedy

Dental school in Lumberton: ‘The heart of who we want to be’

Robeson County will soon be home to a facility that officials say will bring dental care to limited-income, underserved residents while providing educational opportunities to ECU dental students.

That was the message Sept. 16 as Robeson leaders, and the ECU School of Dental Medicine announced plans to build a community service learning center in Lumberton. ECU will build the facility next to the Robeson County Health Department on land donated by the county. Construction dates will be announced later.

“We are very honored that Carolina University decided to put the program here,” said Noah Woods, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners. “We are honored to have this fine institution with a record of service as our partner.”

Chancellor Steve Ballard told the crowd, “This dental school outreach is the heart of what we want to do, who we ought to be and who we are.”

At the center, fourth-year dental students will train and work alongside faculty members and learners at a community practice. It is the seventh center that ECU has opened since it began its dental education in 2008.

The $3 million, 7,700-square-foot facility is one of up to 20 ECU plans to build across the state. The first two centers, have opened in Aroskie and Elizabeth City. Two more are under construction in Lillington in the central part of the state and Sylva in the mountains. Others are planned for the mountain towns of Spruce Pine and in Davidson County in the Triad.

The Robeson County center will have 16 dental chairs and will employ local staff members. Four to five dental school students will be at the center for nine-week rotations. It will provide a variety of services, including general, preventive and emergency dental care and will include services such as crowns, root canals and bridges.

Officials have said fees typically will be about 10 percent of those at a private dental practice.

William Smith, director of the Robeson County Health Department, said the center will help the 14,000 people in the county who don’t qualify for Medicaid or insurance under the Affordable Care Act. The department closed its dental center in July due to financial pressures after the state did not expand its Medicaid program.

ECU’s dental school admitted its first class in 2011, and all students are North Carolina residents. Goals of the school are to educate students from underrepresented groups and disadvantaged backgrounds and to improve access to dental care.

One of those ECU dental students who will train at the community service learning centers is Lumberton native Casey Oxendine. The second-year ECU dental student knows the need for dental care in Robeson County firsthand. She remembers as a child having a toothache and having to wait to see a dentist.

“Robeson County is one of the poorest and largest counties in the state. As a child, I experienced the lack of access to care when I had to wait an extended period of time before I could be seen for a routine cleaning,” she said.

“Furthermore, lack of dental insurance as a child forced me to chew on the opposite side of my mouth due to toothache and eventually lose a tooth that could have been restored.”

Oxendine, who earned her undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2010, is now driven to become a dentist and return to Robeson County to practice.” she said.

—Douglas Bilbro, Chapel and Jeanne Manning Hutson

Pamela Wright (left), school counselor with Robeson Early College High School, and Dr. Michael Scholtz, director of community dental practices at the ECU School of Dental Medicine, study a floor plan to chew on the opposite side of my mouth due to toothache and eventually lose a tooth that could have been restored.”

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ECU professor raises mosquitoes for disease research

Stephanie Richards serves up a healthy dose of mosquitoes to study infectious diseases. Her work in the Department of Health Education and Promotion, is trying to determine what makes one mosquito a better vector for virus transmission than another. Her work has demonstrated that biological and environmental dynamics such as mosquito age and environmental temperature affect the mosquito-virus interaction. She needs to cultivate a thriving colony as she continues to investigate these factors.

“We have to get them to keep laying eggs,” she said. “To do that, mosquitoes must be fed. On the menu for the colony are meals of cotton with sugar, mixing the nectar that mosquitoes feed on in nature. But females need blood to lay eggs, so she receives an extra helping of cotton balls soaked in animal blood ordered from a supplier.”

Richards maintains the colony with help from ECU graduate students, including Jonathan Harts of Virginia, who counts eggs, checks survival and blood feeding of the mosquitoes. Graduate student Caitlin van Dorewijk of Rancho, Ontario, works in the lab insulating cultures with virus and feeding that virus to the mosquitoes.

The mosquitoes are infected with vector-borne pathogens that cause dengue or La Crosse encephalitis, the most commonly diagnosed arboviral disease in North Carolina. Arboviral diseases are infectious illnesses transmitted by bloodsucking creatures such as mosquitoes or ticks. Although adults can become infected, severe cases are most commonly seen in children.

Twenty-six cases were reported in 2012, primarily in the western counties of the state. Mild cases are often misdiagnosed as flu-like illnesses, and there may be as many as 300,000 people per year in the nation.

“There are no vaccines for these diseases,” said Richards. “This is so important to prevent mosquito bites in regions where the diseases are endemic.”

Richards said mosquito eradication is not an option.

“There are too many of them,” she said. “In addition, she said mosquitoes develop resistance to pesticides over time, which is an obstacle to controlling these insects.

One of the biggest challenges for the state is the July 2011 disbandment of the Public Health Pest Management section to state budget cuts. Richards added, “By the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the 1970s, the organization provided much-needed assistance to counties in their mosquito abatement programs.”

“The battle against mosquito-borne diseases requires a number of strategies,” said Richards. “This includes a full range of public health education, research, pesticides and vaccines in order to combat the problem.”

While Richards’ research is just one element of solving the mosquito problem, her work “will significantly impact the health of the public we serve,” said Dr. Don Chaney, chair of the Department of Health Education and Promotion, housed in the College of Health and Human Performance.

Richards is an ECU graduate who earned a bachelor’s in biology in 1998 and a master’s in environmental health in 2001. She graduated from N.C. State University in 2005 with a doctorate in entomology.

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Her interest in the research is driven by the need to produce public health data. “It’s not that I like bugs,” she said. “These vectors can cause serious illness and even death to humans. The mosquito is part of our public health aspect of my work is where my real interest lies.”

Kathy Muse and Jay Halter

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Kathy Muse and Jay Halter
Brody welcomes Class of 2017

The Brody School of Medicine at ECU welcomed 80 new medical students Aug. 16.

The 39 women and 41 men in the Class of 2017 range in age from 19 to 35. They are all North Carolina residents. Twenty-seven counties of residence, from Transylvania in the West to Dare in the East, are represented.

Dr. David Holder, a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at ECU, told the new medical students about caring for a dying cancer patient—a high school student—last year. “Despite the diagnosis, prognosis or death—medicine gives us a unique opportunity to express the highest of values: compassion and love.” Holder said.

Holder spoke at the school’s annual white coat ceremony where the medical students receive their white coats and recite the Medical Student Pledge of Ethics before beginning their studies.

ECU’s newest medical students received their undergraduate degrees from 23 different colleges and universities, with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill having the most graduates. 22. ECU has 17 alumni in the class, and North Carolina State University has 15.

Divalo Remonde, who grew up in Roanoke Rapids and graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in biology from ECU, said the Brody School of Medicine was his No. 1 choice. “I like the small class size, the cohesiveness of the school,” said Remonde, who worked in a research lab at Brody as an undergraduate. “I wanted that familial support. I know how supportive the faculty is.”

Another reason Remonde picked Brody was its efforts in combating health issues in rural underserved areas—like his home county. “I know I want to practice in North Carolina, and I would be honored to practice back home,” he said.

Greenville resident Anu Ajmera was one of seven who entered medical school this year through ECU’s Early Assurance Program. That means when he began his undergraduate studies at ECU, he was guaranteed admission to medical school, provided he met certain academic goals, without having to take the medical school entrance exams. He is the youngest ever admitted to the school.

“It’s going to be hard work,” said Ajmera, 19, who completed his undergraduate degree at ECU and high school at Greenville’s J.H. Rose each in three years.

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Bailey told the students their goal should be to care as well as cure. “Your white coat represents a promise to the profession to make it better than you found it,” she said.

In addition to the 80 medical students, 36 students began their studies in the school’s master’s of public health degree program. Total enrollment in that program is 126, and one of the new medical students is an ECU MPH graduate.

—Crystal Bailey

Three receive Brody medical scholarships

Mia Marshall (left) of Elizabeth City, Hugh Quach (center) of Belmont and Amanda Saad (right) of Cary are the newest Brody Scholars at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU. They began medical school in August.

Brody Scholars receive four years of medical school tuition, living expenses and the opportunity to design their own summer enrichment program that can include travel abroad. Marshall is a May graduate of ECU and a 2009 graduate of East Bladen High School in Elizabethtown.

“The feeling I felt when I received the Brody scholarship was a combination of honor and elation,” Marshall said. “Being a Brody scholar means excelling in the three pillars of academics, leadership and service. It consists of acknowledging your passion for the community and being proud of wanting to be a part of something larger than yourself.”

Marshall said she wants to help plan health fairs and educate young people about healthy eating during her four years of study. She hopes to pursue medical residency training in pediatrics after completing medical school. Quach is a May graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a 2009 graduate of the Highland School of Technology in Gastonia. He plans to be active in service projects during medical school.

“I would love to travel outside of our country to less fortunate nations to aid their citizens and study the ways of medicine internationally while immersing myself in a new culture and language,” he said. Furthermore, I am also dedicated to my home, North Carolina. I plan to develop and involve myself in service activities for the benefit of North Carolina possibly geared around health care in eastern North Carolina. The legacy continues through the dedicated efforts of Hyman Brody of Greenville and David Brody of Kinston. Subsequent gifts from the Brody family have enabled the medical school to educate new physicians, conduct important research and improve health care in eastern North Carolina.

Since the program began in 1983, 125 students have received scholarships. Most stay and practice in North Carolina.

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East Carolina's new $17 million basketball practice gym will attract more talented high-school recruits and provide them with state-of-the-art training facilities after they arrive on campus, according to the coaches of the men's and women's teams. Named the Smith-Williams Center, the building officially opened on Sept. 1. 

Men's basketball coach Jeff Lebo and women's coach Heather Macy said they are thrilled to have the new gym for practice time there now that the Pirates and the volleyball team will practice in the Smith-Williams Center on days when one of the basketball teams is hosting a game in Williams Arena. 

Until now, the basketball teams shared Williams Arena in Minges Coliseum with the volleyball team and some PE classes. "We've had to share our facility with a lot of different people, which has forced us to have very odd practice times, which affects our student athletes' well-being when they can eat, sleep, go to class," Lebo said. "There is nothing more important than having the correct time to have your practice because it affects every other part of our program. Now we will have a place that we will have access to 24 hours a day. "That gives us a lot of flexibility and we can work around the kids' schedules instead of them having to work around our practice schedules," Lebo said. 

NCAA rules limit the hours that coaches can work directly with players but the players are allowed unlimited time to practice on their own. 

"The accessibility of kids to work on their game at times that are convenient for their school schedules will be the biggest impact," Macy said. "I have just 20 hours a week to work with them. Now they will have 24-hour access to (the Smith-Williams Center). If they have a little time between classes, they have a place they can go shoot. I know they are really excited about that part of it."

Lebo and Macy said the Smith-Williams Center should dispel the notion that East Carolina is not seriously committed to basketball.

"(ECU's) commitment to basketball is something that we fight in recruiting all the time," Lebo said. "So when you're on the road recruiting, visiting in the homes of these families, now we can point to that $17 million building as tangible evidence of that commitment. It was important as anything for us to show that."

"The other thing we fought is people who say, 'why would you want to go to ECU, look at their facilities.'" Lebo added. "We now can showcase this building to our recruits, let them walk through it so they can touch it, feel it and know it's a reality."

Lebo said both the men's and women's teams will face much tougher competition after ECU leaves Conference USA next year and joins the new American Athletic Conference. Among teams in that conference are such traditional basketball powerhouses as the University of Connecticut, the University of Cincinnati and Temple University.

"Some of those programs are on their second practice facility," Lebo said. "So we're playing catch up."

The men's and women's teams opened their 2013-14 schedules with nonconference home games on Nov. 8.

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Second largest freshman class enrolls

12
received 15,321 freshman out of 11,238 students who were enrolled. A total of 4,495 enrolled in Dental Medicine’s third class to 319 last fall. The School of Medicine this year compared to 2008. Enrollment items on systemwide efficiencies, committee as a guide and will look to a recently formed University Committee on Fiscal Sustainability for additional guidance on expected budget cuts in the future. When positions become vacant, they will be filled and assessed and will be allocated where are needed, Sheerer said. “We’re trying to use our resources in the best way we can.”

Roadway through campus closes to boost student safety

The university closed one of the last streets that cut through Main Campus in an effort to improve pedestrian safety and to encourage more students to bicycle or walk to class. Founders Drive crossed campus from Fifth Street to 10th Street in front of Wright Auditorium and the Bate Building. From the Fifth Street side, the road now ends at the circle around the fountain.

The portion of Founders Drive closed this summer in adherence with the university’s master plan, adopted by the ECU Board of Trustees in 2010. A route through campus will be open to emergency response vehicles. From Fifth Street, Founders Drive will remain open to vehicles at Wright Circle—around the fountain and to Wright Auditorium—and for right turns on to Faculty Way. Drivers entering campus from 10th Street will be able to turn left down Duncan Court, which runs behind the Planavsky and Slay buildings and provides access to Student Health Services.

East of that area, a parking lot will also close between the Austin and Ravel buildings at the base of Wright Plaza. Approximately 50 parking spots will be eliminated. Emails were sent to the ECU community and specifically to people who regularly park in the area. Construction crews are in the process of tearing out the roadway and parking lot and replacing it with green space, landscaping and a 20-foot-wide, permeable multiuse path. Fencing has been installed to ensure pedestrian safety while construction is underway.

Officials ask that the campus community and visitors please heed the directional signs and not trespass on the work site. Additionally, motorists should not drop off passengers on Founders Drive in order to minimize traffic and clear the way for deliveries, emergency vehicles and Student Health Services patients.

“The atmosphere you’ve got on the mat, we’re actually extending that and moving it through the rest of campus,” said Michael Tatton, ECCU president and project manager. “I think it’s going to be really nice.” The work is scheduled for completion in September.

Crystal Bailey

With expansion, a new social hub

100
With enrollment up more than 40 percent in just four years, ECCS in the fall of 1913 used a $40,000 state appropriation to add the first of two wings to Old Austin (left). The summer 1914 issue of the Training School Quarterly notes that “since the addition of a new wing to the auditorium (the old and new parts) form an excellent place for social events.

The two new sports teams, ECCS adds in the fall of 1938 experience different results. The boxing team went 10-0 this season, winning every fight. Tennis, however, struggled through half its matches, including a notable victory over Duke’s 4 SEG.

The assassination is painful for seniors who saw and touched him. Kennedy during his 1960 campaign rally on campus. The football team had left for a Nov. 23, 1963, bowl game against the Tamps in Florida. Before the game, some ECC players held a moment of silence while building that day’s local newspaper (left). At a campus memorial service, President Leo Jenkins says: “I know that you have lost someone as dear as a member of your family. Let me honor him in my best by grasping a new awareness of the American way of life and how it feels. Don’t ask what your country can do for you, but rather ask what can you do for your country.”

Johner Library

Student Health Center

Founders Drive

Accessible building entrance

New pedestrian and bicycle pathway

The work is scheduled for completion in September.

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Overcoming challenges and building a career in cupcakes were front and center in Bonnie St. John’s stories, as she encouraged others to persevere. The event, titled “Women in Leadership and Philanthropy: It’s Generosity in Action,” was part of the annual Women’s Roundtable at East Carolina University, a group formed in 2003 that encourages women to lead and give back.

St. John, a distinguished speaker and author, shared her experiences as an amputee and world-class ski racer, and emphasized the importance of inner strength over external circumstances. She encouraged others to persevere, telling the audience, “It’s generosity in action.”

The event included a panel discussion, which was moderated by Sabrina Bengel, attended by 77-90, assistant professor of leadership and service, and was moderated by Joan Allen, president of Meredith College, Education, and Sabrina Bengel, attended by 77-90, assistant professor of leadership and service.

Panelists included:
- Dr. Louis Watson, 94-98, assistant dean for medical education at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU Health Sciences;
- Dr. Leah Long, 98-90, associate professor of marketing at ECU, Education;
- Dr. Marsha Hallowell, 97-90, founding chair of the School of Human Ecology, and Georgia Southern University, Education;
- Dr. LuAnn Watson, 94-98, assistant dean for medical education at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU Health Sciences;
- Dr. David L. Tal, 82, president of Apogee Solutions and Asian Counseling, Business;
- Willow Marlowe, 65, well-known visual artist, Fine Arts;
- Angela Moss, 97-90, assistant director of investments for the University of North Carolina Management Company, Business;
- Dr. Royce Savage, 99, assistant dean for student affairs, associate professor of pediatrics and vice chair of diversity for the Brody School of Medicine at ECU Health Sciences;
- Tracy Hudgin, 92-90, assistant professor of marketing at ECU, Education;
- Dr. Marianna Walker, 79-92, dean of the Honors College at ECU, Education.

The panelists discussed their experiences and highlighted the importance of leadership and giving back to the community.

The event also featured a keynote address by Bob Eberndorfer, who shared his inspiring story of overcoming challenges and achieving success despite physical disabilities.

David Griffith, professor of anthropology and senior scientist with ECU’s Institute for Coastal Science and Policy (ICSP), was named interim director of ICSP replacing John Rummel, who resumes duties as executive policy professor. Griffith joined ECU in 1983. Griffith also was named the 2013 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor during the college’s annual faculty convocation. The award recognizes a professor whose career exemplifies a commitment to and a love for knowledge and academic life, as demonstrated by outstanding teaching and advising, research and creative productivity, and professional service.

“Early in my career, Kaatu Sampson once told me, ‘You are a good citizen of this university. Daunting. At the time, I didn’t believe I gave my remark the thought it deserved.’” Griffith said, “But as I have grown older, I have come to appreciate what good citizenship means in a university, driving force in eastern North Carolina.”

After eight years in the post, Alan W. White retired as dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. He chose to move on to a leadership position within the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Carolina. Nearly 100 friends, and colleagues attended a reception honoring White, led by interim dean John C. Sutherland. White oversees the addition of new undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral programs, the founding of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council Distinguished Professorship in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the establishment of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series, which is now in its seventh season.

Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Benson was appointed associate vice chancellor for health-care regulatory affairs by Dean Paul Cunningham. He will supervise the ECU Office of Prospective Health, the ECU Office of HIPAA Privacy; and the two planned offices: Health Sciences Division Office of Compliance and Health Sciences Division Office of Risk Management. Benson will coordinate efforts to integrate patient care at ECU with Vain Health. This administrative appointment is in addition to his roles as vice dean of the Brody School of Medicine and medical director of ECU Physicians. Benson joined the Brody School of Medicine in 1983. He chaired the department from 1995-2004. In 2004, he was appointed senior associate dean of operations of the medical school and promoted to vice dean in 2007.

Dr. Joseph Callanan, director of periodontology in the Department of Surgical Sciences at the School of Dental Medicine, was elected to serve a six-year term as one of nine directors of the American Board of Periodontology. The ABO is one of nine specialty boards recognized by the American Dental Association.

Robin Tun-Marcon was appointed director of the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. NCAI is a partnership created in 1999 between ECU, N.C. State University, and N.C. A&T University focused on improving the health and safety of the state’s farmers, fishermen, and workers, and their families. The institute is now located in the Division of Health Sciences at ECU, and has served as interim director of the institute since 2009.
PERFORMING ARTS
The ECU School of Music presents a holiday combined choral and orchestra concert with the ECU Chamber Singers, the St. Edith Singers, the University Choral and the ECU Symphony Orchestra on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 407 Peace St., Greenville. Also in the preceding week, the School of Music presents a free jazz concert with the ECU Jazz Ensemble on Dec. 4 at Keihin Auditorium, 204 W. Peace St., and the School of Music presents a free concert on Dec. 5 at the Hilton Greenville Hotel’s Villedge Restaurant and Bar.

ECU Opera Theater presents the world premiere of “Camelot” at 8 p.m. on Dec. 6 and Dec. 7, and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 8 in McGinnis Theatre. Based on the book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe, “Camelot” is the story of King Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table, and his closest knight Lancelot. The show is directed by Robert N. French and features a cast of rising stars. Performances are free and open to the public.

The ECU School of Music presents a free Faculty Recital in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 8 p.m. on Dec. 11. Performers include violinist Jami Rhodes, cellist Eric Stellrecht, and pianists Charles Bath and Elliot Valentine.

ECU’s School of Music Department of Government at American University and Arts Series. Bond is distinguished professor in residence in the Department of Government at American University and served as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Tickets are $10 and available through the Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Call the McGinnis Theatre Box Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS for tickets to see the preceding stage productions.

ON STAGE
King Arthur, his queen Guinevere, and his closest knight Lancelot bring their tangled love story to the stage of McGinnis Theatre on Dec. 12 and 13, presented by the School of Music. Performances are at 8 p.m. both nights. The show is directed by Robert N. French and features a cast of rising stars. Performances are free and open to the public.

ON EXHIBIT
The School of Art and Design will host its annual holiday exhibition for dropin viewing for a unique piece created by ECU students. The exhibit will run through Dec. 5-7 in Wellington B. Grey Gallery in the lower level of the Arts Center. Arts on Jan. 24.

Digital Technology—Traditional Techniques will open with a reception. The exhibit will continue through Feb. 22 in Grey Gallery.

TOURING ACTS
The Gizmo Guys will land in Raleigh on Feb. 19 and 20 in Wright Auditorium. The Gizmo Guys promise a rapid-fire juggling and side-splitting laughter for their audience. Tickets are $30 for adults and $10 for students. Visit www.ecu.edu/ ecuarts for more information.

STAFF REPORTS
BY JEANNINE MANNING HUTSON AND HARLEY DARTT

LECTURE
Julian Bond—university professor, former Georgia legislator, and activist for civil rights and economic justice—and his wife are part of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. Bond is distinguished professor in residence in the Department of Government at American University and served as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Tickets are $10 and available through the Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

The entire voice faculty of the School of Music comes together for a faculty recital on Thursday, Jan. 23. Each faculty member is in AJ. Fletcher Recital Hall, and they are free and open to the public.

ECU Opera Theater’s spring production is “Camelot.” “A Wagner opera à la populaire,” “Camelot” is a three acts with music by Frederick Loewe and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner. Joining cast are Eric Stellrecht in concert. Both concerts are in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, and they are free and open to the public.

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A busy winter season has the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival presenting a two-concert “Drama and Rhythm” residency at Fletcher Recital Hall in Greenville on Jan. 17, and then hitting the road with next Gen on the road concert featuring guest vocalist Xiao-Dong Wang and ECU string students on Jan. 30 at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Raleigh, and Feb. 1 at Robin Holden Theater in Norfolk, Va. The next concert is repeated in Greenville on Feb. 3. Next Generation concerts are free. “Drama and Rhythm” is ticketed. For tickets call 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com. Visit www.ecuarts.com for more information.

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ON THE FAST TRACK

ECU’s BSIT program teams with community colleges to train workers for tomorrow’s industry jobs.

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

Will Love
In October of 2010, GE announced it would close the Goldsboro plant. Mills had eight months to rethink his future and find new work. He thought a second associate degree from Wayne Community College might serve him well, and GE was offering reimbursements for educational expenses. After all, his first two-year degree was in electronics from Wayne, obtained in the early 1980s.

But following the advice of a counselor at Wayne, he landed instead at East Carolina University and earned a bachelor of science in industrial technology (BSIT). The best part? It only took him two years.

Though Mills may resemble more professors than students at ECU, he said, “I think there’s a lot of people in industry who would take advantage of it if they knew.”

“The four-year degree, it opens doors for you,” Mills said. “I think there’s a lot of people in industry who would take advantage of it if they knew.”

David Batts ’95 ’97 ’05. Batts has served as program coordinator for BSIT since its formalization in 2005. He described the average BSIT student as someone in their mid-30s or older—a working professional with a family to provide for.

The associate degree in applied science was once unusual for the BSIT program, according to professor Mohammed, chair of the Department of Technology Systems at ECU.

Mohammed, chair of the Department of Technology Systems at ECU.

Approximately 80 percent of students complete the program online, though about 20 percent choose to come to campus for the full college experience. Mills was among that minority.

“I treated it like a job,” he explained. “I got up in the morning and either studied or went to class.”

Now Mills has another job, which he accepted months before graduation. He works as maintenance supervisor at Hospira, a pharmaceutical company in Rocky Mount.

“Everything just fell into place,” Mills said, though he admits the future wasn’t always clear.

“I was very apprehensive (about pursuing a four-year degree),” he said. “I really didn’t know if I’d be able to handle it or not.”

“You should always plan on your four-year degree,” he added. “They just don’t hire people who don’t have a degree anymore… even if you know the job. Or if you do get hired, you’re not promoted.”

Attracting a younger crowd

Recently, the BSIT program began attracting a different type of student—young people just a few years out of high school who are taking a different path to obtaining their four-year degree.

“We’re seeing a change in philosophy with the cost of higher education getting more expensive,” Batts said. Lasheth Soria ’13 excelled in high school, but she’d never been away from her close-knit family in Goldsboro.

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“I was very apprehensive (about pursuing a four-year degree),” he said. “I really didn’t know if I’d be able to handle it or not.”

“Advice is a crucial component of the BSIT program,” Batts said, both as students consider transferring in and after they arrive at ECU. Many students learn about the program by word of mouth—or from students and graduates or counselors at the community colleges.

The bond between students and instructors seems to last. Another graduate and Hospira employee, Irmingarda Baluis ’11, said she still keeps in touch with her professors and advisers.

“Education is important in life,” she added. “They just don’t hire people who don’t have a degree anymore… even if you know the job. Or if you do get hired, you’re not promoted.”

Like many BSIT students, Baluis aced her classes. The average GPA of students enrolled in the program since 2008 is 3.36. She uses her success to encourage others, including younger classmates.

“Going to school is not just taking the pass and having a good time,” the 52-year-old tells them. “Be responsible in your life. Don’t have regrets about what you should have done when you were (in college).”

Baluis has never had trouble finding a job, whether in customer service or sales or now, as a batch release specialist in quality control.

“Education is important in life,” she added. “They just don’t hire people who don’t have a degree anymore… even if you know the job. Or if you do get hired, you’re not promoted.”

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“We’re seeing a change in philosophy with the cost of higher education getting more expensive,” Batts said. Lasheth Soria ’13 excelled in high school, but she’d never been away from her close-knit family in Goldsboro.
Lisbeth Soria ’13

“I come from a family where there’s not a lot of education before me,” she recalled. “The thought of going away to college wasn’t even there yet. The two-year (degree) just seemed like the correct option at the time.”

She’d developed an early interest in computers, so she enrolled in the information security program at Wayne Community College. Success in that program convinced her she was ready for a bachelor’s degree.

Like Mills, she was only missing one class needed to enroll in BSIT. So she took that course and came to campus.

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Her parents were very supportive, Soria said, but some of her extended family had their doubts. Fortunately, they came around.

“Once I graduated, it was like proving everybody wrong,” she said. Approximately 20 people showed up to see her turn the tassel in her purple commencement robe.

Soria spent the past summer interning with NASA in network security. When one of her younger brothers asked if she was headed for the moon, she came up with a simple explanation for her job—“I keep bad people out…keep them from hacking into NASA.”

The NASA internship helped her develop critical thinking skills, she said, by teaching her to identify weaknesses in emerging technology instead of configuring firewalls and other fixes for existing technology.

It was different than her studies with BSIT, but she said she felt well prepared.

NASA also offered assistance in job searching, etiquette protocols and resume building. She’s hoping to find employment in the Raleigh area.

Will Love, an ECU senior, is another young BSIT student. But he’s not looking for a job. He’s already got one.

“The Bist program allowed me to accept the full-time position (at ASMO) and continue my education online,” Love said. “This (BSIT) program has really addressed the changes and needs for industry because they listen.”

That listening includes having industry executives sit on the college’s professional advisory board. It’s encouraging, Phillips said, to see universities engaging with industry.

Representatives of ECU were among those who accompanied her on one
The relationship between North Carolina community colleges and the ECU BSIT program is a true win-win partnership,” said N.C. Community College President Scott Ralls. “Our students win through the technology and educational opportunities available through our combined institutions. Employers win through the unique skills brought by our graduates, and our communities win through the economic opportunities derived from a highly skilled workforce. “This partnership represents higher education at its best,” Ralls said.

BSIT program administrators will continue to listen to industry in the coming years, Batts pledged. They will consider adding new concentrations when there’s demonstrated need and will look to the Health Sciences Campus and other academic units on campus for support. And he wants it to keep growing. Enrollment in the BSIT program more than doubled between 2005 and 2012, to approximately 400 students.

Nearly 1,000 North Carolina community college students transferred to East Carolina last school year, twice the number from 10 years ago, according to a report by the UNC Board of Governors released in August. That means nearly one in four of the new students who enrolled at ECU in 2012 were coming from a community college in the region.

Academic units across ECU are increasingly willing to partner with community colleges to produce educated professionals who want to serve rural areas.

While the bachelor of science in industrial technology (BSIT) program is popular among community college transfers, other partnership degree programs also operate on campus. The College of Education’s Partnership East teacher training program accepts transfers students from 20 community colleges in eastern and central North Carolina who complete a degree full time, part time or online. More than 225 students are currently enrolled at ECU through Partnership East. These students earn a bachelor of science in elementary education, middle grades education or special education.

The program received a $2.28 million gift in July from the State Employees’ Credit Union Foundation to continue its efforts for the next five years. See story, page 4.

Now in its third year, a different partnership between ECU and five area community colleges is attracting students to an innovative nursing program.

The number of applications and students enrolled in the Eastern North Carolina Regionally Increasing Baccalaurate Nurses (ENC RIBN) program has increased each year, from seven last year to 24 students this fall, said Kelly Claron, student success advocate and lead recruiter.

The intent is to increase the number of nurses with bachelor degrees to care for the complex health care needs of patients and to expand the pool for future faculty and advanced practice nurses.

“It is unique because the students are simultaneously enrolled at both the community college and the university. They will finish both degrees in less time than in the traditional model of AEN to BSN,” Claron said.

The participating community colleges are Beaufort County, Craney, Lenoir, Pitt, and Roanoke-Chowan community colleges.

Students take most of their course work at the community college before finishing their senior year at ECU. While costs vary, RIBN students can save an estimated $7,000–$10,000 in tuition alone, officials said. Students also have access to support services and counseling. Meredith Mobley, a student in the first class, said the program has made pursuing a nursing career affordable in a lot of ways. “I don’t have to commute a far distance to school which helps with my expenses and by attending my local community college along with ECU online, I can save on tuition costs as well,” she said.

Mobley, 24, lives in Washington, N.C., and is enrolled at Beaufort County Community College. “After graduation, I hope to find a job in the area that will be both challenging and rewarding so that I can begin to give back to the community in which I live,” Mobley said.

That’s another goal of the program, Claron said.

“Having partnerships with local community colleges encourages local students to stay in their home community for their education,” she said. “The likelihood of these nurses staying in their community to practice is increased.”

The ENC RIBN program was the second in the state.

East Carolina is one of six UNC campuses that make strong transfer relationships with community colleges in their regions, the Board of Governors report said.

—Reporting by Crystal Batty, Kathryn Kennedy and Steve Tuttle
These overachievers relied on family to realize their dreams—and to them, family includes ECU.
Rasheeda Taliaferro Monroe ’00 ’05 is associate director of pediatrics at WakeMed Health and Hospitals in Raleigh, which serves a significant portion of Wake County’s uninsured and Latino children. It’s a big plus that she’s fluent in medical and conversational Spanish, the result of a semester studying in Costa Rica during medical school at ECU.

Kevin Monroe ’99 ’05 is a wealth management advisor at CAPTRUST Financial Advisors in Raleigh, where he is responsible for the investments of dozens of professional athletes. After a stellar football career in which he set the ECU record for longest interception return for a touchdown, he stayed to get an MBA. He also moonlights as the color commentator for ECU football games broadcast on the radio.

They’ve rushed home on a weekday to eat a quick lunch and be interviewed for this article. Between bites they finish each other’s sentences and remind each other who is doing what with the kids that evening.

They are almost Norman Rockwell-like in reflecting the dream of a successful young family. They have demanding but rewarding careers, two cute kids and a spacious new home in Cary. After 12 years of marriage they’re still affectionate, happy to share a sandwich and a little down time.

It’s easy to picture how they must have looked as two aspiring Rose High School teenagers who went together to the senior prom.

As they talk about their lives and careers so far, they say so many good things have happened to them that it can’t be mere coincidence. It feels like divine intervention that for every challenge they encountered, a solution soon followed. Everything clicked. The Monroes know their lives and careers clicked because they’ve always been each other’s best friend. They’ve also had the benefit of supportive families. Her parents moved to Raleigh a few years ago to help them with the children—Marcus, who is 6 now, and Derek, who is 3 and is so cute he’s called “Bottie.” Rasheeda’s dad was picking up Marcus that afternoon from day camp.

They’ve had the support of their church. They’ve also experienced the guiding hand of East Carolina in their lives, recognizing the different potential each possessed and launching their careers.

“One of the things that I will forever be grateful to the Brody School of Medicine for is awarding me the Brody Scholarship,” Rasheeda says. “(It) enabled me to graduate with minimal debt and pursue primary care versus feeling the pressure to specialize to make more money and pay back loans.”

“My football scholarship allowed me to not only get a top-notch undergraduate education, it also allowed me to get a year of graduate school for free,” says Kevin.

Family time

Rasheeda briefly panics when she is asked to put on her “doctor coat” to have her picture made. She’s pretty sure she doesn’t have one.

“I never wear the white coat when I’m seeing patients,” she explains. “You walk into a room in that white coat, and the child sees that, they immediately tense up. They associate the white coat with getting shots and things that hurt.”

Then she remembers that a colleague left one at their house. After rummaging through two closets, she finds it.

She is a third-generation college graduate, on both sides of her family. Her grandfather, Gabriel Taliaferro, was a WWII veteran who became a pharmacist, among the first African Americans in the profession. Her mother’s father was a teacher and her mother was a nurse. The family originally is from Tallahassee, Fla.

For Rasheeda, getting an education wasn’t hoped for, it was expected.

“I was in the fifth grade when I took the PSAT for the first time and in the sixth grade when I started taking the SAT every year,” she recalls. “My dad’s goal was to make it a normal thing, to take the pressure out of it, so that by the time we were in high school taking the SAT wouldn’t be stressful.”

Their father rewarded them with $50 bills when she and her older brother did well on the SATs. Both later were awarded full college scholarships.

“Dr. Mike McCammon and Dr. Tibor Hortobagyi both encouraged me to do my summer internship at Harvard in biomedical research and to pursue medical school.”

Kevin’s parents, James and Rita Monroe of Greenville, instilled in him the importance of education; it was always expected that he and his siblings would go to college. “My parents had my brother and I at a young age and they each worked full-time jobs from
Even bad things turned out well for Kevin and Rasheeda. After graduation, he was offered a football scholarship to ECU, but Kevin had been stationed. Kevin's mother worked in banking for over 30 years and is currently with the State Employees' Credit Union. Kevin's younger sister, Karen Monroe, graduated from ECU in 2009 and now is employed in the finance department at CAPTRUST, where Kevin works. The company was co-founded and is headed by J. Fielding Miller '82.

Kevin also fell under the influence of two college professors. "Douglas Schneider in the accounting department was a professor and advisor of mine that I really looked up to," he says. "He took an interest in me as an underclassman and was always there if I needed him. Anne Fisher in the finance department is one of the reasons I am working in finance now. I was a business management major, but she made finance make sense. She was able to make things simple without talking down to her students."

Having an epiphany
Kevin and Rasheeda fell in love in high school. After graduation, he was offered a football scholarship to ECU but she accepted a full scholarship to Florida A&M. After one year, she came home to Greenville—and Kevin—and a scholarship to ECU. They dated all through college.

Even bad things turned out well for them. During Kevin's senior year, he was a star on the football team and definitely a Big Man on Campus. Rasheeda was a junior majoring in exercise science and on East Carolina's Pure Gold dance team. They dated exclusively, but the future wasn't clear.

Then, Rasheeda was involved in a wreck with a 18-wheeler but walked away completely uninjured. Shocked by the experience, Kevin had an epiphany. "I recognized her as the person I wanted and needed to be with. She was going to be the mother of our children, and I needed to commit everything to her."

"We absolutely believe that our relationship was no mistake," Rasheeda says. "From us both moving from different states to Greenville to attend J.H. Rose High School within one month of each other in 1992, to my car accident in 1999 that led to Kevin getting baptized, which ultimately led to us getting married, we have seen God guiding us together."

They feared they would be separated as they began their careers. He had ambitions of playing pro football, which they knew might take him to any NFL city. But he signed with the Carolina Panthers, close enough to drive back and forth to Greenville. He was on the team's roster through training camp and was among the last players cut when the season began.

As a senior at the Brody School of Medicine, she feared that the residency she would be given on Match Day might be states away, requiring them to be apart. But she was offered a residency at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill. She completed her pediatric residency there in 2008. After that, she joined Raleigh Children's and Adolescents Medicine, where in addition to her clinical duties, she was a clinical preceptor and lecturer for medical students. She also will be in charge of the pediatric medical students at WakeMed.

Kevin has been with CAPTRUST since 2003. Before that he was a financial advisor for Wachovia Securities and AXA Advisors. At The Professional Sports Division he works in at CAPTRUST, he oversees the day-to-day financial dealings for more than 75 professional athletes.

He serves on the boards of ECU's College of Business Advisory Council and the ECU Foundation. He also co-founded a nonprofit youth outreach charity in Greenville called Future Inc., where he served as vice president.

And that's just his short list of volunteer work. "Kevin has more volunteer engagements than I can count," Rasheeda says. "He works with the Raleigh Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army, the CapCommunity Foundation and the Raleigh Food Bank. He also does numerous volunteer speaking engagements to high school and college students."

Rasheeda has been involved with the Durham Literacy Center, where she tutors young adults who are studying for the GED. She currently is a family liaison with the Helmke Foundation, which helps moms who are fighting cancer.

She's thrilled about her new job at WakeMed, which she began in September. It took a little negotiating, but the hospital agreed that she will work three-and-a-half long days per week, leaving her time to be at home with her two boys. She had a similar work arrangement at Raleigh Children's.

"I feel so blessed to not only do what I want to do, but to do it when I want to," she says.
Dr. Venom strikes

Internationally known snake expert Sean Bush arrives to improve the care of snakebite victims

Sean Bush with fourth-year medical student Heather Anderson
Dr. Venom, or internationally known snake expert Dr. Sean Bush, who’s been featured on the television show Venom ER, has joined the faculty of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

Bush comes to ECU as a physician and professor of emergency medicine. He started work July 1 after leaving Loma Linda University in California, where he was a professor and director of the envenomation medicine fellowship.

He sees patients in the emergency department at Vidant Medical Center.

“I came to ECU in search of copperheads and greener pastures,” Bush said. “Greenville has all the elements my family and I were looking for in a community. The Brody School of Medicine feels like a place where I can thrive as a professor of emergency medicine. I have already seen snakebite patients here (10 as of mid-October), and if anyone is bitten in eastern North Carolina, I hope to contribute to their care.”

Bush has had a lifelong interest in reptiles and venomous creatures. He has written more than 50 publications on the treatment of bites and stings and has lectured on the local, national and international level. He has been featured in dozens of television documentaries on several cable networks including Animal Planet, the Discovery Channel, National Geographic Television and PBS. Among other recognitions, he was an expert advisor on snakebite medicine to the White House Medical Unit from 2001–2009.

From fire ants to black widows

At ECU, Bush plans to study copperhead snakes and their venom as well as other poisonous stinging and biting creatures, from fire ants to wasps to black widow spiders.

“Anything that bites, stings or has venom, I’m interested in that,” he said.

Having an internationally known expert on the Brody faculty is a plus, said fourth-year medical student Heather Anderson. She was on an emergency medicine rotation when a snakebite victim arrived, and she got to see Bush work.

“It was really interesting to see just his knowledge on the subject, and you could tell his passion not only for helping people but educating...
The need to keep cool

Like many victims of a copperhead bite, Asher didn’t know he was getting too close to one.

He was in his parents’ driveway putting a bag on his car the night of Aug. 27 when he felt a sharp, sudden pain and knew right away a snake had bitten his ankle. He jumped back and tried to stay calm. An ambulance was there within minutes.

He received an IV on the way to the hospital and another when he arrived. It was a busy night, so he waited on a gurney in the hallway. Bush was soon at his side.

“He was pretty calm, but his mom was quite concerned,” Bush said. “He tolerated the infusion really well, and he was pretty calm, but his mom was quite concerned.”

Bush treated him with CroFab, the antivenom for pit viper bites. “He was much calmer, and I was much calmer,” Bush said. “It really reassured me.”

“The caliber of the student here is top-notch,” he said. “I’m proud to wear the purple and gold, and we’ve just all caught up in the spirit of the city and the football games.

It’s awesome.”

He motioned to a copperhead he was holding on a hook. “Plus, you find this kind of stuff in your yard,” he said.

With that being the case, locals are fortunate to have the expertise and facilities at ECU and Vidant, he said.

“Here, you have everything you need for snakebites,” Bush said. “You have a lot of people in interdisciplinary services that are interested in snakebites. The surgeons are interested, the toxicologists are interested, I’m an emergency physician, and I’m interested. Pediatrics, pediatrics are interested. You have a lot of really talented folks studying this and giving the best care to the patients here.”

Bush’s arrival at ECU is noteworthy, school officials said.

“He is of the highest caliber and brings with him a track record of significant academic and clinical accomplishments that will contribute to our programs in outstanding ways,” said Dr. Theodore Delbridge, chair of the Department of Medicine at Brody. “We look forward to... his expertise when it comes to treating the multitude of bites and stings we regularly see in the emergency department.”

Bush has bachelor’s and medical degrees from Texas AM University and completed residency training in emergency medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center. He has 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals in addition to his other academic writings.

He is board-certified in emergency medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

N.C. crawling with copperheads

Copperheads are the most common of six species of venomous snakes in North Carolina. In 2009, the state led the nation in copperhead bites with 228, according to the Carolinas Poison Center. Their bites are typically not fatal for humans, though they can kill small animals and do require immediate medical attention.

Bush said snakebites aren’t out to get people.

“They’re not trying to eat a person,” he said. “A snake is trying to get away. A snake is one inch, and you’re probably 70 inches. If you saw something 70 times taller than you, you’d want to get away, too.”

Nevertheless, it’s not uncommon for people to say they hate snakes and try to kill any snake they see.

“That’s to me, it’s absurd. It’s uninformed. It’s a little small-minded,” Bush said. “Snakes deserve to live, too. I personally love snakes.”

Snakes can also be beneficial. They eat rats and mice, and some eat more dangerous rivals.

“A king snake in your yard means a rattlesnake will go out of your yard,” Bush said. “It’s awesome.”

He did really well.”

Asher dealt with the bite the best way he knew how. “For the seriousness of it, I was laughing a bit,” he said. “At that point, all I wanted was a beer. I’m not going to lie about it.”

Though Bush has never been bitten by a poisonous snake, his son was bitten by a rattlesnake when he was 2 years old. He fully recovered, but not without tense moments, such as when his father met the helicopter transporting him and saw the terror in his son’s eyes.

“I was mortified,” Bush said, because of the danger of the Southern Pacific rattlesnake and because the victim was his son. “And then when the door opened, I saw it in his face. He was very frightened. Maybe he was mirroring my face, and I was mirroring his face. I was like, ‘Dude, I got to pull it together and keep my cool. Otherwise, he’ll be terrified.’ And I didn’t want that.”

If anyone wants to avoid seeing him in the emergency department, Bush has some simple advice.

“The best thing to do is leave wildlife alone,” he said. “Take pictures of it.”
Making a splash

Two international students on the swim team practice time management, accountability and other old-fashioned American values.
In a sport where winning is measured in fractions of seconds, East Carolina University swimmers Attila Kiraly and Rokas Cepulis watch the clock in and out of the pool.

Being a student-athlete has taught Kiraly and Cepulis the importance of time management, one of the biggest challenges to excelling in the classroom and in the water, they said.

It’s a good life skill for anyone, particularly swimmers who have full course loads, provide community service and practice six days each week including two-a-days, twice a week.

“You have to stay persistent at what you do,” Cepulis said.

“You always have to be on top of things.”

Honor Roll students, Kiraly, a senior, and Rokas, a junior, are two of 11 international students on the ECU men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams for the 2013-2014 season. Both also competed for the first time this summer at the 2013 U.S. Open Swimming Championships.

“We’ve had really good success with our international students, not just in the pool but truly in the classroom,” said ECU head coach Rick Kobe.

“All our swimmers have at least a 3.0 GPA or higher and that’s one thing we’re real proud of.”

The women’s team last spring had a 3.62 GPA, the highest in the country among Division I teams. “Ninety percent of our athletes each semester make academic honors,” Kobe said.

Last season, Kiraly was one of three ECU swimmers named Scholar All-Americans, which means they must make an NCAA time cut and have better than a 3.0 GPA. He was one of 11 ECU swimmers who earned all-conference honors, and part of an ECU men’s team that achieved its 31st consecutive winning record in 2012-13.

Originally from Hungary, Kiraly is ECU’s record holder in the 400-yard individual medley (IM) and 200-yard backstroke. He took second place in the 400 IM at the Conference USA Invitational. He aims to better those times this season, he said.

He has been swimming since about age 4, and began swimming competitively at age 10. In Hungary, swimmers belong to club teams because sports aren’t offered in high schools like in the United States. Clubs offer everything from handball to soccer, he said.

His coach encouraged him to continue swimming and attend college abroad.

“ECU was one of the colleges that responded positively,” Kiraly said.

Cepulis has been swimming competitively since he was 8 and comes from a family of swimmers.

He returned home to swim Sweden nationals in the summer of 2012, but last summer decided to stay in Greenville where he and Kiraly swam with the local Greenville Swim Club (now East Carolina Aquatics) and took some classes. He is a double major in business management and psychology.

Kiraly had been to the United States for swim competitions and a student visitation program before arriving on campus. Greenville is much smaller than his home city of Budapest, the capital of Hungary, but he has adjusted well at ECU.

The public health major thinks of ways to solve eastern North Carolina’s obesity problem through swimming and exercise. He plans on attending graduate school for a master’s degree.

Lithuania-native Cepulis, 22, is a breast stroke specialist who also competes in the individual medley.

Last season he achieved six NCAA “B” cuts in the 100 and 200 breast stroke and earned All-Conference USA honors with a second-place finish in the 200 breast stroke and as a member of the bronze medal-winning 400 medley relay team at the league’s year-end meet.

He was drawn to ECU because of the coaching staff and Pirate spirit.

“I think it really defines what a swim team is and can be,” Cepulis said.

ECU subscribes to a database that compiles the top international swimmers. Assistant coach Kate Gordon is one of ECU’s international recruiters, and sometimes travels overseas to meet with potential student-athletes.

“It’s a little bit of everything that grabs these kids,” Kobe said.

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His goals for this season remain the same as last year: going to the NCAAs, winning the Conference USA championship, and possibly competing in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. “If my long course times are even remotely close to making it to Rio, I’d take a year off and dedicate myself to swimming,” Cepulis said. “It’s about as good as it gets for swimming.”

If not in the pool or library, Cepulis can likely be found at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Minges Coliseum or other sporting venues because he tries to attend as many events as possible to support other ECU athletes.

“People have respect for all sports here,” he said. “When we have dual meets here, the bleachers are full,” Cepulis said.

ECU typically hosts four or five home meets that are standing room only, easily bringing in 300 spectators, Kobe said. “I haven’t seen it at another facility,” he said. “That just shows you the interest here. When we travel, we always outnumber the fans from the opposing team.”

Team goals for the season

In the community, the team gives back through Special Olympics and a “Swim Across America” fundraiser for cancer research. Some also volunteer at the local animal shelter or food bank and speak in public schools.

Goals for this season mirror previous years: win the conference championship and have all team members achieve a 3.0 GPA or higher, Kobe said.

“We have an extremely talented freshman class, and I feel good,” Kobe said. “Last year was our best year. This year, we’re better.”

The Conference USA swim championships will be held in Atlanta in February, and it’s ECU’s last year in the conference. “It will be an extremely fast and talented meet,” Kobe said. “We want to position ourselves for the new conference. We’re excited about it.”

ECU wants to be a top-25 swim and dive team, and recent and planned facility improvements will help, Kobe said.

Last year ECU spent $669,000 on a state-of-the-art filtration system, pipe drain renovations and modifications for Minges Natatorium, built in 1968. “It’s important to give our athletes fresh air and clean water,” Kobe said. This summer, the pool will shut down for an estimated $440,000 project to install new lighting, a new curved slat ceiling and spray-on soundproofing to remaining ceiling and wall surfaces to improve acoustics.

Kobe is in his 32nd year as head coach.

“It truly is a big family,” Kobe said. “We accentuate the positive and expect everyone to have the correct focus. Four years go fast.”

As the clock ticks through another season, Kobe stresses accountability and commitment with his swimmers and divers. After fall semester finals, swimmers will return home for a short winter break—10 to 12 days—where they will continue training with their club teams to stay in shape for the second half of the season.

“We want these folks to know there are no shortcuts. Shortcuts get you nowhere first,” Kobe said. “Hand work pays off. If you want something, you’ve got to work hard every single day. You don’t want to be satisfied with ‘OK.’ ”

REMAINING SCHEDULE FOR ECU SWIM AND DIVE TEAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 21-23</td>
<td>Nike Cup (Trials/Finals)</td>
<td>Chapel Hill</td>
<td>10 a.m./6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5-7</td>
<td>AT&amp;T Winter National Championships</td>
<td>Knoxville, Tenn.</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>at Old Dominion (Men and Women)</td>
<td>Norfolk, Va.</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>vs. Catawba (Men and Women)</td>
<td>Greensboro</td>
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<td></td>
<td>vs. UMBC (Men and Women)</td>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>vs. UNC-Wilmington (Diving only)</td>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>vs. William &amp; Mary (Men and Women)</td>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>vs. Campbell (Women)</td>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 26-March 1</td>
<td>Conference USA Championships</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>10 a.m./6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11-14</td>
<td>NCAA Regional Zone Diving Championships</td>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20-24</td>
<td>NCAA Women’s Championships</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minn.</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27-29</td>
<td>vs. NCAA Men’s Championships</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
<td>All day</td>
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It will be an ECU Christmas for the Cary Chamber Orchestra and Concert Singers.

Singer-songwriter Karen Hart ’78 of Venice, Calif., will be the featured composer for the group’s 22nd annual Holiday Pops concert on Dec. 13-14 at the Cary Arts Center. Larry Speakman ’78 ’06, artistic director of the 125-voice Concert Singers of Cary, will conduct it and the Cary Chamber Orchestra.

The Friday concert begins at 8 p.m. with repeat performances Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m. at the arts center in downtown Cary.

Hart’s song “Mirabelle” was the 2008 Song of the Year chosen by West Coast Songwriters. In 2009 and 2010 she was named a Top 100 Artist by Music Connection magazine. She has won the Los Angeles Women in Music Award and the Barry Manilow/Concord Records Award for lyric writing. She has performed many times with the Los Angeles Symphony and the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

This will be Hart’s first performance in her home state in 25 years.

Hart will sing a special song in memory of Libby Brown Whaley ’78 ’81 of Santa Barbara, Calif., who died in April. Whaley was director of therapeutic recreation at Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital in Santa Barbara.

Emceeing the evening will be WRAL News personality Bill Leslie. Tickets are $16-$18.

For more information, go to concertsingers.org/2012-2013-season.

—Steve Tuttle
Pavone and Tinglestad also served meals and helped create a vegetable garden at a local church. and shared folk dances for audiences who had never seen a live performance. The camp ran for nine days.

Springs School of Dance who traveled to the village of Carrillos. They created a dance camp for local children a trip to Costa Rica organized by dancer Marilyn Chappell ’90. They were among five students in Chappell’s Holly Freshmen Lauren Pavone (right) and Kristyn Tinglestad (left) spent part of last summer on a cultural exchange

Owen ’11, Jordan Normann, Isaac Morton, Brooke Hooks ’04, included ’11 on June 8 on Figure Owen Musselwhite wed Anna Marie Greenville. Flooring at The Rug Shoppe, designer with Full Service in Durham and Washington, Healthcare Advisors, with offices in Wilmington. Daniel Carter is a principal at Ascendient Wilmington. The wedding party Intracoastal Waterway near Wilmington. The wedding party included William Campbell, Douglas, William Cole King, David Allen Griffith, Douglass included William Campbell, Douglas, William Cole King, David Allen Griffith, Douglass

Leigh Meredith Wilson on May 4 at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Fayetteville. The wedding party included John Michael Dixon ‘08. The wedding party

Cameron Patrick Atkins wed Leigh Meredith Wilson on May 4 at an outdoor ceremony at Rock Springs Center, Greenville. The wedding party included William Campbell, Dougthon, William Cole King, David Allen Griffith, Douglass included William Campbell, Dougthon, William Cole King, David Allen Griffith, Douglass

Kristin Brady and Lewis Cox on June 15 at the Dunes Golf and Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, S.C. She is a speech-language pathologist with Speech Solutions. Creadell Gates Lee wed Anne Stuart Kyle on June 29 at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Fayetteville. The wedding party included John Michael Dixon ‘08, Cameron Patrick Atkins, David Allen Griffith, Douglass

Solutions. B. Gail Anderson, Southern Bank’s vice president and director of lending and development, received the Service Award at Southern Bank’s annual Best Bankers event in 2003. Kristian Herring is public information officer for Edgecombe County Public Schools. He was assistant principal at South West Edgecombe High School. Stefanie C. McGuil, Army National Guard 2nd Lt., graduated from Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Maggie Nelms was named 2013 Miss Kinston-Lenoir County and competed in the Miss America Pageant. She is in her second year at ECU’s School of Dental Medicine. Paul B. Wingle was named 2013 District Director of the National Guard Bureau. He serves as commander of the 134th FEB, headquartered in Raleigh.

Robert L. Southerland ’93, a senior pilot with more than 3,700 hours flying West Air Force jets, including the Stealth Bomber, was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He currently serves as chief of Global Air Delivered Strike Operations in the Strategic Command of the U.S. Air Force at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. He is married to Jessica Southerland ’93, who served for 10 years in the Air Force as an administrative officer and then as a personnel officer. They were both commissioned through ECU’s AFROTC program. She now works from home raising their three kids.

Clint Caull ’89 is a vice president at the Judicial Security Division of the U.S. Marshals Service. He oversees the agency’s efforts to protect 2,200 judges and 5,000 prosecutors in 400 court facilities throughout the United States. A resident of Auburn, Va., previously served as a deputy assistant director. From 2004 to 2008, he was the chief deputy U.S. marshal for the District of New Mexico. From 2000 to 2004, he was commander of a Fugitive/Violent Offender Task Force covering Northern Arizona. Prior to joining the U.S. Marshals Service, Caull served as a special agent with the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Interior, where he primarily investigated white-collar crime cases.
Andrew Scott Hemptoff and Molly EdenHammer on June 8 at First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh. The wedding party included David Seger Jr. He works at AFBoggs, Raleigh.

Jay Rose sponsored the annual PSHS vs. JHS charity game and free football clinic in Wilmington in July. He plays for the Buffalo Bills. Teresa Typer is principal of Dare County Alternative School, Mattamuskeet. She was assistant principal at Cape Hatteras Secondary School of Coastal Studies. Bills Wallis is cheeringleading coach at Green Hope High School, Cary, where she also teaches healthful living.


Dr. Mary Catherine Brake and Carlalef Turner, Jr. on June 29 at First United Methodist Church, Beaufort. She is a rheumatologist and pediatrician with ECU Physicians. Dr. Jackson Richard Taylor received his PhD in neuroscience from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Wake Forest University, and received a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Internal Medicine Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston-Salem.

Elizabeth Jenkins is principal at Bearsville Elementary School. Rocky Mount. Dr. Elhan Lencer is the new superintendent of Pitt County Schools. He was superintendent of Sampson County Schools.

Irene Teresa Kennedy ‘07 is teaching kindergarten at Open Door School, Winterville. Dr. Mary Catherine Moreno ‘07 ‘10 is president of Family Practice, Laurinburg, as a family medicine physician. Amy Nicole Neighbors and Christopher Scott Gladson ’08 on May 16 at the First Pentecostal Holiness Church, continued on page 50

Who says accountants can’t be fun and romantic? When it comes time to pop the question? Andrew Stoker Jr. of Philadelphia hired a “flash mob” to impress Stephanie Lowe ‘07 of Winston-Salem, whom he proposed to through a pre-prom flash mob. Lowe stood on one knee last month. A video of the proposal made the local news in Philadelphia and has since gone viral.

A flash mob is when a group plans ahead to suddenly assemble in a public space to perform a socially conscious or entertaining act, work for former House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. Stoker led Van Loon to believe they were going to spend the day with his friends in a flash mob dance in Philadelphia’s Independence Square. At the end of the flash mob performance, the wedding party circled around Stoker and Van Loon and began singing “The Little Mermaid’s” “Kiss the Girl” from “The Little Mermaid.”

“IT took just under two months to plan from start to finish,” Stoker said. “It was definitely worth the wait to see the surprise and excitement on Stoker’s face and how ‘yes’ as her answer.”

Stoker said his plan is now to ask his future wife to be his “Mrs.” The couple plans to set an official date yet, but they hope to be married sometime next fall.

To watch Stoker pop the question, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4FD5cvPAmg.

Make a Note

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: Class Notes Editor, Howard House, Mail Stop 107, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can e-mail your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While East Carolina University does not accept responsibility for material lost in the mail, we do our best to print all materials. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

NAME First Middle Last Maiden

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GET THE DISCOUNTS YOU DESERVE

Larky uncovers hidden savings from your alumni membership.

See all your member discounts in one place. Get mobile and web reminders when you’re near a discount.

GET IT FREE
The wedding party included Ann Haggard '10 and Shannon McClintock. She is a lab supervisor for GateWay HealthCare, Inc., Greenville, and he is a chemist at Foothill Labs in Havelock.

2004

Seth Brown in Pitt County Schools' teacher support coordinator. He was principal at Choccolocco School, Pitt County.

Caroline Cooper, academic records assistant in the art department at Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss., received the 2003 Certificate of Merit from the National Academic Advising Association for significant contributions to the improvement of academic advising. Kathy Diane Hardy and Casey Marvin Gooch of All Saints Chapel, Raleigh, were elected to the board of directors of the UNC-Greensboro undergraduate studies programs.

2002

Shannan Marie Barnes '01, '02, and Jonathan Travis Powell '99, '00, recently married. The wedding party included Pamela Sather '84, '86, baseball and track coach at East Carolina University; Stuart Lee, former Farmville Central athletic director and girls' basketball and director and girls' basketball at SouthWest Edgecombe.

Sandra Langley '84, '86, baseball and softball coach at ECU, joined Physicians East Greenville and the Richmond District Neighborhood Rescue Mission through the annual Compassion Project benefit.

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Shannan Marie Barnes '01, '02, and Jonathan Travis Powell '99, '00, recently married. The wedding party included Pamela Sather '84, '86, baseball and track coach at East Carolina University; Stuart Lee, former Farmville Central athletic director and girls' basketball and director and girls' basketball at SouthWest Edgecombe.

Sandra Langley '84, '86, baseball and softball coach at ECU, joined Physicians East Greenville and the Richmond District Neighborhood Rescue Mission through the annual Compassion Project benefit.

Seth Brown in Pitt County Schools' teacher support coordinator. He was principal at Choccolocco School, Pitt County.

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assistant professor in ECU’s College of Nursing, and her technology is a technology analyst at ECU.

Michael King (‘92 ‘06) is pastor of Good Hope Church in Hertford. He was a student at ECU and worked for First Community Bank in Elizabeth City.

Stephanie Alston (‘72 ‘76) is principal at Crosswinds Elementary School, Southport. She was a student at ECU and works for Wells Fargo Bank.

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Kimberly Bowie (‘95 ‘00) is principal at Cape Fear Elementary School, Wilmington. She was a student at ECU and works for Wells Fargo Bank.

Mike Deriso (‘90 ‘00) is principal at Cape Fear Elementary School, Wilmington. He was a student at ECU and worked for Wells Fargo Bank.

Mike Pollard (‘93 ‘97) is principal at Cape Fear Elementary School, Wilmington. He was a student at ECU and worked for Wells Fargo Bank.

Jennifer Edgerton is head volleyball coach and teacher. She was a student at ECU and worked for Wells Fargo Bank.


MAKING MEMORIES, NOT REGRETS

Editor’s note: Suzanne Gisler Payr, ’74 of Chapel Hill, enraptured the above quote of a group of mostly-ECU alumnae who have maintained close friendships for more than 40 years. The group has a deep history together over the years and enjoys a Mediterranean cruise last summer. We asked how she and her friends had overcome distance and time to remain in touch for four decades. Her response is below:

“Most of us met each other in the fall of 1974, shortly after moving into Tyler Hall. It was the first day of college and we were introduced to one another. We all clicked, and have been close friends ever since.

“The roommates were Charlotte Swayne DeLee, ’74, and Phyllis Givens Lambert, ’74, both from Libbyville. Carol Bemis Moss, ’74, and I, both from Greensboro; and Patricia Wood, ’74 and Karen Wetmore, ’74, both from Hartford and those who missed the Mediterranean cruise, were often the loudest in Tyler Hall. Most of us have since moved on to other adventures, but we still get together every other summer on our cruise. We have been friends for 40 years, and have shared good times and bad times. We have been there for each other through thick and thin.”

From left are Carol Reeves Moss, Cindy Miller Grabelsky, Phyllis Givens Lambert, Suzanne Garner Payne, Charlotte Swayne DeLee, and Paige Brown Trimme.

We believe the power of the Pirate Nation and advance the concept of Pirates Supporting Pirates. We believe our impact on the student experience is integral to the power of Pirates enhancing the reputation of our University and alumni throughout the Pirate Nation.

And so do our members.

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works in a two-woman show, “A Slice of Summer,” at City Art Gallery, Greenville.

Alicia Tate '12 is assistant principal at Cape Hatteras Secondary School in Hatteras, where she teaches English. She was graduated from Vidalia High School, Vidalia, Ga., and earned a B.A. in English from ECU in 2012.

The Lotus Effect is a first book by Lily Emerson, whose plots often feature steam-powered machines. Among the best new offerings in that field is The Book of Steam, a solo show at Red Dot Gallery, Sacramento, Calif.

They say writers should stick to what they know, and Lily Emerson ‘00 certainly does that in her first novel. The Last Bohemians, a gripping tale of revolution and revulsion set in Prague, Czechoslovakia, after the election of Vaclav Havel as president, Kirbydied and worked in Czechoslovakia from 1992 until 1999 as a journalist and teacher. A confirmed world traveler, she currently lives in Greeley, Colo.

The central character in the book is American journalist Sam Seton (who is a woman), She is among many idealists who come to Prague seeking freedom’s brave new civil society—capitalism with a human face. What she finds, however, is a hedonistic culture clash of ex-patriots and naive Bohemians rising out of the ashes of communist bureaucracy. Amongst over-cooked canapes and cost- starred bicycles, bad food and good beer, addiction and corruption, Seton investigates a sinister complex that threatens the foundations of the world’s newest country. At ECU Kirbyd worked with The EastWest Institute, The Prague Post and Trafika, other publications. She served as managing editor for The Rebel, a language literary magazine, as well as editor and press liaison for the EastWest Institute.

In prose that is sometimes lyrical, sometimes sharp and with an edge of humor, Kirby captures Prague’s unique moment in time, when hedilyria. Kirby captures Prague’s unique moment in time, when Hedilyria's, a first book by Lily Emerson, whose plots often feature steam-powered machines. Among the best new offerings in that field is The Book of Steam, a solo show at Red Dot Gallery, Sacramento, Calif.

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Clarence Barnes of Clayton died July 13 at 99. She retired from Four Oaks Elementary School, Johnston County, after teaching first grade for 38 years.

Bobby Joe Bowling of Goldsboro died July 12 at 93. Bowling lived his life in Haywood County, N.C., she was a member of Indian Head Baptist Church, LaGrange, and a member of Mitchell Elementary School. She taught in the Burlington County School System for five years. She taught in the public school system for 30 years, first at the J.B. Kittrell School, Johnston County. She was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Robert Maxwell “Bob” Chambers Jr. of San Marino, Calif., died May 24. He attended the University of Oregon and received a football scholarship. He retired from Kornstein Foods. Walter Bamey Crumpler Jr. of Goldsboro died July 6. A member of the U.S. Navy Reserve, he was a public health nurse at the Charles Everett Elphin of Westminster, Va., died July 4. He was a retired auditor with the Navy Audit Service. Lee Victoria Laddings Jr. of Kitty Hawk died July 5. She was a member of the Eastern Carolina Vocational Education’s Professional Advisory board and was employed as an English teacher at ECU’s College of Education. She was a member of the ECU Foundation. She was also a member of the ECU Alumni Association. Memorials can be made to the ECU Foundation (www.ecu.edu/cas/development/donate). Charles David Lord of Charlotte died July 1. He was a property and casualty insurance agent. Rebecca Ann Scott 35 of New Bern died June 23. She was a member of the St. Kitts and Nevis Police Force. Michael Gabriel Jr. of Lumberton died Aug. 11. She was a member of the Coast Guard.”

Louise Lunder of Conway died June 30. She was a member of the ECU Alumni Association. She taught in the public school system for 30 years, first at the J.B. Kittrell School, Johnston County. She was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Alpyne Virginia Bigham 40 of Franklin died July 2. She taught in the public school system for 30 years and in a retirement Tucson in her home for 15 years. Adrian Earl Brown 46 of Manteo died June 30. A U.S. Navy veteran, he retired public school teacher and coach. A WW II veteran, he was a member of the Johnston County. He also was a real estate developer who built Tar River Estates and other projects near campus. He served on the National Advisory Board of the American Museum of Science and was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Dorothy Johnson Kirkland 91 of Lumberton died June 27. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. At ECU, she taught courses in 1980s and was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Kevin William Lassiter of Conway died June 11. A U.S. Army veteran, he served in Vietnam. He was a member of the ECU Alumni Association. He served as executive assistant to Chancellor Steven Badger and was an assistant professor of specific health science.

Claire E. Fadden 39 of Washington died Aug. 10. She was a member of the ECU Alumni Association. She was a co-founder of the Educational Empowerment Network.

Eula G. Graziano of Lumberton retired in 2012. She was a property and casualty insurance agent. Dr. Alice J. Anderson, professor about their combined work and was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Navy.

Margaret “Peggy” Chinn Hartsell of New Bern died June 13. She worked in the Crown Library for 30 years. She was a member of the ECU Alumni Association. She was an employee at ECU for 25 years. For many years, she was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Margaret “Peggy” Chinn Hartsell of New Bern died June 13. She worked in the Crown Library for 30 years. She was a member of the ECU Alumni Association. She was an employee at ECU for 25 years. For many years, she was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Sara Nickerson Hartsell of New Bern died June 21. She was a member of the ECU Alumni Association. She was an employee at ECU for 25 years. For many years, she was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Michael Justin Leells 20 of Clayton died Aug. 12. He was a member of the ECU Alumni Association. He was a medical student and was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

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Dr. John B. Reed 31 of New Bern died June 25. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a member of Delta Chi fraternity. As a physician, he worked with Commercial and personal lines. He was a member of the Greenville City Council.

Sonny Randle’s staff during the 1980s. He worked at ECU in the 1980s.

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“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

The entire staff was present at a meeting called by President Robert Wright at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 17, 1932, in Old Austin. President Wright said:

“I have called you together to acquaint you with the financial condition of the college. Our income, including the balance to come to the college from the state appropriation for this current year, will be approximately $20,000 less than our operating expenses for the remaining portion of the year. This is due to the fact that the Budget Bureau has found it necessary to make a 30 percent reduction in the appropriation.

“After conferring with the Assistant Director of the Budget, and receiving this letter from the Governor, we find that it is going to be necessary to make a reduction. The Budget Bureau agreed to finance us if (treasurer John Spilman) could save $5,000. Mr. Spilman agreed to do this—I don’t know how he is going to save it. If we make a reduction of 10 percent in all salaries and wages for March, April, May, and June, it will take care of the present situation.

“I do not want to call the Board of Trustees together; so I have called you together to ask if you wish to make that reduction, voluntarily. I think it will put us in the proper light with the Board of Trustees, the Director of the Budget, and the next General Assembly if we do this. It seems to me that it is the only thing we can do, because the state is not collecting the revenue.

“This applies to only four months’ salary, March, April, May, and June. It isn’t my idea at all that we are trying to cut salaries, we are simply trying to meet a situation. I understand... that it will be best for the Budget Bureau if we affect this saving monthly.”

Miss (Salle Joyner) Davis made the following motion: “I move that the faculty and officers and other employees of the institution, voluntarily, to help the state in its present condition, accept a 10 percent cut in compensation for the months of March, April, May, and June.”

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about what to do about summer school. Wright said:

“We are going to run the summer school. We are doing it for three reasons. One is, we have in college now not less than 150 girls who are planning to come to summer school. Possibly 50 of these are expecting to be graduated at the end of the summer school. Another reason, if we stop our summer school during this depression we will have to start all over and build it up.

“Third, we are running the summer school that we may hold our organization together and give employment to the large number of people who work in the college, the dining room and kitchen. We have promised (the state budget officer) that we will not spend more than $5,000 from the appropriation on the summer school. Last year we spent about $15,000.”

Editor’s Note: East Carolina’s state appropriations declined a further 3.6 percent this fiscal year, the fourth straight year of shrinking state support. But East Carolina is accustomed to hard times, as evidenced by this account in the minutes of the Faculty Senate:
The ECU Marching Band is sporting new uniforms at home games this season, replacing ones that were more than 10 years old. You might say it was a feather in the band’s cap that the $130,000 expense came entirely from donations. See story, page 11.

Photo by Mike Litwin ’01