Student Success - Fall 2015 Semester Kicks Off

The Division of Student Affairs tackled the start of a new year with passion, intensity and commitment to student success. There are countless examples in the first couple weeks proving just that fact.

Here are some examples of how Student Affairs Educators are making a difference at ECU.

New Student Welcome and Convocation

This event has quickly become a major tradition at East Carolina. On Aug. 24, the day before classes started, more than 4,200 students (first year and transfer) poured into Minges Coliseum.

Hundreds of Greek Life students formed a tunnel to welcome new students to Minges. Before the formal program started, students were entertained with games involving ECU coaches vs. administrators as well as special lip sync performances by Heather Macy, ECU Women’s Basketball coach and her team and Ruffin McNeill, ECU’s Football Coach and his players.

The musical performances were broadcast by local and state TV stations as well as nationally on ESPN and Fox Sports. Click on the coaches’ names above to see the performances.

When Convocation officially began, ECU Alum and Avett Brothers band member, Scott Avett provided the keynote address where he discussed his arduous journey from navigating college life to becoming a highly successful musician. Avett challenged the incoming students to take advantage of every opportunity they get and make the most out of it.

The event ended with an Athletics pep rally with all ECU coaches being introduced as well as Pee Dee and the Cheerleaders teaching the students about some of the athletics traditions.

Click here to see the entire Convocation ceremony.

(Part 2 of 2)

Pirate Palooza

The 15th Annual Pirate Palooza started immediately following Convocation at Dowdy Ficklen Stadium.

The largest crowd ever, 5,400 students, attended Palooza. Students were able to participate in games and activities like inflatables, live band karaoke and more on the football field.

Under the stadium bleachers, students were able to eat food provided by Papa Johns and Aramark as well as play interactive games and listen to music.

This is a great event to introduce students to the passion of the Pirate Nation. But Palooza is not just for
first year and transfer students. While 2/3 of the attendees were first year students, many students enjoy the experience so much they return for the sophomore, junior and senior years too.

And of course, they come back for the t-shirt too.

Fourteen of the 17 Living Learning Communities (LLC’s) are housed in Gateway East and West, which accounts for 680 of the 720 students in the hall.

Pictured here is the first class of students to live in Gateway Hall. With all residence halls open at the start of the fall semester, on campus housing capacity topped 5,500 students.

ECU’s Family Weekend will take place September 25-27 and is already well on its way to being a success.

Parent and Family Programs has already sold out of all discounted football tickets, pre-game tailgate tickets and park and ride passes. There are still a limited amount of full price football tickets through the Athletic Ticket Office.

The focal point of Family Weekend is always the home football game, which will be against Virginia Tech. The game time has not been released (as of Sept. 15).

In addition to the game, events for students and families begin Friday, Sept. 25th. These include a canoe/kayak trip, a state of the university address from Vice Chancellor Hardy, the Parents Council fall meeting, the Student Affairs Advancement Council meeting, a free symphony/orchestra concert, a movie and free bowling and billiards.

The pre-game tailgate on Sept. 26 will start three hours prior to kickoff and is a catered event.
Following the game, students and families can watch a movie in Hendrix Theatre as well as another movie outside of Mendenhall (weather permitting).

The weekend concludes with the Alumni Association’s Legacy Brunch in Mendenhall.

Visit www.ecu.edu/familyweekend for more information about event dates and times.

(ECU Transit Creates New 301 Express Route to Carol Belk Building)

Effective Sept. 14th, ECU Transit started a new express bus route that will provide point-to-point service for students. The route, called 301 X or 301 Express, will run six routes on M/W/F and four routes on T/Th from the bus stop at Brewster/10th Street to the Carol Belk Building.

The current 301 Gold route is two buses running a cycle loop with stops at Brewster, College Hill, West End and Carol Belk. Now, one bus will run the 301 Gold full route and one will be the 301 Express (point-to-point) at the specialized times listed below.

The 301 Express was created to assist students that have one class on main campus and then another class immediately afterward at Carol Belk. In most cases, the students had only 10 minutes to get out of class on main campus, walk/run to the bus, ride through traffic to Carol Belk, exit the bus and walk/run to class. Many students complained that they were getting to class late and some faculty shared concerns about disruptions to their classes with late arriving students.

Provost Mitchelson, Dean Gilbert (HHP), Faculty from Carol Belk and Student Affairs staff including ECU Transit worked together to find this solution. Altering fall class schedules can’t be done for obvious reasons and the deadline to adjust spring 2016 schedules was Sept. 14th. So the 301 Gold and 301 Express routes will operate through the remainder of the fall and the entire spring semester. The 301 Express will be assessed for effectiveness and a determination will be made if any changes to the route or class schedule start times need to be made for Fall 2016.

The sign displays on each bus will list either 301 Gold or 301 Express and the ECU Transit website has been updated with correct times. The Next Bus app will also be updated.

The major impact will be on College Hill residents desiring to travel from the College Hill bus stop to the West End bus stop during one of the Carol Belk Express trips. The 301X Carol Belk Express will not serve West End. When 301X Carol Belk Express is displayed on the bus destination sign, College Hill passengers should not board if their desired destination is West End. They must wait 10 minutes for the regular 301 Gold bus which will serve the West End bus stop or ride 10 minutes earlier on the regular 301 Gold bus.
301X Carol Belk Express will make direct trips from 10th & Brewster to Carol Belk at the following times:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday
8:54, 9:54, 10:54, 11:54, 12:54, 1:54

Tuesday/Thursday
9:24, 10:54, 12:24, 1:54

This information is being shared regularly from the Student Affairs Twitter account (@InnerPirate) and with @ECUTransit tagged in the tweets. Please share where applicable.

Student Affairs Divisional Kickoff Event

On September 2, Student Affairs hosted the divisional kickoff event to start the semester. It was exciting to see so many of the new faces that joined the division since June 1. In fact, more chairs had to be added to the Great Rooms so that everyone could get a seat.

Dr. Hardy talked about how 2015-16 will truly be a transition year. ECU and the UNC System will face leadership changes during the next 12 months. Dr. Hardy also honored Jolene Jernigan and Nancy Mize for their service to East Carolina University. Jolene retired this summer after 40 years of service and Nance retires in December 2015 with 35 years of service.

Additionally, Dr. Hardy included data about how our students are changing related to mental health, drugs/alcohol use and challenges they face, often before arriving on campus.

Some of the units within the division shared some new or transitioning initiatives for 2015-16. The program ended with Dr. Hardy challenging the staff to make the year a successful one and working through transitions and change with strength, collaboration and integrity.
Counseling Center Offers In-House Workshops during Fall Semester

The Counseling Center is offering in-house workshops that are open to any ECU student (not just CCSD clients) and will feature four rotating presentations throughout the Fall 2015 semester.

**Bouncing Back: Coping Skills for Anxiety and Stress**--this workshop will define the concept of resiliency and look at how stress or anxiety can impact our ability to cope with everyday challenges. We will talk about methods of reframing problems to focus on possible solutions and assist with reducing stress symptoms.

Offered in Umstead 103:
Starts at 4pm on Oct 8, Nov. 3, and Dec. 10
Starts at 11am on Oct. 19 and Nov. 16

**Why So Blue? Dealing with Depression and Loneliness**--this workshop will identify common symptoms of depression, reasons students may experience periods of loneliness or sadness, and provide suggestions of how to increase motivation and improve social interactions.

Offered in Umstead 103
Starts at 4 pm on September 15; October 15; November 12
Starts at 11am on September 21; October 26; November 23

**Hanging Out or Hooking Up?: Healthy Relationships On Campus**--this workshop will examine various aspects of romantic relationships in college and common issues couples may face. We will discuss how to overcome challenges within the relationship and provide suggestions on how to improve communication while building trust and respect.

Offered in Umstead 103
Start at 4 pm on September 24; October 22; November 17
Starts at 11am on September 28; November 2; November 30

Counselor Q & A--this workshop is designed to be an open forum for questions or discussion on mental health topics or common situations. Counselors from our center will be available to answer questions from students, discuss hypothetical situations, or lead conversations about current issues on campus.

Offered in Umstead 103
Starts at 4 pm on October 1; October 29; December 3
Starts at 11am on October 5; November 9; December 7

Visit the [Counseling Center](#) for more information.
ECU students honor memory of Sept. 11

East Carolina University students honored the memory of Sept. 11 during three events.

The ECU College Republicans student organization hosted the 9/11 Never Forget Memorial on Friday at 8 a.m. at the Mendenhall Student Center Brickyard. Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy spoke to attendees and flags representing each person who died on 9/11 were displayed in the grass area beside the student center.

Also on Friday, a Day of Remembrance ceremony was held in Mendenhall Student Center, Great Room 2 at 12:30 p.m. Speakers included Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Involvement and Leadership Erik Kneubuehl and Greenville Chief of Police Ted Sauls.

The ECU Office of Leadership and Service-Learning partnered with organizations across Pitt County to participate in the 9/11 Day of Service on Saturday. The 9/11 Day of Service is the largest annual day of charitable engagement in the United States.

Participating organizations included the Food Bank of Central and Eastern Carolina, Making Pitt Fit Community Garden and the Pitt County Animal Shelter.

Click the photo to read a complete wrap-up story, with a video, from the 9/11 Never Forget Project event.
ECU Names 'Best Bang for the Buck' in Southeast - By: Steve Tuttle - ECU News Services

East Carolina University has been named the No. 1 “Best Bang for the Buck” among colleges and universities in the Southeast in a new report that ranks universities on outcomes and the degree of opportunity afforded students.

A Washington Monthly book entitled “The Other College Guide: A Road Map to the Right School for You” gives ECU the top ranking in the Southeast region. It also ranks ECU 41st among all colleges and universities in the national category, and 20th among universities that offer all levels of degrees. In addition, ECU ranked 14th nationally in a 2014 social mobility category, designed to measure the extent that a university's graduates earn more and obtain a better quality of life.

“Student success is the first commitment of our mission, so we are always pleased when rating systems measure the difference we make for our students and the return on their investment,” Chancellor Steve Ballard said.

Click the photo to read the full story.

IGCC Hosts Community Engagement Day

ECU’s Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center will celebrate the 4th annual Community Engagement Day at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. September 19 at 1100 Ward Street in Greenville.

The event aims to solidify connections between the center and the community. “We thrive off being able to provide services to a population of people who appreciate our existence as we actively help Greenville, Pitt County and East Carolina University grow,” said the center’s director Deborah Moody.

Community Engagement Day is free and open to the public and will include live music, arts and crafts, games and informational exhibits about programs offered at the center.

The event gives members of the community an opportunity to “come out and see what we are all about and
also to see where they can get connected,” Moody said.

The Intergenerational Community Center was created through a partnership between the West Greenville community, ECU, the City of Greenville and Pitt Community College. The center provides programs and services to Greenville and Pitt County residents of all ages.

For more information about IGCC Day, contact Maurice Jordan, family coordinator of the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center at (252) 328-5803.

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**CRW Participates in Outdoor Campus Nation Challenge**

Campus Recreation & Wellness announced that it would compete in the 2015 Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge. A total of 59 schools representing 30 states will participate in the 2015 event, which started September 6.

During the challenge, the campus community is encouraged to participate in outdoor programs and activities. For each participant, ECU earns one credit toward the Beyond the Challenge Grant. In order to obtain the lowest threshold of the grant of $500, ECU must get 500 participants before the challenge ends October 17.

Then for each additional 500 participants, ECU would earn an additional $500 with the maximum amount available being $1,500. The funds earned from the Beyond the Challenge Grant can be used on ECU’s campus in spring 2016.

This is FREE and open to all ECU faculty, staff, students and family members.

The Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge is an incentive program in which participants earn points for participation in any of a wide-variety of outdoor oriented activities including but not limited to, walking your dog, playing frisbee golf, studying outside, fishing, hunting, and biking.

Participants can sign up, log their participation, and find more details at www.oncampuschallenge.org and then select East Carolina University.

In addition to the potential $1,500 in grant money, every time a participant logs in activities they are entered to win apparel/gear and prizes from sponsors such as The North Face, The REI Foundation, Adidas, Osprey, and Camelback.

Note! Organized sports such as basketball, soccer, football, etc. don’t count in the challenge.

For additional information, contact Mark Parker, Assistant Director for Intramural Sports and Youth & Family at (252) 328-1575 or parkerma@ecu.edu.