The Mayor of Midtown UNC honors Leo Jenkins
An Eagle makes a splash

First class
ECU’s Honors College marks a milestone
ECU’s Charlie Yorgen dives for home and the Pirates go on to defeat the Tar Heels 3-2 at Clark-LeClair Stadium on April 22. The Pirates did it again in Chapel Hill on April 29, handing the Heels a 1-0 loss.

Photo by Rob Goldberg Jr.
First class
The inaugural class of ECU’s Honors College heads into the world.

The Mayor of Midtown
Steve Brown remade a Raleigh mall into a whole new retail experience.

A brief war leaves lingering woes
ECU researchers are seeking clues to the mysterious symptoms that afflict some veterans of the 1991 Gulf War.

A ‘transformational’ leader
UNC honors the late Leo W. Jenkins, who led ECU—and eastern North Carolina—to new heights.

An Eagle makes a splash
This son of swimming and diving alumni aims to set records of his own at ECU.

Ben Currie McKinzie Jr. of Upper Marlboro, Md., was recognized at spring commencement on May 9 as a recipient of the Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award. A sprinter with the ECU track team, McKinzie graduated cum laude with a degree in information and computer technology. He will work as a systems administrator and plans to attend graduate school at the University of Baltimore.

Photograph by Cliff Hollis
Academic rigor

It was not major news, but I did note that when the University of North Carolina Board of Governors considered East Carolina’s request to have a college of engineering, all the other UNC campuses with engineering programs supported the move.

I made a similar observation a few years ago when ECU proposed creating a dental school. The support from other UNC schools then was matched by the General Assembly’s commitment to fund the dental school.

In decades past, such support from our sister institutions and the Legislature sometimes was lacking when ECU proposed expanding its academic mission.

What’s changed?

ECU increasingly is known for the academic rigor that it instills in its degree programs. The university has proved it has the smarts and the commitment to train nurses, physicians and business executives, so the expectation was that it would be similarly successful in training dentists.

And now, engineers.

You probably will hear more about the master’s degree in biomedical engineering in ECU’s new College of Engineering and Technology. The field is the nation’s No. 1 growth area for new jobs.

In fact, about 95 percent of ECU engineering graduates are offered jobs within 90 days of graduation, and about 65 percent of graduates stay in North Carolina—with about half of those working in eastern North Carolina.

A local business leader I interviewed whose company has hired several ECU engineers made an excellent point. Connie Hunt, the human resources manager at Keihin Carolina System Technology in Tarboro, an automotive electronics manufacturer, said this about ECU engineers:

“They have a good understanding of our equipment and the lean manufacturing skills they are taught have been successful in improving efficiency and cost in many areas of our facility.”

Sounds like someone who’s benefited from a rigorous academic program.

Steve Tuttle
No doubt, there are (and will be) many family are carrying on that tradition. That the young men of the Kornegay whole rest of my life. It's nice to know Dr. Kornegay made a difference in the take a rest. It makes everything else work a lot

“Sometimes, when we get to chasing our sure he had my full attention—he said: “Sometimes, when we get to chasing our tail, it’s a good idea to just stop and take a rest. It makes everything else work a lot better.” He patted me on the shoulder and left the examining room.

The wisdom of what he had shared was immediately obvious. Settling behind the wheel for the drive back to Greenville, I felt instantly better. And hundreds of times since, when I’ve fallen into the patterns that leave me anxious for no good reason, I realized I was chasing my tail and decided it was time to stop and take a rest.

That brief encounter with the wise Dr. Kornegay made a difference in the whole rest of my life. It’s nice to know that the young men of the Kornegay family are carrying on that tradition. No doubt, there are (and will be) many thousands of people who owe a debt of gratitude to a physician in a white coat with the name “Kornegay” stitched on the front.

—Spencer K. Stephens '82, Rockville, Md.

Dr. Hervey Kornegay and I grew up in the same community, and he was the doctor for my parents and older relatives. I have seen Dr. Kornegay several times through the years and am always so impressed with his kindness, knowledge and genuine concern for his patients. It is heartwarming to see that his sons have followed the career path chosen by their father, plus what a difference these young men are making on health care in eastern North Carolina. Their care will be felt by thousands of people, and lives will be improved by their knowledge and care.

Like the Kornegays, my family has strong ties to East Carolina. My mother graduated there in 1928, I graduated in 1957 and three sisters followed me in 1959, 1968 and 1969. Two brothers-in-law graduated there plus a niece and nephew. Another nephew has earned an MBA there.

—Christine Joyner Greene '57, High Point

DAVE BRUBECK STORY PROMPTS MEMORIES
(As someone who grew up in Greenville) I remember all of the activity associated with the Dave Brubeck engagement at ECU in 1958. I knew Dr. Andrew Best; he was our family physician and my sister was one of his secretaries for many years before his passing. He was a member of the committee that monitored the integration of hotels in Greenville in the 1960s. While I was enrolled in summer school, the committee, on Dr. Best’s recommendation, paid for an overnight stay at the then-Holiday Inn on Memorial Drive in Greenville (for black musicians performing on campus). Dr. Best, however, was not the first black doctor in Greenville, if I might make that correction. From my recollection, a Dr. Battle and a Dr. Caparte were among the first black doctors in Greenville. I followed all of the activity of the (50th anniversary of integration) at ECU last year, and I am grateful and blessed that I had a part in making ECU the diversified educational institution that it is today.

—The Rev. Hubert E. Walters '65, Framingham, Mass.
ECU has been building a workforce of teachers, nurses, artists and doctors for decades. Add another fast-growing group to the list of professionals that ECU sends out to serve the region: engineers.

The rapid expansion of ECU’s 10-year-old engineering program has earned it a step up in academic standing. The UNC Board of Governors on April 11 approved renaming the College of Technology and Computer Science to the College of Engineering and Technology. The change had the unanimous support of other engineering programs in North Carolina’s public university system.

“One of East Carolina’s primary goals is to serve as a national model for regional transformation. Having a more prominent College of Engineering and Technology lets ECU be the center of influence for technically driven improvements in our region,” said ECU biomedical engineering student Amos Cao of Greensboro.

A new master’s degree in biomedical engineering within the college also was approved. Biomedical engineering integrates science with biology and medicine to solve clinical problems. The program includes collaboration with ECU Division of Health Sciences faculty.

Cao’s classmate, Megha Sinha, has been developing a non-invasive diagnosis and monitoring protocol for pulmonary hypertension. It’s important work for the region and state, which has some of the highest cardiovascular disease mortality rates in the country, Cao said.

Another research project has included faculty from the College of Nursing in helping to design a monitoring device for hospital patients’ movement to prevent bedsores, said Barbara Muller-Borer, associate professor of engineering.

“Any equipment you interface with at a hospital or doctor’s office, biomedical engineers are involved,” she said.

Adding a master’s degree in biomedical engineering is a good fit for ECU because of its affiliation with health sciences. The graduate program will build on the growing undergraduate program, where students have conducted multidisciplinary research with faculty in dental, physiology, pathology, communication sciences and disorders and nursing, Muller-Borer said.

As part of Cao’s capstone project, he and three other biomedical engineering students worked with ECU faculty member Dr. Bryan Dangott in the Brody School of Medicine Department of Pathology in a yearlong process to develop a computer-based system to improve the accuracy of breast cancer diagnostics.

Biomedical engineers are involved in the development of many types of medical procedures and devices, such as prosthesis, pacemakers, implantable defibrillators, dialysis machines and MRI imaging.
ECU Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Donna Payne, left, speaks while Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for student affairs, listens during the April trustees meeting.

$950,000 gift boosts educational program

Project STEPP at ECU has received a nearly $950,000 donation from Walter and Marie Williams of Greenville. STEPP stands for Supporting Transition and Education through Planning and Partnerships. The program supports students with learning disabilities who aspire to a college education.

The ECU Board of Trustees acknowledged the gift at its April meeting and voted to rename the program the Walter and Marie Williams STEPP program. The Williamses were early supporters of this innovative program, which began full-time operation in 2007. Their total personal and extended support for the STEPP Program (including family and company gifts) exceeds $1.1 million.

By partnering with these students, their families and a variety of educational communities, Project STEPP fosters a network of opportunities and resources to empower and support students from admission to graduation.

STEPP administrators offer academic, social and life skills support to a select number of students with ADHD or learning disabilities in reading, writing or math.

Walter Williams, president of the Trade-Wilco chain of convenience stores, graduated from East Carolina in 1951 and received a master’s degree from East Carolina in 1955. Marie Williams graduated in 1953.

For more philanthropy news, see page 42.

ECU Board of Trustees considers resources in tight times

Coping with continuing financial challenges crept into committee and board discussions during the April meeting of the ECU Board of Trustees.

Chairman Robert Brinkley said even though the university is facing extraordinary challenges in continuing difficult economic times, it has produced some extraordinary accomplishments as well.

“On the surface, some of the priorities we’re having to identify can seem at odds with our mission—which has always emphasized student access and excellence—especially when there’s talk of pulling money out of some programs.

“But if we aren’t sustainable in what we do, it won’t matter that we have the very best ideas and intentions. Our commitment to sustainability is absolutely in alignment with our mission,” said Brinkley.

The chairman said the university must find the right balance.

“When we created an Honors College and School of Dental Medicine in the depths of the recession, that was somewhat amazing,” he said.

In his comments to the board, Chancellor Steve Ballard also emphasized the squeeze on university resources.

“Unfortunately we are anticipating about a 3 percent budget cut (for fiscal year 2014-15), which is about a $15 million additional cut. This will be the second biggest cut in the last seven years. Everyone is committed to doing all we can. ECU has positioned itself to deal with the cuts,” he said.

Ballard appointed the University Committee on Fiscal Sustainability in August 2013 to come up with steps that could help the university deal in part with declining state appropriations while continuing to invest in strategic priorities. In March the committee distributed a set of short-term and long-term fiscal and operational plans for ECU that includes fewer degree programs, fewer administrative positions and fewer low-enrollment classes.

“We’re evaluating all academic programs to see where we can create more consolidation, more integration and more centralized services—all for the purpose of saving money. We are not doing these things because we have some grand theory; we have no choice,” Ballard said.

He mentioned focusing on revenue generation, possibly through increased enrollment of transfer students. “These cuts and reforms are absolutely necessary moving forward,” Ballard said.

continued on page 6

systems. They also are involved in biomedical research and the development of biomaterials, bioelectronics and biomechanics, ranging from tissue generation to bioengineering blood vessels and organs, Muller-Borer said.

Started in 2010, biomedical engineering is the second largest concentration in the engineering department. Jobs in the sector are expected to grow by 27 percent in the next 10 years.

Several seniors plan to apply to the first master’s degree program at ECU, Muller-Borer said. About 50 percent of undergraduate students are going out of state to graduate programs, and officials hope to keep some of the students here at ECU. They plan to offer an integrated bachelor and master of science in biomedical engineering beginning in 2015 so students can start on graduate work their senior year, she said.

“One thing I’ve pointed out is that ECU is the only university in the UNC system with a medical school, a dental school, a business school and now a College of Engineering,” Muller-Borer said. “That is a real big strength for our program. That’s where our students will get their experience.”

The new name reflects the growth of ECU’s engineering department—from 37 students in 2004 to 521 in 2013. Students can choose from five possible concentrations: biomedical engineering, bioprocess engineering, electrical engineering, industrial and systems engineering and mechanical engineering.

Cao also hopes the name change will increase visibility for a discipline that some people are unaware ECU offers. The university said it plans to eventually double engineering enrollment to 1,000 students.

ECU’s College of Engineering and Technology has close to 2,000 students in four departments: engineering, computer science, technology systems and construction management.

—Crystal Baity

—Steve Tuttle
Dental community service learning center opens in Lillington

Partnership and collaboration laid the groundwork for the ECU School of Dental Medicine’s newest community service learning center, celebrated March 24 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Lillington site—a 7,700-square-foot facility off U.S. 401—is the third of eight to 10 service learning centers planned for operation in underserved areas across the state. The facilities combine clinical education and patient care.

Led by ECU dental faculty members, fourth-year dental students will spend eight-week clinical rotations at the centers while general dentistry residents will also hone their skills at the facilities. The fully functional general dentistry office features 16 treatment rooms, X-ray equipment, educational space and more.

ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard described the dental community service learning centers as key to the university’s role as a national model of public service and regional transformation.

“(The center will be) a hallmark of our dental school and also something that will be very beneficial to the citizens in the community,” said Phyllis Horns, vice chancellor for health sciences at ECU.

“Many of you here today can rightfully claim a role in the success of our school and the Lillington center as it comes to life,” said Dr. Greg Chadwick, dean of the dental school. “We’re excited and look forward to being your neighbor.”

Between Raleigh and Fayetteville, Lillington is the county seat of Harnett County. The county’s population is approximately 112,700, and there is one dentist for every 10,000 people, according to 2011 data. Harnett County, like other rural North Carolina counties, struggled with the loss of its textile industry. However, Johnson Tilghman of Harnett Forward Together pointed to the dental center and the addition of other “badly needed” health care services as evidence of progress.

“We did have hope, we did have vision, we had determination, but we also had collaboration,” Tilghman said. “We all came together to deal with a problem and we have done it successfully.”

Other partners in developing the center include First Choice Community Health Centers, the town of Lillington, Harnett County and numerous local legislators and community members.

“The commitment to this has never wavered, has never faltered,” said Harnett County Manager Tommy Burns. “It took a lot of planning, and from an idea we’re here today to witness this great event. We’re really proud to be a part of Pirate Nation.”

Overall, North Carolina ranks 47th out of the 50 states in the number of dentists per capita, according to the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The state averages three dentists for every 10,000 people in rural areas, compared to nearly five dentists for every 10,000 people in urban areas. Nationally, the ratio is six dentists for every 10,000 people.

ECU admitted its first class of 52 dental students in 2011 and will add its fourth class this August. All are North Carolina residents.

“Growing up in a small community, doctors, dentists and vets were always the leaders in the community,” said Kevin Patel, a second-year dental student from Carthage. “And I wanted to be one of those people.”

Patel said the service-learning aspect was what led him to ECU.

In addition to Lillington, centers are serving patients in Ahoskie and Elizabeth City. Others are under construction in Sylva, Spruce Pine, Davidson County and Robeson County.

On May 16, Bolivia in Brunswick County was announced as the site for the eighth center.

The Lillington center is at 80 Autumn Fern Trail. The center’s phone number is 910-814-4191.

—Kathryn Kennedy

Local and ECU dignitaries, including Dean Greg Chadwick, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Phyllis Horns and Chancellor Steve Ballard cut the ribbon on the new dental center March 24.
Grant to help ECU recruit, teach and place librarians in region

A grant of nearly $500,000 will help ECU recruit and teach school librarians from economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented backgrounds who want to live and work in eastern North Carolina.

The library science degree program in the College of Education at ECU has been awarded a 2014 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. ECU will provide $165,045 in nonfederal matching funds, bringing the total to $657,369.

“This project will increase the number of trained, professional media specialists that reflect the diversity of their communities and increase the ability to connect with those diverse populations,” said John Harer, master of library science degree coordinator and associate professor of library science in the College of Education.

The funding will support recruitment efforts and full-tuition scholarships at ECU for 30 library science graduate students beginning studies this fall.

The project will use a “grow your own” model, focusing on students who want to stay and work in eastern North Carolina and complete their master’s degrees online, officials said. Recruitment has already begun.

In addition to tuition costs, the grant will cover university fees and offer a book stipend for the entire degree program until spring 2017. Membership in the North Carolina School Library Media Association and a travel stipend to attend an association conference will be included.

ECU’s location and mission to support eastern North Carolina aligns with the IMLS charge to prepare librarians to work in high-need districts, officials said.

ECU’s master of library science degree program, established in 1939, is the largest producer of school library media coordinator graduates in the state. The online program supports non-traditional students seeking employment as librarians and information professionals in primary, middle and high schools, universities, community colleges and public libraries.

The IMLS awarded 23 grants out of 82 proposals received from across the country. Only two North Carolina institutions, ECU and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received grants.

—Crystal Baity

Humorous anecdotes, stories of her love of learning and teaching, and praise from a former governor showered Janice Hardison Faulkner (left) as a gallery space in Joyner Library was dedicated in her honor March 11. Former North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt (right) lauded Faulkner for her love of eastern North Carolina along with her passionate work to move the region and the state forward. “Janice Hardison Faulkner loves this state. She loves where we come from. She loves this university. And she has served us all so well,” said Hunt, wearing a purple and gold tie for the occasion. Formerly an open space, the Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery now is an exhibit area to showcase art created by ECU faculty and students. The 3,700-square-foot gallery area will accommodate up to 200 guests.
ECU students teach middle schoolers about sports safety

Students at Farmville Middle School were treated to ounce upon ounce of prevention in their own gymnasium April 16, when they participated in a sports safety clinic sponsored by the Eastern Carolina Injury Prevention Program, a joint effort between ECU and Vidant Health.

ECU students led the sixth-graders through interactive discussions and hands-on demonstrations about concussion prevention, training and conditioning, hydration strategies, sports nutrition and preventing heat illness.

“Kids are getting stronger and faster much earlier,” said Morgan O’Neal, health and physical education teacher at the school. “We hate to see them get hurt at such a young age.” His students are used to seeing famous athletes in uniform during games, Morgan said, but they aren’t aware of the 5 a.m. workouts that help condition these athletes to compete safely.

Lindsey Dawson, a graduate student in ECU’s College of Education and athletic trainer for South Central High School in Winterville, said she was aiming not only to educate participants about injury prevention, but also to increase their awareness of the role athletic trainers play—before they reach high school and require their services.

“Game Changers, a report released in 2013 by Safe Kids Worldwide, examined data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s National Electronic Injury Surveillance System to explore what types of injuries are sidelining young athletes. According to the report, approximately 1.35 million children are seen in emergency departments each year for sports-related injuries. More information is online at www.safekids.org.

—Amy Adams Ellis

In March 1914 the first foreigners visit campus with the arrival of China’s Educational Commission to Europe and America. Charged with exploring the best Western methods of training school teachers, the group intends to stay here one day but remains three. Leading the commission is Ping Wen Kuo, who distills much of what he learned on this trip in his 1915 book, The Chinese System of Public Education. In it, he—like Robert Wright—argues that a well-rounded education in the sciences and the humanities is essential in teacher training, and schools should be open to men and women. Kuo later becomes head of the Nanjing Higher Normal School and transforms it into China’s first modern university, Nanjing University.

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“An educational manifesto

“We are not content with a teacher of the Ichabod Crane type who taught in a crude way the three R’s and neglected to teach life.” East Carolina declares in the summer 1939 issue of the ECTC Bulletin. In summing up everything it had learned in 30 years training school teachers, ECTS says, “We have learned much from the constantly increasing demands of school administrators for teachers who can, in addition to their special training, direct student government, coach athletics, conduct a student band, take over some branch of social welfare, act as school librarian, edit a school paper, or coach plays.”

ECU basketball player Janesha Ebron responds to students’ questions about sports injury prevention.

ECU basketball player Janesha Ebron responds to students’ questions about sports injury prevention.
A new degree program at ECU gives students an edge—and potentially higher salaries—in careers requiring skills in forensic science and crime scene investigation.

The ECU bachelor of science degree in multidisciplinary studies with a focus on forensic science requires more course work in chemistry and criminal justice studies than any other program in the state, enabling ECU graduates “to compete for the top salaries,” said Anthony Kennedy, chemistry professor and director of ECU’s forensic science program.

“Salaries for graduates with chemistry backgrounds are higher than those trained in biological sciences or other specialty areas,” Kennedy said.

The total 123-credit-hour program includes 30 credit hours in chemistry, 18 hours in criminal justice, 17 hours in biology, seven in anthropology and 51 in humanities and social sciences. Those requirements are designed to supplement the skills required in a forensic laboratory setting.

With the extensive program requirements, “I would argue that our students are better equipped to work in state and federal labs,” Kennedy said.

A forensic science degree is appropriate for students considering a career in a state, federal or private forensic lab and for students interested in obtaining advanced degrees in forensic science, Kennedy said.

Forensic science technicians help investigate crimes by collecting and analyzing physical evidence. At a crime scene, technicians may take photographs, sketch the crime scene, record and collect evidence (including weapons, fingerprints or bodily fluids), and catalog and preserve evidence to be transferred to a lab. In the lab, technicians may perform chemical, biological and physical analysis on evidence taken from the crime scene, explore links between suspects and criminal activity, consult with experts in related fields and reconstruct the crime scene.

Many technicians specialize in either crime scene investigation or laboratory analysis, and most write reports, so effective communication skills are critical. Forensic science technicians must be able to explain their findings to lawyers, detectives and other law enforcement officials. They may also be called to testify in court.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook, forensic science technicians earned a median annual income of $52,840 in 2012, and employment in the field is expected to grow 6 percent through 2022.

The ECU degree is offered through the multidisciplinary studies program in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences with support from the Department of Criminal Justice in the College of Human Ecology.

—Lacey Gray and Joy Holster

New forensic science program prepares students for profitable careers

In August 1964 in New York, choreographer Mavis Ray is wrapping up a long run of 110 in the Shade, her eighth Broadway musical, when she gets a call from a friend, Edgar Loessin. They had met two years earlier when he was stage manager for Carol Channing’s Show Girl. Then he left Broadway to found the theater program at East Carolina Teachers College. Over the phone he asks her to join him as a dance teacher and choreographer for student stage productions. With the blessing of her mentor, Agnes de Mille, Ray accepts and arrives on campus the following spring. For the next 25 years she lends star power and professionalism to East Carolina’s budding theater program.

A year after coaching the U.S. Olympic women’s basketball team to a gold medal and conquering cancer the first time, Kay Yow ’64 is the spring 1989 commencement speaker. The legendary North Carolina State University coach tells graduates to embrace change because many things are beyond their control. But, she adds, “we have 100 percent control over our attitude. It’s our choice as to how we will respond to life.” Yow majored in English and was selected for Who’s Who. She was a Delta Zeta sister.
Provost Marilyn Sheerer urged ECU graduates to embrace change, to lead and serve others in their search for success in the future.

Sheerer was featured speaker at the 105th ECU spring commencement May 9 in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Chancellor Steve Ballard conferred degrees for more than 3,800 students including approximately 2,795 students who were awarded baccalaureate degrees and 1,067 graduate students. Seventy-nine of those received medical degrees from the Brody School of Medicine.

“We’ve worked really hard,” said Emily Toler of Washington, who received a master’s degree in teaching. “I can’t believe it’s over. (Graduation) once seemed like such a long ways off, but now it’s here.”

Sheerer told graduates “don’t be too quick to decide who or what you are, and always be mindful that you may yet become something else.”

Among the graduates were more than 50 members of the inaugural class of the university’s Honors College (See story page 14).

Also recognized were the five undergraduate students who received the Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award:

Ben Currie McKinzie Jr. of Upper Marlboro, Md., who graduated cum laude with a degree in information and computer technology. He will work as a systems administrator and plans to attend graduate school at the University of Baltimore.

Megan Rachel Mehaffey of Clyde, who graduated summa cum laude with dual degrees in chemistry and physics. She will attend graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin.

Hannah Marie Potter of Marshallville, who graduated summa cum laude with a degree in multidisciplinary studies after completing a double major in international studies and religious studies.

Juliann Marie Stalls of Williamston, who graduated summa cum laude with a degree in psychology. She will begin doctorate studies in ECU’s clinical health psychology program.

Nicholas Reid Thompson of Chesapeake, Va., who graduated summa cum laude with a degree in biochemistry in the fall. He is pursuing a master’s degree at the College of William & Mary with plans to enter medical school.

—Crystal Baity and Amy Adams Ellis

**Brody recognized as a top producer of family physicians**

The Brody School of Medicine at ECU has again been honored as one of the top producers of family physicians in the nation. The school received an American Academy of Family Physicians Top 10 Award, which annually honors medical schools that—during a consecutive three-year period—graduated the greatest percentage of students who chose first-year family medicine residency positions.

This is the eighth consecutive year of recognition for ECU’s medical school, according to Department of Family Medicine records. Recipients were announced May 5 during the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine annual spring conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Brody ranked fifth on this year’s list, reflecting an average of 18.6 percent of ECU medical students entering family medicine residencies from 2011-2013. No other North Carolina medical school received the award.

Between 1999 and 2009, ECU sent a higher percentage of medical graduates into training as family medicine physicians than any other school in the country.

—Kathryn Kennedy
Ron Mitchelson, interim vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, was appointed interim provost to take over for Marilyn Sheerer, who is stepping down in August. A geographer, Mitchelson has been at ECU since 1999. He chaired the Department of Geography and served as interim chair of the English department. In 2011 he was appointed to chair ECU’s Program Prioritization Committee, which evaluated programs campuswide and examined the university’s academic structure. As interim provost, Mitchelson will serve as ECU’s chief academic officer with oversight of academic programming, enrollment management, institutional planning and research, and equity and diversity.

William M. Downs, associate dean for social and behavioral sciences at Georgia State University, was named dean of the ECU College of Arts and Sciences. He will begin his position July 1. Downs also received a tenured appointment in the Department of Political Science. He takes over from interim dean John Sutherland, who will return to the Department of Physics as chair. Downs received his doctorate from Emory University in 1994.

Abbie Brown, a distance-education professor of instructional technology in the ECU College of Education, received the UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. Brown teaches exclusively online; he is the first online-only professor at ECU to receive the award and possibly the first such recipient in the UNC system. Brown’s expertise is in the field of instructional design/technology. Many of his courses focus on teaching the teachers of distance-education programs.

Matthew Whited, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, was selected to attend a summer institute to receive advanced training in designing and conducting randomized clinical trials involving behavioral interventions. The institute is sponsored by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The 10-day training course will take place at the Arlie Conference Center in Virginia.

Bobby Lowery, assistant professor and director of the ECU College of Nursing’s doctor of nursing practice program, was selected as a 2014 fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Lowery will be inducted on June 19 during the AANP 29th National Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

Patrick Carr, assistant director for acquisitions and collection management at Joyner Library, was honored with the 2014 Esther J. Piercy Award by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services. The award will be presented June 28 at the ALCTS Awards Ceremony during the 2014 American Library Association Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

Jonathan Sorensen, a criminal justice professor, will oversee the Capital Jury Project archive in the ECU Department of Criminal Justice. The data archive includes interviews from about 1,200 death penalty jurors in 14 states. Results from the study have enabled researchers to publish more than 60 academic and law journal articles over the last 22 years. The archive was originally funded by the National Science Foundation. Sorensen, who joined the ECU faculty in 2012, has achieved national prominence as an expert on capital punishment and prediction of criminal offender dangerousness.

Lalage Katunga, a doctoral student in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, is the recipient of a Graduate Student Travel Award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The award will pay for her trip to present research at the 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology in Cape Town, South Africa, from July 13-18. Katunga joined the laboratory of Ethan Anderson, assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology, in 2011. Her primary interest is in nutrition and metabolism. She is originally from Harare, Zimbabwe.
MUSIC

International classical guitar superstar Jason Vieaux headlines the 2014 Summer Guitar Festival and Workshop, which runs July 12-15 in the A.J. Fletcher Music Building on the ECU campus.

This is the 19th year guitar professor Elliot Frank has presented the festival for classical guitar at ECU.

Vieaux, described as “among the elite of today’s classical guitarists” by Gramophone magazine, is the classical guitarist who goes beyond the classical. He has earned a reputation for putting his expressive gifts and virtuosity at the service of a remarkably wide range of music, including works for lute and a recording featuring the music of jazz legend Pat Metheny.

Other featured artists this year include the Sharpe/Zohn Duo, the Akerman/Teixeira Duo, 2013 Competition Winner Silviu Ciulei, and Frank and Joseph Ikner.

“We are extremely fortunate to have faculty artists of the highest caliber, including Jason Vieaux, to perform and teach at this year’s festival,” said Frank. “Jason is a marvelous performer, teacher and international ambassador for the classical guitar who regularly appears on concert stages around the world to universal acclaim.”

Vieaux performs July 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The workshop and camp portion of the festival are open to students ages 12 and up who wish to acquire or improve skills on the classical guitar. For more information regarding the workshop or concert series, contact Frank at 252-328-6245 or by email at franke@ecu.edu or visit www.ecu.edu/music/guitar/workshop.

ART

A retrospective exhibition of Sid Luck, a fifth-generation potter from the historic pottery community of Seagrove, will be on view at the Wellington B. Gray Gallery June 3-27. Luck has received the prestigious North Carolina Heritage Award and was honored at an awards ceremony May 20 in Raleigh.

The exhibition of Luck’s work is co-organized by the North Carolina Pottery Center and the School of Art and Design with support from the College of Fine Arts and Communication. It is a part of an ongoing collaboration program between Seagrove and ECU.

EXHIBITS

This summer, Joyner Library has two exhibits with themes tied to eastern North Carolina.

The “Dawn of Printing in North Carolina” exhibit explores the work of several men, including James Davis and Francois-Xavier Martin, who pioneered the craft of printing in North Carolina.

Printing arrived in North Carolina in 1749 when Davis officially began his duties as North Carolina’s printer. For most of his 33-year career, Davis was the only printer active in the colony. Before the end of the American Revolution, he never had more than one competitor at any one time. Within a generation, that situation had changed. By 1810, at least 10 printers were active in the state with three newspapers in Raleigh, two in New Bern and others in Edenton, Wilmington, Fayetteville, Elizabeth City and Halifax.

This exhibit will continue in the North Carolina Collection through Aug. 15. Contact Fred Harrison at harrisonf@ecu.edu for more information.

A second exhibit, “Pepsi-Cola and The Minges Family: Two Enduring Traditions born in Eastern North Carolina,” continues through December in the Manuscripts and Rare Books Department.

Featured is the story of the Minges family, whose members are well-known for their groundbreaking history in the bottling industry and continuing philanthropy in the region. The exhibit also tells the story of Pepsi-Cola itself from its beginnings in New Bern to its current worldwide presence in the soft drink industry.

Some of the highlights include an original 1917 letter signed by Caleb Bradham—the inventor of Pepsi-Cola—a photograph and blueprint of the first Pepsi-Cola factory in New Bern and Pepsi-Cola advertising memorabilia.

—Jeannine Manning Hutson and Harley Dartt
K-Rho: The Sweet Taste of Sisterhood, the second novel by LaToya Mycole Hankins ’93 of Raleigh, chronicles the strength of sorority life for three university sorority sisters. Their lives change and complications arise after college when one announces that she is a lesbian. While many problems remain to be overcome in their relationships, the bonds they made as sorority sisters endure.

“I wanted to focus on how those who identify as lesbian are treated within those organizations,” Hankins said in an interview with book review website JoeyPinkney.com. “I am a lesbian, and I’m also a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Too often members face a backlash for being who they are. While I have been fortunate to have never experienced it, the stories I have heard from fellow members and sister-Greeks moved me to put fingers to keyboard to tell the story about three sorority members who refused to let sexual preference intrude on their sisterhood.”


Paul Friedrich ’89 of Raleigh, the artist behind the Onion Head Monster comics, is co-author of Man v. Liver, a collection of 100 quips, zingers and ironic retorts best delivered with a drink in hand. Written with Neil Hinson of Raleigh, the panels include “things we wish we remembered saying at the bar” after a night of drinking. Friedrich said in an interview with a Raleigh newspaper. It’s seen as a good omen that Man v. Liver was accepted for distribution by Andrews McMeel Universal, the publishing home of Calvin and Hobbes, The Far Side and similar off-beat humor. Besides his comic strips and other artistic creations, Friedrich is a co-creator of Raleigh’s annual SparkCon festival. Hinson is co-owner of the OddFellows advertising agency.

Durham sculptor Michael E. Waller ’97, whose works include “Major,” the bull adorning CCB Plaza, has created another huge work of art for the Bull City. “Reunion” now is a focal point of Durham Central Park. The piece was moved to the park after being exhibited at the N.C. Botanical Garden’s Sculpture in the Garden Show in Chapel Hill. Locating the 1,500-pound steel sculpture in the park represents “a lot of people pulling together to have some great art in downtown Durham,” said Ann Alexander, executive director of Durham’s Central Park. Waller is married to artist Leah Foushee Waller ’02. Together they operate WallerFoushee Studios in Durham.

The instrumental fusion band Snarky Puppy, with Chris Bullock ’03 on tenor saxophone, won this year’s Grammy for Best R&B Performance for its rendition of “Something,” featuring soul singer Lalah Hathaway.

Future Islands, the synth-pop band formed by three ECU students in Greenville in 2006, made an impression on David Letterman. Appearing as the musical guest on the late-night host’s show March 3, the band delivered a can’t-sit-still version of “Seasons,” a hit from their new album Singles. After their set, Letterman exclaimed, “I’ll take all of that you got!” On the next night’s show, Letterman repeatedly exclaimed, “Let’s dance” as the show cut to the band’s performance from the night before. Future Islands is compose of William Cashion ’06 (bass, acoustic and electric guitars), Samuel T. Herring (words and vocals) and Gerrit Welmers (keyboards). The band is now based in Baltimore.

After winning the award in February, the band released its eighth album, We Like It Here, on Ropeadope Records. After ECU, Bullock pursued a master’s degree at Michigan State and then a doctorate at North Texas University. There, he met bassist Mike League, the founder of Snarky Puppy. The band, now based in Brooklyn, tours extensively and often conducts musical workshops for local schools. Currently on an extended tour of Europe, the band played a sold-out show March 5 in Raleigh’s Southland Ballroom after filling up Charlotte’s Neighborhood Theatre on Feb. 13. The band went into the studio in April to record a new album with the Metropole Orchestra. You can follow the band on Bullock’s website, www.chrismbullo.com. His Twitter handle is @CeeBull.
THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF ECU’S HONORS COLLEGE HEADS INTO THE WORLD
First class

THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF ECU'S HONORS COLLEGE HEADS INTO THE WORLD
Financial perks originally drew Hannah Potter '14 to East Carolina University. But she says her Honors College experience is what ultimately made her past four years priceless.

Potter is one of approximately 50 inaugural Honors College seniors who received their degrees in May. They helped set the standard for what has become a model program.

“This college helps us compete with the University of Virginia, Duke, Elon, UNC-Chapel Hill, even Harvard,” says Kevin Baxter, associate dean for the Honors College.

In recent years, ECU has made great strides in the area of scholarship excellence, largely because of the impressive bundling of opportunities offered within the Honors College experience, he added.

When Potter entered the Honors College in fall 2010 as part of the first class, she was taken aback by the menu of opportunities offered to her, from community engagement to faculty interactions.

“The Honors College here is very supportive of student efforts,” she says. “It’s always open to discussion, and it encourages initiative.”

The Marshville native says she especially enjoyed the program’s community atmosphere and the ways it promotes leadership and service.

**From students to leaders**

To Potter and more than 50 others from the Honors College inaugural class, ECU’s spring commencement was also an “honorable discharge” into new ventures of leadership, scholarship, service and excellence throughout eastern North Carolina and beyond.

Administrators are confident these graduates are equipped to tackle the challenges ahead, thanks to the experiences they’ve collected over the past four years: rigorous academic course work, interdisciplinary seminars, intensive research, pre-professional internships, leadership development, immersive service-learning projects and study-abroad opportunities.

Marianna Walker, who became dean of the Honors College last July, called the college a “gem at ECU” because it raises the value of the individual honors student experience as well as the academic profile of the university at large. She says interest in the college has grown significantly the past couple of years, and the competition for admission is strong.

“Students who are also recruited for other top universities in North Carolina are choosing ECU as a result of our unique Honors College model, which includes financial, academic and service opportunities,” she says.

Annually since 2010, approximately 100 motivated, academically gifted freshmen have been accepted into the college, attracted by the gamut of benefits it offers. Those same benefits are enabling ECU to retain most of these students until they graduate.

All students accepted into the college receive base scholarships equal to the cost of in-state tuition, renewable for up to four years. Those who graduate early — and there are quite a few — are allowed to apply their fourth-year scholarships toward ECU graduate programs.

Other grants and scholarships can be stacked on top of the base one, including the top ECU undergraduate merit scholarships, the EC Scholars award — a $61,000 package presented to 20 outstanding freshmen annually.

Other Honors College benefits include on-campus housing within the living-learning community of Garrett Residence Hall, guaranteed admission into certain ECU graduate programs and unique co-curricular programming that augments regular honors courses to keep students challenged. Many optional enrichment opportunities — medical, cultural, entrepreneurial — are available.

“We back up all of our experiences with support,” Baxter says. “We find the resources to deliver. We never charge for participation. We want students to regard all these experiences as helping them toward success.”

Baxter says the Honors College at ECU has garnered a national reputation among public and private universities alike as the model to mimic. “We are the pioneers,” he says. “We researched the various elements of honors programs elsewhere, but the way we put them together is unique.

“Our Honors College is the university’s college,” he says. “It belongs to everyone. It touches everyone.” For example, faculty members for seminar classes change every year, and teaching opportunities are open and competitive.

In addition, 115 industry leaders across the state have given more than $10,000 each to the college, and increasing numbers of alumni and business leaders are participating in ECU honors events and mentoring honors students.

**Solid beginnings**

The original honors program at ECU grew out of an early 1970s movement within the English department to keep their brightest students challenged by adding more demanding course work. A few years later, those efforts had blossomed into a four-year model and branched out to other departments.

During the 1990s, around the same time the...
Honors College

INAUGURAL CLASS

STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

7 graduated in fewer than four years

53 graduated in May

GRADUATING CLASS GPA 3.78

THREE STUDENTS ATTENDING THE ECU SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

1 Fullerton Medical Scholarship Winner

11 EC Scholars

Robert H. Wright Award Winners

SIX STUDENTS ATTENDING THE BRODY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEGREES AWARDED

College of Business
College of Education
College of Engineering and Technology
College of Fine Arts and Communication
College of Health and Human Performance
College of Human Ecology
College of Nursing
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

1 3 2 6 7 6 7 41
EC Scholars award began under the guidance of then-chancellor Richard Eakin, the university appointed Michael Bassman the first director for the honors program.

“My goal was to encourage the students to be open-minded by thinking for themselves and stepping outside of their comfort zones,” says Bassman, who will retire in June from his most recent appointment as scholarship and fellowship advisor for the Honors College, taking with him the title of distinguished honors professor emeritus. “Every seminar was also a learning experience for me.”

Bassman says the Honors College develops well-rounded graduates, not only through solid academic experiences, but also through active community involvement close to campus and abroad.

In the late 2000s, ECU administrators hit another wall in their ongoing efforts to recruit and retain desirable numbers of academically elite students.

“There was no brand for them to connect to, no scholarship opportunities other than EC Scholars,” says Baxter, who was hired in 2010 to lead the transition from a program to a college. As part of that transition, the EC Scholars program moved into the Honors College under the leadership of Katie O’Connor.

That fall, although there was no formal application process or honors curriculum established, 103 previously enrolled ECU students were invited to join the Honors College inaugural class, and each of them received a $1,500-to-$2,000 scholarship. At the time, ECU was the only university in the state to offer a scholarship to every honors student.

The average unweighted high school grade-point average for this inaugural group was 3.77, and their average Scholastic Aptitude Test score was 1,254. From this cohort, 53 students are May graduates, six graduated early and 13 have chosen to stay at ECU at least one more semester.

Provost Marilyn Sheerer, who is stepping down in August, is often credited as the driving force behind the creation of the Honors College because she saw it as the ideal way to challenge top students while fulfilling the university’s historic mission of providing broad access to higher education.

Robert Brinkley, chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees, who was also instrumental in helping ECU transform the honors program into the formalized Honors College it is today, agrees.

“For ECU, it’s always been a challenge to reconcile the two parts of our mission—one being access and the other excellence,” Brinkley says. Simply raising general academic admissions standards to attract higher-achieving high school students, he says, can have the negative effect of keeping out students who have the potential to become very successful.

“The Honors College allows ECU to attract—and continually challenge—these highly motivated students without detracting from the access part of our mission,” Brinkley says. “It ensures we’re emphasizing the excellence side without changing the overall university profile too much,” he says. “An added bonus is that it raises the level of intellectual curiosity and academic excellence all across the campus over time.”

Walker says Honors College graduates will have a sense of philanthropy and loyalty to ECU. “Their success is East Carolina University’s success,” she says. “East Carolina University’s success is eastern North Carolina’s success.”

Valuable experiences

Despite having studied in India and Morocco on the way to her degree in multidisciplinary studies, Potter says the many hours she spent volunteering at an after-school program in west Greenville was one of the most valuable experiences she had during her Honors College tour.

Throughout her four years at ECU, Potter served 10 hours a week at the Little Willie Center, where she developed an ongoing, interactive nature-appreciation program for the children. She also created a service-learning program for them, which she hopes will continue for years to come.

Potter, a 2014 recipient of the university’s prestigious Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award, plans a stint or two serving vulnerable populations before entering graduate school and pursuing her long-range goal of becoming a college professor. Because she has an affinity for the struggles of women in the Middle East, she went so far as to seek out a local Syrian to tutor her in Arabic during her spare time.

Baxter says Honors College students have served 18 nonprofit organizations in Pitt County in recent months through the curriculum’s required Impact Projects. He says students are always thrilled by the chance to affect the region by directly applying the leadership philosophies they’ve studied.

“It’s all about engaging others in the lives of these students,” says Baxter. “We want them to form mutually beneficial relationships that allow them to explore their individual, unique passions.”
Christine Gurganus
Hometown: Chocowinity, N.C.
Major: Mechanical engineering
Graduation: May 2014
- EC Scholar
- Internship at NASA White Sands Test Facility, Las Cruces, N.M., summer 2013
- Internship at the Technische Universitat Darmstadt in Germany, summer 2012
- Research assistant in the ECU Department of Engineering on a project for the N.C. Department of Transportation, 2011-2012, 2012-2013
- Employed by the U.S. government at the Fleet Readiness Center, operated by NAVAIR and housed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

“I came in as a premed major, took one engineering course just to explore what it was like, ended up loving it, changed my major to biomedical engineering, then realized I didn’t want to do anything medical. It was an evolution. ECU allowed me that flexibility.

“A lot of Honors College students are from North Carolina, and we all have this common goal to improve this region that we’ve come from. If you put a whole bunch of students together with a common goal like that, the outcome is going to be amazing.”
The Mayor of Midtown
Steve Brown remade a Raleigh mall into a whole new retail experience.
They say a smart shopkeeper lives over his store, which Steve Brown does, or at least he has his office there.

Brown ’78 works out of a second-floor suite in the heart of North Hills in Raleigh. His company, Kane Realty Corp., has spent the past 14 years transforming the rundown 50-year-old mall into an upscale urban neighborhood. As senior vice president and director of retail leasing for Kane Realty, Brown essentially is the neighborhood’s landlord.

Outside his office, one can see a cornucopia of stores, apartments and a hotel. This view makes it clear why North Hills isn’t called a mall anymore. It’s an urban village.

“Our vision was to create a community where you can live, work, eat and play without ever really leaving home,” Brown says. “And if you do have to leave, we’re right on the Beltline so we’re convenient to about everything in the Triangle.”

Furnished
Steve Brown has led the transformation of an outdated shopping mall and its surroundings into a modern shopping, dining and business center.
You could call Brown the mayor of Midtown, but he would laugh. Despite the sophistication of the community he is helping to build, Brown is an unassuming person who blushes when people say he could be the twin of former Raleigh mayor Charles Meeker, which happens frequently.

He also is a deeply religious person who lives his faith through service to the less fortunate. He and his wife, Joanne Jordan Brown '80, regularly volunteer with Church in the Woods, which ministers to the homeless in Raleigh and feeds them every weekend in Moore Square downtown.

“I have worked with Steve for 30 years, on and off, and he is just as solid as you can find,” says company owner John Kane. “He is very committed to his faith and family. He is an outstanding professional and an outstanding person. That’s the reason I care so deeply about him.”

At first, ‘I did not do well’

Brown appreciates his business success because he knows how far he has come.

“I was the first person in my family to go to college,” he says. “I grew up in Nashville, North Carolina, and my parents were working people.” His dad worked for the Nash County school bus garage; his mother was a homemaker.

“I majored in business; I had some good professors who pointed me into real estate, and that led me here,” he says, motioning over his shoulder to a splash of high-end logos. “East Carolina changed my life; it really did. And I’ll always be grateful.”

Brown moved to Wilmington after graduation and took a job selling houses.

“I did not do well,” he says with a grin. “So I came back home and lived with my parents for three months trying to figure out what I wanted to do. And then I got a job with the state in Raleigh. I did not see myself being a career state employee, but I needed a job.”

After two-and-a-half years, Brown took another job in residential real estate.

“I was hosting a Parade of Homes showing for a builder I represented. A friend came through who was a classmate at ECU (Nathan Milian ’81) who also was a business major. He said he worked with Kane Realty, and they were looking for someone to do retail leasing.”

After talking it over with his wife, he joined Kane Realty in May 1985.

A native of Henderson, John Kane started his company in Greenville in 1978. By the time Kane and Brown met, the company had developed several retail properties in eastern North Carolina. Among the first projects Brown worked for Kane was the leasing of a second expansion of the Greenville Mall—or what was then called The Plaza. Kane developed the area of the mall that now includes Belk.

Kane Realty grew quickly over the next dozen years and assembled a portfolio of 25 retail properties. In 1997 the company sold all but two.

“Then we sat down and talked about what we wanted to do,” Brown recalls. “We decided to start over and focus on neighborhood shopping centers.”

But the company kept its eye on one piece of property in particular: North Hills.

“About that time we learned that the Dutch pension fund that owned North Hills was divesting its properties. They decided to split up their real estate assets and sell the properties in pieces. We got the piece across Lassiter Mill from the mall, and a New York company bought the mall.”

‘You won’t believe who just called’

Kane Realty’s property was anchored by a neighborhood grocery store. Around it were paint and hardware stores and a drive-through dry cleaner. It was the homier side of North Hills, overshadowed by the imposing, but aging, two-story mall across the street.

Kane began redeveloping and expanding its property while making overtures to the company that owned the mall. Their offers were repeatedly rebuffed.

Then one day Kane walked into Brown’s office and said, “You won’t believe who just called.”

North Hills was for sale, but they had to move fast. It would be a stretch for the company, but Kane thought he could make the numbers work if Brown was confident he could fill the stores with tenants.

“John and I saw this was a tremendous opportunity, but I told him that I didn’t think we could fix it because the physical plant at North Hills had so many problems. You could literally put a tennis ball on the floor and it would roll away.”

They devised a new plan for the property. Putting everything on the line in early 2000, they bought North Hills, tore it down and began building something Raleigh had never seen.

Midtown rises

What is now North Hills reopened in October 2004. Brown calls this type of development “recycling.”

The first two-story enclosed mall to be built between Washington and Atlanta, North
Hills was surrounded by acres of parking lots. Today, dozens of shops and restaurants stand where the parking lots once were. Rooftop solar panels generate power that heats the saltwater swimming pool at an apartment complex. Level-2 charging stations for electric cars are available. Golf car-like electric vehicles whisk shoppers around the site. Those touches earned awards for executing the Triangle market’s largest retail leases in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2011. In 2010 the publication honored him for completing the largest retail lease of the decade.

None of that is on his office wall. It might look like he was bragging. "And it still is."

Brown was recognized by the Triangle Business Journal for being a part of North Hills' success: his eye for creating the kind of shopping experience retailers desire.

"I can handle the business side of things, but what we build has to be guided by Steve's sense of the market—what will create the atmosphere that will make this an inviting place to come to and come back to," Kane says.

Brown gives a lot of the credit to his colleague Wendi Wood Howell '84, the company’s senior retail leasing agent. “Wendi and I have worked as a team for over 20 years,” Brown says.

North Hills also is a business center. The development has roughly 120,000 square feet of boutique office space, most of it above first-floor shops.

Across Six Forks, Kane Realty assembled 18 separate parcels into a 45-acre tract ripe for development. Their first project on that site, Captrust Tower, contains 300,000 square feet of mixed-use office space. Captrust is headed by J. Fielding Miller '84 of Raleigh, who is married to Kimberly Grice Miller '83. Surrounding Captrust Tower is a master-planned community that’s about half-finished. Eventually the parcel will have 1 million-plus square feet of office space, 300,000 square feet of retail space, more than 1,800 residential units and 800 hotel rooms. At the center will be another park.

When it’s all completed, Kane will have spent upward of $2 billion on the development.

Brown was recognized by the Triangle Business Journal for completing the largest retail lease of the decade.

None of that is on his office wall. It might look like he was bragging. "And it still is."

**Giving back to ECU**

Convinced that it was East Carolina that set him on a path toward North Hills, Brown is a dedicated volunteer and donor. He recently completed a two-year term as chair of the ECU Board of Visitors. He's a member of the Pirate Club and a life member of the East Carolina Alumni Association.

Brown says his best contribution to the Board of Visitors “was identifying talent and getting the right people in place to lead.” Among those he encouraged to take larger roles are current chairman Terry Yeargan '79 of Willow Spring, whom Brown persuaded to lead the Legislative Relations Committee; Angie Moss '97 '98 of Raleigh, who followed Brown as chair of the Engagement Committee; and Sabrina Bengel of New Bern and Brenda Myrick '92 of Raleigh, who became co-chairs of the Fundraising and Development Committee.

“These strong leaders have done an amazing job, and I could not be prouder of them,” Brown says.

Brown also worked to increase the diversity of the board. “I was pretty vocal about the need for our board to reflect our student body in its makeup. And while I haven't compared the metrics before and after my tenure as chair, I am pretty confident we had some success in this area.”

He also urged board members to give back to ECU. The board now funds four Access Scholarships.

He and his wife, Joanne, a former kindergarten teacher, have two daughters. Younger daughter Jordan Brown Shaw ’11 got married in November. Older daughter Mallory, who graduated from Meredith but is a big Pirate football fan, will be married in June.

Joanne Brown says her husband “likes to read, play golf and cook. He also really enjoys playing his guitar. But what he mainly does is, he just adores his daughters. And his dog.”

Yeargan says Brown “possesses the rare talents that we all admire and aspire to have ourselves—integrity, discipline and strong character.” He says his friend “is guided by faith to truly do the right thing for everyone.”

For more than 15 years the Browns have been part of a group of around a dozen couples that meets regularly for Bible study. They also are in a supper club with former friends and neighbors in the Zebulon area where they previously lived.

They met as students at ECU. “Both of us were lucky enough to (have been trained for) professions that we truly enjoy,” Joanne Brown says. “I hear people say they just want to get through the workweek, but we are so excited that we have professions that we truly enjoy, and ECU equipped us for those jobs.”

Back at his office, Brown leans against the rail on his balcony and reflects.

“After I got my driver's license when I was in high school at Northern Nash, I would drive up to Raleigh to buy school clothes in the fall, and I came here to North Hills. I remember thinking then that this was a pretty wonderful place.

“And it still is.”
A brief war leaves lingering woes

East Carolina researchers seek clues about and treatments for Gulf War illness
In the 1991 Gulf War, Troy Bundy was part of a U.S. Army unit sent to destroy the Iraqi weapons storage facility at Khamisiyah.

Explosives set by a demolition crew blasted smoke and fire into the sky, creating what some described as a “mushroom cloud.”

“We all stood back and watched the cloud go up,” says Bundy, now a general contractor who lives in the Martin County community of Farm Life. “The next thing you know, the stuff just started landing around us. We crawled up under the Jeep to get out of it.”

The Army thought the facility contained only conventional munitions. The military later determined it housed sarin gas.

“Nobody checked it,” Bundy says. “They just blew it up.”

Today, Bundy thinks he might be feeling some of the effects from that blast and all the pills and shots he was given to fend off the effects of chemical and biological weapons during the war.

That’s why researchers at East Carolina University are studying the causes of Gulf War illness and medicines that might be able to treat it. In addition to performing controlled trials of the pharmaceuticals, the ECU team will study inflammation markers in the blood to see if a diagnostic test for the mysterious illness can be developed.

Dr. William Meggs, a medical toxicologist and professor of emergency medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, is leading the $1.1 million study. Kori Brewer, a neurophysiologist at ECU, is a co-investigator studying blood tests that could aid in the diagnosis of Gulf War illness.

The study was scheduled to end this year but will continue through 2015 as Meggs wanted to recruit more veterans to participate. He expects to publish his findings in an academic journal next year.

Gulf War illness is the name given to the chronic fatigue, chronic pain, difficulty with mental tasks and other symptoms suffered by some who served in the war and its aftermath. It affects almost one-third, or about 250,000, of the veterans who served in the war, according to the federal Institute of Medicine.

Meggs says the illness is thought to be related to toxic exposures in the war zone, and the study aims to further the research into the effectiveness of generic drugs that control brain inflammation that might have been triggered by neurotoxin exposures.

Of 301 veterans interviewed by researchers about their experiences in the war, 46 who developed symptoms of Gulf War illness are participating in the study. They come from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee.

The study is funded by the Department of Defense.

On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait. Within five days, the United States had begun to deploy troops to Southwest
Asia. U.S. and coalition forces began air attacks on Jan. 16, 1991; the ground war began Feb. 23. Five days later, combat ended. The last troops to participate in the ground war returned home that June, and oil-well fires set by retreating Iraqi forces were extinguished by November 1991.

While the operations were considered successful, with few battle injuries and deaths, veterans soon began reporting numerous health problems that they attributed to the war. The unexplained symptoms included fatigue, muscle and joint pain, loss of concentration, forgetfulness, headache, respiratory complaints, rashes, sleep disturbances and gastrointestinal distress.

Bundy joined the Army after graduating from Williamston High School in 1987 and left the service in 1991 after serving with the famed 82nd Airborne in Iraq. He has talked with other Gulf War veterans and followed what they say about their health on websites and in social media. He sees some similarities with his own health.

“I don’t go to the doctor when I’m sick,” he says. “I work through it. But I know I have had a lot of joint pain and gastrointestinal issues and headaches. It seems to be connected to what they have. It’s very consistent.” He added that his symptoms don’t limit his activities.

Immediately after the war, Gulf War illness was attributed to post-traumatic stress disorder. Others claimed that it was a psychological illness. Ross Perot, the billionaire and former presidential candidate, funded the first serious investigation of it.

The Department of Veterans Affairs then founded a research advisory committee to direct research efforts on the illness. Meggs was asked to serve in 2002. On this committee, he developed a deeper knowledge of the illness, met many Gulf War veterans and formulated an approach to the illness.

Research shows those serving in the Gulf War had exposures to sarin nerve gas from Scud missiles and demolition of ammunition dumps containing it, such as at Khamisiyah. Neurotoxic insecticides chemically similar to sarin were used to spray tents to control sand fleas. Troops also received a drug to prevent sarin from binding irreversibly at nerve junctions but that has similar toxicities.

Troops were also exposed to smoke from oil well fires in Kuwait, depleted uranium, multiple vaccinations and oil sprayed on the sand in camps to reduce dust.

Studies have found a higher prevalence of symptom-reporting in Gulf War veterans than in nondeployed Gulf War-era veterans or other groups, the IOM noted. The symptoms veterans report don’t often point to an obvious diagnosis, cause or specific treatment, complicating efforts to determine whether a unique syndrome exists.

In addition, the war was nearly 25 years ago, and many veterans have developed other illnesses. Treatment for those complicates treatment for their Gulf War symptoms, says ECU researcher Allison Mainhart.

Todd Bond, who was an Army private when he served in Iraq in 1991, says he began noticing unusual symptoms about five years ago, including memory loss, anger issues and fatigue. During his service, he says, he was given a pill to take every day to ward off dangers such as chemicals and pollutants.

“Yes, I definitely think it is real,” he says. Although he’s been working to get in better physical condition, he still feels tired and thinks his Gulf War experiences might have something to do with it.

“I just can’t put my finger on it,” he says.
A ‘transformational leader’

UNC HONORS THE LATE LEO W. JENKINS
A 'transformational leader'

UNC HONORS THE LATE LEO W. JENKINS

national leader'

ATE LEO W. JENKINS
Leo W. Jenkins would not look upon his latest triumph as a personal gain. Instead, it would be a victory for East Carolina University and its region.

Jenkins was posthumously honored April 10 with the University Award, the highest accolade given by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors for distinguished service to higher education. Jenkins’ son, N.C. Special Superior Court Judge Jack W. Jenkins, accepted the medallion on behalf of his siblings, who took the stage with him to a standing ovation.

Jenkins expressed pride in his father’s achievements and the impact he had on statewide higher education and quality of life.

“As his son, as a proud graduate of East Carolina University, as a career public servant striving to live up to my father’s legacy, and as a lifelong Down East resident, I do, in fact, walk taller, as do all eastern Carolinians, because of Leo Warren Jenkins,” he said. “I’m certain my father would be deeply moved” by this honor.

The atmosphere in the George Watts Hill Alumni Center in Chapel Hill was reverent as the highlights of Jenkins’ legacy were summarized in a UNC-TV video, which played to the more than 275 guests.

UNC President Tom Ross said Jenkins “dared and prodded eastern North Carolina to dream big.” He added, “He helped instill in the region a sense of pride and can-do spirit that never waned.”

ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard detailed how Jenkins’ work has affected not only the growth in academic programs at the school but also the leaders who have steered the university since Jenkins retired in 1978.

“He was a transformational leader. Leo Jenkins was a giant whose legacy lives on in dozens of ways. . . . The only negative that I can think of about Dr. Jenkins is that all chancellors who have succeeded him live in his shadow,” said Ballard.

“It is rare during our board meetings that I’m not asked, ‘How would Leo have handled this?’” Ballard continued. “I often wish I could have asked him.”
The change-maker

Jenkins stood at the helm during some of ECU's most bustling, productive years in the 1960s and '70s. He rallied campus and community to focus on expanding the reach and impact of what was then East Carolina College.

By the time the dust settled, Jenkins was credited with changing the face of ECU and spurring a chain reaction across the state as other colleges began realizing their potential. Among countless accomplishments, Jenkins guided the college to university status, fought for a medical school and oversaw expansions of academic, medical and athletic facilities. He also was instrumental in integrating campus without a court order, boosted support for creative and performing arts and pursued changes on campus that reverberated from the student body to citizens across the East.

"With his sense of selfless devotion, Leo Jenkins established a gold standard that we continue to honor and stand in awe of," said John Tucker, ECU professor of history and university historian, "and we continue to emulate that to the best of our ability."

Named dean of ECC in 1947 by then-Chancellor John Messick, Jenkins first turned heads because of his New Jersey roots and accent. It didn't take long for his character to win over the campus and community, and he was named vice president in 1955. With a background as a Marine Corps officer as well as an education that included a master's degree from Columbia University and a doctorate in education from New York University, Jenkins was worldly and brought a fresh perspective to ECC leadership.

By the time he was named president of ECC in 1960, Jenkins had a solid support system in place. His belief in East Carolina's potential was infectious, and he rallied students, faculty and community members to expect more from the growing college. Then he took that campaign statewide.

His push for a medical school was met with skepticism by state politicians and leaders of other universities, who saw a medical school in Greenville as a threat to their funding and resources.

"He was a thorn in the side of the rest of the state," said David Whichard, former editor of The Daily Reflector and family friend. "He had the character of both a ne'er-do-well and a hero, and he did both well."

His campaign for university status for ECC also threatened to rock the state's higher-education system that centered around one university and smaller colleges across the state. When ECC became East Carolina University in 1967, the campus and region could more easily picture how the institution could bring economic productivity, better health care and cultural growth.

"He saw the potential in eastern North Carolina and this institution," Whichard said, "not what we could build today, but what comes tomorrow."

Causing a stir

Yellowed newspaper pages from years gone by are testaments to the tumult Jenkins caused during those formative years. Editorials decried his efforts to take East Carolina to new heights, and political cartoons depicted him as a menace looking to shake the foundation of higher education in the state.

Leaders in state government and higher education urged Jenkins to back down, saying it was not the right time for East Carolina to expand its mission.

"It's not an easy life to be challenged repeatedly by other people," said Jim Bearden, who holds the longest continuous tenure as a professor at ECU and witnessed the campus growth during Jenkins' tenure, "and his was a lonely role in that regard, but he carried it well."

Jenkins used the cartoons and criticism as catalysts for his vision. His notoriety also meant people across the state caught wind of whatever criticism came his way fall right off his shoulders," Bearden said. Jenkins also had an instinct for handling issues that had the potential to shake the university's foundation. He implemented integration gradually so it naturally occurred over time before government mandate.

"He accomplished desegregation without a court order," said Ballard, "and he did it because he thought it was the right thing to do."

Jenkins' spirit sparked a renewed energy not only in Greenville but also in communities in the East that stood to benefit from a stronger East Carolina institution. "He was one of the greatest things to happen to eastern North Carolina," Whichard said. "He was a great hero to all of us."

Jack Jenkins said his father would consider the University Award the result of countless supporters' efforts to see ECU serve the region and state to its highest potential.

"My dad would not take any personal credit, but rather would accept this on behalf of the Pirate Nation," he said. "It's nice to be recognized, but he knew that East Carolina's success was a team effort, and that team includes generations of true Pirates everywhere."

"He was not the kind of man who was looking to leave a monument or have his name on buildings," Tucker said. "He didn't expect to be recognized; he didn't do it for the glory."

Despite his expectations, Jenkins' name adorns campus and community buildings, such as the Jenkins Fine Arts Center and the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center.

Although Jenkins died in 1989, the reverberations of his achievements are still being measured today.

"It's only at this point that people are beginning to fully realize in ways that can't be denied the truly incredible legacy that Leo Jenkins left ECU, the campus, region, state and nation," Tucker said. "Now it's clear. Whatever happens next, our record is officially solid."

Jeannine Manning Hutson contributed to this article.
An Eagle makes a splash

Swimmer Eyan Eagle aims to follow his parents’ paths at ECU
Eyan Eagle will join East Carolina’s swimming and diving teams this fall under longtime coach Rick Kobe, working to duplicate the success of the athletes Kobe has coached during three decades at ECU. But Eagle is a little different. He’s following both of his parents who swam and dove for Kobe in the 1980s.

Scott ’86, ’92 and Lisa Sink Eagle ’93 were in the Pirate dive and swim program when Kobe was starting his ECU career. They were part of Kobe’s first of many winning seasons. The veteran coach recently celebrated 500 career victories, becoming the winningest coach in ECU athletics history.

It was actually her mother who pointed to a photo of Scott Eagle in an ECU guidebook before she left for college. “She said ‘he would be a good one for you.’” Lisa Eagle says. “After I got here, I looked over at the diving board and said ‘who is that? It was sort of destiny.’”

Scott Eagle held the ECU varsity record on the 1-meter springboard from 1983-2003 and the varsity record on the 3-meter board from 1983-2005. An accomplished artist, he is director of graduate studies and assistant director of the School of Art and Design at ECU.

“It’s had hundreds and hundreds of kids, and Scott was very, very talented,” Kobe says. “He was an outstanding diver for us.”

Both majored in art, and the demands of being a student-athlete would show up periodically.

“He could sleep sitting up,” Lisa Eagle says. “For me, it was hard to get to sleep on time to get up at 5 a.m. to swim. Nobody else is on the same schedule as a swimmer.”

Eagle, who swims year round with East Carolina Aquatics, set a Minges Natatorium record in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:38.74 in December. He also is an ECA team record holder in the 200, 400 and 800 freestyle relays. ECA trains at Minges.

BY CRYSTAL BAITY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

Scott Eagle
Lisa Sink Eagle
Kobe’s teams leave trophies in their wakes

It’s hard to argue with a coaching philosophy that has yielded more than 500 career victories. That’s the mark that ECU swim coach Rick Kobe notched this spring to become the winningest coach in Pirate athletics history.

“Every year I say, ‘This was the best year we’ve ever had,’” Kobe says. “Every single year I say that. And this was the best year we’ve ever had. And next year we will be even better.”

Kobe is the sixth swim coach at the NCAA Division 1 level to surpass 500 career victories. He ranks second nationally among active college coaches. ECU has had only three swim coaches in the program’s 61-year history: Ray Martinez from 1953-66, Ray Scharf from 1967-82, and Kobe for the past 32 years. He was an assistant for two years under Scharf, so Kobe has been at ECU for a total of 34 years.

He has piles of plaques and trophies, but the two displayed most prominently in his office are recognitions the women’s team earned the last two years running as Academic All-Americans.

“We put equal amounts of pressure on our athletes,” Kobe says. “Typically, every single semester our programs are recognized as academic All-American teams, every semester. Last spring semester our girls were the No. 1 team in the country.”

ECU swimmers and divers often qualify for the NCAA championships. This year, for the first time, the team sent men and women competitors to the nationals. Kobe says the team’s continuing success is a testament to the dedication of his student-athletes.

ECU has competed in three different conferences during Kobe’s long tenure, and he has won at least one championship in each.

“I have had 12 of my former assistant coaches leave to become head coaches of their own programs,” Kobe says. “So we have a pretty good tree out there across the country of ECU folks running swimming and diving programs.”

One of those is McGee Moody, the head swim and dive coach at the University of South Carolina.

Kobe is a successful coach because “he connects with his athletes early on and lets you know that you are part of a family,” says Moody.

—Steve Tuttle
program that regularly sends swimmers to the NCAA championships.

Lisa Eagle was surprised her son made only one recruiting trip, to ECU. “He had many other schools interested, but apparently he had already made up his mind,” she says. “It’ll be nice to be able to walk up the street to see some of the meets after traveling all these years—and I’ve already got a purple and gold wardrobe.”

He has been swimming competitively since he was 7. He trains upward of 13 hours in the pool each week and likes to surf and fish when he gets the chance. “Summers are double practice, up to 24 hours each week,” he says. “After big meets, we get to take a day off or play water polo.”

In March, he swam in Charlotte against Olympic gold medalists Cullen Jones and Ryan Lochte and 2012 NCAA champ Dax Hill in the Speedo Champions Series.

“They were really relaxed and willing to talk and share experiences,” Eagle says about meeting the trio. “It really was amazing that I got that opportunity. It helps give true perspective as to how hard you have to work to get to the level they are at.”

Despite his dedication, he considered quitting before high school but renewed his commitment. “I trained harder; the coaches helped out,” he says. “You have to have a good mindset. If you go in thinking you can’t do it, you won’t. Discipline is important. If you don’t try, you won’t get anywhere.”

Kobe expects Eagle to improve with hard work and focus. “This is a different level now but he has an opportunity,” Kobe says. “Everyone’s got potential. It’s only a word without 100 percent commitment. Our goal is to always get kids to reach their full potential. But they have to reciprocate it.”

East Scott, Evan and Lisa Eagle pose for a photo at Minges Natatorium.
Tyler Cook is a project engineer at Goneau Dishner Construction, Design and Development, Southern Pines. Kelly Dunn is manager of Catalog Connection, Greenville. Christina Gill is an agent/producer in the property/casualty department of Modlin Insurance Agency. She was a cheerleader at ECU and now coaches one of the cheerleading squads. Lauren Keranakis is a production assistant at Our State magazine. Amanda Klinikowski performed in the musical Let’s Fly Away at the Ratio Theatre Co., New Bern, in spring 2014. Dr. Ellen Crowell Poland is a clinical audiologist at Eastern Carolina Ear, Nose and Throat, Greenville, and an adjunct instructor for the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

Emma Grace Bickett wed Robert Francis Lubanski on Oct. 12 at Unity Presbyterian Church, Fort Mill, S.C. The wedding party included William Justin Bickett, Stacy McDonald Cline ’11, Emily Susanne Podlitz and Samuel Everett Rabhan Jr. ’11. In Charlotte, she is an employment coordinator for Vanguard, and he is a business development analyst for Special Service Freight. Erin Waters Cutler ’12 ’13 is a staff accountant at Murphy and Bunch CPAs, Greenville. Brandon Hill is stationed at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., where he will earn his wings as a Naval flight officer after two years of training. Janelle Brockett Lewis ’12 ’14 is a public health education specialist in the Beaufort County Health Department. Aastha Jitendriya Naik was licensed as a CPA in North Carolina. Mary Catherine Nelson wed Andrew Mark Jerome on Dec. 28 at St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Greenville. She is a clinical research coordinator for Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn.

Two graduates of East Carolina’s master’s in maritime history program teamed up with colleagues from the University of Hawaii at Manoa to locate the sunken remains of a famous World War II Japanese submarine. Drs. James Delgado ’85 (left) and Hans Van Tilburg ’95 (right), who work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, mapped and retrieved artifacts from the submarine, the I-400. It is one of a few “super subs” built by Japan in the closing days of the war. More than 400 feet long with an extended range, the I-400 carried attack aircraft capable of hitting New York. At the end of the war the Americans sunk the I-400 to keep the technology from Russian hands, but that location was lost over the years. “At the time this thing was sunk, it and its sister ship were the most advanced submarines in the world,” Delgado said when the discovery was announced last winter. Delgado is director of NOAA’s Maritime Heritage Program. Van Tilburg is coordinator of the program.

Stephanie Ward Rose ’12 ’13 was licensed as a certified public accountant in North Carolina. Lee Welch joined Tidewater Physical Therapy, Richmond, Va.

Derek Jordan had the lead role in the musical Pippin performed by the RiverTowne Players, New Bern, in spring 2014. Joseph Michael Jordan wed Holly Lynne Nelson ’14 on Jan. 4 at Winterville (N.C.) Baptist Church. He is in the master’s in security studies degree program at ECU, and she will receive her speech and hearing sciences degree this summer. Aaron-John “AJ” Malicdem is a staff assistant and systems administrator in the Washington, D.C., office of Rep. G.K. Butterfield. Casey Rassau is the first graduate from the health informatics professional science master’s program at UNC Charlotte. She is a full-time business analyst.
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 107, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can email your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While East happily prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

Please send address changes or corrections to: Kay Murphy, Office of University Development, Greenville Center, Mail Stop 301, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, fax: 252-328-4904, or email murphyk@ecu.edu.

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with BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina. Lindsey N. Thompson ’11 ’12 works at Vendoz.net, a subsidiary of eBay, in Boynton Beach, Fla.

2010

Frances Herring is 2013-14 Principal of the Year for the Southeast Region. She is in her third year as principal at Contentnea-Savannah K-8 School near Kinston. Navy Seaman William A. Pernell IV completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Amanda Grace Rowan wed Darren Joseph Myers on Oct. 5, 2013, at The Yellow House, a B&B near Waynesville. The wedding party included Laura Beth Lee ’11 and Alicia Myers Lagasca. She is in a master’s in public administration degree program at UNC-Charlotte. She is a grant writer for the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte.


2009

Dr. José J. Hernandez joined the McLeod Family Health Center in Loris, S.C. Will Pack is department chair of the building construction technology program at Pitt Community College. Joel Brent Stocks ’09 ’11 was licensed as a CPA in North Carolina.

2008


April Brittany Philyaw ’08 ’11 wed Kevin Lee Aycock on Nov. 9 at Comfort (N.C.) Christian Church. The wedding party included Ashton Martin. She is a care manager at Coastal Carolina Health Care. He is a materials engineer at NAVAIR Cherry Point.
2007
Ashley Brooke Blalock wed Timothy Pratt Bass II on Oct. 19, 2013, at the Talbert Farm in Rougemont. The wedding party included Jordan Dean ’07 ’10 and Katherine Harris. She works at L&M Companies, Raleigh. Cpl. Michael Broadwell of the Greenville Police Department was recognized as Police Officer of the Year by the American Legion, Greenville Post 39. He was honored for his heroic behavior on several occasions, including during the apprehension of an armed and dangerous suspect in 2013. Dr. Kendra R. Knight received a nephrology fellowship at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. He was selected for one of two positions in the U.S. Army Medical Department.

Robin Calcutt, principal of New Century Middle School in Cameron, is Principal of the Year for the Sandhills/South Central region. Dr. Nick Jernigan is a pediatrician with Western North Carolina Pediatric and Adolescent Care, Sylva. He was with Wilmington Health in Wilmington. George Koonce is vice president of advancement at Marian University, Fond du Lac, Wis. He is a member of the ECU Hall of Fame and a former linebacker for ECU and the Green Bay Packers. Karen Whitaker was recognized as a Top RN Health Educator in North Carolina. She is featured in the 2014 Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare publication.

2006
2005
Lauren Renn Carnighan wed Michael William Short on Sept. 6 at Villa Petrolo, Tuscany, Italy. The wedding party included her sister Wesley Lynne Carnighan ’07. She is a senior account executive for Trina Turk, New York City. Robert Duck, South Central High School (Greenville) girls’ basketball coach, is the Daily Reflector’s Coach of the Year. Stacy Bowen Gaskins is an account manager for Copy Pro in Craven and Jones counties. Kia Barriteau Ikpe ’05 ’06 was licensed as a CPA in North Carolina.

Demetris Kenyon Long shot his first comedy pilot called Studio City in Los Angeles. The pilot will be pitched to networks this summer. Sherry G. Meador, principal at Fred A. Anderson Elementary School, Bayboro, is Principal of the Year for Pamlico County Schools. Clyde Simms retired as a midfielder for the New England Revolution and opened an indoor cycling studio in Dedham, Mass. He played nine seasons in Major League Soccer.

2004
Jennifer Marie Causey wed Matthew Donald Sonstroem on Oct. 26 at Apex United Methodist Church, Apex. She teaches in Wake County Public Schools. Jon Deutsch received the U.S. Sailing Association’s 2013 One Design Leadership award for excellence in laser fleet building and regatta organizing. Tevis Harris, Jones Elementary School (Rocky Mount) assistant principal, is the 2013-14 N.C. Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year. Dr. Derrick Jordan is superintendent of Chatham County Schools. He was the interim superintendent. Carol Lassiter was appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to the Historic Murfreesboro Commission. Dr. M. Sutton Schilawski joined Bladen Eye Center in Elizabethtown.

Michael Grover was selected to fill a vacancy on the Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Board of Education. He is director of implementation of strategic initiatives for OptiCare Managed Health.

A 30-foot-tall work of modern art created by Jan Craft ’77 of Gastonia now welcomes visitors to Cramerton, the historic mill village west of Charlotte. More than a year in the planning, creation and installation, the sculpture stands at the roundabout on Lakewood Road, near the new Stuart Cramer High School. Craft constructs her works with steel and stainless steel with colorful details produced by powder coating. After ECU, Craft obtained a master’s of fine art degree in sculpture and metal-smithing from Southern Illinois University.
Johnsrude family establishes scholarship

Mrs. Wanda Johnsrude of Greenville and her five children have established a scholarship in memory of her husband, Dr. Irwin Stanley “John” Johnsrude. The scholarship provides a need-based scholarship to a deserving student at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University who serves the university community in a similar fashion as the late Johnsrude, who died in 2010.

“It is such an honor to be able to help a medical student,” Wanda Johnsrude said. “Philanthropy was very important to my husband, as he worked his way through school and knew the difficulties firsthand.”

Johnsrude was born in Calcutta, India, to missionary parents. His family relocated to Canada, where he received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Saskatchewan and medical degree from the University of Manitoba. He completed his internship at Winnipeg General Hospital and practiced general medicine for four years in North Dakota. He then pursued advanced training in radiology, completing a residency in general radiology and a fellowship in cardiovascular radiology at the University of Minnesota.

The Johnsrudes married in 1955. In 1965, he arrived at Duke University Medical Center, where he developed a program in cardiovascular radiology that became internationally renowned. He remained at Duke for 13 years, attained the rank of full professor, spoke frequently at national and international conferences and taught many aspiring radiologists.

In 1978, he was recruited to join Eastern Radiologists and was given a faculty appointment to the medical school at ECU. While in Greenville, Johnsrude continued his academic productivity. He continued teaching and practicing medicine until his retirement.

In 2002, he received the Silver Medal from the North Carolina chapter of the American College of Radiology for his outstanding work and impact on patients, families and practitioners. Johnsrude touched many lives with his empathy, warmth and a humility that was remarkable for a man with his many accomplishments.

‘I wanted to lean forward’

Dasha Little ‘81 represents her alma mater well through her company’s support of injured service members. She and her husband, Kirk Little ‘82, also are faithful contributors to several programs at East Carolina University.

Little has donated to academic affairs, the colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Business, Fine Arts and Communications, and Health and Human Performance, and student life. She is one of the Incredible Women of ECU. She joined the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation board in February and spoke at the ECU Women’s Roundtable in October.

Little founded Apogee Solutions Inc. in 2002 in Chesapeake, Va. The company provides allied health management, operations, Vision in Rocky Mount. Chris Meadows ’03 ’06, principal of Jones Senior High School in Trenton was named Principal of the Year by the N.C. Association of Educators. In 2013 he was named Principal of the Year by Jones County Public Schools.

Diane Miller ’03 ’10 is town manager for Oriental. She is the first woman to hold the position.

Diana McCormick Strickland received the 2014 Distinguished Sonographer Award from the American Institute of Ultrasound Medicine. She is a clinical assistant professor and co-director of ultrasound in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at ECU’s Brody School of Medicine.

He is assistant director of ECU’s Graduate School in the College of Business. Jennifer Worsley is assurance director at McGladrey LLP in Rocky Mount. She was an assurance manager with the company.

Brooke Banson is volunteer recruitment director for Girl Scouts-North Carolina Coastal Pines. Anthony W. Dixon is participating in the 2014 Chancellor’s Fellows Program at Troy University in Alabama. He is assistant professor of hospitality, sport and tourism management on the Troy Campus and interim director of the School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management.

Sabra Hassler is a lead manufacturing engineer at Rheem in Ft. Smith, Ark. She was employed by BMW in Greenville. S. C. Paul Russell ’02 ’04 is the Kiwanis Club of Ayden-Grifton’s Kiwanian of the Year.

2002

2001

Marvin N. Arrington Jr. was sworn in as a member of the N.C. African American Heritage Commission. He is chair of the Little Willie Center Community Development Corp. Cori Cagle’s paintings, “Everywhere and All the Time,” were exhibited at the Randolph Arts Guild in Asheboro in April 2014. She teaches art at Hopewell Elementary School in Trinity.

Chris Howell is head football coach at Riverside High School in Durham after serving as an assistant coach at the school for three seasons. He was a four-year letterman as a defensive lineman for ECU.

2000

Donna Dees Aldredge and husband, Christopher, had their third child in 2014. Marybeth Eason ’00 ’01 was promoted to business services officer at BB&T, Greenville. Katie Matthews...
Elder, senior vice president and consumer market manager at Capital Bank in Franklin, Tenn., graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University in 2013. Brad Hufford ’00 ’09 is associate director-retention and expansion at the Pitt County Development Commission. He was the community and economic planner for the town of Ayden. Jennifer James ’00 ’11 is principal at Stokes School in Pitt County. She was assistant principal at North Pitt High School near Greenville.

Jake Forbes merged his Hertford real estate agency with another eastern North Carolina office in Edenton, which is now known as United Country/Dowd Forbes Realty. His partner is John Dowd ’71. Michael McNally ’99 ’01 is director of existing industry services for Catawba County Economic Development Corp. He was president and CEO of Burke County’s Chamber of Commerce. Chris Mills is CFO and COO of Computech in Bethesda, Md.

Harry H. Albritton Jr. was named to the Rising Star list as one of the top up-and-coming attorneys in North Carolina in the area of medical malpractice for the third consecutive year. He co-owns the Greenville law firm Dawson & Albritton P.A. David Philyaw was promoted to senior vice president of the building division at T.A. Loving Co.

Niki McAdams is a broker associate with Century 21 The Combs Co. in Rocky Mount.

training and technology integration to government and private sector organizations. She is president and CEO of the company while Kirk Little, who recently was inducted into the ECU Distinguished Military Service Society, is vice president and chief operations officer.

Apogee Solutions has more than 160 employees in 13 states and the District of Columbia and provides valued health management, technology integration, and operations, training, and logistics consulting services to U.S. government.

“I wanted to lean forward and use my creativity to venture into the counseling and student services career field,” said Little, who completed a master’s degree in counseling while her husband was serving in the Air Force.

“At that time I knew that having a portable degree and skills would make me employable in many duty sites and in many work situations. My love of people and serving led me to the vocational rehabilitation career field.

“I am very thankful for the excellent instructors and administrators at ECU who saw promise and leadership qualities within me and called those capabilities forward to be my passion and vocational direction,” Little said.

Little said that ECU has become a “destination and a lifestyle of living” that aids her business.

“It has helped Kirk and I learn to focus on the fact that people are important, relationships are to be valued, and leadership and influence are to be shared. We are grateful to be proud Pirates and sing ECU’s praises often,” she said.

The Littles’ four children attended or attend ECU. Forrest Little graduated in 2009, followed by sister Meredith in 2012. Younger brothers Robert and Raleigh Little are current students.

—Lauren Edmondson

Honoring a father’s wish

Sandy Reel of Winterville talks about what motivated her and her husband to include ECU in their estate plans:

“Our journey to Laupus Library began in 2010 shortly before my dad, Bernard Sandick, died. It was his profound wish that I include in my estate plan, as well as my husband’s, George, one of the two universities where he received his degrees. (He received an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master’s in psychology from ECU.)

“I grew up in Greenville, and East Carolina College as I knew it then, had always been a part of my family’s life. So my decision was easy. I just didn’t know the how and the where to keep the promise that I had made to my dad.

“As a young boy growing up in Chicago during the depression, most of his free time was spent in the public library. He would tell me that the library saved him from the streets and propelled him to graduate from two universities and into the field of economics and psychology.

“It wasn’t until I accidently ran into a Kiwanian friend, Dr. Dorothy Spencer, then director of the Laupus Library, that I realized Laupus was a serious consideration. The final signing took place at the Laupus Library.

“Nestled in the heart of the medical community of the university is this powerhouse of digital technology. I thought of the students that entered these doors and the impact that these future health professionals would make in the medical field. I also realized that Laupus must be ready to meet the needs of these students. One thing became critically apparent: Laupus would need financial support, not only from the university level, but from the private funding sector.

“As I left Laupus the day of the final signing, I thought about the connection of the young boy in Chicago, sitting in a quiet nook in a library, and the final signing at Laupus, also a library. My husband and I kept our promise to my dad and in doing so we honored his memory.”

1995

Suzanne Bradham Craft wed Linwood Scott Jones ’91 on Oct. 19 at the Major Benjamin May Chapter House in Farmville. She is a vice president with BB&T managing loan services client support. He teaches in Greene County Schools and is the varsity baseball coach for Greene Central High School. Heather Forshey is environmental health director for San Mateo County, Calif. She was deputy director of environmental health in Santa Clara County and an advisory council member for the Bay Area Quality Management District, Calif. Cheryl Hinton

1997

Dr. Wafa Badwan ’97 ’05 joined Cabell Huntington Hospital and Marshall Internal Medicine in Huntington, W.Va. She is certified in internal medicine and nephrology by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is an assistant professor with the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

1998

Chris Mills is CFO and COO of Computech in Bethesda, Md.

1999

Harry H. Albritton Jr. was named to the Rising Star list as one of the top up-and-coming attorneys in North Carolina in the area of medical malpractice for the third consecutive year. He co-owns the Greenville law firm Dawson & Albritton P.A. David Philyaw was promoted to senior vice president of the building division at T.A. Loving Co.

1996

Niki McAdams is a broker associate with Century 21 The Combs Co. in Rocky Mount.
Hooks exhibited her artwork at the Teresa Pelt Grubb Fine Arts Gallery at the University of Mount Olive in winter 2014. She is a professor of fine arts at the university. Rick Stout ’95 ’99 is superintendent of Onslow County Schools. He was superintendent of Scotland County Schools.

Charles Paul III was post-humously honored by a Raleigh memorial for Raleigh police officers killed in the line of duty.

Dr. Virginia Hardy, ECU vice chancellor for student affairs, was elected to the ElectriCities board of directors. She is chair of the Greenville Utilities board of commissioners.

Angela Robbins Carapella is the Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year for the state of Florida. She was also chosen as physical education resource teacher for Pinellas County, Fla. Steven Combs is director of the N.C. Criminal Justice Standards Division. He was an assistant special agent in charge for the State Bureau of Investigation in its Jacksonville office. Karin Morrison joined Select Physical Therapy in Greenville, where she is a physical therapist and certified hand therapist.

Kristin Gibson’s artwork was part of the “No Boundaries International Art Colony 2013 Exhibition” at the Wilma W. Daniels Gallery at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington. Rodney Jackson ’90 ’92 is dean of the School of Business, Engineering and Technical Studies at Davidson County Community College in Lexington. Lori McLelland ’90 ’03 teaches music and theatre arts at Rosealea Academy in Farmville. Andrew D. Schmidt ’90 ’97, interim executive director for the Greenville-Pitt County Convention & Visitors Bureau, was elected to the board of directors of the N.C. Travel Industry Association for a two-year term.

Derrick “Sleepy D” Parker was the writer/director/producer of his first feature film, From Faith to Freedom.

Gary Woodlief is president of North State Bank’s CommunityPLUS division. He was chief business development officer for the bank.

Matthew Lewis John Clarke wed Margaret Hooper Turner on March 15 at St. James Parish in Wilmington. He is a radio personality at 94.9 “The Surf” in Ocean Drive Beach, S.C., and owns m2advertize.com.

Bryan Buck was appointed to the Historic Murfreesboro Commission by Gov. Pat McCrory. He owns Buck Insurance Agency in Gates County. Don Hale received the President’s Award for outstanding service with Community Health Systems. He was also recognized for 15 years of service as their most senior patient financial services regional director. Medrick Rainbow is vice president and general manager of the Rockford, Ill., location of Packaging Coordinators Inc.

Lisa Carter’s third novel, Beneath a Navajo Moon, was published by Abindgon Press in 2014. Mary Charlene Evans is the Northeast Region Teacher of the Year. She teaches math and heads the math department at Plymouth High School in the Washington County school system.

Gary and Ann Nemcosky ’86 exhibited their artwork at the Old Rock School in Valdese in winter 2013. William T. Sneed Jr. was promoted to director at Dixon Hughes Goodman Wealth Advisors in Raleigh, where he was a vice president.

Rickey Godwin III is chair of the board of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. He is a partner at McGladrey LLP, Wilmington.

Dr. Wiley T. Cockrell ’83 ’87, a physician in Rocky Mount, received two awards: the Patients Choice Award and Compassionate Doctor Recognition.

Laura Warren Wheeler was selected to fill an unexpired term on the Newton Grove board of commissioners. Her term ends in 2015.

Charles Ashley Briley wed Sylvia Wells Starling on Dec. 15 at Yankee Hall Plantation, Greenville. Jerry D. Chase is president and CEO of Bsquare Corp. He was the interim CEO and is on the board of ECU’s BB&T Center for Leadership Development. Dewana Jo Scearce Holt served with Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International in Nicaragua from March 15-22 in the village of Casa Blanca, where the team provided health, dental and eye care to 2,000 Nicaraguans in three days.

Michael Jordan ‘81 ’89, vice president of student services at Edgecombe Community College, received a Distinguished College Administrator award from Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for students attending two-year schools. Robert Ladd III joined Providence Bank as its market executive for Tarboro and Edgecombe County.

Jeff Tripplett completed the paralegal certificate program at the University of South Carolina.

Phil Hodges ’79 ’84 was named the 2013 Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. He retired as CEO of Metrics in Greenville in 2013, but is working to fund three new pharmaceutical companies.

Dennis Myers Huggins, director of development for Wilkes County Schools, was selected president of the Wilkes Community Foundation. He is also on the governing board of the Wilkes County Hall of Fame and vice president of the Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce.

James Edwards is director of communications at Vance-Granville Community College. He was publisher of The Daily Dispatch in Henderson.

David P. Hope wrote Summer Heat, which depicts incidents from his 30-year law enforcement career while paralleling adventures from his sailing lifestyle culminating in a tragedy at sea, a high-seas rescue and the aftermath.

C. Colon Willoughby Jr. retired as Wake County district attorney, an office he held since 1983.

Carl Rogers of Wrightsville Beach was appointed to a two-year term as executive president of the ECU Educational Foundation, better known as the Pirate Club. Rogers is president of DuBose National Energy Services in Clinton. His children are Richard Rogers ’00 ’02 and Jody Rogers Swing ’98 ’99. Darrell Rudisill is a real estate agent with Williams & Associates Realtors in Greenville. For 30 years, he taught math, carpentry and construction technology in Pitt County Schools, for 10 years at Pitt Community College and construction management at ECU.

Robert D. Teer Jr. received Durham’s annual Civic Honor Award. He is the third generation of his family to receive the award.
1920s

Esther Mason Fulcher ’27 of Stacy died Feb. 24 at 105. She was a teacher at Stacy and Cove City and probably was East Carolina’s oldest living graduate.

Josephine Atkinson “Pete” Hill ’29 of Burlington died March 5 at 95. At ECTC she was editor of the Tecoan and in Who’s Who in American Universities and Colleges. She joined Saco-Lowell in Sanford in the early 1940s as their first female tool designer.

Marie Tharrington Brown ’39 of Durham died April 4 at 95. She taught school in Nash County and worked for the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C.

1930s

Mary Anna Jones Ball ’56 of Kinston died Feb. 14. She taught in the business department at Lenoir Community College. Nalber

1940s

Estaline Tew Bass ’42 from Clinton died July 6, 2013, at 92. She taught 37 years in Sampson County Schools.

Mary Emma Jefferson Burnett ’44 of Fountain died March 11 at 90. She taught school. Hellen Gedeo Edwards ’40 of Ayden died Dec. 3 at 93. For 32 years she taught at Maury School in Maury and coached the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams. Dr. Julia Bray Fiorentino ’49 of Jacksonville, Fla., died Feb. 21. After serving as a teacher, she began a full-time ministry and traveled to more than 50 countries in 40 years. James Aubum Little ’48 of Winterville died Jan. 28 at 91. He worked for the Veterans Administration. He played football on ECTC’s 1941 undefeated team. Catherine Lewis Tew ’44 of Greensboro died on Feb. 14 at 90. She taught school and later became a homemaker. Richard R. West ’40 of Virginia Beach, Va., died Feb. 28 at 94. He was a teacher, salesman and operator of Oceana Driving School.

Elizabeth Bridgers “Lib” Wilkerson ’45, formerly of Greenville, died March 22. She taught public school music in Kinston, Robersonville and Greenville.

1950s

Mary Ann Jones Ball ’56 of Kinston died Feb. 14. She taught in the business department at Lenoir Community College. Nalber


Earl Gray Castellow ’58 ’60 of Greensville died Dec. 1. He taught physical education and coached at several schools. Vivian Mercer Cockrell ’53 of Columbus, Ga., died March 15. She taught in Pinehurst, Rocky Mount and Raleigh; was president of Carolina Blue Printers and owned an insurance agency.

Harriett Louise Burnette Collins ’53 of Washington, D.C., died Dec. 18. The former teacher at Ayden High was a ‘51 ’55 of Ayden died Feb. 9. He retired as associate superintendent of Pitt County Schools.


“Sonny” Geer Jr. ’50 of Morehead City died Feb. 12. A waterfront businessman, he served as a Morehead City councilman and chair of the town planning board.

Jack Stewart Gray ’55 of Buxton died Dec. 10. He owned Tower Cottages on Feb. 28 at 94. He was a teacher, salesman and operator of Oceana Driving School.

Elizabeth Bridgers “Lib” Wilkerson ’45, formerly of Greenville, died March 22. She taught public school music in Kinston, Robersonville and Greenville.

1960s

John Lee Beach Sr. ’61 of Oak City died Jan. 1. He was a farmer, an insurance adjuster and a member of Oak City Fire Department.

Betty Caviness Brantley ’66 of Greensboro died Jan. 22. She taught in Charlotte and Winston-Salem schools. At ECC she belonged to Chi Omega sorority.

Samuel “Sam” Alexander Brown ’64 of Ayden died Dec. 3. He was a teacher, salesman and owner of Oceana Driving School. He was a teacher, salesman and owner of Oceana Driving School.

Robin A. King ’66 of Southern Pines died Feb. 8. A Navy veteran, he was stationed aboard the USS Forrestal during a July 1967 fire that killed 134 sailors and injured 161. A Howard Community College alumni, veteran and local staff member, he received the Bronze Star for his actions.


Harold Gene Marlowe ’60 of Whiteville died Dec. 9. He was the CEO of Pioneer Savings and Loan and owned the Farm Store in Whiteville. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

David L. McCaffrey Jr. ’69 of Newark, Del., died Dec. 4. He worked for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Delaware. Margaret “Anne” Brown McCutcheon ’69 of Kinston died March 27. For 30 years she taught English at North Lenoir High School, Kinston.

Dorning Prideaux Jenkins Metzler ’62 of Southern Pines died Dec. 2. She was a flight attendant and taught in Montgomery County schools.

Joseph Elliot Patrick ’67 ’11 of Irvine, Calif., died Nov. 22. He retired as a CPA and auditor from Fluor International. Jack J. Pizzolato ’62 of Sarasota, Fla., and Toms River, N.J., died Feb. 17. He was a State Farm insurance agent for 36 years.

Bobby Ray Pope ’61 of Lexington died Feb. 24. He retired from Lexington City Schools after 32 years. At ECC, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Berkeley Moore Stephens Jr. ’65 of Winston-Salem died Feb. 3. He was a computer and software entrepreneur who played baseball at ECC and was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

Mary Latham Foster Waters ’66 of Sanford died Jan. 1. She was a retired Lee County public school art teacher.

1970s

George William Ahlsen Jr. ’70 of Newport died March 31. A Navy veteran, he taught at Lenoir Community College in Kinston and was a computer programmer.

Gurney Alexander “Junior” Barbee
Christopher Baldwin ’97 of Raleigh died Feb. 24. He was a geologist with AMEC Engineering, Research Triangle Park. Walter “Trey” Lawrence Chapman III ’90 of Altavista, Va., died Jan. 11. He was manager of The Sportsman restaurant at Smith Mountain Lake. Jeffrey Paul Jones ’91 of Farmville died Feb. 26. He was a rental property manager in Greenville. Rudolph Knight ’92 of Tarboro died Nov. 29. He taught business at Edgecombe Community College and was director of continuing education.

Jennifer Alford Laughinghouse ’97 of Greenville died Jan. 17. She worked in insurance sales at Alford and Associates in Rocky Mount.

David Costner McAllister ’90 ’93 of Cary died March 9. He was a teacher and athletic trainer at Cary Academy in Cary. Lori Smith Pierce ’97 of Jacksonville died Nov. 17. She taught at Wallace Rose Hill High School. Lois Carol Wheatley Redmond ’98 of Garner died Jan. 9. She was a writer at the Durham Herald-Sun for many years. Kathleen B. Smith ’97 ’06 of Greenville died Jan. 31. She taught music at Kinston High School before becoming a psychotherapist in Greenville.

Linda Gibson Williams ’90 of Rocky Mount died Feb. 27. She taught at Rocky Mount Senior High.

Pamela McLaughlin ’01 ’04 of Winterville died Feb. 7. She taught in West Greene Elementary School in Greene County.

Christopher Scott ’Chris’ Shifflett ’07 of Hickory died Dec. 28. He was a pharmacist at Cape Fear Valley Hospital. Brent Copeland Spantage ’04 of Fletcher died March 28. He was a physician assistant in the Asheville area.

Matthew Francis Sullivan ’02 of Raleigh died Jan. 27. He was a sales representative at Lumenis Aesthetic in Raleigh. Aubrey Antley Wilford ’07 of Greenville died Jan. 4.

Stephan Nicholas Alexieff ’10 of Raleigh died Feb. 20. He was a telecommunications engineer at UC Synergetic in Raleigh.


He was a senior construction management major and a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

FACULTY

Barry Michael Shank of Greenville died Jan. 11. He taught music theory, trumpet and conducting at ECU from 1961 until 1995. He also was director of music for ECU’s Summer Theatre. For more than 20 years he also hosted Barry Shank’s Wind Machine in Greenville’s Sunday in the Park series and played in Greenville’s Emerald City Big Band. He umpired youth league baseball games for more than 30 years.

Fred D. Ragan ’59 ’61 of Brevard died Nov. 11. He taught history from 1965-1996, served as history department chair from 1979-1986 and was director of graduate studies from 1988-1991. He retired with professor emeritus status.

Dr. Everett Coy Simpson of Greenville died March 29. He joined ECU’s biology department in 1961 and taught there until retiring in 1987. He received the Robert Jones Award for Teaching Excellence and was chair of the biology department.


Dr. William Fredrick Bobzien III of Holly Springs, N.C., and Bridgton, Maine, died Dec. 24. He was a clinical professor of medicine at ECU’s Brody School of Medicine and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Dr. Evelyn Mae Powers of Rapidan, Va., died Dec. 25. She taught in ECU’s College of Education from 1991 to 1998.

STAFF

James Ray Davenport of Bell Arthur died Jan. 21. For 25 years he worked in ECU’s central receiving department. Richard “Dick” Farris of Winston-Salem died March 27. He spent 18 years at ECU Human Resources, ultimately becoming director. Jan Lowe Foust ’80 of Winterville died March 11. She was an accountant at ECU for 32 years.

Ann Elizabeth Chaffin Wall ‘81 of Bath died Feb. 26. She had a long career in special education and later was director of Project HIRE.

FRIENDS

Ronald Earl Mason of Beaufort died Dec. 12. As a state legislator who served Carteret County in the N.C. House from 1971-1978, he introduced the bill establishing a four-year medical school at ECU.


Raymond Joseph “Joe” Dupere Jr. ’75 of Unity, Maine, died Feb. 28. He taught for 20 years at the University of Maine.

Steven Kent May ’73 of Winston-Salem died Nov. 24. He was a commercial lender with NCNB, Nationsbank and The Self Help Organization in Charlotte. Betty Privott Dail Forehand ’79 of Camden died Feb. 3. She was a home economic extension agent.

Veda Kay Glover ’76 of Jacksonville died March 18. She was a teacher and assistant principal in Onslow County Schools.

Linda Barber Hawes ’71 ’88 of Richlands died March 29. She taught for 37 years as an elementary teacher and principal for Lejeune Dependents Schools.

Carl E. “Eddie” Hereford ’75 ’82 of St. Albans, W.Va., died Dec. 15. He taught in Raleigh and Franklin County schools.

Maurice Clifton “Pete” Joyner ’71 of Tucker, Ga., died Dec. 10. Elaine Saunders King ’71 ’84 of Greenville died Feb. 6. She was a guidance counselor at Ayden Middle School.

Janice Marie Burns Lucido ’71 of Ocean City, Md., died Jan. 23. She operated JL Interiors of Ocean City, Md.

Donald Cecil McLane Jr. ’73 ’74 of Greenville died Dec. 1. He worked for Greenville City and Pitt County Schools.

Alice Walters Mumford ’77 of Durham died Feb. 4. She retired from Durham County Schools as a guidance counselor.

Peter Donald “Pete” Muse ’73 of Durham died Jan. 19. He was a general manager at Norwood Woodwork.

Marilyn Garrison Parker ’71 of Ardmore, Okla., died Nov. 30. She taught at the elementary and college level.

Lucia Pearl Peele ’74 ’92 died Feb. 15. She retired after 36 years as a nurse and a nursing instructor.


Cleo Philip “Pete” Stapleton ’79 of Swansboro died Jan. 3. A Korea and Vietnam veteran, he received the Bronze Star and other commendations.

Sam Hawes Todd 78 of Fairmont died Jan. 6. He retired from the Fairmont City School System.

Jerry Taylor Trot ’73 of Jacksonville died Dec. 31. He retired from the Wayne County School System.

Gary O’Neal Wall ’70 died Jan. 9 in Laytonsville, Md. Kathleen Mann White ’72 of Winterville died Feb. 22. She taught in Craven County and Pitt County schools.

Cynthia Rae Grinbergs Wooten ’78 of Burgaw died Feb. 26. She was co-owner of Quality Turf.

Patricia Haley Anderson ’83 of Wake Forest died Dec. 28. She taught in Fayetteville and Robersonville.

Lynn Todd Blalock ’81 of Atlantic Beach, Fla., died March 13. She was a billing and coding specialist at Team Health Inc.

Joan S. Boudreau ’80 ’86 of Greenville died March 20. A former president of Pitt County American Lung Association, she volunteered with hospice for 24 years.

Robert Lorenzo “Papa” Everett ’88 ’98 of Kinston died Dec. 27. He taught at Wesleyan College and Pitt Community College.

Rodney DeWayne Faulkner ’86 of Farmville died Jan. 30. He worked in sales.

Edward Vernon Ferrell III ’87 of Cornelius died March 23. He worked for Ferrell Realty Co. in Winston-Salem.

Elizabeth “Dell” Groom Knox ’81 of Greenville died Dec. 3. She was a nurse manager at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville for 33 years.

Jennifer Lee Hill Kozel ’89 died Jan. 9. She retired after 30 years of teaching in Onslow County.

Donald Merle Lawrence ’83 ’93 of Morehead City died Dec. 12. He was an Army and Navy veteran.

Dr. Jane Templeman Lewis ’80 of Newton Grove died March 15. For 37 years she was a counselor in Johnston and Sampson county schools.

Alfredia Wright Murphy ’81 of Wilmington died March 15. She retired from John T. Hoggard High School in Wilmington.


Michael “Mike” McPortland ’86 of Cary died Nov. 27. At ECU he played rugby and was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Anne Kelly Davis Smith ’86 of Elizabethtown died March 26. For 30 years she taught at East Bladen High School.

H. Todd Stone ’85 of Fredericksburg, Va., died Jan. 5. He was a middle school music educator.

Christopher James Vigren ’80 of Pittsfield, Mass., died Jan. 12.

James T. Wilkerson ’85 of Oxford died Feb. 14. For 38 years he worked for Warren County Schools. He later served as superintendent of the Hancock County, Ga., school system.

John Ann Williams ’83 ’98 of Goldsboro died Dec. 17. She worked in the public schools for more than 30 years.

Brenda L. Kline Williamson ’85 of Gilroy, Calif., died Jan. 9. She was director of the Western Region Developmental Disabilities Administration for the state of Maryland.
He is not well-known in the East Carolina community today, but Benjamin Franklin Dixon played a pivotal role in the state’s decision to locate a new teacher training school in Greenville.

That occurred on July 10, 1907, when the State Board of Education assembled in Raleigh to choose one of six eastern towns competing to host the new school. At that time the board of education was composed of the governor, lieutenant governor and five other statewide officials, similar to the current Council of State. As state auditor, Dixon had a vote on the board.

In their final pitches to the board, officials from Kinston and Washington raised their offers to match or exceed the support pledged by Greenville. Kinston emerged as the favorite, based on its enhanced financial incentives and the strong support of State Superintendent of Public Instruction J.Y. Joyner, a native of Lenoir County.

On the first ballot by the six board members present (Attorney General Robert Gilmer was absent), Greenville received just one vote, from native son Bryan Grimes, the secretary of state. Rocky Mount got two votes and Kinston had three.

But three is not a majority of six, so a second ballot was required. Dixon switched his vote from Kinston to Greenville, giving the three towns two votes each.

On the third ballot, Lt. Gov. Francis Winston and State Treasurer Benjamin Lacy joined Grimes and Dixon in voting for Greenville, giving it a 4-2 winning majority. With that decided, the board then turned to choosing one of the two tracts offered by Greenville as the site of the school—property along Dickinson Avenue or the current site south of Fifth Street.

For reasons not understood, the lieutenant governor then moved to reconsider the winning vote for Greenville. The board rescinded its selection and broke for lunch. Reconvening at 3 p.m., the board took a fourth vote. Winston and Grimes stuck with Greenville, and Joyner remained staunchly with Kinston. Dixon and two others switched their votes to Washington, giving it a plurality but not a majority.

On the fifth ballot, Lacy switched from Washington to Greenville while Glenn and Dixon changed from Washington to Kinston. That eliminated Washington and created a 3-3 tie between Kinston and Greenville.

On the sixth ballot, everyone else stood pat, but Dixon switched his vote from Kinston back to Greenville. For the second time that day his vote made Greenville a 4-2 winner. The selection became official moments later when Gov. Robert B. Glenn announced the outcome to a crowd waiting on the Capitol lawn.

A native of Cleveland County, Dixon was a man of many accomplishments. He was a captain in the Civil War, a Methodist minister, a teacher and a doctor. He left medicine to become superintendent of Oxford Orphanage then became president of Greensboro Female College, now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He was 51 when he left the college to serve as a major in the Spanish-American War. Later he served in the General Assembly and from there rose in 1900 to become state auditor. He served through 1908.

Dixon was known as an entertaining orator. When the State Board of Education was touring the six towns to judge their fitness for hosting the new school, the Eastern Reflector reported that he drew laughs from Greenville citizens with this yarn:

He said Rocky Mount had offered him a town lot to vote for it, and Tarboro topped that by offering him 10 acres and a mule. Dixon said it would be improper to accept such bribes, but he told the crowd he would vote for Greenville if the city agreed to change the name of Dickinson Avenue to Dixon Avenue.

The city never took him up on the offer, but memories of Dixon’s crucial votes remained alive as the new training school in Greenville took root and grew. When East Carolina Teacher Training School—about to become East Carolina Teachers College—expanded in 1920 by acquiring the acreage east of the fountain, part of an existing street was renamed Dixon Drive.

—Steve Tuttle
Tech. Sgt. Amy Perry watches as her daughter, Kayla, 9, works in the Tommy's Road Elementary School computer lab at the Operation LINK after-school program in Goldsboro. Operation LINK is an AmeriCorps mentoring program to support children of military families in eastern North Carolina. Perry is in the Air Force and stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.  

Photo by Jay Clark