

WINTER 2009

# East

THE MAGAZINE OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

## Pirates & Pulitzers

Meet four graduates who've won a dozen

Margaret O'Connor, two Pulitzer Prizes for 9/11 photography





**LIFTING SPIRITS**  
The cheerleaders rouse the crowd before the West Virginia game.

WINTER 2009 **East**

THE MAGAZINE OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

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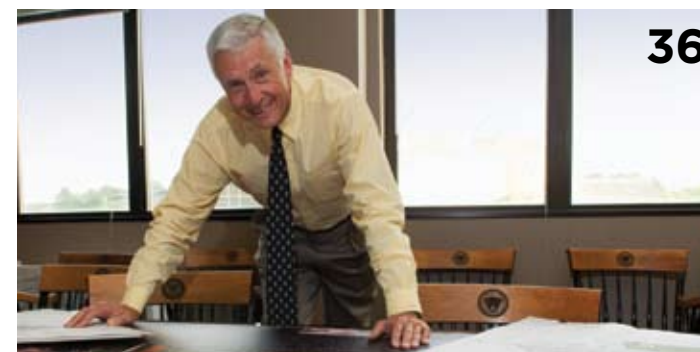
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## 9/11 in New York, seven years later

My taxi had traveled three blocks in 30 minutes and the driver was fuming. I knew traffic would be bad in Manhattan today due to Fashion Week, a huge event with a big impact on the city's economy, and ceremonies marking the seventh anniversary of 9/11, with McCain and Obama both in town. Again I think: You should have taken the subway.

Giving up, I pay the cabbie and start walking west and south at a brisk pace. I don't want to be late for my appointment at *The New York Times* with Margaret O'Connor '71, who won two Pulitzer prizes for her work on 9/11 and its aftermath. She's one of four East Carolina graduates we profile in this issue who've won a total of 12 Pulitzers.

I stop to catch my breath after reaching *The Times* building at 40th Street and Eighth Avenue. On the opposite corner, hundreds of people are streaming up from the subway and flowing down the sidewalk. Across the avenue, hundreds more are hurrying out of the Port Authority Bus Terminal. How many of them, I wonder, had taken this same route to work on this morning, seven years ago? Did they look up at the sound of airliners flying so low overhead?

Upstairs, I meet O'Connor in her office just off the main newsroom, and she invites me to tag along with her to the daily gathering of top editors who decide which stories go on the front page. She was photo editor and now is the paper's director of news design. She jots notes as the group settles on five stories and two photos for Page One, a list that her staff will follow in laying out tomorrow's edition. The editors linger over one photo; it's a firefighter, a tear in his eye, at one of that morning's 9/11 tributes.

Back in her office, she leans back and considers my question. Where were you when you heard about the attack? She's a newspaper veteran whose journalistic instincts would have quickly kicked in, so I expect a just-the-facts response. But as she talks I am reminded that to everyone there that day, 9/11 isn't a news story, it's a personal tragedy. The Twin Towers fell not more than a dozen blocks from O'Connor's apartment.

It turns out that none of the paper's award-winning photos from 9/11 are displayed on the walls of *The Times* building. After listening to O'Connor, I think I understand why.



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**Cotten Hall blanketed in snow, December 1943**

Photo from 1944 Tecoan courtesy of University Archives

### MY WINTER'S ROMANCE

Today I sat on my beach deck reading (devouring!) the latest edition of *East*. I am also observing my 64th wedding anniversary to the love of my life, now deceased, a Massachusetts Yankee whom I met during a snow storm in Greenville when I was an 18-year-old junior at ECTC. As I read, the memories flooded over me.

It was the middle of December 1943. Late in the evening a beautiful, wet snow began to fall and quickly accumulated on the streets. Our group of friends could not resist, so we pulled socks over our shoes (no overshoes—it was war time!) and with joined hands we skipped down the middle of Fifth Street into town, giggling all the way.

In Kares' we crowded into booths and ordered hot chocolate. Our excitement reached a fever pitch when I walked a group of Marines. There were very few male students at ECTC by this time; most were in the military. Our dates were primarily

from the military camps in eastern North Carolina. This group of Marines was from Cherry Point but they were stationed in Greenville to build the air base for Marine flight squadrons. One girl introduced each man but I saw only one. In August we married, in Greenville.

I did not return to school that fall. Traditional parents did not send married daughters to college in those days, and military pay of less than \$75 per month would not cover tuition and books. Because of the war-time teacher shortage, I was recruited by the school superintendent and I subsequently taught math and science in Pitt County and elsewhere on a "B" certificate.

ECU is still in my blood. Numerous family members have attended, including a daughter. And my mother, who is now an alert and active 103-year-old, was a student at ECTTS in 1924. Pride in what ECU has become is almost a tangible thing for us.

—Frances Cook '45, Raleigh

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or use the form on page 50

## Panel supports raising admission standards

The enrollment task force appointed by Chancellor Steve Ballard says East Carolina should raise its admission standards and restrict the size of next fall's freshman class to 4,000. The group's report to the Board of Trustees came as officials announced that enrollment has surged to 27,703, up about 1,700 students from a year ago. The student body has grown by roughly 6,000 in the past five years.

The task force—a broad group of faculty, staff, administrators and trustee Carol Mabe—recommends a cutoff point for admission at students scoring below 900 on the SAT with predicted college grade point (GPA) averages below 2.35. About 600 freshmen admitted this fall would not have met that higher standard.

Making it tougher to get into East Carolina would have some impact on diversity. Judi Bailey, senior executive director of enrollment management who leads the task force, told trustees the change would reduce the number of minorities in next year's freshman class by 2 percent, falling from 21 percent of freshmen now to 19 percent. The freshman class also would be 1 percent more female, up from 56 percent now to 57 percent, she said.

Curtailing enrollment growth is a difficult issue for ECU leaders because it could be seen as closing the door to higher education for some disadvantaged students in eastern North Carolina. ECU for decades has striven to provide a college education to as many high school students in the region as possible. Doing so is widely viewed as a critical element in lifting the region economically and socially.

However, the task force concluded that rapid growth in enrollment has pushed ECU beyond capacity, producing crowded

classrooms and the perception that the quality of education here has suffered. It also has diluted East Carolina's efforts to improve its graduation and retention rates.

The average SAT score of in-state freshmen has declined from 1046 in 2003 to 1016 in 2007. That 30-point drop compares with a 1-point drop across all 16 UNC campuses, according to Board of Governors statistics.

The task force also recommends tightening admission standards for students transferring here from other colleges. Beginning spring semester, a priority will be given to students who have completed two years of community college, Bailey said.

The task force recommendations, which Bailey described as "a hallmark document that will guide this institution for the next 10 years," were presented to the faculty and students in three forums held in late October in Mendenhall Student Center.

In his remarks at the annual Faculty Convocation, Chancellor Steve Ballard said

the university must balance enrollment growth against the mandate to deliver a quality education to students. "This year, we expect to have the largest freshman class in our history and a total enrollment of over 27,000 students. At the same time, our retention rates have dropped and we know that retention is affected by academic preparation," he said.

Ballard said enrollment growth also has put pressure on the university's ability to protect the campus community and to provide necessary services. "We must stop for a moment and address the question 'What is the right pace of growth?' and 'What are the immediate priorities for improving our infrastructure?'"

The chancellor said East Carolina "must invest more resources in enrollment management, enrollment services, student services and especially financial aid" because the surging enrollment demands "everything from more counselors to mentors to honors program staff."

Six-year graduation rate at:	1998	1999	2000	2001	U.S. avg.
N.C. State	72.1%	75.3%	75.0%	73.5%	66.5%
UNC Chapel Hill	84.2	86.2	86.0	84.7	66.5
<b>East Carolina</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>51.0</b>
N.C. A&T	45.0	42.1	39.8	42.9	51.0
UNC Charlotte	51.5	54.3	55.2	56.1	51.0
UNC Greensboro	57.2	58.3	59.4	56.5	51.0
Appalachian State	66.6	70.0	68.4	69.6	48.3
Fayetteville State	36.4	44.9	41.1	38.7	48.3
N.C. Central	53.6	47.8	52.8	50.9	48.3
UNC Pembroke	46.9	41.1	41.8	40.3	48.3
UNC Wilmington	68.4	70.2	71.9	71.6	48.3
Western Carolina	52.7	54.4	54.7	55.4	48.3
Elizabeth City State	48.0	52.4	52.5	53.4	46.5
UNC Asheville	61.0	62.7	62.2	61.9	46.5
Winston-Salem State	46.9	51.5	47.3	48.5	46.5

Source: UNC Board of Governors

Jay Clark



**Laura Marie Leary Elliott '66**, the first African American to graduate from East Carolina, spent a day on campus in October participating in an oral history project mounted by the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the ECU Office of Institutional Diversity. As a Greenville high school student in 1962, she was picked by Leo Jenkins and Dr. Andrew Best, Greenville's first black doctor, as the centerpiece of their quiet plan to peacefully integrate the campus. Shortly before that time, Jenkins succeeded in amending the school charter to drop the word "white" from the description of its students. Ms. Elliott, who lives in suburban Washington, D.C., retired from the U.S. Treasury Department after a long career in government service. She visited with students in an African American Studies class and was feted at an honors event at the student center.



Learn more about ECU's African American Studies program, page 32.

## ECU aims to improve graduation rates

For every 100 freshmen who enroll at East Carolina, about 58 leave with a diploma within six years, a percentage that's better than the national average for schools of the same type and size, according to a report by the UNC Board of Governors. Still, ECU officials say they aren't satisfied and are trying to improve the school's graduation rate by reducing the number of students who drop out.

"These aren't bad numbers but they can be better," said Judi Bailey, senior executive director of enrollment management. She said East Carolina is aiming to improve its retention rate—the percentage of freshmen who successfully make it to sophomore year—from around 77 percent

now to 82 percent in four years.

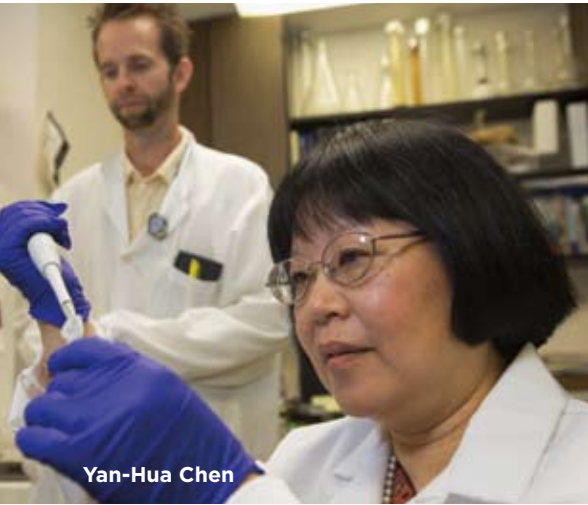
"That will be hard for us to accomplish, given that East Carolina places such importance on providing access to higher education. We are opening the doors to a college education to a wider diversity of students, not all of whom arrive here completely equipped to succeed. Our challenge is to increase the services and support we provide these students so they have a better chance of making it through to sophomore year."

In 2003, 53.3 percent of East Carolina students graduated in four years. Nationally, only 26 percent of college students graduated in four years.

ECU's retention rate was 77.2 percent in 2006, down from 78.8 percent in 2003. The current national average for universities like East Carolina is 75.9 percent.

Studies have shown that most students who drop out of college do so during freshman year. East Carolina provides extra support and academic counseling services to students during those crucial semesters. One new service this year is the Pirate Tutoring Center, which offers homework help in one-on-one sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

For statistical purposes, the Board of Governors groups the 16 campuses by size and type. N.C. State and UNC Chapel Hill are the largest campuses in the system and have the most selective admissions standards. Thus, they also have the highest retention and graduation rates of the 16 campuses. East Carolina is grouped with UNC Greensboro, UNC Charlotte and N.C. A&T. East Carolina had the highest retention and graduation rates within its group, the Board of Governors report said.



Yan-Hua Chen

**NIH grant funds kidney research**

Funded by a \$1.6 million grant, an East Carolina researcher is studying a protein that might hold a key to reducing high blood pressure and improving kidney function in people with kidney disease. Dr. Yan-Hua Chen, an associate professor of anatomy and cell biology at the Brody School of Medicine, has received the five-year grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, to study the function of claudin-7, a protein that makes up part of the barrier that controls the flow of molecules between cells.

Chen's preliminary research has shown that claudin-7 interacts with an enzyme called WNK4 kinase and forms a pathway for chloride ions to enter the bloodstream. Interaction of claudin-7 with a mutated version of WNK-4 may lead to high blood pressure. Understanding the role of claudin-7 in these intercellular barriers and pathways could lead to medicines that could help people with high blood pressure as well as kidney disease, Chen said. It could also help people whose blood pressure is too low. "We need to find out the mechanism of this claudin-7 in the control of ionic balance in the body," Chen said. "The next five years will be very exciting for us."

Chen began her research with grants last year from the ECU Division of Research and Graduate Studies and the N.C.

Cliff Hollis

Biotechnology Center, which allowed her to collect necessary data to revise and resubmit her federal grant request.

—Doug Boyd

**Antibody offers hope for cancer**

Pathologist Anne Kellogg has developed a monoclonal antibody that could play a vital role in treating the most common form of ovarian, breast and other cancers. She is working with two drug firms, ImmunoGen Inc. and sanofi-aventis, that have expertise in formulating antibodies into cancer therapies and taking them to clinical trials.

Kellogg created the antibody, called DS-6, that attaches to cancer cells, serving as a vehicle for delivering a potent cancer-killing agent developed by ImmunoGen. The antibody latches on to tumor cells and enables the whole compound—the antibody and the attached cell-killing agent—to enter the cancer cell. Once inside, the agent kills the tumor cell.

"We can't give such a potent agent on its own because it would be too toxic, but if we can link it to an antibody, it goes inside the tumor cell and is released inside the tumor cell, which is really an amazing feat," Kellogg says.

Monoclonal antibodies are manufactured



Anne Kellogg

Cliff Hollis

proteins, produced from a single parent cell, that bind to a specific substance. One of the best-known monoclonal antibodies is trastuzumab, sold under the brand name Herceptin and used to treat breast cancer.

Kellogg's research is funded in part by ECU and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. "We feel we made a wise investment that will help advance the treatment of cancer," said Peter

Kragel, chair of the department. Future grants from ImmunoGen and sanofi-aventis are under discussion.

—Doug Boyd

**Brody gets bigger:** Hoping to increase the supply of family doctors serving eastern North Carolina, the Brody School of Medicine began the year with its biggest-ever class of first-year students, 76. All of the 37 men and 39 women are North Carolina residents. Four are part of the "MD in 7" program that allows students to enter medical school after three years of undergraduate study.

**Family Medicine Center:** Construction has begun on the \$40 million Family Medicine Center, a 117,000 square-foot facility that will triple the space available for Brody doctors to see patients and train the next generation of family doctors. "This project has been needed for 15 years," trustees vice chair David Brody said at the September groundbreaking. "The facility we have was built at the beginning of the medical school when we were seeing a quarter of the patients we see now, and we outgrew it 15 years ago." The new center will rise beside the East Carolina Heart Institute and will have more than 60 exam rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory, a geriatric center and better parking.



**Teaching financial fitness**

You usually think of wellness in terms of your physical health, but two ECU professors want students to think about wellness in terms of their financial health. Mark Weitzel and Len Rhodes teach Finance 1904, which is becoming one of the more popular classes offered by the College of Business. This semester Weitzel and Rhodes are "team teaching" two sections of 250 students each. That's 500 students taking the class now compared to just 60 seven years ago. Open to all majors, Finance 1904 is offered in conjunction with the Financial Wellness Institute within the College of Business. We asked Weitzel and Rhodes what they've learned teaching students how to balance a checkbook and other such skills.

**Q: What are the two most important principles you try to teach students about handling money?**

**A:** We instill the importance of constant financial planning and thinking early about retirement. We encourage students

to take advantage of free money—such as matching 401K contributions. After all, where else can you get an immediate, 100 percent return on your investment? We also teach students to be savvy consumers and how to protect themselves—especially from individuals who prey on the financially illiterate. After taking our course, students will have learned the skills to make the most of their money through the lifelong principles we teach.

**Q: What is the worst mistake students make managing their money?**

**A:** Borrowing more than they need. Between credit cards and student loans, students get in over their heads without even realizing it. It's a one-two punch: students will use a student loan for things it's not intended for, trying to buy a better lifestyle. That problem is compounded with credit card debt they can't pay off. Students take on all of this debt without truly understanding the long-term financial impact after they graduate.

You can learn more about FINA 1904 and the Financial Wellness Institute at [www.ecu.edu/cs-bus/fina1904info.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-bus/fina1904info.cfm).



Family Medicine Center

**Campaign at \$112 million**

As of Oct. 1, more than \$112 million had been raised toward the Second Century Campaign's \$200 million goal. Through the generosity of the thousands of alumni, donors, and friends who have supported the campaign, many more students and faculty will have the resources necessary to change lives and transform communities. Two important ways to support the campaign are through student scholarships and endowed professorships.

Endowed professorships represent long-term support for faculty members and their research and pioneer projects that offer potential breakthroughs and innovation. They honor ECU's most distinguished faculty and help attract more outstanding scholars and teachers. Through the N.C. Distinguished Professor Endowment Trust Fund, the state provides supplemental grants for endowed professorships, matching \$1 of every \$2 donated. For example, a gift of \$333,000 could qualify for a matching grant of \$167,000 to establish an endowment of at least \$500,000.

In 2008, Barbara '83 and Chris Bremer established the Barbara W. Bremer Distinguished Professorship in Language Learning and Literacy Disorders in the College of Allied Health Sciences. Barbara Bremer received a master's in speech language pathology from East Carolina and her husband is a professor emeritus of family medicine in the Brody School of Medicine. The first of its kind in the college, the Bremer professorship—and other professorships like it across the university—allow professors to concentrate more on research, collaboration and instruction.

Likewise, scholarships enable students to concentrate on their studies and student life rather than financial concerns. Currently, ECU can only support 60 percent of the financial aid requests of its neediest students. More than 80 percent of ECU graduates have college loan debt. Student scholarships help reduce that debt for students, increasing their opportunities after graduation.

Starting with the 2009–10 academic year, one of those scholarships will be awarded thanks to the generosity of the late Geraldine Mayo Beveridge. A native of Pamlico

County, Beveridge included ECU in her will. After her death in May, the proceeds from her estate endowed an Access Scholarship fund for a full-time undergraduate student coming from one of four high schools in eastern North Carolina.

The Access Scholarship program supports students with strong academic records for whom college might not be a possibility because of financial need. Access Scholarships are awarded to North Carolina residents with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and demonstrated financial need. This year, ECU awarded 62 Access Scholarships, with the goal of providing at least 100 annually.

Contributions such as those of Dr. and Mrs. Bremer and Mrs. Beveridge are vital to East Carolina's future. Scholarships and endowed professorships like those established by these two gifts help attract the best and brightest faculty and students, and ensure that the university can continue to provide a quality educational experience that is uniquely ECU.

Support the Second Century Campaign by visiting [www.ecu.edu/devt](http://www.ecu.edu/devt) or by calling 252-328-9550.

—Kara Loftin



Jay Clark

university affairs committee, said the board believes “we have strong leadership at ECU, and we want to recognize that leadership and keep the team in place.”

**Big fine for post-game revelry**

Investigations and recriminations continued to echo across campus as a result of the post-game celebration and melee after East Carolina's upset football victory over then-No. 8 West Virginia in September.

Even as the university continued a probe into whether one or two police officers used excessive force in restraining some students as thousands of fans rushed the field, East Carolina paid a \$10,000 fine imposed by Conference USA. Safety rules adopted by the conference stipulate that the playing field must remain clear until the visiting team and game officials have gone to the dressing room.

Conference officials warned that any similar incidents could result in ECU losing hosting privileges for conference championships.

**Campus crime remains low**

East Carolina chalked up another year with very few major crimes, according to an annual safety report released by Campus Police Chief Scott Shelton. One case of forcible sexual offense was recorded on campus in 2007, the last year for which complete statistics were available, down from five in 2006, the report said.

While major crime rates are low, arrests for liquor law violations are spiraling, rising from 126 in 2006 to 424 in '07. In all, the school took 571 disciplinary actions for liquor law violations. There were 55 arrests for illegal drugs in '07 compared to 48 in '06; about half of the arrests occurred in residence halls. Campus police also investigated 44 burglaries, about the same as in '06. Three car thefts were reported, compared to two in '06. For the third year in a row, there were no cases of murder or negligent manslaughter.

**Trustees sweeten Holtz's contract**

The Board of Trustees approved a six-year contract extension for football coach Skip Holtz that will keep him in Greenville through 2013. The contract guarantees Holtz a compensation package of \$4.07 million with incentives that could make the deal worth an estimated \$9.5 million.

“I remain genuinely appreciative and grateful to the leadership we have at East Carolina for the confidence and support they have in the direction that our program is heading,” Holtz said.

The contract calls for a guaranteed base salary of \$565,000 in 2008 with an increase to \$605,000 in 2009 and \$655,000 in remaining years. He will receive incentive and bonus compensation, including \$25 per season ticket sold, and 5 percent of

all donations to the Pirate Club annual fund. He also will be rewarded for student academic success, starting at \$100,000 and increasing by \$25,000 per year. Total potential compensation would be roughly \$1.2 million a year. The agreement also includes a \$100,000 buy-out clause should Holtz leave ECU prior to the expiration of the contract.

Holtz, 44, has led the Pirates to two bowl appearances and consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1999 and 2000. He's also led the Pirates to their first national ranking since 1999.

**HIGHEST PAID FOOTBALL COACHES**

*Dollars in millions*

1. Bob Stoops, Oklahoma . . . . .	\$ 6.5
14. Bobby Bowden, Florida State . . . . .	2.5
19. Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech. . . . .	2.1
20. Butch Davis, Carolina . . . . .	2.1
37. David Cutcliffe, Duke . . . . .	1.2
50. Jim Grobe, Wake Forest . . . . .	1.2
<b>51. Skip Holtz, ECU . . . . .</b>	<b>1.2</b>
57. Tom O'Brien, N.C. State . . . . .	1.1

Source: Coaches Hot Seat web site. Figures include bonuses and incentives

The trustees also approved an amendment to Athletic Director Terry Holland's contract that raises his salary by \$32,400 to \$356,400 a year. The raise is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008. Robert V. Lucas, who chairs the board's

**Jarvis Hall turns 100**

One hundred years ago, C.V. York's construction company started building Jarvis Hall, the first structure to rise on the East Carolina campus. York's grandson, former Raleigh mayor Smedes York (shown with Chancellor Ballard), returned to the building to celebrate the centennial of the original groundbreaking. On display were the historic shovel used to break ground for Jarvis Hall and a photograph documenting the July 29, 1908, event. “I don't think anybody could have realized then what East Carolina would come to mean to our state,” York, chairman of York Properties, said. His grandfather's company went on to construct four more buildings on campus before moving to Raleigh, where it continues today. The 100-year-old residence hall was last renovated in 1999 and continues to house ECU students.





Renovation to two campus buildings have been completed. McGinnis Auditorium (left) reopened after a facelift to its iconic art deco exterior and modernization to its theatre stage mechanics. Todd Dining Hall (right) on College Hill reopened after \$3 million in renovations that transformed the cafeteria into a lively, market-style facility.

Watch Pirate TV on YouTube

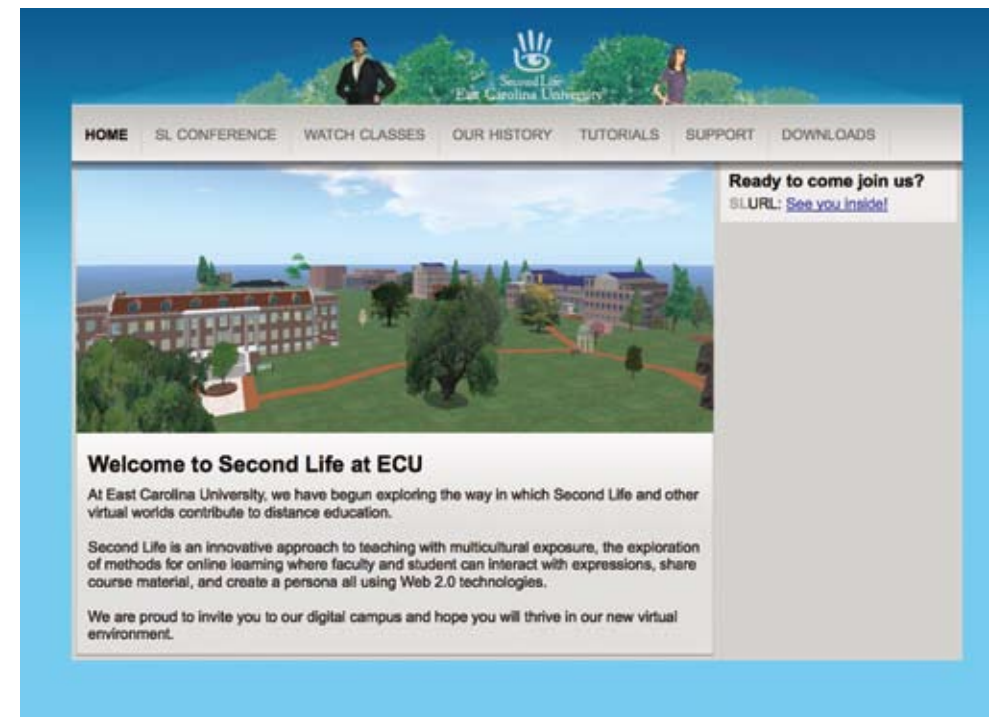
East Carolina now has its own channel on YouTube, [www.youtube.com/ecu](http://www.youtube.com/ecu), a site stocked with lots of programs about the school as well as pop music videos, hilarious accidents, “science” experiments featuring breath mints and diet cola and other serious and funny stuff. The channel’s lineup will evolve over time, using videos created by departments, organizations and individuals from across campus. Lectures, guest speakers, art performances and sporting events are among the type of videos available. “We see YouTube as an opportunity to push ECU’s educational efforts anytime and anywhere,” said Jack Brinn, ECU chief information officer.

Me and my avatar go to ECU

East Carolina’s new Second Life virtual community makes online education less like online banking and more like the real thing. Now, when an online student logs on to Second Life, his computer screen becomes a window into a virtual ECU, complete with faithful, though animated, reproductions of campus landmarks like the Cupola, Flanagan Building, and the Clock Tower. Want to talk to the professor about homework? Your avatar—a digital re-creation of you—can sit down with the professor’s avatar anytime during online office hours.

“Many more students are visiting my office in Second Life than my real office,” said Abbie Brown, associate professor in the Department of Instructional Technology, and an early adopter of Second Life. She said Second Life and similar virtual communities give online students something that until now only traditional students enjoyed—the sense psychologists call “social presence,” the feeling a student gets from being immersed in the campus environment. It is the feeling they get walking to class, interacting with fellow students, and learning in a communal atmosphere. Social presence usually is lost with online education.

Second Life gives online students the sense of participating in a virtual classroom in



real time with other students. These virtual communities have become a viable tool in higher education and a hotbed for new ideas in pedagogy. As ECU’s virtual campus continues to grow, Sharon Collins, program director for Academic Outreach, hopes it becomes even more evocative of the brick and mortar campus with a variety of things to do and people—or their avatars—to interact with.

You don’t have to be taking online classes to visit this virtual East Carolina. Visitors to [hawk.aos.ecu.edu/secondlife/](http://hawk.aos.ecu.edu/secondlife/) are welcome to explore the site; programmers continue working to make the virtual ECU more

closely resemble the real thing.

The university is interested in “letting alumni, graduate students, people interested in athletics know that this is a place that they can come if they can’t come to a football game or they can’t come to campus, but still want to feel a part of campus,” Collins said.

There’s more to do in Second Life than just attending classes. Visitors can conduct real-world business, listen to radio broadcasts of ECU football games, browse the Internet, meet up with old friends or just reminisce about college days in Greenville.

—Brian Paris

EAST CAROLINA TIMELINE

75 YEARS AGO



**Teachers say Aarrgh**  
The Men’s Athletic Association votes on Feb. 26, 1934, to change the identity of East Carolina’s three intercollegiate sports teams—baseball, basketball and football—from the Teachers to the Pirates. It’s believed the switch to a more macho mascot will inspire “more spirit and enthusiasm” among the student body. To cement the switch in mascots, the 1934 *Tecoan* yearbook publishes several drawings of swashbuckling pirates.

50 YEARS AGO



**There she is...**  
In the fall of 1958, freshman Betty Lane Evans of Greenville is crowned as Miss North Carolina 1959 and later is a semifinalist in the Miss America pageant. She is the first of what so far are six ECU students to be Miss North Carolina. The others are:  
• Anita Johnson in 1969;  
• Patsy Gail Wood in 1971;  
• Mary Rudroff, who won a rival state contest and represented the state in the Miss USA pageant in 1971;  
• Monica Palumbo, in 2001 (later chosen as Miss Congeniality in the Miss USA contest) and  
• Dana Reason, in 2003. Ms. Reason was a runner-up in the Miss America pageant.  
In '71, the *Goldsboro News-Argus* prints a story which notes that East Carolina students currently or recently were: N.C. Apple Queen, Rhododendron Queen, Southeastern N.C. Tobacco Queen, N.C. Blueberry Queen, Watermelon Queen, Peach Queen, and Miss National Smile Girl.

40 YEARS AGO



of a graveyard of the Croatan Indian tribe native to the region. An Indian priest visits the site to perform a ritual before construction begins. The shaman says the ghosts of the Indians will be pleased if the building is named after their tribe instead of the intended name, Auxiliary Student Supply Store. In 1991 the Croatan is remodeled into a full-service restaurant. It’s now a Chic-fil-A.

**The Croatan opens**  
Plans are launched in the fall of 1968 to build a new student store and soda shop to replace facilities in the Old Cafeteria Building. The chosen location, on the east end of the mall between the new Brewster and Rivers buildings on space once occupied by the football stadium, is thought to be the site

25 YEARS AGO



**Tornadoes kill 42**  
A “perfect storm” of four tornadoes rakes eastern North Carolina on March 28, 1984, killing 42 people and injuring 800 others. One of the four storms touches down in Snow Hill in Greene County, killing six people, and cuts a 46-mile-long path of destruction 1,200 yards wide into Ayden, Winterville and the east side of Greenville. The campus is largely spared any damage. In all, the F4 tornado kills 12 people in Pitt and Greene counties, including six in Greenville, injures 153 and destroys 300 homes. Damages are estimated at \$15 million. Hundreds of East Carolina students volunteer in the rescue and recovery operations. The football team is sent to the airport to unload planes arriving with relief supplies  
*Images courtesy University Archives*

Cliff Hollis



**Rachel Raab MD '02** joined the BSOM faculty in the division of hematology/oncology, continuing a tradition begun by her parents, Drs. Spencer and Mary Raab, who founded the division in 1977. She just completed a residency and fellowship training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, N.Y. Like her mother, Raab specializes in breast cancer.

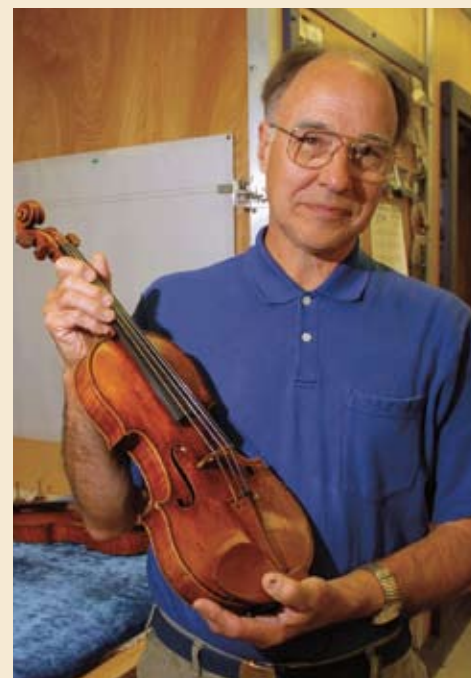
degree in biological sciences. After serving on the faculty of Old Dominion University from 1982–1994 and working at the Natural History Museum of London from 1994–1999, Culver joined the faculty of ECU in 1999. Over the past three decades, he has received 31 research grants totaling more than \$1.4 million.

Professor **Marianna Walker '79 '81** was named the Barbara W. Bremer Distinguished Professor in Language Learning and Literacy Disorders in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. It is the first distinguished professorship in the College of Allied Health Sciences. Barbara Bremer, a speech language pathologist, and Dr. Chris Bremer, professor emeritus of family medicine in the Brody School of Medicine, established the professorship to focus on research and education concerning school-aged language learning and literacy disorders and how they are related.

**Norma Epley** is the new director of the University and Medical Center Institutional Review Board (UMCIRB). She comes from the University of the South and is co-founder of the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative program that IRB uses to train researchers in the ethical use of human participants in research.

**Julie L. Poorman**, a veteran administrator of student financial services, was named director of financial aid. Poorman was director of the Office of Student Financial Aid at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Before that, she was director of state scholarship administration for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Poorman holds a bachelor's in political science and a master's in public administration, both from Iowa State.

Assistant professor **John Heilmann** received one of five 2008 Advancing Academic Careers Awards from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association.



Physics professor **George Bissinger** was elected as a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America for his research involving violin acoustics. Bissinger began his research in 1971 with Dr. Carleen Hutchins. Since his arrival on campus 35 years ago, Bissinger has continued this research, which involves normal mode-materials and structural acoustics analysis of the origins of violin sound and their relationship to perceived quality.



Professor of Arts Education **Alice Arnold** delivered remarks celebrating American creativity in the 20th century at the second World Creativity Summit in Taipei, Taiwan, this summer. She was a guest of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**PERFORMING ARTS**

A Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and one of the world's best-known singing groups highlight the winter portion of the **S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series**. **Marvin Hamlish**, who won the Pulitzer Prize for *A Chorus Line*, will appear with the ECU Symphony Orchestra Nov. 21 in Wright Auditorium, preceded by dinner and discussion. **The King's Singers** will put the community in a holiday mood with a concert at Wright Auditorium Dec. 11. The world-famous sextet will present a type of traditional English carol service that mixes seasonal music with seasonal readings from works by English writers.



**Chu-Fang Huang**, first prize winner in the 2005 Cleveland International Piano Competition, presents a recital in Wright Auditorium Jan. 23. She was a finalist in the 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, and won the 2006 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Metropolitan Opera baritone **Nathan Gunn** will perform Feb. 29, accompanied by pianist **John Wustman**, this year's Robert L. Jones Distinguished Visiting Professor in the School of Music. The two will perform Franz Schubert's *Die schone Mullerin*.

known harpsichordist. Andrews and **Jeffrey Ward**, assistant director of choral activities, also will make presentations. Fishell left ECU last summer for a position at Indiana University.



**CHAMBER MUSIC**  
The popular **Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival** begins the New Year with a wide-ranging program Jan. 8–9 at Fletcher Recital Hall featuring Beethoven's *String Trio in C-minor, Op. 9 No. 3*; Rachmaninoff's *Suite No. 2 for two pianos, Op. 17*; and Faure's *Piano Quartet No. 2 in G-minor, Op. 45*. **Ara Gregorian**, artistic director of the festival, will be joined by pianists **Adam Neiman** and **Keiko Sekino**, violist **Maria Lambros** and cellist **Ani Aznavoorian**.

**RELIGIOUS ARTS**  
**Colin Andrews**, interim director of organ and sacred music studies, is taking over for his wife, Janette Fishell, in coordinating the annual Religious Arts Festival at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Greenville Jan. 29–31. Among the performers this year will be **Wilma Jensen**, well-known organist, teacher and conductor, and **Frances Fitch**, nationally

**THEATRE**  
Moliere's farce, *The Imaginary Invalid*, will be the second play in the **ECU/Loessin Playhouse** series on Nov. 20–25. It's a tale of a hypochondriac who tries to persuade his daughter to marry a doctor as a way to get free medical care. The third production

of the season will be **Bat Boy—The Musical**, with a story that has been called a mix of *My Fair Lady* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The production is scheduled Feb. 12–17. Both plays will be in McGinnis Theatre at the Messick Theatre Arts Center.

**FAMILY FUN**

The **Gizmo Guys** will bring their blend of juggling and jokes to the ECU Family Fare series Jan. 30. Allan Jacobs and Barrett Felker have performed more than 2,500 times since 1987. They also have taught juggling in circus schools.

**MUSIC**

The Ninth Annual **NewMusic@ECU Festival** will take place Feb. 25–March 1, with the **Daedalus Quartet** and **Pulsoptional** among the featured guest performers. Seven concerts will be presented along with master classes with visiting composers, performers and conductors. New for 2009 will be an orchestra composition competition. Among the ECU performers will be the **Chamber Singers**, **Symphony Orchestra** and **NewMusic Camerata**.

The ECU Jazz Studies program

is teaming up with the Hilton Greenville Hotel for a series of **Jazz at Night** performances that extends into the spring. Students in the jazz program, as well as faculty members and guest musicians, will perform. The hotel will donate a portion of the proceeds to the university's Jazz Studies program. Performances will be Jan. 23 and Feb. 20, each beginning at 8 p.m.

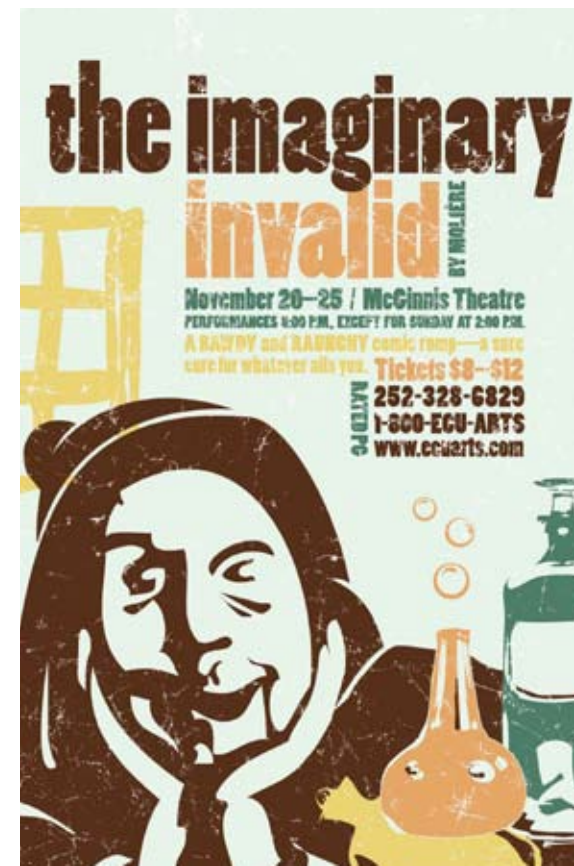
Student performing groups in the School of Music have a busy winter ahead. The **University Chorale** and **St. Cecilia Singers** will perform Nov. 16, the **Choral Scholars** will sing Dec. 2, and the **St. Cecilia Singers** and **Choral Scholars** will sing Feb. 8. The **University Chorale** will perform Feb. 22. Among smaller instrumental ensembles, the **Percussion Ensemble** will perform Nov. 19, Feb. 5 and Feb. 18. The **Guitar Ensemble** will play Dec. 3. Among larger ensembles, the **ECU String Chamber Music** players will perform Nov. 24, the **Symphonic Wind** and **Jazz** ensembles will play Feb. 6, and the **Symphonic Band** and **Concert Band** will perform Feb. 17. The **Symphony Orchestra's**

winter concert is scheduled Feb. 10, with faculty member Ara Gregorian as guest soloist. Music School faculty members will stage a Mozart's Birthday celebration Jan. 27.

**VISUAL ART**

The annual **School of Art and Design Holiday Exhibition**, featuring reasonably-priced art and craft work by students in a variety of media, will take place in Wellington B. Gray Gallery Dec. 4 and 5, 9 a.m.–8 p.m., and Dec. 6, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Proceeds from the sale benefit art students and the school's various art guilds.

—Steve Row





Jay Clark

## ‘Launching a dental school is a rare opportunity’

*Editor’s Note: East Carolina’s new School of Dentistry takes a giant step forward with the arrival of James R. Hupp, its first dean. Hupp comes to ECU after six years as dean of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. He has a dental degree from Harvard University as well as degrees from the University of Connecticut, Rutgers University and Loyola College in Maryland. In an interview with writer Marion Blackburn, he described these experiences and his vision for the dental school.*

**In addition to your dental degree, you have an M.D., an M.B.A. and a law degree. How will this level of education serve you as dean of the School of Dentistry?**

I think education gives you certain perspectives that are helpful in any profession, not just in dentistry. For instance, with the law degree you learn to think like a lawyer. You understand that there are many ways to interpret things, and you learn to analyze things in a way you might not have done

without having been through a process like law school that teaches you the process of critically thinking and dealing with a lot of situations. Before I make decisions, I contemplate a little more deeply the motives and ramifications involved. I’ve become more analytical, as a habit, not just once in a while.

**Do you have any connections to North Carolina?**

I have lots of friends in the Raleigh-Durham area, and one of my closest friends is Dr. David Frost in Chapel Hill. Our families have grown up together. I also consider Dr. Ray Williams, chair of periodontology at the UNC School of Dentistry, a good friend, and we did research together when I was in dental school. Drs. Dale Misiek and Myron Tucker of Charlotte and Ray Fonseca of Asheville are also good friends. I look forward to developing friends east of I-95.

**Are you looking forward to living in eastern North Carolina?**

North Carolina is a place people dream

about. We’ve always felt that if we had a choice, we’d love to live in this state. My wife and I are very social, and we love to visit with people. That’s a common trait in North Carolina. We also like to be near the water and enjoy the mountains. One thing I’m looking forward to in eastern North Carolina is that I’m a big-time gardener, and I’ll be able to grow during the entire year. North Carolina is a progressive, growing state with a good economy. There is a vibrant feeling, but it’s still part of the South. I grew up in Memphis, Tenn., so I have a fondness for Southern traditions, but I like to have diversity in my surroundings, too.

**So you won’t feel like a stranger here.**

We’ve been warmly met by people in Greenville. Two years ago, I was one of the consultants who helped confirm that North Carolina would be able to sustain and benefit from a second dental school, and that having a school to educate community-minded dentists was a good strategy.

**There is a special purpose for our School of Dentistry, just as there is for the School of Medicine.**

Yes. The dental school will educate and train individuals who are prepared to be excellent general dentists, and who will seek opportunities to practice in rural and underserved communities in North Carolina. Other dental schools don’t have this kind of mission. They have no or very little in terms of a community service mission.

**You’ve had a memorable experience in Mississippi, having endured Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.**

We lived through that, and many of our dental students and their families suffered a great deal. Though the university was far away enough to avoid a direct hit, we had a substantial burden afterward, along with the rest of the state. There were people coming in from the coast with nowhere to live, and dental patients who had to be taken care of. Mississippi is still suffering from that catastrophic storm, so it’s in many ways the defining event of my time at the University of Mississippi.

**As part of its dental school, ECU will build and staff eight to 10 “service learning centers” in underserved areas across the state. Can you describe how they will operate and how they will serve the school’s mission?**

These centers are a very distinctive part of the dental school. There will be a “mother ship” in Greenville, our physical school, where students will study during the first three years. In addition, we will establish centers across the state in rural areas. Each student will spend their final year of education in a clinical site. They won’t spend their fourth year at the school. It will be in a community away from Greenville. Most dental schools serve as a safety net for the poor, but we will extend that capability across the state.

**Another distinctive program at ECU will be the dental residency.**

That’s right. Dental residents are students who will have already completed their four-year dental degree. They will be in residency at the practice centers where they will increase their knowledge beyond

dental school in a certain area, and gain additional expertise. Each of these service learning centers will have fourth-year dental students, residents and faculty members providing services. These practices will offer a more effective delivery system than having everything at one centralized dental school site. The services will be more customized to the patients’ needs. Students, residents and faculty at these centers will also be able to stay in touch and participate in courses through the Internet. Distance learning will allow them to participate in seminars and other course work when they are not with patients. Consultations with faculty at the dental school will also occur via the Internet.

**Do you have a timetable for hiring faculty?**

To begin curriculum development and accreditation, we will need a leadership team in place as soon as possible. We hope to begin interviewing by December or January, and have the team in place by spring. Our leadership team will have five to six people. These are the group who will organize the school. Their responsibilities will be curriculum planning, recruitment, planning for accreditation and developing relationships across campus and state. The next group of faculty will be in the basic sciences—atomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, physiology. The medical school’s basic sciences faculty are also associated with Allied Health Sciences and the College of Nursing, so there’s already some sharing going on. We expect to share in this collaboration. But we also understand that bringing in 50 dental students a year, it will be unreasonable to ask the same faculty to assume these teaching duties. We anticipate additional hiring, but it will be as collaborative as possible. Our clinical faculty will be hired soon thereafter.

**When do you think the first service learning centers will open?**

Within the first three years, we hope to have two or three of them up and running. The communities haven’t been identified yet, but we’d like for the state and its citizens to see some return on its investment as soon as we can.

**What will be your first steps as dean?**

I’ll start by building relationships and meeting with other university deans, both in health sciences and across campus. Next, I will set out to get to know the community at large, and build relationships with dentists in the area. I will also reach out to state legislators and other dentists across the state. I know there has been some disquiet about whether another school of dentistry is appropriate for the state. Now that it has been decided, I want to help make it clear that our school will not compromise the program at Chapel Hill, but can perhaps enhance it by having a different core mission that is still collaborative. Launching a dental school is a rare opportunity. It’s a once in a decade opportunity. The people who’ve done it before are a rare breed. I feel incredibly fortunate to be among them.

### EDUCATION

M.B.A.—Loyola of Maryland, 2000

J.D.—Rutgers, 1995

M.D.—University of Connecticut, 1982

D.M.D.—*cum laude* Harvard School of Dental Medicine, 1977

B.S.—University of California, Irvine, 1973

### TEACHING AREAS

Oral-maxillofacial surgery, particularly implants, orthognathic surgery, cleft palate surgery, maxillofacial trauma, oral and facial infections, microneurosurgery of the trigeminal nerve, medico-legal issues and medical management of the dental and surgical patient.

### CLINICAL INTERESTS

Implants, extractions, orthognathic surgery, cleft palate surgery, microneurosurgery, jaw pathology and reconstruction.

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Born in Iron Mountain, Mich. Lived for 11 years during youth in Memphis, Tenn. 1970 graduate of Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton, Calif. Married to Carmen in 1976 and have 4 kids.

# PIRATES & PULITZERS

Sandra Mims Rowe at a staff meeting of the Portland Oregonian



Motoko Nakamura/The Oregonian

East Carolina has never offered a major in journalism but a surprising number of graduates have succeeded in newspapers and television news, including four who have won journalism's highest honor, the Pulitzer Prize, 12 times. Who are these people and why do they keep winning awards? We asked one of their ink-stained brethren to investigate.

By Roy Martin

Good writers have been coming out of East Carolina at least since my time there. As associate editor of the student paper and editor of the *Rebel* literary magazine, I worked with many fine writers such as Jim Stingley Jr., from Jacksonville, who was a reporter at the *Los Angeles Times* for many years. But this relatively recent bunch of Pulitzer Prize winners and other top media people is notable for their numbers and accomplishments.

One thing many of these East Carolinabred journalists have in common is they worked for the college newspaper, the yearbook or the *Rebel*. Sandra Mims Rowe '70, who has won five Pulitzers as editor of the *Portland Oregonian*, and one before that as editor of the *Virginian-Pilot*, worked two years on the campus

paper, which back then was called the *Fountainhead*. Then she moved to the school yearbook, the *Buccaneer*, where she was editor her junior and senior years.

Tom Tozer '76, deputy managing editor of *The Charlotte Observer*, was a staff writer for the *Fountainhead* for three years and was managing editor his senior year. Down the hall from his office at the *Observer* is Mary Schulken '79, who worked for the student paper and the *Greenville Daily Reflector*. She became an editor at the *Reflector* immediately after graduation.

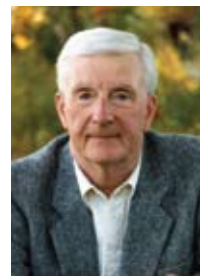
Many of this crowd studied under Ira Baker, who taught English and journalism courses from 1968 to 1980. You usually don't get far in a conversation with an ECU journalist before his name comes up. He was behind the creation of a minor in journalism here in 1970 and was faculty adviser to the student

paper for many years, where he tutored a generation of student journalists. He also edited *The Collegiate Journalist*, the journal of Alpha Phi Gamma, the national journalism fraternity.

Schulken is one of Baker's many protégés. "Perhaps the most important thing he did for me was to teach me to work fast, be accurate and meet deadlines." Tozer learned under Larry O'Keefe, a young assistant professor, who "told me there was a market for a clear writing style like mine." O'Keefe focused on the basics: "Two key lessons East Carolina burned into my memory that I have lived up to all these years: Get it right, get it done on time and never miss a deadline."

But some never had a college byline. Rick Atkinson '74 was an English major who studied literature, which helps explain the two Pulitzers he's won for writing books.

**About the author:** Roy Martin '61 MA '67 was the night metro editor and assistant news editor at the *Washington Star* during the Watergate era, and admits his newspaper got scooped lots of times by two cub reporters named Woodward and Bernstein at the crosstown rival *Washington Post*. Roy jumped to television news in 1978 as news director of WSLN-TV Roanoke. After five years at the NBC station, he changed careers again, becoming an English as Second Language teacher in the Roanoke Public Schools. He retired from that post in 2002. Roy started his career at the *Daily Reflector* and the old *Raleigh Times*, then was at the *Greensboro Record* from 1967-72, where he won a Washington Journalism Center fellowship in 1969; he was nominated for a Pulitzer there in 1971 for environmental reporting. A native of Greenville, Roy is author of the 1997 mystery novel *Whisper My Name*.



But he's also worked for *The Washington Post* for 20 years and has a Pulitzer for his newspaper reporting. Margaret O'Connor '71 studied art and design at East Carolina and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree. She was a sorority girl who went to all the socials but had enough grit to run the photo department of *The New York Times* during 9/11. She won two Pulitzers for that work.

Then there's Dan Neil '82. To hear him tell it, he didn't do anything but show up for work one day at the *Los Angeles Times* to write reviews about new cars and before his seat was warm they handed him the 2004 Pulitzer for criticism. He usually fails to mention that, after earning a master's from UNC Chapel Hill, he paid his dues working several years at the *Raleigh News & Observer* and *Spectator* magazine. Talk about a prolific writer: At one point after leaving the *NE&O* he was writing about cars simultaneously for *Autoweek*, *Car and Driver* and *Attaché* magazines and *The New York Times*.

Why so many from one university? The answer to that question probably lies in the compelling events of the 1970s and

early '80s, the time when most of these Pirates were in college. Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein, Benjamin Bradlee and Kathryn Graham of *The Washington Post* were becoming legends secured by the paper's painstaking and sometimes frustrating investigative reporting of the Watergate scandal. It was common knowledge then that enrollments in journalism schools across the country reached unprecedented levels due to Watergate. Colleges around the nation had to scramble to accommodate aspiring journalists wanting to be the next Woodward and Bernstein or whoever else was making headlines then by taking down Nixon and his cronies.

But enough reminiscing. Let's get acquainted with today's bunch of ECU-trained journalists.

### Dan Neil of the *Los Angeles Times*

"The Pulitzer is a funny thing. It is the only validation of journalistic excellence that the public knows or cares about. You can be a giant in the field, a genius. And if you don't get a Pulitzer you're still a wannabe.

It's actually quite unfair to the thousands of people who work their guts out every year to produce exceptional work."

That didn't happen to him. "I was a little embarrassed by the Pulitzer. I had been working at *The Times* for all of four months when they nominated me. So, I started in September 2003 and won the Pulitzer in April of '04 and I had to walk by those ink-stained wretches with 30 years on the job and nothing to show for it but a dingy coffee cup. I won for car reviewing, for God's sake. And yes, I did come to the paper with the expressed desire to win a Pulitzer. I just thought it might take a little longer."

Make no mistake, Neil is an excellent writer because no one had ever won a Pulitzer for writing about cars until he did. The judges marveled at his "one-of-a-kind reviews... blending technical expertise with offbeat humor and astute cultural observations." Here's a taste, from his review of the \$320,000 Rolls-Royce Phantom: "Not since torch-wielding peasants chased Frankenstein's monster through the town square has such a noble spirit been so mercilessly taunted.



Motoya Nakamura/The Oregonian

### Sandra Mims Rowe 6 Pulitzers

Since becoming editor of the (Portland) *Oregonian* in 1994, the paper has won five times and been a finalist four other times. She also won as editor of the *Virginian-Pilot*, which she led from 1984-1993. She served as a Pulitzer board member for nine years.

- Editorial writing, 2006
- Feature writing, 2001 and 2002
- Gold Medal for public service, 2001
- Explanatory reporting, 1999
- New reporting, 1985

One critic compared the...Phantom to a coffin maker's 'Executive Slumber Series;' another called it the world's most majestic air conditioner. Allow me to pile on. Man, this thing is ugly."

### Sandra Mims Rowe of the *Portland Oregonian*

Her byline didn't appear on any of the news stories or editorials that have won six Pulitzers, but the journalists who did write those pieces say she deserves a lot of the credit. Rowe has edited *The Oregonian*, the most prominent paper in the Pacific Northwest with a Sunday circulation of 450,000, since 1993. Before that she edited the *Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk and Virginia Beach and worked there for 22 years. She came by her ink stains honestly: Her father was editor of her hometown paper in Harrisonburg, Va. Under her leadership, the Portland newspaper has won five Pulitzers—so far—to go with the one she won back in Virginia. She's revered in the newsroom and gives her reporters the freedom to chase down a story, no matter where the facts lead.

"I would call it embracing complexity. Most of our stories aren't just about one thing. When we won for breaking news, [the story was about] this family tragically lost in the snow and mountains and nobody knew where they were. So, you begin thinking a

### This just in...

Television news can be just as exciting as newspaper work. Just ask **John Beard '75**, who was the evening news anchor at KNBC Los Angeles in 1987 when an unbalanced viewer stormed onto the live news set with what appeared to be a .45-caliber pistol and forced consumer advocate David Horowitz to read a rambling statement about space creatures and the CIA. As Horowitz finished reading the paper, the man set the gun down on the desk and Beard quickly grabbed it. Luckily, it turned out to be a realistic toy gun. Beard subsequently moved to KTTV-TV, the big Fox affiliate in LA, and anchored the news there through 2007. Now he travels and writes books when he's not playing the quintessential blow-dried TV news anchor on such shows as *Arrested Development* and *24*.

**Maureen Jeralyn O'Boyle '83**, former anchor of tabloid TV news shows *A Current Affair* and *Extra*, returned to Charlotte in 2005 as evening news anchor at WBTV. As a deejay at the college radio station, she was discovered by the news director at WITN, the TV station near Washington, NC, and hired to do the crack-of-dawn news. "I had to go to work at 3 a.m., and I lived in a loud dorm," she said in a story in *Business North Carolina* magazine. "Some of the girls were just going to bed. It was scary, driving 15 miles along country roads in the middle of the night."

**Marian Pittman '87**, news director at WSB-TV Atlanta, gives her take on why TV news is appealing: "My newsroom is a melting pot. I hire on character as much as experience. My staff must be team players to produce almost 40 hours of television a week." She's won several regional Emmys and other awards from the Associated Press. But TV people use a different yardstick. "I don't take much stock in awards. I follow ratings and try to win viewers."

#### Other notable Pirates in the news:

##### Caulton Tudor

Sports writer, columnist  
*Raleigh News & Observer*

##### Carl Davis '73

Assistant general manager,  
UNC public TV network

##### James Dodson '75

*Golf* magazine columnist,  
author of seven best-sellers on golf

##### Sue Price Wilson '75

Carolinas bureau chief,  
The Associated Press

##### Thomas G. Tozer '76

Deputy managing editor,  
*The Charlotte Observer*

##### Mary Schulken '79

Associate editor,  
*The Charlotte Observer*

##### Charles Chandler '82

Sports writer  
*The Charlotte Observer*

##### Jimmy Dupree '82

Sports editor  
*Durham Herald-Sun*

##### Mark Kemp '83

Grammy-nominated music journalist,  
former music editor, *Rolling Stone*,  
and VP, MTV Networks

##### Brian '83 and Bradley '85 Beasley

Beasley Broadcast Group,  
owner of 44 radio stations

### Dan Neil 1 Pulitzer

No one had ever won a prize for writing about cars until he did. The judges marveled at his "one-of-a-kind reviews...blending technical expertise with offbeat humor and astute cultural observations."

Neil writes reviews of new cars and—get this—yachts. Here, he's apparently testing the seat cushions on the \$30 million creation of Luca Antivari, a Milanese yacht builder, during the boat's shakedown Mediterranean cruise in June. He wrote about Luca Antivari for a story in *Men's Vogue*.

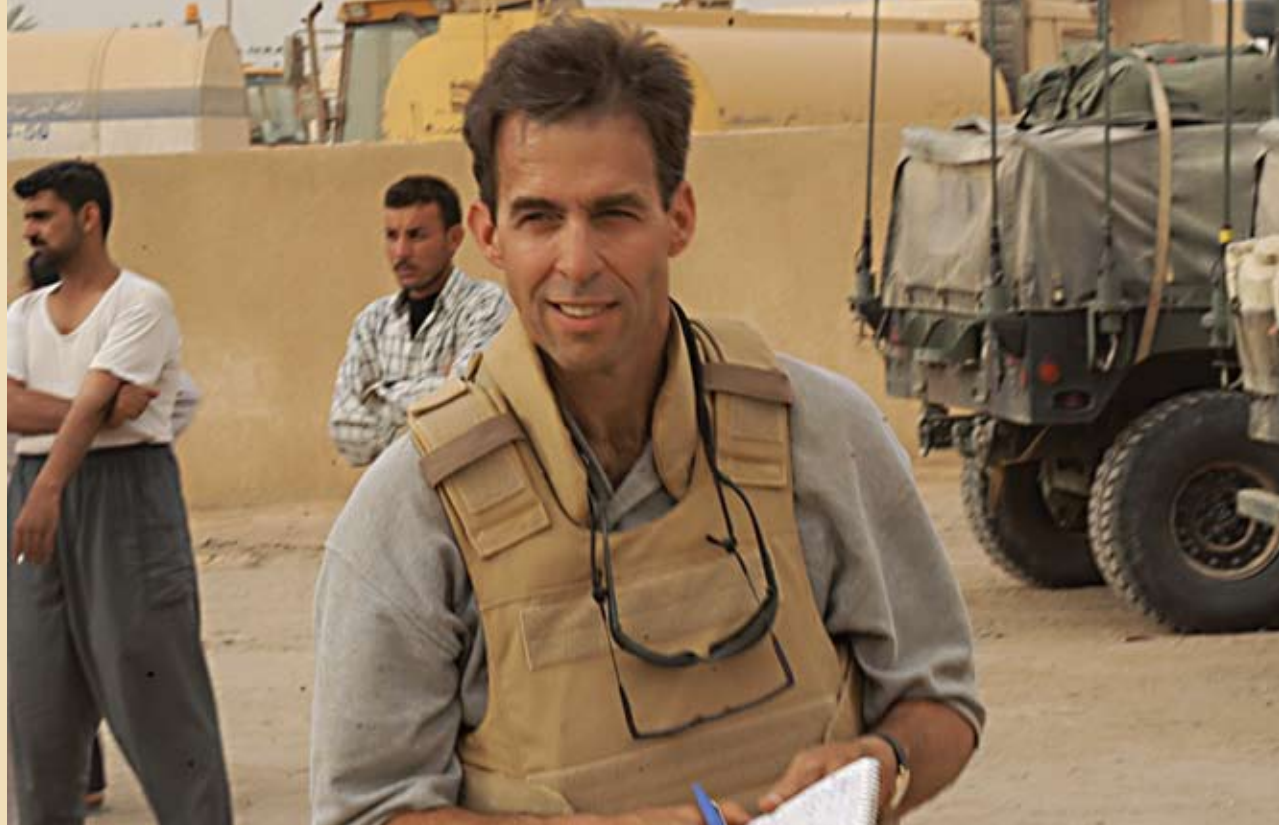
- Distinguished criticism, 2004



**Rick Atkinson**  
**3 Pulitzers**

Atkinson learned he'd won the 2003 history prize for *An Army at Dawn*, his account of the World War II North African campaign, while pushing toward Baghdad as an embedded reporter with the 101st Airborne Division. He's won that Pulitzer along with two for newspaper reporting as well as the George Polk Award.

- History, 2003, *An Army at Dawn*
- Public service, 1999
- National reporting, 1982



Contributed photo

story is about one thing, but you assume there is complexity. You have the story of the drama and the tragedy. The drama may also be about a couple of people who are at the heart of the rescue or how the state botched the search party. In that story, we recognized and embraced the complexity of the situation and the people in it.”

She's honored by the recognition. “Whenever you win a Pulitzer, no matter how long you live, your obit will say that you became a Pulitzer prize winner. Is it the highest recognition of your peer group. It's something that will always be attached to your name.”

Rowe is a major figure in the journalism industry and is considered the top woman newspaper editor in the country. She was a board member of the Pulitzer Prize Board at Columbia University from 1994–2003 and was its chairman in 2002–03. She was on the board of the American Society of Newspaper Editors from 1992–99 and was the organization's president in 1997–98. She's a past chair of the Knight Foundation Advisory Board. In 2004, she received the George Beveridge Editor of the Year award from the National Press Foundation. “She's been a mentor for everybody, particularly for women all over the country,” Amanda

Bennett, editor and executive vice president at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, said when Rowe won the Beveridge. “You'd be hard pressed to find a woman editor who hasn't had some kind of inspiration or advice or help or something from her.”

**Rick Atkinson, author**

“Like many people, I blundered into my life's work. So I'm not sure there were many influences from college in play. I didn't work for the school newspaper. I studied literature so I came to appreciate fine writing but can't say I practiced it much at that time.”

But the seed was planted in Greenville and grew while Atkinson was earning a master's in English lit at the University of Chicago. As a reporter at the *Kansas City Times*, he won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for pieces about the would-be assassin of Ronald Reagan, an Air Force officer who was spying for the Soviet Union and a series on the West Point class of 1966, which eventually became his first book, *The Long Gray Line*. That same year, Atkinson was among several Kansas City reporters covering the Hyatt Hotel catastrophe in which more than 100 people were killed when an overhead walkway collapsed in the middle of a dance. *The Kansas City Times*

and its sister paper, the *Star*, were awarded the 1982 Pulitzer for local spot news reporting for revelations about the design and construction of the hotel. Atkinson does not count that prize among his awards. He joined the staff of *The Washington Post* in 1983 and has been a figure there ever since, with leaves to write books. He won the 1989 George Polk Award for national reporting and the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for public service for a series of investigative articles on unwarranted shootings by the District of Columbia police. An Army brat who once was *The Post's* Berlin bureau chief, Atkinson won the 2003 Pulitzer for history for *An Army at Dawn*, a narrative history of the American Army in North Africa, Italy, and Western Europe during the Second World War. He learned he had won his third Pulitzer while pushing toward Baghdad as an embedded reporter with the 101st Airborne Division. In 2004, he was Gen. Omar N. Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College.

Does a Pulitzer validate your career? “I never think in terms of accolades, partly because I know what a crap-shoot the prize business can be. My ambition these days is to write compelling, insightful history, to marry vivid narrative with rigorous scholarship in pursuit of the story-telling art.”

**Margaret O'Connor of**  
**The New York Times**

O'Connor “didn't start out with journalism in mind at all.” As a bachelor of fine arts major, she was mostly interested in art and design. The photography classes she took at East Carolina grabbed her interest right away. “Those classes made me fall in love with the process, which at that time meant the darkroom process. I remember I made a lot of ‘photoillustrations’ for my senior show.”

The BFA program was hard work. “A lot was expected and I benefited from that. I feel I came away from school with the confidence I needed to find the best job I could. It wasn't easy back then. There was a real job shortage and I remember beating the sidewalks and sending out tons of resumes. Somehow I knew I had to aim high and never let myself give up.”

She worked at the *San Francisco Examiner* as an art director for five years before going to *The New York Times* in 1984. She's been there ever since. She was photo editor of the paper during the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. She and her staff won two Pulitzers for that work—the 2002 prizes for breaking news photography and feature photography. Those were the first Pulitzers won by *The Times* for staff photography.

“I had worked at *The New York Times* for 13 years and was deputy design director when Joe Leluveld, the executive editor at the time, approached me about heading the photo desk. I loved working with pictures, but I was not officially a photo editor. I did, however, have management experience which made him think of me. So, I took over as photo director in early 1998. We had a good staff of photographers and I was allowed to hire more. I spent a lot of time trying to educate the newsroom on how to take advantage of our strengths in visual journalism as well as words.

“We covered [9/11] and its aftermath closely and heavily for months and, unlike in the past, the paper devoted lots of space to allow our pictures to run in the paper. We won lots of other photo contests that year as well, including ‘Best Use of Pictures by a Newspaper’ in the pictures of the year competition. That was something no one ever imagined the ‘Old Gray Lady’ would be able to do.”

**East**



Michael Nagle



Turn the page to read an alumni profile of O'Connor

**Margaret O'Connor**  
**2 Pulitzers**

As photo editor of *The New York Times*, she won two prizes for photography on 9/11 and its aftermath. *The Times* has won around 100 prizes for its writing; these were the first won by the paper for staff photography.

- Breaking news photography, 2002
- Feature photography, 2002

# All the photos fit to print

By Steve Tuttle    Photography by Michael Nagle

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Margaret O'Connor BFA '71, who then was the photo editor of *The New York Times*, was having breakfast in her Greenwich Village apartment when she heard a television news bulletin. It was something about an explosion at the World Trade Center a dozen or so blocks away. And thus began the most wrenching time of her life.



Chang W. Lee/The New York Times



You can see and read the award-winning works by all four ECU graduates at the Pulitzer Prize web site, [www.pulitzer.org](http://www.pulitzer.org). Just click on the year and then on the category.

**One World Trade Center begins collapsing.**

One of 20 photographs by 14 photographers appearing in *The New York Times* on the days following 9/11.

**The crowd at a Taliban rally in Pakistan.**

Days after 9/11, O'Connor sent *Times* photographers into Pakistan and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan to learn more about the people there.



Vincent Laforet/The New York Times

In the wee hours of the next day she hurried home to grab a little sleep and some clean clothes before returning to work. Going home that night “was the eeriest walk I have ever had. My neighborhood is never deserted, even at 2 a.m., but it was completely deserted that night. I remember walking by the New School, and all the windows were covered with these posters that people had made, with pictures of their loved ones. And above the pictures they all said ‘Missing,’ ‘Missing,’ ‘Missing.’ By then I knew what our photographers had known all day—just about anybody who was missing was dead. And that’s when it hit me; this was happening to *my* world, in *my* neighborhood.”

She rarely took a day off for weeks as thousands of pictures taken by her staff flowed across her desk and into the pages of *The Times*. She remembers a disagreement on publishing just one. “It was a picture of this man who had jumped out the window [of one of the towers moments before it collapsed], and it was so odd. He was falling upside down and he had one leg bent like he was doing an exercise. He looked very calm. Some of the editors said we shouldn’t publish it because it was so startling and you knew that in seconds [he would be dead]. But his face wasn’t recognizable, and eventually we all agreed. We need to run this.

The world should see this.”

Making studied decisions was difficult that day and in the confused weeks that followed. “I remember feeling out of control, because how could you be in control?” But one course of action seemed obvious. Everyone was asking what kind of people would do this to us, so she sent her photographers to find out. Endangering their own lives, the photographers secretly slipped into Pakistan and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Mostly, they saw sympathetic, ordinary people and Afghans taking refuge in Pakistan.

*The Times* garnered heaps of praise for its photography in the tumultuous period after 9/11, all of which she deflected to her team. “My staff was great. Everybody did exactly what they were supposed to do and they did it perfectly.” In the spring of 2002, the Pulitzer Prize judges agreed, handing *The Times*’ photography staff not one but two Pulitzers. The paper was honored in the breaking news category “for its consistently outstanding photographic coverage of the terrorist attack on New York City and its aftermath”; and for feature photography “chronicling the pain and the perseverance of people enduring protracted conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

Over the past century and a half, *The New York Times* had won about 100 Pulitzers for its writing. The two won by O’Connor and

her team were the first ones the paper ever won for staff photography. The odd thing is that O’Connor, the woman who just a few years earlier had taught *The Times* to think of photography as visual journalism, isn’t a photographer.

**Lipstick for the Gray Lady**

Margaret O’Connor had been working for *The Times* about 15 years as an art director and as deputy design director when she was elevated to director of photography in April 1998. At the time it wasn’t a promotion she wanted. One of the last major newspapers to adopt color photography, *The Times* still clung to the notion that readers preferred long columns of gray type.

Reacting to the emergence of the Internet and a slew of colorful competitors, most other newspapers had added eye-catching graphics and big, colorful pictures. *The Times* was making progress in informational graphics but still struggled with using photography intelligently. O’Connor had worked on a redesign of the paper in the late 1990s, so it seemed natural that, as the new photo editor, she would join an internal working group charged with rethinking how to best use photographs.

“There was a lot of resistance [from] some of the editors who thought pictures were secondary and always would be,” says Mike Smith, who was O’Connor’s deputy at the time and is now the paper’s senior editor for training and development. O’Connor argued persuasively for a more visual presentation of the news and introduced a new concept

to the newsroom: Photographers were visual journalists. Smith says that viewpoint found favor with the paper’s new executive editor. “Howell Raines bought into it and agreed with Margaret that pictures were an underused asset and he wanted to change that.”

“The fact that we have a lot more photos in the paper now is totally attributable to her,” says Alan Robertazzi, who is O’Connor’s current deputy. “She directly influenced the editors to think more about pictures.” Raines did more than accept O’Connor’s ideas; he funded them. She was allowed to hire eight additional photographers and a few editors, moves that significantly strengthened the photo department. Soon, *The Times* was publishing 1,500 photos a week.

“It was a pretty significant time in the history of paper...because at the time it was fair to say the paper was not known as a visual paper,” Smith adds. “We certainly had a talented photo staff...but the paper just didn’t use pictures very intelligently. Under Margaret we’ve really turned the corner in that way. Most people would say it’s one of the better-looking ones in the country today and that all started under Margaret’s tenure.”

**‘An unusually gifted manager’**

As the photo department grew in size and importance, O’Connor employed a collegial management style and instilled a sense of teamwork in her staff. “The thing that her entire staff likes the most about her is that she knows how to make us better,” Robertazzi says. “She’s capable of pointing out things to you that you can improve

on and also giving you a little push and inspiration to actually improve on things.”

Smith agrees, calling O’Connor “an unusually gifted manager.” She “really cares about people and she’s very humble,” he adds. “She’s not interested in imposing her will on others; she is more interested in hearing what people have to say and understanding what they think. She believes that will help her make good decisions.”

“One of the things I like about her,” Robertazzi adds, “is she obviously cares about the newspaper and the well-being of her staff. She goes to bat for us with upper management on things like trying to improve the work environment and getting us the same respect as the writers and reporters.”

Her persistent pushing helped *The Times* learn the value of visuals, especially pictures. And when two hijacked jetliners flew into the World Trade Center, the paper was prepared. In those first confused days, no one was sure what the facts were; still, the paper could tell the story with pictures so gripping that many now are icons.

Interviewed in her office seven years to the day after 9/11, O’Connor looks back with a sense of accomplishment. “When I first became picture editor...the photo desk wasn’t highly thought of and pictures weren’t understood. It’s way different now. And I feel

like we really made some headway there and I’m very proud of what we did.”

She also appreciates the sad irony of those times. A week or two before Raines took control of the newsroom, he took her to lunch to ask what he could do for her. “Just run our pictures,” she asked. Days later, on Sept. 11, he did.

**From Greenville to Europe**

A native of Roanoke, Va., O’Connor came to East Carolina in 1967 because she knew it had a good art school and because it offered the traditional college experience. “It seemed like many art schools were in the middle of cities, which didn’t appeal to me.” She pledged Kappa Delta and moved into the sorority house her junior year. Among her sorority sisters was Kathryn S. Long BFA ’71. “We were a bit unusual because we were the artsy sorority,” says Long, who now runs the successful Ambiance Interiors firm in Asheville. “There were at least five art majors living in the house. The year I was sorority president, we voted in the rule that every sister had to go to every social, so we had quite the active social life. But we were artsy and smart. We kept the scholarship trophy.”

Another sister, Mary Edwards Plybon ’71, a social work major, shared what was called the blue room in the KD house with O’Connor and four other sisters. “We had

one closet, one telephone in the whole house, two bathrooms, one of which you couldn't use the shower because it leaked. We called Margaret 'Rose Garden.' There was a song out then called 'I never promised you a rose garden,' and I'm not exactly sure why it started but that's what we called her. She used to sign her name in notes as RG."

The difference between them was "she could draw and I couldn't," adds Plybon, a former member of the Board of Visitors who lives in Greensboro. "Margaret was working long hours as an art student, always working on some project."

"I didn't start out with journalism in mind at all," O'Connor says now. "My interests and talents lay in graphic design and illustration. The photography classes I took made me fall in love with the process, which at the time meant the darkroom process. I remember that I made a lot of 'photoillustrations' for my senior show." Her favorite professor was Frances Daugherty, who taught art history classes here for 30 years before retiring in 1998.

After graduation she moved to Atlanta and found work at a small illustration studio. A year later she moved home to Roanoke and worked as a junior art director at an ad agency. O'Connor had a steady boyfriend but their long-standing relationship fizzled, and she needed a change of scenery, so she called Long to suggest a road trip. It turned out that her sorority sister was in France finishing some work for a graduate degree. That sounded nice, so O'Connor and another KD sister, Judith A. Angel, flew to Paris.

The trip did not begin auspiciously. "They got lost," Long says. "We literally ended up running into each other in the Latin quarter of Paris." The three spent the next three months tramping around Europe, getting by on the proverbial \$5 a day.

"We stayed in Paris for a few weeks combing all the art museums until it was so cold in the old hotel where we were staying," Long recalls. "In late September we headed south

on a train to Valencia and Barcelona. Then we took a boat to Italy and traveled all around there. From there it was Greece. We went to Delphi, where they have the oracle. I guess we were going to ask the oracle what we should do with our lives. To get there we took a boat from the mainland, and then we had to take a ferry. It was late at night when we got to the ferry and there were no hotels, so this funny little man who worked on the ferry showed us a room on the boat with bunk beds and that's where we spent the night. There was only one blanket; we flipped for who got it.

"Back then, we had no connection to home, just postcards," Long continues. "We would tell people that we planned to be in some town on a certain date and when we got there we would stop at the American Express office. Occasionally we would get mail that way."

O'Connor smiles remembering those carefree days. "I will never forget spending my 25th birthday in Madrid." It was a memorable meal, Long says. "We usually had trouble with menus because we didn't speak fluent Spanish. But this meal had gone well; we thought the waiter understood us. Then we got to dessert. The waiter brought out this lovely platter with fruit. Margaret looked at the banana and said I will have the banana. Judith holds up two fingers and says make that two. I hold up three fingers and said make that three. The waiter went to the kitchen and came back. For Margaret he had a plate with one banana, for Judith he had a plate with two bananas. My plate had three bananas."

### On to San Francisco

Returning from Europe, O'Connor went to Washington, D.C., where a relative lived, to look for an ad agency job. Soon she bumped into two friends from East Carolina, Sharon S. '71 and Tom Brown '70. "They were living nearby, but they were being transferred by the insurance company they worked for to San Francisco. They suggested I throw my stuff in the trunk and go with them. I thought about this for a few minutes and



Experiencing Death Valley

Beverly Talbott

then said okay."

She initially freelanced for some Bay Area ad agencies and then, in February 1979, was hired by the *San Francisco Examiner* as a designer and illustrator. She became close friends with one of the writers at the paper, Beverley Talbott. "We grew up barely an hour apart, she in Roanoke and me in Danville. She went to East Carolina and I went to Chapel Hill, and we met in San Francisco of all places."

Talbott, who now is a technical writer for Microsoft, says she discerned early on that O'Connor had a special talent. "Those of us old enough to remember see a psychological and a practical divide between photographers and writers. Even then Margaret could talk reporter language and photographer language, which I think has been very important to her career."

After five years at the *Examiner*, O'Connor moved back East in 1984. She worked briefly for the *Wall Street Journal* before being hired by *The Times*. She has been at *The Times*,

in escalating roles of responsibility, ever since. She started as an art director working on the metro, business, sports and science sections of the paper. Within five years she was promoted to deputy design director and oversaw the paper's 90-member art department.

After her seminal work as the paper's photo editor, she was promoted to senior editor for visuals. Since January 2005 she has served as director of news design, heading a 35-member staff responsible for melding news, pictures and graphics to create the news pages. Each day she critiques the paper, paying particular attention to graphics and photography.

When not at work O'Connor, who remains single, usually is traveling to some exotic locale. She lived in Paris on and off during all of 2004 helping to set up a design team at the *International Herald Tribune*, which *The Times* owns. She has journeyed, alone, to Bali, Australia and Sri Lanka. This past summer she endured the heat of Death Valley to experience its stark beauty. In 2007, she was named as one of East Carolina's 100 most distinguished alumnae.

Lately she has picked up another hobby, writing. "I've been trying to reinvent myself as a writer of personal essays," she muses. "I spent my summer vacation becoming a student again and taking writing workshops at N.Y.U. and the University of Iowa. I'm also hoping to return to painting, something I have done a lot of in the past, but not recently."

After nearly 25 years at *The Times*, O'Connor says she is ready to leave the paper and the city. She just turned 60 and early retirement beckons. She thinks she may return to the place where she started in journalism, San Francisco, which happens to be conveniently located near her favorite spot on Earth, the wineries of the Napa Valley. While she will be leaving *The Times* soon it seems certain that her influence on the paper, like those photos of 9/11 etched in our memory, will continue for years to come. **East**

## Questions for Margaret O'Connor

*Assuming they survive the digital age, what do you think newspapers will contain and look like 20 years from now?*

I remember being on some kind of committee a dozen years ago where we were asked to design the "newspaper of the future." Only one person's design was a computer screen, obviously the only one of us who had real foresight. I guess I think the web *is* the future and we are quickly and surely heading that way. Even I find myself checking the web site before the paper. I do think some print product will survive, but it will possibly become more like a daily magazine on newsprint. We already count on the web to break news quickly and run longer, analytical pieces in the paper. So, you may see more of that. Or, the paper could even become an "at a glance" guide to the web.

*What do you consider the most important decision you've made at work?*

Hiring the right people is always an important decision and one I think I've done well with. I'm proud of the fact that I was able to bring some terrific photographers to *The Times*. I've also hired some excellent designers and journalists for the news design desk. Hiring the wrong person can be a problem you have to live with for a long time. Hiring the right person pays off every day.

*Was there some experience in your past—maybe it was tramping around Europe after college—where you learned to see the world more clearly?*

I have done a fair amount of traveling and I think that does make a difference. Traveling, like photojournalism, is about the discovery process. It's also important to stay open-minded and ready for anything, especially adjustment of expectations. Some "word editors" I know are disappointed when the photographs come back showing something different than expected. I think this applies to life as well. Opportunities come along that we don't plan on, or even desire, but it's important to take advantage of that and go with what comes along. An unplanned road can lead to unimagined reward.

# Town and Gown = Hand in Glove

Jacqueta Thomas volunteers as a tutor at the Building Hope Community Life Center



By Bethany Bradsher

Maxine Ford is in the sixth grade now but she vividly remembers how nervous she was about a social studies test last year—the one that required her to know details about each of the 50 states. But she aced it because each afternoon leading up to the test she sat at a table at the Building Hope Community Life Center reviewing each point with her friend and tutor, Laura Edwards.

“We were doing the 50 states and she helped me with that,” Maxine says. “We made index cards and she helped me study and I got a 100. Well, actually a 150 because I knew all the state nicknames, too.”

Maxine’s outstanding score reflects the diligence of Edwards, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. Edwards is one of at least a half dozen ECU faculty and staff members who help make Building Hope’s after school and community enhancement programs successful for the 300 kids it serves.

Building Hope director Robert Lee, whose board of directors includes Mark L’Esperance (Education) and Lee Workman (Athletics), says he can’t imagine how the seven-year-old center would survive without the expertise and dedication of friends with ECU connections. “It’s huge,” he says, pointing to the invaluable help he gets from faculty and a recurring cycle of ECU interns who volunteer 300 hours a semester. “We couldn’t do it without ECU, because not only do they provide volunteers but they provide the resources to have a research based program. They keep us on the cutting edge of our evaluations and our techniques.”

Building Hope, housed in an old store building on Ninth Street in Greenville, is but one of dozens of causes and initiatives that East Carolina people are supporting with their time and talent to make a difference in the region around the university. It’s ever dynamic, this town-gown relationship,

because there always will be new students and new local officials. And it is not without tension, as evidenced by Greenville residents who confront noise and trash from student neighbors. But there is consensus among Greenville and ECU leaders that the two are coexisting more peacefully and productively than they have in decades.

“This is the fourth university I’ve worked at, and at no other place I’ve worked has the relationship between the university and the town been so intertwined with each other,” says Paul Clifford, the president of the East Carolina Alumni Association. “The relationship needs to be strong because both need each other.”

Once every quarter, officials from four entities get together for refreshments, information sharing and problem solving. As a reminder that no one party has the upper hand, the hosting duties of these Town-Gown Commission meetings rotate among the city of Greenville, Pitt County, the Chamber of Commerce and East Carolina.

The commission discusses topics like crime prevention downtown, transportation issues and diversity. According to Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn ’58, the city’s potential can only be maximized when ECU interests figure prominently into decisions.

“I think what we’ve seen as the university enrollment has grown dramatically is that it plays a greater role in our resident population,” Dunn says. “It’s in the interest of all of us that we work together, because the students are not going to go away and the city is not going to go away.”

Like any relationship, this one has varying dynamics, and most of the notable town and gown collaboration follows one of three trends: The community reaching out to the ECU students and faculty, the university reaching out to the community, or the university and community joining in an equal partnership.

## First Move: Greenville

When the city takes the initiative, students get educated about city ordinances, which leads

to neighborhoods where permanent residents and students live together in harmony. One of the more comprehensive city-led efforts, the Take Heed program, literally brings Greenville to students’ doors each fall. On a Wednesday in September, more than 20 volunteers distributed some 1,500 brochures to students who live off campus.

The information covers topics like parking rules and other city ordinances, as well as services for students on and off campus. Also covered are Greenville recycling and trash schedules and emergency information. The program is spearheaded by the city but it dovetails with the university’s objective of teaching students how to be good citizens for a lifetime, says Lucia Brannon with the ECU Center for Off-Campus Living.

Brannon’s office offers coupons for reduced apartment rentals to any student who watches a “Take Heed” video. The center hosts monthly luncheons at Mendenhall covering topics like student legal issues and public safety, she adds. She is an advocate for the students who live off campus; Greenville City Councilman Larry Spell ’99 ’01 fills a similar role for residents of the neighborhoods between Fifth Street and the Tar River. He lives there himself, and the desire to see the area remain vibrant was one

thing that drove him to run for office.

“The university helping us to make sure our community standards are met makes a difference,” says Spell, who notices that students are more careful to toe the line when the university gets involved and threatens consequences for city code violations. “We don’t want people to hear about a rule when they get caught.”

Spell took office in a time when the trust between town and gown was on the rise. Relations weren’t so good a few years ago when the university tore down some buildings for parking lots and threatened other eminent domain actions. The current administration has proved neighborly and collaborative, Spell says, and his constituents are less guarded now.

Other examples of strong town and gown relations are events like Freeboot Friday, which is organized by Uptown Greenville but is designed as a type of community pep rally for ECU home football games. Another example is the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center, housed in a former church building in West Greenville that was purchased by the city but is controlled by the university and used for student community outreach and internships for programs like





Marc Kawonishi

## A few ways that ECU helps

In every college and department at East Carolina, there are students and professors sharing their gifts and passions with the community. An informal poll of each college turned up an impressive assortment of outreach efforts. Space allows us to cite only a small fraction of the efforts we heard about, including these:

- Barbara Memory, the music therapy director in the School of Music, partners with Greenville Recreation and Parks to offer three choirs for children with special needs. Children as young as 6 can participate in the choirs, which provide a positive social environment in which kids can develop vocal and rhythmic skills.
- Faculty and students in the School of Music tutor elementary school kids who are learning stringed instruments. Using a Dana Foundation grant, the kids are bused to campus twice a week for intensive lessons beyond what's available at most local schools.
- World Affairs Council, a group of ECU faculty and staff and local citizens committed to promoting understanding of international events, offers the Great Decision speaker series, free and open to the public, which come to campus eight weekends in a row. Locals often say hearing the speakers is like a college education.
- The School of Music Jazz Studies Program and the Hilton Greenville Hotel will partner starting this fall to host the six-week-long Jazz at Night series, a new highlight of the local cultural calendar. The evenings will feature performances by guest artists as well as students and faculty.
- Dr. John Harer, an assistant professor in the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology, has started two sports leagues for kids with disabilities in Pitt County. Challenger Little League, an adapted form of Little League, opened in Greenville three years ago, and last year Harer initiated the formation of TOPSoccer, an adapted soccer league that is the only one of its kind in North Carolina.
- Several ECU faculty and staff, including Abbie Brown and Larry White of the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology and Joyner

librarian Emily Blankenship, participate in pet therapy through the Delta Society. They visit nursing homes and adult-care facilities in Greenville with animals trained to show love for the residents.

- The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, which usually acts as a liaison to other town-gown partnerships, started one of its own last year with the Fairytale Boutique. Gently used prom and special occasion dresses are donated to the center. Girls from area high schools who are unable to afford a new prom dress "shop" at the boutique for a dress and accessories. The boutique is entirely managed by ECU students.
- Faculty from the Teaching Resources Center in the Department of Library Science serve as judges and scorekeepers for the Pitt County Battle of the Books and Quiz Bowl. Numerous members of the faculty and staff also volunteer at and help coordinate the annual Sheppard Memorial Library book sale.
- Dr. Christy Walcott, assistant professor of psychology, led the planning team for the Washington/Beaufort County CROP Hunger Walk last October. Her team raised over \$6,000 to fight hunger at home and throughout the world.
- Dr. Melissa Matchett, postdoctoral fellow in psychology, co-developed "The Privateer Organization," which encourages ECU Health Psychology doctoral students to give back to the community. Their first project was a Pirate carnival they organized for patients at the Pitt County Memorial Hospital Children's Hospital.
- Psychology professor Dr. Marion Eppler has been tutoring students at Belvoir Elementary for the past two years. That led her and her colleague Dr. Marsha Ironsmith to develop a tutoring program at Belvoir for undergraduate psychology majors.
- East Carolina's 33 Greek fraternities and sororities raised more than \$50,000 for charitable causes and donated more than 25,000 hours of community service in the 2007-08 school year, according to Greek Life director Keith Tingley.

—Bethany Bradsher

the School of Social Work.

Providing the organizational muscle behind much of East Carolina's community spirit is the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center on campus. Its staff of six professionals and a dozen or more student coordinators put life into numerous community partnerships. Community members in need of help can go to the center's web site to submit requests for student volunteers to help with their project.

### ECU takes the lead

On the two-way street that runs through the ideal town-gown relationship, the university is finding its own ways to be a good citizen by frequently leaving the ivory tower to serve the community. Doing that comes naturally at East Carolina, whose motto is *Servire*, "to serve." Each year, the *Servire* Society recognizes faculty, staff and students who contribute at least 100 hours of volunteer service to the community in the previous year. Fifty-seven faculty and staff members were so honored this year, representing thousands of hours of community service.

East Carolina is active well beyond Greenville and Pitt County. Several divisions of the university are engaged in Washington County, where the Windows on the World program is providing improved educational opportunities for public school students and better job opportunities for their parents. In Swan Quarter, Plymouth, Columbia and Grifton, ECU's Office of Economic Development is running the N.C. Small Towns Economic Prosperity Program (NC-STEP) to help those towns find economic niches and develop plans to capitalize on them.

In Halifax County, the Tillery Wellness Program operated by the colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Health and Human Performance, and

Contributed photo



Local elementary school students are tutored by School of Music faculty and students.

Nursing and the Brody School of Medicine are employing a holistic perspective to improve the quality of life and address issues of social and environmental justice. Many of those same ECU departments provide volunteers for the Bernstein Center, which provides primary health care, dental care and pharmacy services for low-income people in Pitt and surrounding counties. Several community colleges and 65 other regional organizations and industries in eastern North Carolina are benefiting from training and resources provided by the College of Technology and Computer Science. The East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership mobilizes nurses and nursing students to become effective leaders in creating healthier communities east of I-95.

The Wounded Warrior East program run by the College of Health and Human Performance provides rehabilitation services

to reduce posttraumatic stress and increase physical activity for soldiers returning to homes across the region.

### Equal partners

The third type of interaction between ECU and its environs is the true alliance where each entity chips in time, effort or money and each reaps the benefit. One example of such an association is the Tenth Street Connector, an N.C. Department of Transportation project that will create a less congested and more direct route into the city and to campus from Highway 264. Shared belief in the project prompted ECU, the city of Greenville and Pitt County each to contribute \$2 million to hasten the completion of the planned new road.

Many of the latest town-gown developments grew out of a 2006 intercity visit to Athens, Ga., a city with similar demographics and

### ECU AIMS FOR CARNEGIE RECOGNITION

East Carolina hopes to be recognized in December as an engaged university, a new classification created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The application submitted by ECU details extensive examples of community-engagement activities under way in Pitt County and throughout eastern North Carolina. East Carolina officials expect to learn in December if it won.

The new Carnegie classification was developed as part of a multiyear effort to overhaul the way the foundation categorizes institutions of higher

education. In 2005 the foundation unveiled five new classifications that categorized institutions according to undergraduate and graduate instructional programs, overall enrollment, size and setting, and some characteristics of the undergraduate student body.

Nearly 90 institutions have applied for the new designation. Carnegie has recognized N.C. State University for its community engagement, the only other school in the Carolinas or Virginia to win the honor.

a comparable university population to Greenville. One of the partnerships that arose from the Athens trip was a Greenville-ECU joint task force to combat underage drinking.

Two recommendations came from the group: The city would purchase machines that would read and validate the bar codes on the back of student drivers' licenses, and the university was charged with creating a non-alcoholic venue downtown where students can congregate.

"There are at least a half a dozen significant things that happened because of our trip to Athens," says Susanne Sartelle, director of the Pitt County Chamber of Commerce which was, incidentally, founded in 1906 for the express purpose of helping attract the East Carolina Teachers Training School to Greenville.

Another partnership that was inspired by the Athens trip, this one between the chamber and the East Carolina Alumni Association, is the Painted Pirate Project. While in Athens, the group noticed colorfully painted University of Georgia bulldogs all over the city, and they came home motivated to do something similar.

Local businesses donated \$2,500 each to adopt one of the pirates, which were painted by artists from all over the East Carolina community. The life-size fiberglass statues, which were unveiled last April, will be auctioned off next April to raise funds for the two groups. Above all, the 16 pirates stationed across Greenville are a reminder of the close bond between the university and the local private sector. It's a connection that Clifford highlights when he seeks sponsors for alumni events like football tailgates or the annual golf tournament, he says.

Clifford, who has also worked at universities in Connecticut, New York and Virginia, thinks he knows why East Carolina and Greenville have such a strong bond. He believes that they each have an underdog mentality that stirs greatness. "The mission of this institution is doing things that nobody thought we could do. And I think that's a little bit true of the city of Greenville, too."

East



# V I S I T I N G A F R I C A , C O M I N G H O M E

By Marion Blackburn

An experience thousands of miles away changed everything back home for Catherine Rosario. On a trip to the West African nation of Ghana with other students in ECU's new African and African American Studies program, she felt a powerful emotional connection that awakened a deeper understanding of herself.

"When I went to Africa and studied some of my history, it brought it all back home to me," says Rosario, 59, one of the first students to major in the program. "Sometimes, it's as if we are proud of our culture as African Americans, but we still try to be like others. When we were in Africa, we were more free to be ourselves."

Her experience is one of the reasons the program encourages students majoring in the degree to study abroad, says David Dennard, director. Visiting a successful African nation shows the truth about this vast and complex continent. "Their experience was a kind of defining moment for them," he says. "It allowed them to get a view of Africa close up, and it's nothing like what you see on TV. We're trying to help students understand the African and African American experience by understanding

Africa, the Caribbean and North America." While African American studies once caused a stir on college campuses, ECU's new program is generating excitement of a different kind. Now heading into its second year, African and African American Studies attracts students seeking a wider perspective on themselves—and the world. They want to learn about Africa and the dispersal of Africans from their home continent around the world as slaves.

For ECU, which peacefully integrated its own campus in 1963, the new major is a benchmark. "This program says that the university is turning another corner," says Dennard, a professor of history. "Our students come from the Millennial Generation, and their concerns are different. They are not viewing the world in the same way as Baby Boomers have. They've been shaped by different forces."

African and African American Studies weaves together courses from several departments—history, political science, music, art, language and geography. Students plumb the journeys of Africans to the Americas, exploring modern Africa as well as slavery and the Diaspora that resulted. They

also probe how these historic cross-cultural currents produced some of mankind's greatest art forms, including jazz.

The first course that students take introduces them to the history and ongoing issues among African peoples, both in Africa and around the world. Lectures in the course, which Dennard teaches, include "Freedom Struggles and Emancipation" and "Religion in the Diaspora." Students hear jazz music, learn about dance and examine today's health, class and economic disparities.

The program took shape in part to satisfy demands for programs emphasizing global cultures. It also answers many students' personal and academic need to better understand the African American experience. Indeed, the program is part of a national current in African American studies that places emphasis on research and community service, he says.

"The first programs of this kind were usually established at historically white colleges and universities, when African Americans were first being admitted, and they found their schools were not offering information about their history and identity," he says. "In some cases, they were managed by activists, and

not by the academicians. We have moved away from that. Today, African and African American Studies are standardized academic programs, with scholarship and research."

At ECU, other factors are at work. Today's campus is more ethnically diverse than ever: 16 percent of the student body is African American, and nearly 5 percent of students trace themselves to other minority groups. There are students from 56 foreign countries as well. What's more, students are seeking disciplines that invite long-term research opportunities and offer advanced degrees. For career-minded students, the degree provides a solid foundation for careers in social work, health care—even at museums and state historical sites.

No matter what their future path, all students need to understand the larger world around them, Dennard says. Changes here and abroad mean almost certain contact with people from other cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

## Study abroad, act at home

Last summer, students spent 15 days in Ghana, one of Africa's most successfully developed nations. "African Americans

have a close relationship with Ghana," Dennard says. "Ghana has been a progressive leader in Africa, by throwing off the yoke of colonialism in 1957, before the other African countries."

Students toured fortified "slave castles" or forts where Africans were held, often for months at a time, awaiting ships for transport. These forts were run by Europeans, first the Portuguese and Dutch and later the English.

Back on campus, students are collaborating on projects that explore solutions to pressing social problems with particular relevance to the African American community, such as underage drinking, affordable housing and racial profiling. They examine theoretical information and its practical applications, and develop their own recommendations for improvement. There is a strong emphasis on devising solutions for the community, Dennard says. "Students in this program benefit from their own academic development, but they'll also be able to change their communities," he says.

Sunday Ajose, a native of Nigeria who has been on faculty since 1988, chaired the committee that developed the African

and African American Studies program. Although his primary appointment is in math education, he became interested in African and African American Studies when he realized he knew more about his adopted American home than about his native one.

"Though I am an American, I still love Nigeria very much," Ajose says. "It's a very dynamic country. I believe very strongly in the concept of 'Know yourself.' It's important to understand your history, and for African Americans, there is an African part of our history and an American part.

"It's also important for people who are not minorities at ECU to know the true history of African peoples. This program will broaden their views, and make them better students. In the end, they'll be better able to understand the world."

For Rosario, whose parents were sharecroppers, visiting Ghana means thinking about her life and future in a different way. "Until we can understand everything together, we can never bring about change," she says. "We have to understand one another."



## Training vascular surgeons to have a heart

By Leanne E. Smith

When he was 15, Steven Powell got a job as an orderly at his hometown hospital in Kentucky. He watched doctors whose skill and dedication inspired him to attend medical school. Thirty years after receiving his M.D. with distinction from the University of Kentucky, a visual reminder of his beginnings in medicine decorates his office wall: a shadowbox containing the mask and gloves from his first scrub.

As chief of vascular surgery at the Brody School of Medicine since 1989, Powell has inspired a generation of medical students.

“When I get in a difficult spot, I think about how he would manage the problem,” says Dr. Philip Brown ‘95, who practices in Wilmington. “For all of us Powell ‘disciples,’ in the back of our minds, there’s a little Powell there telling us how to manage it. That’s something that makes someone a superb educator.”

Powell downplays the accolades, but his colleagues still praise him. Powell is “unique as a leader and surgeon,” says Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr., chief of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the East Carolina Heart Institute. Colleagues

point out that Powell has authored more than 40 publications, delivered more than 20 conference presentations and held academic committee assignments. He’s served as vascular section editor for the scholarly journal *Current Surgery* since 1990. A member of more than 25 professional organizations, he co-founded the Carolina Vascular Society in 1994. Several times, *Business North Carolina* magazine has named him one of the “Best Doctors” in North Carolina.

BSOM students admire him and seek his advice. Powell helps facilitate mock oral exams and delivers guest lectures. Several

times, fourth-year medical students have selected him to deliver a portion of the annual String of Pearls address, during which a few medical faculty offer their “pearls” of wisdom.

The primary lesson he wants students and residents to learn is “to do what is in the best interest of the patient and try not to do too much or too little.” The balance is rooted in the style he learned as a teenager: focus on team effort and education with doctor–resident, doctor–doctor, and doctor–patient partnerships.

### Taking the team approach

In the “great teaching lab” environment of the operating room, Powell and his team— Drs. William M. Bogey Jr., Frank M. Parker, and Michael Clinton Stoner—primarily mentor third- and fourth-year medical and physician assistant students. While many of the residents with whom Powell works focus on general surgery, some specialize in vascular training. With the opening of the new Heart Institute, however, Powell says, “One of the goals is to have our own specialized training program in vascular surgery.”

Then, he says, more doctors and their patients would know that cardiovascular disease isn’t just about heart attacks and strokes. The same plaque buildup that can reduce or totally block blood flow to the heart and brain also can clog arteries that supply blood to other organs, arms, and legs. Such blockages—known as peripheral arterial disease (PAD)—reduce a patient’s quality of life and can eventually cause heart attacks and strokes.

Whether students choose a vascular path or not, Powell says supervising doctors are proud of their apprentices’ progress at different points. “Sometimes a resident or student will show such self motivation or accomplishment that in the short run there is immediate pride in what

they accomplish. Other times, it is at the culmination of six years of training and feeling they are ready to practice independently as conscientious surgeons.”

Teaching and learning don’t stop with the doctor–resident team. Powell believes “There is not enough time devoted to teaching about vascular disease in medical school,” and as a result, “Some doctors perform too many procedures because they fail to keep up or have knowledge of the latest medical advances, which can in many cases avoid expensive, invasive treatment like surgery, or an angioplasty or stent procedure. If we can save patients from having one too many expensive tests or procedures, then we can go a long way in helping solve the financial crisis that is reaching the boiling point in our health care system.”

Powell and his team want new and experienced doctors, even outside a university setting, to be aware of current research and practice. He has given numerous guest lectures for professionals at satellite locations of the Eastern Area Health Education Center, and facilitated outreach clinics in several eastern N.C. counties. He hopes his quartet of “experts in cost-effective diagnosis and treatment of PAD” can continue to “share knowledge with other providers who cannot be as up to date with the latest developments in diagnosis and treatment of vascular disease.”

Treating PAD, he says, shouldn’t just be about a doctor prescribing a drug or performing a surgical procedure. In fact, surgery should rarely be the first solution. Long-term PAD management requires patients to control risk factors: don’t smoke; exercise regularly; maintain a healthy diet; and regulate diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

The noninvasive treatment approach has been successful. Chitwood says, “He has developed a world class vascular

surgery program at ECU with world class surgeons, who specialize in the least invasive procedures and operations for both complex and simple blood vessel disease and stroke prevention.”

### Learning permeates life

Powell’s multifaceted perspective on medicine carries over into his life away from campus. He enjoys “golf, capitalism and the financial markets, all aspects of American history, fly fishing, C-SPAN’s *Book TV*, cosmology, horses, writing and education.” His recent reads include *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* and *The Last Lecture*.

On or off campus, learning permeates Powell’s life. He and his team look forward to the educational opportunities in the new Heart Institute that will help them add members to the team of doctors, students and patients who put patient health first. “In addition to our commitment to educate the doctors of the future through our affiliation with BSOM and Pitt County Memorial Hospital, the new center offers a chance to implement a system of cost effective, total care of all aspects of the treatment of cardiovascular disease and to develop a support network for education of primary care providers who are dealing with patients with vascular disease in our region and beyond.”

“He’s a character, and his charisma inspired us,” says former pupil Brown, who practices with Wilmington Health Associates. “He’s a fabulous mentor, always available for advice. He’s an extremely gifted surgeon and enjoys what he does, whether it’s teaching or surgery, and Powell is a large part of the reason why I decided to go into vascular surgery. He challenged us to develop mastery over vascular disease treatment. He’s passionate about doing the right thing and really conveys that to his trainees.”

*He's taught  
East Carolina  
how to win again  
simply by making  
the Pirates believe  
they can*

# Mr. Holland's Opus

By Bethany Bradsher

Many East Carolina fans were shocked when Terry Holland, in one of his first major moves after being named East Carolina's director of athletics four years ago, announced an ambitious football schedule that included multiple games against North Carolina, Virginia Tech and other big-name opponents. It seemed a daunting challenge for a team that had finished the prior year with a 1-11 record and had won a grand total of 11 games in three years. There's nary a Doubting Thomas in the Pirate Nation now.

These days, Holland, who is six feet seven inches tall, literally and figuratively towers over the sports landscape in Greenville. He is widely respected for restoring the region's pride in East Carolina sports and for his folksy, down-home approach to the job. The football program has regained much of its former luster and most other sports teams have improved, both academically and in the win-loss column.

But if you're looking for some grand, complicated scheme behind Holland's philosophy, you won't find it. For example, he says he added powerhouse schools to the football schedule because, "I didn't know that we could beat them, but I knew we couldn't beat them unless we played them."

Now, some fans worry that East Carolina can't continue winning without Terry Holland in charge. They fear that Holland, who turned 66 in April, will retire when his five-year contract expires next September and take his winning ways with him. But others are confident that he has set East Carolina on a firm footing that will survive for many years to come regardless of who holds the athletic director's job.

### Why come to Greenville?

Terry Holland didn't have a grand career plan in mind that prescribed his move to

Greenville at the age of 62. But some aspects of his 2004 transition to East Carolina did seem to be pre-ordained. He had never had any desire to live in a large city, having spent most of his career in Davidson, with a population of around 10,000, and Charlottesville, Va., which has around 40,000 residents. Both he and his wife, Ann, had family in eastern North Carolina. And after years of watching the intercollegiate athletic landscape tilt toward big money and prominent conferences, he felt drawn to mid-major colleges stuck in the inequities of a Bowl Championship Series-driven world.

"I felt that the BCS and other things had distracted a lot of good programs and actually hampered them from accomplishing their objectives," said Holland.

Through the 1980s and the early '90s, ECU athletics had constructed a reputation as a plucky underdog that exceeded expectations on a regular basis. But the program Holland inherited, stung by turnover in administration and coaching and the rise of the BCS, seemed more like the insecure child waiting to be the last one picked at recess.

"We had allowed other people to define our potential rather than defining our potential for ourselves, and that is not consistent with the way East Carolina has operated in the past. Somehow we lost our focus, and it's imperative that we get it back.

"We can't have people saying we can't compete. We can't have people saying, 'You can't have a medical school, or you can't be a university. We've never done those things before but somehow, around 2000 we started to back off a little bit, to believe what people were saying about East Carolina University.'"

Holland first experienced the joy of surprising the powerhouses nearly half a century ago when he was recruited out of Clinton, in Sampson County, to play basketball for Davidson College. During his senior year Holland led the nation in field-goal percentage and served as captain of a Wildcat squad that finished the season ranked 10th in

the nation. It was the first nationally ranked Davidson team in school history.

He spent the decade after his graduation coaching at his alma mater, as an assistant for five years and the head coach for five. He was named Southern Conference coach of the year three times. Then it was on to a seminal 16 years at the University of Virginia, where he became the winningest coach in school history, took teams to two Final Fours and won Virginia's only ACC Tournament title in 1976.

In 1990 he went back to the college that had first courted him, Davidson, as the athletic director. He kept that job for five years before Virginia lured him back to Charlottesville as its own athletic director. In 2001 he resigned as Virginia's AD to become a special assistant to the college president. He led the fund raising for an \$86 million expansion of the university's football stadium and supervised construction of the new \$130 million John Paul Jones basketball arena.

### Ready for another challenge

After three years of helping Virginia meet the onrushing challenges of the college athletics juggernaut, Holland was ready for one more task. Much to the Pirate Nation's surprise, he took on ECU's cause with gusto. Within a few months of his arrival in September 2004, he orchestrated the mid-season resignation of football coach John Thompson and the hiring of Skip Holtz. In June 2005 he announced an aggressive new football schedule football that includes several games against big-name opponents.

Three universities, twice as coach and thrice as AD, and Holland was facing challenges that grew ever more complicated. But Holland thrives in the diversity and richness of a university atmosphere, and he says he is thankful that he has never had to spend one working day away from a campus.

"None of us want to leave college, and I've been fortunate that I've never had to leave," he said. "This is 48 years from when I was

recruited to play basketball at Davidson, and I have to say that just like everything else it has its ups and downs, but it is a tremendous environment. It helps keep you young, because you're dealing with young people. You're dealing with future leaders."

Despite his decades-long affiliations with Davidson and Virginia, Holland has gone out of his way to make it clear to Pirate boosters that his loyalty lies east of I-95. It's part of the unwavering commitment to the team that he tries to model to every member of the Pirate Nation, the "team" for whom he considers himself the "head coach." It was that devotion that prompted Holland to refuse offers to go to Raleigh last spring to watch Davidson compete in the NCAA basketball tournament, even though he was certainly pulling for them from afar.

"I've tried to be sensitive to the fact that this is my mission right now, and there's no question as to where my loyalty lies," he said. "My total focus is on what's good for East Carolina. Everybody here should think that way, and let's not get distracted to the things that are around us."

When he was introduced to ECU, Holland signed a five-year contract starting at \$276,000 a year, and it was generally understood that he wasn't settling in for an extra-long tenure. He doesn't give any hints about personal timetable for closing the door on his East Carolina chapter, but he makes it clear that an important part of his assignment in shoring up Pirate fans' self-esteem. He is intent on creating a confidence that is not dependent on the identity of any coach or athletic director.

"I would give credit for everything that has happened to the ability of the Pirate Nation to regain its focus, to regain its passion, its pride in what it was doing, and not allow other circumstances to dictate our future potential," he says. "As important as we

#### Since Terry Holland arrived:

- Women's basketball rebounded, winning the 2007 Conference USA Tournament championship and playing in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1982.
- Men's basketball, never one of ECU's strong sports, recorded its first-ever victory over an ACC opponent last season and tied the school record for most conference wins. Still a work in progress, the team posted the highest GPA in the conference.
- The women's soccer team tied the school record for wins, 11, in 2006.
- The volleyball team recorded back-to-back winning seasons in 2005 and '06 for the first time since the late 1970s.
- The women's golf team won the conference championship in 2006, and boasted player of the year and coach of the year honors this year when the squad finished the season nationally ranked for the first time in school history.
- The baseball team earned three NCAA appearances; three players earned All-America honors.
- The softball team received its first at-large bid to the NCAA tournament this year and recorded its first-ever victory over a Top-10 team.
- The women's tennis team won 19 matches in 2007, equaling the school record number of victories set in 2006.

would like to think chancellors and ADs and coaches are, this has been a rejuvenation of the Pirate Nation.

"We can't tie our future to individuals. We have to tie it to a collective base, and that base is the Pirate Nation as a whole. None is truly more important than the other. I know that's not the way we operate in today's society, or the way we think, but we've got to change our thinking."

Despite his self-effacing attitude, many believe much of the credit for the turnaround in ECU sports should go to Holland. "I think he honestly saved ECU's athletic program to a large degree," said Caulton Tudor, the veteran sports writer and columnist for the *Raleigh News & Observer*. Tudor said that Holland's greatest challenge may come at the end of this football season. "It's not going to be easy to keep Skip Holtz in the job. He's a quality coach, and programs all over the country know it. I don't think he'll turn down too many more offers."

### Remaining challenges

Terry Holland already has achieved several important goals by constructing a self-sustaining sports program with the confidence to excel regardless of NCAA or BCS constraints. But challenges remain, especially in the area of facilities. When Holland arrived the tight ends were holding their position meetings in a broom closet.

East Carolina remains still one of the few Division I programs that relies on one gymnasium for its volleyball, men's basketball and women's basketball teams. A \$30 million plan to shore up the Olympic sports practice and competition venues is in the development stages now.

In brick-and-mortar terms, "We are way, way behind our competition," he says.

Another bit of unfinished business for Holland, at least in the minds of many who follow

the Pirates, is the question of conference affiliation. Membership in Conference USA has given ECU teams some tough competition and exposed athletes to multiple regions of the country, but the conference also has its downsides. Because C-USA schools are so spread out—only two other league members are in the same time zone as ECU—travel costs today far exceed what they were when ECU played in a more regional league. But above that drawback is the fact that C-USA isn't a member of the BCS and thus denied access to the major bowl games.

Holland has consistently kept the BCS in his sights, but he believes that there are two ways to get there. C-USA can work to become more competitive and angle for inclusion in the BCS, or ECU can try to be in the right place at the right time if conference realignment occurs. Either way, Holland is determined to keep the Pirates at the forefront of any new developments.

"Right now I don't see any reshuffling," he says. "But the waterfront was very quiet when the ACC announced its expansion plans. So we know that things can go on behind the scenes. What we've tried to do is make sure that we know what's going on, and that at least we're part of the process. Let's face it, we've attracted attention. If somebody is looking to improve the football in their league, certainly they would have to consider East Carolina University." **East**

**Scholarships race ahead**

After awarding an unprecedented 24 scholarships to deserving students this academic year, the Alumni Association is using growing proceeds from its fund-raisers to award 30 in 2009–10. Supporting the scholarships are the Pirate’s Bounty Scholarship Auction, the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic and the Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run. Tax-deductible membership contributions and outright gifts to the Alumni Association also support student scholarships.

One of this year’s scholarship recipients is Tiffany Lee, a junior double major in biology and communication with a minor in neuroscience. Lee, who has made the Dean’s List five semesters, is an early assurance student to the Brody School of Medicine and is an avid volunteer. “This kind of

recognition reinforces for me that I’m on the right path with my education,” said Lee, who participated in this year’s road race. “That race was the first I’ve ever participated in and now I have a new passion for running.”

Another scholarship recipient is current student body president Andrew Griffin, a senior finance major who has been on the Honor Roll for eight semesters. A member of ECU’s Men’s Rugby Club, Griffin was named Greek Man of the Year in 2007 and is an active volunteer. “This award has helped me in continuing my education at our outstanding university, and I will continue to do everything possible to uphold the reputation that comes with receiving an Alumni Association Scholarship,” Griffin said.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 and submit an application, a

letter of recommendation and an official transcript. Students may apply for a scholarship each year they are enrolled as a full-time, undergraduate student. Graduating students who intend to enroll at ECU for graduate school may also apply for one of the scholarships. Completed applications are due by Jan. 31. Applications are available at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center at 901 East Fifth Street and online at [PirateAlumni.com/scholarships](http://PirateAlumni.com/scholarships).

**Sail with the Pirates**

Come sail away with the Alumni Association in June on cruises to the Caribbean and Bermuda. Open to all alumni and friends, the cruises are the perfect way to cultivate your passion for learning through travel. Setting sail from Norfolk, Va., on June 4, the Eastern Caribbean 10-day cruise on

Royal Caribbean’s Grandeur of the Seas is sure to satisfy your desire for turquoise seas and pink sandy beaches. With stops in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas Virgin Islands; Samana, Dominican Republic; and Labadee, Haiti, you’ll have the complete Eastern Caribbean experience. Are you intrigued by the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle? Then book our five-day Bermuda Cruise for June 13–18 and explore the beauty and mystery of Bermuda. Visit [PirateAlumni.com/piratevoyages](http://PirateAlumni.com/piratevoyages) or call 800-ECU-GRAD for details.

**Pirate Career Calls**

A new season of Pirate Career Calls is under way. Offered through a partnership among the Alumni Association, the Career Center and Human Resources, these

monthly conference calls offer tips and advice to alumni and friends who are seeking employment. Held the first Thursday of each month beginning at noon, the hour-long Career Calls cover key job search and advancement issues. Supporting the discussions are PowerPoint presentations that will be e-mailed to participants who register at [PirateAlumni.com/careercalls](http://PirateAlumni.com/careercalls). Here is the schedule and topics:

- Dec. 4** How to Cure Your Mingle-Phobia
- Jan. 8** How to Get Promoted
- Feb. 5** The Benefits of Temporary Employment
- March 5** Salary Negotiations
- April 2** Career Changers
- May 7** Taking Advantage of Development Opportunities in Your Workplace

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**New York alumni chapter holiday party**  
 December 7  
**Wake County NC alumni chapter holiday party**  
 December 11

**Come watch the game!**

East Carolina’s last regular season football game is Friday, Nov. 28, at 1:00 p.m. If you can’t make it to the game in Greenville, then join fellow Pirates at one of many football viewing parties across the Pirate Nation. Game watches are scheduled in Charlotte; Raleigh; Wilmington; Atlanta; Richmond; Washington, D.C.; Frederick, Md.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Lewisville, Texas; Phoenix, Ariz.; and Winter Park, Fla.

Visit [PirateAlumni.com/viewingparties](http://PirateAlumni.com/viewingparties) for locations in each of the cities. If you want to have a game watch in your hometown, call Kendra Alexander at 800-ECU-GRAD to get started.

Mark your calendar for April 18 to take part in the second annual Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run. Our 5K race and 1-mile fun run is a USATF certified course that begins in uptown Greenville and travels down historic Fifth Street. Awards are presented to the first three male finishers overall, to the first three female finishers overall, and the top three male and female finishers in six age categories. All proceeds benefit Alumni Association Scholarships. Be sure to check [PirateAlumni.com/roadrace](http://PirateAlumni.com/roadrace) in the spring for details.



Doug Smith



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

2008

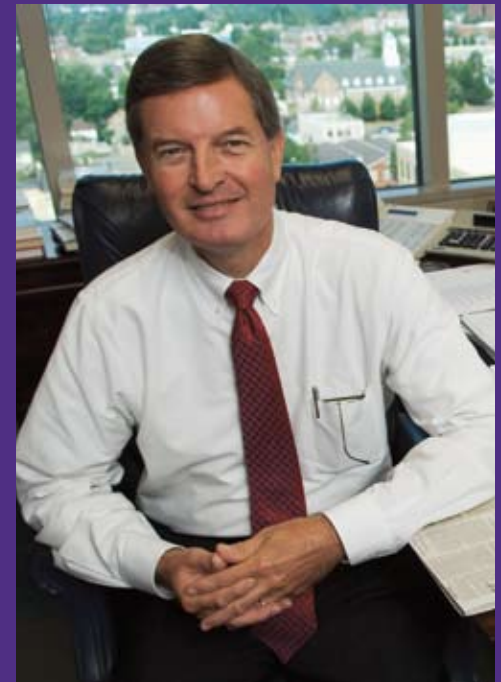
ANDREW P. BENTON of Spring Lake was commissioned as a second lieutenant after completing ECU's Army ROTC program. ASHLEY BOARMAN, as account coordinator, provides strategic account services in DPR Group's corporate headquarters in Germantown, Md. CORRIE LEIGH JOHNSON and Steven Reid Ball of Zebulon were married Aug. 2 in Bethel. She is an RN at Nash General Hospital. JOHN J. LAFOUNTAIN of Fayetteville was commissioned as a second lieutenant after completing ECU's Army ROTC program. DR. KEITH RUSSELL, originally from Gibsonville, is a physical therapist at Greenville's CareWorks Clinic, where he did a clinical rotation.

2007

THOMAS P. BARSALOU of Spring Lake was commissioned as a second lieutenant after completing ECU's Army ROTC program. JAY BISSETTE was promoted from an intern to assistant equipment manager for Duke University football. JASON LAWRENCE BURNETTE and Kristin Lee Krupa of Raleigh were married June 7 in Chocowinity. He is the superintendent for N.C. Contracting Co. ERIKA PIPKIN BURTI and ALEXANDER TANKERSLEY RUST of Farmville were married May 3 in Farmville. She worked at Williams Jewelry Store and as a teller at SECU, and he is a guitarist with Christian rock band The Avenger. JENNIFER RENEE HILL and Jordan Ross Craft of Greenville were married May 24 at Yankee Hall Plantation. She is a clinical dietitian at PCMH. AMANDA RYAN KELLAR and Joseph Timothy Tomkiewicz of Greenville were married April 5 in Lewisville. She is an RN in the cardiac intensive care unit at PCMH. ASHLEY BROOKE O'NEAL '07 '08 and Jared Blake Moser were married June 7 in Mount Airy. JORDAN VAINRIGHT of Greenville recently founded Signature Jordan Vainright, an appointment-only-consultation company through which she takes interior design/decorating and custom artwork commissions.

2006

SPENCER TODD BRADLEY of New Bern is the new principal at Brinson Memorial Elementary School in New Bern. MICHAEL DAVID BURNETT and JENNIFER LYNN WAYNE of Huntersville were married May 10 at the William Aiken House in Charleston, S.C. He works with ABC Supply Co. in Charlotte, and she is a professional clothier with Tom James Co. in Charlotte. FAITH ANNE FLETCHER and Jarrod Ross Gouty of Durham were married June 7 in Asheboro. She is a social worker for child protective services with Johnston County Department of Social Services. KIMBERLY GRACE GIBSON of Raeford



**Kelly King** '70 '71 was promoted to president and CEO of Branch Banking & Trust Co., succeeding the retiring John Allison. King also was elected to the BB&T board of directors. He had served as COO of the bank since 2004, when he succeeded **Henry Williamson Jr.** '68 '71.

Allison's retirement is the latest step in BB&T's five-year executive management transition plan that

also included the retirement of chief credit officer **W. Kendall Chalk** '68 '71.

King, 59, joined BB&T in 1972 and has been a member of BB&T's executive management team since 1983. He was named president of BB&T Corp. in 1996.

"The board is totally confident in Kelly's leadership and long-term commitment to our company," said lead corporate director **James Maynard** '65, co-founder and chairman of the Golden Corral restaurant chain. "Kelly knows BB&T as well as anyone. He knows the culture and knows the values and will keep both intact as CEO."

King is a member of the Financial Services Roundtable and serves as chairman of the Piedmont Triad Leadership Group. He is a member of the Triangle Community Foundation Leadership Council and the N.C. Chamber of Commerce board. He is past chair of the United Way Tocqueville Leadership Society, and a former board member of the American Bankers Association. He has chaired the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, the N.C. Bankers Association and the East Carolina University Board of Visitors.

With \$136.5 billion in assets, Winston-Salem, N.C.-based BB&T Corp is the nation's 14th largest financial holding company. It operates nearly 1,500 financial centers in 11 states and Washington, D.C.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Courtesy Tennessee Titans

**Earnest Byner** says that it's "almost eerie" that the Tennessee Titans hired him as the running backs coach last March and then selected running back Chris Johnson '07 in the first round of the NFL draft .

"A couple years ago I went down there [to Greenville] and someone mentioned that I needed to check [Johnson] out," Byner said. "But that kind of went in one ear and out the other. Then when I got to Tennessee some of the coaches were just raving about him."

Although Byner may not have known much about Johnson, Johnson said he knew plenty about Byner. "I saw a lot of his pictures in the record books at ECU," Johnson said. "He's a legend there." Byner, a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, was a bruising fullback for the Pirates from 1980-83, gaining 2,049 yards on 378 carries, an average of more than 5.4 yards per carry. He led the Pirates in rushing in 1983. He was inducted into the ECU Hall of Fame in 1998 and returned to complete his studies and graduated in 2004.

A two-time Pro Bowler, Byner rushed for 8,261 yards, the 16th highest career total in NFL history the day he retired, and scored 56 touchdowns. He helped lead the Cleveland Browns to a pair of AFC Championship games in 1987 and 1988 and was named to the list of 70 Greatest Redskins in 2002. He is also a member of the Baltimore Ravens Ring of Honor. Prior to his arrival in Tennessee, he spent the past four seasons in Washington as the Redskins running backs coach and helped groom Clinton Portis and Ladell Betts into one of the top rushing duos in the NFL.

Byner said of the chance to coach Johnson: "It really is special."

and Jason Brinkley Brock of Angier were married Aug. 2 in Fayetteville. She teaches second grade at Benson Elementary School. After honeymooning in St. Lucia, they live in Benson. **MARK EDWARD SHAFER** and **AMBER BRITTANY STORY** of Raleigh were married April 5. He is an Aflac agent, and she works with the SPCA Pet Adoption Center of Wake County. **HANNAH CLARE SWICEGOOD** and Eric Boyd Proctor of Winston-Salem were married Aug. 2 in Salisbury. She is a commercial strategy marketing specialist for capital formation and specialized lending at the BB&T corporate office in Winston-Salem and is in ECU's MBA program. **WILLIAM ISLER WOOTEN III** and Erin Leigh Wright of Norfolk, Va., were married June 14 in Stillwater, Okla. He is a second-year pediatric resident at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters.

2005

**SARAH LINDSAY DIXON** and Tyler Pate Allen of Greenville were married April 5 in Winterville. She is the regional pharmacy accounting coordinator at PCMH. **MATTHEW RYAN JACKSON**, formerly of Fayetteville, is a CPA with Sonic Auto Parts of Charlotte. He gained his certification while working with Grant Thornton. **MARIA ELENA JOHNSON** and **HARRY EDWARD JUDGE** '06 of Greenville were married April 26 in Rocky Mount. She works at Cypress Glen, and he works at PIP Printing and Marketing. **LESLIE MARIE KNIGHT** '05 '06 and **NICHOLAS TREY HAYES** '07 of Greenville were married at King's Gate Church in Hamlet on July 26. She is working on a doctorate in educational leadership though Colorado's Jones University. **MARY CATHERINE KNIGHT** and Joseph Andrew Moree of Rockingham and Ayden were married June 14. She is enrolled at BSOM. **MIKIKO MCKINNON** '05 '07 and **JEREMIAH SIMMONS** of Greenville were married May 24. She teaches second grade at H.B. Sugg School in Farmville, and he is a program analyst with Pitt County government. **VANCE TOWNSEND** and **LAUREN ANNE DAVIS** '06 of Kensington, Md., were married on July 19 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. He is a manager/broker with Townsend Real Estate. She is a loan processor with Carolina Mortgage. They live in Fayetteville. At ECU, he was a Kappa Alpha, and she was a Chi Omega. **JENNIFER TRIPP** '05 is the new director of development for ECU's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. She previously worked in operations management and recruiting efforts for ECU football and baseball. As a student, she was alumni relations coordinator for Sigma Sigma Sigma and an ambassador for the Greenville-Pitt County Area Chamber of Commerce.

2004

**BARRY GRAHAM** is a physician assistant in the Southeastern Regional Medical Center at Southeastern Urgent Care of Pembroke. **ELIZABETH ANNE**

**KATA** and **PAUL JAMES BRINEY** '05 of Greenville were married June 14 at Autumn Lakes in Grimesland. She works for ECU's Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, and he works at Creekside Elementary School. **STEVE M. LASSITER JR.** was a finalist for Pitt County Teacher of the Year. A teacher at E.B. Aycock Middle School with four years of experience, he was an N.C. Principal Fellow and is working on his master's at ECU. **JAIMEE GRIMM MARTIN** was named the top teacher at Elmhurst Elementary School. She has four years of teaching experience and a reading licensure for K-12. **JOHN TYSON** of Winterville was named assistant treasurer at Greenville-based Select Bank and Trust, where he has worked since 2004 as a teller and customer service representative and in loan operations. He is enrolled in ECU's MBA program and is married to **LESLEY ASHWORTH TYSON** '03.

2003

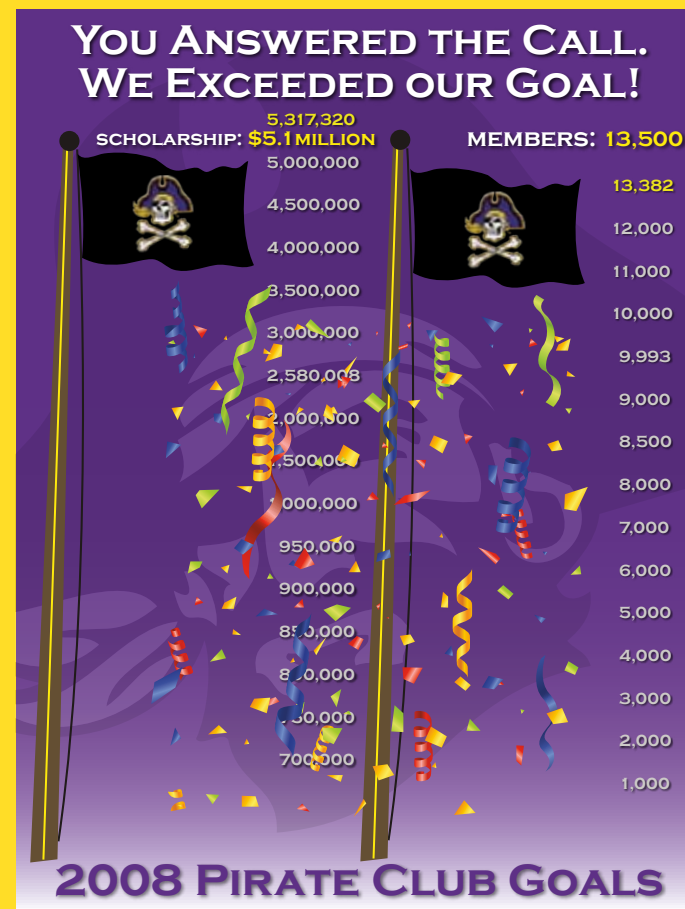
**KENDALL BARNES** of Raleigh is senior media planner at MarketSmart Advertising. She was a media buyer and senior account executive with N.C. Press Services, a media buyer at the Stone Agency, and an assistant planner/buyer on the Duke Medicine account at Media Research Planning & Placement. She is active in the Junior League. **LATONJIA MOORE**

**COLUMBUS** was named the top teacher at Third Street School in Greenville. **ELLEN MABE** is a new assistant principal at Hamlet Middle School. She taught at North Laurinburg Elementary School in Scotland County and second grade at Fairview Heights Elementary School before becoming assistant principal at Fairview. She is married to **KEVIN MABE**, the new assistant principal at Richmond Senior High School. He was a P.E. teacher at Washington Street School. **JOSHUA BENNETT MAUNEY** and Autumn Lynn Teal of Garner were married Nov. 22, 2007, at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh. He is president of Paragon Building and Development Group. **THOMAS C. ROBBINS IV** of Washington was promoted to senior vice president and director of information technology at First South Bank. With First South since 2005, he has more than 20 years of information technology experience. **ANNE FERREBEE SANDERS** and Todd Gooding MacKenzie of Greenville were married April 26 at Beech Hill Plantation in Walterboro, S.C. She is an insurance specialist with Wachovia Dealer Services in Winterville. **HOLLY SCOTT** and **MIKE HARRINGTON** '04 appeared in Avon's Spa Koru's TV show about National Seashore destination weddings. "Tying the Knot: A Hatteras Island Wedding." **DEAN MARSHALL TUCK** '03

'08, originally of Bailey, is a teaching instructor in ECU's English department. As a student, he was active in the English Graduate Student Organization and ECU Poetry Forum. His fiction piece "Van Gogh Wednesdays" appeared in the December 2007 issue of *The Common Reader*. **ROBERT YELVERTON** is principal at Wayne County's Southern Academy.

2002

**SHIRLEY JEAN ATKINSON** was named the top teacher at C.M. Eppes Middle School in Greenville. **AMANDA LEA BENNETT GARD** and **BILLY GARD** '07, a project engineer for Kjellstrom and Lee Construction in Richmond, had their first child, Jackson "Jack" Gard on Aug. 25. **MIKE INSCOE** is a graphic designer in the creative department at MarketSmart Advertising. **WILLIAM KELLEY** is the new principal at West Rockingham Elementary School. For the past 22 years, he was a teacher, assistant principal, and principal at Ellerbe Junior High School. **SUSAN TAYLOR LEE** was named the top teacher at W.H. Robison Elementary School in Winterville. She is working on a master's degree in school administration. **ROB RANSOM** is a new assistant principal at Hamlet Middle School. He was an elementary school P.E. teacher in Scotland County and a coach for several sports during his 12



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years in Richmond County. **JOHN C. SOUTHERN III '02 '03** was promoted to office executive at The East Carolina Bank in Washington. He also teaches at Mount Olive College—Washington. **LAWANDA WALKER** is the new principal at Richmond Early College. She previously taught math and keyboarding at Hamlet Junior High School and was assistant principal at Rockingham Senior High School. **ANGELA WATKINS** is the new assistant principal at Monroe Avenue Elementary School in Hamlet. She previously taught first, second, and third grade at Fairview Heights Elementary School and was named 2007-2008 Richmond County Schools' Assistant Principal of the Year. **KELLY WHITLOCK** was named the top teacher at Sadie Saulter Elementary in Greenville.

2001

**JENNIFER DIANE ANGEVINE** and James William Gentry of Greenville were married July 19 in Wilmington. She is a senior administrative assistant for the N.C. Biotechnology Center and a nursing student at PCC. **AMANDA HUDDLESTON AVERY** was named the top teacher at Bethel School. She is working on a master's degree. **ERICA STANKWYTCH BAILEY** and 10 of her students from Fayetteville Technical Community College showed their metalwork at Cape Fear Studios last summer. She built the wall boxes for the jewelry, and they designed the interiors to highlight their work. **TIM DAMERON** was named

the top teacher at J.H. Rose High School. **PHILLIP GILFUS** began his four-year term as one of five N.C. representatives on the Democratic National Committee in August. At 27, he is a former Army captain, one of the youngest N.C. representatives, and a third-year law student at Campbell University. **MARCELLUS HARRIS III** is the new head football coach at Denbigh High School in Newport News, Va., and will keep his position as a guidance counselor at Epes Elementary School. He played football at ECU, catching 98 passes for 1,435 yards and 12 touchdowns. **MARK MACKAY POWELL** was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound in Wilmington on June 28. He received his BSN at ECU and his M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary. **CHRISTY WARD REYNOLDS '01 '05** was named the top teacher at Wintergreen Intermediate School in Greenville. A National Board Certified teacher, she is an exceptional needs specialist for early childhood through young adulthood. **CHRISTI J. ROARK** of Aurora was promoted to assistant vice president and is assistant controller at First South Bank. With First South since 2002, she also is an EMT with the Aurora Volunteer Rescue Squad. **GINA ROBINSON** is the new dean of professional and technical programs at Brunswick Community College. With BCC for 19 years, she was interim director of business programs since 2004, and director starting in 2007. **BRIDGETT DAWN**

**WEBB** and Bryant Leonard Waters of Winterville were married April 26. She is manager of the hazard insurance department at BB&T in Wilson.

2000

**CHRIS BLICE** is the new principal at Northwood High School in Pittsboro. He was a music teacher for 17 years and was principal of Louisburg High School starting in 2003. **BELLAMY GOINS** is a new assistant principal at Richmond County Ninth Grade Academy. In her 14 years in education, she has taught English language arts at Northolt High School in London, England; the Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia, S.C.; and Rockingham Junior High School. **JONATHAN HOY** became CFO of Durham Regional Hospital on Aug. 1. He was director of finance for Duke HomeCare and Hospice. **CHRIS MOXLEY**, previously principal at Pactolus School, is the new principal at Farmville Central High School. He was a lawyer in Houston, Texas, and New Bern. **STEPHANIE RENEE OWEN** of Hampton, Va., and Ronald Douglas Benson II of Asheville were married June 21 in High Point and will live in Asheville. She taught art in Newport News Public Schools for seven years. **KONSTADINO JOHN STAMBOLITIS '00 '02** and Candace Lee Buck of Charlotte were married July 12 in Charlotte. He is self-employed.

1999



**SCOTT AVETT** of the Avett Brothers folk-rock band participated in a dual exhibition with Crackerfarm at the Envoy art gallery in New York City's Lower East Side from July through August. His media include printmaking, painting, and sculpture. Crackerfarm's portion of the show featured pieces created as documentation of Scott Avett's persona and experience during a recent Avett concert tour. **KEVIN ERNEST BASS** and Laura Kelly Fulk of Winston-Salem were married July 19 in Winston-Salem. He is an information technology professional for Wachovia. **JIM BUTLER** is the new principal at Hamlet Middle School. He was principal of Hoffman and Washington Street elementary schools. **AMY HILLIARD '99 '06** was named the top teacher at South Central High School in Pitt County. **WISONIA DALRESE HOPKINS '99 '04** was named the top teacher at Hope Middle School in Pitt County. **JOEY JERNIGAN** is a new assistant principal and P.E. teacher at Ninth Grade Transitional School in Richmond County. **WENDY KELLY JORDAN** is the new principal at Rohanen Primary and Ashley Chapel Elementary schools. She was assistant principal at Monroe Avenue Elementary School and is now working on a doctorate at ECU. **KEITH MCKENZIE**, in his 25th year with Richmond County Schools, is the new principal at Fairview Heights Elementary School in Hamlet. He was assistant principal at Washington Street and principal at Hoffman elementary schools. **YUKI PRESCOTT** is the new clinical trials manager at Addrenex Pharmaceuticals in Durham. She was an inpatient and outpatient physical therapist and later a project manager and clinical research associate with Constella Group. **JAYSON RAWLEY** was named the top teacher at Farmville Central High School. **RUSS SAPUTO** is the new vice president/successor manager of Carolina Eagle Distributing in Rocky Mount, where he distributes Anheuser-Busch products in four Eastern N.C. counties. He and his wife **KRISTA**

**SAPUTO '04** have a 3-year-old daughter, Lexie Madison, and had a son, Joseph Valentino Saputo, on Aug 5. **CORY SATTERFIELD** is the new principal at Richmond Senior High School. He was named 2003-2004 principal of the year and 2005 Wachovia Principal of the Year for Richmond County Schools. **JASON M. SHELL** of China Grove is a certified financial planner with Raymond James Financial Services in Salisbury and Huntersville. **KIMBERLY MONTRIALA SUTTON** was named the top teacher at Belvoir Elementary School.

1998

**JERRI ASHLEY GIBSON** and Gregg Michael Cuesta of Wilmington were married June 14 in Wilmington. She taught reading recovery in Pitt County. **DR. DERRICK S. HINES** is medical director for Touchstone Behavioral Health in Glendale, Ariz. A Greenville native, he had a fellowship in BSOM's psychiatry program. In Arizona, he will review and recruit psychiatrists, enforce accreditation standards at Touchstone clinics, and continue to work with Arizona's Children Association in Phoenix. **JOHN MOSELEY '98 '99**, originally of Warrenton, is the new director of basketball operations at ECU. He was a student manager at ECU before becoming an assistant coach in Delaware.

1997

**BRIAN G. DILDAY '97 '01** was named the top teacher at Wahl-Coates Elementary School in Greenville. **NANCY LYNN JOHNSON HOLLAND** of Berlin, Md., who was married in March 2005, had a daughter, Amy, on May 16. Amy's brother, Matthew, was born on Sept. 26, 2006. **KEVIN A. PARRISH** is Honeywell Security's district manager for the Carolinas. He was an inside sales, branch management, and regional account specialist with ADI for eight years. **HEATHER MISENHEIMER STEPP** and **DEREK STEPP '98** of Greenville had a daughter, Stella Grace, on Aug. 27. She joins sister Olivia (6).

1996

**CAMMY BENTON '96 '00** and Jaime Espinosa had a daughter, AnaMaria Giselle, on May 8. Benton works in Lincolnton at Lakemont Family



**Alisa Evans Debnam '82**, formerly dean of health programs at Fayetteville Technical Community College, was named executive director of the Council for Allied Health in North Carolina (CAHNC).

Debnam served as a member and president of the board of trustees of Cape Fear Valley Health Systems from 1997-2003, during which time the hospital converted from a public hospital to a private, not-for-profit health system. She worked with the Robeson County Schools and Cumberland County Schools in managing their school health programs and curricula. She recently published her second health textbook. From 1999-2001, Debnam was a fellow in the prestigious William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations, Wildacres Leadership Initiative.

CAHNC represents more than 20,000 allied health professionals from 29 professions. The council was established in 1991 by allied health practitioners, educators and employers who were concerned about chronic allied health workforce shortages and critical health care issues and needs.

Debnam said her top priorities at CAHNC are continuing to build stronger partnerships with health associations, institutions and agencies. She also said she will work toward securing stable financial resources to support the councils' vision, mission and goals.



**Lt. Col. Ed Keller '89** wrote to let us know that "there is at least one Pirate corner here in Afghanistan where I'm proudly

displaying the Purple and Gold for all to see." Keller is serving as commander of the Kabul Regional Contracting Center at Camp Eggers in Kabul.

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# CLASS NOTES

Medicine. **HERBERT GABRIEL HARDISON** and **TARA REBECCA LILLEY '02** of Winterville were married May 31 at Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia. She is a BB&T bankcard services online products manager in Wilson, and he is a federal probation officer in Greenville. **CHRISTOPHER ROBERT NUNN** and **Kristi Lynn Wiegand** were married July 7, 2007, in Wilmington. He works in management at I.H. Caffey. **CHAD DAVID SARY**, assistant planning director for Wake Forest, joined the American Institute of Certified Planners after completing training and passing an exam administered by the American Planning Association.

## 1995

**ROB GLUCKMAN** of Palm City, Fla., became a partner/shareholder in the Hurley, Rogner, Miller, Cox, Waranch, and Westcott law firm in June and is managing partner for the Fort Lauderdale office. At ECU, he was Gamma Beta Phi president and an Omicron Delta Kappa member.

## 1994

**ANGELA DENISE BEAMAN-WILLIAMS** of Wilson was promoted to senior vice president at BB&T after working as a loan documentation manager. A Wilson native, she has worked with the bank since 1998. **ALLISON BLACKMAN** is a new account executive with Evolve. She was a senior marketing analyst with Hatteras Yachts of New Bern. **DR. PAUL GARCIA '94 '00** of Winterville, medical director of PsychMed Services at PCMH and a psychiatry and internal medicine resident, was named to the eight-member N.C. Board of Physical Therapy Examiners. **MARIA RICE JENKINS** was named the top teacher at Northwest Elementary School in Pitt County. **STEPHEN MENNINGER** was named the top teacher at Pactolus School.

## 1993

**DR. JOHN BOLDT '93 '04** is principal at Southern Wayne High School. He was a teacher, assistant principal, and principal in Lenoir County, and is married to **PAULA GURLEY BOLDT '91 '95**. **JENNIFER VARTANIAN BRYSON** was named the top teacher at Ayden Elementary School. **DONNA A. COREY** of Greenville retired after 30 years with Pitt County Schools. **MAUREEN JOYCE GREEN** was named the top teacher at North Pitt High School. **AMY CARSON SEARCY** was named the top teacher at Stokes Elementary School. **CELIA STYERS STALVEY '93** is an assistant principal at North Davidson High School.

## 1991

**CHRISTY BAKER '91 '94** and **William Hallberg** of Greenville and Asheville were married on June 28 at their new house in Asheville. They both are ECU English professors. **STEVE JONES** of Raleigh was named chair of the ECU board of visitors. He is market president for the Carolinas and Virginia at RBC.

## 1990

**BILL BAILEY** opened BB Jewelry Studio in Chapel Hill in June at the former Baum Diamonds location, where he worked for 17 years until the owners retired and closed the store in May 2008. **AMY SMITH MCGREGOR** was named the top teacher at Wintergreen Primary School in Greenville. **KELLY BARNES RIGHTSSELL** of Greensboro creates animal-themed products geared for nurseries and children. She founded Kelly B. Rightsell Designs in 1998 when she was developing a nursery for her first child. Her work was featured on *Extreme Home Makeover*, and she was commissioned to decorate Kristi Yamaguchi's nursery. **RICKY TORAIN**, formerly of Durham, was named plant manager for the Eaton Corp.'s 185-employee hydraulics facility in Newbern, Tenn. He became a product line manager at Eaton's automotive plant in Roxboro in 2004.

## 1989

**REBECCA BRITTLE** of Greenville retired after nearly 29 years with Pitt County Schools. **AVIS COLLEN MERCER** of Greenville retired after nearly 30 years with Pitt County Schools. **JENNIFER POPLIN '89 '95** is the new principal at Stokes School. She was assistant principal at Ayden Elementary School for four years. **SUZANNE BAILEY ROSEN** of Frederick, Md., received her M.A. in clinical counseling, married Jeff Rosen, and is a stay-at-home mother of Blake, who was born on July 4, 2007. After majoring in piano pedagogy and performance, she sang on dinner cruises and was lead singer for the band Crocodile Tears. **CLAUDIA H. SUMMERLIN** of Greenville retired after five years with Pitt County Schools.

## 1988

**GINA PRESCOTT BEAMAN '88 '96** was named Pitt County Teacher of the Year. In her 20 years in education, she has taught at Wintergreen, Chicod, and since 2005, Creekside elementary schools. **TINA CAMPBELL**, a physical therapist at Nash Health Care, where she has worked for 20 years, received the Outstanding Clinical Instructor of the Year award from ECU. **LINDA SANDERS LEICH** of Winterville retired after 24 years with Pitt County Schools. **CATHY HILL POWELL** was named the top teacher at Grifton School.

## 1987

**WENDY DAWN AUSTIN BURGETT '87 '07** of Knotts Island is a Title I reading teacher at Knotts Island Elementary School. Married to Rocky, she has two teenage sons, Kyle and Shane. **RICHARD DARDEN** of Goldsboro is an assistant director of the career center at Mount Olive College. **LT. COL. TIMOTHY "TIM" WILLIAMS** retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service and is building a house on his farm near Greensburg, Ky.

## 1986

**MARY ALICE HOBBS GONZALES** is pursuing a master's in counseling at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte and expects to graduate in December 2009. **MARY SULLIVAN PARAMORE** is the new director of business and industry at Pitt Community College. She was PCC's director of individualized training.

## 1985

**RHONDA HATCHER**, a teacher at West Brunswick High School in Shallotte, attended "Authors in the Prado: Spanish Art and the Literature It Inspired," a six-week session with 14 other teachers conducted in Madrid, Spain, with the Prado Museum staff. She was selected from a national applicant pool for one of the 27 summer programs sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## 1984

**BETH SANDERSON '84 '96** was a finalist for Pitt County Teacher of the Year.

## 1983

**JACKIE CAYTON '83 '87** was named the top teacher at A.G. Cox Middle School in Winterville. **BEVERLY GENIEVE GATLIN** of Tarboro retired from Pitt County Schools.

## 1982

**JOHN JOSEPH BENNETT** retired as a Warrant Officer 4 from the Marines in October and will work in Washington, D.C. **DEBORAH WHICHARD CATES** was named the top teacher at Falkland School and retired after 25 years of teaching. **WENDY PERRY**, an outdoor living consultant, launched Living...Inside OUT!, a firm that offers exterior design consultation services. **PAUL WHITAKER**, regional manager for Henry Schein Medical for eight years in the Carolinas and southern Virginia, was named manager of the year for the medical division.

## 1981

**DR. TOMMY BENSON** is chair of Mount Olive College's education department. He taught in Edgecombe and Duplin counties and was a principal, director of programs for exceptional children, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. He is married to **SHIRLEY H. BENSON**.

## 1980

**JOEY CRUTCHFIELD**, a teacher at D.H. Conley High School, was a finalist for Pitt County Teacher of the Year. **ALPHONZO MCRAE JR.** of Proctorville, who is vice president for institutional services at Robeson Community College, was appointed to the trustees at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. **JOSEPH NELSON '80 '85**,

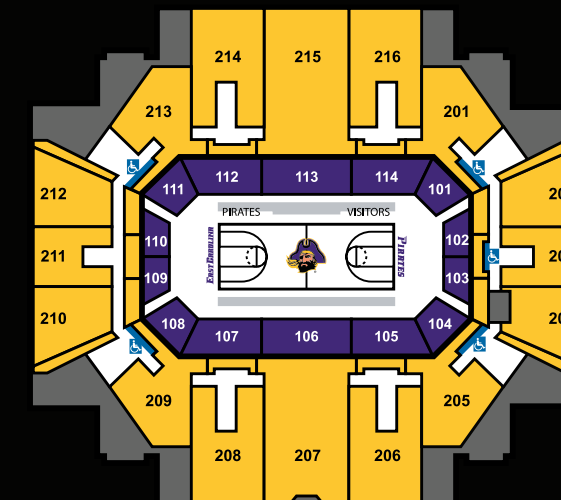
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Fri	November 14	Hampton University	5:30pm
Wed	November 19	Appalachian State	Noon
Fri	November 21	Presbyterian	7:00pm

### LADY PIRATE INVITATIONAL

Fri	November 28	NC Central	5:00pm
Sat	November 29	Buffalo/NC A&T	TBA

Tue	December 16	Gardner-Webb	7:00pm
Sat	January 3	Marshall*	2:00pm
Thu	January 22	Memphis*	7:00pm
Sat	January 24	UAB*	2:00pm
Thu	February 5	UTEP*	7:00pm
Fri	February 13	Southern Miss*	7:00pm
Sun	February 15	UCF*	2:00pm
Thu	February 26	Rice*	8:00pm
Sat	February 28	Houston*	2:00pm

SCHEDULE FOR WOMEN

SCHEDULE FOR MEN

Fri	November 14	Coker	7:30pm
Sun	November 16	St. Andrews	1:30pm
Wed	November 19	Campbell	7:00pm
Sat	November 22	George Mason	4:30pm
Tue	November 25	VCU	7:00pm
Sat	December 6	Limestone	7:00pm
Sat	December 13	UNC Greensboro	7:00pm
Mon	December 22	Wake Forest	7:00pm
Wed	January 7	Tulane*	7:00pm
Sat	January 17	UTEP*	7:00pm
Wed	January 28	Memphis*	7:00pm
Wed	February 4	Southern Miss*	7:00pm
Sat	February 7	UCF*	7:00pm
Sat	February 14	Rice*	7:00pm
Wed	February 25	Marshall*	7:00pm
Sat	February 28	UAB*	7:00pm

All times Eastern. Dates/times subject to change. \* denotes C-USA matchup

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PROUD MEMBER OF



previously principal at Stokes School, is the principal at Pactolus School.

1979

PAUL SCERCY '79 '85 of Greenville retired after 20 years with Pitt County Schools.

1978

RANDY AVERY of Winterville retired after 30 years with Pitt County Schools. JAMES G. "JIMMY" CHRYSOON of Winston-Salem completed his first Boston Marathon in April and qualified for the 2009 marathon. Co-owner of C.B. Development, a multi-family and commercial real estate company, he was elected lead director of the board for Southern Community Bank and Trust. ALVIN BLAND FRAZIER of Ayden retired after 29 years with Pitt County Schools. BEVERLY HARRELL of Greenville retired after 14 years with Pitt County Schools. MARGARET U. NOTTINGHAM of Greenville retired after 12 years with Pitt County Schools. KATHERINE S. ROUSE was named the top teacher at H.B. Sugg Elementary School. She retired from Pitt County Schools after 30 years of teaching. JOHN E. WILLIAMS JR. of Greenville retired after nearly 30 years with Pitt County Schools.

1977

KARLA METCALF LLOYD '77 '83 of Greenville retired after 31 years with Pitt County Schools. SHERRY BECTON TYER of Ayden retired after 21 years with Pitt County Schools. PHILLIP VICK is the new safety manager at Eastern Carolina Vocational Center.

1976

ELAINE MCLENDON CANSLER, a fourth grade National Board Certified teacher at Brassfield Elementary School in Raleigh, received her Ed.D. from UNC-CH in May. She is married to BOB CANSLER '77. CAROL PEARCE DAVIS '76 '82 '95 is the new principal at Franklinton Elementary School in Franklin County. MIRANDA SKELLY DELMERIC received her MAEd in special education from Old Dominion University in May. Mother of Elise, Lauren, and Paula, she has taught at Daniel Morgan Middle School since 2003. WALTER B. HARRIS '76 '84 of Greenville retired after 28 years with Pitt County Schools. CHARLOTTE TRIPP MOORE was named the top teacher at Farmville Middle School and retired after 32 years of teaching. SHERI STRICKLAND '76 '84 of Greenville retired after nearly 32 years with Pitt County Schools. TOM

TOZER, deputy managing editor of *The Charlotte Observer*, marked his 25th year at the paper in April. He is married to DANA BISHOP TOZER '77. Their son, Jordan, was accepted into medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University.

1975

GRETCHEN ALLEN '75 '82 of Farmville retired after 30 years with Pitt County Schools. CAROL CUTLER of Greenville retired after 10 years with Pitt County Schools.

1974

SHARON D. LOY of Greenville retired after 12 years with Pitt County Schools. LARRY SIMMONS '74 '83 of Grifton retired after 33 years with Pitt County Schools. MELINDA WHITEMAN is now a realtor with Kellar-Williams in Chatanooga, Tenn. She previously worked at INSEAD and the Ecole d'Equitation de Fontainebleau in France.

1973

SANDRA S. HECK '73 '77 of Winterville retired after 23 years with Pitt County Schools. KENNETH R. "KEN" KEARNEY completed a program through the Association for Operations Management to

become an APICS certified supply chain professional. He is the warehouse/inventory manager for CPI in New Bern. MARSHA SMITH '73 '80 of Clinton retired as a Sampson County cooperative extension agent.

1972

FRANKIE SPELL JACKSON of Raleigh, formerly of Fayetteville, retired in June after 36 years as a media coordinator with Cumberland County Schools. RAY ROGERS received the 2008 Power of Prevention Community Catalyst award from the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund. He is a board member for PCMH and PCC, and is on the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust's health care division advisory board.

1971

BRENDA FORBIS manages the university relations office as the new director of marketing and communications at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Ga. As senior account executive for Creative Alliance Advertising in Louisville, Ky., she directed marketing and advertising for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kentucky from 1992 to 1996. From 1997 to 1998, she was vice president of marketing and communications for the United Way of the Coastal Empire.

1970

PAUL BREITMAN of Princeton, N.J., was promoted from general manager to assistant vice president for Princeton University Services. COY WAYNE MITCHELL retired as associate dean of the trades and public services department at Wilson Community College in May after 36 years in education.

1969

ANN BEAMAN D'AGOSTINO of Marietta, Ga., was crowned Ms. Senior Georgia 2008 in August at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center in Roswell, Ga. Originally from Dudley, she was Miss Goldsboro 1968 and retired from Delta Airlines in 2000. In the Senior



Pageant, sponsored by the Georgia Classic Club, D'Agostino promoted a platform on the "power of positive thought." JANE HARRIS retired after teaching kindergarten for 39 years, most recently at J.C. Sawyer Elementary School in Elizabeth City.

1968

KAY DAVIS '68 '93 of Grifton retired after 22 years with Pitt County Schools.

1966

ALBERT L. EVANS III retired after 21 years as an aircraft systems acquisition and program management consultant for the Air Force. He most recently worked with upgrading avionics, propulsion, and escape systems on aircraft used in Air Force pilot training. In 1986, he retired after 26 years of active and reserve service in the Army and Air Force. He is married to DOROTHY HOLOMAN EVANS '67, a licensed professional clinical counselor in private practice, and they are building a new house in Spring Valley, Ohio. SANDRA STINSON of Greenville retired after 26 years with Pitt County Schools.

1962

BRENDA FAYE LANGDON of Crozet, Va., retired as athletic administrator at Albemarle High School in Charlottesville, Va., where she worked since 1991.

1959

CHARLIE ADAMS '59 '62 was named to the N.C. High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. On the association's staff since 1967, he has been executive director since 1984 and helped start a corporate sponsorship program and the NCHSAA Endowment fund to expand the state awards program. He is in the National High School, N.C. Athletic Directors, Cary High School, and ECU Sports halls of fame.

1953

WILLIAM H. "BILL" ROWLAND of Kinston received the Reginald L. Stroud Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lenoir County Historical Association on May 18 for his contributions to preserving local history, including helping



As a Hollywood stunt woman, Courtney Faison '96 has jumped off buildings, been set on fire, shot, drowned, trampled and eaten by sharks (twice) in such films as *Miami Vice*, *Bachelor Party II*, *The Replacements* and TV shows like *CSI Miami*, *Law & Order* and *Third Watch*. Now she's attempting something really hard: becoming a successful artist.

When the writer's strike stalled film production in spring 2008, Faison moved back to her hometown of Durham and turned her attention to art as a way of expressing a new-found admiration for her Cherokee Indian roots. She first picked up painting when she moved from New York to Los Angeles in 1998 and moved into temporary housing that had been occupied by an artist who left a few supplies behind. Faison gathered them up and started painting. There was magic in that moment. "Once I started, I could not stop and I found that whenever I sat down to paint, images of my ancestors seemed to want to grace the canvas."

Recently she's been traveling to Native American festivals to strengthen her new sense of ancestry. "Art has brought me back to a place of connection, one that I hope to share."

The daughter of State Representative Bill Faison, she has studied martial arts most of her life and holds black belts in Tae Kwon Do, Wing Chun Kung Fu, Aikijitsu and Chinese Goju Karate. She moved to New York after graduation and was discovered while practicing in Tompkins Square Park by a martial arts master who worked as a stunt coordinator on many action films. Her first job was as a mercenary bodyguard in the action film *Blazin'*. Subsequently, she was the stunt double for Tia Carrere in *Scarred City*.



Creating Native American images "make me and others feel a sense of peace," she says. She's building her own Web site to showcase her art. Now, her work can be seen at [www.myspace.com/courtneyfaison](http://www.myspace.com/courtneyfaison).

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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



**Daniel W. Rice III** '73, director of specialized services at Caswell Development Center in Kinston, received the 2008 Governor's Award for Excellence for his contributions in public service. The award is considered the highest honor a state employee may receive. Caswell Center serves individuals and families with developmental disabilities in eastern North Carolina. After receiving a master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, Rice was a social worker for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina before joining Caswell Center in 1982. He has been the director of specialized services at Caswell since 1986.

Rice was instrumental in establishing the Caswell Center Foundation, a non-profit organization that serves 38 counties in eastern North Carolina. Rice has been the foundation's executive director since its inception in 1999. Rice has received the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award; the Good Neighbor Award by the Lenoir County Association of Congregations; and the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award. He is also a Lions Club International Melvin Jones Fellow.

Rice is married to **Johne W. Rice** '75, who teaches in Lenoir County schools.



**Gary Faircloth** '72 has come full circle; as a child he grew up at Boys and Girls Homes of N.C. in Lake Waccamaw (B&GH) and now has returned as president of the non-profit that is both home and school for nearly 400 children. "It just seems like the right place to be at the right time," says Faircloth, who was vice president of Starr Commonwealth Schools in Albion, Mich., a residential care facility much like B&GH.

Married to the former **Betty Engen** '73, Faircloth becomes just the sixth president of B&GH, which was founded in 1954. It provides both residential and foster care services to children from birth through age 21. B&GH "played an important role in my life and in the lives of thousands of otherwise 'on-the-street' children since its founding," Faircloth said. "Sad to say, the need for the Homes is greater than ever. The abuse and neglect of children still permeates each community in each state throughout our country."

After graduating from East Carolina, Faircloth returned to B&GH as an employee. He left to take over Penn's Grill in Whiteville, which was owned by his wife's family. He then worked in banking before taking the job at Starr Commonwealth Schools in 1990. While in Michigan, he also co-owned a seafood restaurant.

recover about 7,500 artifacts from the Revolutionary and Civil War eras. He is also co-author of *CSS Neuse: A Question of Iron and Time* and the 2007 release *Through the Eyes of Soldiers: The Battle of Wye Fork, Kinston, North Carolina, March 7-10, 1865*.

1946

**JOHN L. "JACK" JOHNSON** '46 '49 and **ROSE GRAHAM JOHNSON** '48 of Fairmont celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at their Topsail Island beach house and had lunch at Sears Landing. Married in Greenville on June 7, 1948, he retired as principal and she as a teacher at Fairmont High School. They have two children, **ROSE MARY JOHNSON WALTER** '72 '73 and **JOY JOHNSON MCHONE** '95, and three grandchildren, including **JOHN MCHONE** '08. **KATIE OWEN MORGAN** '46 '54 of Lillington is one of the five governor-appointed members of the eight-person N.C. Veterinary Medical Board. A retired teacher and former ECU trustee, she was named one of the 100 Incredible Women at ECU in 2007 and was on the state and national boards of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She is married to former **SEN. ROBERT B. MORGAN** '47.

1929

**SARAH MAY** '29 of Bailey celebrated her 98th birthday on July 15 and received 350 cards, which came from every Nash County school, many local churches, and numerous former students. She started her teaching career at age 19 in 1929 at Coopers Elementary School, which didn't have a cafeteria. Using the one-burner oil stove in her classroom, she made soup from vegetables and hot chocolate from milk her students brought. She taught seventh grade for three years and then fifth grade for the rest for her 35-year career, during which she temporarily resigned twice to have her daughters and otherwise only missed one week of work when she had the mumps. She taught her students a maxim: "Once a task has begun never leave it till it's done. Be the labor great or small do it well or not at all." She still drives and lives independently; is active in the book club, bridge club, Eastern Star, and Bailey United Methodist Church, where she was superintendent of the junior department for 15 years; is treasurer for the Golden Years Club and a board member for the Bailey library; and was grand marshal for the 2007 Bailey Christmas parade. She credits vegetables and farm living for her long life, and told the *Spring Hope Enterprise*, "If you give the world the best that you have, the best will come back to you. In my case, it certainly has."

1930s

**FLORENCE MAY BATCHELOR** '32 of Tarboro died July 17 at age 96. In her 42-year career, she taught at West Edgecombe and Battle schools in Rocky Mount, and retired from Englewood Grade School in 1974. She was active at First Baptist Church of Rocky Mount.



**RUBY EVELYN ROGERS BULLOCK** '32 '57 of Greenville died Aug. 29 at age 100. Originally from Granville and Wake counties, she taught school in Chinquapin, Belvoir, Chicod, and Stokes before retiring in 1969. She taught Sunday school for more than 30

years at Mount Pleasant Christian Church and was married to Clifton Bullock for 67 years. **MARY ELIZABETH SINGLETARY BENSON** '38 of Battleboro died July 31. She taught school for more than 31 years. **GERALDINE "GERRY" MAYO BEVERIDGE** '39 of Beaufort died May 28. She taught school in Carteret County for 40 years. She and her late husband funded scholarships at three high schools, Carteret Community College and ECU. **DORIS MEWBORN FERGUSON** '38 of Murfreesboro died June 30 at age 90. She taught home economics in the public schools of Hertford County and raised four daughters.



**DR. MALENE GRANT IRONS** '35, the first female physician to practice in eastern North Carolina, died Oct. 8, just seven months after the passing of her husband of 68 years, Dr. Fred Irons Jr., who was East Carolina's first full-time campus

physician and director of the student health center for 36 years. Malene Irons graduated in three years and enrolled in the Medical College of Virginia. It was there, in 1939, that Malene met her husband. Fred and Malene Irons set up their practices in Greenville in 1945. Malene Irons was widely known and highly regarded as an advocate for social justice. In 1965, she was appointed first director of the new Developmental Evaluation Clinic; the building was renamed in her honor in 1974. The City of Greenville presents annually the Best-Irons Humanitarian Award, named in honor of Dr. Malene and the late Dr. Andrew Best. Among her survivors are sons Ben Irons, who served as university attorney from 1988 to 2005, and Tom Irons, vice chancellor of administration for Health Sciences and his wife, Carol F. Irons '94.



**NANNIE ERVIN BARBREE MORTON** '32 of Asheboro died June 22 at age 94. She taught in Onslow County and at Balfour School in Asheboro. For elementary education majors from Richlands High School, she established the Nannie Barbree Morton Scholarship at ECU. **DR. C. RAY PRUETTE**

'39 '50 of Franklinton died Aug. 30. Editor of the student newspaper in 1938, he was a teacher and administrator at Louisburg College for 36 years. Louisburg College gave him a Distinguished Service Award when he retired in 1985, and in 1997, he was the first recipient of the Cecil W. Robbins Public Service Award. He received the Outstanding Alumni Award, was grand marshal for the homecoming parade in 1986 and was married to **MARGARET PRUETTE** '40. **HAZEL WHITEHURST ROSE** '32 of Wilson died March 27 at age 96. She retired in 1973 after 38 years teaching elementary school. A charter member of the Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, she was also active in the Wilson Woman's Club and First United Methodist Church. **DOROTHY PARKS KNOX WOODLIEF UNDERWOOD** '33 of Durham died June 15 at age 95. She taught for three years and was a housemother and receptionist at the Methodist Home for Children in Raleigh.

1940s

**JAMES RUSSELL BEDDARD SR.** '42 of Roanoke Rapids died June 6. He was principal and assistant principal of Manning Elementary from 1947 to 1981. He hosted "Classical Musical Hour" on WZRUFM on Sunday afternoons, and was a deacon at Rosemary Baptist Church. **GRACE TAYLOR BLIZZARD** '43 of Kenansville died June 22. She was the first dietician at Duplin General Hospital and worked there for 20 years. She also worked at hospitals in Cabarras, Lenoir, and New Hanover counties. She won State Fair blue ribbons for her peanut brittle. **FRANCES ALLEN CASSICK** '42 '72 died July 5. She taught at H.B. Sugg and Sam Bundy elementary schools in Farmville and was a member of the Gamma Delta chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 7032 and the Mount Olive College board. **HAZEL STRICKLAND COOPER** '43 of Warsaw and Mount Olive died June 27. She was married for 60 years, and had four children and six grandchildren. **WILLIAM EARL "POT" CRAFT** '47 of Kenansville died June 4. In the Army in Okinawa during WWII, he received the Bronze Star, WWII Victory Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal. He was a charter member of Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity at Wake Forest University before starting his 52 years in private practice, 33 years as Kenansville's town attorney, and 26 years as president of the Duplin County Bar Association. He was a James Sprunt Community College trustee and received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. **CHARLES DAVIS HARRIS** '40 of Marshallberg died July 19. He taught school until entering the Navy for WWII. He participated in the North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Normandy invasions; and received four Combat Battle Stars. He and **CECELIA COBB** '42 had twin sons and were married for 67 years. **MABEL WILDER HEILMAN** '41 of

Durham, formerly of Raleigh, died July 23. She taught second grade at Myrtle Underwood and Vandora Springs elementary schools and was active in Forest Hills Baptist Church. **RUTH HALL HODGES** '43 of Eden died June 21. She chaired the Friends of the Library, Rockingham Community Concert Association, Red Cross and Eden School boards, Rockingham Community College trustees, and Morehead Hospital trustees. She was named 1985 Eden Chamber of Commerce citizen of the year. **EDNA MAE TURNAGE JAMES** '41 died June 13. A Greenville native, she taught home economics at Perquimans County, Watauga, and Greenville high schools, and was married for 58 years and active in Radiant Life Church. **NINA ELIZABETH SMITH MURPHY** '42 of Roxboro died June 18. A Greenville native, she completed graduate school in Tennessee, and taught home economics in Pinetops and Roxboro. Her brother was **LEON SMITH JR.** '49. **FLORA STATON POLLOCK** '41 of Gastonia died July 1. She worked in civil service at the Pentagon before attending ECTC and moving to Brandon, Fla., where she worked in elementary education for 25 years. **GLADYS IPOCK SCHUCHARD** '40 of San Antonio, Texas, died July 14. She was executive secretary to the communications department chair at Trinity University from 1974 to 1993. **DORIS BLANCHARD WIGGINS** '40 of Sunbury died June 6. For 33 years, she taught in the Gates and Pasquotank county school systems. She was a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7312 Ladies Auxiliary. **DR. RICHARD C. WILSON SR.** '48 of Pensacola, Fla., died Aug. 1. He taught at Florida State University and then for 16 years at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, from which he retired. The Reading Center there was named for him. He co-founded and edited *The Florida Reading Quarterly*. **FLOYD MONROE WOODY** '43 died July 15. He played on the 1941 ECTC football team, the only undefeated one in the school's history. He coached the Lee Edwards High School basketball team to the 1955 state championship, and from 1959 to 1982, he worked in health and physical education for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. He was married to **ELNA POWELL WOODY** '46 for 60 years. **MARY ELIZABETH AUSTIN "BETH" YANCEY** '45 of Oxford died July 10. She taught high school biology and chemistry in Tarboro and Oxford. After 17 years on the N.C. Wesleyan College board, she was named trustee *emeriti*. She was also on ECU's Board of Visitors.

1950s

**DOROTHY JOY WILSON CORBETT** '52 '56 of Raleigh died June 29. She taught elementary school for 25 years in Virginia Beach and in Wake County. **ANNA RUTH TUCKER COZART** '46 of Myrtle Beach, S.C., died Sept. 3. She taught high

## IN MEMORIAM

school in N.C. until 1964. While retired in Myrtle Beach, she managed several apartment buildings and owned Gullyfield Seafood Restaurant. She was married to **BRUCE COZART** '46. **BILLIE BRILEY EDWARDS** '56 '63 of Pactolus died May 30. A Simpson native, she lived in Pactolus for 50 years. She taught there and in Grimesland for 30 years, and was married for 50 years. **HERBERT CLARENCE “HERB” HARTON** '57 of Asheboro died July 4. He taught at Seagrove High School for two years before working for Allstate Insurance for 41 years. He also owned and operated Zooland Family Campground for 30 years. **BILL C. “BILLY” HELMS** '57 of Yorktown, Va., died June 21. He was a coach and physical education teacher at Newport News High School and principal at Bethel Manor Elementary School in York County before retiring as principal of Tabb Elementary School. **JAMES ELTON JOHNSON JR.** '58 of Ormondsville died June 20. He retired from Paul Revere Life Insurance in 1995. **BENJAMIN JOEL MARTINDALE** '50 of Rocky Mount died June 24. He headed Chowan Junior College's business education department in Murfreesboro before going to work for Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in Rocky Mount in 1951. In 1985, he retired as claims manager at CSX Transportation.. **HESTER DELBRIDGE NARRON** '58 of Inman, S.C., died July 15. He was a principal in Bertie, Montgomery and Union counties, N.C., and transportation director for Spartanburg County (S.C.) School District 2. **SAPIRO DELBRIDGE “S.D.” O'NEAL** '52 of Raleigh died Aug. 9. He was a teacher and principal in Englehard, Elizabeth City, and Plymouth, and retired as superintendent of Washington County Schools. **RICHARD ELMO RIDDICK** '58 of Hobbsville died Sept. 6. He taught school and retired as a draftsman for the Virginia DOT. **OWEN W. STRICKLAND** '52 '53 died May 22. He worked with Carolina Telephone for many years before retiring from Sprint as a human resources director. **THELMA RUTH CHERRY SWITZER** '55 '58 of Greenville and Pactolus died July 25. She taught seventh grade, and cooked and cleaned at the teacheridge in Pactolus. She taught high school at Chicod, Belvoir, Grimesland, Stokes-Pactolus, and North Pitt. **DOROTHY “DOT” TUCKER TAFT** '54 of Greenville died Aug. 18. For five years, she taught in Pitt and Craven counties and then became a homemaker. **RICHARD SANFORD WALTON** '59 of Lenoir died July 25. He worked for Blue Cross & Blue Shield and was later self-employed. He was active in the Sons of the American Revolution and St. James Episcopal Church.

### 1960s

**ERNEST BRASWELL AVENT JR.** '69 of Rocky Mount died July 13. He was MBM's corporate controller for 30 years, a member of the American and N.C. Associations of Certified Public Accountants, and treasurer of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. **BETTY JEAN BAKER** '67 of Knightdale died

June 24. She retired as chief statistician with the government records section of the Office of Archives and History in Raleigh. She published articles on history and genealogy and books on seven N.C. families, including Gov. Jim Hunt's. **LINDA RAY GALE CANADAY** '63 of Indianapolis, Ind., died July 16. She taught junior high school; was active in Kappa Delta; supported Riley Children's Hospital; and died before she was to begin a one-year term as First Lady of Kiwanis International. **BURKE CLARK** '69 of Greenville died Aug. 18. A Theta Chi member at ECU, he was in the Army in Vietnam and later worked for National Cash Register. He was married to **DARA LYNN “DEE” FRANKLIN CLARK** '68. Contributions may be made to the Epsilon Iota Alumni Corp., ECU's Theta Chi alumni group. **JAMES ALTON COWAN** '61 of Houma, La., died, July 8. From Bear Grass, he taught at Nicholls State University for 30 years before his 1997 retirement. **REBECCA PERRY STALLINGS ELMORE** '43 '63 of Louisburg died April 16. She taught school in Franklin County for more than 30 years and was a deacon at Maple Springs Baptist Church. **ELIZABETH ANNE CROSS HARDY** '64 of Rocky Mount died June 20. She taught English for 31 years at Benvenue and West Edgecombe schools and Rocky Mount Senior and Kinston high schools. **EMMA JEAN MARTIN HURST** '66 of St. Michaels, Md., died June 23. She was known for her humor and taught in Montgomery County, Md.; Franklin County, Ga.; and Chesapeake and Fairfax counties, Va., school systems. **ERNA LEE WATSON JONES** '66 of Salisbury died Aug. 7. She taught school music classes for 20 years in Rowan County and was a soloist and choir master at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church and Central Methodist Church. **LILLIE ANN MIDGETTE “LIL” JONES** '61 of Peachtree City, Ga., died May 26. She was active in Peachtree City United Methodist Church. **WILSON SMITH “JUNIOR” NICHOLS** '69 '70 died Aug. 20. From 1982 to 1998, he was on the National Board of Governors of the American Guild of Musical Artists. He directed the Gaithersburg Community Chorus from 1988 to 1999, when he founded the Wilson Nichols Chorale. A tenor soloist, he performed with the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan; Houston, Texas; and Wolf Trap operas. **JUDITH BELCHE PARRISH** '63 '67 of Louisburg died Aug. 12. She worked at Louisburg College for 40 years and retired as head librarian. **DONNA DAY BISSETTE VELLA** '65 of Modesto, Calif., died July 7. She was the 1964-1965 N.C. Student Teacher of the Year. She taught elementary school and later was a resource specialist at junior high schools in California. **WILLIAM HENRY “BILL” WILLETTS** '60 of Goldsboro died July 24. He was a probation officer for 27 years, was in the same Sunday school class for 46 years and received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

### 1970s

**JOHN BOYD CASTEEN** '73 of Faison died Aug.

15. He was a hall proctor in Scott dorm at ECU and later worked as a salesman for Waste Industries and was in the Pirate Club. **JOYCE LYNN FOLKS COLLINS** '76 of Reidsville died June 22. She worked at the Rockingham Opportunities Corp. for 20 years and served as director. **BETTY GREGG DAVIS** '75 of Glastonbury, Conn., died Nov. 6, 2007. She worked in medical records at the Veterans Administration Hospitals in Salisbury; Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Wilmington, Del.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Brockton and Boston, Mass. **VIRGINIA ANDERSON DAVIS** '79 of Morganton died July 1. She was director of Wilson Technical Institute's basic skills program before marrying and moving to Morganton, where she retired as director of the basic skills program at Western Piedmont Community College in 2006. **MARY PAIGE PLEDGER ELKS** '77 of Columbia died June 19. She taught in Roanoke Rapids and at Enfield Academy in Whitakers. **DOUGLAS FULTON GOODSON** '71 of Kannapolis died Aug. 16. He retired after 28 years of teaching in Cabarrus County Schools. He owned Cabarrus Rowan Realty. **MARGUERITE KOONTZ GUPTON** '77 of Buies Creek died Aug. 9. She taught at Statesville City Middle School and in Forsyth County before becoming a school librarian in New Hanover and Randolph counties. **JEANNE S. HARTSFIELD** '76 died June 15, two weeks before her planned retirement. She was a psychiatric nurse with the Pitt County Mental Heath Center for 28 years before working at the BSOM psychiatric clinic for two years. **JAMES BRYANT HEWIN** '71 of Virginia Beach died Aug. 30. A flute, guitar, bass and saxophone player, he was a member of several bands in Virginia and Southern California. He owned Absolute Web Design and James Hewin Photography. **NANCY FLOWERS STRAWBRIDGE** '76 '79 of Trenton died June 11. She taught for 30 years.

### 1980s

**PAMELA BRIDGMAN BROWN** '89 of Bethel died Aug. 30. A National Board Certified teacher, she was working on a master's in industrial technology at ECU. **SHARON TRUEEMAN BUTSON** '80 of Cove City died July 1. She taught for 20 years, most recently kindergarten at James W. Smith Elementary School, and was a member of the Kindergarten Task Force for the State Department of Public Instruction. **DR. WINSLOW BRITT MELVIN** '85 of Winterville died May 3. A BSOM graduate, he did his residency in anesthesiology at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, N.Y., before becoming a partner in East Carolina Anesthesia Associates for 19 years. **JOHN EDWARD FORREST** '80 of Vanceboro died July 17. An Army veteran, he owned John Forrest Realty and was on the Board of Realtors in Craven and Pitt counties. **ANNE KRISTINA POOLE POLLARD** '88 '90 of Greenville died Aug. 6. As a speech-language and auditory pathologist since 1990 and a Tri-Therapy East employee, she diagnosed and treated pre-school children with language disorders. **PAUL EDWARD “PAULIE” RHODES JR.** '89 died June

28. He was a guitar instructor and music teacher. **LT. COL. ANDREW MARTIN “PETE” STEELE** '80 of West Blocton, Ala., died July 2. He was principal at Billingsley, Prattville, and Dillon high schools.

### 1990s

**ANGEL BOBERG-WEBB** '98 of Farmville died June 5. She taught in the Edgecombe and Pitt county school systems. **VIRGINIA LEE OSBORNE BONAR** '98 '02 of Kinston died Aug. 23. She was a nurse at PCMH before working at the Lenoir County Health Department. She gave seminars on lead poisoning in children and worked with the state legislature to implement laws related to lead poisoning. She received the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award in 1986 from the Eastern District of the N.C. Public Health Association. **JILL KAPLAN** '93 '97 of Winterville died July 12. In 2005 she was named one of the Great Nurses of North Carolina. **BRIAN O'NEAL PIGG** '92 of Monroe died June 15. He attended the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture; started his own company, Projects by Design, where he worked with his brother Rick to design houses; and served in the National Guard. **TINA MICHELLE VANDIFORD-ROBERSON** '01 of Greenville died June 24. She worked with Brown and Wood, and was scheduled to graduate from ECU's BSN program in December. **KRISTAL JOYCE STAFFORD VAUGHN** '93 of Jamestown died Sept. 4. She worked for the U.S. Postal Service.

### 2000s

**MONICA FAYE UMPHLETT** '02 of Lynchburg, Va., died July 3. A member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, she worked in sales before attending Liberty University and teaching special education at Rustburg High School.

## FACULTY DEATHS

**DR. PHILIP J. ADLER** died Aug. 29. He studied internationally and worked in the Foreign Service before coming to ECU's history department in 1965, where he taught Russian, Eastern European, and Balkan history, and was known for alternative teaching techniques before retiring in 1993. He was also a faculty senator and in 1977 was elected chair of the faculty. He authored the popular textbook *World Civilizations* and helped establish the Greenville Sierra Club.

**DR. JOSEPH W. CONGLETON JR.** '51 '55 died Aug. 17. He lived in Kinston and Halifax County before moving to Greenville. He taught school in Scotland Neck, Washington and Durham before coming to ECU's education program in 1964. He was active in Phi Delta Kappa, the national education fraternity, and was a consultant for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Retiring as professor *emeritus* in 1995, he was married to **DONNA MCKINLEY CONGLETON** '57.

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



An excerpt from Mrs. Roosevelt's daily newspaper column, "My Day," published Nov. 18, 1941.

GREENVILLE, N.C., Monday—We arrived in Wilson, N.C., and were met by Dr. Leon R. Meadows, president of East Carolina Teachers College. The state highway patrol preceded us on the thirty odd mile drive to Greenville. They had evidently decided that I was an old lady with nerves and did not like to be driven at more than 30 miles an hour, so we drove at a snail's pace. I was about to ask what was the matter, and then decided that it was not up to me to ask questions and I had better take advantage of the opportunity to look at the countryside.

The members of the press are to be here to see me at 12:00 o'clock. Luncheon will be at 1:00, after which we shall drive around the campus, visit the NYA community center, and I hope also to see the WPA art gallery, which is located in the Greenville Public Library. This being WPA Art Week, I want, wherever possible, to see the local exhibitions. In this way I shall obtain a better idea of what artistic talent and craftsmanship we are developing in various localities.

**Meeting Eleanor Roosevelt**

Excerpts from student reporter Clarissa Humphrey's first-person account, published in Pieces of Eight, of a press conference given by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt at Dail House on Nov. 17, 1941.

"President [Leon] Meadows came in and welcomed us and then we sat, or perched, nervously and waited and waited and waited. [Pieces of Eight Editor Virginia] Spencer chewed all her fingernails off and was about to start on mine when, about twelve-thirty, I saw everyone stumbling to their feet and, looking up, I saw Mrs. Roosevelt come in the door.

"She is a perfect specimen of womanhood, with her large, well-proportioned figure. I thought she had especially small feet for her size. She wore black from head to foot, her only ornament being a strand of pearls at her throat. She wore three beautiful rings and a dainty watch. Her eyes were kind and very direct; her carriage was erect and her handclasp firm.

"Mrs. Roosevelt then drew a small upright chair to one side, ignoring the easy chair that had been saved for her, and announced that

she was ready for questions. The first questions were about the war, the labor problems and national defense and how they affect college students. She was most gracious during the forty-five minutes she gave us, looking directly at the questioner and giving her undivided attention to each in turn. It seemed to me when she answered my question that no one else was in the room except she and I.

"Finally President Meadows came to tell her that a troop of Girl Scouts wanted to see her. The Girl Scouts came in and presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a bouquet of chrysanthemums, and shook hands with her. She willingly agreed to pose with them for a picture and went out on the porch to do so, then posed for five or six others for the college paper and the magazine. After shaking hands with all of us again, she went back in the house where guests were beginning to arrive for the luncheon.

"Spencer and I crossed the street with a shining light on our faces—or maybe we needed powder (I know Spencer did) and feeling as though we should cut off our right hands and preserve them."

Mrs. Roosevelt posing with Girl Scouts on the steps of Dail House





A new generation of buses that are more colorful and more comfortable is joining the Student Transit fleet.

*Photo by Forrest Croce*

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