All eyes on safety
Keeping campus secure
Senior high-jumper Tynita Butts finished her college career on a high, winning the Conference USA championship and tying for second in the NCAA championship in June. This fall, ECU begins its first season in the American Athletic Conference. Read a sports preview beginning on page 40.

Photo courtesy Eric Evans Photography
All eyes on safety
University leaders are making safety and security top priorities at ECU.

Bedrooms and boardrooms
ECU nursing graduates take leading roles in hospitals, academia and their own practices.

The pencil man makes his mark
Guided by teachers who saw his potential, Tim Gomez looks to help youth get ahead.

A season of firsts
The Pirates begin play in a new conference this season with eyes on the top prizes.

High school students participating in ECU's Summer Ventures program carefully excavate a plot at Grimesland Plantation in Pitt County in search of evidence of slave life there before the Civil War. Summer Ventures gives academically advanced high school juniors and seniors interested in science and math a monthlong opportunity to engage in research and intensive study. The excavation wrapped up July 18.

On the cover: Officers William Brown, left, and Travis Kornegay of the ECU Police Department regularly patrol campus on bicycles. Every day I ride, I get stopped by a student or faculty member and talk about the bike and the safety aspects on campus,” Brown says. Read more about ECU’s efforts to provide a safe learning environment beginning on page 18.

Photo by Cliff Hollis
Executive director of communication, public affairs and marketing

I don’t think the average alumnus, parent, student or citizen has any idea how much Campus security is woven into almost every aspect of this university’s operations. It is the aspect I know the campus of East Carolina University. On a recent morning an attempted strong-arm robbery was reported on Greenville’s security at East Carolina. We invite you to learn more, beginning on page 18.

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From the Editor

How do I subscribe?
ECU sends East Report to friends and donors. To begin receiving the magazine, mail your check using the postage-paid reply envelope inside. How much is up to you but we suggest a $25 minimum contribution.

The ECU Foundation supports many scholarships. Learn how to help a student struggling with finances at the foundation’s website, www.ecu/af.

Where is your money most needed? The colleges, schools and programs within ECU have defined their funding priorities and posted them here: www.ecu.edu/funding-priorities.cfm.

Another way to support ECU is to join the East Carolina Alumni Association and receive the magazine as well as other benefits and services. Minimum dues are $35. Visit www.piratealumni.com to learn how to remain connected.

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Send class notes to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu or use the form on page 50.

How desperate the region was when Joe Jenkins died, and how desperate the region was to land the Major Leaguer in Raleigh. I am very glad Steve Brown landed in Raleigh! Thanks again for writing an informative and interesting article about Steve Brown in your publication of 50 years ago. He extended a great vision for eastern North Carolina through ECU, and that’s one behind-the-scenes example of the complexities that come with campus security.

Mary Schulken

EXPERIENCE FOR APHASIA STORY

The purpose of this letter is to express my appreciation for your publication of the article about aphasia in the spring 2014 East magazine. I have much gratitude for Mrs. Sherry Winslow, clinical supervisor at ECU Speech-Language & Hearing Clinic, for her skillful coordination and guidance of the ECU Aphasia Group.

My husband, Anch Manning, is a 1950 graduate of ECU. He had a stroke over a year ago, which affected his ability to communicate orally. The opportunity to participate in a group in which everyone has had a stroke and is suffering from aphasia has been very beneficial. The therapy that he and the others receive is proving to be a very effective way to make him feel more confident and encouraged to communicate his thoughts as well as interact more spontaneously with the others.

The different activities that Mrs. Winslow and the graduate students provide for them every Friday are done in a very relaxed environment. This motivates them to express themselves without feeling awkward or frustrated. In addition, Mrs. Winslow has a keen sense for perceiving the needs of a participant and finds ways to help him/her bring out words that are related to the activity at that moment.

—Raqah T. Manning, Greenville

THANKS FOR APHASIA STORY

To the Editor: I am very glad Steve Brown landed in Raleigh! Thanks again for writing an informative and interesting article about Steve Brown in your publication of 50 years ago. He extended the transformational power of education, culture, health care and, most of all, hope to a people whom time and politics had forgotten. We need another Leo.

—George Dudley ’75, Wake Forest

NORTH HILLS NEIGHBOR

Thank you for the very informative and interesting thank you for the very informative and interesting article about Steve Brown and also John Kane. I’ve lived in Raleigh 28-plus years near North Hills and didn’t know much of what your article described. Thanks again for writing such thorough background. I am very glad Steve Brown landed in Raleigh.

—Ruthann Cage, Raleigh

WE NEED ANOTHER LEO

Thank you for the report on Leo Jenkins’ award. Wow, what a flood of memories it brought. I was privileged a few times to be a guest of one of his daughters in the Jenkins’ home during my years at ECU. I wish I had fully realized his greatness at the time. But maybe that was because the Jenkinses were so gracious. He showed me the battlefield reports of his vision. The walls of a hallway were covered with articles and editorials that blasted him for what he was doing at ECU. They did not understand the depth of his vision, that he was trying to improve eastern North Carolina through ECU, and that their opposition affronted the people of the East. Dr. Jenkins wore his battle medals proudly because opposition to his great vision for eastern North Carolina strengthened him. Sadly, eastern North Carolina still has tremendous economic problems. However, I cannot imagine how desperate the region would have been had Dr. Jenkins not stood up for it close to

How much is up to you but we suggest a $25 minimum contribution.

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Send class notes to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu or use the form on page 50.
ECU partners in education-to-workforce project

ECU is partnering on a comprehensive, hands-on project aimed at fueling a regional advanced manufacturing and innovation workforce beginning with middle school students.

In mid-June, the Golden LEAF Foundation announced a $1.25 million grant to support the plan. The Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Academy and associated Master eSTEM instructor program are the result of a unique collaboration among middle school parents, students and teachers, ECU, Pitt Community College, Pitt County Schools, North East Carolina Preparatory School in Edgecombe County, Pitt Community College, Pitt County Middle Schools in Beaufort County, STEM East, economic developers and regional advanced manufacturers.

Once implemented, the program will provide an effective education-to-workforce pipeline to address the growing shortage of advanced manufacturing workers and entrepreneurs skilled in science, technology, engineering, art/design and mathematics (STEAM) as well as innovation and entrepreneurship (e) processes.

In addition to the schools in Edgecombe and Beaufort counties, all 13 Pitt County middle and K-8 schools will be included in the program.

Recognizing the economic development possibilities to engage, equip and connect talented young people with regional advanced manufacturing careers and related entrepreneurial opportunities, the group of regional partners developed a comprehensive plan for improving students’ creative, innovation and technical skills, knowledge and abilities. The plan includes career awareness strategies, eSTEM-related in-school and out-of-school curricula and experiences, and professional development opportunities for 79 eastern North Carolina teachers.

Cruical to the success of the initiative is the inclusion of art and design to an otherwise technically focused program. The academy is an innovative approach piloted in this section of the state and was recommended by Pitt County Manager Scott Elliott. The successful cross-institutional collaboration is the first of its kind and may be replicated in other projects, said Wanda Yuhas, executive director of Pitt County Development Commission.

The grant will be administered by the ECU Office of Innovation and Economic Development.

—Kathy Setzer

Steve Jones, left, and Robert Brinkley were re-elected vice chair and chair, respectively, of the ECU Board of Trustees at their meeting.

Prioritization Committee, which Fiscal Sustainability. It builds the University Committee on response is a report drafted by we can to protect the most vital Ballard. “We will do everything cutbacks,” said Chancellor Steve (year) of my 10 years—the Carolina Heart Institute at ECU. Trustees held July 17-18 at the East Carolina University Board of the regular meeting of the East Continuing fiscal challenges Ballard told board members.

“(Brody) is threatened because had not approved a budget or in limbo as at the time of the planning initiative. “We’re going to set the bar high and try to get there—try our best.” This initiative is range from attracting more transfer and military students; to developing a school focused on coastal research; to increasing partnerships between the College of Engineering and Technology and various health sciences disciplines. Board members lauded the strategic plan, and Chairman Robert Brinkley described it as “aspirational but achievable.”
An anonymous gift of $1 million will enable the Family Autism Center at ECU to increase professional staff and expand services for people with autism in eastern North Carolina.

“We look forward to adding colleagues from psychology and social work as well as experienced therapists (speech-language and occupational therapists) to our current physician and nursing staff,” said Dr. Michael Reichel, a developmental and behavioral specialist in ECU’s pediatrics department and the center’s director.

“Providing interdisciplinary evaluations and services will mark yet another step in fulfilling our mission to serve children and families in our region,” Dr. Michael Reichel watches as Christian McLawhorn works with

Sylvia town council members Danny Allen, left, and Barbara Hamilton tour the new facility.

ECU dental center opens in Sylva

With the opening of each dental community service learning center, ECU is “changing the trajectory of oral health care in North Carolina.”

That was the message delivered by School of Dental Medicine Dean Dr. Greg Chadwick as ECU administrators and Jackson County officials celebrated the opening of the university’s newest center June 27 in the mountain town of Sylva.

“This dream is important, I think, for everyone in this region,” Chancellor Steve Ballard told attendees at the ribbon-cutting. “You really made it possible to get this beautiful site. Thanks for being a part of a mission we take very seriously.”

Eight to 10 centers are planned for underserved areas of North Carolina. Four centers are now operating and “all are becoming very busy places,” Chadwick said.

The facilities combine clinical education and patient care. Led by ECU dental faculty members, fourth-year students are receiving clinical training at the centers while general dentistry residents also hone their skills at the facilities. The general dentistry centers feature treatment rooms, x-ray equipment, educational space and more.

“Our school is a statewide resource with a statewide footprint,” Chadwick said. “These centers are an integral part of our dental school.”

ECU dental community service learning centers are also being planned in Ansonia, Elizabeth City and Lillington. Other centers are under construction or planned in Spruce Pine, Davidson County, Robeson County and Brunswick County.

The Brunswick County site, which is on U.S. 17 beside the Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center, was announced May 16 during a press conference in Bolivia. Construction was scheduled to begin late this summer with the goal of opening the center to patients and students next summer. —Kathryn Kennedy

Sharon McLawhorn and son Christian, 9

Local and ECU officials, including School of Dental Medicine Dean Dr. Greg Chadwick and Chancellor Steve Ballard, cut the ribbon on the new dental center in Sylva.

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Local officials said there is a great need for access to dental care in Jackson County.

“Oral health is very important, and for many folks it goes unmet, undone,” said Paula Corden, director of the Jackson County Health Department.

This great facility is going to lower the burden on our emergency rooms.”

Corden said Jackson County has one dentist for every 2,748 people, while the national average is one dentist per 1,493 people. And some of the dentists practicing in the area are getting “long in the tooth,” she quipped.

“The school of dentistry from East Carolina is going to give western North Carolina its smile back,” Corden said.

Jackson County Commissioner Charles Elders welcomed the first four students on rotation in the Sylva center and said he hopes the experience will yield more dentists for underserved areas.

“Our hope is that when you graduate, you will choose a rural community just like you’re in today,” he said. “You will find our citizens to be courteous, welcoming, supportive and just good neighbors.”

Sylvia town council members Danny Allen, left, and Barbara Hamilton tour the new facility.
An ECU researcher has received a $300,000 grant to study a cellular protein long overlooked by scientists. Ann Sperry, an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the Brody School of Medicine, received the three-year Academic Research Enhancement Award from the National Institutes of Health. She will use the funding to study how a certain protein affects the functions of a cell’s centrosome—the structure within a cell that regulates vital processes like cell division and development. Sperry identified the protein, named PPP1R42, three years ago, but just recently discovered it plays a role in regulating the centrosome.

"No one else we know is studying this protein," she said. Sperry said the protein is found in a wide variety of cell types, including photoreceptor cells in the eye and developing sperm cells in the male reproductive system.

"Centrosomes help cells react to their environment and then develop accordingly," she said. "When centrosomes aren’t working properly, you get genetic mutations, which can be associated with things like male infertility, genetic diseases and cancer.

Assisted by two undergraduate students, Sperry hopes to discover whether PPP1R42 could be used as a marker for such diseases and for their prevention or treatment.

"Centrosomes are the first place to look," Sperry said.

**ECU researchers seek to improve groundwater**

Believed to be the first of its kind in the state, a barrier installed at ECU researchers is reducing nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in eastern North Carolina groundwater.

Charles Humphrey, assistant professor of environmental health sciences in the College of Health and Human Performance, has been monitoring the groundwater at Rodgers Elementary School near Williamson since May, when a permeable barrier was installed to improve quality.

Officials discovered a few years ago that the nitrate-nitrogen (NO3-N) concentration in groundwater near the school exceeded allowable state limits. Approximately 300 students are enrolled at Rodgers Elementary. While drinking water in nearby homes and the school isn’t at risk, state regulations required the levels be reduced.

"No one drinks this, but there is a groundwater standard they’re held to," Humphrey said.

That’s when Martin County Schools turned to Humphrey and co-investigators on the project, Eban Bean, assistant professor in the ECU Department of Engineering and the Institute for Coastal Sciences and Policy, and Mike O’Driscoll in the Department of Geological Sciences. They helped write a grant for $1,498 that was funded by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services for the barrier installation.

"We have had surface water nutrient reduction rules and strategies for many waterbodies in North Carolina for more than 15 years because of the problems associated with excess concentrations of nitrogen, such as algae blooms and fish kills," Humphrey said. "This may be an additional tool that can be used to help reduce surface water nitrogen concentrations by addressing the groundwater NO3-N transport issue. The school and community can take pride in being the first site in the state to use this technology.

The barrier was installed near the school’s baseball field. The 20-foot trench is lined with about six to seven feet of wood chips and backfilled with gravel to prevent water from moving. Humphrey said, "It helps convert the nitrate into gas."

Since the barrier was installed May 7, groundwater samples show that nitrogen concentrations have been cut as much as half. "It’s still preliminary, but so far it’s looking good," Humphrey said.

Brian Thomas, who helps maintain schools in the Martin County system, said he appreciates Humphrey and ECU.

"We’re not used to dealing with this type of issue," Thomas said. "It’s never been a problem before. Charlie has been crucial to this project being done."

Humphrey said they hope to continue monitoring beyond the grant’s timeline, possibly through graduate student work. "I have the data and information in some of my classes. We can see real-world examples of applying science," said Humphrey, whose research interests include on-site wastewater systems and land use impacts on water quality.

ECU also has been sampling Reedy Branch Creek about 600 feet from the school. "I don’t think the groundwater NO3-N is influencing that creek," Humphrey said. "Hopefully, our barrier is working."

**State, ECU launch substance abuse task force**

With Chancellor Steve Ballard and Vice Chancellor Virginia Hardy standing beside him, Gov. Pat McCrory signed an executive order May 13 that creates a multi-agency task force aimed at reducing substance abuse and underage drinking.

The governor signed the order in Meendenhall Student Center at ECU, one of six University of North Carolina campuses that will take part in a pilot program that will emphasize prevention and treatment. ECU will join UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina A&T, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington and UNC-Greensboro in the pilot.

The Governor’s Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Prevention and Treatment Task Force will build on statewide prevention, treatment and enforcement programs implemented by the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the UNC system.

"The physical, mental and social costs of addiction can last a lifetime," McCrory said. "Substance abuse often starts in a person’s youth, which is why we are targeting our efforts on early intervention and treatment."

Hardy, who is vice chancellor for student affairs at ECU, said, "This is a timely conversation and we one welcome. High-risk drinking and an increase in the abuse of prescription and other illicit drugs plague every college campus across this country and create a wide range of challenges that are important to higher education communities.

"ECU has implemented education, prevention and intervention programs that include branch campus students during orientation; having required electronic education modules; offering programming for specific groups such as Greek life and student athletes; and providing assessment, counseling and referral resources."

The College Recovery Communities will allow ECU to create a support network of services to assist students along their developmental and educational journey. Hardy said.

The task force will also build on statewide enforcement efforts by ALS to track down on licensed establishments that violate state laws.

The ABC Commission will concentrate on preventing underage drinking among middle, high school and undergraduate college students. The task force will be led by Frank L. Perry, secretary of the N.C. Department of Public Safety, and Jim Gardner, the former lieutenant governor and current ABC chairman.

**The Governor’s Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Prevention and Treatment Task Force**

1. Focuses on preventing, reducing and treating substance abuse and underage drinking.
2. Builds on the current work of the College Recovery Communities.
3. Develops strategies for several watersheds.
5. Seeks to improve groundwater quality.
6. Involves students, faculty and staff in health and wellness initiatives.

"The next important step for our campus and others across the state is to be build recovery initiatives to help them stop the cycle of addiction," Hardy said.

**With Chancellor Steve Ballard and Vice Chancellor Virginia Hardy standing beside him, Gov. Pat McCrory signed an executive order May 13 that creates a multi-agency task force aimed at reducing substance abuse and underage drinking.**

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A book that chronicles the stories of two boys with the same name growing up in the same town was selected as the 2014 Pirate Read at ECU. All new students were asked to read the book before beginning their first semester.

Wes Moore’s The Other Wes Moore is a true story of two young boys who live in similar neighborhoods. One grows up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran and business leader, while the other serves a life sentence in prison for his involvement in the death of a police officer. When the author Moore learns about the other Moore, he is consumed by the disturbing coincidence and writes him a letter in prison asking two questions: Who are you? How did this happen?

The letter leads to dozens of letters and prison visits, and Moore finds that he has even more in common with the other Moore than he originally thought. They were born within a year of each other, raised by single mothers and had confrontations with police.

Moore compares their two stories and shows how decisions made at an early age and the presence or absence of role models can affect one’s life course.

Karen Smith, co-chair of the Pirate Read committee, said The Other Wes Moore was picked because of its intriguing story: “It focuses on a lot of different areas: race, the judicial system, leadership and socio-economic status,” said Smith.

The Pirate Read committee hopes the book will make students think about their privileges and challenges and what other people have experienced. “Hopefully, the students will see that they can be mentors and leaders to other students,” said Smith.

Moore will speak at ECU on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

This is the seventh year of the Pirate Read program.

Music students write new opening theme for radio show

What does eastern North Carolina sound like?

Three East Carolina University School of Music students attempted to answer that question this spring, and one of the responses is now the theme music to a weekly public radio show.

The Down East Journal: A Public Radio East program, marks its 10th anniversary this year. To commemorate that occasion, producer Jared Brumbaugh asked ECU students to help bring “freshness” to the program by creating a new, minute-long theme.

“We wanted to capture the essence of eastern North Carolina in music, but we were also looking for something catchy and something that sticks with you,” Brumbaugh said.

He narrowed six submitted musical compositions to three early this year, and those three recordings aired on the program June 20. The finalists were Josh Tomlinson, who graduated with a master’s degree in May; senior Myles Travitz and sophomore Isaac Ward.

PRE listeners selected Tomlinson’s work as their favorite and thus the new theme for The Down East Journal. “Public Radio East is all about community,” Brumbaugh added, “and this is a great project to spread good will and spotlight local talent.”

In a fall 1964 letter to Robert Morgan, chair of the board of trustees, President Leo Jenkins explains why he wants to create a faculty senate organizes 140 arrested on Halloween

On Oct. 23, 1969, the Greenville City Council adopts new rules that severely restrict off-campus parties. The police also impose tough restrictions on Halloween activities. Aided to go downtown, many students gather for an impromptu Halloween party in the Tar River Estates parking lot. Police in riot gear raid the party, 150 young people are herded into prison buses, driven to jail and charged with “mischief to devises.” The following Monday at least 6,000 students gather on Monday at least 6,000 students gather on the ECU campus to demand change. On Oct. 23, 1969, the Greenville City Council adopts new rules that severely restrict off-campus parties. The police also impose tough restrictions on Halloween activities. Aided to go downtown, many students gather for an impromptu Halloween party in the Tar River Estates parking lot. Police in riot gear raid the party, 150 young people are herded into prison buses, driven to jail and charged with “mischief to devises.” The following Monday at least 6,000 students gather on Monday at least 6,000 students gather on the ECU campus to demand change. On Oct. 23, 1969, the Greenville City Council adopts new rules that severely restrict off-campus parties. The police also impose tough restrictions on Halloween activities. Aided to go downtown, many students gather for an impromptu Halloween party in the Tar River Estates parking lot. Police in riot gear raid the party, 150 young people are herded into prison buses, driven to jail and charged with “mischief to devises.” The following Monday at least 6,000 students gather on Monday at least 6,000 students gather on the ECU campus to demand change.
Ebenrod receives Lifetime Achievement Award

ECU art professor Robert Ebendorf has been honored with a lifetime achievement award by a group he helped found more than 40 years ago. Ebendorf, an internationally known master metalsmith and jewelry designer, received the Society of North American Goldsmiths Lifetime Achievement Award. It’s the highest honor given by the society to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of contemporary jewelry and metalworking throughout their careers.

Ebendorf helped create the 43-year-old organization and served as its president for nine years. The society has grown from 64 original members to more than 3,000 studio artists, educators, students and others working in metals, alternative materials and contemporary art and jewelry.

“The award is very humbling,” Ebendorf said. “I’m fearless about putting broken glass or bone or pieces of road kill together with a pearl or gemstones,” Ebendorf said.

“Problem-solving for me is the exciting journey,” he said. “Taking an idea and bringing it into form—what skills do I use to bring this idea into reality?”

As ECU’s Bark Distinguished Professor of Art, Ebendorf is often asked to speak at seminars, conferences and universities across the country.

“In that role, he has really enhanced the reputation of our School of Art and Design and of our university,” said J. Christopher Bullock, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. “He wears his ECU colors proudly. He is a wonderful ambassador for ECU and we are so fortunate to have him with us.”

It’s during guest talks that Ebendorf shares his own experience as an art student and his lifelong struggle with dyslexia. A Topeka, Kansas, native, he received his bachelor’s degree in fine arts in 1960 and a master of fine arts degree in 1962 from the University of Kansas. It was there that he saw a flyer for a Fulbright award—something he thought went only to scholars and not to students in danger of flunking courses. He said. He eventually put his fear aside and applied, receiving a Fulbright Fellowship to Norway, which changed his life, he said.

“Take a chance. Don’t count yourself out of the ballgame; you need to give it a try,” he said. “I think that’s where mentoring comes in for me.”

Ebendorf has taught undergraduates and graduate students for the past 16 years at ECU.

“Passing on to them technical information, scholarly puns and how to work with others, has been a real joy,” he said. “Helping them develop their own voice and the social skills to leave the university and become responsible in their own communities.”

Four years after receiving the Fulbright, Ebendorf returned to Norway through a Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant.

Before joining ECU, Ebendorf taught at the University of Georgia and State University of New York at New Paltz.

Examples of Ebendorf’s work are in 29 museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Through the years, he has completed large commissions for corporations, churches, temples and private clients.

In 1995, Ebendorf was awarded the American Craft Council Fellowship for his achievement in craft and commitment to the craft movement. He received the 200 North Carolina Award, the state’s highest civilian honor. He was recently invited by the Smithsonian Institution to participate in its Archives of American Art Oral History Program. He’s also helped raise funds for art scholarships at ECU.

“Helping them develop their own voice and the social skills to leave the university and become responsible in their own communities.”

For his 2014 print issue, NCLR’s Literary Review devotes its special feature section to “Tribute to South Carolina Literature.”

This exploration includes an interview with author Robert Morgan, who points out, “It is one of the mysteries of human life and the human history that relatively intelligent people, often each other, can kill each other so often and on such a scale.”

Readers will also find David C caul’s analysis of recordings made by a young Arthur Miller, well before he became one of America’s greatest playwrights, during a visit to Wilmington in the fall of 1941; just weeks before the United States—and Wilmington—were forever changed by World War II.

There is also a discussion with Ron Rash and Terry Roberts about the World War II German internment camp that existed in North Carolina and is central to novels by both authors; an essay about a post-apocalyptic civil war in William Forstchen’s novel One Second After; and an essay about Little-known African-American author James McGirt, who wrote about black soldiers in the Spanish-American War.

These join Claudette Cohen’s short story, “The Mayor of Biscove,” winner of the 2013 Doris Betts Fiction Prize, which details the struggles of a soldier after he has left the battlefield. Quoting Robert Morgan in her introduction to the section, NCLR Editor Margaret Bauer writes, “Cohen understands, as do these insightful writers, that there is no ‘delight’ in war.”

NCLR’s “Flashbacks” section, with its focus on poetry and about writers featured in past issues, revisits the 2013 Doris Betts Fiction Prize, named for the founding editor of NCLR.

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Book explores artist’s work


The book explores Ebendorf’s work and philosophy as seen through the RAM collection. It includes more than 35 images, two essays and an interview with the artist. The book is available online at www.ramart.org/content/robert-w-ebendorf-work-depth.

The retrospective exhibit of Ebendorf’s work is on view at the RAM through Jan. 18.
Baller now most senior chancellor in UNC system

East Carolina University

Chancellor Steve Ballard, who marked 10 years on the job May 1, is now the most senior chancellor in the 16-campus UNC system.

Ballard was second in seniority to Appalachian State University Chancellor Ken Peacock, who stepped down on July 1 with the appointment of his successor.

Currently second in seniority to Ballard, UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor Philip Dubois, who was installed in January 2012, has not served longer than Ballard.

Three campuses welcomed new chancellors this summer. William A. Sanderlin, interim at UNC Wilmington in June, Sheri N. Everts went to work at Appalachian in July, and Mary K. Grant was installed at UNC Asheville on Aug. 1.

Searches for new chancellors are underway at Elizabeth City State University, where Godwin most recently served as an assistant coach at Kinston High School in 2003.

“From the first second I sat down with those guys, I knew that I wanted to work at a school that would be the best possible fit for me and my family,” Godwin said.

Raised in Snow Hill and a prep product of Greene Central High School, Godwin most recently served as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Mississippi, where he helped lead the Rebels to their first College World Series appearance in 1999.

“From the door to Omaha. That’s what I was excited about,” Godwin said.

Godwin graduated magna cum laude in 2000 and earned the distinguished honor. "I could not be more excited than to have Cliff Godwin as the head coach for Pirate baseball," said Compher. "I understand the importance of baseball at ECU and in the Brody School of Medicine, and I believe Cliff embodies all the qualities we were looking for in our next head coach."

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Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, is scheduled to speak at ECU on Oct. 1 in Wright Auditorium. The Ocean Adventure” at 7 p.m. on Oct. 1 in Wright Auditorium. The second Four Seasons Chamber Concert celebrates its 15th year by exploring the music of Debussy, Rorem and Franck. The performance includes three one-act operas—Fables, Four Dialogues and Berlitz, performed together with some of Rorem’s most popular choral works, including songs in a presentation devised by Opera Theater director, John Kramar, and the ECU Chamber Winds, directed by Dr. Joseph A. Cooper. Tickets are $35 for the public. For tickets, call 1-800-ECU-ARTS or visit www.ecu.edu/fourseasons. The ECU Chamber Winds are in concert in Fletcher Music Center Auditorium. When music and Broadway collide, an electrifying performance antics and Vivaldi—coupled with Baroque musicianship—Bach, Elgar and Brahms performed by the ECU Brass Quintet in Wright Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Free. Symphony Orchestra The ECU Symphony Orchestra presents its opening concerts Sept. 27 under the baton of maestro Jorge Richter at Wright Auditorium. McCaslin on tuba in Salinger’s Green Glens Farm and Tubu and Orchestra and the popular Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky on the same program. On Oct. 18, the symphony travels to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Greenville and welcomes the ECU combined choir and faculty soloists Rachel Copeland, soprano; John Kramar, baritone, and Andrew Cooper, conductor. For Dvorak’s Te Deum. The Virginia Governor’s Choir joins the symphony back on campus for concerts Nov. 24 and 25 in Wright Auditorium. Fall Arts Calendar
All eyes on safety

Keeping campus secure
Like many campuses around the country, ECU has been working consistently to make safety and security a part of everyday life. The university created a campus safety master plan—thought to be the first of its kind—and spends more than $6 million a year on campus safety operations and infrastructure. This year, ECU plans to use the ECU Police strategic plan as a foundation for developing a five-year campus safety plan with participation from the campus community and local law enforcement.

“Campus safety and a secure, respectful environment…must be present if we are to support a first-class learning community, one characterized as free from fear, open and transparent, welcoming of ideas and devoted to new information,” says ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard.

At the end of July, the University of North Carolina system released its 130-page campus security initiative, outlining the widespread safety concerns, the laws requiring safe campuses and recommendations for achieving that. Recommendations included collaboration on and among campuses to address safety concerns, accurate and consistent reporting of campus safety matters and reducing substance abuse by students.

“Our work is intended, first and foremost, to help protect students from harm,” reads the report’s executive summary.

Lessons from Virginia Tech
Campus safety and security has become a high-profile priority in the past seven years—since Virginia Tech student Seung-Hui Cho shot and killed 33 people including himself and wounded 17 others in two separate attacks in April 2007.

Campus violence is not new. FBI records show fatal shootings at college campuses go back as far as 1909. Federal laws demand universities work to ensure a safe campus environment; students, parents and the public expect it. And some of the same efforts and resources employed to protect campuses against violent crime have trickled down into topics as comparatively ordinary as alerting faculty and students about snow days.

“Virginia Tech really changed the landscape forever,” says Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor for environmental health and safety at ECU. According to statistics, ECU ranks in the bottom half of UNC-system campuses in the number of violent crimes, such as aggravated assault, and as a whole, the system is relatively safe. Brent Herron ’77, vice president of campus safety and emergency operations for the UNC system, compared the system as a whole to a medium-sized city of nearly 300,000 people.

“There’s always a lot going on, but when you look at serious crimes and violent crimes…we’re very low,” he said. UNC campuses experience 60 serious offenses for every 100,000 people, compared to 358 serious offenses for every 100,000 people.
across the state, he said.

After the Virginia Tech shootings, the UNC system, like many across the country, studied ways to improve campus safety with an emphasis on responding to critical incidents such as a campus shooter.

“I think one of the biggest lessons learned was the communication side of the house, making sure we can get a message out to the campus community,” says Herron, who joined UNC in 2008 in a new position created to oversee safety after 20 years with the Secret Service. He says ECU is “doing an outstanding job” with its emergency communication efforts.

ECU uses text messaging and emails, among other methods, to communicate emergency information. Faculty, staff and students receive emails automatically and can sign up for text messages. People off campus may also sign up for email and text messages. Emergency messages can also be posted to the ECU Alert Twitter account.

Various campus departments also use social media accounts to relay information and enlist students and student organizations to help spread details and correct misinformation via their own social media accounts.

In addition, campus loudspeakers broadcast emergency messages to pedestrians. Video screens around campus relay important information to passers-by. Desk telephones in offices broadcast messages to office workers and a computer program pops up messages on computer screens. And the traditional outlets—local TV, radio and newspapers—still spread information about weather-related closings and delays, crime and fires.

“It’s a great system,” Koch says of the university’s notification systems, called ECU Alert. “It does a lot to just get good information out. Just having the Alert system has required us to look at our communications and do a better job with communications. It’s helped improve our processes and helped improve our team.”

Nicole McDowell, who attended St. Augustine’s University in Raleigh, says such technology makes campuses today safer than they were when she was a student.

“Because back then, there wasn’t a system in place where if something happened on campus, everyone could be notified,” McDowell says. “Back then, it was kind of a mystery. You had to find out what the problem was, and then make a decision about what to do.”

“Make a big decision,” Koch says. “That’s what you’ve got to do in an emergency. You’ve got to make a big decision. ”

A major element in the campus alert system is the ECU Alert. “It does a lot to just get good messages out,” Koch says of the system. “It’s helped improve our communication.”

“People need to know that if something happens on campus, we’re going to get it out to them as soon as possible,” Koch says. “People need to know that we’re doing our best to keep them safe.”

“The people who commit the crime is to blame,” he says. “But we need to reduce our risk if we can. There are predators out there, and they are looking for easy targets.”

Information about what victims of sexual violence should do at ECU is online at www.ecu.edu/cwakelund/od/avilaw-checklist.cfm. In short, call 911, call the ECU Police at 252-328-6787 and seek medical attention.

—Doug Boyd
behavior where no threat is seen takes appropriate action. For University Behavioral Concerns of the campus community, the threat to a member or members is red flags that someone is in distress,” says Travis Lewis, associate dean of students at ECU. “We want to make sure everyone is doing well and being successful.”

When someone needs help

Students having difficulties at college is nothing new. But efforts to spot and help students who are experiencing a threat to themselves have gained ground in recent years.

ECU Cares is an anonymous way students, staff, faculty members and others can report concerning behavior, such as an expressed intent to harm oneself or others, intense anger or disturbing content. “The good student who stops coming to class, disjointed references to weapons or harm to self—these kinds of things are red flags that someone is in distress,” says Travis Lewis, associate dean of students at ECU and one of the leaders of ECU Cares. “We want to make sure everyone is doing well and being successful.”

As with overall campus safety, the efforts at ECU trace back to the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings. “One of the lessons we learned from the tragedy at Virginia Tech was information was siloed,” Lewis says. “All of these offices had a little bit of information, but there was no hint of the whole. If all that information had been funneled into one place, perhaps the perpetrator could have gotten the help he needed and the campus been protected. “The entire campus community has a responsibility for reporting concerning behavior and keeping our campus safe,” he adds.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, ECU Cares assisted 235 students, Lewis says. “That’s 235 students who wouldn’t have gotten the help they needed otherwise,” he says. More information is online at www.ecu.edu/ecucares and by telephone at 252-737-5555.

Doug Boyd

Perception paints a portrait

Though U.S. campus shootings have continued—in June, a gunman opened fire at Seattle Pacific University in Washington killing one person and wounding two before being tackled by a student security guard—ECU has experienced relatively little violent crime.

According to the federal Department of Education’s campus crime reporting website, from 2010-2012, the most recent years for which information is available, ECU experienced 25 forcible sex offenses, six robberies and six aggravated assaults on campus or property immediately adjacent to campus, such as a sidewalk on Fifth Street.

Larceny is the most prevalent crime on campus and usually involves unsecured property, according to the report “Crime in North Carolina—2012” by the N.C. Department of Justice. The report covers 10 years of statistics and shows a significant downward trend. For example, ECU’s overall crime index (the number of serious crimes per 100,000 people) decreased by 42 percent between 2003 and 2013, and violent crime fell 63 percent. With small numbers of incidents, small changes from year to year can greatly influence percentages.

The most frequent reason for arrests on campus is alcohol violations, according to ECU Police statistics. Many other liquor law violations result in disciplinary actions.

Greenville’s crime index has fallen 40 percent since 2003—44 percent for violent crime.

A check of the crime-reporting website RaidsOnline shows a number of crimes within a half-mile of ECU’s campus, mainly robberies and thefts. However, an alleged murder in downtown Greenville on June 18 stands out. Police say it was gang-related.

“It can certainly have an impact on people’s perceptions of safety, not only on campus but off campus as well,” Koch said. “We want our students and campus community to remain vigilant, but not fearful. Listen to your friends when they voice concerns, speak up about your own concerns, watch out for one another and take action. Contact police if you see suspicious activity or feel unsafe.”

This spring, a student contacted ECU Police after seeing a woman with a sidearm. “People need to stay vigilant, but not fearful. Listen to your friends when they voice concerns, speak up about your own concerns, watch out for one another and take action. Contact police if you see suspicious activity or feel unsafe.”

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“Everyone has to be involved in (campus safety),” says ECU Police Chief Gerald Lewis. “It’s a shared responsibility.”

An informal survey of students showed that from eastern North Carolina thought Greenville has a crime problem. Those from large cities don’t.

Senior Carolyn Vassallo grew up in Philadelphia and compared ECU and Greenville to Temple University and its surrounding area “where people walk around with guns,” she says. “You’re afraid for your life.”

“Greenville’s not that,” says Koch, who grew up in eastern Pennsylvania, and has lived and worked in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. He has praise for those two cities while acknowledging their violent crime rates. “A lot of it is your perspective.”

Walter Holt of Chapel Hill is on the board of the ECU Parents Advisory Council, and his son, Walter III, is an ECU student. College student naiveté is more of a concern of his than outright danger on and near campus.

“College campus neighborhoods usually are safe, but students are far too trusting,” Holt says.

What are his biggest safety concerns for his son?
“Being in the wrong place at the wrong time,” Holt says. “Walter III will be living off-campus in his fraternity house this next academic year, so fire/robbery/assault is a larger concern than when he lived on campus as a freshman.”

Sensible precautions are a good idea, says junior Sasha Preddie. “I’ve had two friends who got robbed, one on campus near the dorm and one downtown,” she says. “I won’t leave the library by myself after 12 o’clock, and I live on Fifth Street. Everything close to the outskirts is less safe. If I’m around campus too late, I’ll call SafeRide.”

Each year, the university spends more than $7 million on safety-related costs, much of that in salaries. During the next three fiscal years, ECU plans to spend more than $1 million on specific safety measures such as emergency blue-light phone upgrades, lighting improvements, card access and alarms on buildings.

Part of everyday life

“That’s the first thing parents ask about,” says Virginia Hardy, ECU vice chancellor for student affairs, referring to campus and community safety. Her division plays a significant safety role, from working with ECU Police on prevention workshops for students to operating the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, which administers the university’s student code of conduct.

“Campus safety is top priority across the campus, and it’s something we take very seriously in student affairs,” says Hardy. “In fact, it is a large part of our daily operations.”

The division also operates the Dean of Students office, which offers counseling and advocacy among other services. It also offers online educational modules that are required for students. They cover topics such as substance abuse, diversity and personal safety.

“Each fall we have more than 5,500 new first-year and transfer students walk onto our campus. We want them to feel as safe as possible. And we want their families to feel confident that they are leaving their students in a safe place and in good hands,” Hardy said.

“We are constantly communicating with our students about safety measures. Additionally, based on feedback, trends or new information, we adapt, change and improve our method of communications about safety as well as resources and services available.”

The topic is also a priority for state officials. In May, Gov. Pat McCrory visited ECU to sign an order creating the Governor’s Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Prevention and Treatment Task Force. It will build on statewide prevention, treatment and enforcement programs implemented by the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, the Department of Health and Human Services and the UNC system. (See story, page 5)

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“The physical, mental and social costs of addiction can last a lifetime,” McCrory said at the event. “Substance abuse often starts in a person’s youth, which is why we are targeting our efforts on early intervention and treatment.”

Underreaction not an option

Even with electronic and mechanical measures, vigilance is still the key to safety, officials stress.

“If you see something, say something,” says Lewis. “It’s public has to be our ears and eyes. That’s the way the system is supposed to work.”

Lights, cameras and messaging systems improve safety and prepares students on campus, even for non-criminal occurrences such as snowstorms and hurricanes.

They were tested in November 2011 in a scenario that at first looked like it could become dangerous. Greenville Police spotted a man walking near campus carrying an object that, on the surveillance camera, looked like a rifle. It turned out to be an umbrella, but until that was known, authorities locked down campus and searched it and surrounding neighborhoods.

Though it was a false alarm, it gave law enforcement and campus administration a thorough test and uncovered some issues. For example, postings on social media about phantom gunmen consumed valuable time to track down. But police took the threats seriously.

“If you underreact at the wrong time, you pay,” says Greenville Police Chief Hassan Aden. “If you overreact and have to apologize, I’d rather apologize.”

In 2007, Virginia Tech officials thought the first two homicides were an isolated incident, began investigating them but didn’t alert the broader campus. They were wrong.

“Today, shots fired, we’re locking down and (then) doing the investigation,” Koch says. “Once we’re confident the threat is eliminated, we can come out of lockdown. We all respond differently today.”

See story, page 5. East

Police work for students, faculty and staff. Call 252-328-6787.

Residence hall coordinators are available to assist with roommate issues.

The ECU family guidebook (www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/police/upload/2013-Annual-Safety-Report.pdf) includes important information and telephone numbers regarding campus safety and other issues.

SafeRide provides nighttime commuting for students, faculty and staff. Call 252-328-7435 (252-ECU-RIDE)

ECU’s annual security and fire safety report is online at www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/police/upload/2013-Annual-Safety-Report.pdf. Resources

For emergencies, call 911.

Student Patrol Officer escorts are available on campus. Call 252-328-6787.

ECU Police can unlock and jumpstart vehicles for students, faculty and staff. Call 252-328-6787.

For more information, visit ECU’s official website at www.ecu.edu.
Deborah C. Varnam ’99 (MSN)
Owner/operator and nurse practitioner, Varnam Family Wellness Center, Shallotte, N.C.
“Good nurse leaders are invaluable to patients. My patients are always asking me about health care issues because they know I’m advocating for them. They know I’m their partner in health care and not just their caregiver.”

When Mary Chatman ’90 ’94 ’12 was a nursing assistant, she got adrenaline rushes from “dealing with blood and guts.”

Today, as second-in-command of a 654-bed academic medical center, she gets a greater thrill from equipping others to succeed in the work she used to do. And she credits the College of Nursing at East Carolina University for her leadership prowess and perspective.
With more than 1,300 students enrolled across all degree programs, ECU’s nursing school at the top producer of new nurses among the state’s four-year academic institutions, according to a recent report received by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Moreover, since the college opened its doors in 1960, it has provided one constant amid an ever-evolving health care environment: graduates prepared not only to be great nurses, but also great leaders.

“Good leadership is needed at all levels of nursing. From staff nurse to high-level management,” says Sylvia Brown ’75 ’78, dean of the college. “Now that so much inter-professional work happens both at the bedside and in the boardroom, nurses need a special skill set.”

When a health care organization or related business needs someone to pilot a team, industry leaders consistently turn to ECU nursing graduates. According to Brown, that’s because the college is intentional about equipping nurses to tackle the most pressing challenges of the region and the industry. Many of the challenges close to home are related to workforce shortages, Brown says. About 3,500 nursing jobs are vacant statewide. And most nurses working in eastern North Carolina have two-year degrees, so ECU graduates—with their four-year degrees—are often thrust into leadership early on in their careers.

From a broader perspective, she says, most challenges arise from a health care culture that increasingly regards a team approach as the best way to deliver care. “It’s important to note that the qualities paramount in good leaders are also required of good team players,” she says.

Beyond basic nursing skills, Brown says, a nurse leader’s toolbox should include good communication skills, an open mind, a team mentality, mentorship, patient advocacy, a big-picture focus and an understanding of processes. She says the culture within ECU’s College of Nursing breeds all those qualities.

A broader scope

Chatman says her perspective on nurses in leadership has changed a lot in just five years. “The scope is so much broader now,” she says. “It used to be that nurses led nurses; now nurses lead a lot of stuff.”

As chief operating officer for Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Chatman leads the day-to-day operations for the center’s nursing divisions, patient care services, outpatient clinics, human resources and a variety of MUMC institutes. She joined the center in 2009 after a healthy stint as vice president and chief nursing officer for then-Pitt County Memorial Hospital—now Vidant Medical Center—in Greenville.

Chatman says her role requires her to be nimble, industry-savvy, a good communicator and an effective mentor—qualities ECU instilled in her at every academic level.

“Today’s nurse leader needs a broad understanding of nursing as well as operations—operations of a hospital, an outpatient facility, a school of nursing,” she says. “You may not have to run all these things, but you definitely will have to interface with them all.”

Chatman says the College of Nursing taught her not only the role of a nurse leader, but also how to look the part, how to play the part and the importance of mentoring others along the way “to ensure nursing won’t lose its place at the table in multidisciplinary discussions.”

The Engelhard native says the culture of diversity she experienced at ECU contributed to a “social intelligence” that daily aids her interactions with people from all walks of life and with different attitudes about health care.

As an undergraduate student, Chatman says, her nursing professors taught her how to process information in new ways and explore possibilities. “I graduated from a tiny high school where we all learned how to read and regurgitate,” she says. “I didn’t know how to extrapolate, how to think critically. But my professors knew exactly what I needed.”

At the master’s level, Chapman says, they taught her how to translate the technical nursing skills she’d then mastered into strategic thinking.

And when she returned as a professional leader to pursue her doctorate, she says, her professors-turned-peers openly acknowledged the tensions that arise as colleagues change roles, and they helped her deal with them constructively, always modeling accessibility, peer support and good mentorship.

Leadership and patient care can coexist

Family nurse practitioner Debbie Varnam ’92 ’99 says the College of Nursing taught her “to be more—and better—than what society says is the standard, to think outside the box and persevere even when it’s uncomfortable”—skills critical to an FNP in an M.D. world, she says. Varnam owns and operates a family wellness center in
Linda McCoy ’98 (MSN), right
Retired oncology clinical nurse specialist
Nash General Hospital, Rocky Mount
Shakeerah McCoy ’10 (MSN), left
Clinical nurse specialist and transitional care program coordinator
Nash General Hospital, Rocky Mount

“We while vary in our area of interests and years of experience, my mother (Linda) and myself have both been able to create innovative change in our respective practice environments because of the educational experiences we received at the ECU College of Nursing. The college prepares clinical nurse specialists like us to lead the continued development of the nursing practice environment through appreciation and understanding of the patient and family, other nurses and the overall health system. It provided us with the knowledge and skill set to effectively participate in shared governance councils, to develop new programs for the organization, to serve as mentors, and to lead efforts to further health promotion and disease prevention in the community we serve.”

Leadership at all levels

One reason ECU excels at cultivating successful nurse leaders, Brown says, is that leadership concepts are embedded in the curriculum from the moment an undergraduate student enters nursing school. As first-semester juniors, all nursing students take an introductory course in professional nursing. They conclude their senior year with another nursing leadership course.

Every master’s-level student takes a class in health care quality, safety and policy as well as health care finance and economics courses. Among the eight specialties offered at this level is a nursing leadership concentration. Recently, U.S. News & World Report ranked the college’s online master’s programs fifth out of nearly a hundred programs nationwide.

ECU’s doctorate of nursing practice prepares nurses to lead inter-professional health care teams. The doctorate of philosophy equips them for leadership in research, policy, administration and educational settings.

In recent years, BB&T Leadership Enhancement Fund grants have fostered many ECU nursing leadership initiatives. In 2006 they helped create the East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership, the first of its kind in North Carolina. Housed in the College of Nursing, it provides continuing leadership education for nursing students, faculty and practicing nurses statewide, not to mention individual mentoring relationships with experienced nurse leaders.

Another weapon in the college’s leadership development arsenal: the service-learning opportunities students get.

“Nursing is about health promotion and prevention,” Brown says. “We shouldn’t prepare our future nurse leaders in hospitals only, where the sickest people are. Our program chooses to prepare them in settings like schools, also, where they can learn how to affect people’s health for the long term.”

Chatman believes another of ECU’s weapons is its geography. “Because of its position in eastern North Carolina, the college attracts rural talent,” she says. “It’s important for patients to be able to relate to their caregivers. We want our workforce and our leadership to mimic the population we serve because that contributes to better patient care perception, better patient care outcomes. Recruiting local and regional talent increases the chances that talent will stay in the area.”

Although Pirate nurses are practicing in every state, ECU administrators say approximately 92 percent of ECU’s post-graduate degree holders are employed in North Carolina, and more than half are working in eastern North Carolina.

Dr. Warren Newton, director for the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers, extolled ECU’s track record of cultivating successful nurse leaders. AHEC’s mission centers on improving access to quality health care for North Carolinians, in part by addressing workforce needs.

“ECU recognizes long ago that future nurse leaders would require a bridge to post-baccalaureate education to prepare for leadership in an era of continuous change,” he says.
The pencil man makes his mark

The influence of two teachers—one in high school, the other at ECU—lifted Timothy Gomez from the street corner to the corner office at the world’s largest pencil company. Now he’s on a mission to help teachers help students like him.

Tim Gomez, center back, and members of the Orlando Magic basketball team hand out more than 200 free backpacks stuffed with pencils and art supplies to pupils in Parramore, a poor neighborhood in Orlando, Florida. Gomez’s company, pencil maker Dixon Ticonderoga, teamed with the Magic and Amway to stage the 2013 event. Over the past three years, Dixon Ticonderoga, Amway and the Magic have handed out more than 2,100 supply-filled backpacks to Orlando’s children.

Photograph courtesy Dixon Ticonderoga
It was 22 years ago, but Timothy Gomez ’92, ’95, chief executive of Dixon Ticonderoga, the world’s largest pencil company, vividly remembers the day his life changed and the East Carolina University professor who changed it.

It was his senior year at ECU, and Gomez—a poor kid from Elizabeth City who was working his way through college—was thinking about a career after graduation. He skipped class one day to drive to Raleigh to take the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School exam. The military seemed like an acceptable career choice to Gomez. His dad was a career Coast Guardsman. Gomez had grown up in coastal communities and loved boating.

“When I got back to ECU, I heard that Dr. (Barry) Duvall wanted to see me in his office,” Gomez recalls. “I thought I was in trouble for skipping his class. When I got to his office, he said he had heard what I had done and he wanted to know why I was throwing my life away.

“He had two pieces of paper in his hand. The first one was an application to the Officer Candidate School exam. I thought I was going to a job interview. When I told him about the Coast Guard, he told me I had done and he wanted to know why I was throwing my life away.

“He had two pieces of paper in his hand. The first one was an application to the Officer Candidate School exam. I thought I was going to a job interview. When I told him about the Coast Guard, he told me I had done and he wanted to know why I was throwing my life away.

“The first one was an application to the Officer Candidate School, the second was an application to a job with ABB, the global power and automation technologies company. ABB and Brunswick Corp.

“Dr. Duvall did that for me. In one short conversation he changed the rest of my life.”

That Gomez made it into college is a credit to his English teacher at Northeastern High School.

Gomez played three sports at Northeastern. He also worked long weekend hours at a pizza place to earn spending money. He had limited time and interest to devote to his studies. His father, a native of the Philippines, and his mother, who was from Wilmington, had divorced, and times were tough. “There were periods of my life when we lived in public housing, and I was on welfare,” he recalls.

And then he met Wilma Flood.

“She had to know this lady. She was amazing,” Gomez says. “She didn’t let us get away with a lot. If it hadn’t been for her, I would never have gone to college.”

He was elevated to CEO and vice chairman of the board of directors in 2010. Under his leadership, sales have increased by 37 percent.

He identified Gomez as a high-potential employee and sent him to Cambridge University in London to study for a master’s degree in business leadership.

Then he learned the Lean Six Sigma system of efficient manufacturing practices. He used those skills to rise through the ranks at ABB and Brunswick Corp.

He joined Dixon Ticonderoga in 2006 as senior vice president of operations and radically improved the company’s warehouse and distribution functions. He was elevated to CEO and vice chairman of the board of directors in 2010. Under Gomez’s leadership, sales have increased by 50 percent.

Pencil facts

A typical pencil can draw a line 35 miles long or write about 45,000 words. The first pencils that could imprint round pencils was patented in 1908. An unpainted pencil inserted into the soil of a potted plant can eliminate mealybugs. Gardeners mark their plant labels with pencil because it won’t fade in sunlight.

Dreaming that you are sharpening a pencil suggests that you need to be more flexible in your way of thinking.

Pencils have been painted yellow since the 1890s. Back then, the best graphite came from China, where the color yellow is associated with royalty and respect. American pencil makers wanted to show they used Chinese graphite, so they began painting their pencils bright yellow.

It’s no joke—there are left-handed pencils. But it has nothing to do with the way they write. It’s about the text printed on the pencil. On an ordinary pencil the text runs from the tip to the head so you can read it when you hold it. The type is reversed for left-handed pencils.

Source: Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association

Reaching the corner office

A second internship that Duvall arranged for Gomez during graduate school led to a job with ABB, the global power and automation technologies company. ABB manufactures the ubiquitous yellow No. 2 pencil and a range of art materials and office supplies under the Ticonderoga, Prang, Dixon, Osiva, Das and Lyra brands. At 219 years old, Dixon Ticonderoga is one of the oldest companies in the country. The world’s largest producer of pencils, it turns out about 1.5 billion a year.

Now owned by an Italian company, Dixon Ticonderoga has about 200 employees at the Florida headquarters and at distribution sites across the country. Manufacturing is done overseas and in Mexico by factories owned by Dixon.
As one might expect from a producer of writing instruments and art supplies, Dixon Ticonderoga for decades has supported public schools. Gomez intensified that support and now devotes many hours of his time to charitable work in support of teachers and schools nationally and in the central Florida area around Orlando. “One of my goals is to donate enough pencils (that if lined up end to end would) stretch from coast to coast,” he says. “I’m about halfway there.”

Through a partnership with the Kids in Need Foundation, Dixon Ticonderoga has donated enough pencils and other school supplies to fill the backpacks of 2.8 million children attending Title I schools, or those with large concentrations of low-income students. The company donates an average of $1.5 million a year to Kids in Need. “I definitely focus on my social responsibility,” he says. “All of my social activities—on personal and professional levels—revolve around supporting teachers.”

“Learning to be humble”

Leyton Getsinger ’69 was associate vice chancellor for administration and finance at ECU when he met Gomez as a freshman in 1988. Getsinger was looking for a hard-working group of students to help relaunch the Theta Chi fraternity on campus. One of the oldest fraternities on campus, Theta Chi had folded in 1971.

Gomez, himself a Theta Chi brother, was impressed by Gomez. “Tim was a hard charger who was extremely focused, committed to both his academics and the fraternity. He was the kind of guy who says if it’s mine to do, it will happen.”

Gomez says Getsinger assembled a remarkable group of students. “We were 26 young men who were ambitious, we were all athletic and committed to our studies. We definitely believed in diversity. We decided we wanted to be different, and we wanted to be remembered for starting our own traditions.”

“(Getsinger) would have us over to his house, feed us and teach us how to be responsible young men. I remember seesawing for 24 straight hours in front of the Theta Chi house (on East 11th Street) to raise money for Special Olympics. I remember collecting money on Greenville Boulevard. “Learning how to be humble in life—that’s one important thing I learned (from Getsinger),” Gomez says. The Epsilon Iota Chapter of Theta Chi officially rechartered in 1991 with Gomez as a founding member. Gomez manages to save some hours out of his busy week for quality time with his family. He lives on the water near New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and enjoys boating with his wife, Terri, and their 9-year-old daughter, Gabriella. He recently renewed his Merchant Mariners Captains License “which means if there is a war I could be called into the Navy.”

He has a 27-footer that he likes to take offshore for deep-sea fishing, and a Boston Whaler for everyday fun. “Learning how to be humble in life—that’s one important thing I learned (from Getsinger),” Gomez says. The Epsilon Iota Chapter of Theta Chi officially rechartered in 1991 with Gomez as a founding member. Gomez says Getsinger assembled a remarkable group of students. “We were 26 young men who were ambitious, we were all athletic and committed to our studies. We definitely believed in diversity. We decided we wanted to be different, and we wanted to be remembered for starting our own traditions.”

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He has a 27-footer that he likes to take offshore for deep-sea fishing, and a Boston Whaler for everyday fun. He says he won’t forget Mrs. Flood and Dr. Duvall. “Going back was just a start, it’s not the end. I’m making plans to go back and put some programs in place there,” he says.

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ECU’s stars seem to be aligning for a memorable first season in the American Athletic Conference. The Pirates have several chances to create a national buzz in football. And in a school first, ECU will play home games against the reigning men’s and women’s national basketball champions.

BY STEVE TUTTLE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY CLARK
Amid all these changes, however, one thing remains the same about ECU football. The Pirates open the season with one of the nation’s toughest non-conference schedules. During September ECU will play at Southeastern Conference powerhouse South Carolina, then travel to Virginia Tech a week later. The Pirates close out September with a home game against North Carolina, which will be seeking revenge for the thumping ECU handed the Tar Heels in Chapel Hill last season. The Pirates will be battle-tested when it sets off on a run of eight conference games. With several key players returning from the team that went 10-3 and won a bowl game last season, ECU could wind up near the top of the 11-member American (growing to 12 next year when Navy joins the conference). One authoritative website, AthlonSports.com, projects ECU will go 7-5 in conference games. In the preseason football media poll, the Pirates were picked to finish fourth behind Cincinnati, Central Florida and Houston.

The one-year-old American, built on the ashes of the Big East, succeeded at most by one thing—vigilance. It’s not easy to do, but you can do it. A program like (ECU) is a home game with UCF and a road matchup at Temple, ECU has never faced UConn or Temple but has competed against each of its eight conference counterparts in past years. The American women’s tournament will be played March 6-9 at Mebetoax Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut, a New York suburb. The complete 2014-2015 American basketball schedule with specific dates and times was expected to be announced in August.

Stanley and Chandler Rose, who combined for 16 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks in 2013, are back. In the center of the defense are three experienced linemen who each weigh in at more than 300 pounds.

Big games in basketball

ECU basketball teams also have the potential to rock some national boats, but for now at least the Pirates can safely hold on to their undying ambition in roundball.

The American announced that East Carolina’s men’s and women’s basketball teams each will play a slate of 18 conference games, including home-and-away games against eight of their 10 opponents. Exact dates haven’t been announced, but the Pirates will welcome the reigning national champion UConn Huskies—men and women—to Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum. That’s a first for Pirate basketball.

The Pirates will play home-and-home basketball games against Cincinnati, Connecticut, Houston, Memphis, Temple, Tulsa, Central Florida and South Florida. ECU also will play a single game at home against Tulane and one on the road at SMU.

The men’s basketball conference championship will be played March 12-15 at the XL Center in Hartford, Connecticut. All 11 conference schools will participate in the tournament, and games will be broadcast by one of the ESPN networks.

The East Carolina men’s team returns nine letterwinners and four starters from last season’s team that went 17-17 and received an invitation to the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. A trio of transfers should give coach Jeff Lebo a dependable bench.

The women’s team begins AAC play after back-to-back 22-win seasons and consecutive trips to the Women’s NIT. Team coach Heather Macy has a 72-53 record and an invitation to the Women’s NIT, and the Pirates will welcome the reigning national champion Penn State on Oct. 16 and SMU on Oct. 19.

In volleyball, the Pirates will play in two tournaments, host 11 home games and play defending national champion Penn State on the road Sept. 20.

Carden and Hardy return

A big reason East Carolina could win 10 games again this year is the return of record-setting quarterback Shane Carden. As a junior in 2013, he completed 70.5 percent of his passes for 4,139 yards, 33 touchdowns and only 10 interceptions. He also rushed for 293 yards and 10 more touchdowns. If Carden puts up similar numbers this year, he undoubtedly will attract Heisman Trophy attention.

Filling the shoes of departed star running back Vintuvious Cooper is Ben Allen, a product of South Stanly High School. The senior, who averaged 5.0 yards a carry in limited duty last year, will be expected to pile up rushing and receiving yards this year.

The Pirates’ top two receivers from 2013—Justin Hardy and Isaiah Jones—are back, Hardy led the team last season with 114 receptions for 1,284 yards and eight touchdowns. Jones was close behind with 62 receptions for 604 yards and five touchdowns.

Several veterans return on a defensive squad that ranked ninth in the country in 2013. Among those are defensive ends Terrell Temple and Connecticut are new names on the TV schedule. The American’s contract guarantees that most Pirate football and basketball games will be broadcast nationally on an ESPN channel, ABC or CBS.

Other sports

In soccer, East Carolina will play 10 non-conference opponents, including South Carolina and Virginia Tech. The conference schedule begins with a Sept. 25 home match against UConn, followed by matches with Temple and Cincinnati. After trips to Tulsa and Memphis, ECU will play its final two home matches of the season against Houston Oct. 16 and SMU Oct. 19.

The American Conference soccer semifinals and championship games will be played Nov. 7-9 in Tampa, Florida. In volleyball, the Pirates will play in two tournaments, host 11 home games and play defending national champion Penn State on the road Sept. 20. In his first official visit to campus this summer, American Commissioner Mike Aresco drew parallels to Virginia Tech when he predicted ECU will do well in its first season in the tougher league.

“To this day Frank Beamer says there’s no way Virginia Tech could have done what it did without membership in the Big East,” Aresco said. “Think about where they were and how they built a program. It’s not easy to do, but you can do it. A program like (ECU) is already in place, especially in football. It just needs to be discovered.”
East Carolina Alumni Association is proud to offer these opportunities for alumni, friends and fans to reconnect when returning to campus for Homecoming 2014. For more information, contact Director of Alumni Programs Shawn Moore '91 '98 at 252-328-5775 or mooresh@ecu.edu or by visiting www.piratealumni.com.

Friday, October 3
Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner
Presented by Duplin Winery and Hilton Greenville
6 p.m.
Greenville Convention Center
Join us as we present the 2014 Outstanding Alumni, Honorary Alumni and Virgil Clark ’50 Distinguished Service Awards at the alumni association’s signature event. For more information, contact Director of Alumni Programs Shawn Moore ’91 ’98 at 252-328-5775 or mooresh@ecu.edu.

Saturday, October 4
Homecoming Breakfast
9 a.m.
Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center
Come out for a complimentary breakfast sponsored by Aramark and a chance to visit with fellow alumni. Stay for a front-row seat at the lawn to watch the Homecoming Parade.

Homecoming Parade
10 a.m.
Fifth Street
Join us at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center to watch the Homecoming Parade set by the theme “Land of the Free, home of the Pirate!” See the ECU Marching Pirates and local high school bands along with student organization floats. ECU cheerleaders and PepSee the Pirate. Members of the Homecoming Court and Alumni Award recipients will wave to the crowd as they navigate down Fifth Street.

Buccaneer Buffet
Three hours before kick-off.
ECU Soccer Stadium
$11 for alumni association members
$28 for non-members
Free for children 12 and under
Alumni Tailgate is now Buccaneer Buffet! Gather with fellow fans for a buffet meal catered by Aramark and dessert by Heavenly Sweet Bakery. Also enjoy beverages, live music and entertainment, door prizes and more. Buccaneer Buffet is open to any friends and fans of East Carolina.

Homecoming Concert
Student Activities Board
Oct. 2, 7 p.m., Mingus Coliseum
Cost TBA
Contact: Justin Janak at janakj@ecu.edu

Homecoming Pep Rally
Oct. 1, 5-8 p.m., at Freeboot Hill, time TBA

Back to Campus Open House Sale and Festivities
Dowdy Student Stores
Oct. 2-4
The Wright Building student store will be open extended hours so you can get decked out in the latest Pirate gear. Shop our full lineup of clothing and gifts at sale prices. If it’s not on sale already, show your class ring for a discount of 1 percent off for every year since you graduated, up to 30 percent for those celebrating 30 years or more (on regular-priced in-store merchandise). Enter our drawing for a chance to win a Pirate tailgate party tent (no purchase necessary, one entry per person per day). Best yet, shopping at Dowdy means you’re supporting scholarships. Find out more at www.studentsfunds.ecu.edu or on Facebook at “ECU Dowdy Student Stores.”

Rec Center invites alumni for a workout
Campus Recreation and Wellness
Get a great workout for free during homecoming weekend. Just say you are an ECU alum and at the customer service desk and you and a guest will be admitted for free. Alumni may bring an additional two guests for $5 each. For more information contact Dena Olo at olod@ecu.edu or 252-328-6387.

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Aug. 30 vs. N.C. Central
5 p.m., sold out.
Carter-Finley Stadium

Buccaneer Buffet 2014
Alumni Tailgate is now Buccaneer Buffet! The alumni association’s Tailgate has a new name but still offers the same family-friendly fun with fellow Pirates before each home football game. Enjoy a hearty buffet of food from local restaurants, beverages, live music and entertainment, door prizes and more, including visits from the ECU cheerleaders. Tailgates are open to all friends and fans of East Carolina.
Buccaneer Buffet will now begin at a new time of three hours before kick-off for each home game and will be held at the ECU Soccer Stadium. Tickets are $11 for alumni association members and $28 for non-members. Children under 12 are free.
Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some tailgates do sell out quickly, so plan to register well in advance. Tickets are sold at the door only; no purchase is necessary, one entry per person per day. Many thanks to our sponsors: Aramark, ASAP Party & Tent Rentals, Coca-Cola, Dowdy Student Stores, Liberty Mutual, RA Jeffreys and WITN.

For more information, contact Director of Alumni Programs Shawn Moore ’91 ’98 at 252-328-5775 or mooresh@ecu.edu.

ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic
A tradition among Pirate golfers, the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic golf tournament sponsored by the Hilton Greenville will be held Friday, Sept. 19, at Interstate Golf and Country Club. This four-person scramble tournament offers tee times at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Food will be provided at breakfast, lunch and the 19th hole reception that evening. The 2014 edition of the tournament is part of the Acura College Alumni Team Championship. Player package and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Thanks to our generous sponsors: Acura, ASAP Rentals Inc., Chick-Fil-A Winterville, Coca-Cola, Liberty Mutual, RA Jeffreys Distributing and The Fresh Market.

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Thanks to our generous sponsors: Acura, ASAP Rentals Inc., Chick-Fil-A Winterville, Coca-Cola, Liberty Mutual, RA Jeffreys Distributing and The Fresh Market.
The following eight Pirates will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Friday, Oct. 3, 5 p.m., A.J. Fletcher Music Center. 

2014 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Carl W. Davis Jr. ’73 is a regional sales manager with Electronics Research Inc. He has served as treasurer, vice chair, and chair of the board of directors for the East Carolina Alumni Association and as the alternate representative to the chair of the ECU Board of Visitors. He has been involved with the ECU Foundation and the East Carolina Athletics Hall of Fame. He is also a founding member of CommCrew, which supports the School of Communication.

Honoraty Alumni
Dr. E. Jackson Allison Jr. founded the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine in 1980. He has more than 35 years of experience teaching and administering emergency medicine in academic and clinical settings. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was the founding president of the International Board for Emergency Medicine and has served as president of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Robert H. Wright (1870-1934) was the first president of East Carolina Teachers Training School. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1897. Under his 25 years of leadership, East Carolina grew from a two-year training school to a four-year teacher college. He was a key figure in education in the state and nation. The Wright Building on campus is named in his honor.

Alumni Association Reunions
College, School and Department Activities
Serving as a military social aide at the White House, His mother’s Day tea was no picnic of tasks according to Air Force Capt. David Herndon. “Especially we showed up prior to the guests and did a military-style mission planning to be sure we understood the steps and movement of the events, where to seat the guests, would there be a receiving line, Herndon said. “We had a few times this year, once or twice, and we split up all over the East Wing.”

He was off on a date with a smile on his face for close to three hours. And he loved it. “I was essentially a greater,” he said, “but I was the first face many of the guests saw. I said, ‘Hello, and welcome to the White House,’ and directed them to the events.”

“I was stationed at what we refer to as the ‘Star Top’ (beside the main floor reception area of the residence). It was an outstanding experience. It was my first glimpse into the team that supports the president and first lady.”

Only higher-ranking young officers who are single and stationed in the National Capital Region can apply to become White House military social aides. President Theodore Roosevelt instituted the program in 1902. Approximately 40 serve at a time, chosen from all the military branches. 

“We have a range of duties, from escorting guests to serving at medal presentations and bill-signing ceremonies,” Herndon said. He said he will be expected to serve at two or three White House events a month.

Herndon’s day job is working at the Pentagon as an executive officer and special assistant to the general in charge of Air Force public affairs. He said he heard about the program soon after his transfer to the Pentagon in July 2013. “I began the process where I interviewed with an Air Force screening board and was selected to go forward for screening and potential selection at the White House Military Office. Three months later, I learned I had made the cut, and here I am.”

Originally, White House military social aides were available as dinner companions for unescorted ladies. “I haven’t had to dance yet,” Herndon said with a laugh. “But if that opportunity comes up, I look forward to that.”

A native of Raleigh who graduated from Enloe High School, Herndon majored in communication while enrolled in ROTC and was commissioned at ECU.

In the nine years since graduation he has deployed as a public affairs officer to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. He also served in Korea, Georgia, Texas and Hawaii.

In three years stationed at Pearl Harbor-Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, his boss was another ECU grad, Lt. Norih. “I was able to see him quite regularly,” Herndon said. “We aligned his press engagements, and I also had the opportunity to serve as his strategic communication and public affairs planning lead.”

Herndon lives in Pentagon City and is a runner with several half-marathons to his credit. He enjoys all the tourist spots; his favorite place to visit is the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian. His plans to make a career of military service, a calling he inherited from his father, who is a retired Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel. “He was a big influence on me. He was my guiding light,” Herndon said.

He does know where he plans to be down for some football afternoons this fall. “I came down for some football games last season,” he said. “I was in Chapel Hill to see that game and the Old Dominion game at Dowdy-Ficklen. I also played a day, sometimes a day, every other week or so.”

Herndon said, “The number of events will really pick up over the holidays. And that’s nice because that’s when the White House looks just stunning.”

—Steve Tuttle

**‘Welcome to the White House’**

Mary Abigail Hill ’13 and Charles Robert Means III ’13 (below) at Sam Mary’s Episcopal Church, Kinston. The wedding party included William Cameron Beaman ’12, Meredith Anne Hoyer, Anna Husseltzhle Owen ’12, Joseph William Owen ’11, Nathan Templeton Perry ’11, Rachel Allan Rawl, Alston Thomas Supg ’11 and Tyler Lee Wondolez. She is pursuing an MBA at ECU. He is a financial analyst with Discovery Insurance, Kinston. Cassandra Hundertmark in business development and marketing associate for Creative Marketing Alliance in New Jersey. Haylie Daniel Mattiis is an intern and graduate student at UNC-Greensboro. She is the granddaughter of Mildred Boney Mathis ’53 ’72 of Kinston, who retired as vice president for institutional services from Lanox Community Colleges. Kelsey Watts wed Nicholas Short on Nov. 20 at Magnolia Manor Plantation Bed and Breakfast, Warrenton. The wedding party included Paige Bayliss, Blake Berry, Robbie Dunn ’14, Mittz Minton, Jashua Hoones ’12, Maggie Neville 14 and Nikki Seward ’12. “I love being facilities manager at N.C. Wesleyan College, and he works with the N.C. Department of Public Safety.”

Sarah Rose Hines wed Adam Lanier Waster on April 5 at Mendes Lighthouse, Heneage. She works for Dux One, Greenville.

Sarah Weinhold, assistant principal of Croatan High School, is Carteret County Assistant Principal of the Year.

Cheryl Stephens Carty is the executive director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Lt. Col. John Shirley ’92, right, has taken command of the 361st U.S. Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group based at Harrisburg Air National Guard Base. Before assuming command of the agency, Shirley was the director of the technical requirements branch within the U.S. Central Command Intelligence Operations Division. LTG T. Michael Sisco is a selectively manned group that provides technical and intelligence analysis and surveillance capabilities in support of DOD operations and humanitarian relief. As part of the promotion, Shirley was selected for promotion to colonel. 2014

2012

2011

2010
The small group of New Jersey parents of children with dyslexia that Liz Deupree Barnes ’87 began meeting with in 2011 has grown into a national movement with chapters in 46 states. Decoding Dyslexia is “driven by families concerned with the limited access to educational interventions for dyslexia within our public schools,” Barnes said. “We aim to raise dyslexia awareness, empower families to support their children and inform policy-makers on best practices to identify, remediate and support students with dyslexia,” Barnes added. As a result of the group’s efforts, there are now dyslexia laws and pending dyslexia legislation in 27 states.

In 1962, the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity and three other student groups raised money to commission an oil portrait of Elmer Browning, the first dean of ECU’s College of Business. The painting hung in the Rawl Building for years but was misplaced when the College of Business moved into the Bate Building in 1998. Now the painting has been found, restored and hung in a place of honor. Browning and his wife, Marie Browning, an English instructor, taught at East Carolina from 1932 until 1968. At the rededication of the painting in May, Browning’s son, former N.C. Superior Court Judge Robert R. “Bobby” Browning of Greenville, said East Carolina’s business school “was the love of his life. East Carolina is a part of my heritage.” Beginning in the mid-1950s, Browning began a dogged effort to achieve accreditation for the School of Business from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. When that recognition finally came in 1967, East Carolina became just the third accredited school of business in North Carolina and one of just 132 in the nation.

In 2009, Ginger Vereen, a Keller Williams Realty agent in Raleigh, was the Web choice winner in the 2014 Realtor magazine “30 Under 30” recognition. She was named to the 2014 class of “30 Under 30.”

In 2008, Heather Nicole Chisenhall and Joshua Dennis Jackson April 12 at The Boathouse, Beaufort. The wedding party included Casey Craig ’11. She is an executive assistant in business development at Pharmaceutical Product Development LLC.

Robert R. Browning, left, and Chancellor Steve Ballard at the unveiling of the portrait honoring the late Dr. Elmer R. Browning as the first dean of what is now ECU’s College of Business.
Akeem Richmond. The video last-second three-point shot by ECU defeated Weber State in the championship game on a minute video documenting the thrilling end of the 2013 College Insider Tournament. The video can be seen on world of sports television.

More than a bookstore. We’re a part of campus.
The ECU community is familiar with the tragic story of Rachelle Friedman, who was paralyzed in a swimming pool accident at a bachelorette party. She has not walked since, but she never stopped moving forward. She became a motivational speaker, a model. Now she’s also an author. In *The Promise*, Friedman tells her story, beginning with the night her life changed. We learn that the five women at the bachelorette party “made an unspoken agreement pushed Rachelle into the pool—and their bond has remained unbroken.” A true love story, *The Promise* chronicles Rachelle’s relationship with Chris Chapman, their struggle with her paralysis and rehab, the physical challenges of intimacy and, ultimately, their fairy-tale wedding.

Friedman was interviewed by Katie Couric and Oprah and discussed her book on NBC’s *Today* Show, HLN, ABC News, Reddit and Huffington Post. Friedman also appeared and signed books at a July event at the Greenville Barnes & Noble.

Music major William Carrigan ’15, a master’s in music business student at New York University, has a new job working at a New York record label founded by Christopher Grymes ’93 ’96, a former clarinet teacher at ECU. The label, Open G Records, has released Grymes’ debut album, *A Function of Memory*. Open G Records is “committed to producing music that is rooted in the classical tradition, but delivered in a way that will resonate with current and future generations of music fans,” Grymes said. The album features music for clarinet alone, with piano, and with electronics and includes two world-premiere recordings. It can be downloaded for $12 from www.opengrecords.com. It also is available on iTunes.
Ayers ’56 of Charlotte died
Eugene “Gene” Wilson in Covington.

Voted “most versatile” her
doctor, while both were
and met her husband, a
from Wilson, died April 10 at
Witherington junior high schools in Raleigh.

died April 20. She taught
Weeks Howell
Dorothy “Dot” Kathryn
Winterville High School, in

died April 26 at 100.

Georgie died May 5
Winterville ’43 ’50 of
Pitt County.

Margaret died May 12
Robert Bell Rea
played football at East
in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. He

drove a school bus for most of

Springs Village, Ark., died April
‘52 of Hot Springs Village, Ark.

Christopher Ellsworth
Peggy Joyce Bowen Humbles
Frank Sterling Gillikin Sr.
audit staff of NATO in Brussels.

War veteran, he retired as a
the U.S. Army and a Korean

he was a public school coach,
Myrtle Stancliff Strickland ’11 of
Freemont died May 10. In 2007

He worked for the FBI for 30

He was a corporate editor and
was a copywriter in the marketing

He was a CPA with Ernst

He was a foreman

He founded Southern Inc., a development company in
North Myrtle Beach, S.C. He

He was a public school coach,

He was a homemaker.

He was a homemaker.

He was a quality manager,
was employed as a quality
engineer and quality manager,

He was a part of ECU’s centennial
Hall of Fame. She received the
She is in the ECU Educators

He taught school briefly,
the Order of the Longleaf Pine for
his service. Victoria “Vicki”
Gersh Lusqip ’72 of
Charlotte died April 17.
She taught in Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Schools and at
St. Catharine Catholic School.
At ECU, she was a member of
Delta Xi Alpha sorority.

Linwood Keith Parker ’71 of
Fairfield Glade, Tenn., died April 23.
He owned and operated Keith
Park Sporting Goods for 55
years. Robson Clark Peal ’70 of
Meridian, Miss., died April 21. He was a California
real estate attorney.

Shackelford Shoular ’73 of
Blacksburg, Va., died April 17.
She taught school in Northampton
and Halifax counties until
retirement. James “Jim”
Thomas Wall ’74 of
Greensboro died May 20. He was a
drinking alcoholic
for many years.

John Clayton Beale II of
Dunn died May 6. He
was a graduate in
Nassau, Mass., The Carolina
College Chapel, the
Crossdale Country Club,
Durham, Siler City, North
Carolina; and more recently in
Dunn at the Bennetts House. 
At ECU, he was a member of
Pi Kappa Alpha.

Franklin C. Back ’82 of
Greensboro died May 16. He
was a former
with State Utility Contractors
Inc. Elizabeth Anne Jennings
Dollie ’55 of Greensboro, Pa.,
died May 26. For 17 years she
was a corporate advertiser and
copywriter in the marketing
department at a firm in
Eaton, Pa. She was a member of
Omega sorority and acting
president of her sorority. Kristin
Foats ’88 of Greenville died
from breast cancer. She was of Greenville,
and was the daughter of

She was a teacher,
assistant women’s basketball

She was an associate
professor of education.

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Pitt County schools already had hired many graduates of East Carolina Teacher Training School by 1918. And then these new teachers began leaving the classroom in droves.

County Schools Superintendent S.B. Underwood suspected low pay was to blame. He prepared a survey asking teachers about their salary and living expenses.

Of the 87 Pitt County teachers responding to the survey, only 42 said that they planned to teach the following year, according to an article in the spring 1918 issue of the Training School Quarterly. Almost all indicated low pay was the reason.

The survey determined that the average Pitt County teacher earned $45.66 a month when schools were in session, which then was a little less than seven months. The average annual salary was approximately $282, the TSQ article said.

Because they held certificates, the ECTTS graduates were paid more than most teachers in the county. The article said the beginning wage for uncertified teachers was $35 a month or $105 a year.

In order to survive during the five months when they received no pay, teachers said they had to get by on about $23 a month. The teachers said they paid about $18 a month for room and board to live with families in the community. They paid about $2 a month for laundry. They also were expected to tithe at church and be the first to support school fundraising projects.

"Not a soul reported that her salary was sufficient for her to live on during the entire year," the article said.

Teachers were expected to buy their own books and school supplies. They were responsible for cleaning and maintaining school buildings and for securing firewood, according to the Handbook for Pitt County Teachers, 1916-17, which Underwood wrote.

Several ECTTS graduates already had moved on to better-paying jobs, the article said. "One graduate stays in a millinery store; she says she has a job 12 months out of the year, and each month she gets more money than she did teaching, and she can stay at home and has her evenings free."

Many other counties were experiencing high teacher turnover rates. Responding to the crisis, the 1919 General Assembly raised beginning salaries of teachers holding certificates from $35 to $45 a month. But a subsequent report by the State Educational Commission found that the raise was "neither sufficient to prevent the further depletion of the teaching staff, nor to induce young people to enter the profession."

The crisis eased after the 1920 Legislature raised pay for college-trained teachers to $90 a month and guaranteed them an annual increase of $5 a month for four years—the origin of today’s step-and-grade salary schedule for teachers.
Biomedical science doctoral student Sherri Moore watches as Edgar Mendivil, a visiting scholar in molecular biological sciences, works in the Rivers Building lab of Michael Wheeler, associate professor of nutrition science. The lab focuses on mechanisms of and treatments for chronic liver disease.

Photo by Cliff Hollis