Family practice

Four brothers, all doctors.
One mission.
One medical school.
Though their degrees were conferred on Friday the 13th, ECU’s most recent class of graduates knows they are lucky to be Pirates. More than 2,300 students received degrees at fall commencement, including about 1,600 bachelor degrees and 723 graduate degrees. Story, page 9

Photo by Cliff Hollis
Family practice
Four Kornegay brothers, all graduates of ECU's Brody School of Medicine, are living the Brody mission by practicing family medicine in eastern North Carolina and becoming a vital part of the fabric of small-town life.

A voice for aphasia
An ECU researcher's work into communication in older adults is giving aphasia patients a chance to talk again.

The sheer energy of Marilyn Shearer
ECU's indefatigable provost announces plans to step down after helping to lead the university through a pivotal era.

Feeling the heat
As ECU prepares to move up to a tougher athletic conference on July 1, the team facing the greatest challenge isn't football. It's basketball, which suddenly will be competing against national powerhouse schools.

Mattie Breault, 5, peers out at parents during a DanceAbility dress rehearsal at Eastern Elementary School. DanceAbility is an international program adopted by ECU four years ago to teach dance to children with cognitive or physical disabilities. "One of the things we like to do is really provide an opportunity for each child to go beyond what might be expected of them," said Boni Boswell, program director from the College of Health and Human Performance's Department of Kinesiology.

Photo by Cliff Hollis
Their story begins on page 18.

Jon Kornegay, the youngest, says in our story. "But for us, the successes I was able to have in life." His experiences I had here in the community…helped lead to the goal set by the General Medicine Dean Paul Cunningham said after receiving the most important of primary care medicine to the people of North Carolina practicing primary care medicine.

The Kornegay docs are husband and wife. Their story is our spotlight in this issue. It is a story of the four sons of a Duplin County doctor came to ECU, to practice medicine. That achieves a goal set by the General Medicine Dean Paul Cunningham said after receiving the most North Carolina and training them as a special student from North Carolina and becoming a master's in industrial College. I continued to work from Wilson Community College. I worked for Honeywell Aerospace as a machinist for 10 years when I decided to go back to college. I transferred into ECU BIST program in 1997 after taking a few classes required to complete my associate’s degree at Wilson Community College. I continued to work full-time, and in 9/2 years later—involved both on campus, night classes and distant ed—I had earned my undergraduate degree in manufacturing as well as a master's in industrial distribution. This opened doors for me to move from an entry level machinist to product engineer, to lean expert deploying Toyota Production System, to my current role as customer quality engineer managing quality improvement projects for multiple Honeywell sites.

"All of us here are committed to serving the citizens of North Carolina and in particular the East," Brody School of Medicine Dean Paul Cunningham said after receiving the most recent FAQ honor. "Our state-supported medical school is passionate about that purpose, and it is therefore no surprise when the stories confirm the motive."

"It’s easy for a lot of people to leave and never come back," Jon Kornegay, the youngest, says in our story. "But for us, the experiences I had here in the community...helped lead to the successes I was able to have in life." Make your own connection with this family of Brody doctors. Their story began on page 18.
Borim Song, left, talks to students at the Greenville Korean Language School.

ECU professor trains aspiring teachers through service-learning

The art of teaching takes patience, diligence and the ability to multitask. Working with a group of 25 children ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade—on a Saturday—takes even more of those talents.

ECU art education professor Borim Song is helping aspiring teachers hone those skills through a service-learning experience that connects ECU art education students with children at the Greenville Korean Language School.

Song requires students in her ART 2123 class to join her for observation and co-teaching art lessons for the Korean-American children at the school, held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenville.

Song said she would like for all the school, held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenville, to eventually teach the class.

“At ECU, philanthropy is personal

Among the many get-well cards and flowers Song received while recovering from knee-replacement surgery last September at her Chocowinity home, one was special. It came from the ECU Honors College students whose scholarships are being paid for by her and husband Pat Lane.

“The card I got from Kelli (Soos) and Matt (Earley) was so nice,” Lynn Lane said, “and after I recovered a little bit, he drove out to see me and we watched the ECU-Carolina football game together.”

If one of the Lanes gets sick this fall, they can expect to get more special cards, because then they will be supporting three EC Scholars.

ECU’s most prestigious scholarship program, the ECU Scholar award is worth $61,000. It covers full in-state tuition and a semester abroad.

“We will have a junior, a sophomore and a freshman,” said Pat Lane, saying please to the students.“If they want to we are very open to that, like go out and attend an event on campus.”

The students have responded warmly to the Lanes. “It’s become very apparent that they genuinely care about my success and happiness, and that truly means a lot,” said Soos, a sophomore from Gastonia.

“I have loved getting to know them over the past semester,” said Earley, a freshman from Rocky Mount. “They have been great mentors and friends to me throughout the difficulties of my first semester, and I look forward to getting to know them further over my stay in Greenville and beyond.”

Such opportunities for donors to meet the students they are supporting is an unusual aspect of philanthropy at East Carolina, according to Katia O’Connor, director of the EC Scholars program and assistant dean at the Honors College.

Pat said as a donor he appreciates that approach. “ECU is very receptive to its alumni remaining involved,” he said.

Funding for the EC Scholars program is one of the highest priorities of the Honors College, which recently met a goal of offering 20 EC Scholar awards per year.

Besides funding three EC Scholar awards, the Lanes also fund two fine arts scholarships and four in the College of Education. Beginning next semester, the Lanes will be providing friendship and guidance—as well as financial support—for nine ECU students.

Pat Lane became a CPA after college and had a successful career in the corporate world, including 12 years with RJ Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem. Lynn, who graduated from Greensboro College, also worked at RJR and retired as senior vice president and treasurer.

“We feel like we have been fortunate over our lives and it’s our way of giving back to society,” Pat Lane said. “So we try to make them understand how it works, that after you graduate you give back.”

“Both Pat and Lynn are great leaders and I feel so blessed to have them as my donors and role models,” said Soos. “I could never thank them enough.”

Lynn Lane, the first woman to chair the ECU Foundation board, received its top honor, the James R. Talton Service Award, in September. She served on the board for 16 years.

—Steve Tuttle
We want to center the court and a basketball court. A courtyard, a sand volleyball court, a focus of that part of campus. Residence halls Gateway East and West will better link the athletics complex and the academic community. "They’re kind of our gateway to the future," said Bill McCartney, associate vice chancellor of campus living. "They’re kind of our gateway to the future," said Bill McCartney, associate vice chancellor of campus living.

"These new residence halls will anchor a living-learning communities located in other residence halls that are...supportive of a student’s academic success," McCartney explained. The Neighborhood Service Office and the computer lab for College Hill will move into Gateway, ensuring that it will be a focus of that part of campus. "From a literal and a figurative standpoint, it will be the crown jewel," said Lucier. Belk Hall has housed close to 500 students almost continually since 1966. Gateway East and West will house a combined 720 students, who are expected to move into Gateway in fall 2015. Verónica Rodríguez-Mendez, a Belk Hall RA, began the fall semester with nearly 50 students, ended the semester with only 15 and strived to build a nice community among her residents. "We worked hard to build that because they only had one semester (together)," said Jones. As alumni and recent residents prepared to say farewell to the 47-year-old dorm at the end of fall semester, people who stayed until the end of the semester were the most connected (to Belk)," said Rodriguez-Mendez. Jessica Jones, a Belk Hall RA, began the fall semester with nearly 50 students, ended the semester with only 15 and strived to build a nice community among her residents. "We worked hard to build that because they only had one semester (together)," said Jones. As alumni and recent residents prepared to say farewell to the 47-year-old dorm at the end of fall semester, people who stayed until the end of the semester were the most connected (to Belk)," said Rodriguez-Mendez.

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Trustees talk tuition, new student centers

Medical and dental students at ECU will pay more in tuition next year under a plan approved by the Board of Trustees during its November meeting. The board also approved a fee increase for all students beginning the 2015-2016 academic year to help fund construction of two new student centers—one on Main Campus and one on the Health Sciences Campus.

No tuition increases are recommended for in-state undergraduate students. However, next year out-of-state undergraduate students will see a 6 percent increase in tuition, a total of $1,084, which was mandated by state legislators in the last legislative session.

Revenues from this increase will be used to offset cuts to state appropriations by the same amount, said Dr. Rick Niswander, vice chancellor for administration and finance. That will result in no additional revenue for the university.

Tuition for the Brody School of Medicine would increase $2,000, and the School of Dental Medicine would increase $713 beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year. Those figures represent a 13.72 percent and 5 percent rise, respectively.

The UNC Board of Governors was scheduled to review and approve tuition increases from all 16 campuses at its February meeting. Even with the increases, tuition at ECU’s medical and dental schools remain among the lowest in the country, said Niswander.

Trustees approved a maximum student fee of $425 to be phased in over three years to help pay for the two student centers. That would generate about $9 million; the total cost of both centers is estimated at $56.3 million, Niswander said.

The new 200,000-square-foot student center on Main Campus will sit about where Mendenhall is now. The student center for the Health Sciences Campus would be situated between the East Carolina Heart Institute and Laupus Library on North Emergency Drive.

Mendenhall Student Center opened in 1974. East Carolina had 11,000 students and 37 student organizations. Today, 402 student organizations and about 27,000 students use the facility.

“Ten years ago when I came, (then Board of Trustees member) Steve Showfety said we need a new student center,” said Chancellor Steve Ballard during the trustees’ lunch discussion. “I think the time is right.”

—Crystal Baily and Jeannine Manning Hutson

Nursing, business rank among the best

ECU’s graduate programs in nursing and business rank among the nation’s best in online education, according to U.S. News & World Report. The ECU College of Nursing ranked fifth out of 96 master of nursing programs in the country. The online master of business administration program ranked 58 out of 171 such programs. ECU’s College of Nursing has been consistently ranked as one of the largest distance education programs in the country.

Nursing offers seven online options in the master of science nursing program: adult-gerontology nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, family nurse practitioner, neonatal nurse practitioner, nursing education, nursing leadership and nurse midwifery. Of 725 students enrolled in the MBA program last fall, 587—or 79 percent—were distance education students.

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Class of ‘13 celebrates milestones at fall commencement

Though their degrees were conferred on Friday the 13th, ECUs most recent class of graduates knows they are lucky to be Pirates.

“I’m ready to go; I’m just a free spirit,” said Kelley Logan, a graduate from the College of Health and Human Performance. “But ECU will always have my heart.”

More than 2,300 students received degrees at fall commencement, including about 1,600 bachelor degrees and 723 graduate degrees.

College of Nursing graduates Kate Murdock, Brooke Taylor and Reagan Moore held tubes of confetti, cans of silly string and noise poppers as they waited to walk in the processional. Perched on Murdock’s mortarboard was a tall foam pirate ship. Blinking lights rimmed the cap’s edges “so my parents can see me,” she said.

“It’s been a wild ride. This past month has been exciting and nerve-wracking, looking for jobs and trying to graduate.”

—Crystal Baily and Kathryn Kennedy

Graduates received kudos and well wishes from ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard, the UNC Board of Governors, faculty, administrators and their own senior class officer, who said the memories they made together at ECU are what bonds “Pirate Nation.”

“I cant imagine spending the last few years with any other people,” continued Clark Williams. “Congratulations on your big day.”

The commencement speaker was cardiac psychology expert Sam Sears, director of the health psychology program at ECU and recipient of the O. Max Gardner Award.

Sears asked that as graduates write their life stories, they can continue telling the story of East Carolina.

“We have to tell the story of East Carolina University. You have to demonstrate the value of East Carolina. Its your efforts that tell the real story. No matter where you go from here, you will always be from East Carolina now.”

—Crystal Baily and Kathryn Kennedy
Student interest in Greek life surges

Mirroring a national trend, the number of East Carolina students choosing to join a fraternity or sorority has soared in recent years, rising from about 1,200 in 2008 to more than 2,300 today, according to Director of Greek Life Keith Tingley. ECU sororities are leading the growth, with average membership doubling in five years to 130, Tingley said. The growth likely will accelerate with the impending return to campus of Kappa Sigma Nu and Lambda Chi Alpha, two of ECU’s oldest Greek organizations that closed amid declining membership a few years ago. Tingley said Sigma Nu, which closed in 2005, and Lambda Chi, which closed in 2010, both opened chapters here in the late 1950s. Similarly, Alpha Kappa Alpha, an historically African-American sorority that opened here in 1973, is in the process of reactivating after closing in 2011. In each case alumni groups are behind the reactivation efforts, Tingley said. Two other fraternities, Sigma Pi and Pi Kappa Phi, soon will be back in the university’s good graces after serving suspensions for alcohol and conduct problems, Tingley said. ECU now has 39 fraternities and sororities; 26 have houses. “Mainly what we’re seeing is more students come to East Carolina looking for a Greek experience in the first place,” Tingley said. “Plus, we have been able to keep a full staff in the Greek Life office to support the growth. Parents seem to know that joining a Greek organization is a good way to make sure their kids do well academically and socially,” Tingley added. “The GPA for the sororities is 3.0.”

A group of alumni brothers calling itself the Sigma Nu Snakes held reunions and raised funds to help restart the local chapter, according to Millard Maloney ’64 of Raleigh. Tingley said Sigma Nu is scheduled to complete a multiyear review process and return to campus in 2016. The university allows only one new or returning chapter each year so it can focus resources on existing Greeks.

Sigma Nu and Lambda Chi were the first Greek chapters on campus. Lambda Chi, chartered as the Iota-Upsilon Zeta chapter, signed with national on May 2, 1959. Two weeks later, Kappa Sigma Nu was installed as the Eta Beta chapter. But Sigma Nu was the first Greek organization to own its house, a two-story frame on West Fifth Street. Almost a dozen fraternities and sororities soon followed. There were 17 in 1964 and more than a dozen owned houses—including the one still lining Fifth Street. “Greek Week was a major event.” Sigma Nu brothers were leaders in student government, including Rody Jones ’58 of Raleigh, a former chair of the ECU Board of Trustees. Sigma Nu and Lambda Chi usually took the lead in fundraising projects.

When students wanted to initiate a summer theatre program in 1962, Sigma Nu said the ads for a day-long live radio broadcast from its house. Featuring guest appearances by President Leo Jenkins, football coach Clarence Staavich, baseball coach Earl Smith and Millard Maloney ’64 of Raleigh, the Sigma Nu Snakes held reunions and raised funds to help restart the local chapter, according to Millard Maloney ’64 of Raleigh. Tingley said Sigma Nu is scheduled to complete a multiyear review process and return to campus in 2016. The university allows only one new or returning chapter each year so it can focus resources on existing Greeks.

Jerry McGee ’65 is the president of Wingate University, but for more than 20 years he also worked weekends as a back judge at college football games. He learned refereeing at ECU as a student and is now the head official of the Southeastern Conference. McGee said the fraternities fielded the toughest teams, “If you can work the Sigma Nu-Pi Kappa Alpha game, then Notre Dame-Michigan is a walk in the park,” he once said.
preservationists and other knowledgeable audience,” Prokopowicz said. “One of the strengths of the show is that every week I learn something,” he said. “There’s no shortage of people with interesting stories.” —Lacey Gray

For 15 years, a team led by Dr. John “Jack” Rose, a cardiologist and professor in the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at the Brody School of Medicine, has been healing hearts and more in Nicaragua.

Rose and some Brody colleagues have established a partnership with the medical school in the bustling city of León. This relationship enables them to offer specialized medical care in Nicaragua that would be unavailable otherwise, as well as frequent mission opportunities for medical students and residents.

The team usually makes two trips a year, each about two weeks long. The first is in September and involves evaluating patients with valve and congenital heart disease and bringing down a surgical team to perform open-heart surgery. The second trip is in February. It involves general clinics as well as cardiology.

On the team with Rose are Dr. Harry Adams, an infectious disease specialist; Dr. Theodore C. Koutsou, a heart surgeon; Dr. David Hanlon, a pediatric cardiologist; Dr. Curtis Anderson, a cardiothoracic surgeon and ECU associate professor; perfusionist Bill Hodges, and other surgical team members from ECU and Vidant Medical Center. They all go on the trips at their own expense.

Brody faculty members who work out of León are members of Project Health for León, an effort organized by Dr. John Paar, a Raleigh cardiologist who established the cardiology program in León years ago.

This past Sept. 14-18, the team saw 350 adults and children, most with serious valvular and congenital heart disease. The surgical team performed 11 operations in five days, mostly valve replacements.

Over the years, they have completed 105 open-heart procedures with a success rate of more than 98 percent.

Nicaragua is the second-poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. With a population of 6 million, 48 percent live below the poverty line, and 80 percent subsist on less than $2 a day, Rose said. The government provides universal medical care, but funds and resources are meager.

For example, the university hospital in León has no CT scanner and provides only basic laboratory services, Rose said. Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, now rare in the United States, are common afflictions there, and rheumatic heart disease is the most common heart-related cause or death in young people in developing nations.

“Each journey reinforces just how fortunate we are,” Rose said. “Sometimes, friends and colleagues ask, ‘Why do you travel all the way to Nicaragua when the medical needs in eastern North Carolina are so great?’ We hope that we help to satisfy those needs in our daily work and in our volunteer work there. But Nicaragua is a special case. There, the medical problems are so great and the resources so limited that it is difficult for Americans to comprehend.” —Doug Boyd

ECU dental students and student-athletes were among the volunteers at the Give Kids a Smile event Feb. 7 at Eastern Pediatrics and Orthodontics in Greenville. Volunteers from ECU, along with 20 local dentists, collaborated to treat approximately 140 patients with free dental care, ranging from simple cleanings to more advanced procedures. inset: ECU dental student Amanda Stroud smiles while getting a hug from 5-year-old Jaden Wilson after she worked on his smile.

Advanced training to enhance medical education

A group of ECU faculty members will spend this year exploring ways to educate students about patient safety, quality improvement and team-based care along with new ways of teaching that engage students more actively in their own education. The 38 participants in the Teachers of Quality Academy will undergo advanced training in those areas and develop projects to apply these skills across the health sciences division and train students and other caregivers in these concepts.

The TQA is part of the American Medical Association’s Accelerating Change in Medical Education Initiative. The Brody School of Medicine is one of 11 medical schools nationwide that received grants through the program to change the way medical education is taught. ECU calls its program Redesigning Education to Accelerate Change in Healthcare, or REACH.

“The first component is training the teachers who are going to be developing... continued on page 14
Students swapped textbooks and laptops for sleds and snow boots for three days in late January after a snowstorm coated the region with 4 to 5 inches of snow and ice. Above, Wyatt Bland pulls Anna Pierce, both from Goldsboro, in front of the Leo W. Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

ECU women’s basketball coaches John Marcum, Heather Macy and Olín Dunford take the ceremonial first jump at the 11th annual Polar Bear Plunge. Outside temperatures dipped below freezing Jan. 23 as more than 1,000 ECU swimmers dove into the icy waters of the Student Rec Center’s outdoor pool.

Dr. Elizabeth Baxley, senior associate dean for academic affairs at the Brody School of Medicine, “More and more in medical education and higher education, it’s not about lecture-based education. It’s how do you design a more meaningful learning experience.”

The group comprises faculty members from the Brody School of Medicine, College of Nursing and the College of Allied Health Sciences plus medical residents. Faculty members from the School of Dental Medicine are likely to participate in future years, Baxley said.

Instructors include Brody faculty members and professors from ECU’s Main Campus, such as College of Engineering and College of Education faculty members, as well as experts from Vidant Health and invited national-level speakers. “Turns out as we started looking there’s a lot of expertise in our own backyard,” Baxley said.

At the end of the year, participants will receive a credential in medical education from the ECU College of Education. Continuing education credits are also possible.

Dr. Danielle Walsh, a pediatric surgeon and associate professor, is part of the REACH Project Team and helped develop the TQA. She said the focus will be on improving quality, increasing value and measuring results.

She said government and private insurance payers are requiring health care professionals to increase the quality and outcomes of the care they provide. “The purpose of this TQA is...to assess how well we’re doing what we’re doing and providing value to those we’re serving,” she said. —Doug Boyd

Christopher M. Dyba, the senior associate vice president of development at Tulane University, was named East Carolina’s new vice chancellor of university advancement.

Dyba, who holds a bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University and a master’s in divinity from Duke University, previously was director of advancement at Auburn University. He began his role March 24. Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance, has served as interim vice chancellor of advancement since the resignation of Mickey Dowdy.

Danielle Walsh, a pediatric surgeon and associate professor at the Brody School of Medicine, was elected president of the Association of Women Surgeons. Walsh will serve one year as president. She previously served as president-elect and has been involved with the AWS leadership for several years. With more than 1,400 women surgeons as members, AWS is one of the largest organizations dedicated to increasing the interaction and exchange of information among women surgeons in the United States and other countries.

Alan R. White retired as dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at the start of fall semester after leading the college for eight years. He later accepted a leadership position in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Carolina. John C. Sutherland was named interim dean. White oversaw the addition of new undergraduate, master’s and doctoral programs, the founding of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council and Distinguished Professorship in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the establishment of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Gerald Lewis, who held the rank of major and was commanding officer of the N.J. Police Office of Community Affairs, was named chief of the ECU Police Department. He replaces Scott Shelton, who retired. The university police force has 60 full-time officers, 10 reserve officers and 20 staff members. Lewis earned his bachelor of arts in public administration and his master of administrative sciences degrees from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J.

Seth Veibe, director of public service and community relations at ECU, was named chair of the Council on Engagement and Outreach for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. Veibe, who served as chair-elect of the group this year, will serve a one-year term as chair this year. She was elected during the annual meeting of the APLU held Nov. 10-12 in Washington, D.C. Veibe also is a professor of occupational therapy in the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences.

Susan Beck-Frazier was named director of institutional assessment within the Office of Institutional Planning, Assessment and Research. Provost Marilyn Sheerer, who announced the appointment, said Beck-Frazier has been instrumental in working closely with all the units on campus to compile ECU’s SACS response relative to student learning outcomes. Department of Chemistry chair Rickey Hicks resigned to become dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics at Georgia Regents University in Augusta, Ga.; Hicks, who joined the ECU faculty in August 2006 as professor and chair of chemistry, said he would miss many aspects of the college, university and Greenville community. Allison Danell, ECU associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in chemistry, is serving as interim chair of the department.

Melissa Bard is the new associate vice chancellor for human resources. She comes to ECU from Penn State, where she was director of HR for the College of Agricultural Sciences. She holds an undergraduate and a master’s degree from the University of Maryland.

A team of College of Technology and Computer Science students placed third in 2013 Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering’s (ATMAE) national robotics competition in New Orleans. It was the fourth year ECU’s student chapter of ATMAE participated in the competition.
The ECU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jorge Richter will perform Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23, featuring Van Cliburn finalist Di Wu. 9 p.m. April 1 in Wright Auditorium. Also on the program are Mozart’s Symphony No. 41 and Delibes’ Suite from the ballet “Sylvia.” The Peninsula Review writes: “By any standard, Di Wu is an extraordinary artist and I would gladly crawl over broken glass to hear her again.” Tickets for the public are $25. Tickets for SRAPAS are available at www.ecu.edu/arts or call 1-800-328-2787.

MUSIC New Music The ECU School of Music celebrates the music of our time with the NewMusic ECU Festival March 19-23, with concerts including the ECU Vociers, Frequencies, the Telluride Trios, the NewMusic Caramba, the ECU Symphony Orchestra in Performance. Visit www.ecu.edu/cs-clac/music/ for more information, or visit www.ecu.edu/cs-clac/music/ for the detailed schedule of performances.

Voice performances On April 11, the ECU Chamber Singers join ECU organist Andrew Seaton and regional high school choral groups in concert at 7 p.m. in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. For more information call 252-328-6851. To purchase tickets contact 1-800-ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com.

World music Music of the world will be represented in concert at ECU’s student ensemble Zamba Yawa who performs traditional music from beyond our borders on April 17 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Free and open to the public. Call 252-328-6851 for information.

ON THE STAGE The ECU School of Theatre and Dance will present The Great God Pawned by Eugene O’Neill from April 24-29 at the McDonnell Theatre. Dion and Billy have both fallen in love with Margaret. And all have secrets to hide. Their images on the outside both protect their vulnerability and hide their emotional turmoil. Combining realism and expressionism, this brilliant tragedy of love focuses on the search for identity and the devastating consequences for those who are unable to discover a true sense of self. Tickets are $15.00 for adults and $10 for youth.

The Senior Chorale Showcase on April 26-27 will feature ECU senior students who have created their unique works for presentation. From the risque to the ridiculous, the audience should be ready for anything when the shows are performed in the Burnette Studio Theatre. All seats are $5. Tickets available at www.ecuarts.com.

FAMILY FARE SERIES Revisit favorite Schoolhouse Rock! Rock and learn about such just as “I’m一名 Chinese” — hit the “mock” office.”

Kymia Nawabi, who graduated from the ECU School of Art and Design in 2005, will present “Not For Long, My Friend.” Nawabi’s artwork (right) explores her alchemy, Greek and Egyptian mythology as well as religions from around the world. She has invented her own mythology of characters and landscapes. Speaking of death, the afterlife, rebirth, spirits, souls and the cosmos, the emotionally charged drawings with life-size characters, Nawabi presents the viewer of this show with moments of enlightenment and transcendent states of existence from this life and beyond. The museum is located at 802 Evans St., Greenville. Free admission.

Dr. James Shapiro will present the Thomas Hamriot Lecture in the Voyages of Discovery Series on “Shakespeare in America” on March 27 in Wright Auditorium. Shakespeare is the father of all the Steps (left) are former Capital Hill staffers, in total, the former House have worked in 18 congressional offices. Their show, featuring the group’s special brand of topical satirical humor, will be presented at 8 p.m., April 10 in Wright Auditorium. Tickets are $35 for the public.

The Capitol Steps put the “mock” in democracy. This week, all of the Steps (left) are former Capital Hill staffers, in total, the former House have worked in 18 congressional offices. Their show, featuring the group’s special brand of topical satirical humor, will be presented at 8 p.m., April 10 in Wright Auditorium. Tickets are $35 for the public. Of the Capitol Steps, former President George W. Bush said, “They make my easier to leave office.”

The winner of the second season in a short time, transcended “African-American” and beyond. The museum is located through April 27. The museum is located through April 27. Will have her Work of Art: The Museum of Art through April 27. Will have her Work of Art: The Museum of Art through April 27.
The Kornegays are living the Brody School of Medicine’s mission by providing primary care to rural communities in eastern N.C.
Somewhere in eastern North Carolina, there’s a Kornegay on call.

It started with Hervy Kornegay Sr., a Duplin County native who finished medical school at Wake Forest University in 1957, returned to his hometown and opened the Mount Olive Family Medicine Center. Though never officially a Pirate, he now boasts an honorary degree and owns as much purple and gold as black and gold.

There’s a good reason. He raised up his own Pirate Nation.
of primary care in the region that raised them. Primary care is the umbrella term for those practicing family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics-gynecology.

“I don’t know anyone else who has four (children who are Brody graduates),” Hervy Sr. says, smiling. “It’s quite a story, if I say so myself.”

Poster boys for rural medicine

On the sideline of a practice field at North Duplin High School, Jon Kornegay is eyeing and questioning a young football player. Taylen Lewis, a senior defensive tackle, wears number 58 for the Rebels. He’s got a big game coming up Friday night and has been experiencing back pain.

After a brief examination, Jon pulls out his cell phone and punches in a number. When he gets the woman on the phone, he delivers the diagnosis.

“It’s going to be a game-time decision and we’ll see how he does,” Jon tells her. “But if I’m not there and it starts hurting, he’s gotta come out.”

This isn’t Jon’s day job, but it’s one of the reasons he loves practicing medicine in a rural area—the bonds you build with patients and the community. Jon attended North Duplin himself, playing basketball and baseball as a teen. He’s happy to give back by acting as the school’s team doctor.

“If you really want to get involved and get to know people in the community,” he adds, “I think doing primary care in a rural setting is the place to go.”

The quietest of the group, Chad was inspired by the way his father practiced medicine, but also by the challenge of the field.

“Medicine is always changing, so it’s never the same thing,” Chad says. “Things get updated, things get outdated. You get to make a connection with people and their families on times when they’re sick. And most of the time you get to make people better, which is nice.

“When I went to med school, I wanted to practice in eastern North Carolina. And I felt the place that would prepare me best for that was Brody. It was a great experience. They select really excellent people to get in med school, and so you really get through it as a group.”

The sense of community he experienced at Brody has replicated itself at Duplin, where a small staff must work closely to provide the best care for patients.

“Whenever I’m at Brody, I always make sure to thank the nurses for all they do. And the doctors I work with, I have their cell phone numbers. You form those kind of relationships.”

“You can have a lot more influence at the smaller hospitals,” Chad continues. “So when
I come to work. I feel like I’m making a difference. I’m not just running an assembly line of patients and in patients out.”

City practice, small town values

Wilmington is only 60 miles outside Duplin County, but in terms of medical access, the urban area is worlds away. New Hanover County has more than 23 physicians per 10,000 people, according to 2011 data from ECU’s Center for Health Systems Research and Development. Compare that to 5.5 per 10,000 in Duplin or 3.9 per 10,000 in Pender County, just north of New Hanover.

Nonetheless, Todd Kornegay says he’s meeting a specific need in health care.

“Most counties in North Carolina are underserved counties—when you look at primary care. There’s still a great shortage of primary care doctors…in the country.”

Data presented to the UNC Board of Governors last year confirms that assertion. Interest in practicing primary care has declined among North Carolina medical school graduates, which parallels a national trend. ECU graduates are the exception.

“I wanted to do something where I could be a jack of all trades.” Todd explains of his decision to specialize in internal medicine. “I do a little bit of dermatology, a little bit of cardiology, treat a lot of hyper tension and diabetes. But we see orthopedics, too. ‘Medical school was a whirl. The first couple of months were the worst because you didn’t know where you stack up against the rest of the class. Everybody looked smart and sounded smart and I don’t always sound so smart. We got our first set of exams back…’ and I realized that I stacked up just fine against those other students and my undergraduate training had been worthwhile.”

He, Todd and Jon all majored in biology as undergraduates. Chad earned degrees in biochemistry and math.

“We feel like our (undergraduate) training is as good as training we could have gotten anywhere,” Todd says. “We’re proud of ECU.”

Todd practices like he’s in a small town, where you’re bound to run into patients in church or at the grocery store—whenever your day takes you.

“I wanted to build long-term relationships with some of my patients. Seeing my dad as an example, some patients he’s seen for 50 or 60 years and some families for four generations. That was what made it more worthwhile than just an eight to five sort of job.”

In Wilmington, Todd frequents the establishments owned by his patients, including Bon Appetit restaurant on Carolina Beach Highway.

“This guy’s my squeeze,” owner Eugene Costa declares proudly when Todd arrives for lunch. “My whole family’s squeeze. I’ve got his number in my phone.”

When the toddler of Todd’s two children was born in 2013, Todd says Costa backed up his catering truck to the hospital and brought in box after box full of food.

As Todd talks, a woman in fatigues comes in to pick up a takeout order. “He’s my doctor, too,” she tells Costa. Todd waves.

“I’ve got it made,” he says, grinning.”

A lifelong calling

The young Hervy Kornegay Jr. had no doubts. He was going to be a doctor.

“I wanted to go into medicine when I was in the second grade,” Hervy Jr. recalls. “I used to carry a first aid kit to school.”

“(Medicine) is all that I grew up with. I went to the office with my dad, made house calls with my dad. I started going on EMS calls when I was 13 or 14. There’s a photo of me helping him bandage a leg. That’s the first time I remember working with a patient.”

The first Kornegay son to choose East Carolina, he saw ECU as the best fit for his life goals. After four years in Greenville, he applied for early acceptance to Brody—something his brothers would also do in the years to come.

“I always planned to come back home,” Hervy Jr. says. “My brothers and I are all proud that we’re able to fulfill the mission of the school. That’s to help people in eastern North Carolina. My dad came back home. He came back home and all my brothers are practicing in eastern North Carolina.”

He agrees with Todd that the ideals of service to underserved areas and the importance of primary care were instilled throughout the Brody curriculum.

“As a medical student, they put us in clinics and hospitals in eastern North Carolina,” Hervy Jr. recalls. “Sometimes they weren’t the nicest or fanciest clinics, but you felt like you were taking care of people the way they deserved to be taken care of.”

“I think East Carolina University in general has been here for eastern North Carolina. As you go to school there, you embrace that.”

Hervy considers following his father into family practice but felt a greater pull from dental medicine.

“MCAT scores are one thing. They are a difficult test for a lot of students. But if you do well, you’re allowed a certain amount of time to prepare for the MCAT. If you’re accepted to medical school, you have the opportunity to continue your education.”

Hervy Jr. says there is greater access to primary care in Wayne County than counties farther east—it had 15 physicians per 10,000 people according to the 2011 data—but there exists “a large uninsured population that does not have primary care.”

“We see complications from their untreated high blood pressure and diabetes, and we deal with it,” he says.

Hervy Jr.’s oldest daughter, Britney Kornegay, is a freshman at ECU. And though she’s also studying biology, she has her eye on a different area of the Health Sciences Campus—the newly founded School of Dental Medicine.

“I think you have to like your job.” Hervy Jr. says. “I think you have to like where you live. We think people in eastern North Carolina are good people and are nice and they’re very appreciative. At the end of the day, you have to feel good about what you’ve done. And I think (practicing medicine) gives you that opportunity.”

Hear more from the Kornegay brothers in a video at www.ecu.edu/east.

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Inaugural class of medical school honored

In 1972, when he and his classmates made up the first group of East Carolina University medical students, Dr. Douglas Privette said they knew they had to excel. “We worked very hard,” he said. “We basically studied just about continuously, except maybe Friday and Saturday night. We had regular tests. You were forced to keep up.”

Privette was one of 20 in the program, after which students transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill. It was the first step toward ECU having its own medical school. “We knew we were sort of under a microscope, under the gun to make sure we weren’t behind when we got to UNC,” he said.

The program helped fulfill the vision of Dr. Leo Jenkins, chancellor of the newly named East Carolina University, to build a medical school in Greenville. The first class was just excited to be here. They were all good students and worked hard.”

Dr. Hubert Burden, a professor of anatomy and another original ECU medical faculty member, described the one-year program as a compromise, a chance for ECU to show it could operate a successful medical school. “Considering the politics of those days, I think it was important for our people to go to Chapel Hill and show they were just as good as any recruited at Chapel Hill and better in many cases,” said Burden, who still teaches part-time. “Everybody was under the microscope, and I think everyone passed the test.”

Classes were held on Main Campus in what is now the Howell Science Complex, a room specially refurbished for the medical students. Burden taught anatomy in a double-wide trailer near Christenbury Gym.

Originally, university and state leaders intended that ECU would grow to a two-year program, with expansion to a full four-year program later. Privette retired from patient care in 2008 and now works as an administrator with the East Carolina Heart Institute at Vidant Medical Center. He’s also a board member of the ECU medical foundation.

The son of a Baptist minister from Havelock, Privette fit the demographic East Carolina was aiming for: North Carolinians, in 1973 and 1974.

In 1972, those first 20 students arrived, followed by two more classes of 20 each, all North Carolinians, in 1973 and 1974. Privette said he, probably like most graduates of UNC, is proud of his medical alma mater. But ECU builds a special place, too. (His daughter and son-in-law have medical degrees from ECU.)

“We are lucky we got into medical school,” he said. “We were lucky ECU was starting its medical school the year we were starting. If ECU had not had its medical school, it’s conceivable I would not be a physician now. All 20 members of the class feel the same way. We were at the right place at the right time.”

Today, the class members have spread north to Ohio, south to Florida and west to the Rocky Mountains and have impressive accomplishments. For example, Dr. Sheldon Michael Retchin is a national expert in health policy and health care delivery. He is senior vice president for health sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System and chief executive of the VCU Health System.

“It is just fascinating to be here at a time when the school has clearly come into its own, and the earliest graduates are displaying all of the high qualities of the profession, in leadership and service, that were imagined so many years ago,” said Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the medical school.

—Doug Boyd
A voice for aphasia

ECU researchers are dedicated to improving communication for people who’ve had stroke or brain injury.

BY CRYSTAL BAITY  PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS
A series of strokes changed Ervin and Susan Harris’ plans for retirement but not their outlook for living a good life.

Active in the church and in the Beattys community where he and his wife live, 63-year-old Ervin Harris had four strokes just days apart in April 2011. The first came after physical therapy for knee surgery. “We went directly from rehabilitation to the emergency room,” Susan said. “We’re always trying to find different activities to do and contacting different aphasia groups to see what’s working,” said Sherri Windolow, clinical supervisor in communication sciences and disorders. “The class provides a connection with other people in addition to practicing communication skills. Communication is not just speaking, but writing, gesturing and reading. It’s a safe place where they can communicate. When you care enough about a person, you find a way.”

Ervin and Susan Harris have been supported by their friends and family, and hope to help educate others about aphasia.

“Just because the communication is not there doesn’t mean the intelligence and the person’s talents have changed, he’s still a man with a contribution to make. Although his appearance has changed, he’s still a man with a purpose. There are no accidents. We’re here for a reason.”

To learn more, visit www.aphasia.org or myweb.ecu.edu/wrighth.

Research on aphasia

In 2012 ECU welcomed associate professor and director of doctoral education Heather Harris Wright, whose lab is dedicated to improving communication for people who've had stroke or brain injury.

Two of her doctoral students have a background in linguistics. “It’s a very nice complement,” Wright said. “I learn from them, too—especially with their unique background in looking at the semantics of words and sentences. They have a deeper understanding of language theory and the subtleties of language.” Wright and her master’s and doctoral students are investigating written and spoken communication and cognitive abilities across the adult lifespan. She is recruiting people with aphasia to participate in a study.

“I’m interested in how individuals communicate and what role their memory, attention, and executive function abilities play in their ability to communicate with others,” Wright said. “One of the main goals is to develop a normative database for discourse ability for comparison to individuals with aphasia to better diagnose communication difficulties in aphasia. Ultimately we want to determine best practices for improving communication abilities in individuals with aphasia.”

As people age, memory and attention decline. “An 80-year-old tells a story very differently than a 20-year-old,” Wright said. “The intent of communication changes as we age. Older adults look at every opportunity to engage in communication, and this plays out in how they tell stories.”

Wright is seeking funding for additional studies to investigate interaction between memory and attention and communication abilities in older adults and adults with aphasia and other communication impairments. The work previously has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Aging.

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Older adults with aphasia—where language has been taken away—are dealt a double whammy since communication is very important to social health and daily life, Wright said.

It’s important for people with aphasia to not be isolated, Wright said. “Patients can continue to improve if they stay communicatively active,” she said. “It won’t be rapid but they will improve. It can have a positive domino effect.”

Engaging with others, using language, listening, reading, emailing—anything that uses language—is helpful, Wright said.

The road ahead

Because it’s not well known, there often are misperceptions about people who have aphasia. Wright said. “You may hear of individuals living with aphasia who have been mistakenly confused for ‘being drunk,’ ‘not smart,’ or ‘intellectually impaired,’” Wright said. “Just because they can’t speak doesn’t mean they don’t understand. Oftentimes they are able to understand every word that is said. They have their memories. They just can’t access the words to tell you about them.”

Some communication strategies include: using yes or no questions; engaging in normal activities and involving the individual in conversations; talking to the person, not about the person; using simpler sentences and emphasizing key words; repeating information if needed; giving the person with aphasia time to speak and not finish their thoughts or sentences.

The ECU aphasia group (above), which usually has eight to 12 participants, has been offered the past three years.

“We’re always trying to find different activities to do and contacting different aphasia groups to see what’s working,” said Sherri Windolow, clinical supervisor in communication sciences and disorders. “The class provides a connection with other people in addition to practicing communication skills. Communication is not just speaking, but writing, gesturing and reading. It’s a safe place where they can communicate. When you care enough about a person, you find a way.”

Ervin talks often through body movement and facial expressions, and can say a few words. He can write his name and address, Susan said. “My husband could be a quiet person, but he’s not,” she said. “Everybody has a contribution to make. Although his talents have changed, he’s still a man with a purpose. There are no accidents. We’re here for a reason.”

To learn more, visit www.aphasia.org or myweb.ecu.edu/wrighth.
Provost Marilyn Sheerer, who steered the university through SACS reaffirmation of accreditation while cutting budgets and sparking creation of the Honors College, says she will step down at the end of the semester, take a retreat year and then return to the classroom.
Sheerer has served as the university’s No. 2 administrator since 2007. Previously she was dean of the College of Education for eight years. She is one of several women mentioned by Ballard, now in his 10th year as chancellor, early on tapped for his leadership team, and the first to step down from the Executive Council.

Sheerer started as a high school English teacher after graduating from Bloomsburg State College in Pennsylvania. She earned a master’s degree at Syracuse University and a Ph.D at Ohio University before coming to East Carolina in 1996.

“I don’t want to retire because I don’t know what I would do,” says. “I am serious about wanting to retool and I need time to do that. I bought a new computer (to organize teaching files). I feel obliged to come back here or teach in another UNC institution.”

Sheerer says she and her husband plan to relocate to Wilmington where her daughter and two grandchildren live. She also has a son in New York City who is helping her organize teaching materials on her new computer.

She hopes to return as a full professor in ECU’s higher education doctoral program. That’s the route back to the classroom blazed by former Chancellor Richard “Dick” Eakin. Often compared to the Energizer Bunny for her infectious energy and enthusiasm, Sheerer—who is barely 5 feet and rail thin—is known for an even temper, a dogged strength lies in her candor. I have always felt that there is this big difference in the way women are treated, Sheerer says.

Among Sheerer’s recent initiatives is ECU’s new honors college. “Austin (Bunch, senior associate provost) and I started it to help some of these sophomores and juniors who can’t get accepted into their majors. A lot of our majors have an entrance requirement of 2.5 GPA, whereas the university standard is 2.0. So what do you do if you’re halfway through college, have a passing GPA but can’t get accepted into a major?”

If those students pursue the university studies degree, they are more likely to remain engaged academically and more likely to graduate, Sheerer says.

Connecting women to opportunities

Sheerer quietly has coached a group of younger female faculty who occupy emerging leadership positions.

Sheerer quietly has coached a group of younger female faculty who occupy emerging leadership positions.

“Improving the academic profile of the institution, which would change the image, and I think the Honors College has accomplished that.”

Sheerer is admired across campus even though she often was the bearer of bad news about worded a lot of bright students who came here, did well, and then transferred somewhere where they would be more academically challenged.

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Feeling the heat

As ECU prepares to move up to a tougher athletic conference on July 1, the team facing the greatest challenge isn't football. It's basketball.
Most people think East Carolina, with Shane Carden returning at quarterback, will score easily and often during football games this fall in the new American Athletic Conference. In their last season in Conference USA before moving to a tougher league, the Pirates racked up 10 wins, beat N.C. State and North Carolina on the road, and went bowling for the first time in three years—Macy was voted C-USA coach of the year.

Is ECU a basketball school? When ECU does take the court against UConn, don’t be surprised if the score is close—in both the men’s and women’s games. If that happens, it could be the moment people stop saying ECU is just a football school.

That’s the startling reality sinking in on many ECU fans. Playing in the American, as with lots of Goliaths. Tuscaloosa, Ala., or Tallahassee, Fla. Most people think East Carolina, with Shane Carden returning at quarterback, will score easily and often during football games this fall in the new American Athletic Conference. In their last season in Conference USA before moving to a tougher league, the Pirates racked up 10 wins, beat N.C. State and North Carolina on the road, and went bowling for the first time in three years—Macy was voted C-USA coach of the year. 

In the past two seasons she recruited the top high school player in North Carolina and signed three highly regarded junior college transfers. Her team burst out of the gate in November, rolling to eight consecutive victories. 

But attendance at women’s basketball games continues to average just under 1,300, according to Tom McClellan, ECU assistant athletic director for media relations. Macy believes her team will perform better if fan support keeps growing. She hopes 8,000-seat Williams Arena will be full when UConn comes to town.

Also in his fourth season, Lebo has led the Pirates to the school’s first-ever postseason tournament championship. The Pirates posted back-to-back winning records, the first time that had happened in 19 years. For basketball this is a substantial jump for ECU in certain media markets where it is not as well known as in the south east. ECU is currently in the process of building a new arena that will seat 9,000 fans. The arena is scheduled to open in fall of 2015.

So when they come to Greenville that we can’t have to rely on what we have in our playbook. In past seasons, he’s produced the best ECU teams in a generation. He’s upgraded ECU’s nonconference schedule to include games against Carolina, Duke and N.C. State. The Pirates were competitive in all three, kept the score close and had chances to win. But ECU’s lack of polish showed in those losing scores.

Talk about a step up in competition; the Lady Pirates will have to contend with the seven-time NCAA national champion UConn Huskies. At 25-0 late in the season, the Huskies were on track for an eighth national title — their 10th in 13 years. For women’s basketball coach Heather Macy that meant they would have two years to prepare to face the Huskies. And, she quickly points out, only a year for ECU and Minges Coliseum to prepare to host a conference game against an opponent like UConn. 

It’s going to take a lot of different resources to make this transition,” Macy says. “It’s going to take a lot of different resources to make this transition,” Macy says. “Mainly it means we will need our fan and community support. Because we are going to play in these venues... in front of five-to-ten thousand people. And we need to make sure that they come to Greenville that we are meeting that expectation.”

Hit the ground running Macy has integrated women’s basketball program with a proud history but without a conference title since 2007. Her team was 22-10 in 2012-13 and made it to the C-USA semifinals. During the season the Lady Pirates thrilled the student body with a 14-1 home record. After an appearance in the NCAA tournament last season, the women’s basketball program has made the postseason in three of its four years as a member of the American Athletic Conference. For women’s basketball coach Heather Macy that meant they would have two years to prepare to face the Huskies. And, she quickly points out, only a year for ECU and Minges Coliseum to prepare to host a conference game against an opponent like UConn.

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Once the Lady Pirates have found a rhythm in the new conference, Macy is confident they will succeed. “I think they will really come out when it’s important,” Macy says. “For basketball this is a substantial jump for ECU in certain media markets where it is not as well known as in the south east. ECU is currently in the process of building a new arena that will seat 9,000 fans. The arena is scheduled to open in fall of 2015.

She needed players with game experience. Now in her fourth season, Macy has proven to be a wily coach and an astute recruiter with an ability to spot talented junior college players and transfer students. With UConn looming on the schedule, Macy knew she couldn’t wait for a bunch of high school recruits to mature. She needed players with game experience.

In the past two seasons she recruited the top high school player in North Carolina and signed three highly regarded junior college transfers. Her team burst out of the gate in November, rolling to eight consecutive victories.

But attendance at women’s basketball games continues to average just under 1,300, according to Tom McClellan, ECU assistant athletic director for media relations. Macy believes her team will perform better if fan support keeps growing. She hopes 8,000-seat Williams Arena will be full when UConn comes to town.

Also in his fourth season, Lebo has led the Pirates to the school’s first-ever postseason tournament championship. The Pirates posted back-to-back winning records, the first time that had happened in 19 years. “For basketball this is a substantial jump for us,” Lebo said. “Today there are three top-10 teams in the conference. We are going to be playing a lot of national programs, schools that have been playing on the national stage for a long time. We will be playing in big-time arenas against people who are accustomed to winning.”

Having only one recruiting year to prepare makes the job tougher, Lebo said. “Most good players have been recruited (all through high school), so it will take us time to get into that level of recruiting. Remember, we are a program that has had only two winning seasons in 36 years, so it will take some time for our recruiting to take that step up.”

He’s looking forward to that first conference game as Minges. “We don’t have a huge place. We have an intimidating place and a fun place to play. Our students have been terrific to date, they have come out for us, and I think they will really come out when they see who we’re playing, and that it’s going to be on television.”
channels way up there in the 600s that a lot of people don’t even get.

That’s how Nick Floyd, ECU’s executive associate director of athletics, describes what the move to the American will mean to the average Pirate fan.

The ink was barely dry on the documents creating the conference last March when the league announced a $126 million, seven-year deal with CBS to broadcast conference games — will be televised nationally. The women’s basketball tournament semifinals and the championship game will be on ESPN or ESPN2.

Beginning this fall, the American conference football championship will be compete in the College Football Playoff semi-finals — the new playoff system that replaces the BCS bowl system — if it is among the top four teams following the regular season.

The conference championship football game, which is expected to begin in 2015 after the Naval Academy joins, will be carried by ABC or ESPN in early January on what’s known as college championship Saturday, the contract states.

In men’s basketball, all games controlled by the conference will be televised on one of the ESPN family of channels. More than 63 percent — a minimum of 107 conference games — will be carried on national broadcast or national cable. The conference postseason basketball tournament also will be on national television, with the championship game televised on ABC or ESPN.

In women’s basketball, nearly 60 conference games will be televised on national cable, regional sports networks and ESPN3, including the entire women’s basketball postseason tournament. Eighteen regular-season games will be televised nationally. The women’s basketball tournament semifinals and the championship game will be on ESPN or ESPN2.

With the opening of the new Smith-Reynolds Center beside Minges Coliseum — the $17 million basketball practice facility mostly paid for by the Pirate Club — after the Smith-Reynolds tour, Macy says she asks recruits one question. “I say, do you want to compete against the best teams? You come here, you play UConn twice a year. And that means you will play on ESPN, you will play on those cable regions way up there in the 600s that a lot of people don’t even get.”

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Athletics adopts revised logo
East Carolina's Department of Athletics is tweaking the popular "Skull and Crossbones" logo as the university moves into the American Athletic Conference. Athletics also released a strategic plan to guide ECU as it adjusts to the greater media exposure it will experience in the new league.

The strategic plan and brand identity initiative includes the "Undaunted" video, newspaper ads in major dailies across the state, television commercials and billboards. "ECU is Undaunted" is the title of the video at YouTube.

ECU Director of Athletics Jeff Compher said the updated brand identity initiative will help achieve a departmental goal of building a consistent, recognizable and nationally respected image.

"The timing of this branding initiative could not have been better from all perspectives," Compher said. "The new primary icon, wordmark and typography offer consistency and present an opportunity for East Carolina to gain a fresh national presence through its placement and usage. At the same time, I believe it also symbolizes our tradition by maintaining classic elements from ECU's storied history."

The tweaking of East Carolina's existing graphic identifiers are part of an effort to streamline, strengthen and better define ECU's brand. The initiative will better enable ECU to manage the use of its brand images, Compher said.

The last significant logo change was 15 years ago.

"I think the new ECU brand is clear, bold and true to the East Carolina spirit," student body president Tim Schwan said. "A uniform Pirate identity is a must if we are to become a national brand and this initiative creates a consistent mark that embodies East Carolina and our Pirate spirit."

With the implementation of the updated primary icon, the bearded "Pirate Head" logo that has represented ECU Athletics since 1998 will remain on the branding roster as a legacy mark for use in areas such as the Hall of Fame, Letterwinners and other tradition assets to tie the past to the future.

However, the logo will remain available on retail products. The "Pirates State of Mind" graphic, which made its debut in November 2009 prior to a nationally televised Thursday night home contest against Virginia Tech, will continue its mid-field visibility at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and at mid-court inside Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

—ECU Sports Information

Golden Alumni reunion
The class of 1964 will celebrate 50 years as Pirates during a Golden Alumni Reunion this spring on April 27. Come hear their memories of how the years on campus helped them become the people they are today.

For more information, visit PirateAlumni.com/MagnoliaBelles or call 800-ECU-GRAD.

2014 Pirate Voyages
Discover the flavors of northern Italy (May 24-June 1) or experience the chills and thrills of Alaska (Aug. 9-16) on the Alumni Association’s 2014 Pirate Voyages.

Enjoy the camaraderie of a small group of friends connected by ECU. All alumni and friends are welcome. Call 866-639-0079 or visit PirateAlumni.com/PirateVoyages.

Class Notes

Pirate Nation

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Alexandra “Ally” Brouce is executive director of North Carolina County Travel and Tourism. John Hart is an instructor of computer technology in the School of Business, Engineering and Technical Studies at Davidson County Community College.

Eric Bentz received a direct commission to find lieutenant in the USAF Medical Service Corps. He is stationed at Lackland Air Force Base.

The steering committee for the Alumni Association’s 2014 Pirate Voyages includes Elizabeth AFS, S.D., as the chief flight instructor. Emery was promised to account executive at Buchanan Public Relations, Andover, Pa. Kathleen Hartmann and Donald Lee Howard Jr. in June 22 at Open Door Hostpital in Greenville. The wedding party included Matt Bursette, Kayla Chandler, T.G. Jessica Hartman, JOSHUA Harmon, Megan Pulaski, T.L. and Melan Wamer. She teaches record grade in Cumberland County.

Sara Lewis, a formulation development specialist at Merics Inc., Greenville, earned the certified pharmaceutical industry professional credential.

Michael Poynter and Farley Raymond, both of Greensboro, were married April 15 in Greensboro. The wedding party included Ethan Dill, Lauren Hedges, Kasey Hickey, T.J., Suzanne Acaster, and Avery Kent O’Neil on Sept. 7, at the Salem Football Club in Salem.

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Margaret Rachael Arnold and James Cleveland Wrenn on Aug. 3 at the Winn family home in Henderson. The wedding party included Meredith Huggins, Blake and Adam Robinson, Richard Paul Barbiere and Megan Alica Gajewski on April 12 at The Octagonal Garden, Haldorion Plantation, Charleston, S.C. The wedding party included Blake Smith. He is a meteorological software tester for Daycheck, Silver Spring, Md. Whitney Timbrel Brown and Ann Margaret Skeen were married on Aug. 30 at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, Williamsville. The wedding party included Tyler Patrick Belford ‘10, Christopher Lee D’Amato ‘10, ‘12 and Daniel Steven Winters ‘10 ‘10. He is a broker with MCR Caroleton Realty, Raleigh. Chris Dorran is a senior vice president and CEO for TR Regional Health System, Pittston, Pa. He was an administrator in a CEO development program at Southside Regional Medical Center, Petersburg, Va. Kristen Hunter is public information officer for the Greenville Police Department. She is a former reporter and producer for WNCT Channel 9, Greenville. Kristen M. Kennedy was elected to the Pitt County Bar Association. Steven Hightower was sworn in to the Pitt County Bar Association. Anne Mann is finance director for the town of Nashua. She was a CPA with Flowers and Stanley LLP. Addison Lauren Martin was named commander of Rock Springs Center, Greenville. The wedding party included Addison Cox ‘10 ‘10, Kristin Gordon ‘10, Brittany Hawkins ‘12, Daniel Jones ‘10, Matthew Oakley and Brittany Davis ‘12. She is a math teacher at Farmville Middle School and a part-time tutor for Farmville. He is a physical education/health teacher and coach at Washington High School.

2009

Tara Austin was sworn in as district attorney in District 18-B (Randolph, Montgomery and Moore counties). She earned her law degree at Elon University. Jessica Lauren Jennings ‘09 ‘12 was named director of public relations for the University of Virginia. She was a former public relations specialist for the University of Virginia. She was a former public relations specialist for the University of Virginia.

Make a Note

OF YOUR NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: Class Notes Editor, Howard House, Mail Stop 414, 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 hardly prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

Please send address changes or corrections to: Kay Murphy, Office of University Development, 301, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, fax 252-328-4054, or e-mail murphyk@ecu.edu.

NAME

First
Middle
Last
Maiden

CLASS YEAR

E-MAIL

ADDRESS

DAY PHONE

EVENING PHONE

MIDDLE

CITY

STATE

ZIP

YOUR NEWS

2010

PirateAlumni.com/2014RoadRace

PURPLE & GOLD

Paint It Purple Edition

7th Annual PIRATE ALUMNI 5K ROAD RACE AND ONE-MILE FUN RUN

Prepare to be painted PURPLE & GOLD!

7th Annual PIRATE ALUMNI 5K ROAD RACE AND ONE-MILE FUN RUN

Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
U.B.E. in Uptown Greenville
$15 for a 5K or One-Mile Fun Run
PirateAlumni.com/2014RoadRace
Protecting Shines on the pathway of the land—$1,599.00

Pirate club members sharing Shines an FDU education club—$29,720.00

Watching Shines excel on the field in the classroom and the eastern north Carolina community—Priceless

To help support student-athletes scholarship join today at ecupirateclub.com or call 252.737.4540

Pirate club

David Robert Broyles '04

David Robert Broyles '04 on Sept. 20 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Greenville. The wedding party included Regan Alexis Lee '06 and Margaret Rogers Cherry '11. She is director of constituent outreach in Congressional Affairs for Jamie L. Jones Jr. in Greenville. He is a second-year student at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Jill Devinney Mullis '05, assistant professor of psychology at ECU, on Oct. 19 at St. John's Episcopal Church, Greenville. The wedding party included Michael Ashley '07, Ashley Mullis '05, and Robert Mullis '86.

Candace Moore '06

Candace Moore '06 on May 18 at Pine Knoll Shores. The wedding party included Brooke Loyally '09, Garrett Elizabeth Young and her family.

Meg Fox

Meg Fox on May 18 at Press Lounge atop the INK 48 Hotel in New York. The wedding party included Kris McCullough '04, her family and the restaurant’s service staff and new proprietor of Greenville’s Aladdin.

Jodi DeVone Jackson

Jodi DeVone Jackson on May 18 at the First United Methodist Church, Kinston. The wedding party included Elizabeth Beryl Davis '05, her family, and the school’s administration.

Jill Devinney Mullis '05

Jill Devinney Mullis '05 in Hertford and Gates counties. The wedding party included Danielle Jenkins '07, her family, and her school's administration.

Allie Beatrice Zepeda '07

Allie Beatrice Zepeda '07 on May 18 at First United Methodist Church, Lake Dallas. The wedding party included Debbie Gordon '04, her family, and the school’s administration.

Celina L. Kellen

Celina L. Kellen on May 18 at First United Methodist Church, Greenville. The wedding party included Andrew William Whiting '07, his family, and her school’s administration.

Pamela S. Miller

Pamela S. Miller on June 3 at the Crystal Coast Performing Arts Center in Beaufort. The wedding party included Kristin S. Riley '10, her family, and the school’s administration.

Jennifer Dawn Edwards '04

Jennifer Dawn Edwards '04 on May 18 at First United Methodist Church, Greenville. The wedding party included Broome Bergs '05, her family, and the school’s administration.

Kimberly Phillips

Kimberly Phillips on June 3 at the Crystal Coast Performing Arts Center in Beaufort. The wedding party included Landen III '08, her family, and the school’s administration.

Jenni Towery

Jenni Towery on May 18 at BAYADA Nursing Services, Greenville location of BAYADA Home Health Care Services Inc. The wedding party included Sarah G. Groves '05, her family, and her school's administration.

Regina Joy Gatti

Regina Joy Gatti on May 18 at Bayshore Event Center. The wedding party included Alivia Bell '07 and Max Fox Grayson '09, her family, and the school’s administration.

Thomas Doyle

Thomas Doyle was promoted to management at Statewide Accounts LinkedIn in Greenville. He is a licensed insurance agent in the eastern north Carolina area.

Jennifer A. Kolenya

Jennifer A. Kolenya on May 18 at the Pitt County Bar Association. The wedding party included Lisa P. Clark '07, her family, and the school’s administration.

Pamela S. Miller

Pamela S. Miller on May 18 at BAYADA Nursing Services, Greenville location of BAYADA Home Health Care Services Inc. The wedding party included Sarah G. Groves '05, her family, and her school's administration.

Mo Arora

Mo Arora on May 18 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport. The wedding party included Ashleen Bird '04, her family, and the school’s administration.

Jodi DeVone Jackson

Jodi DeVone Jackson on May 18 at First United Methodist Church, Kinston. The wedding party included Elizabeth Beryl Davis '05, her family, and her school's administration.

Candace Moore

Candace Moore '04 on May 18 at BB&T Corporation. The wedding party included Heather Dickson '04, her family, and the school’s administration.

B. Edwards

B. Edwards on May 18 at First United Methodist Church, Greenville. The wedding party included Amber B. Barns '09, her family, and the school’s administration.

Lindsey E. McMahan

Lindsey E. McMahan on May 18 at First United Methodist Church, Greenville. The wedding party included John Paul II Catholic High School, his family, and the school’s administration.

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Although she plays a dead woman, Beth Grant ‘73 is receiving glowing reviews for her performance in a TV version of the novel "Passengers," the 1985 science fiction novel by Robert A. Heinlein. The film’s storyline was adapted by Francesca von Habsburg, and directed by her husband, Christian D. Dior, who also produced the film.

Grant has joined the cast of "The Mindy Project," a hit comedy series that airs on ABC. She will play Dr. Mindy Lahiri’s new love interest, Dr. Danny Castellano. The show is set to air in the fall.

Grant has been actively involved in the entertainment industry for many years, and has appeared in numerous films and TV shows. She received her degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied English literature.

Despite her success, Grant remains humble and grounded, often giving back to her alma mater and the community. She is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Alumni Association and has been named an honorary alumnus.

In addition to her acting career, Grant is also an accomplished singer and songwriter. She has released several albums and has performed at various venues across the country.

Grant’s latest project, "Passengers," is set for release in theaters later this year. The film is expected to be a box office hit, and is already generating buzz among fans of the genre.
We believe.

We believe the Alumni Association enhances the reputation of our University by promoting the accomplishments of alumni throughout the Pirate Nation.

We believe in the power of the Pirate alumni network and advance the concept of Pirates supporting Pirates.

We believe our impact on the student experience is integral to the concept of building lifelong relationships.

Join our more than 7,900 members who believe that the East Carolina Alumni Association is a Pirate’s lifelong connection to ECU. Show you believe in ECU by becoming a member today at PirateAlumni.com/JoinToday.

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One of the 2014 Best Lawyers in America. He handles commercial litigation in the Greenville office of Ward and Smith P.A.

1992

Dorrell Overton is development & facilities manager at Martin Enterprises, Williamston.

Dr. Michael Wells is dean of University College and Schools of the College of Arts and Sciences. He was the Edna Quiner Profit Chair of Chemistry at Campbell University.


Stephanie Quinn Hart was appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to an at-large seat on the Tryon Palace Commission.

1990

Lash Fukith ’89 ’97 was professor of human resources for the city of Greenville.

1989

Chris Johnson is the full-time economic development director for Johnston County. For the past 42 years, he and his wife, Kimberly Greenw Johnson ’88, have owned and operated Johnson's Formals in Smithfield.

Robert Davis ’87 ’93 is director of N.C. Wesley College Greenville and Washington campuses. Real Hoggard coached the offensive line for the USA National 18 Under Team in Austin, Texas, in 2013.

Kathy Pogue retired as Blount County, Tenn., library director after 25 years.

1986

Dennis Walker is interim director of the New Schools Project.

1990

E. Russell Jackson, interim director of Mississippi State University’s Social Science Research Center, was recognized as a prolific national female scholar in criminology by the Mississippi Alcohol Safety and SELA program. In 2013, he was appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to the editorial board for the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra.

1987

Hank Capers ’94, former chair of health programs at Sampson Community College, was selected as a program evaluator for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Lois Knapton is superintendent of the Cumberland School District in Connecticut. E.M. noon, current Clinton City Board of Education vice chair and past Clinton High School principal and athletic director, was inducted into the Shaw University Athletic Hall of Fame. Chuck Hill was named South Carolina Office of Rural Health’s 2013 Outstanding Rural Practitioner of the Year.

She practices at Southern Medical Associates, Loris, S.C.

Dean L. Wilkerson is director of the adult education program, in the UNC System, in the UNC System.

1985

Camella Gaskill Marcom is director of Randolph County Library Services and an associate director for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

1990

She retired in 2013 as head of services of ECU’s Joyner Library. She is an adjunct professor in MSU’s sociology department and research and development department for the Mississippi Alcohol Safety and SELA program.

1977

She is known as United Country/Keller Williams, an eastern North Carolina real estate firm with offices in Edenton.

Jake Forbes ’99.

1971

He was editor of the Record, Tarboro.

1979

He was also president of the Editorial Board of the Mississippi Alcohol Safety and SELA program.

1989

He was senior vice president at the East Carolina Alumni Association.

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Jon Massachi served as field director during McCrory’s 2008 run for governor. He is on the ECU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

James T. “Jim” Hammond was elected to the East Carolina Alumni Association Board of Directors. His son Steven ‘92, daughter Lisa ‘96 and brother J. Dean ‘69 are also ECU alums.

Don Parrott was appointed to a four-year term on the Louisburg College Board of Trustees. He is a 1963 graduate of the college and a CPA in Greenville where he is district governor of Rotary International for a region in northeastern North Carolina that includes 41 Rotary clubs. A former executive with Sears, he owns Illeges & Associates, a marketing company in Rocky Mount.

Donna Brown was inducted into the North Carolina Association of Scientists and Engineers. Donna received a B.S. in mathematics from NC State and has been a high school math teacher for 33 years. Donna is the director of the Math and Science Partnership and is a co-founder of the North Carolina Math Teachers’ Circle. She was named 2015 Math Teacher of the Year by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Donna received the 2016 T. E. Henderson Award from the NCTM and was named a 2017 Emerging Mathematics Leader by the American Mathematical Association. Donna received the 2017 T. E. Henderson Award from the NCTM and was named a 2017 Emerging Mathematics Leader by the American Mathematical Association.

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Sally Goldboro, formerly of Kinston, died Oct. 20. She served as the grant manager for the Pitt County Mental Health Board, where she was also an accountant for 30 years. She was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, where she served on the Vestry. She also enjoyed walking and gardening. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Michael Irving O'Briant, who passed away in 2013. She is survived by her son, Jeff O'Briant, of Greenville; her daughter, Lisa Tagert Dimock, of Raleigh; and her daughter-in-law, Lisa VanDusen, of Greenville. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The family will hold a private Celebration of Life. Donations in her memory may be made to ECU College of Pharmacy, Women’s Center, or to the Pitt County Mental Health Board.

Barbara Lee Cross, of Greenville, died Oct. 18. She was a native of Straiton, Maine. She was a graduate of the University of Southern Maine and a member of the first graduating class of ECU’s PCB School. She was a mathematics teacher at ECU for 30 years. She was a member of the ECU Alumni Association, the Bobcat Foundation, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Donald W. Cross. She is survived by her children, Dr. Jennifer Cross, of Pittsboro, and Dr. Ryan Cross, of New York City. She is also survived by her grandchildren, gra...
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.

In the Progressive era of the 1910s and ’20s, forward-thinking educators believed that women who went to college should marry men who went to college, and vice versa. The presidents of East Carolina and N.C. State (then known as N.C. Agricultural and Mechanical College) so firmly held that view that they played matchmaker. Over a period of nearly 20 years, East Carolina’s Robert Wright and A&M’s Wallace Riddick corresponded regularly to create opportunities for their students to mix and mingle. The first came in the spring of 1917. On a class trip to Raleigh, a group of 89 students from ECTTS, which was all female then, was invited to visit the all-male A&M campus. In a story for the Training School Quarterly, Lizzie Stewart ’17 reported that: “Our cars were waiting for us so nothing prohibited a speedy arrival at the college. As we alighted we were cautioned by Miss (Sally Joyner) Davis to remember the instructions given before we left: that was not to let our joy at being at A&M be too evident. “We were met by President Riddick and escorted out to the field, where a dress parade was given for our special benefit. The masses became groups and scattered around to various places of special interest.
The dinner hour came all too soon. The dining room was beautifully decorated with red and white carnations. The boys showed their college spirit by giving us yells. These were responded to in such a manner by the girls that the boys said they were almost ashamed to let such a small crowd of girls beat them so much. Many of the happy memories of the day will stay with us forever.

During that dinner, ECTTS senior Viola Kilpatrick Fagan ’17 of Greenville rose and read a toast she had written saluting the hosts. Her words so impressed the A&M students that her toast was reprinted in its entirety in the school yearbook, the Agromeck.

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In 1919 Riddick began an annual tradition of bringing the State College Band to perform at East Carolina. The band’s 1922 appearance christened Wright Auditorium and was described in this Teachers College Quarterly article:

“The visit of the State College Band…is an event to which the students, especially the seniors, look forward to year after year, not only because of the concert but because of the social features connected with their visit.

President Riddick, who came with the boys, was introduced to the audience by President Wright. He said that if the president expected to make school teachers out of these girls, he was afraid it would be a failure, because for every girl turned out from this school there was a boy turned out from State College, and attractive girls would not remain long in the school rooms.”

At a reception after that 1922 concert, “the refreshments were served in a unique manner. Thirty young ladies wearing caps and aprons of the State College red and white marched in and handed out the plates of cream and cakes, mints and salted peanuts, and then the thirty members of the band were lined up and the caps and aprons presented to them. They wore them the remainder of the evening.”

The annual visits stopped in the 1930s, following a surge in the number of men students at East Carolina.

A TOAST TO THE A. AND M. BOYS

Come girls, fill the crystal cup, Brimming up; Fill it up of cheer and laughter, Fill it up, and let it flow; Crowns it with all youthful joy; Drink it, drink it, Click your glasses, girls, To the boys—the Boys of A. and M.

Fill again that sparkling cup; Brimming up; Fill it full of nature’s brew, Distilled in rain or snow or dew, It matters not as it bring to you, Strength and health, Happiness and wealth, To you boys, you A. and M. boys.

Then fill it up, that generous cup, Brimming up, ’Tis Alden’s aisle, they call it, ’Tis a symbol of all that’s pure and true, Of all that’s strong and merry, too, Of all that we should wish for you, boys, Of all that you are, boys, You boys of A. and M.

We drink to you a parting cup, Brimming up, With memories of this glad day To brighten e’er a morrow, You bade us come, we came, boys, We go where you can’t follow, But if you get in trouble, just “holler” And we’ll come boys, To the boys of A. and M.

—E. Viola Kilpatrick
The ECU women’s swim team completed a perfect 11-0 dual meet season and coach Rick Kobe became the sixth swim coach in NCAA history to record 500 victories.

Photo by Jay Clark