Prescription for Prosperity
Skilled graduates are one way ECU is leading economic development
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Licensed to heal
Tanya Harrow ’07 serves patients and students in rural N.C.

Steve Ballard’s era
Chancellor Ballard reflects on his 12 years at the helm of East Carolina.

MO-mentum
A new coach and a new staff have injected energy into ECU’s football Pirates.

On the cover: Alex Morsch ’13 is a biomedical engineering graduate who is part of ECU’s effort to boost economic development in the East—in her case, by providing a workforce with expertise in life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

Pirate Battalion Army ROTC Cadet Christopher Rudkowski and other cadets get muddy as they navigate ECU’s West Research Campus’ new ROTC obstacle course recently in April. The cadets were practicing for the eighth annual Patriot Mud Run there later that month. The run supported Eagle Rock Camp, a program that supports military families.

Photo by Cliff Hollis
Springing forward

Change has bloomed at East Carolina this spring alongside the dogwoods and azaleas. And it’s all in this issue of East, check full of big news, inside information and Pirate insights.

Chancellor Steve Ballard, who has led ECU through an era of accomplishments and accolades, completed his final semester this spring. He will step down July 1 after 12 years leading our university. On page 32 check out the highlights of that era and how they shaped ECU, from the founding of a dental school and Honors College to landing a spot in a national athletic conference.

In that same story, get some insight into what makes this chancellor tick, including his views on public leadership and the role integrity plays in higher education.

On page 4, share the excitement about the next leader of East Carolina, Chancellor-elect Cecil Staton, announced April 27 by University of North Carolina President Margaret Spellings. Dr. Staton will begin his role July 1 and made it clear in his initial remarks he values East Carolina’s focus on students, its commitment to service and its impact in the region. Look for a more comprehensive conversation with him in the Fall issue.

Speaking of President Spellings, who began her new role March 1, we share on page 6 her first official visit to ECU and the purple-carpet welcome she received. It was a big day for us, and I don’t think it’s boasting to say we wore her with our spirit, our impact and our innovation.

Then, on page 38, there’s our new head football coach, Scottie Montgomery, a North Carolina native. Read about his desire to be a Pirate, his philosophy and his plans.

In addition, East and the East Carolina Alumni Association continue to refine the relationship that has developed during the past year. With the guidance of Heath Barman, the new president of the association, we’ve integrated alumni-related content throughout East instead of simply providing an alumni section in the magazine. Since much of our content has an alumni angle or connection in some way, this seemed a smarter way to highlight our alumni and their relationship to the university we love and serve.

Look in this issue as well for new visual features spotlighting alumni as well as East Carolina’s incredible impact on lives and communities. Keep in touch. As always, Go Pirates!

FROM THE EDITOR
Cecil P. Staton elected chancellor of ECU

Cecil P. Staton, interim president of Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia, has been named the 11th chancellor of East Carolina University by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Staton, 58, was elected April 27 during a special called meeting of the board. He will assume his new duties July 1, succeeding Steve Ballard, who has led ECU since 2004. Ballard announced last year that he was stepping down and will return to the faculty.

“Dr. Cecil Staton brings to ECU an unique blend of leadership experience in higher education, the private sector and elected public office, as well as a practical understanding of how to bring diverse constituencies and organizations together to get things done,” said UNC President Margaret Spellings.

Staton said he’s looking forward to being part of ECU’s mission to serve students, the region and the state.

“I am very excited about this opportunity because of the wonderful assets at East Carolina University and the ability I think we have to use those assets to meet the challenges public higher education is facing today and to really be innovative and show excellence in every area of the university’s work,” Staton said the day of his election. “That’s exciting to me, and I’m very happy to be here.”

Since 2014, Staton has served as vice chancellor for extended education for the University System of Georgia. In that role, he is responsible for strategic initiatives related to international education, continuing and professional education, entrepreneurial education and military affairs. He is also USG’s liaison with the Georgia Research Alliance and supports USG’s economic development initiatives and efforts to match the resources of USG institutions with Georgia’s evolving workforce needs.

Since July 2015, Staton has also served as interim president of Valdosta State, a regional USG institution with 11,500 students. In that role, he has focused on retaining, improving student success and better marketing and branding to reverse recent enrollment declines and associated budget shortfalls. He has also worked to expand VSU’s distance-learning offerings and competency-based education plan. As a result of these efforts, the university’s operating budget has been aligned with enrollment; applications for fall 2016 are up 60 percent over the previous year; and a capital campaign has raised more than $46 million during the past 18 months.

Staton also served as associate provost at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, a multi-campus institution with professional programs including medicine, law, business, education, pharmacy, engineering and nursing. In addition to teaching in the College of Liberal Arts and serving as an administrator, he led Mercer’s University Press and secured more than $4.5 million to help endow the academic publishing program.

Staton began his academic career at Brenau-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia, where he was an assistant professor of religion from 1989-95.

Staton’s private-sector experience includes founding and leading three communications companies: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, a publisher of books and curriculum products; Stroud and Hall Publishers, a publisher of books on politics and current events; and Georgia Eagle Media, a holding company for broadcasting, newspaper and media properties.

In 2004, Staton was elected as a Georgia state senator representing the state’s 18th District. He served five terms before retiring in 2014.

“His skill set of the public sector, legislature, and academia feel like we really got the total package,” said Steve Jones, chair of the ECU Board of Trustees. “It’s an exciting time.”

John Stilley, chair of the Faculty Senate and a member of the chancellor search committee, said Staton “emerged as a strong candidate as we went forward.”

He added: “We have a tremendously strong leadership team here, tremendously successful and efficient shared governance. I’m going to do my best to work with the new chancellor.”

Active in professional and civic organizations, Staton has been recognized numerous times for his service and leadership. His awards and honors include the Georgia Independent College Association’s 2014 Miller-Deal Award for significant public service in higher education; Legislator of the Year awards from the Georgia Hospital Association, Georgia Technology Association and Georgia Rural Health Care Association; and the Georgia Ambulance Association Star of Life Award.

He also holds an honorary doctorate from Mercer University and received the inaugural Richard B. Furman Award from Furman University. He serves on the board of directors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the board of visitors of the University of Georgia.

Staton, himself a first-generation college student, said ECU has “world-class faculty,” a “student-focused” staff and “engaged students.”

“I’m very impressed with the students who are there, their backgrounds and how East Carolina prepares them,” Staton said. “I believe, too, (ECU is) in the business of changing lives. As we change lives, we change families, we change communities and maybe the world.”

Eliza Monroe, a senior urban and regional planning major and member of the search committee, was impressed with how Staton has worked to increase retention at universities and with his varied background.

“I think he’s a great choice,” she said.

Staton and his wife, Catherine, have two children, Cecil P. Staton III, a financial planner in Atlanta, and William Davidson Staton, a student at DePaul University in Chicago.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Staton has a bachelor’s degree in religion from Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, master of theology and master of divinity degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest and a doctorate in Old Testament, Hebrew and ancient Near Eastern studies from the University of Oxford in England.

During the search, the 15-member committee evaluated 70 candidates, interviewed 11, brought five to campus for further talks, and submitted three names to Spellings. Jones said.

—Doug Boyd
Mia Andrine Leone, left, and Jane Brown talk with UNC President Margaret Spellings in Mendenhall.

million in grant funding.

“You’re doing an experiment, and across the bench (someone says), ‘Oh, why don’t you do that?’” said Maria Torres, a four-year doctoral student in bioenergetics and exercise science. “That happens all the time.”

Dr. Carlos Anciano and Mark Bowling, lung specialists at the Brody School of Medicine, talked about image-guided interventions they use to diagnose lung cancer and remove malignancies. Nearly 500 North Carolinians die of lung cancer every month, Bowling said.

Using high-definition video of an actual procedure, Anciano showed how they remove lesions using tiny laparoscopic instruments. He then showed a follow-up procedure on the same patient. “Now you’re just showing off,” Spellings quipped.

She also visited the School of Dental Medicine, where she participated in a remote presentation from community service learning centers in Elizabeth City and Spruce Pine.

Spellings, who assumed her role as leader of the state’s university system in March, visited ECU as part of a listening tour of the 17 system campuses.

—Doug Boyd

Dr. Sean Bash, an ECU emergency physician and international snake expert, shows a cottonmouth and copperhead to Angie Glasgow, center, and Denali Broaddy during Venom Week V, held March 9-12 at ECU. More than 250 experts in snake and spider venom attended the conference, including presenters from ECU, Duke University, the University of Colorado and the University of New Mexico.

Watch a video from Venom Week at https://youtu.be/Ew5Y1gx-0vw.

UNC president visits ECU as part of listening tour

During a March 10 visit to Greenville, UNC President Margaret Spellings learned about ECU’s work to promote innovation and economic development, improve access to health sciences education and health care, and more.

At the ECU Innovation Design Lab on Janie’s Street, Spellings saw the new Makerbot 3D printing lab and heard faculty innovators talk about their work to reduce sports injuries and improve adolescent health, explore the coast and help the military care for traumatically injured and brain-injured troops.

One word kept coming up. “If I had a nickel for every time I’ve heard ‘partnership’ since I got through the door, I’d be rich,” Spellings said. “That’s what it’s all about.”

Among those partnerships is one with the life sciences sector in eastern North Carolina—particularly workforce development.

Andrew Moghaddam, a 2014 ECU pharmaceutical graduate—Silas alone in the most recent academic year—ran other ECU-system schools. Ninety-eight percent of students pass their licensing exam on their first try, and slightly more than half remain in eastern North Carolina to practice.

On the fourth floor of the East Carolina Heart Institute, scientists and doctoral students spoke with Spellings about their research and the collaborative nature of the labs there, where the East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute is working with approximately $6.

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Biotechnology building to become reality with bond funding

With the March 15 passage of the Connect NC Bond Act, ECU officials will begin planning for a new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building. Funded by $90 million that will come from the bond, the new building will measure 150,000 square feet and house the biology and biomedical/ bioprocess engineering departments, as well as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Development Center of Excellence.

Voters approved the bond by about a 2-to-1 margin. “This bond will be a great help as we train tomorrow’s workforce and build economic capacity in the East,” said ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson.

In addition to the money ECU will receive, the 16 other UNC institutions, the state’s community colleges, state parks—are nine of which are in eastern North Carolina—and the N.C. Zoo, the National Guard and local water and sewer projects will also receive funding from the bond. Officials have said the bond will not require a tax increase.

In talking about the bond in the weeks before its passage, Chancellor Steve Ballard pointed out the enrollment growth at ECU since the Howell Science Complex opened in 1969. Enrollment then totaled 9,000. Today, it exceeds 28,000, with thousands of students taking biology-related courses and labs, Ballard has said.

“By 2020, we plan to teach 35,000 students in the sciences,” Ballard said. “That’s a jump of 16,000 students over four years. With this bond, we can do that.”

—Doug Boyd

Board approves Legacy Hall

ECU trustees voted unanimously to rename Building 71, formerly Aycock Residence Hall, as Legacy Hall during their Feb. 10 meeting.

At the request of students and others, the board began discussions in 2014 about renaming Aycock residence hall, which honored former Gov. Charles B. Aycock, whose tenure at the turn of the century has been associated with white supremacist campaigns.

In late December, workers removed the lettering and signage designating the building Aycock Residence Hall. Since then, the building has been referred to by its campus building inventory number 71.

During its September meeting, the board voted to transition the name from Aycock once 60 percent of the cost to create Heritage Hall had been raised, which had occurred by December. The hall will be a permanent place to recognize people of historical significance to the university, including Aycock.

The eventual Heritage Hall is intended to occupy a physical space in a new Student Services Center as well as virtual space.

—Jamie Smith
ECU is among seven colleges and universities nationwide recently named as winners of the prestigious 2016 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. The Simon Awards are granted through the National Association of International Educators and recognize outstanding programs or initiatives for internationalization on campus.

Other universities recognized in 2016 include the University of Maryland, the University of California, Irvine, the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, the University of California, San Diego, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

ECU was recognized as a Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award recipient, which honors a specific international program or initiative that contributes to comprehensive internationalization on campus. Other universities recognized in this category include UNC-Chapel Hill and Texas Tech University.

“Over the years, we have looked at the previous Simon Award winners as a source of inspiration and ideas, so it is a huge honor to now be among that elite group,” said Jamie Leibowitz, ECU’s interim global academic initiatives director. “Being a Simon Award recipient is also a testament to ECU’s willingness to invest in programs that allow to flourish innovative ideas that support its mission.”

The GAI program partners with 62 institutions in 33 countries to allow an interactive, student-driven global experience for approximately 300 ECU students each semester. Since the program began in 2004, more than 5,000 students have participated in GAI activities worldwide. GAI’s largest section is Global Public Health, a course where students work with three distinct partner institutions for three to four weeks. Students lead real-time discussions about culture, family, and cultural traditions, meaning of life and religion, stereotypes and prejudices. Sixty percent of the class time is spent in video connections with students from other countries.

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Now married, Ryan Wilson ‘11 and Samantha Carlil Wilson ‘10, once had only one thing in common: they were Alumni Scholarship recipients at ECU. Now, they’re encouraging other alumni to support the association in events such as the Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run held each spring. They ran in the 2013 race before they got married and participated in the 2016 event as well. They’re glad to know they’re helping students by giving to the scholarship program.

“This makes me smile to think of current students getting this scholarship,” Sam said. “It reminds them they’re doing something right.”

“It makes me think of the type of student we’ve known for his dedication to ECU,” Howell remembered for his knowledge, leadership and service.

“His influence began long before he was chancellor,” said Henry Ferrell, a former history professor and university historian at ECU. Howell was instrumental in creating the Faculty Senate and was one of the primary voices who helped compile information that led to the founding of the Brody School of Medicine.

Howell served in the U.S. Army Air Corps for three years during World War II, after which he received a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a master’s degree in political science from the University of Alabama. He taught in political science from the late 1960s to the early 1970s.

Howell was instrumental in helping to compile information that led to the founding of the Brody School of Medicine.

He was considered a good choice because he knew the campus, got along well with faculty and had the strong support of Bill Friday, president of the state university system, said John Tucker, professor of history and university historian. “He is known for his steady, stabilizing influence on campus and in relation to the community.”

Howell’s mission was not to create change, Tucker added, but to guide students to maturity before the tenure of Chancellor Leo Jenkins, especially the medical school. He served as chancellor until he retired in 1967. In 1991, the Howell Science Complex was named in honor of John and Gladys Howell. She is a retired member of the university’s sociology faculty.

“Chancellor Howell served ECU with distinction,” said Chancellor Steve Balch. “Nancy and I will always remember the grace and warmth with which he and Gladys welcomed us to the Greenville community.”

The Howell raised two sons in Greenville, both of whom now live in the Triangle area. For the last few years, Howell had been a resident of Golden Living Center – Jules Harwood

**Campus Kitchens addresses food waste, hunger**

A student led project at ECU is marking six years of addressing hunger locally.

ECU has the only Campus Kitchens program in the UNC system and the largest of four programs in the state.

“We’re still sustainable, and that’s the beauty of this project,” said Victoria Barfield, a graduate student in nutrition science and advisor for ECU Campus Kitchens Hot Meals.

Teams of students prepare nutritious meals consisting of meat, vegetable, starch and dessert at Todd Dining Hall and deliver them on a rotating schedule to four community partners: Operation Sunshine, the Little Willie Center, OY Soup Kitchen and the Ronald McDonald House.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, the ECU had at more than 200 volunteers, served 2,500 pounds of food, provided more than 1,000 meals and served 1,226 clients.

While the dining hall donates meat, it would otherwise have discarded due to impending expiration dates, most of the vegetables and fruit come from the annual ECU Homecoming canned food drive. More than 1,100 pounds of food were collected in the fall and will be used throughout the year. Barfield said.

Support the Alumni Scholarship program by participating in the 2016 ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic golf tournament Sept. 9 or by donating at PirateAlumni.com/Donate. And be sure to look for information on next year’s Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run April 22, 2017.

**Grad programs ranked**

ECU’s online graduate programs in business, criminal justice, education and nursing are listed in U.S. News & World Report’s “2016 Best Online Programs.”

The College of Education said its programs ranked 114th out of 117 programs in the 2015-2016 U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Graduate Schools”.

ECU’s College of Health Sciences said its programs ranked 18th among such programs by U.S. News.
Art school to open ‘glass station’ in Farmville

The ECU School of Art and Design plans to open a hand-blow glass art studio in a building that formerly housed a service station in downtown Farmville.

Hand-blow glass is a new curriculum area for ECU and the first of its kind in the UNC system. Students will travel from Main Campus in Greenville for classes, which are expected to begin this fall, said Chris Buddo, dean of the ECU College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Because of the type of equipment and space needed, no more than six to eight students will be able to participate at a time. “We expect that demand will outstrip our ability to meet it,” Buddo said. “We expect this will become a growth area for us.”

Hand-blow glass could become a new concentration in the art school. Initial interest is expected to come from ceramics and sculpture students, Buddo said.

The project is a result of a grassroots effort. The Farmville Group, a volunteer economic development association interested in growing the local economy through the arts, the Allen and Stowe families donated the building to the DeVincenti Trust, which is leasing it to ECU. Community leaders contacted ECU in 2014 to talk about opening a studio or art gallery space as a way “to use art to breathe economic pol into downtown,” Buddo said.

In response, ECU proposed a glass art studio that would not only serve as a classroom for students but also become a destination for people interested in learning about glass blowing. The studio will feature public viewing areas and offer workshops to the general public, including underviserved populations who may never have been exposed to this type of art. “Our hope is to make Farmville a go-to creative center in eastern North Carolina,” Buddo said.

“We are thankful for Farmville for building a vision around art.”

The school will recruit two artists to serve as adjunct faculty members and purchase equipment needed for glass production. ECU also will be partnering with Pitt Community College and Pitt County Schools to make the facility available for instruction and other learning opportunities.

Todd Edwards, a member of the Farmville Group, wanted to create an incubator for young artists that would help retain talent in the area and have local economic impact. His construction company is contractor for the trust on the project. “We want school kids to be inspired and to come here and be engaged,” said Edwards. “This is a template and road map for all small towns. This will go beyond just this facility.”

ECU will pay approximately $14,000 a year plus utilities, to lease the building that officials are calling the “glass station” as a nod to the building’s former life as a gas station on West Wilson Street. Built in 1946, the building will provide about 2,400 square feet of studio space.

—Crystal Batty

Future ECU students participating in a disaster day drill with the Virginia Fire-Rescue-EMS Department.

ECU medical students participating in a disaster day drill with the Virginia Fire-Rescue-EMS Department.

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

• Every issue of East magazine
• At least a 25 percent savings on registration for most alumni events, including Buccaneer Buffet tailgates and networking events
• VIP (Very Important Pirate) experiences at select alumni events
• The monthly e-newsletter ECUUpdate
• Weekly MemberGrams with discounts at local and national retailers
• Discounts to special events and activities
• Free registration for the Pirate Career Casts series

Alumni adds recent grad membership level

Recent graduates will be able to join the East Carolina Alumni Association for $25 starting July 1, while other membership dues will remain the same. Annual individual memberships will increase to $40 from $35 on July 1, and the annual couple’s membership will increase to $60 from $50.

“This is the first rate increase since the membership program began in 2006.”

“The economic landscape has changed so much since then; it really was time for an increase,” said Neal Crawford ’85, past chair of the alumni association board of directors. “Joining the alumni association provides one of the more cost-effective and impactful ways to support ECU. We help make it possible for alumni and supporters to have a lifelong relationship with East Carolina.”

Not only is membership a great way to support ECU, it also provides many benefits such as member-only communications and opportunities to network and connect with other Pirates, said Crawford.

“We’re always trying to find ways to engage young alumni, and this (recent graduate) rate will make it easier for them to join and stay connected to the university,” Crawford said.

Benefits include discounts on registration for Buccaneer Buffet tailgates and bringing the Whole Crew family outings, East magazine and more (see glance box). Membership support allows the association to host networking and social events for alumni and their families, provide scholarships to students, give awards to honor the accomplishments of alumni volunteers and leaders, and offer services and communications for all ECU alumni worldwide.

Membership is open to anyone who wants to support ECU, including former students, spouses, parents, faculty, staff and community members.

—Jackie Drake

Military alumni chapter planned

The East Carolina Alumni Association is partnering with ROTC and Student Veteran Services to form a chapter for military alumni.

The chapter will serve a variety of populations, including veterans who came to ECU after serving, and graduates who entered the military after college, either through ROTC or independently.

The first step is to gather data and build a master list of military alumni. While any existing military alumni outreach has been fragmented, this effort would update information across the entire alumni database.

“We get to figure out a good way to make sure we’re getting to everyone,” said Nicole Jablonski, assistant director of Student Veteran Services. “We’re so close to so many military bases, there’s a big population we can pull from. We just have to find them.”

Accurate numbers for military alumni at ECU are hard to come by. Prospective students applying to ECU have an option to self-identify as military, which doesn’t always happen and wasn’t always possible.

“Myth military alumni were hard to come by. Student Veteran Services. “We’re getting to everyone,” said Nicole Jablonski, assistant director of Student Veteran Services. “We’re so close to so many military bases, there’s a big population we can pull from. We just have to find them.”

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There are roughly 1,500 graduates of the ROTC program at ECU, around 1,200 from the Air Force detachment and more than 300 from the Army detachment.

“There’s a huge untapped potential there,” says Tom Shubert, who graduated from the Air Force ROTC program at ECU in 1974. He retired as a colonel after 30 years of service and now works with the Civil Air Patrol, a civilian auxiliary of the Air Force.

“What are these alumni doing now and what can they do to help current students?”

Shubert helped the Civil Air Patrol organize incentive flights for Air Force ROTC students at the Farmville Airport in November. Many of the pilots were ECU alumni. Shubert hopes the group will foster more experiences like this.

“I think military alumni would like to be more involved,” Shubert said. “I think they’d enjoy meeting other alumni but I think they really want to engage with cadets and help them along their careers.”

Military alumni can provide valuable insight and guidance to students.

“A big thing when you leave the military is that you’re left your social network, and going to college and getting a degree can seem like an unattainable goal,” Jablonski said. “It can be helpful and motivating for students to see alumni who were in their situation who have now gotten jobs or started businesses.”

One of the goals for the chapter is to host a military event as part of homecoming, as well as other events where alumni could mingle with students and network.

“This group could help alumni make connections with potential employers,” Jablonski said. “A lot of companies are interested in working with military alumni. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

To find out more or get involved with the military alumni chapter, contact Lindsay Raymond-Weston, assistant director for alumni programs, at 252-328-1958 or raymondweston15@ecu.edu or visit PirateAlumni.com/MilitaryAlumni.

—Jackie Drake

Col. Tom Shubert “A center, with cadets in the ECU Air Force ROTC program.

ECU student adds recent grad membership level

Recent graduates will be able to join the East Carolina Alumni Association for $25 starting July 1, while other membership dues will remain the same. Annual individual memberships will increase to $40 from $35 on July 1, and the annual couple’s membership will increase to $60 from $50.

“This is the first rate increase since the membership program began in 2006.”

“The economic landscape has changed so much since then; it really was time for an increase,” said Neal Crawford ’85, past chair of the alumni association board of directors. “Joining the alumni association provides one of the more cost-effective and impactful ways to support ECU. We help make it possible for alumni and supporters to have a lifelong relationship with East Carolina.”

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—Jackie Drake
Ballard accepts award for ECU's community engagement

Chancellor Steve Ballard received the Lee M. Lambert Engaged Leader Award from the North Carolina Campus Compact at its 15th annual conference held Feb. 10 at High Point University. The award recognizes North Carolina chancellors or presidents who are committed to meaningful engagement in their communities, highlighting the role leaders play in setting priorities at their institutions.

“This is really a recognition of ECU and the commitment of hundreds of people to make a difference in this community,” Ballard said after the ceremony. “Engagement with the community means everything to what kind of university we are.” Ballard arrived at ECU in 2004, and East Carolina has never been the same since,” said Nido Qubein, HPU president and chair of the N.C. Campus Compact Executive Board. ECU has become an economic engine in the region and has been nationally recognized for its community engagement efforts, Qubein said as he introduced Ballard.

The UNC system's longest-serving chancellor, Ballard was recognized for his efforts to make ECU known as a leadership university, focusing on student success, service to the state and regional transformation in eastern North Carolina.

For example, ECU's support of the Lucille W. Gorham Intercollegiate Community Center, a campus-community partnership started in 2007 to support children and families in east Greenville, was nationally recognized in 2012 with the C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award. ECU also partners with the Wounded Warrior Project to assist soldiers returning to civilian life.

The chancellor has also established academies to provide intensive leadership training for faculty, staff and students, and he started the Engaged Outreach Scholars Academy to support faculty and students who work with community partners on mutually beneficial research projects. To date, hundreds of faculty, staff and students have participated in these programs. On average, 45 percent of North Carolina students are active in civic and community engagement, well above the national average of 39 percent, according to Leslie Garvin, executive director of the compact.

“This is a movement,” Garvin said. “We are committed to transforming North Carolina one institution at a time. We couldn’t be more excited about the future of service learning, and we couldn’t do it all without leadership.”

N.C. Campus Compact is a collaborative network of colleges and universities with a shared commitment to educating engaging citizens and strengthening communities. Presidents and chancellors from more than 48 public, private and community colleges and universities have joined since the program started as a pilot in 1999.

“ECU has a shared commitment to EVP — leadership,” said Thomas J. Rossin, chancellor of Elon University. ECU joined as a charter member the same year.

“ECU is so excited to see how the spirit of the Pirate Nation travels across the country.” Last fall, Coleman coordinated an alumni event at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where more than 200 Pirates gathered for some barbecued frozen in east Greenville. “It was such a huge showing of school spirit.”

“Virtually everyone knew one other local Pirate. Now, that number is two women, enroll.”

Dr. Charles O’Hagan Laughinghouse, a local doctor and ECU’s school president who is named president of the Medical Society of North Carolina. A staunch advocate of public health and preventive medicine, Laughinghouse, in a speech during “Better Babies” week urges Greenville residents to clean up a mosquito-infested ditch near the grade school and high school to reduce the spread of malaria. “Is it possible that you have eyes that see not and ears that hear not the things that have been told you by the United States Public Health Service, by the state public health service, and by your local public health service, and by the physicians of your town? If it was making your children and young cores sick, you’d stop it,” he tells the crowd.

Jay Clark, president of the Medical Society of North Carolina, said Ballard believed "all of us, if we could make the right investments in the health of children here, in Greenville and in the world, we could solve the problems of the world we were born in." Ballard's work with ECU's community engagement has been nationally recognized for his dedication to improving civic and community life.

A consultant's report mentions two awards of the Institute of Life Sciences and Community Health at ECU. The report says such an institute would provide the base for the development of a new graduate degree in public health. It also offers advice on the expansion and enhancement of science programs and the planning of new facilities to house the expanded programs. The report recommends that the institute be named the Institute of Life Sciences and Community Health and be housed on the campus of ECU. It also mentions the usage of $2 million from the ECU's Compact to support the institute and that the project could be funded by the state. A similar initiative was proposed by Dr. John S. Coleman, who was the head of the Institute of Life Sciences and Community Health.

Nido Qubein, High Point University president, presents the Lee M. Lambert Engaged Leader Award to ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard.

Volunteers organize alumni events and chapters across U.S.

From the nation's capital to the Pacific, alumni volunteers are hosting events and organizing chapters to connect fellow Pirates.

"When I first moved to Northern Virginia right after graduating, I knew one other local Pirate. Now, I know more than 50, and there are over 2,000 in this area," said Courtney Dunn Jr., a volunteer who helps organize events for the DC Metro Chapter in Washington, D.C.

"We held our first event in February and had a terrific response, so we took forward what this program has the potential to grow into," Dunn said. It's easy to be friends with anyone from ECU, says Nicole Blood Coleman Jr., a volunteer in the Dallas area. "It brings me a great sense of pride, especially being so far from home. It's so exciting to see how the spirit of the Pirate Nation travels across the country." Last fall, Coleman coordinated an alumni event at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where more than 200 Pirates gathered for some barbecued frozen in east Greenville. "It was such a huge show of school spirit," he said.

"Pirates are known for their spirit in Greenville and across the country. "Even my co-workers know that graduates of ECU always support their university and have true Pirate pride," said Karla Jones Jr., who works at Central Piedmont Community College and serves as a volunteer for the Charlotte area.”

"Keeping connected with fellow Pirates is very important because we are what keeps each other strong in a sea of unfamiliar faces," said Los Angeles volunteer Wayne Sampson Jr.

Building a network galvanizes the resources of the Pirate Nation, said Michael Dudley, "a volunteer in Charlotte, South Carolina. "This allows each of us to go back to our alma mater enhancing what ECU has to offer and producing quality alumni who can, in turn, add their own resources to the network of Pirates," he said.

People need not worry that the alumni association just wants you to ask for money, said Dunn of Virginia. "That's not the point at all," she said. "We would like you to give back to ECU, sure, but personally I would much rather see you help out a fellow ECU grad who may be in need of the area or just help us cheer on the Pirates like we are back in Dixie-Flicker." The alumni association is working to strengthen their chapter in Washington, D.C., southeastern Virginia, South Carolina, Greenville-RIC County. If you live in these cities and would like to get involved with other Pirate alumni in your area, contact Lindsey Raymond-Weston, assistant director for alumni programs, at 252-328-1958 or lindsayraymondweston@ecu.edu.

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Spring is a time when everyone comes outdoors and the campus is bursting with flowers and fresh air. It’s the perfect time to come back for a visit. And when you do, stop by Dowdy!

Dowdy Student Stores are owned and operated by ECU with shops in the Wright Building, Brody Building and Pirate athletic venues.

We’re not just the student bookstore, we carry a wide selection of East Carolina merchandise and apparel in our stores. By shopping with us, your purchases benefit scholarships and support campus programs.

Come back to campus, take in a show, visit a gallery, watch the Pirates play ball, or just go for a stroll. When you do, we hope you’ll stop by and say hello. We’d love to see you.

Springtime on Campus

Professors recognized for their research, creative work

Four ECU faculty members were recognized for their research, engagement and creative accomplishments during ECU’s 10th annual Research and Creative Achievement Week in April.

Bob Ebensdorfer, a professor emeritus of metal design in the School of Art and Design, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity.

Shouquan Huo, an associate professor of inorganic and organic chemistry, and S. Raza “Raz” Shaikh, associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a member of the East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute at the Brody School of Medicine, received Five-Year Achievement Awards for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity.

Paige Viren, an associate professor of recreation and leisure studies, received the Scholarship of Engagement Award. Ebensdorfer is an internationally known master metalsmith and jewelry designer who incorporates cast-off objects into his works, pairing unusual items from broken glass to bottle tops in his one-of-a-kind designs.

He has taught undergraduates and graduate students for the past 19 years at ECU. He’s also helped raise funds for art scholarships at ECU; there is an endowed scholarship in his name. He was named the Carol Grotteson Distinguished Professor of Art in 1999.

Examples of his work are in 29 museums around the world, including the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, 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, temples, churches and private clients.

He’s received numerous awards and accolades including the Society of North American Goldsmiths Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014, the highest honor given by the society.

Ebensdorfer has bachelor of fine arts and master of fine arts degrees from the University of Kansas and was awarded a Fulbright. Before joining East Carolina, he taught at the University of Georgia and State University of New York at New Paltz.

Huo’s research focuses on selectivity in organometallic bond activation, the use of phosphoroselenoic materials and organometallic anticancer agents. Organometallic chemistry is the study of chemical compounds containing at least one bond between a carbon atom of an organic compound and a metal.

Huo has designed, synthesized and characterized a number of phosphoroselenium platinum complexes. A significant finding is one isomeric platinum complex that demonstrates higher toxicity against a series of human lung and prostate cancer cells.

Huo has a doctorate in chemistry from Nanning University in China and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemistry from Zhengzhou University in China. He has written more than 40 peer-reviewed research articles, given more than 35 invited talks and is the owner of 13 U.S. patents, with two patents pending. He is a member of several academic and research societies.

Shaikh has published 37 research and review articles as co-author and senior author.

Viren’s focus is on the development of sustainable community-based tourism. Applying her experiences as a travel agent, she works to support economic development and protect and promote natural and cultural resources in towns along the Roanoke River.

Viren and her students crafted marketing plans and supported grants to secure funding for a wheelchair-accessible kayak launch and boat ramp in Windsor. The latest project is the construction of two treehouses and a “TreeZo,” or observation deck connected by an elevated walkway, on the banks of the Caw Creek River, which are intended to provide additional accommodations in Windsor.

Viren also collaborated with Pitt, Parrico, Caven and Carteret counties to develop master plans with strategies to increase recreational access in these communities.

Viren joined ECU in 2008 and has served as an affiliate faculty member with the Center for Sustainable Tourism. She has a bachelor’s degree in recreation and leisure studies and a master’s in leisure and tourism studies from Bowling Green State University and a doctorate in park recreation and tourism resources from Michigan State University. She has published 17 peer-reviewed articles.

Shouquan Huo

Follow us on social media to find out about sales and events.
The Mental Health Transition Center offers mental health treatment, educational programming and employment services. As a result of those cuts, we have seen striking increases in the number of individuals with mental illness, said Hayes. "What can students get here that they cannot get elsewhere?" said Hayes. "If we add a staff member, we also need to add a staff member to help them."

"The need for mental health treatment and expertise in all correctional institutions is paramount. As state budgets continue to suffer, the typical result is the underfunding or elimination of mental health services. As a result of those cuts, we have seen striking increases in the number of individuals with mental illness ending up in correctional institutions."

"My initial desire to attend ECU's master's program was rooted in its proximity to home. However, once I started orientation, the most profound impact of the family-oriented spirit of the institution. The class sizes were small enough to foster open dialogue between each other and with our instructors."

"My education at ECU was my introduction to the professional world of mental health. The internship experiences I had while there were formative and continue my desire to work with justice-involved individuals."

"Throughout my time at ECU, I’ve learned the benefit of resilience. Once you’ve experienced the difficult, you tend to find the power to succeed, and I try to relay that message to our detainees." We want to hear stories from alumni about how their experiences at ECU prepared them for the work they do. Please send us your stories at alumni@ecu.edu."

Photograph by Joshua Loft/ The New York Times/Redux
Skilled graduates are one way ECU is leading economic development
In the office of Wanda Yuhas ’75, purple is prominent. The head of the Pitt County Development Commission wears a purple skull-and-crossbones scarf. The office suite features purple accents, restrooms included. Even the logo on her business cards includes purple as one of its four colors. It’s not a coincidence.

“It reminds us every day that these are our closest partners,” she says of the logo, which includes the colors of Vidant Medical Center, Pitt Community College and the city of Greenville. But of the purple, she adds, “We can’t ever overestimate the importance of ECU.”

That refrain is heard over and over around eastern North Carolina, and East Carolina University’s leaders are doing all they can to make sure it is sung loudly and clearly. For example, they adopted “regional transformation” as one of the university’s commitments in the 2014-2019 strategic plan. “It’s intentional,” says Provost Ron Mitchelson. “It’s part of the mission, a clear part of the strategic plan.”

“They want innovation,” he says of the people and leaders of eastern North Carolina. “They want entrepreneurship.”

**Regional reach**

Forbes and *Chef Executive* magazines rank North Carolina second and third, respectively, among the 50 states for business. That’s not widely evident in the East. According to the N.C. Department of Commerce, eastern North Carolina has 22 Tier 1 counties, meaning they are the state’s most economically distressed. The department also says 19 eastern counties are losing jobs.

Only five eastern counties—Greenville, Jacksonville, Rocky Mount, Wilson and Goldsboro—rank among the state’s 25 largest in terms of population. Meanwhile six eastern counties—Halifax, Northampton, Martin, Washington, Hyde and Lenoir—have lost citizens, according to the N.C. Office of State Budget and Management.

And the average pay in every county in the East is below the state average of $44,369.

“The equation is education equals economic development,” says John Chafee, chief executive of the NC-East Alliance, a non-profit economic development organization. But it’s not just workforce development that boosts business. Universities also offer technical expertise, technology that can be commercialized and more.

In his 1990 book, *The Competitive Advantage of Nations*, Michael Porter forecasts that in most of the world, a nation’s economic prosperity would no longer be tied to abundant natural resources and cheap labor. Instead, competitive advantage would increasingly be based on creative and scientific innovations. He says this new model positions colleges and universities as primary engines of economic growth.

For example, in 2014, ECU received $44.4 million in external funding, had 14 active license/option agreements with small businesses, filed 13 patent applications and was awarded eight patents.

“ECU is as well-positioned as any university in the state to have a distinctive impact on its region,” Chafee says.

Charles Hayes ’72 ’74, president and CEO of the Research Triangle Region, likes ECU’s plan because it’s “articulated to be inclusive. It’s also important. In rural counties, black ministers are some of the most influential people around.”

“A pastor explaining the importance of higher education on a Sunday is way more powerful than picking up a newspaper and reading about it,” she says.

Smith did notice that as a black woman, people in the majority-minority county felt a link to her—she and them. Some of them still call me,” she says. “When you have that connection, you’re ready to do all you can.”

She thought about that a lot two years ago on those drives between the Triangle and the Coastal Plain.

“At the end of the day, I can drive home, but they have to stay there,” she says. “It hurt.”

“Blueprint for Bertie” is online at unc.live/1VOHQQM.

—Doug Boyd
But that attitude is changing as communities eating local fare such as herring and barbecue, along the river.

leave your technology behind, and clear "We have a beautiful place you can get to, water—one could hope to experience.

headed for the insidious Roanoke.

So when I bought myself a personal down into what she called the "bottomless" water, she would say, currents might suck

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Cypress Grill in Jamesville.

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Sustainable Tourism, says of tourists to the region. "They're really looking for an authentic experience," Paige Viren, an ECU assistant professor of recreation and leisure studies and affiliate faculty member in the Center for Sustainable Tourism, says of tourists to the northeastern region. "They're not looking to go to Applebee's or Starbucks. They want to go to the Oyster Bar in Williamston or the Cypress Grill in Jamesville.

That's the beauty of an adventure tourist," Viren says. "You don't have to have all that infrastructure. You develop what is existing. We can provide that in eastern North Carolina, we can charge for that, and it can be an economic value.

In addition to the wild areas, historic sites such as Hope Plantation near Windsor, Somerset Place in Creswell and the Edenton waterfront offer glimpses into antebellum and Colonial North Carolina. At Somerset Place, presentations and exhibits represent the lives of slaves who lived on the plantation, one of the first sites in the state to do an interpretive focus on the enslaved population of the region's plantations.

warehouses are gone, and the land itself is one of their best hopes for economic revival. From 2010-2013, 10 new businesses including campgrounds, outfitters, guide services, and restaurants opened in eight of the 12 municipalities along the river.

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When I was growing up in Williamston, my grandmother warned me about the Roanoke. If I got so much as a knee-deep in the swirling water, she would say, currents might suck me under, never to be seen again, pulled down into what she called the "bottomless" stretches of the river.

So when I bought myself a personal
down into what she called the "bottomless"
water, she would say, currents might suck

Though the Research Triangle gets the recognition, companies such as Pfizer, Pfizer, Merck, and many others make eastern North Carolina the home of nearly 8,000 life sciences jobs.

Our small communities in eastern North Carolina are so economically challenged, we all need to find all the ways of working together for the good of the region," Shields says.

—Doug Boyd

to say, "Higher education is economic development." Government, business and academia must work together to create jobs and opportunity, he stresses.

"It takes a concerted and well-thought-out strategy and plan," he says. "The university has to be sitting at the table to lead." And ECU leaders are embracing that work.

"It really is in our DNA as a regional institution," says Michael Van Scott, interim vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement. "It started a focus on producing teachers for the region. What we're seeing now is an extension of that mission into other programs that impact economic development.

Jennifer Lantz, executive director of the Wilson Economic Development Council, says programs and people at ECU, such as the engineering department, are eager to help industries and municipalities grow and prosper. If a company needs a specific type of training program for workers, she says, "we're going to go to ECU. Because of that entrepreneurial spirit, it's going to be ECU whom we call first." Regional businesses will reap even more of the benefits of that entrepreneurial spurt next year when the Miller School of Entrepreneurship opens, says Stan Eakins, dean of the College of Business.

"Any company that hires anybody...they all are looking for an innovative employee, one that has entrepreneurial ideas and wants to push things forward," he says.

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Keeping the tourists coming takes the focus on producing teachers for the region. What we're seeing now is an extension of that mission into other programs that impact economic development.

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Economic development in eastern North Carolina is a history of economic challenges. That’s why the ECU Office of Innovation and Economic Development is looking for ways to tackle problems and inject ECU’s expertise into local, governmental, schools and economies.

The Innovation Design Lab and MakeIt Lab Innovation Center are examples. Another is the Talent Enhancement and Capacity Building Program, which is helping communities help themselves.

The program is a partnership that leverages resources at ECU and the N.C. Department of Commerce to provide financing, technical assistance, capacity building and comprehensive community development training to rural local governments.

Since 2009, the state has invested $2.1 million in TECB, and ECU has partnered with 39 rural regions across the state, such as eastern North Carolina and other rural regions across the state,” says Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor for innovation and economic development.

In downtown Columbia, a town on the way to the Outer Banks, a similar ECU program helped the town map its economic future about a decade ago.

ECU experts helped the town and local landowners see how they could profit from the area’s Scuppernong grapes. None a winery now operates out of a building that was on its way to the scrap heap. They also helped town leaders set goals for attracting an assisted living center, which will open this year. Most of all, they helped leaders prioritize.

“The important thing East Carolina was able to assist us with was facilitation,” says Town Manager Rhett White. “There’s no shortage of ideas in small towns. Sometimes, it’s tough to narrow those prospects down to where we can bite them off piece by piece.”

East Carolina University • Columbia

Helping communities help themselves

In economic development in eastern North Carolina and other rural regions across the state,” says Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor for innovation and economic development.

In downtown Columbia, a town on the way to the Outer Banks, a similar ECU program helped the town map its economic future about a decade ago.

ECU experts helped the town and local landowners see how they could profit from the area’s Scuppernong grapes. None a winery now operates out of a building that was on its way to the scrap heap. They also helped town leaders set goals for attracting an assisted living center, which will open this year. Most of all, they helped leaders prioritize.

“The important thing East Carolina was able to assist us with was facilitation,” says Town Manager Rhett White. “There’s no shortage of ideas in small towns. Sometimes, it’s tough to narrow those prospects down to where we can bite them off piece by piece.”

—Doug Boyd

request it, as well as doing contract analytical work for firms that lack the specialized equipment ECU has been able to acquire.

“If they need something done, we want to do that,” Holms says.

The College of Business also has nine-month programs in topics such as data analytics and project management aimed at working people.

“We continue to roll out more certificates that are applicable to what the world currently needs,” says Eakin, the business dean.

“We talk about lifelong learning, but if you’re not responding to the lifelong learning needs of the employers, then it’s just talk,” says Chaffee.

ECU’s reputation for working with business and industry is attractive to companies looking to expand.

“That keeps us on a list,” Yuhas says. “A company’s not looking for a reason to put us on a list. They’re looking for a reason to mark us off. So the more we can have to keep us on the list, the better.”

In December, the university opened its expanded Innovation Design Lab and announced the start of a workforce-development program funded by the Duke Energy Foundation to address the growing need for trained artisans in high-skill, high-pay pharmaceutical and other advanced manufacturing careers throughout the region.

This facility includes the only Makerspace Innovation Center in North Carolina, where students can rapidly build and design prototypes of their ideas to test, refine and perfect. The lab has also hosted schoolchildren from the region to train them so they can take 3D printing to their own classrooms.

Last summer, ECU hosted its first Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Academy. Funded through a $3.25 million Golden LEAF Foundation grant, the academy is part of a larger project to open pilot entrepreneurship, science, technology, engineering, art and design, and math labs in 13 area middle schools. The goal is to build an education-to-workforce pipeline for advanced manufacturing workers and entrepreneurs.

Again, education drives economies.

“In our world today, the places that have the most educated people are the places that are growing, and that’s not going to change,” Hayes says.

“Education is the answer, and at the highest levels of leadership you need to embrace that and create strategies to accomplish that.”

Another way ECU helps the region is by sending hundreds of healthcare professionals into the workforce every year. The university also staffs or owns numerous medical clinics around the region and eight dental centers from the Smokies to the Albemarle Sound. These centers contribute an estimated $1 million annual economic impact to their respective towns, according to the dental school.

“That is an important part of the marketability of a community, dental health care,” says Dan Gerlach, president of the Golden LEAF Foundation.

Van Scott, the vice chancellor who oversees economic development, says these examples show “a culture that’s developed here at ECU of taking ownership of the problems and opportunities. People aren’t satisfied giving a little advice and walking away. People want to see real change.”

In her downtown Greenville office, Yuhas puts it another way.

“Nobody is expecting the university to wave a magic wand and solve all our problems,” she says. “But even knowing the university will be there with us in the proverbial trenches, always there and willing to participate—they really do want to help effect change in a region and state that needs help making this change.

“They’re not a silent partner. They’re a full partner.”

East Carolina University • Columbia

If you need help starting or expanding a business in eastern North Carolina or with a public sector initiative, ECU offers these resources:

- **Center for Survey Research** offers access to opinion polling surveys and marketing analysis forms to help guide their zoning and economic long-range planning.
  Call 252-737-1349.
- **Community and Regional Development Programs** offers technical assistance, training, financial resources and other economic development products and service to rural local governments and nonprofit organizations to help increase capacity and build more competitive communities.
  Call 252-737-1042.
- **ECU Entrepreneurial Initiative** offers technical help and spin-offs to companies started by faculty or students.
  Call 252-737-1045.
- **Small Business and Technology Development Center** is part of a larger project to open pilot entrepreneurship, science, technology, engineering, art and design, and math labs in 13 area middle schools. The goal is to build an education-to-workforce pipeline for advanced manufacturing workers and entrepreneurs.
  Call 252-737-1051.
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  Call 252-737-1051.
Licensed to heal

Tanya Darrow ’07 serves patients and students in rural N.C.

“Family medicine” has more than one meaning for Tanya Darrow ’07. She and her husband, Mark, start each morning before daybreak with physical therapy treatments for their 6-year-old son, Gavin, who has cystic fibrosis. About three hours later, after working out and feeding her infant son, Luke, she drops Gavin off at school then heads for her job as a physician assistant at Vance Family Medicine in Henderson. “It’s a mix of urgent care and primary care all in one,” Darrow says of her practice, which has thousands of patients, from “babies to geriatrics. It’s truly ‘womb to tomb.’”

At least two Brody School of Medicine graduates and a couple of other ECU P.A. graduates practice there, putting ECU’s mission to serve the underserved to work every day. “We’re not quite ready to paint it purple, but we’re close,” Darrow says. “We’re a big family here.”
One of the hardest parts of Darrow’s job is to educate parents and patients about proper nutrition and exercise. "Nutrition and exercise are important when looking at the health of children and their parents early on, says Darrow. It’s important to educate them on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and that goes beyond just the patient themselves. “Whether it’s the patient or the family, it’s important to instill the importance of nutrition and exercise in children at a young age.”

Darrow says it’s important to have patience when it comes to educating patients. “Whether it’s over the phone or in person, it’s important to make sure the patient understands the information you’re providing.”

Outside the clinic, Darrow is a team leader for the annual Great Strides walk, a fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Held in Durham on April 16, the team has raised more than 300 miles to raise funds for research.

Darrow’s team, “Gavin’s Groupies,” has been walking since her son was 1. She wanted to get more involved in this every year and serve on the planning committee for the annual event. “I want to see my child grow up and go to school and get married,” says Darrow.

While cystic fibrosis has no cure, Gavin has been taking a new drug, rucaparib, which targets the underlying cause of the disease in patients with a specific gene defect. In people with cystic fibrosis, a defective gene causes a buildup of thick mucus in the lungs, pancreas and other organs. It clogs airways and traps bacteria leading to infections and extensive lung damage. In the pancreas, the mucus prevents the release of digestive enzymes that allow the body to break down food and absorb vital nutrients.

Since starting the drug last year, Gavin’s weight has increased and he’s gotten taller. “I’m very flexible in my teaching style because we all learn differently. That helps me provide an exceptional learning environment when I can for students,” says Darrow.

Darrow received a grant from the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation Community Practitioner Program, which helps medically underserved communities across North Carolina attract and retain needed practitioners. The program pays back some of the debt Darrow incurred as a student.

Kim Stokes, clinical coordinator and clinical assistant professor in the PA, studies program in the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences, sees Darrow’s commitment to rural health when she was in Stokes’ clinical rotation in primary care at Med Center 1 in Greenville.

“Noted a bright young lady with an eagerness to return to rural primary care, which truly meets the mission of our PA program,” Stokes says. “Almost every day of her clinical life, she is educating someone in the next graduating class. She never seems to burn out on educating students. We couldn’t ask for a more dedicated preceptor.”

At the outset, Darrow finds out more about each student, giving them an opportunity to ask questions or get suggestions on how they could learn better. “Depending on previous rotations, some students are not as confident in certain areas and may need a little extra help,” says Darrow. “I’m very flexible in my teaching style because we all learn differently. That helps me provide an exceptional learning environment when I can for students.”

Darrow said it’s important to provide learning opportunities for students across the state in a fast-growing field. “It’s becoming increasingly difficult for students to be placed in a quality environment where they can be exposed to various aspects of primary care,” Darrow says. “In one week here, you can see a variety of cases and procedures. An experience like that can really push a student forward in his or her training.”

“ECU alumna Brandi McBryde spent the summer of 2013 with Darrow at Vance Family Medicine. She always took the time to sit down and educate patients. Even when time was running short, she was teaching,” says McBryde, a PA in the emergency department of Henderson Health in Dunn and Lillington. “I believe this is a large part of our job. Managing someone’s health care needs isn’t one-sided relationship, but a partnership that needs to be nurtured and guided.”

She says Darrow was constantly reading and referencing new material from medical journals. “I was able to see firsthand the dedication that is required to practice in medicine,” McBryde says. “The learning doesn’t stop after you receive your degree; you are constantly changing your practice and improving upon your knowledge.”

Darrow said she enjoys teaching students, each of whom brings a different perspective and experience to the rotation. “I may have seen or heard something in another rotation that prompts them to ask a question that I can’t answer,” Darrow says. “We both continue to learn.”

As a PA, you can grow as much as you want to,” she adds. “It’s why I chose it. The evolution is still there. It’s constantly growing and changing.”

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East

Twenty years of training rural and underserved providers

A ccredited in the fall of 1996, the ECUs first class of physician assistants graduated in 1999. Until recently, ECU had the only state-supported program in the University of North Carolina system. ECU has graduated 30 to 35 students a year since the program started, says Kim Stokes, clinical coordinator and clinical assistant professor in the PA, studies program.

ECU has affiliations with 129 active clinical sites with 188 preceptors in North Carolina from Northport to Edmonton and west to Chapel Hill. “We focus on rural areas over urban,” Stokes says. About 90 percent of ECU P.A. graduates stay in North Carolina to practice. And ECU graduates have consistently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their state licensing exams.

Before they graduate, students work six-week rotations in family medicine, pediatrics, women’s health, general surgery, internal medicine, behavioral medicine and geriatrics, exposing students to a variety of specialties to choose from when entering the workforce.

—Joyce Daily
Steve Ballard’s Era
Twelve years of leadership and service

BY JACKIE DRAKE  PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS
Steve Ballard made a bold prediction in his March 2005 installation speech after being named East Carolina University’s tenth chancellor the previous year.

“In 2015, ECU will be recognized as the ‘leadership university,’ where each member of our community is empowered to achieve his or her aspirations,” he said at the time.

“It is safe to say this goal you set in 2005 has been reached,” said Kenney Mike of the ECU Staff Senate at a reception earlier this year honoring Ballard.

“Kenney, I can’t believe you actually went back and looked at promises I made. Don’t anybody else do that,” jokes Ballard, who will step down as chancellor July 1. “You found one I delivered a little bit on.”

Beneath his trademark humor and modesty, Ballard has delivered more than a little on any number of promises.

“Leadership and service

Molly Broad, president of the UNC system from 1997 to 2006, hired Ballard for his experience in running complex public universities with medical schools and his enthusiasm for finding opportunities to serve the community. She called him “a superb leader.”

Ballard had to get right to work when he started his job in May 2004. ECU was in a period of rapid leadership turnover; Ballard was the fourth person in three years to lead the university in either a permanent or interim role.

“But larger than that, in the system, ECU was not getting as much respect as many people felt it should get,” Ballard says. “In a way, that’s a great time to enter a university, when everything seems to be down.”

As he began his job as chancellor, Ballard felt ECU had a solid foundation built on service, spirit, leadership and character.

It was this foundation that drew him and his wife, Nancy, to East Carolina. Both had experience that aligned with ECU’s commitment to serving the region, particularly through the Brody School of Medicine.

“When he was looking at all the materials in the interview process, I was looking at them, too,” says Nancy Ballard, who left a career in health communication to support her husband as chancellor. “I knew he believed in what this university stands for. He didn’t have to convince me. To be part of the growth of this community is more gratifying than I could ever explain.”

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administration, service became a central part of ECU.

“Hi. He did more than speak about it,” Butler says. “He also made sure the idea of service was co-mingled throughout the curriculum of the university.”

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Virginia Hardy first worked with Ballard as interim chief diversity officer. She notes his “wicked” sense of humor, his integrity and that he challenges his team with insightful questions.

One of his top accomplishments is “developing and nurturing teams that are committed to shared decision making, collaboration and to bring authentic to who we are as an institution,” she says. “He is a mentor, coach and friend.”

Ballard seeks out people who, like himself, put ECU first.

“He cares very much about the university,” Newlander says “His values and the university’s values are closely aligned. The notion of being part of something that’s bigger than yourself, that’s what it’s all about.

“Being a chancellor for 12 years—it’s almost unheard of anymore, and you don’t do it if you don’t enjoy it.”

Student success

Our thing Ballard does enjoy is being around students, and their success has been a priority while he’s been chancellor. The most fun I have is when I meet with students,” Ballard says. “The soul of ECU is our students.

Ballard notes that some universities are committed to generating the most research dollars, some to having the No. 1 football team or basketball team, some to being No. 1 in U.S. News & World Report.

“There’s nothing wrong with any of these things,” Ballard says, “but at ECU, our first obligation is doing all we can for our students.”

That commitment can be seen in the growing Honors College, an enrollment target of 1,000 engineering students and in other ways.

In addition, ECU is on its way to establishing a School of Public Health after several years growing that on the department level. Enrollment has consistently increased, and incoming freshmen have higher GPAs and test scores than ever. New facilities like the Gateway East and West residence halls and new student centers under construction along 10th Street and on the Health Sciences Campus demonstrate the university’s commitment to making the student experience second to none. Student-athletes have also seen gains during Ballard’s tenure. Women’s sports have become fully funded, meaning they have the money to allot the maximum number of scholarships under NCAA rules.

The football team won consecutive Conference USA titles and has made several bowl appearances.

Swimming and diving continued their traditions of success, winning multiple conference championships, producing NCAA All-Americans, individual conference champions and nearly 200 all-conference performers.

The baseball team won the 2015 American Athletic Conference tournament title, and at least four other teams have won conference titles since Ballard arrived.

That brings us up what is perhaps the top athletic accomplishment during Ballard’s tenure: getting ECU into the AAC after years of knocking on the door of major conference possibilities only to be told Greenville’s media market was too small.

“We’re the only small-market school that has gone up so significantly,” Ballard says. “For us to make that jump was a huge accomplishment. And that wasn’t me; dozens of people helped with that. We had chancellor at peer universities tell me they would never try to. All of Pirate Nation should feel good about that accomplishment.”

Continuing challenges

While ECU has gained access into a larger conference, maintaining competitive programs will continue to be a challenge, Ballard says. Today’s college athletic landscape is unrecognizable: ECU spends a fraction of what some schools do on South and Midwest sports on athletics.

“Pirates are really competitive, and I’m proud of how we’ve competed, but the challenge is competing in an environment where some universities have so much money,” Ballard says. “That disparity makes the competition more challenging. I think we’ve done really well on that, but it’s going to remain a significant challenge.”

If college athletics is an ever-changing challenge, it’s evolving compared to health care, particularly the unique issues faced by medical schools.

ECU’s Brody School of Medicine was founded in an era of relatively generous federal and state support for medical schools and health care in general. But cutsbacks have added pressure on Brody. The university has worked to preserve the school and make sure legislators know its purpose, mission and structure, such as the fact the school doesn’t own a hospital.

“In the future, the question is, what do we have to do to ensure that the Brody School of Medicine remains fiscally viable in an era in which all the revenue streams and reimbursement variables have changed dramatically, he says. “The world has changed. The competition has changed.”

As a result of the efforts of Ballard and other ECU leaders, in 2015 Brody received $8 million from the state to help stabilize its budget, and the state has restored some of its ability to collect debt and bill Medicaid at higher rates for patient-care services.

Ballard’s advice for the next chancellor would be “don’t let anything come before your work on the Brody School and all the leadership in health sciences. That challenge is huge because the environment is a 180 degrees different when from which I got here.”

The overall ECU budget will also be a challenge. During the last six years, ECU has lost close to $110 million in state appropriations, or close to one-quarter of its state funds. Those cuts led us in 2011 to the formation of the Program Prioritization Committee, a group of administrators and faculty members that reviewed 277 academic programs and made recommendations for which ones to invest in, cut, merge or otherwise modify to improve efficiency and reduce costs. It was an example of how Ballard has been able to work with faculty on important issues.

“We all have to realize the future isn’t going to look like the past, in terms of budget,” Ballard says.

Lasting legacy

Hardy says Ballard has helped grow the awareness and reputation of ECU, particularly at the UNC system level and with the General Assembly.

“He has set the bar high for how we do things and doing them with a sense of integrity, authenticity, urgency and quality,” she says. “We have been able to do this with so many different initiatives, projects and programs that ECU is often looked at as a model by other campuses.”

In his 2005 speech, Ballard said, “North Carolina cannot be a great state without a thriving eastern region. North Carolina needs the East, and for the East to prosper, ECU must prosper.”

Twelve years later, Ballard is confident about ECU’s next steps.

“If we continue to emphasize academic quality for our students, there’s nothing in the way of ECU being as good and as important as and significant as we want it to be,” he says. “I have no doubts about what is here in the future.”

Or, to build on Ballard’s favorite phrase, it will keep on being a great time to be a Pirate.

East

Highlights of Ballard’s tenure

•One of only two universities to receive the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award
•Establishing the Honors College
•Establishing the ECU School of Dental Medicine
•Receiving the C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award from the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities for the Lucille W. Gorman Intergenerational Center
•Joining the American Athletic Conference
•Establishing a Millennial Campus, a 22-acre site in Greenville’s Warehouse district
•Recognition as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
•Establishment of a school of entrepreneurship with a commitment of $5 million from alumnus J. Fielding Miller Jr., wife Kim Miller ’83
•Raising $220 million in ECU’s Second Century Campaign

Administrators and faculty work together

When John Stiller became interim chancellor in 2015, it was without any direct experience as an on-campus officer. He had never met with the academic council and had never had a one-on-one meeting with Chancellor Steve Ballard.

“At our first meeting, Dr. Ballard was so welcoming, so respectful of my role as faculty chair, and so open and direct, that I quickly lost any jitters,” Stiller says. “I felt the same way in my meetings with our senior administrators. It was a new world for us, and a personal way, how Dr. Ballard has helped to cultivate the strong collaborative environment that means so much to our ongoing success as a university.”

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors requires each chancellor to ensure the existence of a faculty senate or council at each campus in the system, and this model of shared governance has worked particularly well at ECU.

“Chancellor Ballard took this charge very seriously and worked to preserve this active and productive shared governance model at ECU,” says Marianna Walker, who chaired the faculty senate from 2009-2012. “He made sure that the faculty, especially through the Faculty Senate, always had a voice, and he took that voice seriously.

Walker and Ballard embarked on a series of meetings called “ChS: Chats with the Chancellor and Chair of the Faculty,” where faculty at all levels throughout the campus could discuss obstacles and opportunities.

Ballard’s administration and the Faculty Senate worked together on several issues over the years including tough budget decisions, academic reorganization and a complete revision of the faculty manual. This positive relationship on a series of meetings called “ChS: Chats with the Chancellor and Chair of the Faculty,” where faculty at all levels throughout the campus could discuss obstacles and opportunities.

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“From both my own experiences and comments from my predecessors, I think Dr. Ballard is an exceptional team-builder,” Stiller says. “He recognizes the importance of involving diverse campus and community constituencies in planning and enacting key initiatives, particularly those with broad impact.”

—Jackie Drake

Wendy J. Walker is chief of the faculty senate at ECU. This profile was originally published in the Fall 2016 edition of ECU Today.
MO-MENTUM

A new coach and new staff have injected energy into ECU’s football Pirates

BY JULES NORWOOD  PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

Watch coach Montgomery lead practice at https://youtu.be/w7uSRLA_G_1
From the moment Scottie Montgomery took the podium during his first news conference as head football coach at East Carolina University, the excitement and energy he brings to the program has been tangible.

Since then, he has wasted no time, assembling a talented staff and obtaining commitments from a full class of recruits despite having only a few short weeks to pitch ECU and its football program to high school players.

"Chaos? I don't remember any chaos," says Montgomery. "Except maybe at home with my boys during bath time."

Teaching and training

With winter conditioning and spring practice done, the focus is on the fall, and developing his team into the best football players and young men they can be. The new staff has implemented several programs and polices aimed at turning out not only athletes, but also productive citizens.

One example is Tie Tuesdays, when the members of the team are expected to wear ties. The event began with lessons in how to tie them.

It can be a difficult transition the first time a young man has to put on a tie for an interview, Montgomery says. "We wanted them to see what it feels like to be presentable in every single setting that they walk into."

As students, the football players are expected to sit in the first three rows in class, to dress appropriately and not wear headphones.

The team's position groups compete on participation in community service activities.

"Our offensive line went to the children's hospital, and they left there better than they went," Montgomery says. "They left with a better understanding of how important it is for a guy that's 6 years old or a young girl that's 7 to smile. Just one day of smiling,"

"They got to see the impact of spending 45 minutes or an hour with them. We spend that much time looking down at our cell phones and not impacting anybody."

He pointed out that he and his coaching staff only have four years, five at the most, to work with the players while they’re in college.

"My challenge is that in that four to five years I have to make them better, leave them better than I found them," he says. "And then we're turning them loose to society to impact where we stand as a country, as a program and as a university."

Like his predecessor, Ruffin McNeill, who coached the Pirates from 2010 to 2015, Montgomery will emphasize the relationships among himself, his players and staff.

"I'm a young coach in this business, and a head coach that has accomplished what (McNeill) has. I have a level of admiration for that," he says. "One thing about me is the guys will know that they're going to get a great level of honesty. Sometimes brutal honesty. They also know that any time they knock on that door, I'm available."

Montgomery served as offensive coordinator at Duke under head coach David Cutcliffe, who says Montgomery's experience playing and coaching in college and the NFL have prepared him for his new role.

"He understands how a student-athlete should represent himself, his family and his school, as well as what it takes for a young man to reach the goal of playing in the National Football League," Cutcliffe says. "Scotty's ability to relate to the young men will be evident from day one—he will undoubtedly have a positive impact on every individual in the program."

As a coach, added NFL veteran Herman Ward, Montgomery has a natural understanding of the game and his players. Montgomery coached Ward as the wide receivers coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"He's a stickler for being fundamentally sound because it's the fundamentals that win games," Ward says. "Even though I was older than him, he was always pushing me to be better. At the same time, he wants his players to have fun playing the game, which brought a good balance to all of us. He commanded my respect, and he ultimately made me a better receiver and player."

That focus on the basics will be essential in the American Athletic Conference, Montgomery says. There will be no easy games, no cupcake opponents. Technology has changed recruiting, providing access to highlights from and communication with players around the country, and that has created parity and a higher level of competition.

"The team that makes the fewest mistakes in this conference will win," Montgomery says. "This is a team that's going to play through the echo of the whistle. Our spring practice won't be about schematics, it'll be about fundamental football and getting better at the basics."

The coaches have to be adept at delivering information in the classroom, and the players have to be ready to learn.

"On the field we're going to coach on the run," says Montgomery. "We're not going to spend a lot of time standing around talking, with guys not getting work. Our coaches are going to have to be in better shape, myself included."

In practice and games, he wants to see a high-temp, high-pace format on offense and defense, along with a high level of conditioning. But Montgomery is tight-lipped when it comes to the specifics of his scheme and the depth chart.

"One thing we don't do is give 'em sugar before they put pads on," he says. "I will say that this is one of the more athletic teams that I have been a part of, and this team is determined to not disappoint."

Strength and conditioning coach Jeff Connors says Montgomery's winter conditioning program was as detailed and disciplined as any he's seen.

"I think what we did in our winter conditioning program is exactly what our team needs right now, putting the extra time into making sure that things are done right, that they're detailed and highly disciplined," he says. "The temps and excitement level are high, he added, which will feed directly into spring practice and into the fall."

The family team

In the midst of building a staff, meeting the team, bringing in recruits and preparing for conditioning and practice, Montgomery has also moved his family to Greenville. His wife and three sons love their new home, he says.

Cassius, 6, has started school, and Moses, 2, is happy as long as he has open space to run. "We're all about freedom and moving around, exploring, and Eliyon is just unrelievable at handling and managing everything. And my in-laws have been very helpful as well," he says.

The community has already welcomed them by bringing food—"not just good food, excellent food," says Montgomery.
He credits his parents for their influence in teaching him and demonstrating the meaning of character and the importance of education. “My mother, just watching the sacrifice from her made me realize what a parent needs to do to be successful at being a parent. She was driven to making us the best that we could be,” he says. As for his father, who took it upon himself later in life to further his education, “it changed our family, and it changed our community, because his getting educated inspired people in our community. It also changed the way that we carried ourselves, the level of pride.

“I’m very appreciative of him and everything that he did for me to the point where I am now.”

His mentors in the field of coaching—high school coach Roy Greene, Cato Troll, Bruce Ariens and Mike Tomlin—also fall into the family category. Greene, he says, was a father figure for his players, who knew they had to answer to him if they got in trouble with three teachers. He could dole out sprints or to answer to him if they got in trouble with their teachers. He could dole out sprints or

Duke was the only school that offered him the chance to play wide receiver. Montgomery grew up in Shelby, where N.C. State’s David Thompson was a hometown legend. As a high school football player, Duke was the only school that offered him the chance to play wide receiver.

“With the Duke blue, and the red that’s in my veins, I think that turns into purple,” he says, “and that really is the only color I’m concerned about right now.”

He’s excited about the football culture in Greenville, which he says is remarkable outside the city, of the university—it’s beautiful. I knew that it was going to be special, but I didn’t know it was going to be like this. They truly embody what Greenville is all about. This is family.”

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He’s excited about the football culture in Greenville, which he says is remarkable considering the size of the city. “I knew football was a passion born, but I didn’t know it was going to be like this,” he says. “I’ve been in some passionate places, but this place is leading by far. In Cleveland County we didn’t have a lot other than football. No distractions. Here in Greenville we’re fortunate to have a lot of the things that people can be distracted with but have still been able to maintain the football culture.”

The players feel it, and recruits get a sense of it when they come in from other places. Montgomery recalls one recruit who visited and had left town wearing some Pirate gear. Stopping to eat about 40 miles outside of Greenville, he was asked if he was an ECU player.

“He said, ‘No, but I’m a recruit.’ And as he was getting ready to leave there or four people all at once gave him the ‘Aaargh!’ and startled him and his family. You know he understands that passion now,” Montgomery says.

Sports journalist David Glenn says Montgomery’s personality and charisma will serve him well on the recruiting trail and in building relationships with his players.

“He both played and coached in the NFL, which can provide an important connection with young prospects who want to see themselves there someday. His coaching experience has come with the Pittsburgh Steelers, a consistent winner in the NFL, and at Duke, where he helped with one of the most stunning turnarounds in major college football over the last few decades,” Glenn says. It will be an entertaining year in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, he says. “What if I was going to be like this. They truly embody what Greenville is all about. This is family.”

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Kali Bousquet
Home state: Winterville, N.C.
Year: Junior
Major: Secondary mathematics education and mathematics
Career goal: Public high school teacher/higher education instructor

Scholarships make a difference
My family’s financial situation had recently declined, and I was unsure of how I would be able to attend college. Because of the Abernathy Scholarship, I have not only been given financial support but have also had the opportunity to live with fellow education majors in the Education Living Learning Community. The community has become my family away from home, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

Broadening minds, opening doors
In college, I took a math education course where I was sent to a high school for observations. Being in that environment helped me to confirm my aspirations and gave me a strong desire to help my future students achieve their goals. This year, I have also had the opportunity to serve on the College of Education Dean’s Junior Advisory Board and to speak at the Leo Jenkins scholarship donor event. All of my accomplishments were only made possible because of the financial support from the Abernathy Scholarship.

Real results
By supporting the College of Education, you are not only helping students achieve their dreams, but you are also providing schools with amazing teachers.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT
Betty S. Abernathy ’51 ST was a high school science teacher who spent most of her career at Fike High School in Wilson. She was a leader in science education and instrumental in the formation of the North Carolina Science Teachers Association. Her planned gift supports science and math education students through a four-year, $20,000 scholarship awarded yearly to an outstanding high school senior.

For information on planned giving, call 252-328-9566, email planning@giving.ecu.edu or visit giving.ecu.edu.

Ongoing gifts fund scholarships and more
From supporting scholarships to concerts and lectures, many donors to East Carolina University have found recurring contributions are a conventient and financially manageable way to give back.

“We decided early on that we wanted to begin giving back, not only with our talent but our treasures,” said Ray Rogers ’72. “Being a part of the working world and trying to raise a family, financially we could not amount enough to do a one-time gift, so we sought ways to work it into our monthly budget, and has worked for us.”

Rogers, an alumnus of the College of Business, completed his degree after interrupting his college career to serve in Vietnam. He has worked in the banking industry in Greenville and as financial administrator for Commerica Bank. His wife, Eve ’69, and daughter Adessa ’05 are also alums.

Rogers started giving through an employer match at Wachovia and has donated monthly since 2003. The Rogers’ donations have supported the Laddonis, Wright Cultural Center, the Janice Hardison Fatlinger Gallery and the Laura Marie Leary Elliott Memorial Scholarship.

“I really developed a great appreciation for education the I received as well as the relationships during the final year before I graduated,” Rogers said. “Over the years, there have been different things near and dear to my heart that I wanted to do more give to service to and have chosen to give.”

Jennifer Watson, director of annual giving at ECU, said the university has options to make recurring donations convenient. “Donors can set a monthly, quarterly or annual donation schedule that is automatic through our online giving site, our Telefund program or via bank draft,” she said.

For Tina Hull ’79, it was a coworker who helped her realize the importance of giving back.

“I would not be where I am if it weren’t for ECU. I didn’t just learn how to do the art, I had to learn how to source everything that I needed to create and produce my art,” she said. “It made sense to help support another student who might need help getting through school.”

Hull worked in insurance and banking before getting back to her roots with a promotional marketing business. “We do screen printing and embroidery, and I know a lot about textiles and fabrics,” she said. “I came from a background in ceramics and sculpting to painting and dyers, there are a lot of ways I have come full circle with what I learned at ECU,” she said.

She started out with individual gifts but realized it would be more manageable to use the automatic withdrawal option to support the School of Art and Design priority fund.

“I think it’s important, and it does add up,” Hull said.

Chris Dyba, vice chancellor of university advancement and president of the ECU Foundation, agrees recurring donations are a good way budget for donations.

“We have heard our donors’ requests to make giving easy, and recurring credit cards gifts are the easiest way to ensure continued support of ECU,” he said. “Every little bit makes an impact on the students of ECU and the people of North Carolina.”

—Jules Nonwood

Gifting benefit health sciences students, patients
An increasing private investment over the past year is expanding educational and research opportunities for health sciences students at ECU and improving quality of care for patients.

Through March of the current fiscal year, the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation had received gifts, pledges and commitments totaling nearly $30.7 million, compared to $5.2 million at the same time in the previous fiscal year. This includes more than $55 million in bequest commitments from those who included the university in their wills.

These gifts will go toward scholarships, professorships, research and patient care.

“People are becoming much more aware of the quality and impact of our programs and are choosing to invest in health care through their personal philanthropy,” said Mark Notsini, president of the foundation.

An anonymous bequest of $2 million to the Department of Psychiatry in the Brody School of Medicine provides an endowed professorship and $1 million for research. This research would develop and promote prevention, early intervention and more effective treatments for mental illness, according to Dr. Sy Saaved, department chair.

A bequest of $1 million from an anonymous retired Brody faculty member will support medical students working in the ECU Family Medicine Center on obesity and nutrition. It can also be used to support students going on rotations at other medical schools or attending state or national conferences on these subjects.

Family medicine also received a significant bequest from Caroline Raby ’70 to be used for scholarships for students pursuing a career in primary care medicine who demonstrate a commitment to service.

More occupational therapy graduates will be able to pursue advanced degrees thanks to a bequest from Randy Strickland ’75 and his wife, Laura Ann. Schuler Strickland, to a scholarship endowment in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

A recent $300,000 gift from an anonymous foundation to the School of Dental Medicine will help provide patient care for those who wouldn’t otherwise be able to afford treatment. It will also give students more opportunities to practice caring for patients as part of their education.

Finally, Jackie Jones Stone ’64 and her twin sister Jeannette Jones ’64, members of the first graduating class of nurses at East Carolina, decided to bequeath a significant portion of their estates to scholarships for undergraduate students in the College of Nursing. The scholarships will be given to students from eastern North Carolina and eastern Virginia with an interest in community health nursing or psychiatric nursing.

—Jackie Drake
EDUCATORS HONORED

Maurice Harris ’80 ’06, principal at Wellcome Middle School, is Pitt County Farm Bureau 2015 Principal of the Year. Other principal nominees included Cathy Kirkland ’90, principal at Eastern Elementary School; Shannon Cecil ’12, assistant principal at Pactolus School, is Assistant Principal of the Year. Other assistant principal nominees included Alison Covington ’13, Failand Elementary School; Jeremiah Miller ’10 ’15, South Greenville Elementary School; Tabitha Stormer ’00 ’04, South Central High School; and Darryl Thomas ’02 ’10, J.H. Rosa High School.

CLASS NOTES

2015

Isaac Joseph Brotta ’11, assistant principal at ECU, is the 2015 Principal of the Year. He attended ECU on full scholarship and is the first person in his family to attend college. Brotta was voted by his peers as the most influential educator and is known for his passion and commitment to education. He consistently demonstrates excellence in his work and is a valuable asset to the ECU community.

2014

Catherine Rebecca Cole ’10, a veterinarian, is working with the FirstHealth of the Carolinas to develop a new program for animals in need. Cole’s work focuses on creating a sustainable and ethical approach to animal care and welfare.

2013

Kristen Cook is a community health educator with the FirstHealth Community Health Services. She has been recognized for her dedication to improving health outcomes in the community. Cook is known for her leadership and commitment to public health initiatives.

2012

Carrie Browder passed the NC bar exam and is a writer and editor at a local newspaper. She has been published in several national magazines and is a well-known author.

2011

The 2011 Great 100 Nurses was a recognition program for nurses who have made significant contributions to the field of nursing. The program honored nurses from across the country for their dedication and commitment to patient care.

2010

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THE 2015 GREAT 100 NURSES

The following ECU-trained nurses were among the 2015 Great 100 Nurses, which recognizes and promotes nursing excellence: Linda Alphin ’09 of Lumberton, Anne Brown ’11 of Franklin, Emily Morgan Brown ’10 of Rocky Mount, J. Michele Cole ’10 of Greenville, Joelle Dean ’11 of Greenville, and Noreen Enochs ’10 of Greenville.

SCULPTOR COMMEMORATES LINCOLN

Virginia sculptor Cliff Page ’79 spent last year as sculptor-in-residence at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire. In addition to daily sculpting, he led classes and tutorials in sculpture and related topics for visitors to the site.

The site contains the historical home and studio of Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), one of America’s greatest sculptors. Situated on 250 acres of rolling hills on the eastern shore of the Connecticut River, the site has been a haven for the arts since the late 1800s.

Saint-Gaudens became a national park site in 1965. It was the first national park to have an artist in residence, and it is the only one with a sculptor in residence, according to Page. The park is open from May to October.

Saint-Gaudens created sculptures of several key Union figures from the Civil War. He is best known for his bronze bas relief monument of Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts, a regiment of black soldiers, and a larger-than-life bronze statue called “Abraham Lincoln: The Man,” also known as “Standing Lincoln.”

Last year was the 50th anniversary of the national park site and the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s assassination. To commemorate the 16th president, Page created molds for round bronze plaques of Lincoln’s profile. Page is in the process of securing funding and a facility to cast six full-size plaques in bronze. One will stay at Saint-Gaudens, and others will be given to U.S. officials such as the president and the secretary of the interior. Page also plans to cast 200 smaller copies, which will be made available to members of the public.

Page has a bachelor of fine arts from Old Dominion University and a master of fine arts from ECU. He mastered his specialty of bronze casting while working in Nalas facillities in Virginia and furthered his studies as a Fulbright Fellow in Milan, Italy. He has taught sculpture and other subjects at the public school and university levels in the U.S. and abroad.

Page has maintained a sculpture studio in Portsmouth, Virginia, for 40 years. His works have been exhibited and collected publicly and privately around the world.

—Jackie Drake
The wedding party included Amanda Gilmore Cutrell, Jane Haddock, Kelsey Lauren Jewett ‘13, sister of the groom, and Meredith Hill, media coordinator of Chase Community Elementary School, Greenville, N.C. School library media association annual conference in Greensboro.

2008

Dr. Andrew Jacobs leads Red Bees’ first pediatric clinic. Sustained, he is a certified physician assistant with Carolina’s Pembroke Pediatrics. He is a radiologist at Middlesboro ARH Memorial Hospital.

2009

Ashley Elizabeth Bisette led the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce in recognition of her professionalism. He was promoted to managing director, at KFMG, Norfolk, Va.

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Meredith Hill, media coordinator of Chase Community Elementary School, Greenville, N.C. School library media association annual conference in Greensboro.

2011

Whitney Elvis is a nurse practitioner with Physicians East in its Farmville office.

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Alana Welch, Tyffani Media Association 2015 Media Person of the Year. She was appointed as a project manager at Georgia Barnhill and Spectra.

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Abel Ireland ‘09 and Whitney Elvis, a nurse practitioner with Physicians East in its Farmville office.

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Andrea Leigh McNelly was promoted to manager at Barnett Contracting Co. R.J. Connolly, a real estate broker, won a two-year term on the Greenville City Council. Dr. David Elliot ‘03 ‘02 joined ECU Physicians FirstHealth Medical Office, Pembroke Pediatrics.

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Christopher Revels was a program administrator at the Robert M. Bone Cardiovascular Research Center, University of Virginia. Troy Oglesby was promoted to managing director, at KPMG, Norfolk, Va.

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Andy Kivel is Eastern Elementary (Givensville) School's Teacher of the Year. Since 1996, he has taught kindergarten, first, second, third, and fifth grades. Robert McGee '96 '98 is Cape Fear Community College's first dean of student affairs. He was athletic director at the school. Allison Seter '96 '10 is principal of H.B. Sugg and Sam Bundy schools in Farmville. She was principal of Behel School, Pitt County. Nicole Smith '98 '04 joined ECU's College of Education. She was principal of H.B. Sugg and Sam Bundy School in Farmville.

Ernest Solar published his debut science fiction novel, Two Moons Rising. He teaches special education courses at Mount St. Mary's University and lives in Lovettsville, Va., with his family.

Dorek and Ashley Driver Vincent ’95 welcomed a baby girl in 2015.

Dorothy Dalton '95 '97, a fourth-grade teacher at Oakwood Elementary School in Hickory, is 2015 N.C. Council of Teachers of Mathematics Outstanding Elementary School Mathematics Teacher. Dr. Angela Peace joined Southeastern Health's physician practices division at Southeastern Medical Clinic in North Lumberton.

Ron Williams is principal of Williston Middle School, Wilmington. He was principal of Graham Middle School, Graham.

Anne Wilson is a life enrichment/wellness director at Touchmark at Mt. Bachelor Village, Bend, Ore.

Sharon Bell is executive director of SAFE Inc. in Wilmington. She was with Bartum Springs Home for Children. Dr. Victor Freund, a board-certified neurosurgeon, joined Vidant Neurosurgery, Greenville. Velony Low, band director at Sampson Middle School, is the Berk Foundation Honored Educator Scholar for 2015-2016.

Katrina Lynch '94 '96, assistant principal of Red Oak Middle School, is Assistant Principal of the Year for Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. Grace Daughtry Smith, outgoing president of the N.C. Association of Zoning Officials, received the 2015 NCAZO Outstanding Member of the Year award. She is the first association member selected twice for the association's highest honor. Brock Womble '94 '96 '01 iscontinued on page 52

ALUMNUS WINS $50,000 ON GAME SHOW

O n the gameshow Are You Smarter than a 5th grader? Caleb Cubbison '06 remembers the lights, the cameras and the sound of the crowd. Yet the loudest sound of them all may have been his heartbeat.

“I was very excited, but extremely nervous. It was a crazy experience,” Cubbison told his hometown newspaper, the Orangeburg, South Carolina, Times and Democrat.

The show, hosted by comedian Jeff Foxworthy, has contestants answer history, science, spelling, geography, astronomy, health, social studies and math questions designed for first- through fifth-graders.

“You have no idea what the subjects are going to be,” Cubbison said. He got on the show through a friend who knew the show’s casting director. He went for an audition, had a phone interview with the producers and was cast.

During the game, Cubbison made it to the $50,000 question that was worth $100,000.

“In mammals, what is the area called between the epidermis and the hypodermis?” Foxworthy asked.

“I didn’t know the answer, so I opted to drop out of school,” he said. That meant he was choosing not to answer any further questions and keep the money he’d won to that point, $50,000, rather than risk losing it all with an incorrect answer.

The correct answer to the question is “dermis.” Cubbison said the highlight was when he correctly answered his $10,000 question, which also netted $10,000 for a school.

“They brought on like a video chat with this music teacher,” Cubbison said. “He told his students if they would raise $2,000 for cancer research, he would shave his head.” The students raised $11,000, and the teacher shaved his head. “I was like ‘Oh my goodness! That’s amazing! I can’t get this question wrong,’” Cubbison said.

In pursuit of acting, Cubbison attended ECU. He completed his bachelor’s degree in theater arts in 2006. After graduation, he and his wife, Jillian, moved to Los Angeles. They live in Southern California and have two children: 5-year-old Liam and 1-year-old Audrey.

He works as a director of operations with Chick-Fil-A.
Coalition.

Cowan Harris was promoted to regional vice president of Wells Fargo & Co. Charlotte West commercial banking team.

Valerie Lasater was appointed to the N.C. Foundation board of directors. She is CEO of Lasater & Associates, a for-profit fundraising and communications firm to the nonprofit sector.

Willie H. Cawthon is manager of Washington County. He was elected as treasurer for his business-building skills and received the A.F. McKenzie Award with Edward Jones, Greenville, Jonathan Powers, communications director and brand of Hickory-Conover Tourism is CEO.

Goldsboro.

Mandy Pitts W. Scott Newton II is Communications, a strategic creative director at Hershey Cause Kristin Moore is to the N.C. Department of Lance Metzler has been appointed director of the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

Surgeon, Chowan County's finance officer. Willie M. Carawan is manager for the city of Hickory.

Fargo & Co. Charlotte West regional vice president of Wells Fargo & Co. Charlotte West commercial banking team.

Lauren. He was an all-conference, services after 22 years with Ralph Flood was promoted to assistant varsity football for three years. At ECU, he was a walk-on selected third team All-State that year. He is a former educator who has published his first novel, Twister, among other positions.

Betty Johnson was inducted into the DAR after tracing her Orange County, N.C., ancestry. she retired from his law practice in 2015 after nearly 34 years of service.

Richard He is a partner with Kittrell and receives the Robert E. Linkner award from the North Carolina County Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Mark Gamer, vice president of Rivers & Associates, Greenville, received the Robert E. Linkner Private Sector Service Award from the N.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

Meredith” Dean “Buddy” Setts, a 1985 graduate of Milford High School, was inducted into that school’s 12-Man Gridiron Club. He was a center on offense and a linebacker/defensive end on defense. A captain on the 1984 team, he was selected third team All-State that season. ECU was a walk-on playing defensive end and on junior varsity football for three years. Kenneth L. Daniels, vice president of Multispecialty Clinic-Tarboro.

Hope Dougherty ’33 ’95 published two novels in 2015, Irish Encounter and Mars…With Venus Rising. and natural gas utilities.

Fuller was inducted into Educators Hall of Fame in 2015 after 16.5 years as technical director. Capt. Michael White retired from the U.S. Coast Guard in Seattle, Wash, in 2013. He is now senior maritime advisor for the National Security Division of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Wash. He and his wife, Divine, live in Walla Walla, Wash.

Trey” Williams is assistant director of Evening College and University Relations Commission. Kristin Moore is creative director of Helping Cause Communications, a strategic communications firm in Los Angeles. W. Scott Newton II is senior vice president and CTO executive with Southern Bank in Goldsboro. Randy Pitts is CEO of History-Conover Tourism Development Authority. She was communications director and brand manager for the city of Hickory.

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Allen Thomas won reelection to a two-year term as mayor of Greenville. He serves as treasurer of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition.
So you can snap on, post on and explore on.

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UPON THE PAST
"We are not here to destroy the old and accept only the new, but to build upon the past..."
—Robert H. Wright, Nov. 12, 1909
From his inaugural address and installation as East Carolina's first president

Our own college railroad

Visitors to East Carolina University during the next year or so will see 10th Street converted to a modern thoroughfare to overpass one of the city's inconveniences: the railroad track that runs just west of campus, regularly stalling traffic along 10th and Dickinson Avenue.

But in the formative years of East Carolina Teachers Training School and into the 1940s, the railroad was more like a lifeline—the primary way students from out of town traveled to and from campus. It even was a reason the school was built here in the first place.

The Atlantic Coastline Railroad was built through Greenville in 1889, and the Norfolk Southern line intersected Greenville and the Atlantic Coastline in 1907, making Greenville accessible to the rest of the state and a possible location for a normal school. The first students at ECTTS came to Greenville by train, and then took the school jitney, or bus, from the train station to campus. Students continued to come primarily by train through the 1940s.

A new campus power plant opened in the late 1920s where Bate now stands, and a supply track was built from the Norfolk Southern tracks south of campus to haul coal to it. According to Henry Ferrell's history of ECU, No Time for Ivy, students referred to the tracks as "Our Own College Railroad."

A hand-tinted black and white photograph from the 1927 The Taroom.
More than 5,000 students put an exclamation point on the spring semester April 21 at the 37th annual Barefoot on the Mall. Performing live were Battle of the Bands winner Eastern Comfort, The Score, Gumbo and ECU students Xavier Brodie and Trey Scarborough. Students also sang during live band karaoke, and more than 100 student organizations set up information tables to talk about their groups.

Photo by Cliff Hollis