

SUMMER 2007

East

THE MAGAZINE OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY



**Filling up on
Pirate pride**

Trade Mart founder Walter Williams



STRAPHANGERS
Every seat is taken on the 8 a.m. bus from the football stadium parking lots down to the main campus. East Carolina has 35 buses in its fleet that transport about two million passengers a year. The buses are on the road about 1,500 hours a week and log 550,000 miles a year—enough to circle the Earth more than 22 times. All 85 drivers are students.

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FILLING UP ON PIRATE PRIDE

By Steve Row Walter Williams '51 '55, the founder of the Trade Mart chain of gas stations and convenience stores, has fueled many university fund-raising campaigns simply because he believes it's the right thing to do.

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PLAYING IT SAFE

By Marion Blackburn ECU enjoys a reputation as a safe campus for students and is putting a lot of effort and an extra \$1 million into keeping it that way.

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By Steve Tuttle It's not surprising that East Carolina has built one of the largest distance education programs in the nation because "the idea that somebody can't come to campus is not a new idea to us. We take education to them."

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ON THE BALL AT SUMMER CAMP

By Bethany Bradsher The hundreds of high school kids arriving for sports camps ensures that the campus will be far from quiet this summer.

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UPON THE PAST



Access Scholarships

I couldn't help but think about my own family when Bill Clark told me about the new Access Scholarships that will be awarded to 28 students this fall. The ECU Foundation he leads raised the money for the scholarships after learning how deeply in debt many families have to go to put a kid—or in our case, three—through college. ECU students on average have more than \$19,000 in loans by the time they graduate, the second-largest debt among the 16 UNC schools.

Many families confront a college tuition dilemma. We use what savings we have, borrow a lot and leave it up to Junior to get a part-time job to earn his spending money. Families with two or more children confront a downward financial cycle. As a father of three once told me, “when the third kid was ready for college, I got the bad news that there's no such thing as a third mortgage.”

“There are existing programs for other types of students—scholarships for the superstar academic students and grants and loan programs for students who are the neediest,” Clark told me. “It's the students in the middle, those with both financial need and academic potential, who we are targeting to help with Access Scholarships.”

After studying the problem, ECU Foundation board members did something that shows their personal commitment. At a board meeting last October, they passed the plate and collected enough to support 12 Access Scholarships. They then approached RBC Centura Bank, the Harold Bate Foundation, and the West Memorial Fund and found partners to support another 16 scholarships.

While Clark is happy to make a dent in the college affordability problem, he worries about kids who've lost hope for a college education because the family simply runs out of money. “If our enrolled students have this much financial need, we can assume that financial need is indeed a great barrier to many others in eastern North Carolina who don't even apply,” he said. “Our challenge is to continue funding these 28 scholarships and grow this to a flagship program that awards at least 100 scholarships a year.”

That plate that the ECU Foundation board passed to start the Access Scholarships—maybe we should keep it going around the Pirate Nation.



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East Carolina University is a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. It is a public doctoral/research intensive university offering baccalaureate, master's, specialist and doctoral degrees in the liberal arts, sciences and professional fields, including medicine. Dedicated to the achievement of excellence, responsible stewardship of the public trust and academic freedom, ECU values the contributions of a diverse community, supports shared governance and guarantees equality of opportunity.

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THE SODA SHOP WAS IN THE CAFETERIA BUILDING

I really do enjoy receiving *East* and always look forward to the excellent articles. I would like to take exception to Jim Phelps' '58 letter in the spring issue. There indeed was a soda shop in the Old Cafeteria Building as well as a post office. I first learned how to play bridge and enjoyed many pleasant hours playing there, some of which would have been better spent in the library. I enrolled at ECC in 1952 and left in 1954 to serve in the Army. I returned in 1956 and graduated in 1958. I think the soda shop was moved to the Wright Building in the interim.

—Andy Caudill '58, Lancaster, S.C.

If [the soda shop in the Cafeteria Building] didn't exist, I certainly must have dreamed about the many cans of Vienna sausage and pork and beans, boxes of soda crackers, etc., that I consumed there. We always had our snacks there when we picked up our mail at the campus post office and played bridge in the soda shop. I'm sure it closed when the new Student Center opened in the lower level of the Wright Building but it sure was the recognized spot for checking out the coeds before then.

—Don Umstead '56, Raleigh

I really enjoy reading *East*, as I grew up literally on the campus (where the library now sits). Yes there was a soda shop in the



Bobby sox at the Soda Shop, Old Cafeteria Building, 1947. Inset: Playing bridge in the booths.

Cafeteria Building as my father, Wendell Smiley, was responsible for it as one of his additional jobs. In those days administrators had many other assignments other than their primary job, his being the librarian. Yes the bowling alley was a popular place. Does anyone remember the wonderful aroma of the fabulous Sally Lunn rolls? It is so much fun to return to campus and to have watched it grow through the eyes of the four generations of our family who have availed themselves of fine educations at ECTC, ECC and ECU. Thanks for the memories.

—Sara Smiley Lommatzsch '62

1950s. The campus soda shop was located in this building until the end of the 1953–54 school year. During the 1954–55 school year the soda shop was converted to a third lunch room in the Cafeteria Building [offering] a menu of hamburgers and hot dogs for a fixed price of 75 cents. The soda shop was moved to the new Student Union in the basement of Wright Auditorium. This new facility was much needed and included a soda shop, bookstore, game room, student bank and other services. Keep up the good work with *East*. I enjoyed my years at ECU, and I like to tell others about the great memories I have of such a great period in my life.

—Harold T. Beck '58 '71, Danville, Va.

Articles in the university archives confirm Mr. Beck's recollection. The original soda shop was installed in the Old Cafeteria Building in 1946 in the “large lobby adjacent to the post office and dining halls” connected to an outdoor terrace between the wings of the building. The move to Wright apparently came in 1958, according to an article in the Greenville Daily Reflector.

We welcome your letters. Send them by e-mail to easteditor@ecu.edu or by mail to East Magazine, Building 198, East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353.



‘WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LADY’

The Beverly Cox story was awesome. I have never heard of her, but I read every single word of her success story and had tears in my eyes when I got to the end. I was sad the story ended. Thanks so much. What a beautiful lady representing East Carolina!

—Marsha Fleenor '96, Greenville

I read with interest the article in your Winter 2007 edition concerning the renovations to the Old Cafeteria Building. Mr. Jim Phelps' letter in your Spring 2007 issue is in error when he states that there was no soda shop in the building in the

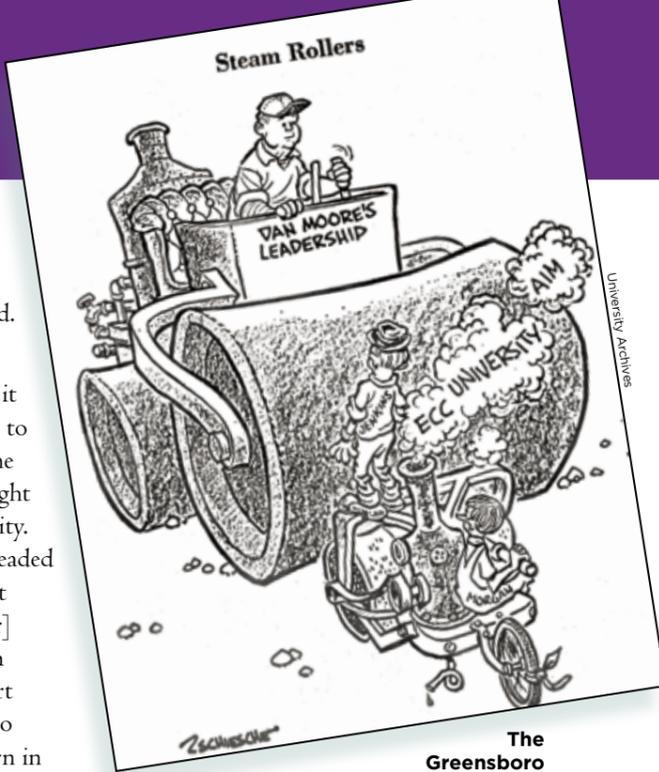
How ECC became ECU

Even as it begins celebrating its centennial, East Carolina marks another important milestone this summer—the 40th anniversary of attaining university status. That achievement came on July 1, 1967, when the General Assembly passed a bill supported by lawmakers from eastern North Carolina but opposed by Gov. Dan K. Moore and many big-city legislators. Passage was in doubt until Appalachian State, Western Carolina and N.C. A&T were added as a way of increasing political support for the legislation.

Former U.S. Senator Robert Morgan '47, who was a then a state senator and chairman of East Carolina's Board of Trustees, led the fight in the legislature to elevate East Carolina to university status. Now

81, he looks back on that time with appreciation for what was accomplished.

"Originally, I introduced a bill in the Senate just to cover East Carolina, and it passed the Senate. But when it got over to the House, they killed it. To say it in the nicest way possible, a lot of them thought we just weren't qualified to be a university. East Carolina has always been the redheaded stepchild in North Carolina. One night later I got a call from [former governor] Terry Sanford, and he said the problem was that East Carolina's base of support wasn't broad enough. He said I ought to include Appalachian and maybe Western in the legislation because it would give some recognition to all the old teacher training schools, and because doing that would get more votes. So we did.



The Greensboro paper thought Gov. Dan Moore would steamroll East Carolina's bid for university status.

"That bill was introduced in the Senate and it passed. But when we sent that bill over to the House it ran into trouble again. The opponents put an amendment on the bill to make N.C. A&T a university, too, because they believed it would kill the bill if it included one of the historically black schools. They thought eastern North Carolina just wouldn't take that. You know, race relations weren't as good then as they are now.

"But when the bill came back to the Senate, we surprised them. We said it would be a fine thing for A&T to be a university. And after the Senate concurred in the House amendment, I gave the only speech I ever gave from the podium of the Senate. I said East Carolina knew what it was like to suffer from some bias, and so we welcomed A&T because they had suffered, too."

Morgan says people today probably don't understand why becoming a university was such a big deal. "University status was a much more important distinction than it is now. Heck, about every school out there these days calls itself a university. But for us in eastern North Carolina back then, becoming a university meant that we were an

equal with the other state schools, that we were as good as the rest of 'em."

He says that vote on July 1, 1967, also marks the true beginning of East Carolina's medical school. "[Then-chancellor Leo Jenkins] had convinced the legislature that eastern North Carolina needed a medical school, and they said, OK, sometime in the future maybe," Morgan recalls. "But one year after we became a university, the General Assembly passed a bill appropriating \$2.5 million to start a two-year medical school in Greenville. That was the first real money put into it."

The Brody School of Medicine accepted its first students four years later.

Morgan was elected state attorney general in 1968. He later served a term in the U.S. Senate and then was director of the State Bureau of Investigation. The only person to receive the Alumnus of the Year award twice, he served on the East Carolina Board of Trustees from 1958 to 1973, the last nine years as chairman. He was required to step down from the trustees in order to implement the new governance plan for the expanded university system his legislation created.

Pack, Heels play Dowdy-Ficklen

Many schools schedule a few easy wins early in the football season before opening conference play, but not East Carolina. This fall the Pirates will step outside Conference USA for games with ACC rivals Virginia Tech, North Carolina and N.C. State plus a matchup with Big East powerhouse West Virginia. Observers say this will be one of the most ambitious schedules in the 75-year history of Pirate football.

"Our 2007 schedule arguably is about as challenging as they come," said head football coach Skip Holtz. "We certainly won't have the luxury of easing into it in September but it does represent a great opportunity for our program."

Carolina comes to Dowdy-Ficklen on Sept. 8 (Pirate Club weekend) for the first time in four years; the State game on Oct. 20 will be the Wolfpack's first trip to Greenville in eight years. Homecoming will be the weekend of Oct. 27 against UAB. For season or individual game tickets, call 1-800-DIAL-ECU.

Fall football schedule

Sept. 1	at Virginia Tech
Sept. 8	North Carolina, 6 p.m.
Sept. 15	Southern Miss, 6 p.m.
Sept. 22	at West Virginia
Sept. 29	at Houston
Oct. 6	UCF, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at UTEP
Oct. 20	N.C. State, 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 27	UAB, 3 p.m.
Nov. 3	at Memphis
Nov. 10	at Marshall
Nov. 24	Tulane, 1 p.m.

Teacher training honored again



The College of Education continues to receive national acclaim for its innovative methods to increase the number of classroom teachers. The latest comes from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, which honored East Carolina and its Wachovia Partnership East program at its annual meeting in New York.

Entering its fifth year, Wachovia Partnership East links ECU with 18 community colleges, a private college, an Air Force base and 34 public school systems in eastern North Carolina. The program currently enrolls 234 students and offers degree programs in elementary and special education. It is designed to accommodate both non-traditional and working students through on-site and online instruction.

The Wachovia Partnership East program was featured in the Fall 2006 issue of East.

AROUND CAMPUS

The Falls Free Coalition, a group of national organizations and state coalitions, named the Department of Occupational Therapy's **SPICE for Life** program as one of the ten most creative efforts in the nation to reduce the number and severity of falls among the elderly. Now in its seventh year, the SPICE for Life program focuses on fall prevention and intervention among those who live in poverty throughout Pitt County.

Carole Novick was named president of the Medical Foundation of ECU after serving in that capacity on an interim basis. Novick is also associate vice chancellor for health sciences development and alumni affairs. She joined ECU in July 2005 after nine years as the executive director of the Medical Alumni Foundation at State University of New York–Upstate Medical University in Syracuse.

Dr. Karla Hughes, dean of the College of Human Ecology since 2004, resigned to become provost and vice president of academic affairs at Morehead State University in Kentucky.



State senators Tom White and Robert Morgan (center) huddle in the General Assembly with Lt. Gov. Bob Scott during the 1967 legislative debate over making East Carolina a university.

Gifts endow two new chairs

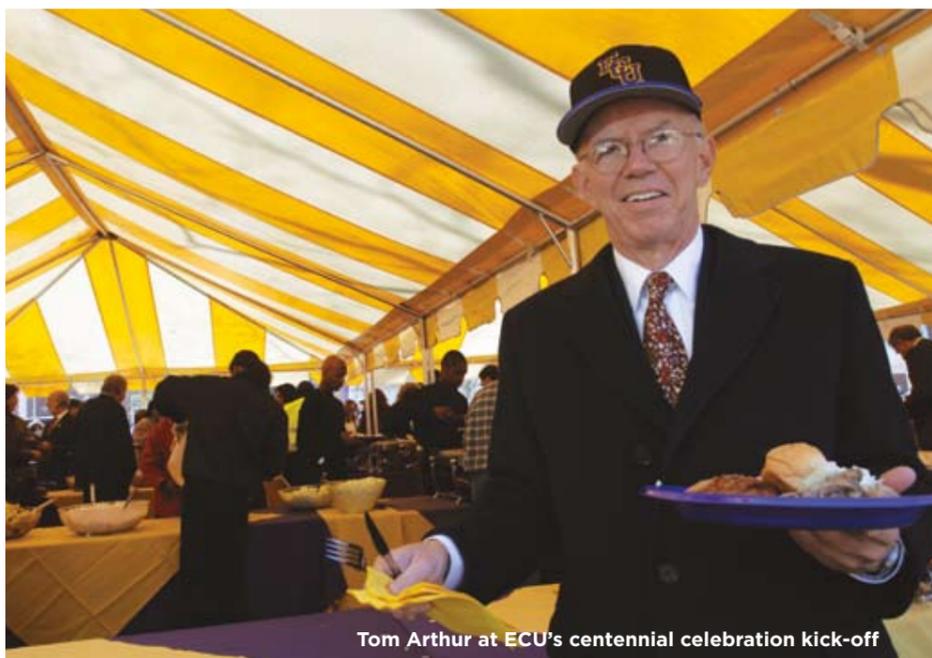
East Carolina has received its third seven-figure gift in recent months.

Through their foundation, Eddie and Jo Allison Smith of Greenville have given \$1.33 million that will be matched by \$667,000 from the UNC system. Together, the funds will create a \$2 million endowed chair to support the director of the new East Carolina Heart Institute.

Tom Arthur '71 donated \$1 million to the BB&T Center for Leadership Development to establish an endowed chair in the College of Business focusing on leadership. Arthur, who once owned the Hav-A-Tampa cigar company and now heads ASAP Capital Partners firm in Tampa, Fla., has been a member of the BB&T Center board since its founding. He also is a grandson of a local civic leader involved with the founding of ECU.

Last fall, the estate of Frances Joyner Monk gave \$2.5 million to fund a new geriatric center at the Brody School of Medicine.

Smith is chairman and chief executive of Grady-White Boats in Greenville, a leading manufacturer of sportfishing boats. Though he is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, he said supporting ECU and its work



Tom Arthur at ECU's centennial celebration kick-off

to improve the health status of people in eastern North Carolina is vital. "This heart institute is going to be just immensely important to the region. East Carolina is just doing such a wonderful job in so many ways and is so important to this area," Smith said.

The chair endowed by the Smiths initially will be filled by Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr., the founding director of the heart institute.

The \$60 million heart institute is now under construction (see related story, page 9).

The endowed chairs created by Arthur and the Smiths are the 13th and 14th at ECU funded in part through the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. The Smiths' gift also kicks off a \$9 million fund-raising campaign for the heart institute by the ECU Medical Foundation.

"The Smiths understand the importance of recruiting and retaining the best leaders throughout East Carolina. It is a great gift," Chancellor Steve Ballard said.

A native of Greenville, Arthur earned his undergraduate degree from UNC Chapel Hill in 1966 and served in the military for three years before pursuing a master of business administration degree at ECU, which he completed in 1971. His gift qualifies for \$500,000 in matching funds from the University of North Carolina Distinguished Professorship Endowed Trust Fund, which is funded by the state legislature.

The BB&T Center for Leadership Development at ECU was established in 1983. BB&T has made several significant contributions to the center since then, including \$1 million in 2005.



Eddie Smith and Randolph Chitwood

More worries for rural dentists

The scarcity of dentists in rural counties is getting worse, according to a new report by the Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC Chapel Hill. The annual statistical update notes that Gates County lost its only dentist in 2005. Hyde, Tyrrell and Camden counties have had no dentists since 1989.

The situation is different in urban areas of North Carolina, where the supply of dentists increased a bit in 2005, the latest year for which complete data was available. In those urban areas there were 4.9 dentists per 10,000 population, compared to 3.1 in rural counties, according to the Sheps Center report. Overall, the state had a net gain of 144 dentists in 2005, but North Carolina's swelling population largely offset the gain.

There's more bad news for eastern North Carolina in a finding that dentists practicing in rural counties tend to be older than the rest. In 13 eastern counties, the average age of dentists is between 55 and 66. Their approaching retirement could further worsen access to dental care in those areas, the report says.

Funding for a new dental school at East Carolina, along with expansion of the school in Chapel Hill, is included in the proposed budget now before the state General Assembly.

Who you gonna call?

Hopes were high when Greene County Schools invested heavily in computers, routers and switches so teachers and pupils could use the new technology to expand educational opportunities. But frustration set in last fall when many of the school system's 3,000 computers began operating so slowly that many "timed out" when trying to open a web page.

Consultants were called in to analyze the situation. They said the individual pieces of the computer network were working fine but they couldn't figure out why the system as a whole ran slower than molasses.

That's when the school system called ECU. Faculty members John Pickard and Lee Toderick of the Department of Technology Systems and two students, Paul Bellamy and Joe Nix, went to work on the problem. Through an exhaustive and meticulous process they reconfigured the entire computer system and moved or replaced crucial pieces of equipment. They also made several improvements that enhanced the system's reliability.

Now, teachers in Greene County, which is just southwest of Greenville, can conduct online testing as well as stream video presentations and projects, all never before available. "Before ECU came on board, there was a bottleneck problem that no one could find," said Superintendent Steve Mazingo '84 '88 '06. "We are 90 percent better off now than we were before they arrived, and we are well on our way to bigger and better things for the students of Greene County."

New insight into paralysis

East Carolina scientists have discovered a key molecular mechanism that plays a role in the regeneration and repair of damaged nerves, an insight that gives new hope to those suffering from paralysis.



Dr. Alexander Murashov, an ECU associate professor of physiology, led the team that studied whether the molecular process, RNA interference, or RNAi, might be a natural mechanism for regulating protein synthesis in axons, or nerve fibers. Using laboratory mice, Murashov's group studied sciatic nerves and primary neuronal cultures in mice and published their findings in the journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

RNAi regulates the creation of proteins in the body. Until now, no direct evidence existed that RNAi controls local protein synthesis in axons, which act as "pavement"

for the nervous system's "information superhighway." In addition, the mechanism involved in nerve fiber creation did not depend on communication with or transport from the nerve cell body, its nucleus or surrounding support cells. Axonal nerve fibers can be as long as 3 feet, and this independence makes RNAi a promising drug target. A drug could be made to activate the expression of neuron-specific genes responsible for axonal growth, Murashov said.

The ECU research project began in 2003. It builds on the 2006 Nobel Prize-winning research of Andrew Z. Fire of Stanford University and Craig C. Mello of the University of Massachusetts.

For their next step, Murashov and his team are working with Dr. Scott Hammond at UNC Chapel Hill to identify natural microRNAs involved in regulating peripheral nerve regeneration. "We have some very promising preliminary data," Murashov said.

In other medical news:

Cancer patients experience significant decreases in pain and anxiety when their partners applied pressure to specific points on their feet, according to a two-year study by a School of Nursing researcher. The findings by associate professor Nancy L.N. Stephenson and her colleagues in the School of Nursing were published in the journal *Oncology Nursing Forum*. Funded by a \$279,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute, the study is the fourth by Stephenson to show that cancer patients receive relief through what's called reflexology. Reflexology is a complementary and alternative medicine therapy in which manual pressure is applied to specific points on the hand or feet thought to correspond with specific organs or parts of the body.

Scholarships boost access

A major new scholarship program at ECU will help some families who often have to borrow large sums for college tuition. The Access Scholarship program, started by the ECU Foundation, will award 28 grants to

students this fall worth \$5,000 each, enough to cover tuition and fees for a year. The Office of Financial Aid will select the students for these awards based on both demonstrated financial need and proven academic potential.

"This is a huge step because this is a new scholarship, and it fits a different profile," said ECU Foundation President Bill Clark. "There are existing programs for other types of students—scholarships for the superstar academic students and grants and loan programs for students who are the neediest. It's the students in the middle, those with both financial need and academic potential, who we are targeting to help through Access Scholarships."

Clark said the foundation became concerned and launched an internal fund-raising campaign last fall after learning how far in debt many ECU students go to pay for college. He cited statistics showing that:

- More than 9,000 undergraduates at ECU qualify for financial aid, the largest number in the UNC system.
- East Carolina is only able to meet 56

percent of the demonstrated financial need of those students.

- 79 percent of ECU students graduate with college loan debt that averages \$19,614 per person, the second highest in the UNC system.
- "If our enrolled students have this much financial need, we can assume that financial need is indeed a great barrier to many others in eastern North Carolina who don't even apply," Clark said. "Our challenge is to continue funding these 28 scholarships and grow this to a flagship program that awards at least 100 scholarships a year."

"We passed the plate among ECU Foundation board members and received gifts and pledges to support twelve scholarships," Clark said. "Then we decided to approach RBC Centura Bank who agreed to support ten scholarships." The Harold Bate Foundation agreed to support three Access Scholarships for students from Jones, Craven and Pamlico counties. And the West Memorial Fund agreed to fund scholarships for three Greenville students."



Construction is continuing on the East Carolina Heart Institute. The \$60 million institute will house several of the Brody School of Medicine's cardiac care services.

"The Access Scholarship program is a very important part of East Carolina University's commitment to make a college education accessible to the promising young people of our state, especially those with financial needs," Chancellor Steve Ballard said. "We hope that alumni, friends, corporations and foundations will partner with us to help these students."

The ECU Foundation is the oldest and largest of the university's foundations and is not to be confused with the ECU Educational Foundation, otherwise known as the Pirate Club, which supports athletic programs.

Medical campus expanding

Greenville's booming health care facilities are entering another growth spurt as Pitt Memorial Hospital's new six-story heart center nears completion and the steel skeleton rises nearby for ECU's new East Carolina Heart Institute.

The \$60 million heart institute will house several of the Brody School of Medicine's cardiac care services as well as faculty offices, a large auditorium and research areas. It should be completed by next spring, says William E. Bagnell, director of the university's Facilities Engineering and Architectural Services.

Medicine Center will include the new Frances J. and Robert T. Monk Sr. Geriatric Center, funded with a memorial gift of \$2.5 million from Frances Monk.

Meanwhile, a new nonuniversity medical building, Moye Medical Center, was expected to open in May. The medical school's cardiology and pulmonary patient care services were expected to locate to this center, with cardiology moving to the heart institute upon that building's completion.

—Marion Blackburn

Wielding power, wearing pearls

At the inaugural Power and Pearls forum keyed by author Maya Angelou, East Carolina celebrated the work and influence of 10 women who have made an impact on the university. Named to the list during the March conference hosted by the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women were:

Sharon Knight, associate dean of the College of Health and Human Performance

Dr. Margaret Bauer, Rives Chair in Southern Literature, Department of English

Dr. Shelia Grant Bunch, coordinator, bachelor of social work program

Dr. Anne Dickerson, chair, Department of Occupational Therapy

Dr. Patricia "Pat" Dunn, coordinator, volunteer activities for international students, Global Academic Initiatives

Dr. Mary "Dee Dee" Glascoff, director, community health program, Department of Health Education and Promotion

Dr. Virginia Hardy, interim chief diversity officer, interim Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (SOM), and associate dean for counseling and diversity (SOM)

Dr. Susan McCammon, professor and director/chair, Behavioral and Social Sciences IRB, Department of Psychology

Dr. Vivian Mott, chair, Department of Counselor and Adult Education

Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, vice chancellor for the Division of Student Life.

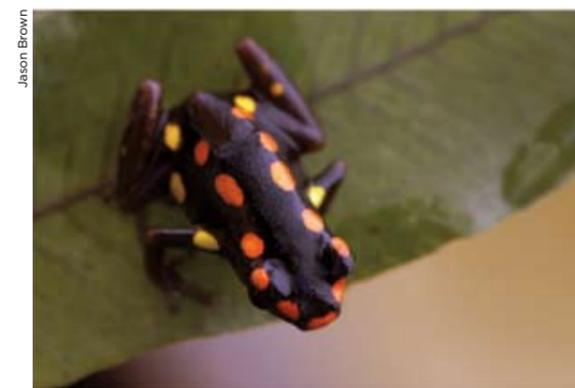
A National Geographic moment

It's a classic story for *National Geographic* magazine—scientists trekking through a remote jungle, confronting a hostile native tribe, then discovering a rare species, in this case a half-inch-long poison frog. But this story, in the magazine's April issue, is about the work of an ECU biology professor and two graduate students.

The story recounts last summer's discovery by professor Kyle Summers and grad students Evan Twomey and Jason Brown of a habitat of the rare *Dendrobates captivus* frog, which had last been identified in 1924 and was thought to be extinct. The team now has returned to the Cainarachi Valley in northern Peru to continue their research. They hope the return visit will be less arduous.

"Finding the frogs was complicated by the inaccessibility and the native tribes that live there," said Brown, 26, a Ph.D. student in biological sciences. Assisted by Peruvian entomologist Manuel Miranda, the ECU researchers traveled several days by boat, encountering water rapids into one of the most remote and untraveled regions in Peru. After obtaining permission from the somewhat hostile Aguarunas tribe to travel in their territory, Twomey and Brown found the frogs in abundance.

The frog is about one-half inch long, black with red, yellow and orange spots. It is poisonous to predators but not to humans. The team is obtaining permits from the Peruvian government to take tissue samples and do more extensive lab research with



Jason Brown



Chancellor Steve Ballard; RBC representatives Jim Brown, Mike Gooding and Jim Hansen; ECU Foundation President Bill Clark.

the aim of publishing their findings.

Summers, whose research is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, said he was concerned about taking grad students into such a remote region, but was proud of their work.

“As a scientific research supervisor and advisor, one always wants to see students take initiative on their own and make new discoveries,” Summers said. “On the other hand, in this kind of work, there is always an element of risk, and that is certainly of concern to me as I worry about the health and safety of my students.”

Audition for humor festival

Tell a good joke? Then you might want to audition for the inaugural East Carolina Humor Festival and Conference this fall that promises to be filled with funny stuff.

The three-day event Nov. 1–3 will feature joke contests and stand-up and improv comedy, a film festival and an academic conference on humor. Featured acts include North Carolina native and author Jill McCorkle, poet and NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu and legendary Texas songwriter and former gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman.

The academic conference will include panels on humor and healing, Southern humor, ethnic humor, satire and social change, humor in film, and political cartoons. The Reel Funny Short-Film Fest will feature work from regional filmmakers.

Event organizers are looking for the funniest jokes about North Carolina and the South. Knock-knocks, riddles, puns, tall tales, spoonerisms and whatnots of no more than 150 words are welcome to win a cash prize. If you’ve got a good one, send it to ecumorfest@ecu.edu. The winner and finalists will be considered for publication by the *North Carolina Literary Review*.



With silly string flying and beach balls bouncing, East Carolina awarded roughly 3,800 diplomas at spring graduation exercises on May 4. For the first time, the graduates wore purple robes, instead of black. And for the first time in many years the ceremony was held outdoors, at the football stadium.



The shoe goes on

Tony and Maria in tennis shoes, Pseudolus in sandals and the Bratter newlyweds in fancy footwear will step into town this summer when the Loessin Summer Theatre stages three of America’s best-loved plays. The productions of *West Side Story*, *Barefoot in the Park* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* mark the 36th season of shows by the School of Theatre and Dance.

ECU students, as well as some from other campuses, will join several professional actors in the productions. Auditions took place at the Southeastern Theatre Conference and the North Carolina Theatre Conference in early March, as well as at a regional conference in Memphis. Working with Actors Equity, the ECU program also conducted auditions for professionals in New York.

“The ECU actors have to audition like everybody else. They have to prove their worth. The same is true for the technical people,”

said Jeff Woodruff, managing director of the ECU/Loessin Playhouse and Summer Theatre.

This summer’s principal guest director will be Walter Schoen of the University of Richmond, who will direct *Barefoot in the Park* July 10–14. He has participated in past ECU summer and regular seasons as both an actor and director. He most recently directed *The Time of Your Life* during the 2005–06 regular theater season, and acted in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* in the 2005 summer series.

John Shearin, director of the ECU School of Theatre and Dance and producing artistic director of the summer series, will direct *West Side Story* June 26–30, and Robert Caprio, acting area coordinator in the school, will direct *Forum* July 24–28. All performances are in McGinnis Theatre beginning at 8 p.m., with Saturday matinees at 2 p.m.

West Side Story is the 1957 musical retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story, with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics

by Stephen Sondheim. One of the most popular musicals of the second half of the 20th century, the story is set in 1950s New York City and tells of the romance between Tony and Maria, two young people from different groups, against the backdrop of gang rivalry.

Barefoot in the Park is Neil Simon’s play about Paul and Corie Bratter, a newly married couple, and the strange neighbors in their small apartment building in Greenwich Village. The play was nominated for a Tony Award in 1963 and later became a popular movie. Simon says he was inspired partly by the early days of his first marriage when he wrote the play.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, opened in 1962. The play is based on the farces of the Roman playwright Plautus, relating a bawdy story of a slave named Pseudolus and his attempts to win his freedom by helping his young master woo the girl in the brothel next door.

The Loessin summer series takes its name from Edgar Loessin (pronounced “less-SEEN”), who came to Greenville from New York in 1962 to start ECU’s Department of Theatre Arts and served as its chairman for 28 years. He established the ECU Summer Theatre, and during his tenure the productions featured such stars as Michael Learned, Orson Bean, Catherine Bach, Karen Grassley and Kim Hunter.

The summer series took on its current three-production format in 2004, after several theater renovations and budget cutbacks caused productions to be suspended from 2000 to 2002.

In 2003, productions resumed with three Shakespearean plays and three musical revues. Before 2000, the department often staged as many as six plays during the summer.

Season tickets for all three productions, at \$75, go on sale June 1. Call 252-328-6829 for more information or go to www.ecuarts.com.

—Steve Row

Filling Up on Pirate Pride

By Steve Row
Photography by Forrest Croce



The small houses on County Home Road near Winterville—the older one with tin siding, the newer one with frame siding—hold special significance for Walter Williams '51 '55. This is where he grew up in the 1930s, and coming back always evokes memories of when he and his brother and two sisters helped with the chores, worked with their father in the tobacco fields after school and then came in to the kitchen for a hearty supper.

He moved out of the old home place in 1947 to begin a new life as a college student. He became a successful business owner, but he never really left home. He inherited the property after his parents passed, and he's now painstakingly remodeling the two houses along with his mother's wash house, the smoke house, chicken house, corn and potato barns and two tobacco barns.

Williams, who is one of East Carolina University's most loyal boosters, advocates and benefactors, isn't sure if the expensive remodeling project is the smart thing to do. But he knows it's the right thing to do.

"You do some things that are crazy, and this might be one of them, but there's too much sentiment tied up to let it rot down or to rent it or to sell it," he says. "We may spend a little time there, but my hope is that at least one of our six grandchildren might like to live in a rural setting."

And if they do, there will be a first-class university just down the road. Williams has made sure of that.

Williams, 77, has done plenty of smart things in his life, like founding Trade Mart, a chain of gas stations and convenience stores that grew to more than 100 outlets and made him a wealthy man. Over the years, he has consistently done what he considers the right thing by generously sharing that good fortune with East Carolina. The basketball arena in Minges Coliseum is named for him. He finances two athletic scholarships and has supported many other fund-raising appeals with his money and his time. Often, it was his major gift that got the ball rolling.

Now he's excited about a new program at ECU that he's supporting. The STEPP program in the College of Education—bolstered by a \$1.2 million gift from Williams and his wife, Marie '53—will enable students with learning disabilities to earn a college degree and pursue a career, possibly teaching other learning-disabled students.

Williams rarely seeks attention for his good deeds and has few of the trappings of a millionaire. He and Marie still live in the same home in Greenville they have shared for nearly 40 years. As a way to get some exercise, and to remind himself of his farmboy upbringing, he mows part of his yard and rolls his garbage can to the curb rather than pay for yard service or backyard garbage pickup. Marie helps cut the grass.

But he couldn't escape the spotlight recently when his contributions were recognized far beyond Greenville. CASE, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, named him its southeast regional winner of the Bill Franklin Volunteer of the Year Award. The award recognizes college benefactors whose efforts make a long-term impact on an institution and higher education and who play a significant role in fund raising, alumni relations and student recruiting.

At the awards banquet in Nashville in early February, Williams joked that "the competition must not be very good this year." Turning serious, he added: "No volunteer is any better than the other volunteers who help. It's volunteers,

employees, friends and colleagues who do so many things together. That's how our university has grown to what it is today."

Growing up on a tobacco farm

He was the second of four children growing up on a tobacco farm south of Greenville. His older brother went to N.C. State University; his two younger sisters would follow him to East Carolina. He attended Ayden High School and started to think about the possibility of going to college only in the summer after graduation.

"Being a farm boy in the aftermath of the Great Depression, I didn't travel very far," Williams says. "I got interested in college after high school and finally decided I wanted to go."

He applied to several colleges, but because it was so close to the fall term, they already had picked their freshman class. Except one—East Carolina Teachers College. So Williams enrolled at the college down the road.

"I thought I might transfer to N.C. State after one or two years, but after I got there, I thought I would work on toward graduation."

He pursued a major in health and human performance while developing a strong liking for athletics. He didn't play sports in college, but he was an avid spectator and went to as many games as possible.

After graduation, he was drafted during the Korean War. But he also became engaged to a girl he met during his last semester at ECTC, Marie Stallings. They became engaged while he was in the Army and were married after his discharge. She had received her education degree and began teaching in Farmville. After his discharge, he came back to Greenville with GI Bill benefits and enrolled in graduate school. He received a master's degree in education supervision in 1955.

"I never thought about teaching, but I thought that getting a teaching certificate would help me get a job," he said. And it did. His first job was teaching eighth grade in nearby Farmville.

He smiles as he recalls the experience.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my attempt to be a teacher. At least I know I tried to be a good teacher."

But the pay was small—\$2,900 during the year he taught. He and Marie decided that if they ever were to start a family, she would stay home and he would be the provider. Just not on a teacher's salary.

That's when opportunity came knocking. Williams' older brother, Arthur, had graduated from State and gone into the tobacco business in Winston-Salem. He married into a family that owned a fuel company and began working for the firm. When the company began looking for someone to run its new eastern North Carolina operations, Arthur recruited Walter. For the next 29 years, Walter worked for what was Taylor Oil Co.

In 1984, when he became eligible to retire, Walter Williams decided to strike out on his own.

"I retired from one job one day and started a new business the next," he says.

He established Trade Oil Co. Inc. with two stores that had been Taylor Oil stations. Over the next two decades the firm grew into a chain of more than 100 stores, mainly in the eastern third of North Carolina. Trade Oil developed Trade Marts, its version of the relatively new concept of pump-your-own gas and convenience stores, called "C" stores in the industry, in small towns like Oxford, Wake Forest, Henderson, Fuquay, Clayton, Fayetteville, Smithfield, Newport and Mount Olive.

The business grew through simple, yet methodical, steps. "We grew our business after we found a piece of property and built a building," Williams says. "Once our kids came into the business, they did the same thing. I think the growth was fast because the idea worked."

Trade Oil Co. was ranked as the nation's 74th-largest convenience store chain by *Convenience Store News*, an industry newsletter.



Company revenues were \$267 million in 2005, the year Williams sold to Amerada Hess.

The firm also developed a reputation for service, mainly because of Williams' operating philosophy: "Treat the other guy like you want to be treated, whether he is a customer or an employee. We operate like a family, and our customer comes first."

As Williams grew the Trade Mart chain, brother Arthur was doing the same with his string of 140 "C" stores from the Carolinas up to Pennsylvania. In 2001, Arthur's A.T. Williams Oil Co. merged forces with Amerada Hess, the leading independent oil company on the eastern seaboard, to become WilcoHess. Trade Oil Co. followed suit by merging with WilcoHess in 2005,

and Walter Williams became executive vice president. WilcoHess now operates 320 "C" stores and 43 restaurants in seven states. The company had about 2,800 employees and revenue of more than \$1.6 billion in 2006, according to a company filing with the Security and Exchange Commission.

During those hectic years while he was growing his business, Williams continued cultivating his roots in eastern North Carolina and supporting his alma mater.

"If you like where you are, you're not too crazy about leaving," he says. Parents in the region often sent their children to far-flung colleges, "and they never came back home. I think we should give an education here so that you can make a living in eastern North Carolina. We have proved that with the medical school."

Embodying the Pirate Club

Williams joined the Pirate Club in 1966 and over the years came to personify the boosters group. His Trade Oil Co. provided the Pirate Club with its first-ever \$1 million gift in 1993 during the university's Shared Visions campaign. The gift went toward renovating Minges Coliseum, and in April 1994 the basketball arena was rededicated as Williams Arena in honor of the gift.

Williams served as executive president of the foundation in 1997, and he co-chaired the Kickoff to Victory fund-raising campaign in 1998, which exceeded its \$10 million goal by nearly \$1 million.

He became executive director emeritus of the foundation in 2002, which was around the time he co-chaired fund raising for the new baseball stadium. By the end of 2005 the campaign had secured \$9.4 million to build Clark-LeClair Stadium.

Walter and Marie Williams also endowed two \$150,000 scholarships for basketball players and one \$100,000 fund for the Spirit of the East Scholarship Endowment.

The Williamses have provided \$25,000 annually for the past five years to go into a

Terry Holland congratulates Walter and Marie Williams at the CASE awards dinner.



Andrea Hallgren

leadership scholarship fund for freshmen.

His interest in education extends beyond ECU to include Pitt Community College, where he serves on the board of trustees. He has been an adult education program volunteer and a campaign volunteer for the college's baseball capital campaign.

"Pitt Community College has done a super job taking the average hard-working individual and giving that person some opportunities through education. [Pitt County Memorial Hospital] has tons of people who have been through Pitt Community College's medical-related programs."

Taking a STEPP forward

Now, he and his wife are turning their attention to the STEPP program and providing a college education for learning-disabled students. Using the Williamses' founding gift, Project STEPP—Supporting Transition and Education through Planning and Partnerships—admitted its first two students in fall 2006. It should grow to about 50 students over the next five years.

Project STEPP is a collaborative effort by several colleges and schools in the university, as well as community resources and high schools. It opens the doors to higher education to students who traditionally have

not gone to college. The process of preparing these students for college begins while they are finishing their high school studies.

"This gives us an opportunity to help eastern North Carolina, and it gives ECU an opportunity to learn how to teach those kids," Williams says. "And it will give the graduates firsthand experience in teaching others, if they so choose."

"Walter and I have a special place in our hearts for ECU," Marie Williams said. "The economic and cultural impact [of the university] have influenced our family's financial success immensely. As a result, we feel we need to give back to our university and our region when possible."

This kind of thinking does not go unnoticed. "He never stops talking about [East Carolina]; he never declines to represent it; and he consistently provides significant monetary support to it," says Marilyn Sheerer, vice chancellor for student life. What is more impressive, she added, is that "he doesn't seek personal recognition; rather, he wants the program that the gift supports to be highlighted."

ECU Athletic Director Terry Holland says that one of the first things he learned when he arrived in Greenville in 2004 was the impact Williams has had on the university.

"There are few individuals that possess the

passion Walter has for his university, and whenever his beloved Pirates have needed him, he has come through for them," Holland says.

Williams considers ECU "the University of Eastern North Carolina" and believes that it will continue growing in academic stature. "I can see an engineering school coming out of its infancy a few years from now. I'd like to see a separate school of journalism. If we really do need more lawyers, we could have a law school," he says.

"I want to see success at many levels."

Still working every day

Williams could be living a comfortable life in retirement, but he goes to work daily at the eastern regional affairs of WilcoHess in Greenville. He remains president of Trade Oil, which is now involved primarily in real estate. His son David and daughter Ann both have been involved in the business since their graduation from college, David from Mount Olive College and Ann from Meredith College.

For all he has done for ECU, Williams doesn't consider himself a philanthropist. "I'm just a hard-working old man. You can't go through life getting accolades unless you are willing to pay the price of working for those accolades," he says.

ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard respectfully disagrees. "Walter is humble and unassuming and does not seek the limelight through his philanthropy. His only goal is to see positive things happen for the university, and I hope he will be by our side for many years to come. I find it difficult to visualize East Carolina University without his ongoing support and advocacy."

The kind words are flattering, but Williams prefers to keep it simple. "I never left the region, which is all the more reason to give back," he says. "I grew up with a dad who believed that if you lived in a community, you had an obligation to support the community. You had to put something back."

East



Join today!

"Frances and I have enjoyed a lifelong relationship with East Carolina. I grew up a block from campus, met my bride at class registration, got Frances in trouble for holding her hand on the Mall, and have made great friends with so many fellow Pirates, including President Wright and Chancellors Jenkins and Messick."

Join Virgil '50 and Frances '52 Clark as charter members of the East Carolina Alumni Association. Membership in the Alumni Association helps to provide quality programs and services such as Pirate Career Calls and the Pirate Alumni Network, traditional activities such as Homecoming and reunions, alumni and faculty awards, and student scholarships. As a member, you will join the ranks of alumni like the Clarks who demonstrate their pride, dedication, and commitment to East Carolina University. Join today!

"Our support of East Carolina is out of a grateful heart for what we received here—an education. Our membership in the Alumni Association is another way we support a place that has given us so much."

East Carolina
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
800-ECU-GRAD PirateAlumni.com

Chancellor Ballard welcomes House Speaker Joe Hackney, Senate President Marc Basnight and UNC system President Erskine Bowles.



Mark Kawanshi



Welcome to the NC General Assembly

By Chancellor Steve Ballard

This is a great day to be a Pirate!

A century ago, East Carolina Teachers Training School was born in the North Carolina General Assembly. A hundred years and more than a hundred thousand alumni later, we are proud to have become East Carolina University. And we are honored that the General Assembly is coming to our campus to recognize the university in a rare joint session away from the Capitol.

Today, we are a nationally ranked research university known for our achievements in education, the arts, health sciences, athletics and more. We are defined by our motto of *Servire*, meaning "To Serve." We are known for the success of our partnerships with the city, the county, the public schools, the community colleges, Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the private sector.

We are the fastest-growing public university in the state, adding more than twice as many students over the last five years as any other campus. We are the state leader in distance education. We prepare more education professionals, nurses and allied health practitioners than any other university in North Carolina. Our medical school graduates practice in North Carolina at a higher rate than those of the state's three other medical schools.

Those of us lucky enough to be working and studying at East Carolina today owe a tremendous debt to our predecessors on this campus as well as to our friends and supporters in Greenville and beyond. Beginning with Gov. Thomas Jordan Jarvis, we have flourished because of the effort and commitment of our champions. On behalf of all of us at ECU, I want to say: Thank you. We couldn't have done it without you.

And I have a promise: We're going to become even better. Eastern North Carolina is more than our home. It is in our name and in our genes. We are committed to five dimensions that are integral to our mission: access to our resources, student success, economic development, helping the underserved and creating partnerships that work. Together with you, we will make our second hundred years even more spectacular than our first.

Tomorrow starts here.



ECU Gospel Choir



Centennial Award of Excellence winners Kay Murphy and Lisa Overman

East Carolina kicked off its centennial celebration in March with the help of the North Carolina General Assembly, the UNC Board of Governors and the best wishes of dozens of other admirers.

Driven to Greenville from Raleigh on buses, members of the state House and Senate held a ceremonial session in Wright Auditorium and adopted a resolution extolling ECU's accomplishments (1). "The General Assembly recognizes and honors the founders of East Carolina University for their vision, commends the university for its contributions to North Carolina and its people, extends congratulations on the institution's centennial anniversary, and looks forward to a second century of service by the university on behalf of the people of

North Carolina and the nation," the resolution concludes.

After the joint session, the legislators joined the ECU Board of Trustees and other dignitaries for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new fountain being constructed in Wright Circle (2).

After a lunch served to hundreds on the mall (3), the Chancellor's Forum on Service focused on the importance of public service and volunteerism. Panelists are the forum included Greenville attorney and Board of Governors member Phillip Dixon '71, former Duke Power president Ruth Shaw '69 '72, former governor James B. Hunt Jr. and Joel Butler, chief external affairs officer for University Health Systems of Eastern

Carolina. Former North Carolina Secretary of State Janice H. Faulkner '53 '56 served as moderator (4). At the forum, Chancellor Steve Ballard announced establishment of the Servire Society to recognize faculty, staff and students involved in public service. *Servire*, Latin meaning "to serve," is the university's motto.

During its two-day meeting in Greenville, the UNC Board of Governors confirmed the appointment of two new members of the ECU Board of Trustees—Robert Brinkley '78, a retired attorney from Charlotte; and Carol Mabe '70, a retired apparel executive from Greensboro. They replaced board Chairman Steve Showfety, a Greensboro developer, and Mike Kelly, a Nags Head restaurant owner.



Mark Kawanshi





ECU Police Officer
Chester Jones

ECU, which enjoys a reputation as a safe campus, is spending an extra \$1 million to keep it that way

By Marion Blackburn
Photography by Forrest Croce

Playing it safe



Paul Dunn, courtesy The Daily Reflector

These days, keeping students safe—even if they live off campus—is an integral part of university life. While ECU has largely escaped the tragedies that have hit other universities, campus leaders want to make sure students have a strong safety net. They’re reaching beyond campus boundaries with innovative prevention programs and an expanded role for campus police.

“Parents have expectations of universities, and so do students,” says Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, vice chancellor in the Division of Student Life. “Many times parents will ask me, ‘How safe is your campus?’ or ‘How safe

is your downtown—and what are you doing to make sure these areas are safe?’ Parents and students want to know what we are doing, because safety can affect everything.”

To strengthen safety on and around campus, the university has increased spending by \$1 million this year, part of a special focus by Chancellor Steve Ballard. That emphasis comes partially in response to violent, often fatal incidents at other campuses but also reflects an ongoing concern at East Carolina that college life today is different than a generation ago. Today’s students are susceptible to traditional risks like date rape

but also to new crimes like identity theft.

With this new funding, campus leaders are enhancing computers, cameras and communications. A full evaluation of campus lighting is under way, and a new campus safety committee is examining the most important issues for staff and faculty.

Well before the two murders at UNC Wilmington two years ago and the massacre at Virginia Tech in April, East Carolina was working to heighten student safety by enhancing patrols and boosting cooperation with the Greenville Police Department.

Students, too, are being called on to take greater responsibility for their own safety. Moreover, plans are ahead to equip all dorms with fire sprinklers, at an estimated cost of nearly \$11 million.

“There’s no way the police department can be responsible for all kinds of safety,” says Michelle Lieberman, director of the Center for Off-Campus and Community Living and co-chair of the university’s safety committee. Lieberman, who is East Carolina’s point person to coordinate safety goals, has made national presentations on programs her office is managing. She also is leading a series of Neighborhood Coalition meetings.

“Safety isn’t just police, it’s everyone,” she says. “You have to be proactive.”

“It is important to remember that no one is immune to violence or disaster,” Ballard said after the Virginia Tech tragedy. “But it is equally important to know that we constantly train, study and prepare for the unexpected.”

Campus as community

Think of towns the size of Statesville, New Bern or Sanford. Their populations are about the same as the nearly 26,000 ECU students, faculty and staff who live and work on campus. All those people are jammed into some relatively small spaces—the 521 acres on Main Campus, 206 acres at the medical school and 650 acres at the West Research Campus. In some ways that geographic concentration makes police work easier.

One big downside of policing the campus is the sheer inventory of buildings requiring constant security. There are 155 buildings alone on Main Campus—dorms, office and classroom buildings. Most are full of valuable equipment, such as the 2,325 computers available for students to use. Each building on campus is assigned a police officer who checks it twice during a shift. Dorms are locked at all times.

The campus is protected by 131 security cameras, more than 65 “blue light” phones for emergency calls and more than 100 alarms and “panic buttons.” The ECU Police Department’s



ECU Police Officer Tamesha Moore

Trends in Campus Crimes

	2004	2005	2006
Violent crimes			
Rape	4	2	5
Robbery	4	0	3
Aggravated assault	5	3	6
Property crimes			
Burglary	20	17	10
Larceny	280	207	245
Car theft	5	2	1

Source: ECU Police Department. Statistics are only for crimes occurring on campus.

When fire erupted at an off-campus apartment building earlier this year, a team from ECU arrived on the scene not long after the Greenville fire trucks. As smoke poured from the second-floor balcony, Dr. Lynn Roeder, ECU’s interim dean of students, comforted the evacuated students, some cradling dogs in their arms, as they shivered in the winter chill.

“We checked to see if they were OK, then made sure no one was feeling a sense of trauma,” says Roeder, who also is associate vice chancellor. “Once we knew they were OK, we wanted to make sure that if a student couldn’t get back into the building, they had somewhere to stay.”

Roeder ordered pizza and hot chocolate and began making arrangements for the displaced students. “They already had a sense of loss, and we wanted to make sure no one was going to have to sleep in their car, and that their pets were also taken care of,” she says. “At a time like that, students can’t always think about what the next step should be.”

control room is a nerve center of multiple computer screens surrounding the dispatcher.

Lieberman says statistics bear out that ECU is a safe campus. There have been no murders on campus in the school's history. The last incident involving a gun occurred in 1989 and ended without any injuries. There was an accidental discharge of a gun at a dance on campus without anyone being hurt.

Still, officials concede that some concerns over student safety remain. One concern is rape. Five were reported last year, four of which were committed by acquaintances of the victims.

Whether an assailant is known or unknown, rape is a violent crime, says ECU Police Maj. Frank Knight. None of the reported rapes last year included compounding injuries. The acquaintance rapes occurred either in the assailant's dorm room or in the female student's room. All but one involved alcohol.

The university offers self-defense classes that teach specific strategies for avoiding acquaintance rape. Knight says the campus police department plans to carefully analyze the number and type of rapes occurring this year to gauge trends. Any increase would bring more focus on the problem, he said.

But Lieberman emphasized that what happens on campus is only part of the picture, because more than 70 percent of students don't live there. Most live in large-scale apartment complexes scattered around Greenville.

Lieberman says there have been marked reductions in crime in the nearby community where many students and faculty live. Stepped-up patrols over the winter holidays, typically the worst times for burglaries because most students leave town, made a dramatic difference this year, as did greater cooperation between the ECU and Greenville police forces. Lieberman's office distributed flyers to students living in these off-campus neighborhoods offering tips to prevent break-ins and thefts. City police ramped up their efforts and used undercover officers, foot patrols and intensive monitoring of the hot areas.

As a result, last Christmas season saw no

burglaries at the homes of students living off campus, compared to more than 100 the year before.

Her office also has worked closely with Greenville Police and the City Council to encourage cooperation in other areas, such as enforcing rental guidelines, underage drinking restrictions and parking in the nearby communities.

"It takes a community effort," Lieberman says. "We want to create an atmosphere of caring, because this community is our neighborhood."

Partners with police

Creating a sense of community also brings a changing role for campus police officers. While officers' primary responsibility is to enforce the law, these days campus cops are emphasizing prevention and relationship-building more than ever. While officers are assigned to a dorm and make regular checks each shift, they also conduct safety programs and get to know students, hoping to help them learn to protect themselves and their belongings.

"A lot of our programs are designed to make people aware," says ECU Chief of Police Robert Stroud, who recently left this position. "Our officers make crime prevention presentations and talk about how to stay safe, for instance, if you're going to a club.

"Security is not just the police department's responsibility, it's everyone working together," he says. "We try to get information out, so people will be more aware and take precautions, even steps that are as simple as locking your door when you leave your residence hall. We also encourage people that if something doesn't look right, give us a call."

The campus police department has focused more resources on improving the training of its officers, an effort that bore fruit when it received a stamp of approval this spring from the national Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. East Carolina is one of only four UNC system campuses to attain the certification, along with UNC Chapel Hill, N.C. State and N.C.



A&T. The Greenville Police Department also is certified by the commission. "It makes for a more professional agency," Stroud says.

An extraordinary degree of cooperation between ECU and Greenville police has been good for town and gown. When a rash of robberies in a downtown parking lot caused problems, both forces joined to solve them, Stroud says. Similarly, an armed robbery attempt close to campus was spotted by ECU police, who radioed Greenville police, who made an arrest and confiscated a gun.

A mutual aid agreement between the two agencies means that from midnight to 4 a.m., both ECU and Greenville police are patrolling the area. What's more, ECU police have enlarged their patrol area to now include a greater off-campus area. This kind of flexibility has decreased the potential for crimes near campus, Stroud says.

In addition, part of the university's new funding this year will purchase a Viper communications system, estimated to cost about \$400,000, allowing officers from ECU to reach Greenville Police without going through an operator or dispatcher. Officials

say that kind of immediate communication is critical during a crisis.

Greenville police have made student safety a priority, too. When Greenville Police Chief William J. Anderson assumed his job last year he initiated "Impact Teams" for the university community that helped reduce burglaries and assaults.

"Naturally, student safety is of major importance to our community," Anderson says. "We have a lot of students who participate in downtown activities, and there were some problems in the past, so we put a high priority on safety citywide, but particularly in the downtown and the university area."

What's more, Anderson says, his force and campus leaders soon will take a hard look at alcohol use and abuse, the issue many consider the underlying cause of most crime. In March, the Greenville City Council approved the Greenville-ECU Task Force to Study Student-Related Alcohol Issues.

Strangers not the problem

As in society at large, it's often the people we know who are most threatening. Domestic abuse and relationship violence, along with date rape, are continued concerns for female students.

"Stranger rapes are very rare on campus, but we do see two to three sexual assaults on campus a year by an acquaintance," Stroud says. "We encourage students to report them, and we have services to help." Victims advocate and counseling services are available to women who experience sexual assault. The Student Health Center on campus can conduct examinations and gather evidence without requiring women to travel to a hospital.

SafeRide, a student shuttle service, can help students avoid unsafe situations, says Capt. Mike Perry, who heads the ECU Police Campus Safety Division and also co-chairs the safety committee. The vans take students, staff members or faculty from any place on campus to their homes.

"If you need a ride, we're going to give it to you," Perry says.

A wiser, more cautious campus

Peter Romary, ECU's director of student legal services, expects the university will institute more broad, aggressive approaches to combat crime involving students. In January, Romary played a key role in a daylong higher education safety symposium at ECU, which featured speaker Steven Healy, chief of police at Princeton University and president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. Romary has conducted safety training for the entire UNC system, as well as for the Department of Public Instruction. He is a member of the National Crime Victims Bar Association.

"We have to look at our own campus, to see what the problems are here. We can't just look at what we read in the newspapers," Romary says. For instance, he says alcohol abuse is a major problem across the nation on college campuses, and ECU is no exception. U.S. Department of Justice statistics indicate that 90 percent of all college crime is related to alcohol use. In the spring, ECU Police began riding campus buses at night to help quell some recent alcohol-related rowdiness.

Other hot-button issues include reckless driving—a problem that he says is often ignored. Moreover, stalking and date rape are "silent epidemics" on any college campus.

"We need to identify the major issues that our students face, whether it's interpersonal safety, such as assaults, relationship violence or sexual assault, or whether it's Internet safety," he says. "We have to focus on arising issues."

At the dean of students office, Roeder knows students need guidance through their hard times. That support can help keep them safe and able to continue their studies, no matter what comes their way—whether it's a fire or a car accident. "We want to take care of our own, to educate them and make sure they have the services they need," she says. "A lot of what this office does is to deal with crisis, and I want to be wherever I can to reassure the students."

East

PLANNING FOR PANDEMIC FLU

The 1918 pandemic flu struck so quickly on campus that every bed in the infirmary was filled and students were moved out of one wing of old Wilson dormitory so their beds could be used by the sick.

There are no records of deaths, but the experience was so chilling that, three years later, a few students catching colds caused a quarantine that lasted nine weeks. "When one was caught sneezing, she was snatched up whether she wanted to go or not, and given a big dose of salts or something worse," alumna Attie Bray '22 recalled in a memoir.

No one wants to think about the possibility of an outbreak of bird flu on campus, but ECU is preparing a response in case one occurs.

"We have a plan," says Bill Koch, ECU's director of environmental health and safety. "The Student Health Service is already instructing people in ways to prevent flu, and we're also putting together a web site and other information programs for faculty, staff and students."

The university's plan in case of a serious flu outbreak is based on a statewide response, because chances are good that if a deadly flu appears on one UNC system campus it won't be long before it's at others. Gov. Mike Easley has signed an executive order that would close campuses and other public meeting places in case of an outbreak.

"We are coordinating with other UNC institutions, because if one closes, the others will have to close, too. We'd like to have closed before flu hit our campus," Koch says.

He says that East Carolina and N.C. State University would consider conditions within a 500-mile perimeter when considering when to close. For students, closure wouldn't mean no school, however. Classes would likely continue through distance courses.

—Marion Blackburn

INTERNET READY

BY STEVE TUTTLE

Stan Eakins

Online education soars as ECU opens its doors to anyone with a computer

Although he's associate dean of the East Carolina College of Business, Stan Eakins seems as comfortable around computers as spreadsheets. He should after spending the past six years leading the business school's move to the Internet and its enviable status as the only nationally accredited online MBA program in the UNC system.

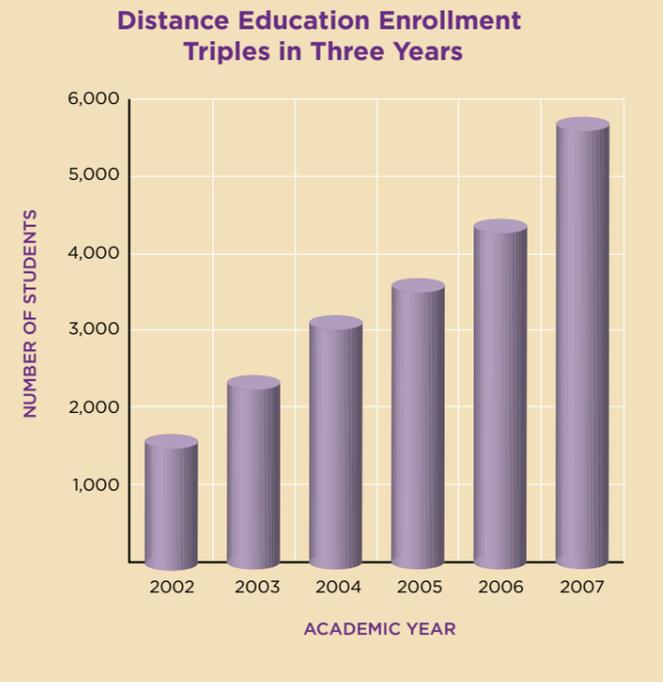
He's learned two important things about the online medium and its message. "We can't tolerate downtime. You have to have an IT infrastructure that will get us back online in 15 minutes. You also have to rethink how a teacher interacts with a class of students when you don't see each other face to face."

For example, when a student in a traditional classroom has a question, she raises her hand. The professor answers the question, and everyone in the class shares the same information. How do you transfer that information-sharing process to a virtual classroom?

It's simple. Almost all of ECU's online MBA classes involve audio and video, often delivered live through the Blackboard portal, where the student—who might be in Beaufort, Benson or Baghdad—hears a lecture and sees interactive graphics. On the corner of their computer screens is an icon in the shape of a hand. “The teacher will talk and illustrate something by writing on the screen or showing a PowerPoint,” Eakins explains. “Then he will stop and ask, ‘Are there any questions?’ If someone does, they click [the hand]. The teacher will see that and can even call the student by name—‘I see that John has a question.’ And everyone hears the discussion, just the same as if everyone were sitting in a class on campus.”

While this marriage of technology and teaching may seem futuristic, it's working today for the 343 adults who are getting an MBA from East Carolina without ever necessarily leaving home. While that sounds impressive, it's just a fraction of the overall distance education delivered by East Carolina, which has built the largest such program by far in the UNC system and the 12th largest nationwide, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. This spring semester, roughly 5,800 distance education (DE) students were working on one of 35 undergraduate and graduate degrees that can be completed entirely online.

They earned 78,000 credit hours last year. N.C. State, which has the second-largest program in the UNC system, delivered only 27,000 credit hours to its DE students.



ECU alone is responsible for more than a quarter of all distance education delivered through the 16-campus UNC system.

Who—and where—are all these virtual ECU students? Typically, she is a 35-year-old woman with two or more children at home who is pursuing a degree primarily to get a better job. Almost 60 percent live east of I-95 and many receive financial aid. Most are getting degrees in high-priority areas: Nearly half—48 percent—are majoring in teacher education as part of ECU's commitment to address the state's teacher shortage crisis. Another 14 percent are getting degrees in health care—many of them as nurses—and 19 percent are in business-related fields. About half are completing an undergraduate degree and half are working at the master's level or higher.

Blazing the trail

Why is distance education so much bigger at East Carolina than most other schools? It's because the concept isn't new here, according to Elmer Poe, associate vice chancellor for academic outreach. “You could say we started this back in the 1940s when we had what was called extension education,” Poe explains. Back

then, professors traveled around the region to hold classes. That gave way in the 1970s to classes delivered by correspondence. “ECU has a tradition of service to our region and our region is large geographically, people are spread out. So the idea that somebody can't come to campus is not a new idea to us. We take education to them.”

The growth of the Internet in the early 1990s allowed ECU to plan the switch from the mailman to e-mail to deliver course work; it offered its first online classes in 1994 and by 1996 had enough practical experience with the medium to begin offering an online master's degree in industrial technology,

Poe says. The UNC system watched ECU's groundbreaking efforts and similar initiatives at other state schools and officially made distance education a priority in 1997. After East Carolina and three other schools led a pilot program to deliver classes by video conferencing, the General Assembly made the financial commitment to open the doors to higher education to everyone with a computer.

By 2002, ECU's virtual student body had grown to nearly 2,000. Much of the necessary computer infrastructure had been installed and a large number of faculty had been trained in the technology of online teaching. “Our faculty members have this mindset of service,” Poe says. “They're willing to explore new ways of communicating and interacting with students. We just didn't have the resistance to online education that was seen at some other campuses.”

As DE enrollment swelled to 3,200 in 2003 and to 4,500 two years later, ECU became the world's largest user of the Centra software system, which essentially turns an online student's computer screen into

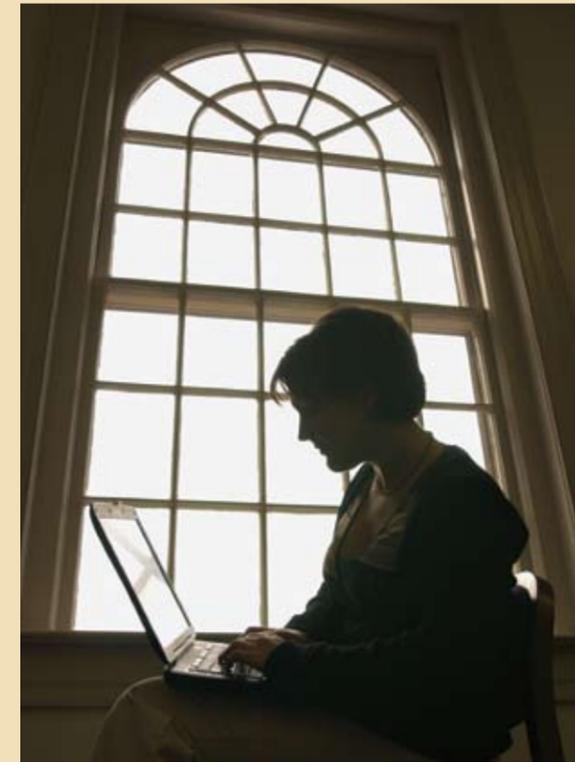
...continued on page 30

Becoming the university of anywhere

If North Carolina had to expand the UNC system to provide classes for every student now pursuing a degree through distance education, it would need another Appalachian State and UNC Greensboro combined. Even then there wouldn't be enough seats for the nearly 33,000 students enrolled in online degree programs, according to a report to the state legislature by the UNC Board of Governors. The report concludes that the university system's move to the Internet as a way to open public access to higher education is succeeding and should be expanded, particularly at a time when the UNC system is full to bursting.

“We have a lot of people to accommodate, and we don't have the physical space to do that,” President Erskine Bowles said at a Board of Governors meeting held at East Carolina in March. Projections are for a nearly 50 percent jump in enrollment at the 16 state campuses over the next decade, he added.

The number of distance education (DE) students enrolled at the UNC system's 16 campuses more than tripled in five years to 33,045 in 2005, the latest year for which statewide data was available. They completed 235,816 credit hours enrolled in more than 2,000 classes while working toward one of 90 different degrees available entirely online, one of the most extensive offerings in the nation.



By comparison, the University of Massachusetts offers 61 degrees online, Penn State offers 14 and Texas offers 11.

Most DE students were enrolled in classes that meet occasionally at a regional location, such as a community college, the report says. Often, that's so someone at the community college can administer tests. In fact, 71 percent of DE courses were delivered this way.

Statewide, nearly a third of all DE students are enrolled in the “2+2” partnerships between universities and community colleges focused on producing more classroom teachers. After completing a two-year degree, those students continue to take

Every campus in the UNC system now offers online classes but East Carolina's program dwarfs the others. In 2005 its virtual students represented 12 percent of the statewide DE population. The 78,000 credit hours taken by ECU's DE students compare to 27,000 at N.C. State, which has the state's second-largest program, and 21,000 at UNC Pembroke. UNC Chapel Hill had the fourth-largest program and ASU was fifth. ECU also offers the widest range of degrees that can be completed online, with 35—14 undergraduate and 21 graduate programs.

It costs the state \$1,301 per student to deliver a course online, compared to \$892 for a traditional student. The 30 percent difference comes from higher start-up costs in technology, staff training and support services. The instructor's salary accounts for 60 percent of that. Those and other per-pupil costs should decline when spread out over additional years, the report says.

The Board of Governors prepared the report at the request of the General Assembly as part of its ongoing effort to expand online education through the 16 public universities and 58 community colleges. A 1999 law established a framework linking the two systems and provided funding to get the ball rolling.

—Steve Tuttle

...continued from page 28

the blackboard the teacher writes on. The university became the world's fifth-largest user of the Blackboard system, a web portal that is the online student's virtual campus.

State funding paid most, but certainly not all, the tab for all the expensive computer equipment. The General Assembly also started compensating UNC system campuses for DE students roughly the same way it does regular students. If you live in North Carolina, you pay in-state tuition whether you're on campus or online.

That fact is a major reason why ECU's online MBA program is rated tops in the nation for quality and affordability by GetEducated.com, a national clearinghouse for distance education programs. An in-state student can complete ECU's MBA degree in one year at a cost of \$7,164, the cheapest in the nation of all online MBA programs accredited by AACSB, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. "We talk a lot about ROI—return on investment—in our MBA classes," Eakins says, "and for \$7,000 our DE students are getting a pretty good ROI, while still carrying on their regular lives."

East Carolina also has noticed a new trend—a growing number of students on campus also are taking online courses. Many are students working part-time jobs to help pay for school who find online classes easier on their complicated schedules. Currently, almost 23 percent of DE students are also attending classes on campus.

To support their in-class and online students, many departments at ECU have dedicated staffs of IT people who maintain banks of servers and miles of Internet cables. The College of Business, for example, has a full-time IT staff of seven, buttressed by several grad students.

Because of ECU's rapid growth in distance education enrollments, recruiting and hiring nearly 200 faculty members was a challenge last year.

WHO'S TEACHING ONLINE?

The College of Education is by far the largest force in distance education at ECU, although all seven colleges and two schools offer courses online. This chart tracks credit hours taken by DE students during the fall 2006 semester.

College	Undergrad	Grad
College of Business	1,878	1,959
College of Education	4,278	6,614
College of Fine Arts and Communication	2,433	172
College of Health and Human Performance	697	671
College of Human Ecology	802	1,083
College of Technology and Computer Science	1,467	978
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences	1,676	570
School of Allied Health Sciences	1,251	493
School of Nursing	555	2,254
Totals	15,109	14,827

Keys to success

Early on, Poe says ECU set a high standard for its online classes. The university made the decision that instructors teaching online classes must have the same academic credentials as everyone else. Online classes would have the same academic content as those given in class. In the broadest sense, DE students would be considered equal to traditional students. The university adopted an attitude that "they are not second-class students," Poe says.

That means DE students are a real part of the student body. Thus, when ECU says it had close to 25,000 students this semester, it means it had 19,200 sitting in class and 5,800 sitting in front of a computer.

East Carolina provides DE students with an extensive support structure. Early on, they are assigned an academic advisor to guide their path toward a degree. A live help desk with an 800 number is open seven days a week. There's even an online writing center to help DE students with day-to-day class assignments.

ECU also provides a full-time DE librarian, and students can get textbooks for their

online classes delivered from the bookstore in two or three days. They have a student ID card that allows them access to other UNC libraries. When they're ready to graduate, the Career Services office helps DE students with preparing resumes. The center also stages career workshops that helps them prepare for job interviews.

ECU also regularly surveys DE students to learn how to improve their educational experience. In one recent survey, 89 percent gave top marks to their online courses.

Interestingly, some professors have come to prefer teaching DE students. One is Sherry Southard, who teaches graduate courses in technical and professional writing in the English department. "Many of them would never be able to get a degree were it not available online. Because of that, so many of them are just very eager to learn," Southard adds. "They want that education."

Helping those students is uniquely rewarding, Southard says. "They share a lot about their lives with me (through e-mail), and I learn so much about them. When they come to graduation, even if it's the first time I have met them in person, they say 'I think I really got to know you.'" **East**



2007 HOME FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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On the Ball at Summer Camp

By Bethany Bradsher

Illustration by Mike Litwin

East Carolina students by the thousands piled into their cars and headed home when spring semester ended, but that doesn't mean the campus will be quiet this summer.

Another line of cars—some from as far away as Florida and Connecticut—will be heading into Greenville filled with hundreds of kids who will move into the dorms and line up at the cafeterias.

June and July, you see, are peak season for summer sports camps at East Carolina, which draw hundreds of high school athletes and kids as young as 6 intent on improving their skills at football, basketball, baseball, soccer,

volleyball and swimming. The football camps alone attract a thousand or more campers.



Summer sports camps at East Carolina offer kids everything they love about traditional summer camp—new friends, new experiences, and time away from home—while also giving them a giant dose of the young athlete's Holy Grail—hands-on training from Division I coaches and players.

The campers come by the droves even though the days are long and the regimen is tough. High school football players will block and tackle their way through three daily sessions, each lasting about three hours under the hot eastern North Carolina sun. They have a brief break after each meal, but the rest of their time is spent on the football field, sweating.

Over at Minges Natatorium, swimmers as young as 6 will hit the water for four hours a day.

But there's still time for fun and games. Girls attending soccer camp will spend some time

each evening practicing for the big skit they will perform on their last night. Other kids will scheme of ways to outsmart their friends during the swimming camp scavenger hunt.

ECU's formula for summer sports camps must be working, because the kids keep coming back. "We get a lot of repeat campers, not just from year to year but from week to week," said Jeremy Shyatt, an assistant basketball coach and the coordinator for the two camps the basketball program will offer this summer. "I think the kids come back every year because they have fun, and because they make one or two new friends they might not otherwise meet."

In most sports, Pirate athletes themselves teach the young campers, many of whom idolize college players because of the dream they represent. But in football, volleyball and girls' soccer, whose overnight camps include the full dorm experience, the camp staff's job goes way beyond coaching.



Photos courtesy of the ECU athletic department



True to this community's image as a hotbed for baseball, the ECU baseball camps are the most specialized. There are separate camps for pitchers and catchers, one that specializes



school football kids until head football coach Skip Holtz and his staff had some difficult experiences a couple of summers ago.

Take women's soccer assistant Shannon St. George, who is known as the camp's "dorm czar." Head coach Rob Donnenwirth laughs that the job isn't too hard because the young women are so worn out from a day of soccer that the nights rarely get out of control. The rule is that they must be in their room for bed check, but if they stay up and talk, or watch movies quietly, no one will come in and make them go to sleep, she said.

"We have staff go around and make sure everyone is in the room they're supposed to be in," St. George said. "Usually, when we hear about them staying up too late is the next day. They'll be tired, and during the break times you'll see them taking a nap to try and recover."

Clifford Snow, the director of football operations and coordinator for ECU's four football camps, said that he has heard stories of young men sneaking out over the years, but he said most of the campers observe the rules and stay in their rooms.

Nowadays, only the high school football and women soccer athletes stay in the dorms. Overnight camps were offered for elementary

school football kids late at night that were scared or homesick, away from mom and dad for the first time" Snow said. "I've spent many nights at one or two in the morning [on the phone with a parent] saying, 'He really is hysterical, and you need to come get him,' and mom and dad live two hours away."

Separate camps are offered for offensive and defensive linemen and for players in skilled positions. There's also the annual "Beast of the East Passing Tournament" in which entire high school teams will compete.

Some sports, like swimming and basketball, have switched entirely to a day-camp format because the residential component is so complicated. Swimming coach Rick Kobe said that hasn't hurt attendance because the majority of his campers live within a 60-mile radius of Greenville. It also keeps costs down for the campers. Registration for the five-day swimming camp is just \$275.

"We try to keep the team camp cost low, so we don't offer cafeteria food and dorms," he said. "They're not really interested in that whole package. They just want the good competition."

just in hitting, and a father-son camp. Many high school kids will attend them all and then hope to get noticed by attending the final camp of the summer—the one reserved for college prospects.

Current campers, future Pirates

Planning, promoting and running a summer camp is no small task for coaches—everyone from the housing office to food services to the janitorial staff could be involved in the process—but the annual events have a considerable upside for athletics and for the university as a whole, Snow said.

Under NCAA regulations, coaches are prohibited from conducting any recruiting during summer camps, but the young visitors are paying attention. Every year when ECU coaches announce their new recruiting classes they mention one or more recruits who came through the summer camp pipeline. Volleyball coach Chris Rushing said he sees an increase in the number of inquiries from potential players in the weeks after summer camp.

"If people come to camp, it helps us to take a look at kids; it helps them understand how we run drills and how we run practices," Rushing said. "Quite a few kids came to camp and then e-mail us with interest."

The talented high school athletes who catapult from summer camp to Minges Coliseum or Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium

may get more of the spotlight, but the summer camp experience yields benefits even for those not on a path to a college scholarship.

"We had about 1,000 kids on campus last year (for football camps), and we may get 10 kids to offer a scholarship out of it," Snow said. "But those 1,000 kids who are here, ECU may end up with 200 or 300 of them down the road as students. The goal would be those who are in the fourth grade, maybe they'll come here for 10 years in a row, and they decide to make this their college choice as well."

Although a fraction of the summer campers may end up as varsity athletes, they are all willing to work hard to improve their skills, Snow said. "The camps are designed to be difficult, physically," he said. "We want them to get their money's worth while they're here. They're coming here to learn football, so we want them to go away from here saying, 'Wow, they really worked us hard.'"

Time for fun

Because rigorous workouts are the order of the day, the campers embrace diversions when they do come along. Embedded in the two-day junior volleyball camp are three hours of free swim at the Minges Natatorium. The swimming camp includes watermelon races in the pool, scavenger hunts and tours of venues like Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

But perhaps the most anticipated event of the summer comes on the last night of the girls' soccer camp, when groups present skits in the courtyard of the dorm where they have been staying all week. The skits are performed in small groups, and as the week goes on the coaches see groups whispering and plotting in corners all over campus.

"They're definitely on a mission to be secretive," said St. George. "Some of them come to camp knowing what they're going to do. They bring props in preparation for skit night."

"The only stipulation we have is that it has to be PG-13," said Donnenwirth. "Sometimes we have to stop the skit."

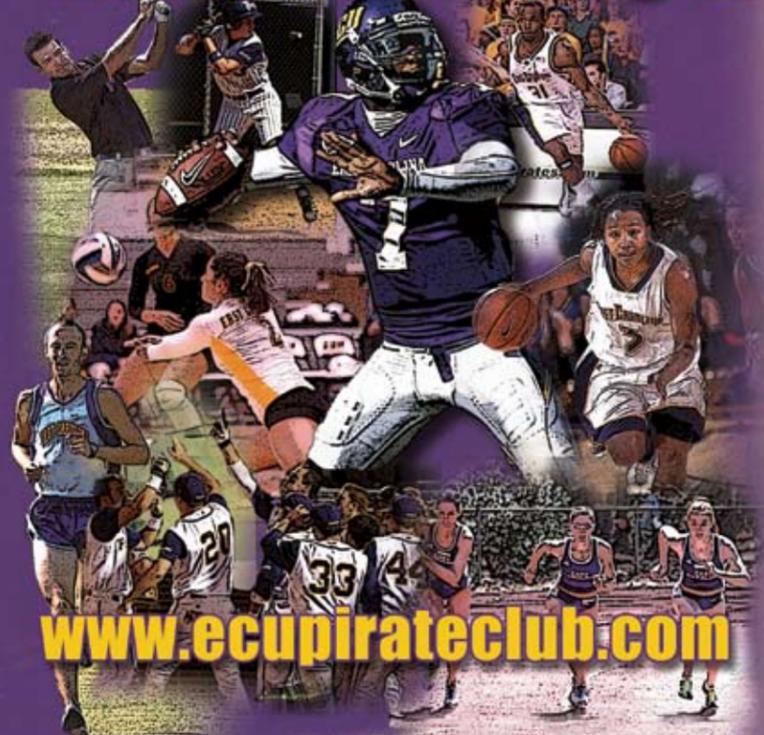
Besides the fun, parents like Karen Sneed of Greenville like ECU's summer camps because they offer kids an opportunity to try new sports. Even though her sons love baseball—her oldest son, Brandon, plays on the Barton College team—Sneed said her boys have really enjoyed the basketball camps.

"Anything you want to improve in your game, we've got a camp for you," said Ben Sanderson, a graduate assistant coach for ECU and the summer camp coordinator.

"It's a blessing to be in a community that has the caliber programs we have, where our kids can learn from Division I coaches," said Lisa Douglas of Greenville, whose two daughters have participated in Rushing's volleyball camps. "We don't have to go out of town to get those experiences. We have them right here."

East

Nation Building Is Part Of The Game.



The Pirate Club is so much more than just an organization. At ECU, we consider the Club a nation. And it takes many members to help build that nation into a group of determined and dedicated people who want to watch their favorite teams play, but who also believe deeply in the great traditions of ECU Athletics and the aura of Purple Pride. Whether it's football, basketball, baseball or any of the 19 sports we offer at our great institution, it takes an alliance of giving contributors and outstanding student-athletes.

We need to continue the process of reaching our goal of 15,000 Pirate Club members. Increasing our season ticket holders at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium to 25,000. And raising a minimum of \$6 million annually for student-athlete scholarship support. We believe our common goals are worthy. We believe we're facing challenges that go right to the heart of every ECU alumnus. We believe that if you're not a member of the Pirate Club, you should join right now. And we believe if you are a member, you should accept the challenge of bringing in at least one new member this year and do your part in building the Pirate Nation.



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Time to log in, Matey!

In an ongoing effort to keep alumni connected to the university and to one another, the Alumni Association has launched a new web site and online community that incorporates many new features, including a password-protected directory that will allow you to search for old friends and classmates.

The Alumni Association urges all Pirates to go to the site, www.piratealumni.com, and register. You have to do this before you can search the directory. Registered users also can read current and past Class Notes columns and use the services provided by the Career Center.

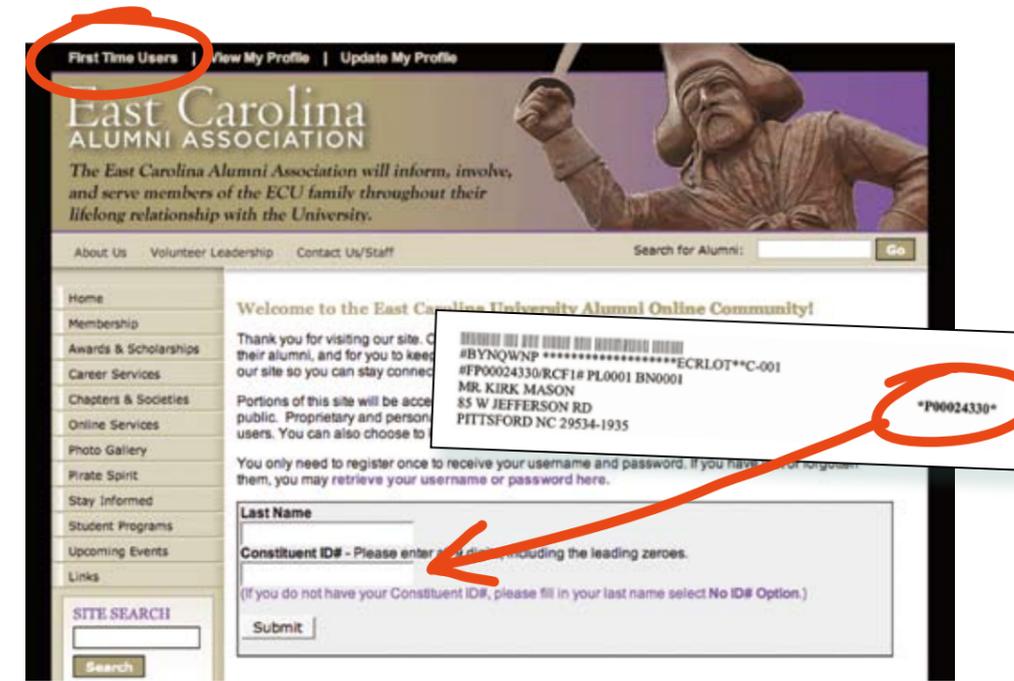
At the Career Center, you can post a resume, search for job openings and receive expert advice through Pirate Career Calls. The center also encourages Pirates to offer your services as a mentor to current students or recent graduates.

While you're browsing through the new web site, be sure to share your e-mail address with the Alumni Association so we can keep you connected to ECU with *PiratePulse*, our monthly e-newsletter.

The new web site also offers a calendar of alumni events, including some that may be occurring in your community. You also can subscribe to podcasts of the weekly radio show *A Pirate's Life for Me!* Do you RSS? If so, sign-up to receive instant news feed updates of alumni news and campus news.

By the numbers

- 16** Number of Alumni Association scholarship recipients this year.
- 3.86** Their average GPA.
- \$38,000** Amount awarded in Alumni Association scholarships since 2004.
- 52** Number of alumni featured on the *A Pirate's Life for Me!* radio program.



To sign up, go to www.piratealumni.com and click on **First Time Users** in the top left corner of the page. Use your last name and your Constituent ID (9-digit number after your name) located on the mailing address label on the back page of this issue of *East* (inset).

- 333** Number of alumni honored through our awards program.
- 2,225** Number of hours volunteered by ECU Ambassadors this year.
- 148** Number of alumni events this year.
- 24,996** Number of alumni participating in those events.
- 120,000** Number of living East Carolina alumni.
- 2,174** Number of Pirates who support East Carolina through their Alumni Association membership.

It pays to be a member

Still paying back your college loans? As an ECU graduate you qualify for lower loan rates provided by Consolidated Funding Services, a unit of the Chase Manhattan Bank. There are other advantages of being a member of the Alumni Association, including group discounts on home and auto insurance offered by Liberty Mutual.

Under both agreements, the companies donate a portion of the proceeds to support ECU programs and scholarships.

Save the dates

- June 11-12** Annual Slaughter/Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament in Virginia Beach, Va.
- June 15** ECU Night at the Carolina Mudcats
- Aug. 3** ECU Night at the Durham Bulls
- Sept. 1** Away Game Tailgate at Virginia Tech
- Sept. 29** Away Game Tailgate at Houston
- Oct. 19** Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic
- Oct. 26** Fall Awards Ceremony
- Oct. 27** Homecoming, ECTC/ECC Golden Alumni Reunion, Black Alumni Reunion
- Nov. 3** Away Game Tailgate at Memphis

2006 RAY GUNNELL of Fredericksburg, Va., is the sports programs coordinator at Bragg Hill Family Life Center and director for FAST Ministries, a Christian sports ministry. DAZZALA KNIGHT, who teaches art at two Greenville schools, collaborated with ECU art professor Mark Malley on a 144-foot mural depicting significant moments and people in the history of Princeville, the first town chartered by freed slaves after the Civil War. CRYSTAL LYNN works in recreation therapy services at PCMH. CLAYTON MCCULLOUGH, a Greenville native and former catcher for the Pirates who played for the Cleveland Indians, was promoted from hitting coach to a manager for the Toronto Blue Jays minor league baseball operations in the Gulf Coast League. ASHLEY MEYER and ADAM WITTER were married Dec. 28. She is pursuing her MAEd in health education at ECU, and he plays for the San Francisco Giants. JANNA THOMPSON, a park attendant at River Park North and after-school program coordinator at Wahl-Coates Elementary School, is pursuing her environmental education certification. HEATHER VERCOE works part time in aquatics for PCMH's recreation therapy services. DAVE WHITE works for the High Point Parks and Recreation Department.

2005 DANA BULLARD is the eastern superintendent for Sampson County Parks & Recreation in Newton Grove, and she coordinated a haunted trail at a local park in fall 2006. TAYLOR BRAXTON HOLT, originally of Greenville and now of Wilmington, accepted a job within a week of graduation as a project superintendent with Southeast Custom Homes and passed the N.C. Licensing Board for general contractors exam in fall 2006. MICHELLE LONSWAY MATHIS is the program director at Creative Living Center, an adult day care in Greenville. APRIL BRITTON MATHEWS is a recreational therapist and child life specialist at Heritage Hospital/Northeast Rehabilitation Center in Tarboro. RANDALL LEACH worked on a section of a 144-foot mural depicting significant moments and people in the history of Princeville, the first town chartered by freed slaves after the Civil War. ASHKA LEWIS, an employment specialist at East Carolina Vocational Center, cut an R&B CD entitled *It's About That Time* with 130 Entertainment Group, an N.C.-based independent record label. KATHRYN OSGOOD, an award-winning jeweler, metalsmith and instructor for the College of the Albemarle's Professional Crafts Jewelry program, was selected as the featured artist at the eighth annual Currituck Arts Council Art Extravaganza in March at Currituck County High School. TYSHON PUGH is a recreational therapist



Mike Litwin '01 won a Gold ADDY Award for his illustrations accompanying the urban legends story in the Fall 2006 issue of *East*. His was one of eight awards won by ECU's Department of University Publications staff from the Professional Ad Club East, a chapter of the American Advertising Federation. Litwin's illustrations went on to win a Silver ADDY in PACE's regional competition. His latest work illustrates the summer sports camps article on page 32.



Mimosa Mallernee '00, another graphic designer in university publications, was also recognized during the competition. Her design of East Carolina's centennial logo received a Silver ADDY Award. The logo has been designated the official mark of ECU's centennial celebration. In addition to centennial-related university publications, the logo has appeared on a variety of items ranging from golf shirts to Pepsi cans.

at Bryant T. Aldridge Rehabilitation Center in Rocky Mount. JUSTINE SMITH WILSON works in recreation therapy services at PCMH.

2004 WESLEY BARNES was promoted to a commercial lender position at East Carolina Bank in Avon and now works at a Greenville branch. SHAQUANNA JOHNSON '04 '06 married Ian Stevens on Dec. 16. She teaches first-year composition at ECU. GINA MARIE SUMMA SMITH of Rocky Mount, and her husband, Joshua, had a daughter, Kaitlyn Virginia, on Jan. 12. PAM WALLACE TOLL, a professor at UNC Wilmington and co-founder of the No Boundaries International Art Colony and Acme Art Studios, gave a talk at Cameron Art Museum in January about inspirations for her mixed-media paintings. CARA WHITE is in graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill.

2003 TIFFANY GRIFFIS was promoted from a loan processor to a retail lender at The East Carolina Bank in Morehead City and now works at a Greenville branch. ELIZABETH RICHMOND WEEKS, an Alpha Delta Pi sister, and JUSTIN THOMAS HOTT, a Sigma Phi Epsilon brother, were married on Sept. 30, 2006, in Goldsboro and live in New Bern.

2002 MARK TYLER BEARD and MELISSA RANA MOTAHARI '03 were married Oct. 28. A Kappa Delta sister, she teaches at Greenville's Eastern Elementary School, and he is a design engineer for Carolina Cabinet Co. in Wilson. BRAXTON

PATTERSON is the athletics supervisor for the City of Wilson Parks & Recreation Department and commissioner for Wilson City Little League. HOLLY FRANCES SCOTT and ROBERT MICHAEL HARRINGTON '03 '04 were married Dec. 6 in Wanchese. She directs Spa Koru in Avon, and he is general manager of Resort Realty of the Outer Banks.

2001 MEREDITH BROOME is a relocation sales representative for Allied Vanlines in Raleigh. DEBBIE BRYNE, who worked with Maricopa County Parks in Arizona, lives in Syracuse, N.Y., and works for the Onondaga County Parks system. WENDY NICOLE HARRIS and Jonathan Coleman Sergeant were married on Jan. 20 in Pactolus. She is a processing assistant in Academic Affairs at ECU. ROBERT M. HUGHES IV, who was awarded fellowships from the Burroughs-Wellcome Foundation and the American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry while completing his doctoral work in organic chemistry at UNC, received a post-doctoral fellowship at Duke University in biochemistry. JAMES PARKER is the athletic program coordinator for Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Department. CHAD AUSTIN TRACY, a Charlotte native who played baseball for ECU from 1999 to 2001, is a third baseman for the National League's Arizona Diamondbacks. WHITNEY MEREDITH WILSON and Richard Ashton Oakley were married on Dec. 30 in Greensboro. She is assistant principal at Alexander Wilson Elementary School in Graham and is pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership at UNC Greensboro.

2000 ADAM MCCOMB is the assistant director at the recreation and parks department in Elkin. LESHAUN JENKINS, a former ECU tennis player, mentors at-risk students and coaches basketball at his alma mater Tarboro High School. MARK SEYMOUR is the program manager for the Craven County Recreation & Parks Department. KIM STEPHENSON is the new nurse manager for Greenville's Gastroenterology East & Endoscopy Center, the practice of Dr. Jack Cole, who was a clinical instructor at BSOM from 1993 to 1995.

1999 JANELL BULLOCK is a realtor with ERA Millennia in Greenville. ANNABELLA BENFIELD COLE of Youngsville works with the pediatrics team at UNC Children's Hospital. JULIE WOMBLE SMITH of Apex is a senior recreational therapist in the rehabilitation center at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill. LYNN CHERYL WILCZEWSKI of Midlothian, Va., received a Fulbright-Hayes Award from the U.S. Department of Education to study in Russia and Poland for five weeks during summer 2007.

1998 JOEL BUTLER, the chief external affairs officer for University Health Systems and an ECU trustee, was a panelist for the Chancellor's Forum on Service as part of ECU's centennial celebration on March 8. KRISTY CONWAY '98 '02, who was recently a corporate and taxation paralegal, is a new Re/Max Preferred Realty staff member who specializes in residential real estate sales and coordinates marketing and administrative programs as the manager for Team TNT, which includes two brokers. KEVIN HALTIGAN of Greenville partnered with his older brother, Pat Haltigan IV, to form P&K Land Development in 2000, a company that provides structure demolition and land preparation, and in 2006 to form New East Recycling & Container Service, which provides large containers for commercial and residential demolition and debris clean-up. JAMES TED LOCKAMON is the sports coordinator for Henderson, Nev. The city's youth sports program received the 2006 National Excellence in Youth Sports Award from the National Alliance for Youth Sports and *Athletic Business* magazine at the Athletic Business Conference and Expo in Las Vegas. GILBERT MICHAEL WHITFORD JR., a safety coordinator with Pitt County Schools, and his wife, Rolanda Toler Whitford, had a daughter, Isabella Grace, on April 11, 2006.

1997 MATT JONES DUFFY of Roswell, Ga., received his MA in mass communication from the Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia in May 2006 and teaches journalism at Georgia College in Dunwoody. MELISSA DAWSON JERNIGAN is



Raleigh Police Department

Cassandra "Casey" Deck-Brown '87 made history a second time when she became the first woman elevated to the rank of major in the Raleigh Police Department. Deck-Brown, who has worked for the Raleigh PD for 19 years, now is in charge of the department's Administrative Services Division, which provides training, administrative support and technical services to the department's 750 officers. In 2003 she became the first woman to command one of Raleigh's six police districts. Deck-Brown, who also has a master's in public administration from N.C. State, is the sister-in-law of former Raleigh police chief Mitch Brown.

Deck-Brown grew up in Franklin County, but spent summers in Philadelphia with her mother's relatives. Her interest in law enforcement was aroused one day in Philadelphia when she saw a woman officer working on the street. "She looked sharp in her uniform. Just the way she carried herself and the way she handled her business. She was in charge."

Deck-Brown entered the Raleigh Police Academy shortly after graduating from college. She initially worked as a patrol officer and a crime prevention-community relations officer and was later promoted to detective. After earning her master's degree, she was promoted to sergeant and later to lieutenant and served as the department's grants manager.

Deck-Brown's husband, David, has been with the Raleigh Police Department for 25 years. "One of us outranking the other has never been an issue," she said. "He's my biggest fan."

Alumni Spotlight



Steven Nehl

Newspaper editor **Sandra Mims Rowe** '70 won the sixth Pulitzer Prize of her career when the *Portland Oregonian* was honored in April for a series of breaking news stories about a San Francisco family snowbound in the Siskiyou Mountains. Her paper also won a Pulitzer last year for a series of editorials calling for improvements in the state's mental health care system. The *Oregonian*, the largest newspaper in the Pacific Northwest, now has won five Pulitzers since she became editor in 1993. Rowe also won a Pulitzer at the *Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, where she worked for 22 years before moving to Portland.

What's different about editing a West Coast paper?

"In Norfolk, anything that related to the federal budget or the military was automatically on the front page. When I came out here I realized that salmon and trees—that's the Navy here. Also different here is that the Portland metro area, more so than any in the country, is very eager to put limits on growth to prevent sprawl. We have tighter land-use restrictions."

Tell us something we might not know about

Portland. "This is a wonderful news city. We have the busiest public library in the United States. This is a very literate and very involved market, so it's a good newspaper market."

What strikes you now when you look back on your college days?

"It was a very sheltering environment. We were isolated in what most people considered the poor part of the state and we were fighting for university status. That permeated the campus. There was certainly activism but I was astounded when I got out of college that we were on the fringes. There was drug use but it was around the fringes. We were much more sheltered. I remember race and Vietnam more than anything else."

Rowe was inducted into the Virginia Journalism Hall of Fame in 2000 and was named Editor of the Year by the National Press Foundation in 2004. She is married to Gerard Rowe, an attorney active in local nonprofit work. They have two grown daughters who live in Portland.

a recreation supervisor for Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Department. **KELLY GRAHAM KIVETTE** is a senior therapeutic recreation specialist at UNC Healthcare in Chapel Hill. She and her husband, **AARON KIVETTE** '99, have a 1-year-old son, Cole. **OLIVIA PLYMALE SALTER**, who was Cary/Apex's 1993 Junior Miss and was named the state's Most Outstanding Local Chairman after two years heading Pitt County's Junior Miss program, is an elementary school counselor and master teacher instructor with ECU's Department of Curriculum and Instruction. **LYNNETTE TAYLOR**, who was a WITN-TV 7 anchor and reporter from 1998 to 2002 before accepting an anchor position in Gainesville, Fla., returned to Greenville's WITN as the primary weekend anchor at 6 and 11 p.m.

1996 **ERIC BARTELS** oversees communications, marketing and advertising as manager of communications for the nonprofit Atlanta Junior Golf Association. **MEREDITH P. GOINS** of Maryville, Tenn., is the public relations and development director at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, a nonprofit environmental education center. **CHRIS HADDOCK** of Winterville is a commercial banker at a Greenville branch of the Raleigh-based First Citizens Bank. **MIA PARDUE HARDY**, a supervisor and recreational therapist at Morehead Memorial Hospital in Eden, became a certified laughter leader in 2006.

1995 **KELLY SCHEELE CORDER** and her husband, Tim, have a daughter, Margaret Ann, born on Oct. 12. **ALI HILLIS**, a former Charlotte resident who played Maria in a summer theater production of *West Side Story* at ECU, and had roles in *Must Love Dogs*, *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, and *Law & Order*, will appear in *Throwing Stars* with Ben Stiller and *The Ultimate Gift*, which was filmed in Charlotte.

1994 **TRACY PROCTOR DANIELS** '94 '98 and husband Eric, who have a 2-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, had a son, Michael Wayne, on Feb. 28. **NANCY BARRETT LAWRENCE**, a former First South Bank branch manager in Greenville, is vice president and branch manager for First South in Hope Mills, where she oversees consumer lending, business development and branch operations. **DR. JOY LOWRY**, a member of the N.C. Medical and N.C. Pediatric societies and an Academy of Pediatrics fellow, recently joined the staff at Frye Regional Medical Center in Hickory. **JEFF SALEEBY**, who worked for Systel for five years and has a decade of experience as a CPA, is the new finance director in Hope Mills. **LEE ANNE HENDERSON TRAGLE** of Yorktown, Va., is a nationally certified pilates instructor who teaches classes at several locations, including the Victory YMCA in Yorktown, Va., and she is vice president of the Junior League of Hampton Roads Class of 2006–2007. She and her husband, **AARON THOMAS TRAGLE** '95, have two children.

1993 **CASSANDRA DARDEN BELL** of Winterville released her fourth novel, *Changing Lanes*, in October, following *The Color of Love* (2002), *Mississippi Blues* (2004), and *After the Storm* (2005). **JACQUELINE ELLIS**, an award-winning administrator, was promoted from principal of Culbreth Middle School to a position in Wake County Schools. **BEN OWEN III**, a Seagrove potter, will travel to Santi Mountain in Gidong, China, to participate in a dedication ceremony for a park at the place where downed World War II fighter pilot Lt. Robert H. Upchurch was buried for 60 years. Owen made two jugs out of clay from Upchurch's new Moore County gravesite; one will stay in Moore County, and Owen will present the other in China.

1992 **DOYLE WHITFIELD**, who won more than 400 games as baseball coach at Southern Wayne High School, was inducted into the N.C. Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame on March 27.

1991 **KRISTA KAMENSKI ADAMS**, a national board certified teacher with 10 years of experience in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, opened Mathnasium South Charlotte, an after-school math learning center for students in preschool through 12th grade. **COLEMAN BAILEY** '91 '93, a science teacher at D.H. Conley High School, was the 2006–07 Teacher of the Year for the Northeast Region and the 2005–06 Pitt County Schools Teacher of the Year. **RALPH HOLLOWAY**, who was an athletics director in Kinston and at West Carteret High School and is currently the principal at East Carteret, was inducted into the N.C. Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame on March 27. **GEORGE STACKHOUSE**, whose Kinston High School basketball team won the 2001 3-A Eastern championship and who coaches basketball at Gray's Creek High School, offers weekend basketball lessons to children sometimes as young as 6.

1990 **SUSAN COOPERMAN BRADLEY** '90 '00 changed careers after 16 years as a band director and music educator in Beaufort County Schools and is now the eastern N.C. sales representative for Herff Jones Yearbooks. **CHRIS CAUBLE** of Faith, who was an all-conference catcher on ECU's baseball team and the head baseball coach for the title-winning team at West Rowan High School, accepted a coaching job at the new Jesse Carson High School in China Grove to be closer to his family while developing the baseball program. **JON DECKER** of Oakland, Fla., was named director of instruction at the New Albany Country Club in Columbus, Ohio, and will teach golf there from May to October and at the Grand Cypress Academy of Golf in Orlando, Fla., from November to April each year. **MARY CHATMAN**, vice president of patient care services at PCMH and an ECU distinguished alumnus, was recognized by the Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina at its inaugural Women of Distinction Banquet in March.

DELILAH JACKSON '90 '96 is executive director of human resources for Pitt County Schools. **JIM LUX** is the business manager of the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology in Durham, and combines planning and spontaneity when he crafts his hand-built pit-fired pottery, which he shows each year at the Craven Allen Gallery. **GEORGANN ATHANAELOS SAPP** '90 '91 was recognized by the Kannapolis Board of Education for her art teaching at Jackson Park and Woodrow Wilson Elementary schools and her community work: Kannapolis City Schools Mentor Committee, co-chair of Jackson Park's communications/family and community support committee, Kannapolis City Schools news team, organizing Jackson Park's secret pal program, serving on the Kannapolis centennial celebration and the Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital fundraising committees, and organizing Jackson Park's annual Big Sweep with the Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation Service and the school's art enrichment program. **ANGELA LYNN SPEAR STANCIL** '90 '94, the graduation project coordinator at Pasquotank County High School in Elizabeth City, has two children and is pursuing her principal certification.

1989 **PAM GAINEY** '89 '97 coaches girls' basketball at Rocky Mount High School and was inspired by **GERALD WHITLEY** '76, her basketball coach at Goldsboro High School who was also the assistant school superintendent of Goldsboro-Wayne County Schools. **MARY ELIZABETH FORDHAM RHODES** of Greenville, and husband, William, had a daughter, Anna Jean, on Dec. 27.

1988 **DR. LARRY DAVIDSON** works at NorthEast Medical Center Carolina and Neurosurgery and Spine Associates in Concord.

1987 **BILL COOK** '87 '93, an award-winning teacher and administrator and the current principal of Marvin Ridge High School in Waxhaw, will co-head an elementary-middle-high school cluster in Marvin with his wife, Donna, and another administrator. **MARK DESALVO**, senior vice president at Ferris Baker Watts, started a radio show called *Smart Investor*, which airs at 6 p.m. on Mondays via Norfolk, Va.'s AM 850 WTAR. **MARY ANN SANDELL FORRESTER**, who has eight years of realty experience, is part-owner of Keller Williams Coastal Area Partners in Savannah, Ga., which opened in 2005 and is the second-largest real estate company in Savannah. **PAUL M. HOGGARD** was an assistant coach and offensive coordinator for the N.C. football team that won the 2006 Shrine Bowl in Spartanburg, S.C. On Feb. 23 he was named head football coach at Richmond Senior High School in Rockingham. **ANNA HARRIS IVORY** of Peachtree City, Ga., oversees management of health information, case and risk management, safety, patient relations and medical staff services as vice president of quality at Piedmont Newnan Hospital in Newnan, Ga. **LADDEUS**

SUTTON, a cardiologist with Mid Carolina Cardiology in Gastonia, was named 2007 secretary for Gaston Memorial Hospital.

1986 **PATRICE ALEXANDER**, formerly human resources manager for the Sara Lee Bakery in Tarboro, is the new director of human resources at Greenville Utilities. **RICHARD E. HALL**, director of land use for Maryland's department of planning and president of the Maryland chapter of the American Planning Association, was nominated by Maryland Gov.-elect Martin O'Malley to be secretary of the state planning department. **ELLA TYSON HARRIS**, a vice principal at J.H. Rose High School who is active in senior citizen ministry in her church and community programs via Alpha Kappa Alpha, was recognized by the Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina at its inaugural Women of Distinction Banquet in March. **DR. LINDA GARDNER JOBE** '86 '88 of Enfield received the Dellinger Lifetime Achievement Award from the N.C. English Teachers Association at the NCETA conference in October. On Jan. 1 she retired from a career in education that included teaching in the ECU Department of English from 1988 to 1994 and most recently a position as curriculum and instructional specialist for Halifax County Schools.

1985 **TERRI DECREASE**, a 22-year teacher currently working in the academically gifted program at A.G. Cox Middle School, was named Wachovia-Pitt County Schools 2007–08 Teacher of the Year. **JOHN DEW**, who has 20 years of personal and commercial loan experience in Edgecombe and Nash counties, manages Providence Bank's new loan production office in Tarboro.

1984 **DONNA MOONEYHAM**, who participated in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in October, is the transition coordinator for the exceptional children department of Brunswick County Schools.

1983 **HENRY PROCTOR "HANK" SERMONS** of Waldorf, Md., retired from the Air Force as a colonel on Feb. 28 after 23 years of service.

1982 **SPENCER K. STEPHENS** started Packard Title & Escrow to complement his real estate and construction law practice based in Rockville, Md., where he lives with his wife, Catherine, and their two daughters, Caitlin and Meredith.

1981 **JAMES ROY GORHAM**, a colonel in the National Guard, was promoted to business banker at First Citizens Bank in Kernersville. **RANDY KEITH LANGLEY** of Battleboro is an agent with Farm Bureau Insurance in Rocky Mount. He and his wife, Denise, have two children.

1980 **ROGER L. "VERN" DAVENPORT** '80 '81, a Pitt County native who was a wide receiver on ECU's

football team, senior vice president of solutions and marketing at Siemens Medial Solutions, and chief operating officer of Eastman Kodak, is the new executive vice president and general manager of Raleigh-based Misys Healthcare Systems.

1979 **BRENDA COGDELL** is president of Tri-County Industries, a Rocky Mount-based company that recently became one of six N.C. vocational rehabilitation programs with international standards certification, allowing the company to do more subcontracting and provide job training and placement for disabled and low-income clients. **DEBORAH WALTERS DAVIS** '79 '83, a Rotarian and a board member for Ronald McDonald House who was named to Oxford's *Who's Who in Business*, was recognized by the Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina at its inaugural Women of Distinction Banquet in March. **DAVID PERRY** of Greenville modeled for several of former ECU art student Marcia Dockey Smith's Native American-themed oil and watercolor paintings that appeared in "The Spirit Within," a show at downtown Boone's Jones House Community Center in February. **MARY CHAUNCEY SCHULKEN** is an associate editor with the *Charlotte Observer*. **WILLIAM TOTTEN**, who worked at Jordan Lake State Park for 15 years,

oversees nine parks as the north district superintendent for the State Parks system. **ROY TURNER**, the athletic director at Ashley High School in Wilmington, received the NFHS Citation Award in December and is the 2007-08 president of the N.C. Athletic Directors Association.

1978 **DAVID R. WHITE** is an assistant town manager and director of public services in Southern Pines. He and his wife, **ANN WHITE** '79, have three children.

1977 **BETTY FENTRESS**, the first director of Parks and Recreation in Huntersville, returned to her directorship after a stint as director of Parks and Recreation & Senior Services in Carteret County.

1976 **JACQUELINE FINCH JACKSON** is a cross categorical resource teacher at Lufkin Road Middle School in Apex.

1975 **DR. SYLVIA BROWN** '75 '78, associate dean for graduate programs in ECU's School of Nursing, is acting dean for the school. **GLENN EURE**, a Nags Head-based artist, created sketches that were selected as models for the 50 to 75 6-foot-tall fiberglass pirates scheduled

to be placed around Greenville, like Beaufort County's crabs and the horses on the Outer Banks. **WAYNE R. MYERS** of Raleigh retired in November as a senior special agent with the USDA Office of Inspector General—Investigations after 30 years in law enforcement with the government. He is married with three children and plans to go sailing. **ROGER G. TAYLOR**, of Roger G. Taylor & Associates and AXA Advisors, is an award-winning 30-year veteran of financial services and received his second Silver Eagle Award from AXA recognizing outstanding sales achievement. **GAYLE MCCracken TUTTLE**, director of public relations and external communications at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of N.C., was named to the advisory board for the Durham YMCA.

1974 **ANNE SLOAN AULBERT** opened Roomscape, a new custom interior design and decorating business in downtown Hillsborough. **DIANE CARLSON FLOYD** '74 '76, a probation supervisor with the Virginia Beach Court Service Unit, was recognized at the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association's 15th Spring Juvenile Justice Training Institute for her 15-year work as the association's training consultant and as chair of the institute's planning committee.

1973 **KEITH BEATTY** of Intracoastal Realty Corp. was named in the *Wall Street Journal's* Top 200 list of real estate professionals. **KEN HAMMOND**, who was recognized in 2001 by *Gospel Today* magazine as one of America's Most Beloved Pastors and is pastor of Durham's 3,500-member Union Baptist Church, delivered the keynote address at Greenville's annual Community Unity Breakfast honoring Martin Luther King Jr. **CLAUDE HUGHES**, a professor at ECU, Duke and Wake Forest, and formerly an executive director of medical and scientific services at Quintiles Transnational, was named vice president for the Partnership for Genomics and Molecular Epidemiology and chief medical officer for RTI in Research Triangle Park. **ALICE F. KEENE** '73 '80, the special projects director for Pitt County Schools and a board member for the North Carolina Senior Games, was reappointed by Gov. Mike Easley to the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. **HAROLD ROBINSON**, whose record was 239-89 in his 25 years as football coach at Williamston High School and who is director of football operations at ECU, was inducted into the N.C. Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame on March 27. **CLIFF STUCKEY** '73 '77, chair of the fine arts department at Sandhills Community College, showed some of his latest paintings that incorporate landscapes with phrases written in runes at the Expressions & Impressions show in Southern Pines.

1972 **GEORGIA J. "ABBEY" ABEYOUNIS** '72 '75 of Bethel, a technology specialist at South Greenville Elementary School, was appointed by Gov. Mike Easley to the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee. **BETH GRANT** of Valley Village, Calif., portrayed a pageant official in *Little Miss Sunshine*, which received several international awards, including an Academy Award for best original screenplay. The film is Grant's second to be nominated for best picture. **LARRY W. MALLARD**, a Pollockville native and Raleigh resident who was the quality and productivity executive of consumer banking with Bank of America and the executive vice president of retail banking for First South Bank, is the chief operating officer for First South. **RAY ROGERS**, the finance administrator at Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church and a member of the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees, was appointed to the PCMH and University Health Systems boards by the UNC Board of Governors.

1971 **PHIL DIXON**, an attorney in Greenville, a member of the UNC board of governors and former chairman of ECU's trustees, was a panelist for the Chancellor's Forum on Service as part of ECU's centennial celebration on March 8. **WALTER FIELDS**, formerly of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, joined Raleigh-based Kimley-Horn and Associates' Charlotte office as a land planning consultant.

1969 **SYLVIA DOMARATRY BRILEY** of Columbia, S.C., is



Charles Buchanan, courtesy Kinston Free Press

During 26 years as director of the North Carolina Film Office, **Bill Arnold** '59 aided in the production of 700 movies shot in the state. But he was the star when dozens of friends and industry leaders gathered in Kinston recently to honor his contribution to the state's film industry. Arnold was praised for building the film industry in North Carolina into the nation's third largest, after California and New York. "He was the first person I spoke to in North Carolina," Frank

Capra Jr., president of Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington, said about Arnold during the event. "From my viewpoint as a producer, Bill was a tremendous resource for an out-of-state producer who wanted to come to North Carolina and film. Productions came here and were very well-received. They didn't find antagonism. They found warmth and hospitality." Ever modest, Arnold said he was just doing his job. "To tell you the truth, after 26 years of doing it, I'm not sure I knew exactly what the job description was. It was a matter of responding to whatever their needs would be."

John Angel '69, who designed many of the consumer lighting products sold by Sears and other major retailers throughout the 1980s, has endowed a \$25,000 scholarship for sculpture students at the School of Art and Design. "[Retired Development Director] Janet Fischer called me a few years ago and asked me, tongue in cheek, to start funding an endowment. Then she pulled out a baseball bat." Angel enjoyed success early. "By age 23, I was in charge of all product development for lighting, in charge of seven factories, and on the road for seven months a year," he says. His biggest account was Sears. After building an impressive resume, Angel left for another firm in Pittsburgh, then opened his own business in 1976.



David C. Reavis '74, who manages e-commerce for the State of North Carolina, received the 2006 Barry K. Sanders Award, presented by the Office of State Budget and Management. David has over 31 years of service in state government and is currently employed by the Office of the State Controller. He is married to **Deelane Pinkston Reavis** '75, and they have one daughter, **Evelyn Reavis Bussell** '00.

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NAME	First	Middle	Last	Maiden
CLASS YEAR	E-MAIL		DAY PHONE	EVENING PHONE
ADDRESS	CITY		STATE	ZIP
YOUR NEWS				

Alumni Spotlight



After a 31-year career, **Shirley Carraway '75 '85 '92 '00** of Hillsborough announced she would retire Oct. 1 as superintendent of Orange County Schools, which she has led the past four years. Before coming to Orange County, Carraway was associate superintendent at Pitt County Schools, where she was the first minority, as well as the first female, to be a principal at any Pitt County school. "It's exciting and scary at the same time," she said after informing the school board of her plans. She said she plans to return home to Greenville. Carraway received a master's in educational administration and a doctorate in educational leadership from East Carolina, where she also received her bachelor's degree in 1975. "I feel as young as I did 20 years ago," she told a reporter for *The Daily Tar Heel*. Carraway was selected to Orange County's top spot in April 2003 after an eight-and-a-half-month search fraught with controversy. Her first task was working to close the school system's \$1.2 million budget gap. She also dealt with issues such as the question of a district merger, the opening of a new middle school and issues with the state's new education lottery. "I have always been prepared for whatever was going to come next."



Rod Gray '94 of Raleigh, who was PeeDee the pirate his entire four years at ECU and married a cheerleader, **Amie Wilbanks '95**, was honored by his company, First Quality Enterprises, for producing \$26 million in sales for the territory in the Carolinas and Virginia. Gray, who previously worked for Southland Medical Supply, joined First Quality, which is based in Great Neck, N.Y., in 2000. He and his wife have a daughter, Olivia, and a son, Owen.

retiring after 37 years as a French teacher, 33 of which she spent at J.H. Rose High School in Greenville. She and her husband plan to move to the South Carolina coast and enjoy the beach. **JOE BYNUM '69 '76** of Defiance, Mo., retired from American Airlines as a 767 captain after flying more than 22,000 hours for Ozark Airlines, Trans World Airlines, American Airlines, USAF, and the USAF Reserve, and will be an Embriar 170 instructor pilot for Flight Safety International in St. Louis. **DR. PHYLLIS HORNS**, longtime dean of ECU's School of Nursing, is now interim vice chancellor for health sciences and interim dean of the Brody School of Medicine. **THOMASINE KENNEDY '69 '81 '87**, a retired teacher, administrator, and mental health professional from Chinquapin, is chair of the Duplin General Hospital board and was appointed to the PCMH and University Health Systems boards by the UNC Board of Governors. **RUTH SHAW '69 '72**, a former president and CEO of Duke Power, is executive advisor to the current chairman, president and CEO, and is group executive for public policy and president of Duke Nuclear. She was a panelist for the Chancellor's Forum on Service as part of ECU's centennial celebration on March 8. **RONALD "RV" VINCENT** of Greenville, the baseball coach for J.H. Rose High School's multiple conference title and championship-winning Rampants since 1974, achieved his 700th career win in a game against Eastern Wayne at Greenville's Guy Smith Stadium on March 15. The Rampants have 30 consecutive winning seasons under Vincent's leadership.

1967 CAPT. HARRY L. BALDWIN III, a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain and two-time Liberty town councilman, retired from furniture manufacturing and landscape construction and now works for Tyson & Hooks Realty in New Bern and leads fishing trips on the Neuse River. **PAT LANE** and his wife, Lynn, both of Chocowinity, pledged \$100,000 to the College of Education to found the Pat and Lynn Lane Education Scholarship Program Fund, a two-year need-based award for rising traditional juniors majoring in special education, middle grades mathematics and science and high school mathematics and science. Recipients will have to teach for at least two years in one of eastern N.C.'s 29 counties. Rep. **MARIAN MCLAWHORN '67 '88**, a Democrat from Grifton, was appointed chair of the N.C. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and vice chair of the Education Subcommittee on Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary Education. She spoke in favor of a resolution recognizing ECU at the centennial celebration on March 8.

1965 KATHY TAFT, a founder of the Communities in Schools of Pitt County who has been on the group's board of directors for 14 years, is the group's new executive director. Also on the State Board of Education, she was inducted into ECU's Educator's Hall of Fame in 2003.

1964 DR. BRUCE I. HOWELL '64 '65, president emeritus of Wake Technical Community College, where the library is named for him, lives in Cary with his wife, **MABLE LEA SMITH HOWELL '64 '67**, pursuing churchwork, antiques, genealogy, Civil War history and stock market investing. He was president of Sampson Community College from 1976 to 1980 and of WTCC from 1980 to 2003. **KAY YOW**, the 32-season women's basketball coach at N.C. State who was an ECU English major, was honored after her 700th career win with the naming of the basketball court at Reynolds Coliseum as Kay Yow Court. She is the first ACC women's basketball coach to receive such recognition. A member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the coach of the 1988 Olympic gold-medal women's team, Yow is the fifth-winningest women's basketball coach in Division I.

1962 MELTON A. MCLAURIN '62 '63, a UNC Wilmington professor emeritus of history, an award-winning author and husband of **SANDRA MCLAURIN '62 '63**, released a collection of personal narratives entitled *The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines*. **JIM KIRKLAND** and his wife, **EVELYN '61 '62**,

both of Lumberton, pledged \$20,000 for each of the next five years to establish a middle grades education scholarship at ECU.

1960 DAVE THOMAS, who was inducted into the ECU Sports Hall of Fame in 1998, retired in 2003 after 42 years as a teacher, coach and administrator, and was elected to the Wayne County Board of Education in November. Rep. **EDITH WARREN '60 '73**, a Democrat from Farmville, was appointed co-chair of the N.C. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources and vice-chair of the Education Subcommittee on Universities. She shared college memories when she spoke in favor of a resolution recognizing ECU at the centennial celebration on March 8.

1957 Sen. JEAN PRESTON '57 '73, a former teacher who is Carteret County's Republican senator in the N.C. General Assembly, complimented ECU's teacher education efforts when she spoke in favor of a resolution recognizing ECU at the centennial celebration on March 8.

1955 CHARLES B. BEDFORD of Atlanta was named Chevalier dans

l'Ordre National du Mérite by the French government for his work as co-president and program coordinator of the Atlanta Council on International Relations. As executive director emeritus of the University Center in Georgia, past president of the International Club of Atlanta and a trustee of the Georgia Council for International Visitors, he and his wife, Nancy, who is an attorney and mediator in Atlanta, are on the advancement council for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

1953 JANICE HARDISON FAULKNER '53 '56, a former ECU English professor who was the first female N.C. secretary of state and served several other roles in politics, was recognized by the Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina at its inaugural Women of Distinction Banquet in March. She moderated the Chancellor's Forum on Service that was part of ECU's centennial celebration on March 8.

1943 JOYE GRAHAM of Cedar Creek makes at least one quilt each month to donate to the Tar Heel Quilter's Guild, which provides quilts for pediatric and geriatric care centers.



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1930s ROSA WILLIAMS PARKER '33 died March 7 at age 94. A Currituck County native, she taught in King, where she met her husband, and they moved to Winston-Salem. She retired in 1975 from North Davidson High School and was active in her church and the community. **NORMA HARRINGTON MELVIN BUNDY** '35 of Burlington and Greensboro died Feb. 13. A White Oak native, she received her master's degree from UNC Greensboro and was married to Dr. V. Mayo Bundy. **MARY ELIZABETH CRAWFORD MARTIN** '35 of Raleigh died Feb. 6. A Kinston native, she taught home economics at Charles L. Coon High School in Wilson before marrying and moving to Raleigh in 1943. She was active in her church and in the PTA at several schools. She held office in the Woman's Club of Raleigh and was president of the local East Carolina Alumni Chapter.

1940s ELIZABETH HARRELL DISOSWAY '41 of New Bern died Jan. 21. She was salutatorian of the Gates High School class of 1937, and received AB degrees in English, French and history from ECTC before teaching in Weeksville, Angier, Wilson and New Bern public schools. She was a member of Eastern Star Chapter 129, the Retired School Personnel and the Golden Age Club, and was a charter member of Alpha Delta Kappa-Beta Gamma Chapter and Alpha Fidelis Sigma. **MARGARET PUGH HARDEN LANE** '44 of Wilmington died Jan. 14. A Windsor native, she studied home economics and early childhood education at ECTC and contributed to statewide regulations for kindergarten. She helped establish and manage kindergartens at several Wilmington churches. She enjoyed traveling, cutting kids' hair in her back yard, baking thin-layered coconut cakes, crafting afghans and stitching copies of the "Serenity Prayer" to give away. She met her husband on a blind date, and they were married for 62 years. **WORTH LANIER LANDEN** '45 of Wilmington died Jan. 28. A Duplin County native and a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, she attended Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., and worked for the Indian embassy in Washington, D.C. She taught public school in North Carolina for 30 years, 20 of which she spent at College Park Elementary School. **GRACE LEE EVANS RICKS** '45 of Rocky Mount died March 10. She taught in post-World War II Germany, where she met T.E. Ricks, her husband of 50 years. For more than 25 years she taught in the Rocky Mount School System and was a trustee of Nash Community College for 16 years. Gov. Jim Holshouser awarded her the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. **COLLEEN CURRIER HARRIS** '49 of Trent Woods died March 5. She taught school in Beaufort, Craven and Pamlico counties, and was active in her church.

1950s DR. ROBERT HOGAN GASKINS JR '51 of Jacksonville died March 12. Originally from Greenville, he practiced dentistry in Jacksonville from 1957 to 1991. He was active in his church, professional dental organizations and several civic groups, including Toastmasters and Kiwanis. **WINFRED ARTHUR SORRELL** '52 of Clayton died March 2. He served in the Navy from 1941 to 1947 before graduating from ECC and N.C. State. He retired from Clayton High School in 1985 after 30 years as a vocational education teacher. **ANNA GERTRUDE "TRUDY" HARDISON CARTNER** '53 of Greenville died Dec. 8. She was the 1938 salutatorian at Stokes High School and coached archery at Meredith College. Before her 1983 retirement, she taught military and public school children in Virginia and North Carolina, and was an adjunct at ECU. She was active in Delta Kappa Gamma and her church. **ANISE K. MEKEE** '55 of Mount Olive died Jan. 31. A Red Hill native, she taught in the Mount Olive School System and was active in her church choir and children's ministry. She was involved with the Twentieth Century Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution and multiple bridge clubs. **JOSEPH B. "JOE" COUNCIL** '58 died Feb. 28. He worked in chemical sales and lived in multiple states, but resided in Jacksonville for the past 28 years. **CLARENCE OLIVER REVELLE** '59 of Burlington, Vt., died Dec. 16. He served in the Army and was a representative for Boston Mutual European Sales during his 40-year insurance career, most of which he spent in Bitburg, Germany. **MACK CARLTON STOCKS** '59 '63 of Greenville died Jan. 22. A 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason from Chicod, he was a cashier and chief clerk for Norfolk Southern Railroad before entering the Army Air Corps in 1945 and serving as a technical sergeant radio operator on B-17 and B-29 aircrafts. He taught business and accounting at Pitt Community College, brokered stock for Interstate Securities and operated Huey's Restaurant. **ESTHER JARVIS WARREN** '59 '64 died Jan. 19. She taught school for 18 years before becoming principal of Third Street and Sadie Saulter elementary schools in Greenville. She was the 1970 N.C. Jaycees Outstanding Young Educator and was named Wachovia Principal of the Year in 1985. After her 1989 retirement from Pitt County Schools, she directed after-school tutorial programs in federal housing projects and supervised teacher interns for ECU. In 1991, she played on the winning National Women's Tennis Team.

1960s GEORGE HENRY BIGGS '63 of Wilmington died Feb. 3. A Wilmington native, he attended Mars Hill Junior College and ECU, and was active in his church. **EUGENE "GENE" BROWN** '63 '80 of Roper died Feb. 9. A teacher and coach, he retired from the

Department of Defense Overseas Schools, and was a member of Cashie Country Club in Windsor and a charter member of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society. **SHIRLEY MINTON HAMLET** '63 of Bermuda Run died Feb. 20. An Elizabeth City native, she retired from Piedmont Airlines/USAIR and was active in her church. **CARNICE ELGIN MANNON** '66 of Floyd, Va., died Feb. 23. He was a guidance counselor in Floyd County Schools for 20 years. He and his high school sweetheart had four children and were married for more than 50 years. **LILLIAN JEFFRIES SCOTT** '66 of Greenville died Jan. 25. She worked in Navy hospitals on the West Coast for the Red Cross's Military Welfare Services during World War II. In 1981, she retired after 14 years as a media specialist at Sadie Saulter Elementary School. She was active in her church, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Auxiliary, and Disabled American Veterans. **H.E. "HECKY" STELLINGS** '66 of Wilmington died Feb. 18. He was a CPA, founded an accounting business, and fathered seven children. In the 1980s, he hosted a radio show using the DJ name "The Raven." **ELLEN PRITCHETT** '69 of Raleigh died Jan. 19. She spent 30 years in Wake County schools teaching, coaching and mentoring a range of students.

1970s The remains of **KENNETH CLONTZ CALDWELL JR.** '71 were found on March 2 in Statesville. Caldwell, who worked at the Statesville Public Library and Goodwill Industries in Mooresville, never married and was active in his church. His family reported him missing in 2004. **WILLIAM DORSETT SEAWELL JR.** '71 of Greensboro died Jan. 31. A Kappa Alpha brother, he was owner and president of Seawell Realty, and after a merger, vice president of Yost & Little Realty. He was active in Gate City Kiwanis Club and on the Salvation Army and BB&T boards. He was president of the Greensboro Regional Realtors Association, Greensboro Preservation Society, Greensboro Merchants Association, and Starmount Forest Country Club. **DR. MARION LEROY FISHER JR.** '73 of Roanoke Rapids died Feb. 19. He received degrees from Defiance College and Duke University and became a Methodist pastor in the N.C. Western Conference. He then earned educational administration degrees from Bowling Green, East Carolina and Nova universities, and retired in 1989 after 21 years as superintendent of Weldon City Schools. **WILLIAM HENRY "BILL" LOY III** '74 of Greenville died March 10. He retired in March 2006 as an engineer for Sprint. He was the organist at Robersonville United Methodist Church. **JAMES "JIM" ALBERT WERDAL** '74 of Grifton died Feb. 11. He majored in political science, worked with DSW Electrical Contractors and was a New York Yankees fan. **BETTY JONES UPCHURCH EVANS** '75 of Rocky Mount died Jan. 27. She retired from Rocky

Mount City Schools and was active in her church and Delta Kappa Gamma. **LELA MAE MELVIN HARRELL** '77 of Harrells died Jan. 23. She retired from Sampson County Schools, and served on the Sampson Community College Board of Trustees and Alpha Delta Kappa. In 1988, she was the Sampson County recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Award. **CHRISTY WALLER HAWKINS** '78 of Kinston died Jan. 1. Married to Alan Hawkins '76 '82, she taught in Lenoir County Schools and was active in Woodington United Methodist Church.

1980s ROBERT WILLIAM NEESE JR. '81 of Raleigh died Jan. 24. He was a sales representative for All Interior Supplies and coached his children in several sports. **JULES CAESAR RIVERA JR.** '82 '84 of Havelock died Jan. 14. He was a career Marine who retired as a major after serving from 1949 to 1974, and the father of 10 children. In 1992, he retired after 10 years with the State Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. **MARTHA WARD SWAIN** '86 of Elizabeth City died March 5. For the past 18 years at the College of the Albemarle, she worked with the Student Ambassadors and was most recently the director of counseling and career development. She received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Services in 1999.

1990s WILLIAM MICHAEL ELAM '92 of Greensboro died Feb. 13. He managed The Corner, and worked at UNC Greensboro and Wachovia. **ELIZABETH ANN WORDEN** '96 of Greenville died March 4. She worked for Target and was active in her Tarboro church.

Faculty

WILLIAM CARLTON "BILL" BYRD SR. died Jan. 7. From 1970 until his 1985 retirement from ECU, he was an associate professor of community health and assistant dean of the School of Allied Health and Social Professions. He helped raise funds for the current Department of Environmental Health. He received the 1986 Distinguished Service Award from the N.C. Public Health Association and helped found rural health centers in eastern North Carolina.

DR. CALFREY C. CALHOUN, of Bogart, Ga., died Jan. 25. He retired from the University of Georgia after 25 years and then retired in 1988 as dean of ECU's School of Technology after five years in Greenville. His third retirement was from Southwest Georgia Regional Education Service Agency.



ISAAC JACKSON "JACK" EDWARDS '60 of Greenville died April 8. He was 65. He received an undergraduate degree from UNC Chapel Hill then a master's in business from East Carolina. He first managed his family business, Edwards Auto Supply, then joined the faculty in the Business Department; he later served as placement director. In the 1960s he and his wife, Rachel, opened the Book Barn and University Book Exchange in downtown Greenville. Known as among the Pirates' most enthusiastic fans, Edwards was a charter member of the Century Club, now Pirate Club, founded in 1963. He served as president of both the Pirate Club and the ECU Foundation. He was a member of the Chancellor's Society and the Order of the Cupola. He was named both the "Citizen of the Year" and the "Small Business Leader of the Year" by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce, and was honored as "Man of the Year" by the Boy Scouts of America. Memorial gifts may be sent to The Pirate Club.

HAROLD T. ELLEN '64 '75 of Angier died Jan 17. At ECU from 1963 to 1966, he was assistant baseball and assistant basketball coach. After leaving ECU, he was an award-winning and record-setting coach for high school sports and at Pembroke State University.

VICKI JENKINS PETERSON died Feb. 24. Starting in 1986, she was director of field placement for ECU's School of Social Work and Criminal Justice. She taught until 1996 when she began work as a psychotherapist at Tideland Mental Health's Williamston branch.

CYNTHIA "ELDEAN" PIERCE '74 '77 of Winterville died Jan. 15. From 1974 to 1997, she taught adult health nursing at ECU and worked in the supplemental nursing pool at PCMH. She recently worked part-time as a family nurse practitioner at Greenville Family Doctors. Pierce received several awards, including the 1991-92 ECU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award, N.C. Nurses Association's Nurse Educator of the Year recognition, and the Beta Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau's Outstanding Mentor designation.



JAMES RALPH TALTON JR. '65 of Raleigh, a former two-term chairman of the East Carolina Board of Trustees, died April 3. He was 64. A prominent civic leader and retired managing partner of the KPMG accounting firm in Raleigh, Talton also was a former chairman of the ECU Foundation and a member of the School of Business Advisory Council. His dedication to his alma mater earned him the 2001 Distinguished Alumni Service Award from both the Alumni Association and Phi Kappa Phi. He chaired the search committee that brought Chancellor Steve Ballard to Greenville.

After retiring from the accounting firm in 1999, he became a partner and chairman of Impact Design-Build, a prominent builder of custom homes in the Triangle. He also served as a director of Bear Rock Foods, The Jackson Companies, Datastream Corp., the Bolton Corp. and Waste Industries USA.

He served in leadership positions in the Association of Certified Public Accountants for North Carolina and South Carolina, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and as national director of the Institute for Management Accountants. He also was active in Greenville and Raleigh chambers of commerce and was a guiding force for the Council for Entrepreneurial Development, the Research Triangle Regional Partnership, the North Carolina Partnership of Economic Development and the North Carolina Small Business and Technology Center.

He was a trustee of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, and a director of WakeMed and the Triangle Chapter of the American Red Cross. He was inducted into the Order of the Longleaf Pine in 2003.

Jim is survived by his devoted wife of 43 years, Myrtle Weaver Talton; son, Jimmy Talton and daughter, Elizabeth Johnson.



University Archives

We are the Edgar Allen Poes!

During the 1920s and '30s, practically every East Carolina student was a member of one of three literary clubs that dominated campus life—the Edgar Allan Poe Society, the Sidney Lanier Society or the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society. The few men on campus in those days belonged to a fourth group, the Jarvis Society. The Poe and Lanier clubs were founded in 1911, and the Emerson club followed in 1926. Of the three, the Poe Society usually was the largest and became known for a flair for the dramatic, as is evident from this photo in the 1933 yearbook. That appears to be the Old Austin in the background. The Poes and the Laniers staged one-act plays each spring in a competition that was the cultural highlight of the campus year. The Emersons sponsored a spring dance that was the social highlight of the year. The three groups delighted in playing pranks on each other at Halloween. For many years, the marshals for the graduation exercise were chosen by the Poe and Lanier societies, which could include the six ladies wearing sashes on the right of the photo. Interest in literary societies waned during the 1940s and they are last mentioned in the University Archives in 1948. Yet even across the years we can hear echoes of their songs:

The Poe Society Song

Oh Edgar, Oh Edgar Allan!
We are the Edgar Allan Poes.
We are the Society,
Choice and picked variety.
Oh Edgar, Oh Edgar Allan!
March on! March on!
Beneath the red and white,
For we will conquer all our foes,
And we're sure to win in every fight.

The Emerson Society Song

Oh, Emerson Society,
Dear old White and Blue,
For you our hearts beat merrily,
As we sing this song to you;
Blue and white, everywhere
We know that they mean only you
And all you hold so true.
So, here we are, the Emersons,
Boosting for our clan.
Oh, Emerson, oh Emerson,
For you we'll always stand.

The Lanier Society Song

Let us sing a song of praise to our society,
Hail to thee, oh, Sidney Lanier!
Loyal members ever proving your sobriety
Tho' our fun to us e'er will be dear.
Then let us to our banner each a tribute pay,
Let us ever our motto uphold,
Always faithful, true, and loyal,
to thee night and day,
Hurrah for the green and gold!
Hurrah for the green and gold!

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ECU GALLERY



After 18 months of work, the Greenville Quilters Guild is completing a quilt marking ECU's centennial.

Photo by Forrest Croce

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