All eyes on safety

Keeping campus secure
Senior high-jumper Tynita Butts finished her college career on a high, winning the Conference USA championship and tying for second in the NCAA championship in June. This fall, ECU begins its first season in the American Athletic Conference. Read a sports preview beginning on page 40. Photo courtesy Eric Evans Photography.
High school students participating in ECU's Summer Ventures program carefully excavate a plot at Grimesland Plantation in Pitt County in search of evidence of slave life there before the Civil War. Summer Ventures gives academically advanced high school juniors and seniors interested in science and math a monthlong opportunity to engage in research and intensive study. The excavation wrapped up July 18.

Photo by Cliff Hollis

On the cover: Officers William Brown, left, and Travis Kornegay of the ECU Police Department regularly patrol campus on bicycles. "Every day I talk to students, faculty members and staff about the bikes and the safety aspects on campus," Brown says. Read more about ECU's efforts to provide a safe, secure learning environment beginning on page 18.

Photo by Cliff Hollis
ECU Alert! Public safety front and center

On a recent morning an attempted strong-arm robbery was reported on Greenville’s 10th Street. Five lanes of pavement separate the scene of this reported crime from the campus of East Carolina University.

Minutes after the report, I got a text and then an email from ECU Alert. Those messages notified me of an off-campus crime, provided a description of the suspect and let me know more information would follow.

A short while later I received a second and a third message informing me the suspect was last seen heading away from campus, that the campus had been searched and that no threat to campus existed.

Emergency communication is only one aspect of the university’s efforts to provide a safe and secure environment for employers and students. It is the aspect I know best; university communications, which I oversee, has specific roles operating ECU Alert, in particular communicating weather-related schedule changes and providing information in ongoing threats such as a hurricane or a lockdown.

Campus security is woven into almost every aspect of this university’s operations. It affects how we are organized, how we communicate, how we budget money, even how we interact with the community around us.

I don’t think the average alumnus, parent, student or citizen has any idea how much impact that commitment has on daily campus life. This issue’s cover story, reported and written by Doug Boyd, East’s managing editor, provides an overview.

Before I received that Alert message about the report of a strong-arm robbery, ECU police had assessed the facts and consulted the university’s protocol and message guide. Officers on duty then crafted a precise message and clicked the boxes to deliver that message on the appropriate channels of our emergency communication systems.

Had there been a threat to campus, the scope of decisions, actions and involvement would have expanded in direct proportion to that threat: specific warnings, a lockdown, convening the Crisis Policy Team and/or establishing an emergency operations center on campus or with our community partners such as Pitt County and Greenville Police.

That’s one behind-the-scenes example of the complexities that come with campus security at East Carolina. We write you to learn more, beginning on page 18.

— Mary Schulken

Executive director of communication, public affairs and marketing

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

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

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

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

Contact Us
252-328-2068
easteditor@ecu.edu
www.ecu.edu/east

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Send class notes to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu or use the form on page 50.
Continuing fiscal challenges were front and center during the regular meeting of the East Carolina University Board of Trustees held July 17-18 at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU.

“It’s been the most difficult (year) of my 10 years—the seventh straight year of major cutbacks,” said Chancellor Steve Ballard. “We will do everything we can to protect the most vital parts of the university as we try to come to grips with what seems to be never-ending reductions.”

At the center of the university’s response is a report drafted by the University Committee on Fiscal Sustainability. It builds on the work of the Program Prioritization Committee, which assessed all academic programs at the university.

UCFS members issued 61 recommendations, which were delivered to the chancellor May 1 for review and approval. Ballard adopted all of them, and smaller working groups have been established to develop action plans and best practices for implementation.

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Rick Niswander reported that work on seven items is already under way, with 11 more expected to begin this fall. All recommendations will yield action over the next two to three years.

“This is not simply a cost-saving device,” Niswander added. “Much of that savings then gets reallocated (toward priority programs).”

Of particular concern is funding for the Brody School of Medicine, two sources of which remain in limbo as at the time of the meeting the General Assembly had not approved a budget or appropriations for the university. “(Brody) is threatened because of state restrictions that tend to remove its financial opportunities every year,” Ballard told board members. “One of my goals is to seek permanent state appropriations for this school. It’s a way to stop the year-to-year bloodletting that’s happening (at Brody).”

Efforts to sustain the medical school are ongoing. They range from improving access for patients by adjusting scheduling and billing protocols; to altering how medical faculty are compensated; to a review of every position and program funded by both its clinical practice, ECU Physicians. “There are a lot of decisions yet to be made but there is progress in all these areas,” said Phyllis Horejsi, vice chancellor for health sciences.

Infrastructure needs for ECU’s aging facilities were also discussed. “ Repairs and renovations for an older campus are huge,” Ballard said. “We have urgent, immediate needs of $70 million for repairs and renovations. Those needs will get bigger and the state’s ability to help us pay for those things is not keeping up.”

Despite fiscal challenges, the board also looked toward the future during a review of a new strategic plan for the university. The plan focuses on three commitments outlined in ECU’s mission statement: student success, serving the public and achieving regional transformation.

“It really is an aspirational document,” said Interim Provost Ron Mitchell, who is leading the planning initiative. “We’re going to set the bar high and try to get there—try our best.”

The initiative is range from attracting more transfer and military students; to developing a school focused on coastal research; to increasing partnerships between the College of Engineering and Technology and various health sciences disciplines.

Board members lauded the strategic plan, and Chairman Robert Brinkley described it as “aspirational but achievable.”

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

ECU last produced a strategic plan in 2007. The next steps for the new plan are final edits and then approval by the Chancellor’s Executive Council, made up of top university administrators.

Other items from the July board meeting included the following:

- The board elected officers for 2014-2015. Robert Brinkley was re-elected as chair; Steve Jones, vice chair, and Edwin Clark, secretary, were also re-elected. All will be serving second terms in the positions.
- ECU Student Government Association President Michael King, a senior, was also sworn in as an ex-officio member.
- The board voted to approve the purchase of property at 508 Forbes St. from the ECU Real Estate Foundation for $107,800. The property is beside a parking lot at the corner of East 10th and Evans streets.
- The Athletics and Advancement Committee agreed to name various facilities and programs on campus for donors who have given at least $2.2 million to the university. The largest gift was a $3 million donation from the Harold H. Bate Foundation of New Bern, which paid for the track facility at ECU’s Olympic Sports Complex, Minges Bottling Group of Ayden was also recognized for donating $500,000 toward costs associated with the infield at the track-and-field facility in the Olympic Sports Complex.
- Kaeden Harris

ECU partners in education-to-workforce project

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

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

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

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

Recognizing the economic development possibilities to engage, equip and connect talented young people

with regional advanced manufacturing careers and related entrepreneurial opportunities, the group of regional partners developed a comprehensive plan for improving students’ creative, innovation and technical skills, knowledge and abilities. The plan includes career awareness strategies, eSTEAM-related in-school and out-of-school curriculum and experiences, and professional development opportunities for 79 eastern North Carolina teachers.

Crucial to the success of the initiative is the inclusion of art and design to an otherwise technically focused program.

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

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

—Kelly Setzer

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS
$1 million gift helps autism center expand

An anonymous gift of $1 million will enable the Family Autism Center at ECU to increase professional staff and expand services for people with autism in eastern North Carolina.

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

"Providing interdisciplinary evaluations and services will mark yet another step in fulfilling our mission to serve children and families in our region," said Marcy Romary, interim president of the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, said the recent gift was motivated by the donor’s close relationship with grandparents of a child on the autism spectrum.

They saw firsthand how early diagnosis and treatment was so beneficial to this family and wanted to ensure that families throughout the region would have access to first-rate diagnosis and care through the Brody School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, Romary said.

Autism spectrum disorder refers to a group of developmental disabilities that affect how a person understands what he or she sees, hears or senses, according to the Autism Society of North Carolina. People with ASD typically have difficulty understanding verbal and nonverbal communication and learning appropriate ways of behaving and interacting socially.

The prevalence of autism in North Carolina continues to increase, with more males than females being identified, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates.

Despite ongoing research, no one knows exactly what causes ASD, and there is no single test to diagnose it, Reichel said.

"Accurate diagnosis is made by a team of multidisciplinary professionals who have observed a person’s communication, behavior and developmental levels combined with caregiver input and developmental history," he said. "It’s a process, not a one-stop shop."

Interventions for ASD should involve multiple disciplines, Reichel said. That’s why he and other organizers envision the center as an interdisciplinary hub for autism support, treatment, advocacy, training and research to benefit the community and region.

“We are so grateful for this major gift to help us expand staffing and clinical services,” he said. "With additional private and public support, we’ll be able to attract other clinicians who can support and advocate for older individuals with autism. These kids do grow up. Our goal is to emphasize needs across the lifespan and make our center truly unique.”

Sharon McLawhorn of Chocowinity said her 5-year-old son, Christian, has made unbelievable strides since being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder a little over two years ago, thanks to Reichel and the Family Autism Center.

“This place is a safe haven for the kids and their families,” she said. "It’s where parents can learn from other parents and staff, where they can get the knowledge and tools to help their child and to advocate for their child, where they can get support, but mostly hope.”

Since May 2013 the center has been providing developmental testing and screening tools that can identify children who might have autism spectrum disorders, developmental delays, pragmatic language disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other significant neurobehavioral conditions.

The center is at 108-B W. Fire Tower Road in Winterville.

—Amy Adams Ellis

ECU dental center opens in Sylva

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

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

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

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

The facilities combine clinical education and patient care. Led by ECU dental faculty members, fourth-year students are receiving clinical training at the centers while general dentistry residents also hone their skills at the facilities.

The general dentistry centers feature treatment rooms, X-ray equipment, educational space and more.

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

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

ECU dental center community service learning centers are also serving patients in Ansonia, Elizabeth City and Lillington. Other centers are under construction or planned in Spruce Pine, Davidson County, Robeson County and Brunswick County. The Brunswick County site, which is on U.S. 17 beside the Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center, was announced May 16 during a press conference in Bolivia.

Construction was scheduled to begin late this summer with the goal of opening the center to patients and students next summer.

—Kathryn Kennedy

ECU School of Dental Medicine students treat patients at the new Sylva dental center June 27. The center, which opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, is the university’s newest dental community service learning center.

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

Sylva town council members Danny Allen, left, and Barbara Hamilton tour the new facility.
An ECU researcher has received a $300,000 grant to study a cellular protein long overlooked by scientists.

Ann Sperry, an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the Brody School of Medicine, received the three-year Academic Research Enhancement Award from the National Institutes of Health. She will use the funding to study how a certain protein affects the functions of a cell’s centrosome — the structure within a cell that regulates vital processes like cell division and development.

Sperry identified the protein, named PPP1R42, three years ago, but just recently discovered it plays a role in regulating the centrosome.

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

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"Falling for roller skates"

A book that chronicles the story of two boys who were "a tangible sign of modernity." Wes Moore's "The Other Wes Moore" is a true story of two brothers who grew up in similar neighborhoods. The letter leads to dozens of questions: Who are you? How do you know me? The author Moore learns that the two Moores are not related. When the author visits the town in which the Moores grew up, he finds that he has even more in common with the other Moore than he originally thought. They were born within a year of each other, raised by single mothers and had confrontations with police.

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

On Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium, the Down East Journal will host a music concert to celebrate the new theme music for the radio program. The concert will feature performances by School of Music students and a special guest appearance by Wes Moore, who will speak about his book and the inspiration behind the new theme music.

Josh Tomlinson

On Oct. 23, 1989, the Greenville City Council adopted noise rules that severely restrict off-campus parties. The police also impose tough restrictions on Halloween activities. Afraid to go downtown, many students gather for an impromptu Halloween party in the Tar River Estates parking lot. Police in riot gear raid the party. 140 young people are herded into prison buses, driven to jail and charged with "failure to disperse." The following Monday at least 6,000 students gather for an impromptu Halloween party in the Tar River Estates parking lot. Police in riot gear raid the party. 140 young people are herded into prison buses, driven to jail and charged with "failure to disperse." The following Monday at least 6,000 students gather for an impromptu Halloween party in the Tar River Estates parking lot. Police in riot gear raid the party. 140 young people are herded into prison buses, driven to jail and charged with "failure to disperse." The following Monday at least 6,000 students gather for an impromptu Halloween party in the Tar River Estates parking lot.
Robert W. Ebendorf: The Work in Depth

Robert W. Ebendorf receives Lifetime Achievement Award

ECU art professor Robert Ebendorf has been honored with a lifetime achievement award by a group that helped him find more than 40 years ago.

Ebendorf, an internationally known master metalsmith and jewelry designer, received the Society of North American Goldsmiths Lifetime Achievement Award. It’s the highest honor given by the society to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of contemporary jewelry and metalmithing throughout their careers.

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

“The award is very humbling,” Ebendorf said. “The acknowledge¬ment from my peers means a great deal.”

Trained as a professional goldsmith, Ebendorf creates designs that incorporate cast-off objects, making used things new again while pairing unusual items like board game pieces and tin. He often finds inspiration and trash-bound discoveries on his daily walks between his home and the Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

Take a crushed soda can. He turned a can into a brooch, which led to “Keep It in the Can.” It’s latest collection features a series of pins made from discarded aluminum cans.

“I’m fearless about putting broken glass or bone or pieces of road kill together with a pearl or gemstone,” Ebendorf said.

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

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

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

It’s during guest talks that Ebendorf shares his own experience as an art student and his lifelong struggle with dyslexia.

A Topeka, Kansas, native, he received his bachelor of fine arts degree in 1963 and a master of fine arts degree in 1962 from the University of Kansas. It was there that he saw a flyer for a Fulbright award—something he thought went only to scholars and not to students in danger of flunking courses, he said. He eventually put his fear aside and applied, receiving a Fulbright Fellowship to Norway, which changed his life, he said.

“That was a game-changer,” Ebendorf said.

As a result of that Fulbright experience, Ebendorf returned to Norway the following spring and again while pairing unusual items such as broken glass or bone or pieces of aluminum cans. He also acquired a fascination with the art of goldsmithing and began creating jewelry.

Robert Ebendorf: The Work in Depth

for its 2014 print issue, the Review devotes its special feature section to “Robert W. Ebendorf: The Marrow of Tradition, which is based on the Wilmington coup de tat of 1898, as well as Jordan Stoney’s essay on Michael Malone’s 1983 novel Handling Sin. In addition, Alan Gurganus flips from author to subject in Zackary Vernon’s essay, and Shirley Stave takes a look at Lee Smith’s 2002 novel The Last Girl.

These essays accompany poems by Susan Laughter Mayers, winner of the 2013 James Applewhite Poetry Prize, as well as poems by Applewhite and Fred Chappell, who served as first judge for last year’s competition.

Included in the latest issue is an announcement of a new NCLR creative nonfiction competition in 2015, with the winner published in the 2016 edition, to celebrate the 25th issue of NCLR. The Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize, named for the founding editor, will be open to any writer who fits the NCLR definition of a North Carolina writer: anyone who lives in North Carolina, has lived in North Carolina or uses North Carolina as subject matter.

Published by ECU and the N.C. Literary and Historical Association, NCLR has won numerous awards. NCLR 204 has been mailed to subscribers and is available in independent bookstores across the state. Subscription information is online at www.nclr.ecu.edu.
Godwin takes over Diamond Bucs

Cliff Godwin, a four-year Pirate letterwinner who spent part of seven NCAA Regional and two College World Series appearances coaching at the Division I level, became ECU's head baseball coach in June.

“When I sat down with Jeff (Compiler, ECU athletic director) and his staff in Omaha, I told them that the only way I would take this position is if they were willing to compete at the national level.”


“Raised in Snow Hill and a prep school, Godwin most recently appeared as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator in Omaha, I told them that the only way I would take this position is if they were willing to compete at the national level.”

“I could not be more excited than to have Cliff Godwin as the head coach for Pirate baseball,” said Compiler. “I understand the importance of baseball at ECU and in eastern North Carolina, and I believe Cliff embodies all the qualities we were looking for in our next head coach.”

Godwin graduated magna cum laude in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in industrial and information systems, and after receiving the Pat Draughon Postgraduate Scholarship, went on to earn his MBA from ECU in 2002.

Before joining the Rebels, Godwin spent three seasons as the associate head coach at the University of Central Florida. As an active member of the Knights’ offense and also served as recruiting coordinator. He also coached at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Vanderbilt, Notre Dame and Louisiana State.

“At ECU, Godwin redshirted as a freshman being served as a top catcher for the Pirates over the next four seasons. The three-year team co-captain started 126 games as a sophoormore. junior and senior, earning All-East Region honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association in his final season after batting .322 with 15 home runs and 45 RBIs.

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

Chemistry professor Andrew Morehead, center, is the new chair of the ECU Faculty Senate. He was vice chair the past two years. John Givens, left, of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will serve as vice chair. Kyle Dottin-Blake, right, 100 '02 of the College of Education will serve as secretary. The three will serve in those roles for the 2014-15 academic year. As chair, Morehead will present the faculty’s opinions and concerns to the administration and work with the administration to further our goals. Given served as a faculty senator for six years and parliamentarian for one year.

“From the first second I sat down in the Murphy Center announcing his hiring. I'm very proud and blessed to be the next head coach at ECU,” Godwin said.

Ballard now most senior chancellor in UNC system

East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard, who marked 10 years on the CEO in May, is now the senior chancellor in the 16-campus UMC system.

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

“In order of seniority, the current UNC System has three chancellors in the rates they were installed, are as follows:”

1. Steve Ballard, ECU, May 2004
2. Peacock, UNC Charlotte, March 2005
3. Donald Julian Bewance, Winston-Salem State, April 2002

James A. Anderson, Fayetteville State, June 2008
Linda F. Brady, Eastern Carolina, Greensboro, August 2008
Harold L. Martin Sr., N.C. A&T, June 2006

RANDALL R. BROWN

“William Downs, former area dean for social and behavioral sciences at Georgia State University, began work July 1 as dean of ECU’s Thomason Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Downs is a member of the Georgia State faculty for 17 years. A Raleigh native, he received a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in journalism from N.C. State University in 1988 and his master’s and doctoral degrees in political science from Emory University.

Bobby Woodward ‘98, former associate vice chancellor for student involvement and leadership, was named associate provost and vice president for student affairs at Auburn University. Woodward will provide support and advisement to departments responsible for student affairs. His appointment is effective July 1 and will replace the position of director.

Scott Curtis, associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, was named the 2013-14 Outstanding Affiliate Faculty Member of the Year for the Center for Sustainability. The Center for Sustainability is housed in the College of Engineering and Technology at ECU. Dr. Ashesh Buch of East Carolina Heart Institute was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Buch was formally recognized for this honor on June 10 at a ceremony in London. Buch, an interventional cardiologist at the heart institute and assistant professor of cardiovascular sciences at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, specializes in catheter-based treatments of structural heart disease. Fellowship is the highest level of membership in the college, which represents more than 20,000 physicians across the U.K. and the world.

ECU Outstanding Affiliate Faculty Member of the Year for the Center for Sustainability. The Center for Sustainability is housed in the College of Engineering and Technology at ECU.

Dr. Ashesh Buch of East Carolina Heart Institute was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Buch was formally recognized for this honor on June 10 at a ceremony in London. Buch, an interventional cardiologist at the heart institute and assistant professor of cardiovascular sciences at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, specializes in catheter-based treatments of structural heart disease. Fellowship is the highest level of membership in the college, which represents more than 20,000 physicians across the U.K. and the world.

The University studies program is designed for students who seek a course of study that is personally interesting because the course is relevant outside of the traditional “majors” approach to successful degree completion.
Ocean Adventure" at 7 p.m. on Discovery lecture series. 2014-15 Thomas Harriot College civil rights activist will speak on his college years. Bond was a member of Roomful of Teeth, won a Pulitzer Prize for her a cappella piece, Partita for 8 Acoustic Foursome has been described as visionary and heretical, with a red-hot glowing...heavenly” by Emanuel Gruber and pianist Alisa Gilliam in recital on Sept. 25. Cellist Emilie Bond and pianist Keiko Sakino perform the music of Cowell, Poulenc and Franck on Oct. 31. Faculty music members Christine Gustafson, Rube, and Andrew Crane, tenor, welcome guest pianist Jeramy Thompson for a joint recital on Nov. 18. All faculty recitals are at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public. For more information, call 252-388-6851. Opera: Opera Theater presents Youth, Day, Old Age, and Night, a production of Rorem’s music of Ned Rorem on Oct. 6-7 and 11-12 at 7:30 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. The performance includes three one-act operas—Fables, Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra, and Turn a Leaf—together with some of Rorem’s music for the stage, including a song in a presentation devised by Opera Theater Director John Kramar. The performance is presented in concert; on Sept. 22, Rachel Parashkevov, guitar, on Nov. 8; on Oct. 18, the symphony travels to St. Mary’s Church in Greenville and welcomes the ECU combined choirs and faculty soloists Rachel Copeland, soprano; John Kramar, baritone, and David Requiro, cello; for Dorvaker’s Te Deum. The Governor’s Virginia Composer’s Choir joins the symphony back at Wright Auditorium on Nov. 24. All Symphony Orchestra concerts are at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. For more information, call 252-388-6851. The North Carolina NewMusic Ensemble offers a variety of performances this fall as the mixed-voice ECU Choral Men’s 30th anniversary. The performance includes three one-act operas—Fables, Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra, and Turn a Leaf—together with some of Rorem’s music for the stage, including a song in a presentation devised by Opera Theater Director John Kramar. The performance is presented in concert; on Sept. 22, Rachel Parashkevov, guitar, on Nov. 8; on Oct. 18, the symphony travels to St. Mary’s Church in Greenville and welcomes the ECU combined choirs and faculty soloists Rachel Copeland, soprano; John Kramar, baritone, and David Requiro, cello; for Dorvaker’s Te Deum. The Governor’s Virginia Composer’s Choir joins the symphony back at Wright Auditorium on Nov. 24. All Symphony Orchestra concerts are at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. For more information, call 252-388-6851. Opera: Opera Theater presents Youth, Day, Old Age, and Night, a production of Rorem’s music of Ned Rorem on Oct. 6-7 and 11-12 at 7:30 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. 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All eyes on safety
KEEPING CAMPUS SECURE

ECU Police Officer Travis Davis talks with students Rebecca Bain, Charles Dennis and Joel McAuliffe outside the Student Recreation Center.
Like many campuses around the country, ECU has been working consistently to make safety and security a part of everyday life. The university created a campus safety master plan—thought to be the first of its kind—and spends more than $6 million a year on campus safety operations and infrastructure. This year, ECU plans to use the ECU Police strategic plan as a foundation for developing a five-year campus safety plan with participation from the campus community and local law enforcement.

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

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

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

Lessons from Virginia Tech

Campus safety and security has become a high-profile priority in the past seven years—since Virginia Tech student Seung-Hui Cho shot and killed 33 people including himself and wounded 17 others in two separate attacks in April 2007. Campus violence is not new. FBI records show fatal shootings at college campuses go back as far as 1909. Federal laws demand universities work to ensure a safe campus environment; students, parents and the public expect it. And some of the same efforts and resources employed to protect campuses against violent crime have trickled down into topics as comparatively ordinary as alerting faculty and students about snow days.

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

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

On a July afternoon at student orientation, Sydney and Nicole McDowell listen as East Carolina University Police Officer Brian Richardson explains the steps the university takes to keep students safe. The Fayetteville freshman and her mom like what they hear.

“When he was talking about the escort system that you can have to take you to your dorm or wherever you need to go, that’s my favorite, because I don’t like going anywhere by myself, especially at night, so I think that’s awesome,” says Sydney, referring to the student patrol officers. “That’s the best thing ever. I’m so happy I figured that out today.”

While her mom says Greenville and ECU appear safe and friendly, she is concerned about Sydney being out late with her work-study job.

“I actually would like for her to get into some of those defense classes, just in case, because you never know,” Nicole McDowell says.

“Better safe than sorry,” says her daughter, who plans to major in psychology.

That presentation from Officer Richardson isn’t the only time Sydney will experience ECU’s efforts to keep students safe and secure. Campus safety is more than law enforcement; it is integrated into all aspects of the university.
across the state, he said.

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

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

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

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

In addition, campus loudspeakers broadcast emergency messages to pedestrians. Video screens around campus relay important information to passers-by. ECU’s Alert system posts messages to office workers and a computer program pops up messages on computer screens.

And the traditional outlets—local TV, radio and newspapers—still spread information about weather-related closings and delays, crime and fires.

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

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

“Because back then, there wasn’t a system in place where if something happened on campus, everyone could be notified,” McDowell says. “Back then, it was kind of a mystery about who was around them and how to contact them.”

Across the nation, campuses have become a focus of federal authorities and university leaders.

When sexual violence happens on a college or university campus, it is a law enforcement issue as well as a federal issue due to statutes addressing sex discrimination, which includes sexual violence, at educational institutions.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires colleges and universities to address sex discrimination, which is a federal issue due to statutes addressing sex discrimination, which includes sexual violence, at educational institutions.

Title IX, the sexual harassment of students, is a federal issue due to statute addressing sex discrimination, which includes sexual violence, at educational institutions.

“Title IX is a law enforcement issue as well as a federal issue due to statutes addressing sex discrimination, which includes sexual violence, at educational institutions. The connection to sexual violence. In a 2004 study using data from three Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study surveys, one in 20 women reported being raped. Of those, 72 percent experienced rape while intoxicated.

“Title IX has really called for the ways law enforcement agencies can address sexual assault on college campuses,” Alston says. “Title IX has really called for increased prevention and response efforts for the campus as well as enhancing critical partnerships with campus and local police departments.”

Alcohol is also in the crosshairs for its connection to sexual violence. In a 2004 study using data from three Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study surveys, one in 20 women reported being raped. Of those, 72 percent experienced rape while intoxicated.
behavior where no threat is seen takes appropriate action. For Team assesses the threat and University Behavioral Concerns worry is that the person might be successful. “The good student who stops everyone is doing well and intervenes and provides resources support. As with overall campus safety, the efforts at ECU trace back to the 2007 Virginia Tech shootings. “One of the lessons we learned from the tragedy at Virginia Tech was information was siloed,” Lewis says. “All of their offices had a little bit of information, but there was no hint of the whole. If all that information had been funneled into one place, perhaps the perpetrator could have gotten the help he needed and the campus been protected. “The entire campus community has a responsibility for reporting concerning behavior and keeping our campus safe,” he adds. In fiscal year 2012-2013, ECU Cares assisted 235 students; Lewis says. “That’s 235 students who wouldn’t have gotten the help they needed otherwise,” he says. More information is online at www.ecu.edu/ecucares and by telephone at 252-737-5555.

—Doug Boyd

When someone needs help

Students having difficulties at college is nothing new. But efforts to spot and help students who go beyond the usual stresses of university life have gained ground in recent years.

ECU Cares is an anonymous way students, staff, faculty members and others can report concerning behavior, such as an expressed intent to harm oneself or others, intense anger or disturbing content in schoolwork.

“The student who stops coming to class, dispensed thoughts, self-medicating, references to weapons or harm to self—these kinds of things are red flags that someone is in distress,” says Travis Lewis, associate dean of students at ECU and one of the leaders of ECU Cares. “We want to make sure everyone is doing well and being successful.”

When behavior is reported, if the worry is that the person might be a threat to a member or members of the campus community, the University Behavioral Concerns Team assesses the threat and takes appropriate action. For behavior where no threat is seen but significant concerns exist regarding the individual and his or her well-being, the team will intervene and provide resources and support.

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

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like word of mouth, or you didn’t know at all. But now, with everything, with technology, period, it’s much safer.”

Perception paints a portrait

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

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

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

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

Greenville’s crime index has fallen 40 percent since 2003—44 percent for violent crime. A check of the crime-reporting website RaidsOnline shows a number of crimes within a half-mile of ECU’s campus, mainly robberies and thefts. However, an alleged murder in downtown Greenville on June 18 stands out. Police say it was gang-related.

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

This spring, a student contacted ECU Police after seeing a woman with a sidearm on campus. It turned out she was a sheriff’s deputy on campus. It turned out she was a sheriff’s deputy on campus 60 miles away. “Everyone has to be involved in (campus safety),” says ECU Police Chief Gerald Lewis. “It’s a shared responsibility.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part of everyday life

“That’s the first thing parents ask about,” says Virginia Hardy, ECU vice chancellor of student affairs, referring to campus and community safety. Her division plays a significant safety role, from working with ECU Police on prevention workshops for students to operating the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, which administers the university’s student code of conduct. “Campus safety is top priority across the campus, and it’s something we take very seriously in student affairs,” she says. “In fact, it is a large part of our daily operations.”

The division also operates the Dean of Students office, which offers counseling and advocacy among other services. It also offers online educational modules that are required for students. They cover topics such as substance abuse, diversity and personal safety. “Each fall we have more than 5,500 new first-year and transfer students walk onto our campus. We want them to feel as safe as possible. And we want their families to feel confident that they are leaving their students in a safe place and in good hands,” Hardy said. “We are constantly communicating with our students about safety measures. Additionally, based on feedback, trends or new information, we adapt, change and improve our method of communications about safety as well as resources and services available.”

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

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They were tested in November 2011 in a scenario that at first looked like it could become dangerous. Greenville Police spotted a man walking near campus carrying an object that, on the surveillance camera, looked like a rifle. It turned out to be an umbrella, but until that was known, authorities locked down campus and searched it and surrounding neighborhoods. Though it was a false alarm, it gave law enforcement and campus administration a thorough test and uncovered some issues. For example, postings on social media about phantom gunmen consumed valuable time to track down. But police took the threats seriously. “If you underestimate at the wrong time, you pay,” says Greenville Police Chief Hassan Aden. “If you overreact and have to apologize, I’d rather apologize.”

In 2007, Virginia Tech officials thought the first two homicides were an isolated incident, began investigating them but didn’t alert the broader campus. They were wrong. “Today, shots fired, we’re locking down and (then) doing the investigation,” Koch says. “Once we’re confident the threat is eliminated, we can come out of lockdown. We all respond differently today.”

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

Underreaction not an option

Even with electronic and mechanical measures, vigilance is still the key to safety, officials stress. “If you see something, say something,” says Lewis. “The public has to be our ears and eyes. That’s the way the system is supposed to work.”

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

For emergencies, call 911.

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

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

Residence hall coordinators are available to assist with roommate issues.

The ECU family guidebook (www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/studenttransitions/) includes important information and telephone numbers regarding campus safety and other issues.

SafeRide provides nighttime commuting for students, faculty and staff. Call 252-328-7433 (252-ECU-RIDE).

Bedsides and boardrooms
Pirate nurses provide leadership in complex health care environments

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

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

Today, as second-in-command of a 654-bed academic medical center, she gets a greater thrill from equipping others to succeed in the work she used to do. And she credits the College of Nursing at East Carolina University for her leadership prowess and perspective.
nursing graduates. According to Brown, that's because the college is intentional about equipping nurses to tackle the most pressing challenges of the region and the industry. Many of the challenges close to home are related to workforce shortages, Brown says. About 3,500 nursing jobs are vacant statewide. And most nurses working in eastern North Carolina have two-year degrees, so ECU graduates—with their four-year degrees—are often thrust into leadership early on in their careers.

From a broader perspective, she says, most challenges arise from a health care culture that increasingly regards a team approach as the best way to deliver care. “It’s important to note that the qualities paramount in good leaders are also required of good team players,” she says. Beyond basic nursing skills, Brown says, a nurse leader’s toolbox should include good communication skills, an open mind, a team mentality, mentorship, patient advocacy, a big-picture focus and an understanding of processes. She says the culture within ECU’s College of Nursing breeds all these qualities.

**A broader scope**

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

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

“Leadership has changed a lot in just five years,” Chatman says. “I graduated from a tiny high school where we all learned how to read and regurgitate,” she says. “I didn’t know how to extrapolate, how to think critically. But my professors knew exactly what I needed.”

At the master’s level, Chatman says, they taught her how to translate the technical nursing skills she’d then mastered into strategic thinking. And when she returned as a professional leader to pursue her doctorate, she says, her professors-turned-peers openly acknowledged the tensions that arise as colleagues change roles, and they helped her deal with them constructively, always modeling accessibility, peer support and accountability, patience and guidance—qualities ECU instilled in her at every academic level.

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

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

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

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

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The Engelhard native says the culture
The 1,800-person township of Shallotte in coastal Brunswick County.

“Around here, lots of providers aren’t aware of the patient care autonomy nurse practitioners can have,” she says. “We’ve had to trudge a new road with the hospitals here. They didn’t know what to do with me at first.”

Varnam says ECU’s nursing program taught her to focus on processes and potential and to lead efforts to further health promotion and disease prevention in the community we serve.”

Leadership at all levels

One reason ECU excels at cultivating successful nurse leaders, Brown says, is that leadership concepts are embedded in the curriculum from the moment an undergraduate student enter nursing school.

As first-semester juniors, all nursing students take an introductory course in professional nursing. They conclude their senior year with another nursing leadership course.

Varnam says ECU armed her well for the front lines of primary care leadership in an underserved area. The day she opened her practice in 2006, patients were walking in before she’d gotten her supplies unpacked.

She’s since hired an additional practitioner, and the practice continues to grow by four patients a week.

Peer support, mentorship and patient advocacy top the list of Varnam’s passions. She’s the regional director for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She lectures nursing students and serves as a clinical preceptor for multiple nursing programs in the Southeast. She does a lot of policy work.

“Good nurse leaders are invaluable to patients,” she says. “My patients are always asking me about health care issues because they know I’m advocating for them. They know I’m their partner in health care and not just their caregiver.”

Having grown up in Greenville, Varnam says ECU was a natural choice for her. After earning her bachelor’s degree and working in various staff nurse positions, she chose to become an advanced practitioner because she wanted to assume more leadership without giving up direct patient care. It’s what keeps her grounded, she says.

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

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

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

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

Warren cited the ECU-AHEC collaboration to offer the region’s many associate’s-degree nurses an online RN-to-BSN program.

“ECU recognized long ago that future nurse leaders would require a bridge to post-baccalaureate education to prepare for leadership in an era of continuous change,” he says.

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East
The influence of two teachers—one in high school, the other at ECU—lifted Timothy Gomez from the street corner to the corner office at the world’s largest pencil company. Now he’s on a mission to help teachers help students like him.
It was 22 years ago, but Timothy Gomez ’92 ’95, chief executive of Dixon Ticonderoga, the world’s largest pencil company, vividly remembers the day his life changed and the East Carolina University professor who changed it.

It was his senior year at ECU, and Gomez—a poor kid from Elizabeth City who was working his way through college—was thinking about a career after graduation. He skipped class one day to drive to Raleigh to take the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School exam.

The military seemed like an acceptable career choice to Gomez. His dad was a career Coast Guardsman. Gomez had grown up in coastal communities and loved boating.

“When I got back to ECU, I heard that Dr. (Barry) Duvall wanted to see me in his office,” Gomez recalls. “I thought I was in trouble for skipping his class. When I got to his office, he said he had heard what I had done and he wanted to know why I was throwing my life away. “He had two pieces of paper in his hand. ‘Throughout our adolescent and college years, we meet a variety of teachers that lead us, guide us and sometimes impact us in a way that challenges the person we are and makes us see something even greater. Dr. Duvall did that for me. In one short conversation he changed the rest of my life.’

‘Thank you, Mrs. Flood’

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

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

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

Gomez was saddened in May when he learned she had died. He returned to Elizabeth City for her memorial service.

He came bearing gifts—50,000 pencils for Northeastern students and 50,000 for students at Elizabeth City Middle School. Each was stamped with the message “Thank You Mrs. Flood.”

Gomez also wanted to demonstrate his appreciation for Duvall. He drove from Elizabeth City to Greenville bearing a check for $1,500 to support Duvall’s research in recycling.

“I remember him as an enthusiastic guy and a real go-getter,” Duvall says. “When he contacted me after all those years it was a shock. It really makes you feel good when (former students) remember you.”

Duvall is perfecting a recycling technology developed in Japan that reverses the process of turning petroleum into plastic products. Ground up bits of plastic put in the machine are returned to the raw materials. The plastic was made from. Gomez plans to use the technology at Dixon Ticonderoga to improve the company’s already extensive recycling programs.

Reaching the corner office

A second internship that Duvall arranged for Gomez during graduate school led to a job with ABB, the global power and automation technologies company. ABB identified Gomez as a high-potential employee and sent him to Cambridge University in London to study for a master’s degree in business leadership.

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

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

Pencil facts

A typical pencil can draw a line 35 miles long or write about 45,000 words. The first pencils that could imprint round pencils was patented in 1908.

An unpainted pencil inserted into the soil of a potted plant can eliminate mealybugs. Gardeners mark their plant labels with pencil because it won’t fade in sunlight.

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

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

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

Source: Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association

Headquartered in Heathrow in central Florida, privately held Dixon Ticonderoga manufactures the ubiquitous yellow No. 2 pencil and a range of art materials and office supplies under the Ticonderoga, Prang, Dixon, Oriole, Das and Lyra brands. At 219 years old, Dixon Ticonderoga is one of the oldest companies in the country. The world’s largest producer of pencils, it turns out about 1.5 billion a year.

Now owned by an Italian company, Dixon Ticonderoga has about 200 employees at the Florida headquarters and at distribution sites across the country. Manufacturing is done overseas and in Mexico by factories owned by Dixon.
As one might expect from a producer of writing instruments and art supplies, Dixon Ticonderoga for decades has supported public schools. Gomez intensified that support and now devotes many hours of his time to charitable work in support of teachers and schools nationally and in the central Florida area around Orlando.

“One of my goals is to donate enough pencils (that if lined up end to end would) stretch from coast to coast,” he says. “I’m about halfway there.”

Through a partnership with the Kids in Need Foundation, Dixon Ticonderoga has donated enough pencils and other school supplies to fill the backpacks of 2.8 million children attending Title I schools, or those with large concentrations of low-income students. The company donates an average of $1.5 million a year to Kids in Need.

“I definitely focus on my social responsibility,” he says. “All of my social activities—on personal and professional levels—revolve around supporting teachers.”

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“Learning to be humble”

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

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

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

“(Getsinger) would have us over to his house, feed us and teach us how to be responsible young men. I remember seesawing for 24 straight hours in front of the Theta Chi house (on East 11th Street) to raise money for Special Olympics. I remember collecting money on Greenville Boulevard.

“Learning how to be humble in life—that’s one important thing I learned (from Getsinger),” Gomez says. The Epsilon Iota Chapter of Theta Chi officially rechartered in 1991 with Gomez as a founding member.

Gomez manages to save some hours out of his busy week for quality time with his family. He lives on the water near New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and enjoys boating with his wife, Terri, and their 9-year-old daughter, Gabriella. He recently renewed his Merchant Mariners Captains License. “which means if there is a war I could be called into the Navy.”

He has a 27-footer that he likes to take offshore for deep-sea fishing, and a Boston Whaler for everyday fun.

He says he won’t forget Mrs. Flood and Dr. Duvall. “Going back was just a start, it’s not the end. I’m making plans to go back and put some programs in place there,” he says.

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East

Gomez and Lee Corso of ESPN pose with a pair of giant pencils.

Choose any THREE ECU home football games for $12840
Pricing includes 7% N.C. state sales tax.

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Pricing includes 7% N.C. state sales tax.

Guarantee your seats against North Carolina*

*ECU does not anticipate having individual game tickets available for this game.

ECUPirates.com
A season of firsts

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

BY STEVE TUTTLE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY CLARK
There’s one more thing stirring the passions of the Pirate Nation this football season—Carlton Rose, the one-year-old American, built on the ashes of the Big East, succeeded at most turns last season.

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

big games in basketball

The Pirates’ top two receivers from 2013—Justin Hardy and Isaiah Jones—are back. In the center of the defense are three experienced linemen who each weigh in at more than 300 pounds.

Carden and Hardy return

A big reason East Carolina could win 10 games again this year is the return of record-setting quarterback Shane Carden. As a junior in 2013, he completed 70.5 percent of his passes for 4,119 yards, 33 touchdowns and only 10 interceptions. He also rushed for 293 yards and 10 more touchdowns. If Carden puts up similar numbers this year, he undoubtedly will attract Heisman Trophy attention.

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

The Pirates’ top two receivers from 2013—Justin Hardy and Isaiah Jones—are back. Hardy led the team last season with 114 receptions for 1,284 yards and 13 touchdowns. Jones was close behind with 62 receptions for 604 yards and five touchdowns.

Several veterans return on a defensive squad that ranked ninth in the country in 2013. Among those are defensive ends Terrell Armstead and Christian Rose, who combined for 16 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks in 2013, are back. In the center of the defense are three experienced linemen who each weigh in at more than 300 pounds.

Big games in basketball

The Pirates will play home-and-home basketball games against Cincinnati, Connecticut, Houston, Memphis, Temple, Tulsa, Central Florida and South Florida.

The women’s team begins AAC play Nov. 7-9 in Tampa, Florida. In volleyball, the Pirates will play in two tournaments, including the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. A trio of transfers should give coach Jeff Lebo a dependable bench.

An amid all these changes, however, one thing remains the same about ECU football. The Pirates open the season with one of the nation’s toughest non-conference schedules. During September ECU will play at Southeastern Conference powerhouse South Carolina, then travel to Virginia Tech a week later. The Pirates close out September with a home game against North Carolina, which will be seeking revenge for the thumping ECU handed the Tar Heels in Chapel Hill last season.

The Pirates will be battle-tested when it sets off on a run of eight conference games. Temple and Connecticut are new names on the schedule. The other conference foes—Southern Methodist, Central Florida, South Florida, Tulane, Tulsa and Cincinnati—are schools ECU once faced in Conference USA.

The final game of the season could be a blockbuster as the Pirates take on Central Florida.

If the Pirates and Central Florida win the games most analysts think they should, that Dec. 4 game in Donley-Fickler Stadium likely will be for the conference title and an invitation to a major bowl game.

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

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Homecoming Concert
Student Activities Board Oct. 2, 7 p.m., Mingus Coliseum Cost TBA Contact: Justin Janak at janakj@ecu.edu Homecoming Pep Rally Oct. 1, 5-6 p.m., at Freebooter Friday in uptown Greenville Contact: Emily Lamb at mflamb@ecu.edu

BUCCANEER BUFFET 2014
Alumni Tailgate is now Buccaneer Buffet! The alumni association’s Tailgate has a new name but still offers the same family-friendly, fun with fellow Pirates before each home football game. Enjoy a variety of food from local restaurants, beverages, live music and entertainment, door prizes and more, including visits from the ECU cheerleaders. Tailgates are open to all alumni and friends of East Carolina. Buccaneer Buffet will now begin at a new time of three hours before kick-off for each home game and will be held at the ECU Soccer Stadium. Tickets are $11 for alumni association members and $18 for non-members. Children under 12 are free. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some tailgates do sell out quickly, so plan to register well in advance. Ticket sales are open at the alumni association’s customer service desk and you and a guest will be admitted for free. Alumni may bring an additional two guests for $5 each. For more information, contact Director of Alumni Programs Shawn Moore ‘91 ‘98 at 252-328-5775 or mooresh@ecu.edu.

Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner
Presented by Duplant Wineery and Hilton Greenville 6 p.m., Greenville Convention Center Join us as we present the 2014 Outstanding Alumni, Honorary Alumni and Virgil Clark ’50 Distinguished Service Awards at the alumni association’s signature event. For more information, contact Director of Alumni Programs Shawn Moore ‘91 ‘98 at 252-328-5775 or mooresh@ecu.edu. Nominations for the 2015 Alumni Awards are due Nov. 1.

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Welcome Home Celebration
800-ECU-GRAD
Contact: Alumni association at
Cost: $5 for alumni,
Black Alumni Chapter and
Oct. 4, time TBD, at AOII house
Homecoming Brunch
Alumnae Social
Building on campus is named in his honor.
Outstanding Alumni
William "Bill" Clark '66: 66 is the founder of Big Bill Clark, now one of the largest construction companies in eastern North Carolina. He was a major contributor to the construction of the New South Stadium, which bears his name. He is a past presidential campaign volunteer and currently gives his time and energy to the university.
LL, Gen. William "Mark" Faulkner '52 is the identifying individual for responsibilities and logistics for the U.S. Marine Corps. He has commanded at several levels during his 32
in military logistics. He participated in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He has supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.
Vaniley '35 is the founder and CEO of Professional Builders Supply LLC, an award-winning building materials distributor with locations in Raleigh, Wilmington and Charleston. He is active in industry organizations like the Lumber MERCHANDISING Corporation and the Southern Building Material Association. Through his business
has operated Support: Coming Home and the Duke Children’s Hospital Miracle Home project as well as St. Bede’s Foundation. He is also involved with the ECU College of Business Advisory Council.
J. M. "Mike" Beverly '77, who died July 27, had a passion for social justice and spent more than 60 years as a political activist. Beverly ran for the Greenville City School Board and as a Pilt County Commissioner. She was the president of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina and the Women’s Forum of North Carolina, an organization committed to equality for women. She was selected as a delegate to the U.N. World Conference on Women in China. She was also a major supporter of the arts at ECU.

College, School and Department Activities
Alumni Association Reunions

Alpha Omicron Pi
Alumnae Social
Oct. 3, 8:45 a.m., TDQ, location TBD
Homecoming Brunch and house tours.
Contact: Alan House AMD, alumnushouse@ecu.edu
Oct. 3, time TBD, at AOII house
Tagattle
Contact: Charlene Almand, almandc@ecu.edu
Oct. 4, 8 a.m., TDQ, at AOII house
Check: “Alpha Omicron Pi, East Carolina University” on Facebook.
Contact: aolp1alumnaepals@gmail.com

Black Alumni Chapter and
Oct. 3, 8:45 a.m., TDQ, location TBD
Student Networking brunch
Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mendenhall Student Center
Cost: $5 for alumni, free for students.
Contact: Alumni association at 800-ECU-GRAD

Brody School of Medicine
Oct. 3, Lunch and tour, with cocktail hour featuring alumni awards, and dinner
Oct. 4: breakfast, followed by tagattle
Contact: 252-744-2238 or bsom@ecu.edu

Campus Living
Welcome Home Celebration
Oct. 1, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sweetharts in Todd Dining Hall
Free for previous Campus
Living staff, living employees, resident advisors, and PMA
members, RSVP by Sept. 15
Contact: Mike Rager at ragercm@ecu.edu

College of Allied Health Sciences
Homecoming Celebration
Oct. 3, 6-9 p.m., TDQ, location TBD
Pat Freda at 252-744-3523 or fredp@ecu.edu

College of Arts and Communications
Breakfast on the Punch
Oct. 4, 9 a.m., Speight Building
Free, RSVP by Oct. 1
Contact: Stephanie Burn at sburnma@ecu.edu

College of Engineering and Technology
Alumni Breakfast
Oct. 4, 8:45-10 a.m., Science and Technology Building atrium
Free, no RSVP required
Contact: A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall
All alumni are invited to participate.
Breakfast on the Terrace
Oct. 4, 9 a.m., Jenkins Fine Arts Center
Free, open to all alumni of the schools of Art and Design, Architecture, Visual Arts, Communication, Theatre and Dance
School of Music in support of the Marching Pirates Alumni Picnic.
Oct. 4, three hours prior to kick-off, A.J. Fletcher Music Center
Free, $10 per person, open to all alumni of the School of Music.

College of Fine Arts and Communication
School of Music
Homecoming Reception
Oct. 3, 5 p.m., A.J. Fletcher Music Center room BMIS
Free, open to all School of Music alumni and guests.
Contact: School of Music Alumni Reunion Necta

Department of Criminal Justice
Alumni Tailgate
Oct. 4, 12 p.m., Pirate Park parking area
Free, no RSVP required
Contact: Dorothy at domer@ecu.edu or 252-328-5918

Department of Engineering
Alumni Luncheon
Oct. 3, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Howell Science Complex C207
Free to physics alumni and family members.
Contact: Brenda Doss at bdoss@ecu.edu

Department of Psychology
Parade Watch Breakfast
Oct. 4, 6 a.m.-9 a.m., tent next to Whichard Building
Free, RSVP by Oct. 1
Contact: Arianna Williams at 252-328-6900 or williamsa@ecu.edu

Honors College Alumni Society Reception
Oct. 3, 8-6 p.m., Mellow Mushroom
2020 Charles Blvd.
Refreshments provided, cash bar available.
RSVP by Sept. 17
Contact: Kevin Baxter, baxterk@ecu.edu or 252-328-6737

Department of Computer Science
Alumni Luncheon
Oct. 4, 9 a.m., Science and Technology Building
Free, RSVP by Sept. 19
Contact: shem@grad.cs.ecu.edu

Department of Criminal Justice
Alumni Tailgate
Oct. 4, 12 p.m., Pirate Park parking area
Free, no RSVP required
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RSVP by Sept. 17
Contact: Kevin Baxter, baxterk@ecu.edu or 252-328-6737

College of Arts and Communications
School of Music
Homecoming Reception
Oct. 3, 5 p.m., A.J. Fletcher Music Center room BMIS
Free, open to all School of Music alumni and guests.
Contact: School of Music Alumni Reunion Necta

Department of Criminal Justice
Alumni Tailgate
Oct. 4, 12 p.m., Pirate Park parking area
Free, no RSVP required
Contact: Dorothy at domer@ecu.edu or 252-328-5918

Department of Engineering
Alumni Luncheon
Oct. 3, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Howell Science Complex C207
Free to physics alumni and family members.
Contact: Brenda Doss at bdoss@ecu.edu

Department of Psychology
Parade Watch Breakfast
Oct. 4, 6 a.m.-9 a.m., tent next to Whichard Building
Free, RSVP by Oct. 1
Contact: Arianna Williams at 252-328-6900 or williamsa@ecu.edu

Honors College Alumni Society Reception
Oct. 3, 8-6 p.m., Mellow Mushroom
2020 Charles Blvd.
Refreshments provided, cash bar available.
RSVP by Sept. 17
Contact: Kevin Baxter, baxterk@ecu.edu or 252-328-6737

Collegians Reunion
"The East Band in Tarheel Land" will come together for its annual homecoming reunion at a Dance and Dessert with the Collegians at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Admission is $10 for alumni or $5 for students.
This event will include a wine and coffee bar with a variety of desserts.
ECTC/EEC Reunion
Reconnect with former classmates from East Carolina Teachers College and East Carolina College for a very special weekend.
Start with a tour of the Main Campus and Marching Pirates Campus at 2 p.m. on Friday.
Attend an alumni association events on Friday night and Saturday during the day. Wrap up the festivities at the Dance and Dessert with the Collegians at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
On Oct. 4, A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall.
Marching Pirates Reunion
Past members of the Marching Pirates are invited to join current marching band members in the stands and on the field for a homecoming reunion. A social Friday night at Gulf Bistro is only the beginning. The cost of $15 per person includes heavy hors d’oeuvres and drinks. A cash bar will be available.
Black Alumni Reunion
The Black Alumni Chapter presents the 2014 Black Alumni Reunion. The BAC is composed of alumni and friends who advocate for the mission of the university and the alumni association.
In addition to a yearly reunion, the BAC members access education for African-Americans and students through scholarships and networking opportunities with alumni.
In addition to the annual association’s general events, alumni are invited to the following BAC activities:
BAC Golf Outing
Oct. 4, 9 a.m. Tournament Creek Golf Course, $50
NYP20 Step Show
Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m., Wright Auditorium, cost TBA
TBA TBA
Oct. 5, 8 p.m., Wasabi 88, free, cash bar available.
Networking Brunch with Students
Oct. 4, 9 a.m., Mendenhall Student Center, $5 for alumni, free for students.
BAC Business Meeting
Oct. 4, 11 a.m., Levidia Wright Cultural Center
Grand Finale Party
Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., City Hotel and Bistro; $35 for members and $45 for non-members, cash bar available.
Economic Service
Oct. 5, 9 a.m., TDQ, Levidia Wright Cultural Center
Bunns@ecu.edu

For more information about special events planned by the Alumni Association, contact Assistant Director for Alumni Programs Christy Angle ’95 at 252-528-1956 or anglec@ecu.edu.
Herndon said. He said he aides serve two years. In the 1970s. Most social officers joined the program military branches. Women aides. President Theodore White House military social and are stationed in the officers who are single president and first lady. “I was my first glimpse into outstanding experience. It was an Top’ (beside the main floor reception area of the residence). It was an welcome to the White House, and directed them to the events.

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

Only higher-ranking young officers who are single and are stationed in the National Capital Region can apply to become White House military social aides. President Theodore Roosevelt instituted the program in 1902. Approximately 40 serve at a time, chosen from all the military branches. Women officers joined the program in the 1970s. Most social aides serve two years. “We have a range of duties, from escorting guests to touring, at medal presentations and bill-signing ceremonies,” Herndon said. He said he will be expected to serve at two or three White House events a month. Herndon’s day job is working at the Pentagon as an executive officer and special assistant to the general in charge of Air Force public affairs. He said he heard about the program soon after his transfer to the Pentagon in July 2013. “I began the process where I interviewed with an Air Force screening board and was selected to go forward for screening and potential selection at the White House Military Office. Three months later, I learned I had made the cut, and here I am.”

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

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

In the nine years since graduation he has deployed as a public affairs officer to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. He also served in Korea, Georgia, Texas and Hawaii. In three years stationed at Pearl Harbor-Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, his boss was another ECU graduate, Lt. John T. North Jr. “I was able to see him quite regularly,” Herndon said. “We aligned our press engagements, and I also had the opportunity to serve as his strategic communication and public affairs planning lead.”

Herndon lives in Pentagon City and is married with several half-marathons to his credit. He enjoys all the tourist spots; his favorite place to visit is the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian.

He plans to make a career of military service, a calling he inherited from his father, who is a retired Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel. “He was a big influence on me. He was my guiding light,” Herndon said.

His parents, David E. and Priscilla Ann Herndon, now live in the New Bern area. “I’ve been afforded some great opportunities in the Air Force—to see the world and international events. I have about two more years left on station here (at the Pentagon), and then who knows what I will be.”

He does know where he will be on some Saturday afternoons this fall. “I came down for some football games last season,” he said. “I was in Chapel Hill to see that game and the Old Dominion game at Dowdy-Ficklen. I plan to be down for two or three games this year, too.”

Serving as a White House social aide “only takes half a day, sometimes a day, every other week or so.” Herndon said. “(The number of events) will really pick up over the holidays. And that’s nice because that’s when the White House looks just stunning.”

Herndon “will be expected to serve at two or three White House events a month.”

“Essentially we showed up prior to the guests and did a military-style mission planning to be sure we all understood the steps and movement of the events and where the president and first lady would be located. We hoped to seat the guests, would there be a receiving line,” Herndon said. “We had about 10 aides attending the event and we split up all over the East Wing.”

He was on his feet with a smile on his face for close to three hours. And he loved it.

“I was essentially a greeter,” Herndon said. “But if that opportunity comes up, I look forward to that.”

Lt. Col. John Shirley ’92, right, has taken command of the 361st U.S. Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group based at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. Before assuming command of the agency, Shirley was the 361st's general requirements branch within the U.S. Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Operations Division. The GSR is a selectively manned group that provides specialized surveillance capabilities in support of conflict prevention and humanitarian relief. As part of the promotion, Shirley was selected for promotion to colonel.

“Welcome to the White House”

Susan Eubanks ’11, at left, a clinical nurse specialist at the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, has been selected by her peers as this year’s top nurse at ECU Physicians, the group medical practice at the Brody School of Medicine. Finalists included William Cemman Benoam ’12, Meredith Anne Hoyer, Anna Husselttah Owen ’12, Joseph William Owen ’11, Nathan Templeton Perry ’11, Rachel Allen Rawl, Aaron Thomas Quey ’11 and Tyler Lee Wondard. She is pursuing an MS inn, ECU. She is a financial analyst with Duke University’s Investment Management, Kristin, Cassandra Humbertmark is in the loss development and marketing associate for Creative Marketing Alliance in New Jersey. Haylie De년 Matthews is an intern and graduate student at UNC-Greensboro. She is the granddaughter of Mildred Bone Mathis ’37 ’37 of Kinston, who retired as vice president for instructional services from Lanox Community Colleges. Kelsey Watts wed Nicholas Short on Nov. 20 at Magnolia Manor Plantation Bed and Breakfast, Warrenton. The wedding party included Paige Bylau, Blake Berry, Robin Dunn and Mytil Minton. Joshua Hoos ’12, Maggie Neville 14 and Nikki Sward ’14. She was a wedding coordinator at N.C. Wesleyan College, and he works with the N.C. Department of Public Safety.

Sarah Rose Hines wed Adam Lanster Waster on April 5 at Maryland Lighthouse, Hanover. She works for Dux One, Greenville.

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

Cheryl Stephens Carby is executive director for corporate communications at Middle Georgia State College. She was program coordinator for the Center of Innovation for Aerospace at the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Dr. Hayden Rose Pappas wed Dr. Edgar Wilson “Will” Kirby IV on May 5 at the home of the bride’s parents in Wilmington. She is completing her residency in anesthesiology at UNC-Chapel Hill.
Make a Note
OF YOUR NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: Class Notes Editor, Howard House, Mail Stop 9, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can email your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While East barely prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

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

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NAME     First Middle Last Maiden
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ADDRESS  CITY STATE ZIP
YOUR NEWS

continued on page 52
People say it’s an honor just to be nominated for an Emmy award, and that is true for two employees in the video services department of ECU Athletics, Greg Pierce, director of athletic video, and Brian Meador ‘96, creative media specialist, produced a four-minute video documenting the thrilling end of the 2013 College Insider Tournament.

ECU defeated Weber State in the championship game on a last-second three-point shot by Akeem Richmond. The video was nominated for an Emmy in the New Video Approaches category by 312 Media, a Chicago media company.

“The video presentation in New York City in May was nominated for an Emmy award, and that is true for Brian Meador, left, and Greg Pierce, right, at the Emmy awards presentation in New York City in May. “We were the only non-major network entity to have an entry in this year’s Emmys,” Meador said. “NFL Films won in the world of sports television.”

Imagined two knuckleheads honored just to get nominated. It was an honor just to get nominated. Brian Meador, left, and Greg Pierce, right, at the Emmy awards presentation in New York City in May. “We were the only non-major network entity to have an entry in this year’s Emmys,” Meador said. “NFL Films won in the world of sports television.”

Brian Meador, left, and Greg Pierce, right, at the Emmy awards presentation in New York City in May. “We were the only non-major network entity to have an entry in this year’s Emmys,” Meador said. “NFL Films won in the world of sports television.”

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The ECU community is familiar with the tragic story of Rachelle Friedman ’08, who was paralyzed in a swimming pool accident at a bachelorette party. She has not walked since, but she never stopped moving forward. She became a motivational speaker, an advocate for the disabled and an inspirational role model. Now she’s also an author. In *The Promise*, Friedman tells her story, beginning with the night her life changed. We learn that the five women at the bachelorette party “made an unspoken agreement pushed Rachelle into the pool—and their bond has remained unbroken.” A true love story, Chris Chapman and rehab, the physical challenges of intimacy and, ultimately, their fairy-tale wedding.

Friedman was interviewed by Katie Couric and Huffington Post. At a July event at the Greenville Barnes & Noble. Friedman also appeared and signed books '05 '08, their struggle with her paralysis and good times as September 19, 2014 we support ECU scholarships!

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**GRAB YOUR CLUBS AND JOIN US FOR GOLF AND GOOD TIMES AS WE SUPPORT ECU SCHOLARSHIPS!**

**September 19, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. | 2:00 p.m.**

**ECU ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP CLASSIC**

**PirateAlumni.com/Golf**

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**MUSIC BY ALUMNI**

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

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**BOOKS BY ALUMNI**

The Promise: A Tragic Accident, a Paralyzed Bride, and the Power of Love, Loyalty, and Friendship

297 pages

Hardcover, $18.60

Kindle, $9.99
56

Margaret Walker Phelps 25 of Wilmington died May 5 at 91. She taught English at Daniels and Martin High School. After retirement, she drove a school bus for most of her senior years before retiring from the Orange County Schools in 1975.

Margaret Carr Crawford 61 of Wilmington died May 3 at 94. A retired educator in Pitt County Schools, she taught at Greensboro Senior High School, in North Carolina and Sampson County High School. After retirement, she owned and operated Keith Parker Construction. He was an educator and a former high school principal in Winterville. "Sonny" C.G. Stewart 69 of Winterville died April 21. He was a California Insurance Co. agent for 35 years, retiring in 2002 from the company.

Helen Sprunt Bell 66 of Louisburg died April 9. A retired nurse with a nursing degree from ECU, she was a member of Alpha Kappa Xi Delta sorority. She retired from teaching at Louisburg College in 1994 and in 2007 was named one of the “100 Outstanding Educators Award” winners of ECU’s centennial celebration.

William “Bill” Hulbarger of Asheboro died May 23. He was a member of Alpha Kappa Xi Delta sorority. He served as an ECU professor of history where he taught and coached basketball from 1969 to 1980.

Ginny Doyle of Richmond, Va., died May 6. She was an assistant coach for the basketball team at ECU from 1995-1998. Mary Ellen Walczak of Jacksonville died June 1. A registered nurse with a degree in nursing, she taught at the Brody School of Medicine, College of Allied Health Sciences and College of Nursing from 2004 until her death.

Helen Marie Perkins of Greenville died May 22 at 92. She worked for ECU after 1950 as a secretary, primarily in the record division of the Department of Continuing Education. Carrie Lee Cox of Winterville died April 11.

A gift from your retirement plan (IRA, 401(k), and other qualified retirement plans) can enable you to leave a perpetual legacy at ECU while capturing multiple tax benefits.

To learn more about this gift option, please contact Greg Abeyounis, CFRE, Associate Vice Chancellor for Advancement at abe@ecu.edu.

The 250-100,000 range is among the most (10%) to pass to children's beneficiaries. If the amount is less (0-25%), you should consider a charitable bequest. If the amount is greater (25%), you may want to consider the gift of real property or your residence.

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Michael Ward, Director of Planned Giving

Office of University Advancement
Greenville, Carolina 27834
(252) 328-3682

Email: plannedgiving@ecu.edu

University Advancement Fund
1120 ECU Box 7073
Greenville, NC 27897-7073

(252) 328-9534

March 30, 2020

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March 30, 2020
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

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

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

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

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

Because they held certificates, the ECTTS graduates were paid more than most teachers in the county. The article said the beginning wage for uncertified teachers was $35 a month or $105 a year. In order to survive during the five months when they received no pay, teachers said they had to get by on about $23 a month.

The teachers said they paid about $2 a month for laundry. They also were expected to tithe at church and be the first to support school fundraising projects. “Not a soul reported that her salary was sufficient for her to live on during the entire year,” the article said.

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

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

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

The crisis eased after the 1920 Legislature raised pay for college-trained teachers to $90 a month and guaranteed them an annual increase of $5 a month for four years—the origin of today’s step-and-grade salary schedule for teachers.

When teacher turnover hit 50 percent

Red Banks School, south of Greenville near the New Bern Road, early 1900s

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—Steve Tattle
Biomedical science doctoral student Sherri Moore watches as Edgar Mendivil, a visiting scholar in molecular biological sciences, works in the Rivers Building lab of Michael Wheeler, associate professor of nutrition science. The lab focuses on mechanisms of and treatments for chronic liver disease.

Photo by Cliff Hollis