Weathering the Storm - from Vice Chancellor Hardy

East Carolina University is used to dealing with some bad weather. If the occasional hurricane sweeps up the coast or even a more rare severe thunderstorm or tornado warning drops in on us, we have a plan and know how to deal with it. What we don't get much here in the East is a snow storm, which also included a healthy dose of ice as an appetizer.

However, I am very happy to say that we prepared effectively, communicated confidently and frequently and came out in the end like champions. One thing I love about our division and our staff, is that when the chips are down, we rise to the occasion to help our students.

During the three days with no classes, we managed to keep the dining halls operational, and in many cases used RA's and Residence Hall Association and hall government members to staff the dining hall shifts. In fact, about 8,000 meals were served during the first day of the storm. And knowing that our students would be getting stir crazy with bouts of cabin fever, we were able to get the Student Rec Center and Mendenhall to open on Thursday and Friday to give students something constructive to do.

I also want to give a shout out to our campus police department and ECU facilities staff for their tireless efforts to get roads, parking lots and sidewalks clear and safe. Our upfront and positive communication with the students via social media also facilitated a 150+ person snowball fight on the mall that led to a lot of laughs, some national media exposure and no problems whatsoever.

Thank you so much to each of you for helping us weather this storm!!

MLK Day of Service
Submitted by Shifra Sered - VSLC / AmeriCorps Vista

As part of a collaboration between the Volunteers and Service Learning Center and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, on January 20th 2014, a groups came together to make MLK Day a “day on” and not a “day off”.

After an inspiring kick-off in Hendrix that featured authentically bold poets from ECU Word of Mouth and words of wisdom from Dr. Lathan Turner, over 100 students joined a variety of community organizations to put Dr. King’s message into action by devoting themselves to serving others. Students served with 8 community organizations including the Food Bank of ENC, the Boys and Girls Club, Making Pitt Fit Community garden and more!

Student reflections and pictures can be found at the MLK Day of Service blog at http://mlkdayecu.wordpress.com/, A special thank you to Alpha Phi Alpha, the Black Student Union and the Council on Family Relations for all their help planning the event.
February 3rd
African American History Month Opening Celebration

February 4th
SAB Hosts Hypnotist Michael C. Anthony
Live Group Sex Therapy

February 6th
POP Thursday - Plunge into Purple Open House

February 7th
Service Alternative Spring Break applications before February 7th
Wear Red Day in honor of Heart Disease Awareness

February 12th
Created Equal: The Loving Story Movie & Discussion

February 13th
POP Thursday - Cisco Systems, Inc.
For the love of Heritage 2014 Heritage Ball

February 14th
Employer Career Series Info Session Cisco Systems, Inc.

February 15th
Adventure Trip - Climb Pilot Mountain

SAB Movies in Hendrix
The Best Man - Feb. 7 & 8
The Best Man Holiday - Feb. 5-8
About Time - Feb. 13-15
Ender's Game - Feb. 12, 14 & 15

February 7th is National Wear Red Day
To increase awareness for heart disease, particularly among women, Campus Recreation and Wellness is putting together an event for February 7th (National Wear Red Day) from 11am-2pm in the Rotunda and Concourse of the SRC. We are offering a variety of events that students and members can attend including:

- Wear Red Photo Opportunity (Participants who post a picture of themselves wearing Red – On Facebook/Twitter/Instagram - anytime the week of Feb 3-7th are entered to win a Nike Fuel Band)
- Heart Healthy Trail Mix Station
- Waist-to-Hip Ratios/Measurements
- Relaxation Yoga (co-sponsored by The Center for Counseling and Student Development)
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Free Group Exercise Classes (at 3pm and 4pm)

LWCC Hosts Women’s History Essay Contest
In recognition of National Women’s History month (March), the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center is sponsoring a Women’s History Month essay contest at ECU. The contest, based on the national theme for 2014, Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment will recognize and celebrate female students of ECU. Additionally, it will kick off a month long celebration to encourage the ECU community to gain a deeper and relevant appreciation for women’s roles in history. If you or someone you know is a woman of character, courage and commitment, please consider submitting an essay. Click here for more information and how to submit a nomination.

Student Media Board President works Super Bowl
East Carolina University senior Sarah Moran was among the millions of travelers making their way to Manhattan for Super Bowl week, but she didn’t attend the game.

Moran landed a role as a social media communication center listener for the NFL and the Super Bowl Host Committee. She worked alongside approximately 20 to 30 other volunteers managing Super Bowl-related social media. Her job included monitoring the buzz on social media outlets and responding to questions, comments or concerns people may have about their Super Bowl experience.

She worked four 6-hour shifts Jan. 28 through Jan. 31 at Super Bowl Boulevard in Times Square.

Moran is chair of ECU’s Student Media Board and a member of the executive board for the Students’ Treasure Chest. She is a member of the ECU Women’s Roundtable, the Lambda Iota Chapter of the Phi Mu Fraternity, the Omicron Delta Kappa and the National Residence Hall Honorary.

Click here to read the full website story.
The 18th Annual Polar Bear Plunge and Get-A-Clue student organization fair held January 23rd at the Student Rec Center were huge successes.

More than 80 Campus Recreation and Wellness, Campus Living and other Student Affairs staff and Academic Affairs faculty helped make this long running tradition run smoothly. With air temperatures hovering around freezing, more than 1,000 jumpers took the plunge into the icy waters. The jumpers included ECU Women’s basketball coach Heather Macy, assistant coaches Ollin Dunford and John Marcum, and WITN TV Sports Director Billy Weaver. About 20 ECU students joined Macy, Dunford, Marcum and Weaver for the ceremonial first jump live at the end of WITN’s 6pm newscast.  (Click here to see the WITN video and Billy Weaver's live jump).

After jumping into the outside pool, students warmed up inside at Get-A-Clue, which was held on the SRC basketball courts. More than 60 student groups, clubs and organizations set up tables and shared information with students about how to get involved and connected at ECU. Student Activities and Organizations staff said this was by far the largest student turnout for the winter Get-A-Clue event.

The good times continued on basketball courts 1 & 2 with musical entertainment from WZMB 91.3 FM, ECU’s student radio station. WZMB served as DJ for more than a half dozen student dance, step and performance teams as well as played songs for those in attendance. Throughout the night, there were several hundred students lining the dance floor and on the second floor track to watch the entertainment.

And of course you can't have 1,000+ students without feeding them. Check out the awesome Polar Bear Plunge cake.

SA Spotlight - Elite Pirates

The Elite Pirates of East Carolina University is a premiere student organization for students who have proven their dedication to scholarship, leadership, service and ECU throughout their collegiate career.

The Elite Pirates serve as leadership ambassadors for East Carolina University and are representatives of the student population who embody what it means to engage in positive sustainable change through public service. As the leadership ambassadors, these students are expected to represent the university at various events focused on leadership and service.

They are also responsible for the Social Justice Symposium held each year. This event doesn’t just explore what social justice is, but instead is a call to action for the ECU community to continue our pursuit of inclusivity, innovation and positive social change. Embracing the concepts of servant leadership, these students serve with humility and an overwhelming sense of pride for ECU today, tomorrow and always.

If you would like to request Elite Pirates for your next event, you may contact the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement at studentleadership@ecu.edu or request them through the online form option that can be found at https://orgsync.com/22237/forms/53884.

University News and Information

Provost Sheerer Stepping Down as Provost (letter from Provost on Feb. 3, 2014)

"I have chosen to use First Monday as one vehicle for conveying my future plans. As of August 15, 2014, I plan to step down from the position of Provost; take my retreat rights for a year; and return to the faculty in the College of Education in August of 2015. I have submitted my resignation letter to Chancellor Ballard, and he has accepted it.

During these next 7+ months, I will work to bring closure to particular projects; finish my service on various UNC-GA committees and university committees; work closely with Faculty Senate officers on various initiatives; complete hiring processes in IPAR; complete all evaluations for this academic year; and work with Chancellor Ballard on transition plans and necessary changes. Please notice I have not used the word "retire," I have no intention of doing so until a much later date; and I very much look forward to returning to my home College."