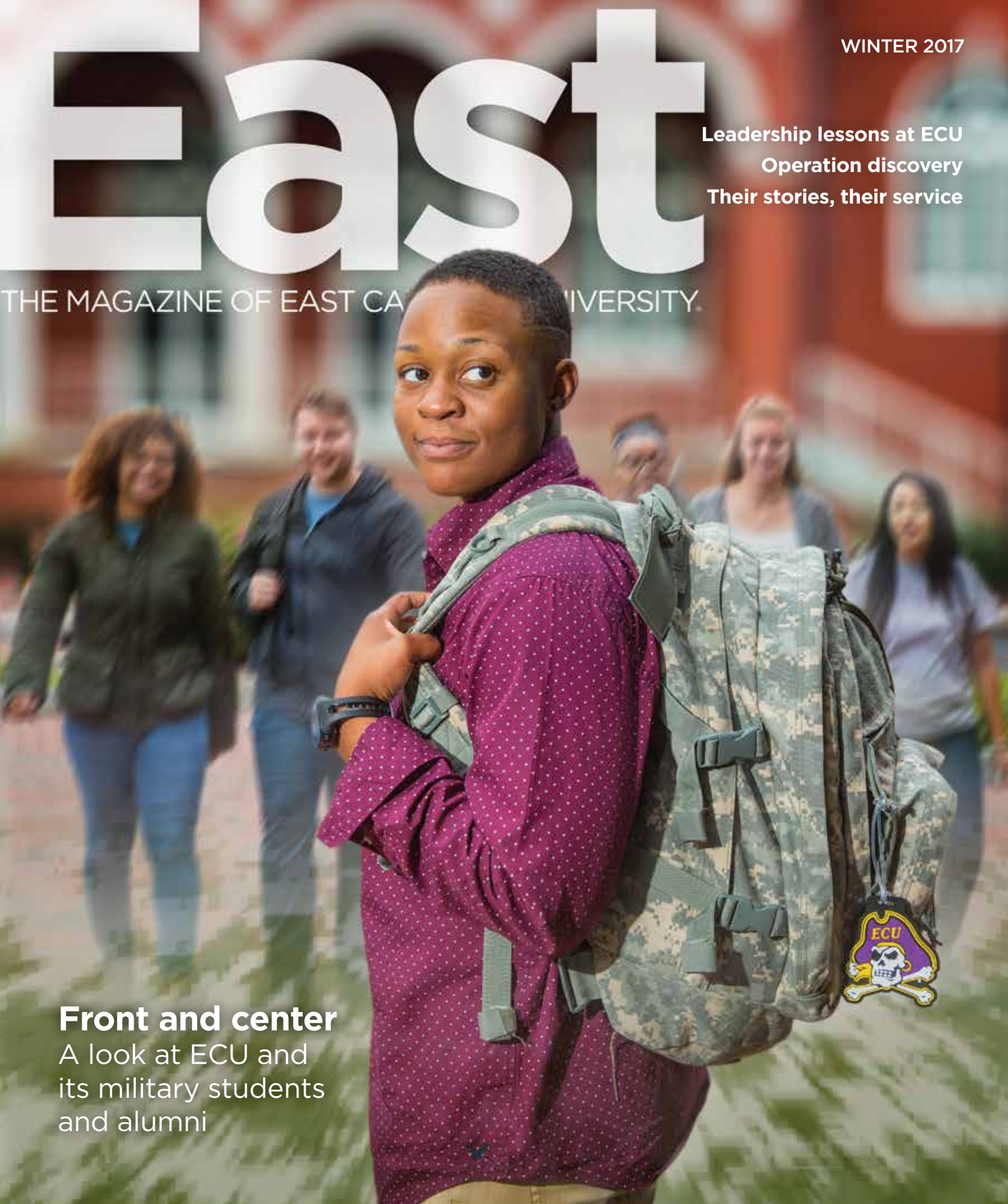
East

THE MAGAZINE OF EAST CA IVERSITY

WINTER 2017

Leadership lessons at ECU
Operation discovery
Their stories, their service



Front and center

A look at ECU and its military students and alumni

East

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Students and alumni speak about military service and ECU

ON THE COVER
Crystal Ellis is an engineering student and member of the Army ROTC Pirate Battalion at ECU.
Photo illustration by Jay Clark

ECU medical student Everett Hite flies over Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium in his Van's RV-8A airplane. Hite flew F-15E Strike Eagles in the U.S. Air Force and is one of 20 veterans enrolled at the Brody School of Medicine.
Photo by Cliff Hollis

FROM THE EDITOR

ECU's military ties are long, strong and loyal

In the eastern North Carolina map dot where I grew up, the phrase "in the service" meant one thing: You were wearing a military uniform for the United States of America.

When I went to college, I heard the word "service" as well. East Carolina's motto, *Servire,* makes it part of the DNA at East Carolina University. That word frames the long-standing relationship between this university and the military.

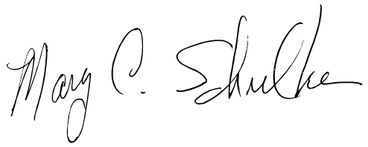
Those ties are long, strong and loyal. Our home, eastern North Carolina, has strategic military bases with proud histories. And the commitment to serving—being of use and being of purpose—binds this institution to the men and women who wear the uniform both in spirit and in practical ways.

We share a mission of service and a narrative that includes it. This issue of *East* tells the story of that impact on lives and on the institution.

It looks at how getting an education at East Carolina has shaped military leaders. It looks at how research conducted here focuses on veterans and their families. It provides a glimpse into what "a day in the life" of veterans on our campus is like these days—what experiences and challenges they face, and how they are finding the support they need to be successful.

For those who have served in uniform, the stories and experiences will be familiar. For those who have not—like me—hearing them can open doors to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the character and value of military service.

With that comes a deeper understanding and appreciation of the character and value of East Carolina University—and its long, strong and loyal commitment to the men and women who wear and have worn the uniform and their families.



East

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FROM OUR READERS

Chris Seward

PEACH BOWL MEMORIES

The article "We Believed" by Spaine Stephens in the fall 2016 *East* was awesome. It brought back one of the greatest sports moments in my life.

I attended the game and sat with about 30 NCSU fans, courtesy of my brother, a major Wolfpack Club member. All through the game, every time NCSU scored, I stood and clapped ONCE for them. When ECU scored, I stood and went crazy. No reaction from my NCSU neighbors, except a few scornful glances.

At the start of the fourth quarter, I told my neighbors that ECU would come back and have an opportunity to win the game. I got the "yeah, sure" look from everyone. I also said to them, "I have clapped for all of your scores, so when ECU wins this game I would like you all to stand and clap for ECU."

Now for the fourth quarter. "We Believe!" I am going nuts: NCSU 34-24; NCSU 34-30; (super crazy) ECU 37-34 (beyond belief insane). Stunned silence from my neighbors! Everyone holding their breath—WIDE RIGHT!! "WE BELIEVE!" ECU wins!!

I turned to my neighbors, raised my hands in a stand up motion and in unison they all stood and clapped ONCE! Awesome sauce!

One of the best bowl games ever and I still have the T-shirt and hat. Thanks for the terrific article and memories.

—*C. Dana Gardner* '69

As I live in Raleigh, I'm always glad to receive my copy of *East* and specifically enjoyed the article on the 1991 Pirate team and the game against NCSU. However, I was disappointed to see a myth shown as a fact in the article, especially since the story is in an ECU publication.

The myth, which the NCSU fans like to quote, occurred in the section while the writer discussed the 1987 game. The writer stated "Afterward, N.C. State canceled the series." Completely a myth. NCSU never canceled the series.

Here are the facts. The next game in the series, 1988, was suspended because of the problems after the 1987 game. It happened that the 1988 game was also the last game under what was then the current contract between the schools. Soon, the schools were back negotiating a new contract. All previous games in the series were played at NCSU, and they wanted that to continue.

ECU stated they wanted a fair deal and a home-and-home series. NCSU said no. ECU, in trying to keep the series going, offered two games at State and one game at ECU. Again, NCSU only offered all games at NCSU. Pretty much take it or leave it.

Rightfully, ECU said we will leave it, and the series ended. As you see, that is hardly NCSU canceling the series. One of my pet peeves is that the myth has been repeated so often that a lot of ECU fans believe that the series was canceled after the 1987 game. Just wanted to set the record straight. Thanks.

—*James (Mark) Hatcher*
Raleigh, N.C.

Student Success | Regional Transformation | Public Service | East Carolina Alumni | Call to Action

East uses a set of icons to identify stories, photos and features with specific content. They are student success, regional transformation, public service, alumni and call to action. The first three are the commitments in ECU's strategic plan, the fourth indicates information with an alumni focus, and the final icon could have various meanings, from giving opportunities to a call to stay connected or take action on behalf of your university. We hope these images add to *East's* coverage of ECU and the people and stories related to the university.

How to receive *East*

East, the magazine of East Carolina University, is published three times a year. It is mailed to members of the East Carolina Alumni Association and the Pirate Club as well as to those who support ECU through donations to the university.

If you would like to receive *East* by mail, please make your donation by calling 252-ECU-GIVE (328-4483) or visiting the ECU Giving website at ecu.edu/give.

To join the East Carolina Alumni Association and receive *East* as well as other benefits and services, visit piratealumni.com or call 800-ECU GRAD (328-4723).

To join the Pirate Club, visit ecupirateclub.com or call 252-737-4540.

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ECU© REPORT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

Jessica Parker and Ron Mitchelson

ECU pitches in after Matthew's flooding

On Halloween Jessica Parker worked near the corner of U.S. 17 Business in Windsor, shoveling gravel into potholes in a town park along the Cashie River, which had flooded a couple of weeks earlier.

The work meant something to her because Windsor is where her grandmother lives.

"I've got ties to Windsor, and they've been devastated so many times, I wanted to help," said Parker, a junior child development and family relations major.

She was part of a group of faculty members, staff and students who spent three days in October and November traveling to towns flooded by Hurricane Matthew and offering help—both physical and of expertise.

In Windsor, the flood damaged or destroyed 100 houses and 56 businesses, said Mayor Jim Hoggard. Nearly 200 people were evacuated from their homes. It was the fourth time in 17 years severe flooding has struck the town.

He asked if ECU could provide hydrologists and other experts to look at recent road and bridge construction upstream from the town in the search for clues about the flooding.

"I would like to prove what really has caused this," Hoggard said. "It's been too sudden to just be natural causes."

Provost Ron Mitchelson spurred the work groups to look at how ECU could best help its region recover and how to reduce the impact of future floods. But he wasn't interested just in a string of slideshows and reports.

"After Floyd, I thought we had too many ties and not enough work gloves," he said as he leveled gravel in a washout. "It's not good when people show up, say we have help for you, then get back on the bus."

In that spirit, members of the ECU community helped evacuate residents of the Cypress Glen retirement community near the Tar River in Greenville and then helped fill 7,000 sandbags to hold the river back from the facility. They worked.

In addition, students, medical residents and faculty members coordinated donations of supplies for those at local storm shelters and sent out teams to help address basic medical needs of the evacuees.

Another team traveled to flood-ravaged Princeville on Nov. 8 to deliver and sort items such as diapers and other basic necessities. Matthew's flooding was not as severe as Hurricane Floyd's in 1999, but it still destroyed a third of the town's structures and put 400 people in shelters. Crews performed 72 swift water rescues in one nearby area of Edgecombe County. Outside buildings, mattresses, furniture, clothes and other debris lay piled by the roadside awaiting pickup by trash crews.

Local officials asked ECU for assistance with regional planning and flood plain mapping as well as helping individuals manage financial struggles. They also would like the university to facilitate discussions on what they can learn from Matthew.

Across the river in Tarboro, 80 percent of the town was affected by flooding, and water reached 7 feet deep at Town Hall.

"We really appreciate all of the help and support," said Daniel Gerald, city manager. "The help you guys can bring makes people want to come back and our citizens want to come back."

—Jules Norwood, Doug Boyd and Jamie Smith

Tuition increase to fund scholarships

With an eye toward growth, the ECU Board of Trustees approved a 2 percent tuition and fees increase for new students at its Nov. 11 meeting.

The increase was recommended by the Campus Based Tuition and Fee Committee and will raise the tuition rate to $4,452 per semester for incoming, in-state freshmen and transfer students—up $87 from the previous year. Non-resident students will see a $406 increase. The new tuition rates are fixed for incoming undergraduate students for eight semesters.

Funds from the tuition and fee increase will be used for faculty and staff retention, student services, technology improvements and graduate assistantship support. Funds also will support Honors College merit scholarships. During the meeting, Chancellor Cecil Staton discussed ECU's intention to increase Honors College enrollment from 100 to 200 new students per year beginning in fall 2017.

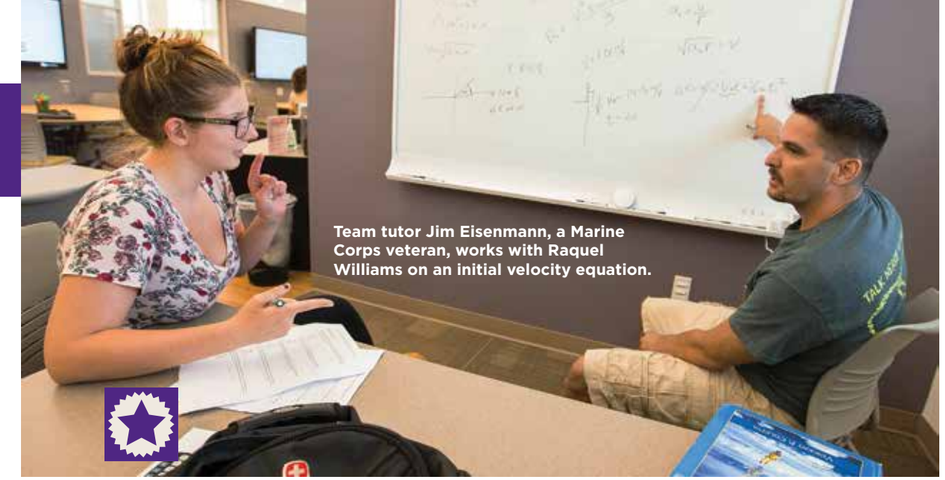
The proposal also included a $2,000 tuition increase for the Brody School of Medicine and a $1,000 increase for the School of Dental Medicine.

Trustees also unanimously adopted a resolution requesting University of North Carolina system President Margaret Spellings and the UNC Board of Governors support the expansion of programs and facilities at the Brody School of Medicine. Those include the conversion of $4 million in nonrecurring funds allocated to Brody this year to a permanent funding source; expansion of the Brody class size from 80 to 120 full-time students over the next eight years; the expansion of medical residency slots available in eastern North Carolina; and planning money for a new $150 million medical education facility at East Carolina.

Also approved was a total of $55 million in renovations for Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The plans call for expanding the upper deck on the south side of the stadium with four tiers of suites, lounge and loge areas with a total of about 1,000 seats, a new press box and food service and seating amenities. Other improvements will include a new "Pirate Promenade" area leading to the stadium to serve as an entryway for football players, band members and cheerleaders as well as an upgraded parking and tailgating lot, a pre-game open seating area in the Murphy Center end zone, indoor baseball practice facility and improvements to the Ward Sports Medicine building and Scales Field House.

Construction is slated to begin after the 2017 football season for completion before the 2018 season. A total of $12.2 million has been raised so far, and premium seating areas have been sold.

—ECU News Services



Team tutor Jim Eisenmann, a Marine Corps veteran, works with Raquel Williams on an initial velocity equation.

Project engages military students as tutors

Some have already served our nation's military and returned to school under the GI Bill. Others are members of the National Guard, Reserves or ROTC.

All are team-oriented, mission-focused and driven—attributes any employer would value—and they are serving their fellow students at ECU's Pirate Academic Success Center through a mutually beneficial program called the Green Team Project that engages military-affiliated students as tutors.

The program is part of ECU's efforts to be a military-friendly university, said Elizabeth Coghill, director of the PASC.

Started with University of North Carolina General Administration funds for special populations support and continued with help from a local community foundation, the Green Team Project offers a variety of benefits for participating service members. In addition to a paycheck and a flexible work schedule, tutors become more connected to other students and to faculty members within their own fields of study, reinforce their own learning and gain valuable work experience in a positive, collaborative setting.

"What the research shows us about the experience that our military students have is that they're less connected on campus," Coghill said. "They tend to isolate, because the worlds that they are living in are so different."

Once they become a part of the PASC, she said, they are in constant contact with other students, they have a mission and they are part of a team. "It allows them to become more connected to what the university is all about," she said. "They take that drive to serve that they had in the military and transition it to (this role)."

After serving all over the world in the Marine Corps, Jim Eisenmann was working for Jarrett Bay Boatworks in Beaufort when a coworker asked him, "What are you doing? You're crazy. They'll pay you to go to school."

He did just that, starting with business classes at Carteret Community College. But when the economy turned south and he was laid off in 2009, then found out he had a child on the way, he began to rethink his future.

"I didn't want to run a business because I want to have time with my kid," he said. "So I started looking at teaching, and that prompted me to go back to school for physics."

Now with a bachelor's degree under his belt, he's working on a master's degree in applied physics with the goal of becoming a college professor. He has worked as a tutor throughout his time at ECU and said the experience has been invaluable.

"Tutoring physics, since it's my major, these things that I try to teach people will be forever crystallized in my brain," he said. "By helping other students, it fortifies my understanding of the subject."

Since he's a few years older than many of his fellow students, he said, "it's hard to keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening with the students coming in. But I get to interact with them and understand their culture, how they think and what their struggles are."

Like Eisenmann, Guiseppe Jeanty's experience has been a little different from that of the typical college student. Jeanty, a first-generation college student who grew up in Haiti, joined the Army National Guard after high school to help support his family after his mother's cancer diagnosis.

"Afterwards, I wanted to go back to school," he said. "My major is engineering, and a lot of other schools wouldn't accept someone coming off a year's break. ECU gave me an opportunity and had faith in me."

The college environment took some getting used to, he admitted. "Classes in the military are really engaging, and everyone is fully hands-on, awake, answering questions, really gung-ho. If someone told me something, I wouldn't hesitate; I'd go ahead and do it," he said.

On campus, the learning environment is more laid back, he said, and he quickly realized he would have to apply himself in his own study time.

Jeanty will receive a bachelor of science in engineering in December before being deployed to the Middle East with the National Guard, where he works in satellite and radio communications. He said his experience as a tutor has improved his problem-solving ability as well as his social skills.

"You come in here with a smile, and you get to meet all kinds of people working here on campus at the Pirate Academic Success Center," Jeanty said. "With that, your social skills go way up and you realize that, hey, the students here are great. It's actually easy to talk to them, you just have to step out and say hi."

While Eisenmann and Jeanty joined the PASC after receiving emails inviting them to apply, Chris Garcia discovered the tutoring center when he needed help with his own introductory physics courses—the same courses he's now tutoring other students in.

"Tutoring benefits me by allowing, and even forcing, me to study and assimilate every small piece of information about the courses I tutor," he said. "Every day, I learn new tricks and am able to pass them along."

The experience, he said, has also helped bring him out of his shell. "I describe myself as an introvert," he said, "but if you told that to anyone I work with they'd probably laugh in your face."

Especially meaningful, he said, is when a student he's working with has an "aha!" moment, when everything falls into place because of his efforts. "Those moments really make tutoring one of the most rewarding jobs I'll ever have," Garcia said.

Eisenmann agreed. "The best way to learn is to teach," he said. "I think it's the best job on campus. It directly impacts you as a student, and it's just a win-win, really. You get to meet great new people, and it's a fun place to work."

Each semester, there are about 20 Green Team tutors out of a total of 250 PASC tutoring staff. Each tutor works with an average of 200 students a semester. The feedback and outcomes have been overwhelmingly positive, Coghill said, and she hopes to encourage other universities to create similar programs.

"We really want to see our state, especially, begin to adopt these kinds of practices," she said. "They make the best tutors. You can see the pride that they feel in being a tutor, and being connected with this place. It not only gives them a job, but it gives them their own success at the university."

—Jules Norwood

Staff Sgt. Kevin Maloney '03 performs at a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

Arlington National Cemetery

Alumni perform in Army bands

Graduates of the School of Music are finding professional success and personal fulfillment serving their country and fellow soldiers as members of U.S. Army bands across the country and world.

"Our main mission is to provide musical support for soldiers and their families," says Sgt. James Old '08 '11, a trumpet player in the U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, based at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. It is one of more than 30 active Army bands that perform at Army posts, retirements, funerals and in the community.

Old's band performs about 350 missions a year and is occasionally deployed overseas. They play formal ceremonial music and pop/rock hits. "When deployed, we support the troops by giving them a taste of home," Old says. "My favorite part is being able to honor the people who do so much for our country."

Staff Sgt. Kevin Maloney '03 is a trumpet player in Pershing's Own, the Army's most prestigious ensemble. In addition to playing at important ceremonial functions, he also plays at funerals.

"I wasn't sure at first about playing at funerals every day; I was afraid it would be depressing," Maloney says. "But it is truly an honor to be able to do something for the families. It's actually uplifting in a way. I enjoy it very much."

To enlist in an Army band, musicians must pass an audition and basic training. Musicians can be stationed at any Army post, but unlike other Army service members who can be assigned any duty, musicians know they will be part of a band when they enlist. Entry into the premiere ensembles is handled a bit differently, according to Maloney, with appointments based on vacancies.

Either way, Army bands can provide a challenging and fulfilling career for ECU graduates, says Chris Ulffers, director of the School of Music.

"Our school does an incredible job training and inspiring all of our students to be wonderful and sensitive musicians," Ulffers says. "Frankly, most schools of music excel at this sort of training. However, what sets music majors from ECU apart is their dedication to serve."

Ulffers says some feel the call to serve in the military while they're still in school and some several years after graduation.

"I knew I'd have a job in the Army before graduating school," says Staff Sgt. Jackie Jones, who auditioned for Army bands before graduating in 2006. After auditioning in February of her senior year, she shipped out to basic training that July and succeeded despite the fact she "had never really worked out much before."

Jones had been talking to her professors and a recruiter about a career in Army bands, and when they offered a college loan repayment, "everything lined up," she says.

Jones spent several years as a drummer in various bands before becoming a recruiter herself in 2015. Based at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, she recruits from 13 states in the central and southwest U.S. She has met several ECU alumni on the job.

"The musicians we have from ECU are some of our top musicians," Jones says. "I feel like ECU alumni do really well in Army bands."

Originally from Jacksonville, Jones came to ECU because it was close to home, affordable and known for its music program. She was on the snare drum line in the Marching Pirates for three years and participated in several other ensembles.

"Being in a lot of different groups helped me with my career in the Army; I wasn't pigeonholed into one style of music," she says.

Old entered the Army in 2012 after working for Coca-Cola for 18 months; the economy was down around the time he graduated, and it was tough to find jobs performing music. Born and raised in Elizabeth City, he grew up watching Virginia-based military ensembles perform in his area. He came to ECU because his high school band director and role model was an ECU graduate.

"Absolutely without a doubt ECU prepared me for my career," Old says. "I love serving and playing at Redstone Arsenal."

Maloney still uses lessons he learned at ECU while performing in Pershing's Own as well as a jazz band called Army Blues.

"I left ECU with so much knowledge of the trumpet," Maloney says. He named professors Britt Theurer and Carroll Dashiell as major inspirations, particularly Dashiell for his skills and passion. "I'm still using what he taught me about how to groove."

For Jones, ECU allowed her to access many opportunities through the Army.

"The biggest opportunity the Army gave me was to travel and live abroad," Jones says. "I would never have had this opportunity if it weren't for the Army. And I wouldn't be successful in Army bands if I hadn't gone to ECU. I have pride for my country and my alma mater. The camaraderie is very similar at ECU and in the Army. Everyone is in this together."

—Jackie Drake

Staff Sgt. Jackie Jones '06, center, with the Army Music Recruiter Liaison team at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, December 2015.

Photo contributed

Service key to Alumni Scholarship recipient

Serving comes naturally to ECU senior and Air Force ROTC cadet Jessica Buss. Not only is she preparing to serve in the military, she also serves the university and the community.

As the service coordinator for Detachment 600, Buss organizes volunteer service opportunities for her fellow cadets in the Greenville area. This fall, she helped organize a blood drive for the Red Cross and a cleanup of the Tar River.

"Service really resonates with me," said Buss. "I'm naturally drawn to service organizations because I believe in their mission."

It was this commitment to service that qualified Buss for a 2015-2016 Alumni Scholarship from the East Carolina Alumni Association. Alumni Scholarships are given each spring for the following academic year on the basis of academic merit, leadership and service.

Buss has also volunteered at the Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, Rebuilding Together Pitt County and more.

"Volunteering in the community has definitely shaped who I am as a person; I see people from many different backgrounds," she said. "It's so nice to know that an organization like the alumni association values volunteer service so much."

While the ROTC program does offer some scholarships, Buss says she is still "super grateful" for the Alumni Scholarship.

"ECU is more affordable than most schools, but it can still be a burden," she said. "Getting the Alumni Scholarship was a great feeling. It has eased my mind so much and allowed me to do more."

Buss, a native of Fayetteville, always knew she wanted to serve in the military because both of her parents served.

"My dad is an Army paratrooper, and my mom is a lab technician for the Air Force," she said. "Seeing their pride in what they do really inspired me to serve. In every capacity, they inspire me."

Buss and her older sister are the first generation in their family to go to college. Buss originally wanted to go straight into the military, but her parents convinced her of the importance of a college degree. Buss said ECU was her top choice because of its quality education and programs such as ROTC.

ROTC also allows Buss to develop her skills as a leader. She completed summer leadership training, a competitive program about 60 percent of cadets nationwide are accepted into between their sophomore and junior years. Based in Alabama and Mississippi, this 28-day "field camp" provides training in physical conditioning, weapons, hand-to-hand combat and survival skills. Those who successfully complete the program get a four-year contract with the Air Force.

"Field training gave many amazing opportunities to actually apply our leadership skills," she said. "We learned quickly that leadership isn't a starring role. Ultimately, our leadership ability was measured by the success of those we were leading. That's one lesson that I will carry with me everywhere I go, that being a leader means that you give up the right to think about yourself."

Buss is now in her second year as her unit's service coordinator.

"My goal is to bring people together," she said. "My favorite part of serving is a tie between the people we meet and the impact we leave behind."

For Buss, serving the country, community and university are one.

"To me, it's all unified," Buss said. "Serving in all these ways just makes sense to me. This university has given so much to me; it's only natural to give back."

Buss' fellow Alumni Scholars all display this commitment to community service, one of the hallmarks of the Alumni Scholarship program. Recipients are also encouraged to get involved with alumni programs as a way to say thank you to the university and network with alumni.

Twenty recipients of 2016-2017 Alumni Scholarships received a total of $37,500 thanks to the generosity of ECU alumni and donors.

The Alumni Scholarship program is funded with proceeds from two signature fundraisers, the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic golf tournament each fall and the Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run each spring. Proceeds are increased when sponsors such as Hilton Greenville and PotashCorp Aurora help cover expenses of hosting these events.

To donate to the Alumni Scholarship program or become a sponsor, contact Shawn Moore '91 '98, director of scholarships and signature programs, at mooresh@ecu.edu or 252-328-5775.

—Jackie Drake

Applications for 2017-2018 Alumni Scholarships are due Jan. 31.

The 2017 Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run will be April 22.

"How I serve my country and the alumni board are similar. Both required me to volunteer in order to participate, and they are both servant-leadership positions. As a military officer, I serve my country and the leaders appointed over me with honor, courage and commitment. As a board member, I serve the alumni association, and the university as a whole, with excellence, integrity and commitment. I value time and respect it, so when I made the commitment to serve on the alumni board, it was with the understanding that nothing short of mission-critical obligations would keep me from my duties.

"My top personal goal…is to give my time and talents back to the university that supported me, cared for me and my family and nurtured me during my early adult years. Professionally, the greatest service I can offer ECU is leadership. I hope to add value through sharing ideas and love developing future leaders to achieve their goals. Lastly I want our board to be known as one that constantly strives to improve the personal and professional lives of its alumni.

"Through ECU's matriculation program with Coastal Carolina Community College, I was able to obtain a high-quality and affordable education. Many of my colleagues attended private universities and received similar degrees but still didn't graduate with the breadth of knowledge or experiences I received from the internships, relationships and networking.

"Military alumni are an amazing asset to any organization, but we bring unique challenges. We experience frequent moves, job changes and periods of infrequent to no communication without advance notice. Even with these obstacles, I firmly believe that the strengths of the military alumni far outweigh any challenges and look forward to the relationship ECU continues to cultivate with us."

5 minutes with Lt. Cmdr. Crystal Dailey '97 '03

Position: Directorate of public health for the U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa, Japan

Degree: Bachelor's in biology, master's in environmental health

Hometown: Washington, D.C.

In addition to serving her country, Dailey serves her alma mater as one of three new members of the East Carolina Alumni Association board of directors.

This image is from a 2013 exhibition of the Veterans Book Project held at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Library home to veterans collections

Acting on the ECU motto, "To Serve," Joyner Library has added a book by Al Thompson Jr., *On the Currahee Trail,* and one by Robert Sills, *Type 2 Bipolar,* to its Veterans Book Project collection.

The collection began in 2005. Books written by veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and Vietnam era veterans make up the collection of more than 50 books. ECU plans to add at least two titles every year.

As part of the Veterans Book Project, ECU hosted a veterans writing workshop in April. The goal was to help veterans express their life experiences through words, according to Tom Douglass, ECU associate professor of English and event organizer. Veterans Book Project founder Monica Haller led the workshop, and another will be held in March.

More information about the project is at veteransbookproject.com.

In addition, the library has begun a collection of photos, biographies and other information about students, alumni, faculty, staff, family members and any others who served in the U.S. armed forces.

It's an online exhibit Joyner will host permanently at digital.lib.ecu.edu/veterans.

"We are looking at is as an opportunity for current and past students, faculty and staff to recognize their own service or that of a loved one by providing a photo and information related to their name, branch of service, service dates, hometown, duty locations and a brief narrative," said Arthur Carlson, university archivist. "We hope that over time we can introduce improvements to the site, such as selecting only U.S. Marines or locating individuals who served in specific duty locations or eras. Our goal is to visually document the commitment ECU has to military service."

—Doug Boyd

East Carolina sets enrollment record

ECU's fall enrollment of 28,962 students is the largest in the university's history.

The Graduate School set a record with 5,461 students enrolled in more than 75 graduate programs. That number reflects a 9.5 percent increase over 2015 and surpasses the goal of 5,000 students by fall 2019.

"We made several internal changes that have improved our customer service and increased how often we directly interact with potential students," said Heidi Puckett, director of graduate admissions.

Puckett said the largest growth was in the College of Education, which saw a 21 percent increase with more students enrolling in the administrative and adult education programs. The College of Business wasn't far behind, with a 16 percent increase this year.

ECU's total undergraduate enrollment is 22,969, which includes 4,320 freshmen. The total graduate student enrollment—including dental and medical students—is 5,993.

—Jamie Smith

ECU named as a great value

ECU not only is one of the nation's best educational values, but also has some of the nation's best academic programs.

That's according to annual rankings by Educate to Career and *U.S. News & World Report.*

ECU has been named a 2017 Top 100 Best Value College by Educate to Career. It's ranked 99th out of almost 1,200 universities in the 2017 College Rankings Index. The California nonprofit analyzed labor market outcomes of graduates from accredited four-year colleges with enrollments of 750 students or more, according to its website.

Ron Mitchelson, ECU provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said many national rankings measure the volume and quality of inputs and ignore the outcomes that are achieved.

"We know that when students come to us they are transformed, and this value-added ranking reflects those transformations," Mitchelson said. "It's certainly validation of the quality of our programs and the hard work of many faculty and staff."

He added that ECU's top-100 ranking "reflects our mission-driven focus on student success and being a great value."

Educate to Career says it's the only organization that evaluates the total costs related to attending college and the outcomes of students when they enter the workforce. The rankings are determined by which schools did the best job of improving earnings and attainment of quality employment of their students, according to the ETC website.

Some of the metrics used include percentage of graduates employed in occupations using their fields of study, average salary, employment within one year of graduation and the number of years in school.

This year, ETC significantly increased the weighting of graduation rates as part of its ranking system.

ECU also ranks in the top tier of national universities, according to *U.S. News.*

In the magazine's 2017 "Best Colleges" guide released online Sept. 13, ECU is ranked 210, tied with Montana State University, Old Dominion University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

ECU also is one of 100 schools named in "A+ Schools for B Students," which used student SAT and ACT scores, class rank and freshmen retention rates to develop a list of colleges and universities where students "have a decent shot at being accepted and thriving—where spirit and hard work could make all the difference to the admissions office," according to *U.S. News.*

To develop the national university rankings, *U.S. News* assigned ECU and other universities to a peer group based on the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classification for higher education institutions.

Among ECU's peer institutions, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte ranked 202 and UNC-Greensboro ranked 220 while North Carolina A&T State University was ranked in the second tier of the nation's best universities.

The magazine listed 298 institutions in the national universities category offering a range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees and research. Ranking metrics were assessed by academic peers and high school counselors; graduation and retention rates; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; graduation rate performance; and alumni giving.

—Crystal Baity

ECU among tops nationally for producing family physicians

ECU's Brody School of Medicine is ranked among the nation's top five medical schools again this year for the percentage of its graduates pursuing careers in family medicine.

The American Academy of Family Physicians calculates the annual rankings by averaging the percentages of each school's graduates who entered family medicine residency programs during the past three years. According to those calculations, an average of 16.7 percent of ECU medical graduates began training in family medicine from 2013 to 2015.

Brody ranked fourth on this year's list, which was published in the October issue of *Family Medicine,* the journal of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.

This year, ECU's medical school is the only one in the Southeast to make the top five—where it has been ranked for six consecutive years. Brody has been ranked in the top 10 since 2007. No other North Carolina medical school has made the top 10 during that time period.

"This is evidence of our long-standing commitment to provide talented and committed primary care physicians for North Carolina," said Dr. Elizabeth Baxley, Brody's senior associate dean for academic affairs.

Approximately one in five medical office visits is made to a family physician, according to AAFP data. That totals nearly 192 million office visits annually—nearly 66 million more than the next largest medical specialty.

—Amy Adams Ellis

Nursing students train for real-world situations

As the fall semester began, distance-education students in ECU's master of science in nursing program gathered on campus for several days of hands-on training designed to prepare them for a variety of situations they will encounter working in the health care system.

The first set of exercises involved nursing students in the midwifery and neonatal nurse practitioner concentrations who collaborated in role-playing scenarios in which they explained procedures or delivered bad news to patients. One station involved a translator and a couple that didn't speak English, while another focused on the risks involved in a pre-term delivery.

"The true benefit of this exercise is the collaboration, teamwork and communication," said Amy Jnah, director of the neonatal nurse practitioner concentration in the College of Nursing. "It offers students the opportunity to apply their knowledge in simulated clinical scenarios involving counseling of laboring women or families of critically ill infants. This allows the students to self-assess strengths and weaknesses, and fill any recognized knowledge-practice gaps before participating as a team leader after graduation."

For the first time this year, students in the midwifery concentration were included in the role-playing exercises, creating collaboration across disciplines similar to what would happen in a real delivery setting. Translators from the local health department and drama students were brought in to lend realism to the simulations.

"Communication is so important in health care," said Kim Fleming, a student in the midwifery program. "You have to make sure to give all the information in an accurate and compassionate way, and knowing that you've done it before, that you have that script in your back pocket, is a great confidence builder."

Fleming, like the rest of the students in the program, is working on her master's degree while already working as a nurse; she's a labor and delivery nurse at a high-risk facility. She became a nurse so she could be a midwife to "help people through these difficult transitions. Birth is hard even though it's beautiful," she said.

"There is research that shows that simulations like these really do improve outcomes," said Rebecca Moretto, who is in her last year of the midwifery program. "Between these groups of professionals there are some gaps in communication, so this helps close that gap and keep everybody safe."

Moretto also said she has benefited from the other students' experiences and perspectives. "We're all coming from different disciplines," she said. "My background is in low-risk deliveries, so I've been able to learn from Kim, who has experience in high-risk situations."

The students will soon be working with patients during clinicals, so it's important to prepare them for what they will face, said Becky Bagley, director of the midwifery concentration. "In these exercises they're outlining what will happen and why to help make the patient more comfortable.

"These simulations have been successful with the NNP program, and they asked us to join in with our midwifery students. We're learning together and practicing together, and we make a great team," she said.

Shannon Moore's master's in the NNP program will be her third degree from ECU.

"I had the opportunity to see the midwives doing what they do best (as far as providing care for a pregnant mother) and then actually experience the passing of the baton to us as NNPs for us to take over in our role of providing excellent care for the infant," she said. "I could actually feel the support from the midwives in our simulations as we delivered bad news to the parent about their infant—support not only for the mother, but also support and backing for the NNP. It truly felt like a team."

The midwifery students also worked with interns from the OB/GYN program at the Brody School of Medicine as well as Brody and nursing faculty to practice labor-and-delivery skills. The simulations included breaking a mother's water, placing a fetal scalp electrode, birthing a baby using a manikin and infant, and performing a pudendal block, a method of delivering anesthetic.

"We're practicing basic hand maneuvers during delivery, and they've done really well," said Monica Newby, assistant clinical professor in the Brody School of Medicine, who ran one of the simulation stations. "Some of them hadn't seen these alternative birthing positions and different ways to give birth, so it just puts the idea in their mind and gives them something to think about."

Fleming said the exercises provided a lot of information at one time, but the practice helped build confidence. "It's a little daunting knowing that we'll be doing this with real people who are scared and screaming," she said, "but it's good to start building that muscle memory and technique."

The simulations give the faculty a chance to critique and correct the students' technique, Bagley said. "If they make a mistake, it's here in a safe environment."

Finally, the midwifery students participated in a mini business institute, where they learned from business school and midwifery faculty about developing a business plan for a practice.

"It is important for practicing nurse-midwives to employ sound business practices in order to continue to maintain financially viable clinical practices, regardless of whether they are employees or administrators of their own offices," said Connie Dewees, clinical assistant professor of nurse-midwifery. "Today's changing health care industry requires that midwives be both expert clinicians and knowledgeable business persons."

U.S. News & World Report has consistently ranked ECU's online MSN program among the top programs in the nation. With 46 students, the NNP program is one of the five largest in the U.S., Jnah said. The nurse-midwifery concentration is the only program of its kind in the Carolinas. It has 39 students and recently received 10 years of accreditation, the maximum granted by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education.

"I think this is one of the best things we can do to help the students prepare for real-life situations," said Sonya Hardin, College of Nursing associate dean for graduate programs.

—Jules Norwood

Dr. Shannon Banks, left, a Brody graduate and third-year resident in family medicine, completes a patient exam with attending physician Dr. Chelley Alexander, chair of ECU's Department of Family Medicine.

Jay Clark

Left to right, Renee Spain, Monica Newby, Jennifer Osborne and Ashley Holt work on hand maneuvers during delivery.

Endowed professorship honors Rose

The director of research for the East Carolina Heart Institute is going to have a special title in honor of a cardiologist and professor who has changed the lives not only of many eastern North Carolinians but also people around the world. The director will be known as the John "Jack" Rose Distinguished Professor.

"A distinguished professorship is the highest honor to be bestowed on somebody," said Dr. Mark Iannettoni, who is interim chair for the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences in the Brody School of Medicine. He expects the first recipient to be named to the professorship this fall. The heart institute is a partnership of ECU, Vidant Medical Center and private physicians to advance education, research, treatment and prevention related to cardiovascular diseases.

"It's an amazing honor for me," said Rose. "There are a lot of people, though, who equally could have received this honor, and really it's not just for me, but for all of the people who have taken care of patients and have taught at this institution."

Rose has been a physician for nearly 50 years. He received his undergraduate degree in history from Wesleyan University in Connecticut in 1968 and his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1972, where he also completed an internship and residency training. He completed a cardiology fellowship at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Rose started working with patients at Pitt County Memorial Hospital (now Vidant Medical Center) in 1982. During that time, he also taught medical residents, eventually joining Brody as a professor in 1990.

"I think what I really respect about Jack is that he is so humble and so dedicated to any patient, any student and any colleague at any time," said Iannettoni.

"He is a master teacher and a master team builder," said Donna Lou Edwards, nurse manager of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at ECHI. She said no matter what role people play on the patient-care team, Rose considers their ideas.

Edwards and others who work with him described Rose as humble and kind, dedicated to getting the correct diagnosis for his patients. Rose is also known for his attention to detail and bedside manner.

Dr. John "Jack" Rose, center in dark suit, is shown at the ceremony announcing the distinquished professorship named in his honor.

"He is a doctor's doctor," Edwards said. "He has a regimen, and he will never deter from it; he will not take a shortcut. That's why patients get excellent care and evaluation from him."

One of Rose's passions is traveling to Nicaragua to provide treatment of rheumatic and congenital heart disease. He started making the trips in the 1980s and has made about two a year since 2001.

"He has done tremendous work bringing hope to patients who wouldn't be alive if it weren't for his hard work and persistence," says Dr. Carlos Espinoza, a fellow in interventional cardiology at VMC.

A native of Nicaragua, Espinoza met Rose on one such trip in 2001. He said from the moment they first worked together, Rose inspired him.

"I was really impressed with the way that he'd treat each patient with so much respect and dignity—the way that he approached each of them, the way that he examined them—he was so thorough examining each patient," Espinoza said.

Rose's most recent trip to Nicaragua, in February, ended with him being medically evacuated to Florida after being hit by a motorcycle.

"It was very unnerving that morning. We were getting ready to start clinic and excited about having a new team of physicians… then we hear that our main soldier is down," Edwards said.

"I'm doing better; I'm not normal yet, but I'm getting better," Rose said.

"We are just pleased with the miracles that we receive. We feel like we received one," Edwards added.

Rose hopes to go back to Nicaragua in February, though he'd like to go sooner.

The professorship was established about 10 years ago with funds from the Vidant Health Foundation and matching state funds but was not filled or named. The endowment will pay about $64,000 annually for the ECHI research director's research expenses, research personnel, travel, equipment and supplies.

"When you reflect back over the career that Dr. Rose has had, it's just obvious that he embodies the characteristics and traits for which this distinguished professorship was envisioned 10 years ago," said VMC President Brian Floyd.

—Rich Klindworth

The East Carolina Alumni Association and student affairs announce the ECU Traditions Map. This app is now available at the Apple App Store and Google Play store. Students and alumni can download the app to their phones and complete various traditions along with fellow Pirates.

100 YEARS AGO

Sewing to support war effort

Courtesy University Archives

To support the Allied effort during WWI, Lady Principal Kate Beckwith along with President Robert Wright organized humanitarian efforts on campus. Here, members of the student body sew clothing and layettes destined for Belgium in the Red Cross workroom. Other sewing efforts included bandages, trench pillows and hospital shirts.

75 YEARS AGO

Newscaster speaks on WWII

Famed radio newscaster H.V. Kaltenborn predicts Allied victory in Europe within two years and over Japan a year after that during a March lecture at Wright Auditorium. His analysis of German difficulties on the Russian front is spot on, and he describes the European Axis dictators, whom he had met. Benito Mussolini, he says, is more of a "human dictator," who likes sports, drinks and culture. Adolf Hitler, on the other hand, is limited and dominated by his emotions.

50 YEARS AGO

'Mob' confronts war protesters

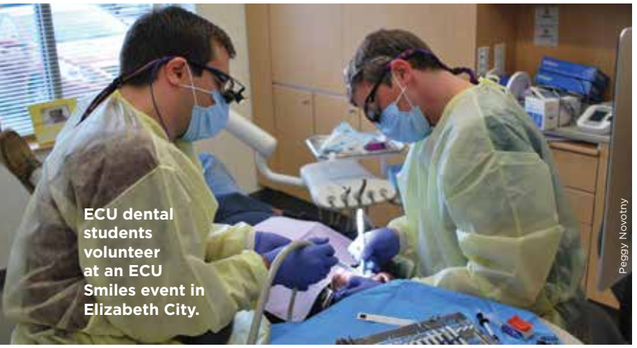
Courtesy University Archives

Students handing out literature opposing the Vietnam War on Nov. 14, 1967, attracted a "mob," as described in the *East Carolinian* two days later. The paper reported the anti-protestors as shouting, "You have American blood on your hands" and "Better dead than Red," a reference to communism. Despite the shouting, the anti-war protesters told the newspaper, "We believe that, on the whole, the attempt to voice our opinions regarding the war was a success."

25 YEARS AGO

Military author, alumnus addresses graduates

Last May wasn't the first time Pulitzer Prize-winning author and military historian Rick Atkinson '74 had delivered a commencement address at ECU. He also spoke at graduation in May 1992, just after spending weeks in the Iraqi desert covering the Persian Gulf War. The following year, he published *Crusade: The Untold Story of the Persian Gulf War.*



ECU dental students volunteer at an ECU Smiles event in Elizabeth City.

Peggy Novotny

Grant provides scholarships for dental students

A $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will enable the ECU School of Dental Medicine to offer more scholarships to economically disadvantaged students over the next four years.

The award—from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Health Workforce—is aimed at increasing the number of providers working in underserved communities by providing funds to accredited U.S. health professions schools.

Thirty ECU dental students have already benefited from the funding. More than 120 are expected to receive scholarships over the life of the grant.

"We know that educational debt is a critical factor in a graduate's decision of where to practice, and our aim is to keep that debt as low as possible," said Dr. Margaret Wilson, vice dean and associate dean for student affairs in the dental school. "With less debt, graduates have greater flexibility in where they choose to practice."

North Carolina is the fifth-fastest-growing state, yet ranks 47th in the nation in dentists per capita, according to the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC-Chapel Hill. Twenty-seven of the state's 100 counties are served by no more than two dentists per 10,000 people, and one-third of the dentists practicing in the state are 55 or older.

"The school seeks not only to admit students from communities of need, but students who have a goal to practice in these communities," said Dr. Wanda Wright, division director of dental public health at ECU and the grant's primary investigator. "One day we hope to see a map indicating that our graduates are practicing in areas of greatest need across the state."

—Peggy Novotny

STEPP program helps students excel

Charlotte native Gabrielle Robinson has had to work harder than most to get to college—an auditory processing disorder causes her to learn differently from the typical student.

"Usually I have to record things, just to have it repeated so that I can fully understand it," she said.

Robinson's determination has her succeeding at ECU thanks in part to the Supporting Transition and Education through Planning and Partnerships, or STEPP, Program, which gives students with an identified learning disability a chance to go to college.

About 10 students are accepted each year, and ECU starts working with them during their senior year in high school. First-year STEPP students arrive a week before their first classes begin to take part in a special boot camp that gets them ready for college. While at ECU, they work closely with STEPP faculty and staff.

"It's an answer to our prayers; it truly is," said Lisa Ward, whose son, Andersen, is dyslexic. Ward said she tried private school, public school and home-schooling him. During his junior year of high school Ward said her son wanted to give up, but then they found out about the STEPP Program.

"When I first heard about it, I wanted nothing of it," Andersen Ward said. "I thought I could do it myself. Then I had the realization I couldn't go to college doing this by myself and expect to get good grades. I needed something like this to actually succeed and know what I'm doing."

Like Robinson, Ward is now an ECU freshman, where they are two of nine new students in the STEPP Program. This is the program's 10th year, and the group includes the 100th STEPP student to be admitted to ECU.

"Honestly, I don't think I would have gotten into school anywhere without the STEPP Program," said former STEPP student Lee Olson '14.

Because of her learning disability, Olson struggled with reading and writing. Her high school grades were fine, but she didn't score well on the SAT. STEPP leaders took that into consideration when accepting her.

"I think it gave me a place where I felt comfortable to go and ask questions and be there as long as I needed to be," Olson said.

She now works with abused and neglected children in Wilmington.

STEPP Director Sarah Williams doesn't know of any other program like ECU's in the country. While there are other schools that accept and cater to those with learning disabilities, she said STEPP is unique in that the university offers a comprehensive approach to serve students without it costing extra for those students to receive that support.

"We wanted this to be accessible to students who have the capacity to earn a college degree but would need some extra support and may not have the money to pay for extensive extra support services," Williams said.

STEPP got off the ground with a donation from Walter and Marie Williams. Their grandson has a learning disability and went through the program as well.

"We believe in the staff. The staff is so important; they care," Walter Williams said.

Today, STEPP is partially funded by a five-year grant from the Oak Foundation. The family foundation is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and has an office in Chapel Hill. As part of its Learning Differences Programme, it trains teachers, mentors children and supports the development of technology to help them learn. Because of this, Oak Foundation program officer Dana Brinson said the foundation wanted to be a part of the STEPP Program.

"It's not feasible for a lot of people to pay for this level of support in addition to what college is costing these days," Brinson said. "One of the key components that we really appreciate about STEPP was that this was provided at no additional cost to the students and their families."

But in order to keep STEPP free for students, the program is going to have to build a $4 million endowment to sustain it. Leaders have raised $1.5 million so far.

For students and families, the program is a life-changer.

"He's going to get a degree," Lisa Ward said, smiling.

—Rich Klindworth

ECU student Gabrielle Robinson, center, works on a team-building exercise.

A team from ECU and N.C. State works on an archeological dig in Jordan.

Thomas Parker

ECU faculty, students discover unexpected treasures in Jordan

This summer, ECU students and faculty members helped unearth surprising discoveries while excavating the ancient Nabataean capital city of Petra, Jordan.

ECU professor of anthropology Megan Perry is co-directing the Petra North Ridge project with fellow archaeologist and historian Thomas Parker of N.C. State University. Their task is to piece together the puzzle of an enigmatic people.

The city was the center of the Nabataean Kingdom until it fell into ruin sometime between 300 and 700 A.D. It remained virtually unknown to the Western world until a Swiss explorer discovered it in 1812, at which point the civilization's relics were still beautifully preserved thanks to the protective nature of the rock formations.

Since then, researchers have been asking questions about the lives of ordinary people who lived there.

Perry and Parker's project has focused on excavating first- to fourth-century A.D. houses in the ancient city, along with first-century B.C. to first-century A.D. tombs used by its residents to bury their dead. Two faculty members and eight current and former ECU students, along with students and staff from other institutions, returned to the Middle East for six weeks in May and June to follow up on excavations performed in 2012 and 2014.

Exploration in a new area of the city's northern edge revealed a surprising discovery—the remains of a first- to second-century A.D. complex that contained a caldarium, or heated room typical of Roman-style baths.

"The function of the complex is not clear," said Perry, "but it could have served a domestic function similar to other buildings nearby, albeit a more elaborate version."

Perry said the find led the team to change its hypothesis on the history of the neighborhood.

"If the caldarium indeed is part of a larger villa, that would imply that elite individuals lived in this sector of the city—and essentially in the same neighborhood as more moderate dwellings," she said. "If it is a public bath, it would mean that Roman-style bathing was more widespread amongst the Nabataeans than we previously thought."

The debris that eventually filled this complex also contained the project's most stunning find, according to Perry—two almost-complete marble statues of the goddess Aphrodite along with her companion, Eros, that probably date to the second or third century A.D.

"The statues likely had been imported, based on stylistic characteristics along with the marble qualities. These hypotheses will be tested further through art-historical analysis of the sculpting as well as chemical analysis of the marble itself," said Perry.

"Finding such items," she added, "really makes you see how museum objects—usually presented devoid of any context—had ties to actual people and places in the past."

ECU maritime studies alumna Melissa Price '15 served as the project conservator and directed the statues' cleaning.

"She provided suggestions for their conservation—essential for these exquisite objects that rival those found in the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the Louvre," said Perry.

The statues are largely intact, and additional portions of the heads and upper extremities were also recovered.

Over the years, the Petra North Ridge Project has served as a study-abroad opportunity for students from ECU and other institutions. This year, 17 students from across the United States participated in the project for course credit, gaining hands-on knowledge in archaeological field techniques and experience with Middle Eastern culture.

"Many of our graduates become practicing archaeologists for government organizations or private companies," said Perry. "Our field schools provide firsthand experience in the methodological choices and critical decisions professional archaeologists make every day."

Funding for the excavation is provided primarily by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Geographic Committee for Research and Exploration, with additional support from ECU's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and the departments of anthropology and geography, planning and environment; the al-Himma foundation of Amman, Jordan; the American Center of Oriental Research; and the American Schools of Oriental Research. The grants supporting the project run through the end of the 2016-17 academic year.

Now that the excavation process is complete, Perry and her team move to the analysis and publication phase of the project.

—Jules Norwood and Lacey Gray

Graduate student Christopher Moore prepares "crab condos" along the Pamlico River.

'Zombie crabs' threaten coastal ecology

ECU researchers are studying an invasive parasite that takes over the reproductive system of mud crabs and even alters their behavior, potentially impacting coastal ecosystems.

"It's detrimental to the host crab because they can no longer reproduce their own young," said April Blakeslee, assistant professor of biology. "We call it a body-snatching parasite because it takes over from throughout the inside of the crab."

The parasite is a kind of barnacle, *Loxothylacus panopaei,* or Loxo for short, that is native to the Gulf of Mexico.

The female barnacle infects the host and spreads its roots, Blakeslee said, then produces an external sac containing thousands of eggs on the crab's abdomen, which are fertilized by the male Loxo.

"Once it does that the sac becomes larger and then the larvae are released into the water," she said. "So a few infected crabs can infect the rest of the population pretty quickly."

Infected crabs continue living and feeding but are reproductively dead, earning them the nickname "zombie crabs."

In the Gulf, where the mud crabs have developed some resistance to the parasite, infection rates are low (less than 5 percent), but in the Chesapeake Bay, where Loxo is considered an invasive species, infection rates may be as high as 75 or even 90 percent, Blakeslee said. It has also been found in waters all along the East Coast, as far north as Long Island Sound.

The parasite also affects the crab's behavior, causing it to protect the egg sac as if it were the crab's own young. The protective behavior is found not only in female crabs, but also in males, which would not normally exhibit such tendencies.

By hijacking the mud crabs' reproductive system, Blakeslee said the parasite could have a dramatic impact on the population.

"These mud crabs are very small, but they're really important because they're a huge part of the food web," she said. "They are prey for things like blue crabs, lots of fish and birds. And in turn they eat tiny things within the oyster beds. Studies have shown that if you pull out these intermediate species, the whole system can fall apart."

In July, Blakeslee and a team of students and collaborators deployed crab collector units at sites along the banks of the Pamlico and Neuse rivers to monitor the mud crab population and the prevalence of Loxo in coastal North Carolina waters.

The collector units, or crab condos, as the team calls them, are usually deployed near docks, where they can be tied off and easily retrieved. Each condo has a device attached that records the water temperature on an hourly basis, and the researchers will measure the salinity monthly when they check the collector units.

As many as a few dozen mud crabs—or more if they've just reproduced—could take up residence in each of the crab condos.

Sites were chosen upstream and downstream along the two river systems. "Starting at pretty much fresh and moving toward saltier water as you get closer to the Pamlico Sound and to the ocean, we'll put (collector units) out at these different locations and see how that affects the densities of the mud crabs and the prevalence of the parasite," Blakeslee said.

The hypothesis is that the crab has adapted to the parasite in a couple of different ways. "One is that it can resist infection by this parasite, and the other is that it can escape the parasite by being in really low salinity waters," Blakeslee said. "The parasite doesn't do as well in fresh water, so the crabs can basically find refuge there.

"If that holds true we will see less of the parasite as we move upstream."

Blakeslee is working on a grant application to submit to the National Science Foundation to study that hypothesis throughout North America. She recently received one of 35 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards from Oak Ridge Associated Universities, which provides $5,000 to support the North Carolina portion of the research. ECU will match the award in the same amount.

"Another part of our work is showing the impact of humans in moving things into places that they wouldn't have been able to get to," Blakeslee said. "Humans have been transplanting oysters for long periods of time, especially the early to mid-1900s, and we think that's how this parasite has spread. The mud crabs are native here, but the parasite was completely absent before."

Invasive species can also have a ripple effect. In Texas, the mud crabs have been found in freshwater lakes.

"We think the parasite may have helped fuel the crab's evolution toward tolerance for low salinity, to the point that they have moved into these lakes and can live and reproduce in a freshwater system, where the crabs themselves are invasive, so it's not a good thing for the lakes. But they're completely parasite-free there because the parasite can't live in fresh water."

—Jules Norwood

A mud crab

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Arts and Events Calendar

BY JEANNINE MANNING HUTSON AND HARLEY DARTT

The Nile Project

ON CAMPUS

Returning to campus in the spring will be "The Veterans Writing Workshop: The Road Home" with **Monica Haller**, founder of the Veterans Book Project and book artist, speaking at the opening event March 15.

"Objects for Deployment," featuring books made by veterans, will be featured in an exhibit in The Faulkner Gallery of Joyner Library, which will open with Haller discussing the project at 4 p.m. March 15.

Leading the Veterans Writing Forum on March 16 and 17 at the East Carolina Heart Institute will be **Kayla Williams**, author of *I Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army,* a memoir about her deployment to Iraq, and director of the Center for Women Veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Ron Capps**, founder of the Veterans Writing Project and author of the memoir *Seriously Not All Right: Five Wars in Ten Years;* and **Fred Foote**, a retired U.S. Navy physician and founder of The Warrior Poetry Project.

For more information, contact Tom Douglass at douglasst@ecu.edu or 252-328-6723.

The Nile Project comes to campus as part of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series in the spring semester. From their debut concert, captured live on the 2013 release *ASWAN,* it was clear the Nile Project was something new. NPR named the recording one of five "must-hear international albums."

One of the tightest cross-cultural collaborations in history, the Nile Project Collective brings together artists from the 11 Nile basin countries, representing more than 400 million people, to make music that combines the rich diversity of the oldest places on Earth. Resonant harps and lyres from up and down the river—from its sources beyond Lake Victoria to its delta in Egypt—have learned new musical modes, while buzzing timbres and ingenious polyrhythms support vocals in 10 languages.

The Nile Project is the Thomas Harriot lecture of the series. The presentation, titled "Citizen Diplomacy & Transboundary Water Conflicts," will be 7 p.m. April 6 in Wright Auditorium. Using music to spark cultural curiosity, the Nile Project engages musicians and audiences, challenging them to connect to the world's longest river and explore new approaches to its social, cultural and environmental problems.

The Brewster History Lecture will start the Voyages of Discovery Series for the spring semester. **Keith Wailoo**, the Townsend Martin Professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton University, will present "Pain: A Political History" at 7 p.m. Jan. 31 in Wright Auditorium. Wailoo is an award-winning author on drugs and drug policy; race, science and health; history of medicine; and health policy and medical affairs in the U.S.

Tickets for the two Voyages of Discovery lectures are $10 for the public and free to ECU students. Visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

ON STAGE

The ECU/Loessin Playhouse will present the Tony Award-winning ***1776***, the musical retelling of the American Revolution's political struggle in the Continental Congress to declare independence. With music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards based on the book by Peter Stone, *1776* will be Feb. 23-28. Tickets are $17.50 for the public and $10 for students/youth.

The madcap comedy ***Lend Me a Tenor*** by Ken Ludwig begins backstage at the Cleveland Grand Opera Company awaiting the arrival of the world famous Italian tenor, Il Stupendo, to appear one night only in *Otello.* The star arrives late and, through a hilarious series of mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. The assistant manager is persuaded to take the stage in costume to try to fool the audience, the real star awakes, and then two "Otellos" are on stage. Tickets for this ECU/Loessin Playhouse production April 20-25 are $15 for the public; $10 for students/youth.

Contact the box office at 252-328-6829 or online at www.ecuarts.com to purchase tickets for these productions on the McGinnis Theatre stage.

ECU Storybook Theatre will present ***Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories*** at 7 p.m. March 24 in Wright Auditorium. One of the world's greatest storytellers weaves together an unforgettable collection of animal tales, including how the camel got its hump and how the alphabet was made. Tickets are $11 for the public; $8 for youth.

The title of the show, ***Random Acts***, describes what attendees can expect from School of Theatre and Dance students April 1-2. From dance, musical theatre, poetry and other styles of performance art will be represented in the performance in the Burnette Studio Theatre. Tickets are $5.

Featuring choreography from renowned guest artists and original works by ECU faculty, **Dance 2017** will be presented March 23-28 by the ECU School of Theatre and Dance on the stage of McGinnis Theatre. Described as "an evening of dance that's as diverse as it is entertaining," the performance will range from classical ballet to bold contemporary and explosive tap. Tickets are $15 for the public; $10 for ECU student/youth. **The Spring Day of Dance,** featuring ballet, jazz, tap and modern dance classes for dancers aged 10-16, will be Feb. 18 in Messick Theatre Arts Center. Call 252-328-4916 for more information.

An exciting mix of cutting-edge choreography from School of Theatre and Dance faculty and students will be presented in the **Contemporary Dance Concert** Feb. 25-26 in the Archie Burnette Studio Theatre. All seats are $5.

The Senior Choreography Showcase April 22-23 will feature ECU senior students who have created unique works for presentation. From the risqué to the whimsical, the audience should be ready for anything when the shows are performed in the Burnette Studio Theatre. Tickets are available for all dance productions at www.ecuarts.com.

S. RUDOLPH ALEXANDER PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series will open its spring season with the **National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine** at 8 p.m. Feb. 2. With more than 100 recordings to its credit since 1993, the orchestra is considered to be one of the finest in Europe. The program includes the Rachmaninov *Symphony No. 3,* Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3* featuring pianist Alexei Grynyuk, and Stravinsky's "Suite" from *Firebird.*

Kaupo Kikkas

The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, one of the best-known choirs in the world, will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 11 in Wright Auditorium. Founded in 1981, its repertoire extends from Gregorian chant and baroque to the music of the 21st century. The program features excerpts of vespers and vigils from Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and more.

The Branford Marsalis Quartet with special guest Kurt Elling will perform at 8 p.m. March 15. Previously set for October, the performance had to be rescheduled because of Hurricane Matthew.

Tickets for the performances listed above are $35 for the public, $10 for students/youth.

In 1994, the legendary Bolshoi principal dancer Elena Radchenko was selected by presidential decree to assume the permanent artistic directorship of the **Russian National Ballet Theatre**. She has upheld the grand national tradition of the Russian ballet. Enjoy "Stars of the Russian Ballet," a gala program featuring 10 excerpts including selections from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* and *Romeo and Juliet,* Prokofiev's *Cinderella* and perhaps the most famous solo dance ever, "the Dying Swan," at 8 p.m. March 31. Tickets are $40 for the public; $10 for students/youth.

All SRAPAS performances will be held in Wright Auditorium. Subscriptions and individual tickets are available at 252-328-4788 or www.ecuarts.com.

The Down East Talent Search returns to the stage of Wright Auditorium at 7 p.m. March 3 with a top prize of $1,000 for the second annual event drawing talented singers, dancers and musicians from across eastern North Carolina. While celebrity judges deliberate, the audience will vote for their favorite as well. Touted as "a jaw-dropping variety show that will exceed your expectations," the event supports the Friends of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series.

MUSIC

Festivals

ECU's **Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival** presents three Winter Workshop concerts of different programs Jan. 7 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Jan. 8 at 3 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall in Greenville. Workshop faculty performing artists Leon Fleisher, piano, Ani Kavafian, violin, Ida Kavafian, violin/viola, Ara Gregorian, violin/viola, and others will join rising stars from throughout the world in concert. For tickets, visit www.ecu.edu/fourseasons or call 252-328-6019.

Four Seasons will present two concert residencies in Greenville this spring. Quartet Classics features the Cooperstown Quartet on Feb. 23 and 24, and the Thrilling Season Finale features Robert McDonald, piano, festival director Ara Gregorian, violin, and Edward Arron, cello, April 6 and 7.

The festival presents the Quartet Classics concert residency Feb. 26 at the Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh and Feb. 27 at Kenan Auditorium in Wilmington. The Thrilling Season Finale concert is reprised at Saint Mary's School Smedes-Emory Parlor in Raleigh on April 9.

For residency concert tickets, visit www.ecu.edu/fourseasons or call 800-ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4788.

Four Seasons Next Generation II concerts are scheduled for Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Raleigh on Jan. 20 and at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall in Greenville on Jan. 21. Guest artist Zvi Plesser, cello, will join ECU faculty artists, ECU alumni artists, select ECU students and select young student participants in concert. Free and open to the public.

The **Four Seasons Chamber Music Dressed Down** concert series—chamber music performed in intimate settings—will be presented March 23 at the Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh and March 24 at The Martinsborough in Greenville. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. with a reception in Raleigh at 6:30 p.m. and a reception in Greenville at 6:45 p.m. Chamber Music Dressed Down is part of the season subscription package; for individual tickets visit www.ecu.edu/fourseasons or call 800-ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4788. For more information about the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival, call 252-328-6019 or visit www.ecu.edu/fourseasons.

ECU's **North Carolina NewMusic Initiative**, Ed Jacobs, director, welcomes Sharon Harms, soprano, and Steven Beck, piano, to A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Jan. 26. Praised as "superb," "luscious-toned" and "extraordinarily precise and expressive" by *The New York Times,* Harms is known for fearless performances and passionate interpretations. American pianist Beck is called by the *New Yorker* "one of the city's finest young pianists," and a recent New York concert by Beck was described as "exemplary" and "deeply satisfying" by the *Times.*

Frequencies, an ensemble created and directed by students, is at the School of Music on Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meridian Arts Ensemble comes to A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on March 18. A sextet made up of five brass players and a percussionist, the ensemble is America's leading brass group exploring the music of today with nine commercial CD releases and more than 50 premieres and performances on four continents and in 49 states.

Premiere Performances, concerts dedicated to the newest ideas of ECU's developing young composers, are presented at the School of Music on April 1 and April 20.

The **ECU Sinfonietta**, directed by Scott Carter, will perform a world premiere NewMusic Initiative Commission composed by James Mobberley on April 2 at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

All North Carolina NewMusic Initiative concerts are at 7:30 p.m., and admission is free.

Opera

ECU Opera Theater presents Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni,* a dramma giocoso (mixing of serious and comic action) based on the legends of Don Juan, a fictional libertine and seducer, on March 26 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and March 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

Although sometimes classified as comic, the opera blends comedy, melodrama and supernatural elements. J. Christopher Buddo conducts and opera theater director John Kramar is stage director.

Cooperstown Quartet

Sharon Harms

Tickets are $20 general admission, $15 faculty/staff/seniors and $5 student, and are available at the door, or 800-328-2787 (252-328-4788) or www.ecuarts.

Orchestra

The ECU Symphony Orchestra, Jorge Richter, conductor, is in concert three times in spring semester.

On Feb. 10, the orchestra concert features guest soloists Hye-Jin Kim, violin, and Ara Gregorian, viola, performing Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola in E-flat major, followed by Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D major.

The orchestra continues its long relationship with the North Carolina NewMusic Initiative with a performance of the winning composition of the 2016-2017 ECU School of Music Orchestral Composition Competition on March 4. In addition, the orchestra will perform Beethoven's *Prometheus Overture* and Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden gesellen* with guest voice soloist Jami Rhodes, and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy.*

The orchestra season concludes April 8 with the winning soloist of the 2016-2017 ECU School of Music Concerto Competition and Shostakovich's monumental Symphony No. 5.

All symphony orchestra concerts are in Wright Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Choirs

ECU choirs will present five concerts this spring, including the Chamber Singers on Feb. 26 and April 23 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville; Men's and Women's Choir on Feb. 28 and April 25 at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville; and the Collegiate Choir on April 10 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. All choir concerts are at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Bands

Sticks and mallets will rule Fletcher Music Center on Feb. 2 and April 13 when the Percussion Ensemble performs in Fletcher Music Room B110 at 7:30 p.m. Jazz will pervade with a Wind and Jazz Ensemble concert in Wright Auditorium on Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m., a Jazz Combos concert in Fletcher Music Room B110 at 8 p.m. on April 17, a Jazz Ensemble (B) Concert in Fletcher Music Room B110 at 8 p.m. April 19 and the annual Dr. Billy Taylor Gala Concert at 8 p.m. April 21 in Wright Auditorium. All are free and open to the public.

The Concert and Symphonic Bands are in concert Feb. 21, and all three ECU large bands take the stage for Bandorama on April 18. Both concerts are in Wright Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. and are free.

Zamba Yawar presents music of the world in an April 11 concert, the Guitar Ensemble performs April 19, there is a keyboard chamber music recital April 22 and the Tuba Euphonium Ensemble is in concert April 23. All are in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. and are free.

Faculty performances

ECU School of Music faculty artists are active in performance in the spring. Concerts include Jami Rhodes, mezzo-soprano, and Eric Stellrecht, piano, Jan. 30; Elliot Frank, guitar, Feb. 6; a combined faculty student organ recital, Feb. 11 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church; the Bath Duo Valentines concert, Feb. 12, 3 p.m.; and Jonathon Wacker, percussion, March 1.

All faculty concerts are free and in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. unless noted.

Guest artists

Guest artists Joanna Hersey and Michael Parker present a tuba euphonium concert on Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, and pianist Peter Frankl performs March 31, also in Fletcher Recital Hall. Both are free.

EXHIBITS

The ECU Wellington B. Gray Gallery will present **The School of Art and Design Faculty Collects**, an exhibit of art from the collections of ECU School of Art and Design faculty, from Jan. 20 through Feb. 3. The exhibition closing reception will be 5 p.m., Feb. 3.

Gray Gallery hosts the **Tenth Photographic Image Biennial Exhibition** Feb. 16 through March 3, with a reception Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. The Photographic Image Biennial Exhibition is a national juried exhibition. Juror Jessica Hines will give a presentation about the exhibit Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. in Speight Auditorium, School of Art and Design.

ECU School of Art and Design students showcase their talents in Gray Gallery at the **2017 Undergraduate Exhibition** March 23 through April 7, awards ceremony and reception March 23 at 5 p.m. and the 2017 MFA Thesis Exhibition April 21 through May 12, reception May 5 at 5 p.m.

The Wellington B. Gray Gallery is in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and admission is free. The gallery is closed for all university holidays. For more information call 252-328-1312 or visit www.ecu.edu/graygallery.

In January the annual **ECU Material Topics Symposium: Collective Voices** will feature public exhibitions highlighting the vast array of techniques that are categorized under metalsmithing.

On Jan. 13-15 the Greenville Museum of Art will host The Material Topics Symposium's **SMITTEN 2016**, an exhibit of work by invited metalsmiths, and "With moves like MacGyver," an exhibit of art pieces and the tool the metalsmith used to create to the pieces. In addition, the museum will host a jewelry exhibition during the Jan. 13 Artwalk in Uptown Greenville.

The Material Topics Symposium exhibits are free and open to the public. Visit ecusymposium.wordpress.com for more information.

The Erwin Gallery presents **four exhibitions by School of Art and Design faculty and staff** for spring 2017. Included are Kelly Adams, painting and drawing, Jan. 17-Feb. 10, reception Jan. 19; Catherine Walker-Bailey, painting, Feb. 13-March 3, reception Feb. 23; Nanyoung Kim, photography, March 13-April 7, reception March 16; and Matt Egan, illustration, engraving and printmaking, April 10-May 31, reception April 20.

The Erwin Gallery is in the historic Erwin Building on the ECU campus. Public hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Free admission. All receptions are at 4 p.m.

Front and center

Veterans make up an important part of ECU's student body

BY DOUG BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

Bryan Morales

A typical day for first-year medical student Bryan Morales starts early, goes late and packs a lot in between.

But for him, that's no problem. He's used to challenges—such as wrapping up battlefield wounds and jumping out of airplanes.

So is Ashley Bonner. Like a lot of students in their final semester before graduation, she takes a few classes—even teaches one—then heads for her internship at a local therapeutic horseback-riding farm. There, she works with veterans who, like herself, need some time and a friendly horse to help get back into the civilian world.

Bonner and Morales are part of relatively small but significant group of East Carolina University students who are also veterans. Compared to students who entered ECU right out of high school, they have a little different perspective on the world. After all, they've served their country by working—and sometimes fighting—in other countries. They've helped and healed, and now they're building futures where they will help, heal and lead others.

Ashley Bonner

Navy veteran Nicole Jablonski, director of ECU's Student Veteran Services, says student veterans have a lot to offer because they arrive on campus globally aware, disciplined and have leadership skills. Part of the university's strategic plan is to be the top university in North Carolina for active military and veterans, and ECU is working to make itself an educational destination for them.

"These are highly transferable skills, and we want to make sure our students hit the ground running when they start at ECU," Jablonski says. She wants the broader university community to see "how we can leverage their amazing skill sets on campus."

A 'military-friendly' school

In the past couple of years, ECU has been named among the "best for vets"—and top school in North Carolina—by *Military Times* and as a "military-friendly school" by Victory Media.

ECU has approximately 1,400 military-affiliated students enrolled this fall, according to university figures. That total comprises active duty, veterans, dependents and ROTC students. In the past two years, the UNC system has seen a 13 percent jump in the number of people using military education benefits. This fall, those students numbered more than 6,000, according to system numbers.

"Recent national studies have proven that veteran students graduate at higher rates and with better GPAs than average traditional students at universities nationally," says Joe Wescott, a veteran and executive director of the North Carolina State Approving Agency, which is responsible for approving educational and training programs for the GI Bill. "These students often show up on campus with a greater degree of maturity and are usually focused on their education and its importance to a successful career."

Eleven of North Carolina's 16 public universities have opened campus veterans centers, all in the past three years. And most now have at least one full-time staff member to assist veterans in making the transition to campus life.

Alumna smooths path for student-veterans

For student-veterans making the transition from military to campus life, the details can be daunting. That's where Kim Treece '94 '00 comes in. Treece serves as the VetSuccess on Campus counselor and helps students navigate programs and services, benefits, referrals and many other topics as they pursue degrees and plan their futures.

"Having a face—a person—attached to the VA is helpful because it's such a huge machine," Treece says. "I've had students say, 'You've made this easier for me.'"

ECU is the first North Carolina institution of higher education to house a VSOC counselor provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Treece is the second to hold the position since its creation in 2013. In addition to helping veterans make use of education and VA benefits, Treece works with them on vocational assessments and counseling, survivor and dependents assistance, referrals to health services and references to community organizations that may help them adjust to civilian life, among other duties. She is there to help student-veterans combine the military lifestyle they were accustomed to with life as a student and a future professional.

Treece's background as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the VA and with the Wounded Warrior Battalion at Camp Lejeune helps her understand the issues that veterans face in their lives.

"They can come in here and immediately start talking to me about these things, and I can identify with what they're dealing with," she says. "I can help identify transferable skills that they acquired in the military. Sometimes they have a hard time figuring out where they fit."

For Rachel Brokaw, Treece helped ease the adjustment to becoming an ECU student. Brokaw served 10 years in the Marine Corps and is now a junior majoring in social work.

"It was a completely different lifestyle from going to work every day as a Marine to now a full-time student," she says.

Treece was there to help her navigate everything from buying textbooks to understanding benefits and connecting with fellow student-veterans.

"There have been times where she helped proofread essays for applications and review résumés," Brokaw says. "There have been times where I was ready to stop and give up but she never would let me. She will do anything she can to ensure that people graduate and move on to be successful members of society."

—Spaine Stephens

"Many of them have served multiple tours in war zones abroad and return with those experiences and memories and then enter a university setting that doesn't have the same kind of disciplined, unit-building structures, which can be a different kind of challenge compared to those faced at war," says Anna Froula, associate professor of film studies and faculty advisor of the Pirate Veterans Organization.

She says ECU's veterans center, which opened last year in Brewster, is a vital ingredient in making the campus a good place for veterans to learn.

"Studies cite veteran centers as being one of the most important aspect of a military-friendly institution for many reasons, including being a secure location where veterans can be with other veterans and study, rest, or simply have a few minutes

to recuperate if they're going through a tough time or having a bad day," she says.

Bonner can relate. Born in Alabama, Bonner has called Greenville home most of her life. At age 22, she enlisted in the Air Force, went through basic training in Texas, did clinical training to become a medic at Andrews Air Force Base in Virginia and then was assigned to Seymour Johnson AFB near Goldsboro. She's deployed to Turkey, Guam and Paraguay.

"I had always wanted to be in the military," Bonner says. "I was lucky to have the freedom as an American, so I wanted to give back and thank my country for that."

She left the Air Force in 2012, took courses at Pitt Community College, then enrolled at ECU in spring 2015. She'd learned about the university studies program and felt it fit her perfectly.

"That's when I realized I could write my degree," she says. She devised a degree program that will qualify her to work with veterans who are having post-traumatic stress disorder or other issues and help ease them back into a manageable lifestyle.

"I wasn't done with my military lifestyle," she says.

Morales grew up in a military family and saw the service as his best ticket out of a low-wage future and into one that could help others.

"It's just being raised in that environment and that culture you just want put to a lot of work and a lot of focus to helping others," says Morales, 33.

Morales served as a rifleman in the Marine Corps from 2001 to 2005, assigned to the Third Battalion, Third Marines and First Battalion, Third Marines. He was stationed at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and served one tour of duty in Fallujah, Iraq. He was honorably discharged as a corporal.

After taking some nursing classes, he decided to re-enlist. On a visit to a recruiting center, a Navy recruiter wouldn't pay him much mind, but an Army recruiter did.

"He asked me if I wanted to jump out of a plane. I said, 'Sure.'" So from 2007 to 2010, Morales served in a parachute infantry regiment at the famed 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg. He was an airborne medic, served one tour in Baghdad and was honorably discharged as a sergeant.

Once out, he enrolled in Methodist College with an eye on becoming a physician assistant. But a professor motivated him to do more. So he applied to the Brody School of Medicine and not only was accepted but also received a Brody Scholarship, the school's most prestigious.

Morales is interested in specializing in internal medicine and psychiatry and perhaps sub-specializing in emergency medicine. As an undergraduate, he assisted with research into post-traumatic stress disorder. That experience makes him want to use his medical degree to return to military service work with veterans. He also wants to serve the Latino population.

He's part of a first-year class in which approximately a tenth of its 80 students are veterans—including one from a European nation's military and another whose wife is an Air Force physician. The percentage at most medical schools is in the single digits, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

"It seems ECU is an extremely veterans-friendly school," Morales says. "ECU definitely looks at you as a whole person." In addition, he says, having a VA health center within sight of the Brody Medical Sciences Building and major military installations in the region are pluses, too.

Bonner says what veterans experience as students isn't all that different from what other students experience, but how they view it often is.

"Our age for one thing. We're older, we have more life experiences. We have more responsibilities as an adult," she says. "College in general is kind of geared toward traditional students."

Froula, the granddaughter of a WWII veteran, the daughter of a Vietnam veteran and the cousin of an Iraq veteran, agrees.

"Not all (underclassmen) have a game plan in place for succeeding in coursework and preparing for life beyond college," she says. "Not all have decided on a career path.

"In comparison, our student-veterans come to the university with the kinds of life experiences and life skills students typically don't acquire from high school. They've had time to mature and develop more discipline and focus and arrive ready to apply it to their education and career path."

Studies and service

On Wednesdays, Bonner teaches a section of COAD 1000 for veterans. In one class in September, she relates her own difficulty transitioning out of the military—a transition that wasn't exactly on her terms.

"I was…crazy," she says. "I wanted to fight everybody." That's how she made her way to the Rocking Horse Ranch outside Greenville and its therapeutic riding program. She learned horses can sense a rider's anxiety and become anxious themselves. Thus, riders must learn to manage their emotions.

Now, as an intern, she relates those lessons to other veterans dealing with difficult transitions. And she continues working through her own by riding and even mowing pastures.

"I love it," she says. "I do a lot of thinking on my tractor."

On the other hand, first-year medical students such as Morales have packed academic schedules. There are basic science classes, an introductory "doctoring" class, anatomy labs and preceptor rounds with physicians in clinical settings.

"Medical school is extremely tough, a lot tougher than I imagined. But that goal (of helping others) is what drives us forward," he says. "If (he's studying) at 12 at night, I'll keep moving forward with that motivation and energy."

Froula's experience with student-veterans and their motivation to succeed is similar.

"I've had one student veteran that I know of—before I started working with the Pirate veterans," she says. "Before I knew he was a veteran, I was impressed by his discussion points and his poise. He really seemed to be there to learn and was engaged with the ideas and concepts all semester."

Bonner says sometimes she can pick out other veterans on campus due to their posture or how they carry themselves. They have life experiences most other students never will. They're used to overcoming adversity and have resiliency younger students might lack.

Morales agrees. "As veterans who have been in service for a while, you get molded into a certain attitude or outlook," he says.

For him and Bonner—and many other student veterans—that attitude is breeding success.

East

Former Marine recruits troops, vets to ECU

When Marine veteran Jeff Netznik '80 '02 was returning from his service in Vietnam, he was ordered to wear civilian clothes on his flight back to the States. But once at Camp Lejeune, he decided to take a class taught by an ECU professor.

"The faculty members used to drive down and sell books out of the trunk of their car," says Netznik, who's now associate director for military outreach in the Office of Continuing Studies. So he filled out a half-page form, paid $30 and got his book. "That was my first experience with ECU."

Nearly surrounded by military installations, ECU is embracing its opportunity to be the school for active-duty service members as well as veterans.

"The Department of Defense is looking for degrees that will lead the service member to be a productive, more useful leader for the services and transition outside," he says. "They're looking for a degree program that provides the individual with a future."

At ECU, Netznik says, faculty members are trained in what to look for in their student-veterans and how to help them find resources—and that, in turn, helps the university.

"The service members do well in the classroom, but they need help getting into the curriculum," he says. "Then they bring the success on themselves.

"It's serving those that served," he says. "One good alumnus is better than 25 billboards across the state."

"The military outreach program is very helpful," says Valerie Burgo '10, who advises veterans and service members at Camp Lejeune near Jacksonville. She is the daughter of a former Marine who wound up in Jacksonville and, like many from the bases that surround Pitt County, chose ECU since it was close by.

"Many peers do migrate to ECU," she says. "We're about, what, and hour and twenty minutes?"

—Doug Boyd

Cliff Hollis

Programs aim at active-duty troops, civilians

In addition to on-campus programs aimed at veterans, ECU is also working to meet the distance-education needs of active-duty troops and civilians who work for the military.

Through its new Active Military Personnel University Program, or AMP-UP, which ECU plans to start in March, the university plans to offer accelerated courses online.

"At ECU, we realize the schedules of the military population are varied, and traditional educational opportunities may not always be an option," says Sharon Kibbe, director of the program in the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Success. Thus, the AMP-UP program is a flexible seven-and-a-half-week online format for undergraduate courses meeting foundation curriculum requirements.

"The 7.5-week-term courses will allow active-duty service personnel more flexibility to begin and complete a full undergraduate degree at ECU," Kibbe says. "The online and condensed format of AMP-UP courses can enable service members to complete courses throughout the year whether they are at home, away at training or even when deployed as long as they have access to reliable Internet services."

The primary target for the program will be active duty personnel within the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and U.S. Coast Guard Tuition Assistance Programs.

Meanwhile, in the College of Education, for nearly 10 years the Army has paid for General Services Administration employees and some active duty personnel to enroll in a master's-level distance-education program to learn how to train military personnel on new technology.

ECU admits about 20 people a year to the 36-hour program in adult higher education principles and instructional technology. The coursework is equivalent to a master's degree in education.

"The goals were to provide the Army with training sufficient to launch a career in adult and continuing education, human resources development, and training," says Vivian Mott, professor and interim associate dean of the College of Education.

She and Steve Duncan, the former head of military programs at ECU, worked with the Army to assemble the program. Steve Schmidt, a professor in the college, is now the program coordinator and has published articles and spoken at conferences about the program.

—Doug Boyd

Col. Scott Bridgers '89 and Capt. Jason Pukalo '08 of the 157th "Swamp Fox" Fighter Squadron pose with an ECU flag in front of one of their F-16CM Fighting Falcons. The 157th is part of the South Carolina Air National Guard.
Photo by Airman 1st Class Megan "Gina" Floyd

Leadership lessons at ECU

Military students and alumni tell how they learned to lead

BY DOUG BOYD

ECU senior and Army ROTC student Gartrell Anderson, right, prepares a fellow ROTC student for water training at Minges Coliseum. See what the cadets have to say about the training at bit.ly/2fZLdnc.

Cliff Hollis

Leadership isn't something that can be loaded into the hold of a C-17 Globemaster and airlifted to an international hotspot.

So where does it come from, and how does it get where it's needed?

For the military, East Carolina University is one place leadership has come from. Alumni in uniform have climbed through the ranks in all branches of service and in the Guard and Reserves, taking with them lessons learned at ECU and many times passing those on to today's students.

"We used to say if you wanted to be a leader, go to ECU," says U.S. Air Force Col. George R. Farfour '89, vice commander of the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. "If you wanted to be anything else, go somewhere else. ECU and Air Force ROTC Detachment 600 instilled lessons in leadership and officership that I have used my entire career."

Col. George R. Farfour

Contributed photo

Col. Scott C. Bridgers '89, commander of the 169th Maintenance Group, 169th Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard, agrees.

"Probably the main thing is lead from the front," he says. "You have to be a credible leader who your supervisors and subordinates can respect. Sitting back and not volunteering for contingency operations while you send

More than **1,400** **military and military-affiliated students** are enrolled at East Carolina University. Here are some statistics that help illustrate who they are:

800 males, **614** females

83 percent are **full-time students**

84 percent are seeking **bachelor's degrees**

12 percent are seeking **master's** or **doctoral degrees**

Top majors are **nursing, criminal justice** and **management**

Air Force ROTC has **82** students; **46** are male, **36** are female

Army ROTC has **111** students; **94** are male, **17** are female

your folks downrange will make you an ineffective leader."

And Bridgers points out that leaders shouldn't lead simply from a position of authority. "You have to treat your folks like they are volunteers, we are all part of a team, and everyone is needed for mission success," says Bridgers, who piloted an F-16 in the Nov. 12 Military Appreciation Day flyover at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Hunter Rudd '15, a College of Business graduate and former Green Beret, expressed similar thoughts about leadership skills learned at ECU. As part of his management 4343 class with faculty member Lee Grubb, Rudd led a team of volunteers to collect food for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern N.C. and TABLE, a nonprofit that provides healthy, emergency food aid every week to hungry children living in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The project was close to his heart, having lived through war and seen the devastation wrought by nutrition deficiency.

"In my leadership within the military, you don't readily realize how easy leadership is in such a hierarchical and compulsory environment," he says. But leading student volunteers is different. "That presented a number of challenges for me, but in the end I was successful in not only raising more than 4,500 pounds of food donations, but I also learned a great deal about the art and science of leadership in the civilian world."

His example illustrates that part of leadership is service. Farfour gives his own example.

"My senior year, the Air Force announced budget cuts as the Cold War started to come to a close," he says, putting Detachment 600 at risk of closing.

"Lt. Col. Bill Patton, our commander, told us cadets that now was the time to show everybody what we're made of. Be professional, extremely dedicated to our mission and be proud of our roots. ECU was one of the first AF ROTC units and one of the first to admit females. We worked hard, and the Air Force reconsidered their decision, and the detachment is still open.

Contributed photo

From left, J. Jacob Hinton, president of the undergraduate veterans group at UNC-Chapel Hill; Lara Taylor, a veteran and President's Fellow at UNC; Edward Blayney, then a graduate student in the School of Government at UNC and a veteran; and Hunter Rudd, a veteran and business student at ECU, pose with some of the 4,650 pounds of food collected for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina as part of a project in Rudd's senior leadership class.

"Every time I face a challenging situation, I remember what we were able to do with sheer dedication, commitment, professionalism, hard work and pride in our heritage," he says. "'To serve' is ECU's motto, and the Pirates have always fostered and contributed to the high calling of service to our nation. I am both humbled and proud to be a part of that legacy."

Capt. Korey J. Silknitter, operations flight commander of Detachment 600, says academic classes focusing on leadership as well as practical experience help cadets learn how to lead.

"As cadets rise in grade level so does their leadership role and responsibility," he says. "This ensures that by the time they are ready to graduate from ECU they have the strongest foundation of leadership skills to build upon as they start their careers as Air Force officers."

Gartrell Anderson, a senior and one of nearly 200 Army and Air Force ROTC students on campus, says each class of cadets leads the class that comes after it while seniors plan, supervise and organize the detachment.

"Through that you learn leadership skills by trial by fire," says Anderson, an Army ROTC cadet.

Air Force Capt. Natassia Cherne '08 said her time in Detachment 600 was her first opportunity to be a leader and helped her shape her leadership style.

"When you're about to be an officer, so many people have advice on what type of leader you should be," said Cherne, assistant director of operations with the 1st Combat Camera Squadron at Joint Base Charleston in South Carolina, where she leads training for 86 airmen. "At ECU, I learned the harder I tried to be someone else, the harder it was for me to be a good leader and get the mission done."

Perhaps as much as anything, eastern North Carolina is just fertile ground for growing leaders who have an eye on military service.

"Our proximity to several major military installations, with their associated resources, and our strong partnership with the National Guard and Reserve components also create an excellent environment for the production of outstanding commissioned officers year after year," says Tim Wiseman, an Army veteran and assistant vice chancellor for enterprise risk management and military programs.

ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson says ECU's combination of service and leadership provides unique opportunities to learn.

"When you combine leadership with service-learning, your ability to influence, your ability to contribute in a volunteer world is completely different," he says.

East

"We used to say if you wanted to be a leader, go to ECU."

—U.S. Air Force Col. George R. Farfour

Contributed photo

Capt. Natassia Cherne

Researchers from the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, in partnership with NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Project Baseline, prepare to dive on the wrecks of the German submarine *U-576* and the freighter *Bluefields* in the mini sub *Nemo*. ECU is the administrative campus for the Coastal Studies Institute.
Photo by John McCord

Operation discovery

Researchers seek answers about military history and health

BY DOUG BOYD, CRYSTAL BAITY AND JULES NORWOOD

NOAA archaeologist Joe Hoyt documents the damage to *U-576*.

Robert Carmichael

From diving on undersea battlefields to helping homeless veterans, military-related research is an expanding enterprise at East Carolina University.

And with more than $7 million in research funding from the Department of Defense since 2010—and more than that from other sources—administrators and faculty members see the field as a growth opportunity.

"Growing our defense relationship in terms of research is going to be very important," says ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson, especially as the university aims at reaching $100 million in external research and contract funding.

Diving back in time

On July 15, 1942, the German U-boat *U-576* fired its torpedoes at a convoy of ships off Cape Hatteras, sinking the freighter *Bluefields* and damaging two other vessels. Retaliation was swift, as another merchant ship in the convoy fired on the U-boat, and air support was called in, dropping depth charges and ultimately sinking the submarine.

That was the last anyone saw of either vessel until 2014, when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration located the wrecks using high-resolution sonar during an autonomous underwater survey of the area. Thirty-five miles offshore in about 700 feet of water, the two vessels lie on the bottom just 240 yards apart.

In August, researchers visited the underwater battlefield for the first time in 74 years using two manned submersibles launched from the 150-foot research vessel *Baseline Explorer.* Researchers from the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, in partnership with NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Project Baseline, became the first people to lay eyes on the vessels since the day they sank.

ECU is the administrative campus for the CSI.

The manned submersibles put the scientists in the environment they're studying in a way that remotely operated vehicles can't do, says John McCord, CSI associate director of education and outreach. "With that firsthand view, there might be things that you can infer that you couldn't through a screen."

The goal of the project is to study and document the wrecks to learn more about what happened during the battle, as well as the natural habitats surrounding the shipwrecks, according to Joe Hoyt, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary archaeologist and chief scientist for the expedition.

The two crew members—one pilot and one scientist—aboard each sub were able to see several details that provide new information about the wrecks and the battle. The dive planes of *U-576* are pitched as if it were trying to surface.

"All three of the hatches were locked down tight," says McCord, "so that tells you those 45 men are still inside that vessel."

The sailors aboard the *Bluefields* were rescued by other vessels in the convoy.

Externally, the U-boat is largely intact, other than the wooden decks, which have rotted away. "Most of it is encrusted with marine life, but it is in good shape relative to other U-boats off the N.C. coast," McCord says. "On the *Bluefields,* there is an enormous hole the size of a small house where the torpedo impacted."

Photographic and videographic footage, as well as laser scanning, will be used by CSI to create detailed 3-D models of the two wrecks. These models will be useful for both research and outreach, McCord says.

The photogrammetric model provides a realistic surface image of the model, while the laser data creates an extremely accurate record of the wreck's dimensions.

Unfortunately, tropical storm activity in the Atlantic cut the project short, limiting the amount of data that could be collected. McCord says he hopes to return to the site next year to finish the project.

The expedition was part of NOAA's effort to document nationally significant shipwrecks in the Graveyard of the Atlantic. In addition to ECU, member institutions of the CSI are Elizabeth City State University, N.C. State, UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Wilmington.

Farther afield in the North Pacific, ECU history faculty member Jennifer McKinnon has worked in the Mariana Islands for nearly a decade on underwater WWII sites and has been the principal investigator on the development of the diving WWII Maritime Heritage Trail: Battle of Saipan.

Allied and Japanese forces collided at Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands in June and July of 1944. Over three weeks of fighting, the U.S. 2nd Marine Division (now based at Camp Lejuene, North Carolina), 4th Marine Division and the Army's 27th Infantry Division defeated the 43rd infantry division of the Japanese Army. As a result, U.S. forces were able to build air bases on the island and others nearby that put mainland Japan within striking distance of B-29 bombers.

Today, the coastal waters of Saipan are tranquil, but just beneath the surface are the remains of numerous American and Japanese tanks, ships, aircraft and landing craft.

McKinnon says students who explore these undersea battlefields have eye-opening experiences.

Lou Lamar, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Daihatsu landing craft, one of the shipwrecks on the World War II Maritime Heritage Trail: Battle of Saipan

Read about the underwater sites of the Battle of Saipan at www.pacificmaritimeheritagetrail.com or watch online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktXdO4OHvcg.

Gretchen Baugh

U.S. Marine Corps veteran and physician assistant studies student Foster Hunt volunteered with Operation Re-entry North Carolina as his service-learning project.

"They talk about how they felt, how much destruction you can see underwater, how the plane was ripped apart and scattered everywhere," she says. "It's 'wow, this is intense.'"

Students also find all is not yet known about World War II. "They think they're just recording the site, but they start to discover things that aren't in the written record," she says.

For example, she says, one of her students found bows on Marine landing craft were thicker than they were supposed to be. Further exploration uncovered that Marines welded boilerplate onto the craft so they could better handle running over coral reefs. He kept looking and found other field modifications.

Students are also able to make connections in the small world of maritime archaeology and turn those into jobs. Jim Pruitt '15 is now the archaeologist for the historic preservation office in Saipan. Melissa Price '15, who dove on a similar exploration at Midway in the Pacific, is now an archaeologist in Florida.

McKinnon's team also studied caves used as shelter by the civilian and Indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian community during the war.

Her work was supported by more than $213,000 in grant funding. And her team has received another grant of $64,579 to head back to the region and focus on the Battle of Tinian. She's also part of a NOAA-funded team studying the Battle of Midway.

She's submitted a proposal for a study-abroad course next summer in Saipan aimed at student veterans that will look at not only the Battle of Saipan but also the Spanish-Chamorro Wars of the 17th century, the European discovery and colonization of the islands.

Helping veterans

Another example is Operation Re-entry North Carolina. A multiyear, $4 million grant-funded project, ORNC supports military service personnel, veterans and their families by bringing together researchers and projects that focus on the resilience, rehabilitation and reintegration of returning servicemen and servicewomen.

The original funding ended Sept. 30, but many projects will continue with additional grant funding.

"Where we're at is a juncture," says Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor for the Office of Innovation and Economic Development. "Department of Defense funding has come to an end, but we have an effective umbrella to keep going."

A focal point of Operation Re-entry is a van that ECU faculty, staff and students use to make thrice-weekly trips to eastern North Carolina counties to help nearly 300 veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It's also a mobile clinic with technology to provide medical, psychiatric and behavioral health services to veterans and their families in communities where they live. The clinic is funded by an $828,956 grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

The latest step in the project is leasing 25 smartphones to veterans to help them make connections to improve their lives. A total of 50 participants will get at least three months use of a phone, and the main emphasis will be a behavioral health app that will encourage at least weekly contact with counselors, says Paul Toriello, chair of the addictions and rehabilitation studies in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Master's and doctoral students in ECU rehabilitation counseling and medical family therapy programs have built relationships with veterans across eastern North Carolina. Most project participants are male, in their 50s and 60s and veterans of the Vietnam War or the first Gulf War. Many are homeless and combatting drug abuse and mental health issues, and almost all are unemployed, Toriello says.

"All have been willing to engage with us," he says. "I praise my team—that was our goal—to reach out and talk with people where they're at."

The team made contacts with area Veterans Affairs offices and other organizations such as local soup kitchens and employment offices. They also "cold called" employers by county and shared job openings with participants.

The mobile clinic is among a dozen projects under the umbrella of Operation Re-entry North Carolina. Others have ranged from biofeedback and virtual reality, balance and hearing analysis, and social and personal resiliency to new tests for blast-induced traumatic brain injuries and life skills and workforce development for service members.

"As long as ECU has the investigators to put in the proposals and ask the questions, ECU will have access with us being in the middle of the third most populous military area in the nation," said James R. Menke, retired Navy master chief petty officer and military research liaison and project manager for ORNC.

Uncovering clues to an illness

In addition to research into battlefield maladies such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, ECU experts have also studied Gulf War illness, the oft-misunderstood collection of symptoms experienced by as many as 250,000 veterans of the 1991 conflict.

Dr. William Meggs, a professor of emergency medicine at the Brody School of Medicine and a board-certified medical toxicologist, studied veterans from the Carolinas, Virginia and other states as part of the four-year, $1.1 million study funded by the federal Department of Defense. The results of the study were published earlier this year in the journal *Cortex*.

Reseachers concluded that not only did pesticides contribute to the illness, but also that pyridostigmine bromide—prophylactic pills intended to protect troops against the effects of possible nerve gas—was "causally associated with GWI and the neurological dysfunction in Gulf War veterans."

The research team also cites studies showing a link between veterans' neurological problems and exposure to the nerve-gas agents sarin and cyclosarin, as well as to oil well fire emissions.

The researchers have been studying the health of troops deployed in the Gulf War for more than 20 years to determine why so many of them suffer from a multi-system disorder characterized by fatigue, joint and muscle pain, headaches, concentration and memory problems, gastrointestinal distress and skin rashes.

Effective treatments for the illness have been elusive, but a recent treatment research effort has begun to produce promising leads. Meggs, who has received two research grants from the Department of Defense to study treatments, presented findings at an international congress in London in June and is preparing the work for publication.

"We found that some veterans with Gulf War illness were helped with a therapy called low-dose naltrexone (an anti-inflammatory agent), but others got no benefit," Meggs says. He's applying for further funding to see if other doses may help more veterans and to determine why some are helped and others aren't.

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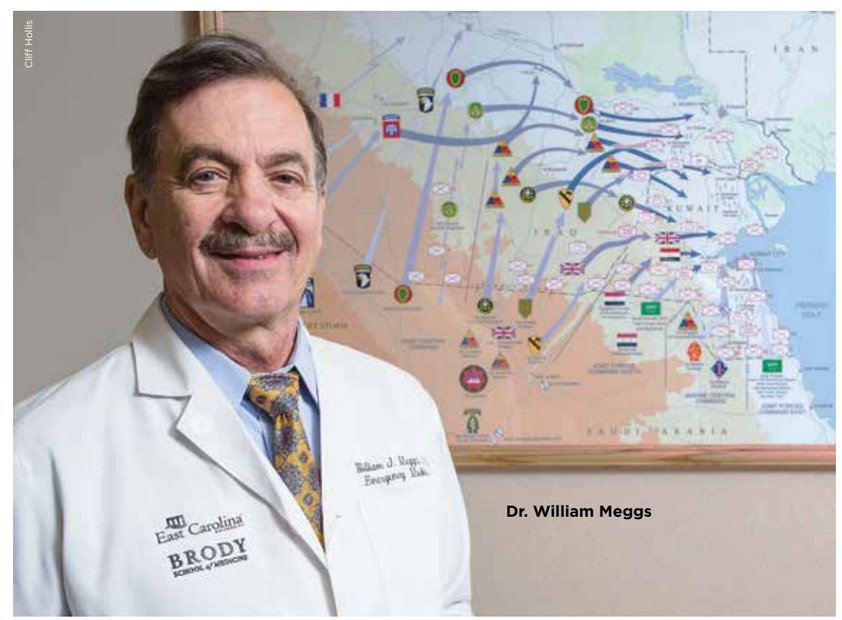

Cliff Hollis

Dr. William Meggs

Their stories, their service

From World War I to today's battles around the globe, East Carolina University has long been a place present, past and future soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen could call home. *East* talked with several, and these are their stories.

Contributed photo

Hunter Rudd

Hunter Rudd

Hunter Rudd '15 is pictured on the previous two pages in an all-terrain vehicle in southwestern Afghanistan in approximately 2012 before commencing an attack on a radio repeater station used by insurgent forces. A Green Beret, Rudd served with the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne).

He describes the ambush that earned him a Purple Heart:

"I was first wounded by RPG shrapnel in early 2008 in Tarin Kowt province, Afghanistan. My detachment was executing an emergency fuel resupply to a remote firebase occupied by another Special Forces detachment. The fuel resupply had been previously attempted but was thwarted by insurgent forces intending to starve the detachment of the fuel necessary to continue operations. Two detachments volunteered to protect what was, at the time, the largest attempted fuel resupply convoy to a remote Special Forces firebase to date.

"During the return from the remote firebase, we encountered a sustained ambush lasting approximately four hours. During that engagement, a rocket-propelled grenade detonated above and behind my head, resulting in shrapnel wounds to my hand and the back of my neck. Once back at my own base of operations, I was treated and returned to duty, but required further surgeries to help repair some of the damage once I returned to Fort Bragg."

Rudd completed his bachelor's degree in the College of Business. Today, he's working on his master of business administration degree at Duke University with an eye toward creating a smartphone app related to the wine industry. His wife is an Air Force veteran.

—Doug Boyd

Justin Williford and Melissa Work

Siblings and veterans Justin Williford and Melissa Work followed each other's paths, so to speak.

"She was the golden child," Williford says of his sister. While she attended college, he foundered in high school and dropped out. Soon realizing his lack of motivation was getting him nowhere, he earned a GED and enlisted in the Marine Corps. He trained as a sniper and served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"It definitely straightened me out and gave me, I guess you could say, an adult outlook on life," he says. After four years of service, he enrolled at ECU, completed his bachelor's degree in communication and is working on his master's.

Work, on the other hand, had finished college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006, was working at a daycare and felt she had more to do. Her brother had just joined the Marines, which motivated her to do likewise.

She enlisted in the Army in 2009 and served as a medic at Fort Bragg until 2012. She then enrolled in the environmental health program at ECU—a field she got interested in during her service—and is now working on her doctorate in audiology at ECU.

"Be part of something bigger," she says. "There's so few women in the military in general, and to be one of those few, I'm proud of that. It helped me grow."

Her brother agrees. "It was an honor," Williford says of his service. "It's something I can definitely say I take a lot of pride in."

—Doug Boyd

Justin Williford and Melissa Work

Cliff Hollis

Capt. Joel Banjo-Johnson

Last May, a B-52H Stratofortress crashed shortly after takeoff at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, making international news. Capt. Joel Banjo-Johnson '09, director of public affairs for the 36th Wing, took a leading role in getting the word out.

"That was a crazy day," she says.

With the 36th in Guam, she led a team of 19 military and civilian personnel, managed a budget of more than $150,000 in assets and directed public affairs support to the wing in the Department of Defense's only Joint Region. She advised commanders and Guam leaders and developed media and strategic plans and guidance as well as organizing and executing community outreach programs.

"I was the youngest person at the table and responsible for advising senior leadership," she says.

Banjo-Johnson was born in London and grew up in a Navy family, moving countless times. After seven years on active duty, she's back in school—the competitive Air Force Institute of Technology. She's attending George Mason University in Virginia and working on a master's degree in strategic communication.

Once she completes her degree, she expects to be assigned to the Pentagon.

"I joined the Air Force because I wanted to serve and be a part of a great legacy," she says. "I love the military family. The people I meet motivate me to serve. It's nice to see familiar faces every time I travel, and I love meeting new and interesting people."

At ECU, she was a member of Air Force ROTC Detachment 600 and excelled in school. She double-majored in broadcast journalism and German and was a Robert H. Wright Award recipient in her senior year. She was among the inaugural class of ECU's 40-Under-40.

"I'm still using lessons learned at ECU, and yes, ECU contributed to my success," she says. "The professors at ECU set me on path to learn and grow. I've seen so many Pirates throughout my military career as well."

—Jackie Drake and Doug Boyd

Maj. David Herndon

Maj. David Herndon '05 is aide-de-camp and special advisor to the commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

Herndon joined the team at Offutt in early May after serving as a public affairs officer at U.S. Air Force headquarters and as a social aide to the president at the White House. *East* wrote about that job in 2014.

But he says his job now is one of the most demanding positions he's had in nearly 12 years of military service.

"In this role, I provide direct support to the four-star admiral leading the global Department of Defense effort to provide a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent," he says. The command's portfolio includes space operations, cyberspace, missile defense, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance, joint electronic warfare and more.

"I work with our front office team to provide leadership and oversight to the admiral's interactions with the White House and National Security Council, foreign heads of state and senior military officials, and the Air Force, Army, Navy and U.S. Marine Corps units he commands," Herndon says.

"I argue that the impact is significant and is something that I'm very proud of, as we're part of a team that helps to ensure stability in light of a global security environment that has become more complex, dynamic and volatile, perhaps more so than any time in our history."

Herndon also works with several other ECU alumni at the headquarters.

"I think back to long hours put toward officer development as an ROTC cadet and the collective team environment and esprit-de-corps fostered on campus that directly translates and assists in our very dynamic work environment," he says.

Herndon was among the inaugural class of ECU's 40-Under-40.

"I can tell you that ECU helped me understand the importance of developing critical-thinking skills and a questioning attitude needed to provide timely advice and counsel to senior interagency leaders," he says.

—Doug Boyd

Capt. Joel Banjo-Johnson and Maj. David Herndon

Contributed photo

Eric Gabriel

Eric Gabriel '01 helps keep troops informed and entertained as lead producer for the American Forces Network.

AFN broadcasts entertainment, sports and news programming to the U.S. government and military stationed around the world. A lot of what his job centers around is marketing AFN's programming and covering industry events such the Oscars and Comic Con.

"We send our broadcast to 150-plus countries and multiple ships at sea," says

Contributed photo

Eric Gabriel

Gabriel. "If it's popular here in the U.S., chances are we've got it on air for the troops. (We want) to give those folks out there a 'touch of home' while overseas."

Gabriel's dad was in the Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg near Fayetteville, and attending ECU allowed Gabriel to stay close to home.

"I had some great opportunities to learn and prepare for the TV and media business while at ECU. The teaching philosophies and wisdom of the professors was first class," says Gabriel.

He also had advice for ECU students.

"Surround yourself with a good support team, and if there's something you want to be or do after college, chances are you can get some experience at it while at ECU," said Gabriel.

—Doug Boyd

Worth and Don Carter

Brothers Worth '78 '81 and Don Carter '82 '83 followed their father's lead.

Both graduated from ECU, and both joined the military.

"The university has always welcomed the military and supported the military," Worth says. "Across the board, the support at ECU is as good or better as any school in this country."

They've retired from military service, and Worth is now deputy program manager for readiness, ground-based midcourse defense at the Missile Defense Agency in Huntsville, Alabama.

Don followed Worth to business school at ECU, into ROTC and into the Air Force. The brothers served and flew together for a time at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base near Goldsboro. Don retired as a lieutenant colonel and now lives in Buies Creek.

Their father, Worth '51, was a World War II Army Air Corps staff sergeant and gunner in B-17 and B-24 bombers. He received a master's degree in education at East Carolina, using his GI Bill benefits, and was a school principal in Fayetteville for 30 years.

"From the time we were old enough to talk, he said, 'You will serve in the military, it's your duty.' He thought every male owed that to their country," Worth says.

"It was rewarding, challenging and an honor to serve," adds Don, who now works in financial services.

The family funded a scholarship in their dad's memory, and Worth funded another Air Force ROTC scholarship. Their sister and wives are also ECU graduates, as is Worth's son. Worth also serves on ECU's Military Programs Committee.

"ECU is a special place to us," Don says.

—Doug Boyd

Contributed photo

Worth Carter '51

Cliff Hollis

Worth and Don Carter

Civilian alumni help keep troops safe

In college, Frank Feher '11 knew he wanted to serve his country. He's doing just that working as a production engineer for defense contractor TCom in Elizabeth City.

In a huge airship hangar that dates to the 1940s when the property was known as Naval Air Station Weeksville, TCom manufactures aerostats, unmanned helium-filled balloons that carry aloft surveillance equipment in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq and other hotspots around the world where terrorists or criminals are active against U.S. troops and interests.

Feher is one of a group of ECU graduates who work at TCom. Each feels a connection to troops and protecting their safety as well as the safety of civilians.

"They notice a huge difference in the amount of terrorists in the area when our aerostats are flying," said Sean Lavin '01, a College of Business graduate and purchasing and planning supervisor at TCom.

The aerostats are surprisingly tough and are regularly shot at but rarely brought down. One took a shot from a rocket-propelled grenade before it descended.

"The soldiers were very impressed with what it could take," says Brenda Parker '01, an industrial technology graduate. She worked with Northrup Grumman in Norfolk before joining TCom.

"I love it," she says. "It's a very challenging and unique work environment. Not everyone can say they build aerostats. They're helping and making a difference."

As evidence of that, the Navy sent a commendation letter to the TCom group in Elizabeth City, saying their product was the "most reliable air asset in Afghanistan."

—Doug Boyd

Cliff Hollis

From left, Brenda Parker '01, Joseph Lavin '11, Alex Colson '07 '08, Sean Lavin '01 and Frank Feher '10 work at defense contractor TCom in Elizabeth City, building surveillance aerostats, such as the one behind them, in giant airship hangars from World War II.

Changing Lives, Changing Communities
Scholarship

John Hurley

Hometown: Monrovia, Maryland

Year: Second-year medical student

Career goals: To practice medicine within an underserved, even remote, community

Before entering medical school, Hurley spent 16 years as an Army medic. At ECU, he is a Brody Scholar—the medical school's top academic award—and a Schweitzer Fellow. In that program, he and a fellow medical student have set up On Belay, a peer-support group to help veterans transition to civilian life.

Service

"(During Hurricane Matthew we) were able to set up several rapid-response teams that…were delivering supplies and seeking out the needs of the community almost immediately. The most rewarding aspect I had during this entire relief effort was being a small piece of a larger program that when called on was able to move rapidly and decisively to meet the needs of the community we are chartered to serve. To serve is the greatest reward."

Philanthropy

"It is the reason that I am able to focus on school and the many extra-curricular activities that I am involved in. We, the recipients, are chartered to always do more than expected. The Brody family are leaders in the community, and they expect the same from those they support."

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Brody Scholars program honors J.S. "Sammy" Brody. He and his brother, Leo, were among the earliest supporters of medical education in eastern North Carolina. Since the program began in 1983, 134 students have received scholarships. About 70 percent of Brody Scholars remain in North Carolina to practice, and the majority of those stay in eastern North Carolina.

For information on giving to the Brody Scholars program or other medical scholarships at ECU, call 252-744-6265, email brownk@ecu.edu or visit ecu.edu/give.

Cliff Hollis

Hurley describes his Schweitzer Fellows project, "On Belay," at bit.ly/2fhOEnG.

ecu.edu/give

Stephen M. Blizzard, James R. Gorham and James C. Thomas receive DMSS recognition.

Military society creates scholarship

The East Carolina University Distinguished Military Service Society has created a new scholarship for an Army ROTC and an Air Force ROTC cadet in the College of Health and Human Performance.

The DMSS has been a part of campus since 2008, and members have given their own scholarship contributions through the organization, but this year will be the first in which the society itself awards a scholarship.

"National ROTC scholarships are only awarded to a small percentage of the cadets participating in ECU ROTC programs," said Tim Wiseman, assistant vice chancellor for enterprise risk management and military programs at ECU. "By instituting the Distinguished Military Service Society scholarships, we have effectively broadened the base of financial support and opened the door to many more cadets to help offset their college expenses."

Last year, Air Force ROTC cadet Chresty Xiong received the Dutch Holland Scholarship through the society. She's a biology major and plans to become an OB/GYN for the Air Force. The Holland Scholarship and others have allowed her to attend ECU debt-free.

"It shows that there are people who believe and are supporting me, and this makes me feel limitless," Xiong said. "I am grateful for every opportunity that I have been presented with and grateful for the donors who see potential in me."

Holland '75 is a member of the DMSS. He and his wife needed financial aid to attend East Carolina and then went on to have successful careers in the Air Force. They understand how people can excel when given support.

"It is a chance for us to give back to two institutions that helped us tremendously as young adults become productive citizens—ECU and the USAF—as well as giving the individual recipient an opportunity to aim high," Holland said.

Every year, the DMSS honors ECU students, faculty and staff who have served the country and recognizes them during the Military Appreciation football game. This year's ceremony and game took place Nov. 12, recognizing Stephen M. Blizzard '85, James R. Gorham '81 and James C. Thomas '56.

—Rich Klindworth

Nancy Childs

Nate Mentink

Program helps veterans transition to workforce

At 44 years old, Nate Mentink '15 is starting over.

For 20 years, Mentink was in the Marines and retired as a major Sept. 1. He specialized in logistics and supply-chain management and would like to do something similar in his new civilian career. Even though he has bachelor's and master's degrees, he took part in the three-week Tools for Advanced Manufacturing for Veterans program at Craven Community College in New Bern.

"It's one of those things that puts another tool in my tool belt," Mentink said.

TAMV is a collaboration between ECU and the North Carolina Community College System to educate veterans who are transitioning to civilian life. This program also helps local manufacturers gain a quality workforce.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for higher education to help veterans successfully transition to civilian life and to bolster our region's workforce with technically skilled and leadership-oriented workers who have served their country," said Jim Menke, military research liason and project manager for Operation Re-entry North Carolina, which TAMV is a part of.

The program is possible through a $70,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation. Nearly 300 veterans have received job training.

"Veterans bring critical skills and experience to North Carolina's workforce," said David Fountain, president of Duke Energy North Carolina. "We're proud to support ECU's Tools for Advanced Manufacturing for Veterans program and its goal of successfully connecting returning service members with career-training opportunities in the manufacturing industry."

—Rich Klindworth

CLASS NOTES

2016

Leo Corbin is president of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. **Sarah C. Sears** joined Physicians East Greenville OB/GYN as a certified nurse midwife. **Samuel Wood** works in finance at Pepsico.

2015

Krista Eason, instructional technology facilitator and principal intern at Harrisburg Elementary School, Concord, was promoted to an assistant principal at the school. **Sky Bass Taylor** wed Kenneth Neil Moore Jr. on July 2 at Airlie Gardens, Wilmington. The wedding party included **Meg Kristofak** '14, **Lauren Alexis Levings** '14 and **Caroline Wilkerson**.

2012

Lindsay Ann Gold '12 '15 wed **Jeffrey Michael Oatis** on June 4 at The Yacht Club at Marina Shores, Virginia Beach, Va. The wedding party included **Melanie Bonney**, **Katie Calvert** '14, **Allyson Garner** '13, **Stephanie Haughey** '12, **Matt Liverman** '11 and **Joey Valesko**. In Greenville, she works as an applications developer, and he is a property manager. **Jonna Kurr-Murphy** '12 '16 is department chair and seventh-grade language arts teacher at Eppes Middle School, Greenville.

2011

Danielle Morris Abeyounis wed Samuel Thomas Rhodes on April 9 at First United Methodist Church, Rocky Mount. The wedding party included **Caroline Boyd** '10, **Mary Carson** '10 '14, sister of the bride, **Beth Crawford** '11, **Kaitlyn James** '10, **Brittany Rawls** '10, **Kristin Shaw** '08, sister of the bride, and **Candice Strother**. She is a human resource benefits manager at Boice-Willis Clinic, Rocky Mount. **Leigh Buckhout** received the 2015-16 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. He is a Winterville police officer. Dr. **Andrew B. Jordan** joined the dental practice of Dr. Donald L. Hardee, Greenville. **Andrew O'Neal** is head coach of the West Stokes Wildcats baseball team in King where he played baseball. He was the men's varsity soccer coach at the school and coached third base for the baseball team.

2010

Stacey Kathryn Andrews wed **Thomas Shields Ball** '11 on June 11 on the grounds of her parents' home in Greenville. The wedding party included **Joshua Leith Aldridge** '13, **Scott Andrews** '07, brother of the bride, **Brittany Leggett Corey**, **David Judd Howard Jr.** '11, **Joshua Lee Hudson** '09 '11, **Erin Rose St. Ledger** '08 '10, **Katherine Stuart Smith** '12 '14 and **Ross Michael Warren**. **Brandon Cordrey** is executive director of the Visual Art Exchange, Raleigh. **Samuel Jones** is principal of Walnut Cove Elementary School, Stokes County. He was assistant principal at Surry Central High School, Dobson. **Troy Lewis** is Tarboro town manager. He was the town's public works director. Dr. **Lauren Mercer** joined the staff at East Carolina Veterinary Service, Greenville. She graduated in May from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. **Brittany McGrath Richardson** joined Physicians East, Greenville, as a certified nurse practitioner.

Ron Sessoms '10 (left) was promoted to senior associate with Rhodeside & Harwell, Alexandria, Va., where he is an urban designer. **Antwan Staley** was promoted to Miami Dolphins beat writer for the *Palm Beach Post.* He also covers other

continued on page 51

Contributed photo

Award-winning documentary looks at race, color

A study of colorism within the African-American community has garnered recognition for **Steven M. Cozart** '95.

The artist, illustrator and documentarian has received the 2016 Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University for "The Pass/Fail Series."

The inspiration for Cozart's project came from a piece he created in 2013, a self-portrait in which he argued with himself. He said the portrait was intended to be a representation of the internal turmoil that takes place within many African-Americans who struggle with their own acceptance or rejection of their identity within the confines of the black community.

Images from the work are online at www.cdsporch.org/archives/26539.

In a news release sent out by Duke University, the Durham native said he wanted to spark dialogue about issues of "classism and stereotyping by African-Americans toward other African-Americans based on several factors, including skin tone, hair texture, gender roles and other myths and fallacies prevalent in the community."

He began by interviewing his parents, followed by interviewing, filming and photographing family, friends, colleagues and students—African-Americans of various backgrounds and ages—who were "able to engage in conversations about color and social acceptance within their families, social circles, and larger community."

For "The Pass/Fail Series," Cozart made paintings, drawings, mixed-media collages and short videos about each subject and "uses the photographs, video stills, and audio excerpts from these conversations to create combinations of imagery and text. The individuals' portraits and words are drawn on the surfaces of paper bags; the portraits on the side, the words on the bottom. The portraits take on a life of their own when matched with the subjects' words. The intent is that the viewers imagine they can hear the voices of the individuals speaking.

The work evokes the "brown paper bag test," a discriminatory act that was used in some social circles within the African-American community to determine whether an individual could have privileges of access. Being lighter than the paper bag was desirable, though colorism cuts both ways, and being of a light complexion has also been used as a means to impugn one's "blackness."

Cozart's mother, who was of a much lighter complexion than her sisters, is quoted as she speaks about the experiences of his grandmother having to explain her (daughter's) complexion. Another interviewee talks about condescending, passive and sometimes aggressive commentary she has received throughout her life related to her dark complexion.

"When I began talking to people about a caste system based upon skin tone, I thought that darker folk would have negative stories and lighter ones would have more success stories, but I was only half right," Cozart said. "I did hear tales of woe from darker-skinned folk, but was surprised to hear the same woes from lighter-skinned folk as well, including my mother."

Cozart believes his work will create dialogues "that promote sensitivity, understanding, self-awareness and self-love. It is a project with no perceived end, as it involves conversations that must continue to take place in the African-American community as we move forward into the future." He added his ultimate goal is to minimize, or even eradicate, fallacies and preconceptions.

Cozart, who lives and works in Greensboro, received his bachelor's degree in art education with a concentration in printmaking and drawing from ECU. His work has been exhibited at the Greenville Museum of Art, Center for Visual Arts in Greensboro, Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art, the African American Atelier and the Randolph Artist Guild, and he has received grants and awards from the Central Piedmont Regional Artists Hub and the Fine Artists League of Cary, among others.

He teaches at Weaver Academy for Performing & Visual Arts and Advanced Technology in Guilford County and has been a visiting lecturer at ECU, North Carolina A&T State University and Guilford College.

Cozart received $10,000 as part of the prize, named for photographer Dorothea Lange and writer and social scientist Paul Taylor. It supports documentary artists—working alone or in teams—whose extended fieldwork projects rely on the interplay of words and images.

—ECU News Services

sports, including Florida Panthers hockey and Miami Hurricanes football. **Ryan Christopher Willis** wed Laura Gibbs Collier on July 16 in the chapel at the Hudson Manor, Louisburg. He is a surveyor with Stantec, Raleigh.

2009

Hollie Elizabeth Powell wed Joshua Logan Ennis on April 23 at First Baptist Church, Henderson. The wedding party included **Amanda Ennis Brewington** '04 '12. She works in the Pitt County Schools. **C. J. Wilson** signed as defensive tackle with the New Orleans Saints.

2007

Dr. **Shannon Holcomb** volunteered for her fourth time with the Dominican Dental Mission Project in 2016. She practiced dentistry for a year in Morehead City and is now with Smiles By Shaw, Greenville. **Brent Rivenbark**, fourth-grade teacher at Hobbton Elementary, is 2016-17 Teacher of the Year in Sampson County Schools.

2006

Robin Calcutt '06 '14 is director of planning, accountability and research for Moore County Schools. She was principal of West Pine Middle School for the past two years. **Ashley Gordon Carlson** received a master of nursing degree from Oregon Health and Science University. **Christine Catalano** is executive director of middle school and advanced programs for Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools. She was principal of Nash-Rocky Mount Early College High School. **Lindy W. Kitchin** is director of counseling and disability services at N.C. Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount.

2005

Dr. **Christopher Gregory** joined the Physicians East Department of Cardiology, Greenville.

2004

Robert Batts '04 '10 is director of secondary education for Edgecombe County Public Schools. He was principal of Tarboro High School. **Michael Swinson** '04 '08 '13 '15 is principal for Washington High School, Beaufort County. He was assistant principal at Ayden-Grifton High School, Pitt County.

2003

Amanda Wilborn Benedict, an associate director of development at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., produced the bi-annual Winship Gala fundraiser in 2016, which raised $1.3 million, making it the most successful fundraising event in Emory's history. **Andrew Cox** is finance director for the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools. He was with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. **W. Brandon Hinton** is deputy county manager for community services in Henrico County, Va. He was director of the county's office of management and budget since 2012 and assistant deputy county manager for community services since April 2016. **Marcia Navarro** is principal of Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College, Durham. She was former senior managing director of teaching and learning for Teach for America-Eastern NC.

2002

Denisha Harris '02 '05 was promoted to purchasing manager for the city of Greenville. She is a certified local government purchasing officer. **Robert D. Locklear** is assistant superintendent of instruction and support for Robeson County Public Schools.

2001

Mike Godwin is facility director of Aquaventure Aquatics Campus, a water-themed indoor fitness center in Greenville. He was aquatics supervisor for the city of Greenville's recreation and parks department. **Lucia Onufrey** teaches special education at Farmington Elementary School, Culpepper, Va.

1999

Jim Butler is principal of Richmond Senior High School, Rockingham, where he earned his high school degree. **Shelby DeBause** and a coauthor published a children's book, *It's...Just Private.* She is a licensed marriage and family therapist in Hampton, Va. **Keith McKenzie** retired as principal of Richmond Senior High School, Rockingham. Dr. **Roxie Wells** is president of Bladen Healthcare and continues to serve as president of Hoke Healthcare.

1998

Connie Hall published her second novel, *Valedictorian: A Story of the Hidden Glory of a Troubled Life,* based on struggles her father faced through his decades of military service. She retired after 30 years as a registered nurse.

1997

Toya Jacobs '97 '06 was appointed to the Greenville Utilities board of commissioners. She is ECU's diversity and inclusion program manager. **E. Scott Marsigli** is institutional research analyst at N.C. Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount.

Tabari Wallace '97 '02 '07, principal, H.J. MacDonald Middle School, New Bern, received the 2016 Partners In Education Outstanding Leadership Award, honoring outstanding leadership and significant contributions to education by school administrators based on how they create awareness for PIE throughout their school, making an impact and lasting contribution to PIE's mission.

1996

Meredith Prudden Goins was promoted to group manager, peer review program, for Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Oak Ridge, Tenn. **Robert McOuat** published a novel, *Shallow Brooks are Noisy.*

1995

William "Junior" Bailey is the head softball coach at Division II Barton College, Wilson. He was Pitt Community College softball coach and athletic director. Dr. **Irene Hamrick** is chair of the American Geriatric Society's Health Systems Innovation-Economics and Technology Committee, and she received the UW-Madison Family Medicine Residents Scheibel-Lloyd Teaching Award. **Jason Mills**, D.H. Conley High School head baseball coach, Pitt County, is the 2016 *Daily Reflector* Coach of the Year.

1994

Gaynor O'Donnell-Hammond is ECU's director of women's basketball operations. She starred as a point guard for the Pirates from 1989-93 and was inducted into ECU's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

1993

Irene Bailey '93 '95 won second place in the DAR American Heritage Committee, Art & Sculpture, in the oil painting category with her "The Passing of the Brush" piece. She was honored at the Continental Congress at the American Heritage Forum in Washington, D.C., in June.

Curtis Gatlin, principal at Ben D. Quinn Elementary School, New Bern, received the 2016 Partners In Education Outstanding Leadership Award, honoring outstanding leadership and significant contributions to education by school administrators based on how they create awareness for PIE throughout their school, making an impact and lasting contribution to PIE's mission.

1992

Rob Maloney, athletics director and head boys basketball coach at D.H. Conley High School, Pitt County, was recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as a certified athletics administrator. **Pam Silverthorne** received the Barry Gaskins Ambassador Award for her work helping students improve their reading skills. She is the Title 1-CARE teacher at Stokes School, Pitt County.

1991

Robin Hiatt was appointed to the board of the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching by Gov. Pat McCrory. She teaches third grade at Powhatan Elementary School, Clayton.

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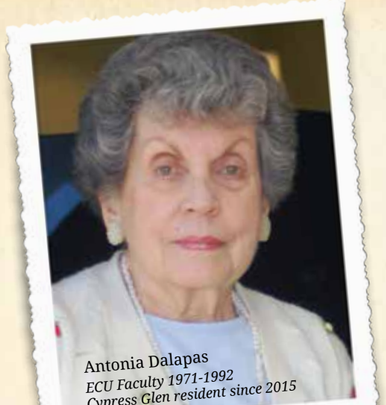

Where Pirate Memories Continue

Antonia Dalapas was born to Greek parents in Lawrence, Massachusetts and grew up in Maine. She received a BM and MM in voice and opera at the prestigious New England Conservatory in Boston. While earning her master's degree, she was chosen to sing operatic scenes on the inaugural program of WGBH-TV in Boston.

"Cypress Glen residents are an amazing and diverse group who enjoy learning and discovering new interests."

Antonia fondly reminisces about meeting ECU Chancellor Leo Jenkins, who chauffeured her around Greenville when she interviewed for the position which she accepted. She served on the voice faculty at the ECU School of Music from 1971-1992.

Her love of ECU continues at Cypress Glen where she still enjoys attending the plays, concerts, symphony and performing arts.

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East Carolina ALUMNI

New members join alumni board

Ron C. Hinton II '14 of Raleigh and Sarah Watts Proctor '04 of New Bern have joined the East Carolina Alumni Association board of directors.

"My goal is to be the voice and representative of the younger alumni," says Hinton, internal sourcing specialist at TEK Systems, an IT staffing firm. "I want to help create a stronger-than-ever bond between our current students, alumni, city, community and administration."

Like Hinton, Proctor felt motivated to serve on the board.

"I have always loved East Carolina," says Proctor, director of marketing and merchandising for Samantha's Furniture. "I wanted to join the alumni board to give me a platform to spread the word about not only the university itself, but also the positive impact ECU is having on eastern North Carolina as a whole. This part of the state in particular has always been a special place to me."

Hinton says being a member of the board is rewarding, and he encourages other Pirates to get involved in any way they can, either by joining the board or sharing their time and talents.

"To be a Pirate means to be a servant," he said. "To be able to serve in this capacity for this great school, it is pure love."

The East Carolina Alumni Association board of directors serves more than 165,000 living alumni around the world. To find out more about how to serve, visit PirateAlumni.com/BoardApplicationProcess. The deadline for applications for 2017-2018 is Dec. 15.

—Jackie Drake

MAKE A NOTE OF YOUR NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: **Class Notes Editor, Howard House, Mail Stop 107, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353**. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can email your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While *East* happily prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

Please send address changes or corrections to: **Division of University Advancement, Greenville Center, Mail Stop 301, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, or email advancementservices@ecu.edu**.

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ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

YOUR NEWS

1988

Kevin Donn Plotkin relocated his Merrill Lynch practice from Center City Philadelphia, Pa., to Wayne, Pa.

1985

Rick Farris joined ClinTec International as executive vice president, U.S. Operations. **Greg Shelnutt** was elected secretary for the S.C. Arts Alliance. He is professor of art and chair of the art department at Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.

Nancy Whitfield published *The Gift of Serving: The DAVE Volunteer Model,* which describes how to create healthier volunteer relationships. She is president of The Leader's Lightship, Chesapeake, Va.

1981

Robert "Bob" Gagnon retired from Selective Insurance after 35 years and started a second career as director of claims for Sentinel Risk Advisors LLC, an insurance brokerage firm with offices in Raleigh and Greenville. **JR "Hippie" Gorham** published his first book, *Sharecropper's Wisdom: Growing Today's Leaders the Old Fashioned Way.* Dr. **Vicki Lanier** '81 '94 is emergency department medical director at Bladen Healthcare, Elizabethtown.

1980

Clark Baker '80 '09 received his D.O. degree from Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, Harrogate, Tenn. He is doing an internal medicine residency at Danville Regional Medical Center, Danville, Va.

1979

Deborah Davis '79 '83 was promoted to CEO of VCU Health System Hospitals and Clinics as well as vice president for clinical affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va. **Robin Parker Tutor-Marcom** '79 '07 received her DED in agricultural and extension education from N.C. State University. She is director of the N.C. Agromedicine Institute, a partnership of ECU, N.C. State and N.C. A&T State University, whose mission is to promote the health and safety of farmers, fishermen, loggers, their workers and their families through research, prevention/intervention and education/outreach.

1977

Larry A. Mercer was selected as a fellow for the Institute for Leadership and Counseling at Huntingdon University, Huntingdon, Ind.

1976

Dan O'Shea is vice president of marketing for Window World. He was the general manager of the Piedmont Triad division of Fairway Media LLC.

1975

Terry Hayes is a realtor with Duncan Real Estate, Anna Maria Island, Fla. **William "Bill" Malambri**, longtime professor of music and director of bands at Winthrop University, was honored when Carowinds theme park named the new warm-up building for the park's long-running Festival of Music program in his honor. He has served as the theme park's consultant on the program for 38 years.

1969

Phyllis N. Horns, ECU's vice chancellor for health sciences, received the N.C. Hospital Association's 2016 Meritorious Service Award, given each year to an individual who is not a CEO or trustee of an NCHA member institution.

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April 22

The 2017 Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run

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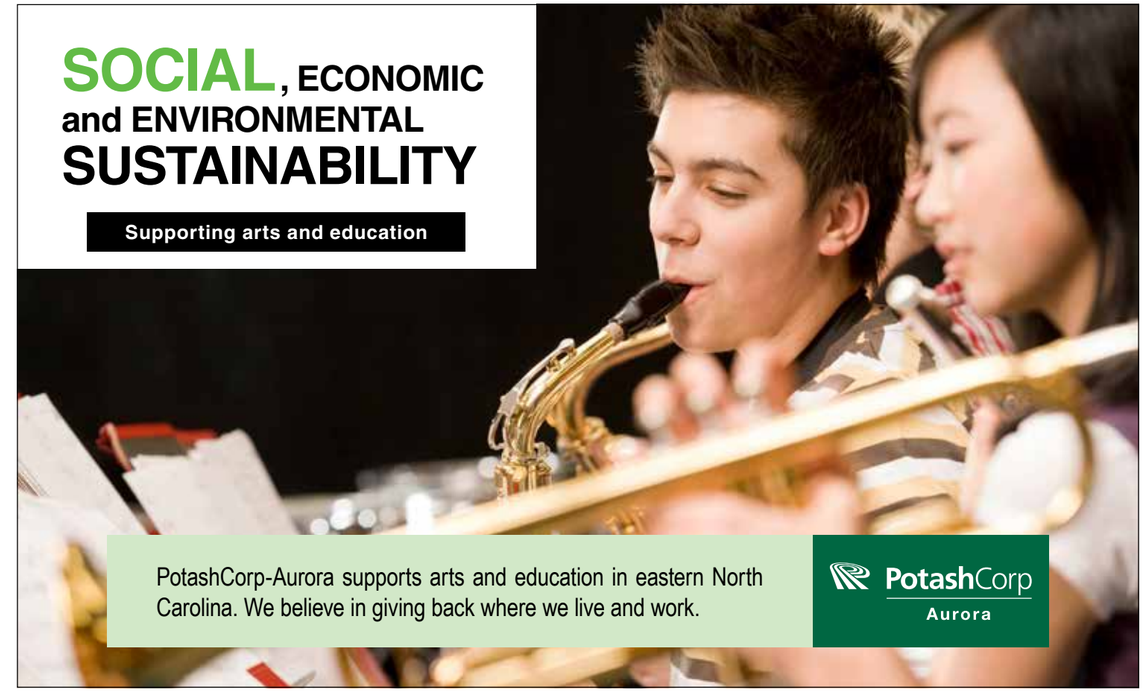

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ECU Foundation Inc., ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Inc., East Carolina University Educational Foundation (Pirate Club), and East Carolina Alumni Association

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East Carolina University Educational Foundation

1967

Hubert Burden, a founding member of ECU's medical school staff in the 1970s, retired after 45 years. He taught anatomy, and that lab was named in his honor in 2016. **Harry Taylor** exhibited his photographs at the Victor R. Small House Art Gallery, Clinton, in summer 2016. His work has been featured in *Haven, Garden and Gun, Our State, Coastal Living, Oxford American* and on the television show *Sleepy Hollow.*

1966

Betty J. Vaughn published *The Intrepid Miss LaRoque,* the fourth book in her Ryan Madison-prize-winning series.

1964

Phyllis Brock and her husband, Jim, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2016. She was a business teacher at Pinecrest High School, Southern Pines.

1959

William "Bill" Cole wrote a book, *Reflections: Developing Primary Health Care in Virginia.* He was a public health advisor with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for 26 years and a self-employed health management consultant for 25 years.

1958

Dennis Price '58 '65 celebrated his 50th anniversary as director of the music ministry at Churchland Baptist Church, Chesapeake, Va., on June 19.

1947

Alta Lawson Kornegay had a career as a home demonstration agent for the N.C. Extension Service in Duplin County and was an active volunteer in her community.

1946

Annie Pickett Smith wrote a novel, *Hester: Historical Fiction about the Life of a Slave,* based on the life of Hester Pearsall, who was the oldest known living ex-slave living in Duplin County in 1953. It was published in 2012.

Contributed photo

Adventure trip boosts Vietnam veteran

After a week of rock climbing, rafting, fly fishing and more, George Kalinowski was most excited about being among fellow veterans who really listened.

Kalinowski, a Vietnam veteran and East Carolina alumnus, was one of 10 participants on a recent trip that allowed combat-wounded veterans to bond and realize new capabilities through adapted outdoor sports. From Aug. 9-14 at the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado, Kalinowski and veterans of other conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan were able to build confidence and camaraderie.

"The trip was outstanding. Everybody was opening up. I think they liked having the old guy there," said Kalinowski, who suffered shrapnel wounds in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart. "No one takes the time to listen to veterans, at any age. With the guys, we opened up more when we realized we'd gone through similar things. They wanted to hear what I had to say. They were really supportive, and I wanted to support them, too."

Kalinowski was selected for the trip after applying through the East Carolina Alumni Association Military Alumni Chapter. This year, the chapter partnered with No Boundaries, a nonprofit that offers this trip to veterans from across the country twice a year, in the summer and winter, at no cost to veterans.

"My favorite part was the fly fishing, but every activity was great," he said. "A couple times, I doubted myself and thought some of this stuff was beyond what I could do at my age. But everything went really well."

Kalinowski grew up in the Washington, D.C., area. His father was an Air Force officer. He came to ECU on the recommendation of one of his high school teachers. He joined a fraternity and studied accounting but was drafted into the Army before he could graduate. He worked in several fields throughout his career, including real estate and as the part-owner of a sign company.

"Life has been good to me. I've been fairly well off," he said. "But being retired, I wasn't doing much. This trip inspired me to get in shape. My family was worried it would be too much strain. I've been a couch potato, but now I've got a whole new attitude."

On the last night of the trip, participants were invited to be guests of honor at a local rodeo. They were brought to the center of the ring as the announcer thanked them for their service.

"The crowd stood up and clapped. I'm not an emotional person, but that got to me," Kalinowski said. "We were so unwelcome when we came home. I'm so glad the nation is supporting veterans better."

Kalinowski "overwhelmingly" recommends the trip to other Pirate veterans. "No doubt about it, you won't be sorry," he said. "It's great what these organizations are doing for us."

The next No Boundaries trip will be March 7-12. Applications will be due Jan. 24. ECU alumni or students who are combat-wounded veterans are encouraged to apply.

The Military Alumni Chapter hosts various programs throughout the year and is open to any ECU alumni with current or past military service. To find more information, get involved or support the chapter, visit PirateAlumni.com/militaryalumni.

—Jackie Drake

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IN MEMORIAM

1930s

Eva Vaughan James '34 of Gahanna, Ohio, died June 19 at 102. She taught at Coopers School in Nash County.

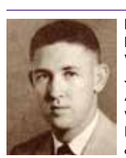
Carrie Congleton Gray Oakley '35 '36 of Greenville died June 2 at 100. She taught sixth grade at Chicod School, Pitt County, and later was a social worker in the Pitt County social services department and a coordinator of social workers for Pitt County Board of Education.

1940s

Lucy Lancaster Haddock '47 of Virginia Beach, Va., died June 5 at 90. For more than 30 years, she taught in public schools in North Carolina and Virginia. **Helen Rouse Hunter** '46 of Tewksbury, Mass., died May 19 at 91. She was a remedial reading teacher for 43 years in the Lowell Public Schools. **Sara McKenzie Hunter** '46 of Arlington, Mass., died on June 15 at 90. She was a longtime home economics teacher and community volunteer. **Annie Kathleen "Annie Kate" Evans Leonardi** '44 of Pitman, N.J., died July 16 at age 92. She was a teacher and researcher.

Robert Lee "Shu" Shuford Jr. '49 '53 of Greensboro died on May 21 at 93. A WWII U.S. Army veteran, he was the first county manager of Iredell and Wilson counties for a total of 33 years of service to local governments. At ECC, he was student body president and a varsity basketball player. **Enid Petteway White** '49 of Winston-Salem died June 21. She taught at Farm Life High School, Vanceboro.

1950s



Reuben Walton Berry Jr. '52 of Fort Worth, Texas, died July 23. A WWII Army veteran, he worked for Montgomery Ward & Co., Beatrice Companies Inc. and retired as CEO of Eastman, Borne and Associates, Chicago. **Carolyn Elizabeth Finck Bowers** '56 of Elizabeth City died July 12. She was an elementary school teacher at P.W. Moore, Pasquotank Elementary and Weeksville Elementary Schools retiring after 30 years of service. **Howell Elmer Caines** '59 '65 of Tabor City died June 17. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he taught in public schools. **Rogers H. Clark** '58 of White Lake died Sept. 9. He was 80. He was a retired Army National Guard officer was president of Sampson-Bladen Oil Co. and Waccamaw Transport Co.

Gladys Harrell "Tiny" Friedlin '53 of Atlantic Beach died June 6. She retired after more than 50 years of teaching school in Chesapeake, Va. **Allen Stanfield "Stan" Harper** '59 of Selma died June 1. A U.S. Navy Korean War veteran, he retired in 1994 as assistant director of the N.C. Dept. of Corrections Division of Probation and Parole. Upon retirement, he received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. **John Robert Howell** '59 '62 of Oxford died Oct. 9. He was 79. He was a teacher, coach, drivers education instructor and principal at schools in Pitt, Edgecombe and Granville counties.

Harry Jacobs '50 of Richmond, Va., died May 29. He was chairman emeritus of The Martin Agency. He led the branding and marketing efforts of such national and international clients as Coke, Hanes, Mercedes-Benz, Saab, Geico, Ping, UPS and Walmart. **Betty Mann McKinney** '56 of Raleigh died Aug. 8. She taught in the Hampton (Va.) Public School System before leaving to raise her daughters. **Albert "Sonny" Metts Jr.** '57 of Johnson City, Tenn., died March 29. A U.S. Army veteran, he was director of the health department in Northampton County for a number of years and later retired as professor of environmental sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. **Margaret Mellon Harris Nemtuda** of Greenville died Aug. 8. She was a real estate agent in Wilmington for more than 25 years, retiring from Coldwell Banker in 2005.

Robert Richard Oliver '53 of Lexington, Ky., died July 8. After serving as a corporal in the U.S. Army and a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, he was a math teacher, guidance counselor and administrator for the Fayette County school system until retiring in 1987. **Mary Grey Tart Porter** '57 of Raleigh died July 24. She retired from the Environmental Protection Agency. **Augustine Joseph Russo** '52 of Virginia Beach, Va., died May 13.

Kathryn "Kit" McLawhorn Sauls '54 of Greenville died June 23. She taught at B.F. Grady Elementary School, Duplin County, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. **Charles Vardell Simmons Jr.** '57 of Smithfield died July 31. He retired from the N.C. State Auditor's office. **Curtis G. Summers** '54 of Chesapeake, Va., died June 16. He worked for the Virginia State Health Department and Browning's Marine, delivering boats up and down the East Coast.

Mary Lou Stewart Wingard '56 of Aiken, S.C., died July 25. She taught school for 40 years in Newport News, Va., Hollywood, Fla., Wilmington and Turbeville, S.C. **Ryland Kester Young** '52 of Greensboro died June 21. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a steel salesman and served as a minister of music at many Baptist churches in and around Greensboro before retiring from music ministry in 2005.

1960s

Bob Beasley '69 '73 of Greenville died Oct. 12. He was 69. He was a teacher and principal in Bertie County and owned ServiceMaster by Beasley for 31 years. **Robert Richard "Bobby" Bradley** '62 of Vass died May 23. He served six years in the National Guard. **W. Richard Collier** '66 of Virginia Beach, Va., died July 14. Retired Lt. Col. **Jesse Paul Davenport III** '61 of Pactolus died May 21. In 1981, he retired from the Air Force after more than 22 years. He joined the family business, JP Davenport & Son, retiring after 20 years. **William Thomas DeLeo** '63 '94 '02 of Greenville died Aug. 23. An Army veteran, he received his master's degree in occupational safety at ECU. He was a commercial and residential developer for most of his career. Beginning in 2005, he spent four tours in Iraq with the Army Corps of Engineers to help with reconstruction of the country. He also was vice president of external operations with the Leadership Institute for Learning and Communications in Greenville.

John Robert "Bobby" Draper '64 of Suffolk, Va., died May 20. In 2004, he retired as director of renewal services for the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which he joined in 1970. He was on the baseball team at ECC. **Charles Paul Herron Jr.** '69 of Charleston, S.C., died May 16. He served as a deputy sheriff for Dorchester County sheriff's office, where he retired in 1998 after serving in the U.S. Air Force. **Terry "Steve" Leonard** '66 of South Lake Tahoe, Calif., died July 7. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a lead bartender at Caesars (now Montbleu) from 1985 to 2016. **James Edgar Marshburn** '62 of Pinehurst died July 21. He retired from Vass-Lakeview Elementary, Vass, after 31 years of coaching and teaching history, health and physical education. **Floyd William "Bill" McCants** '63 of New Bern died June 17. He was a teacher and coach in the Delaware public school system. **John Bertram Parker** '69 of Oklahoma City, Okla., died July 17. He and his wife were missionaries in South America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. **Brenda Lynn Redd** '66 of Trent Woods died June 2. She retired from Ben D. Quinn Elementary School, where she taught for 30 years. **Ellen Futch Rusnak** '64 of Disputanta, Va., died July 7. She taught for 36 years in the Prince George County school system in Virginia. **Bettie Jo Bailey Tew** '64 of Wilson died July 27. For more than 30 years, she taught in public and private schools. **Sarah Robinson Williams** '66 of Elkin died July 20. She retired as a teacher at Mountain Park Elementary School, where she was teacher of the year twice.

1970s

Kathy Angela Poole Austin '79 of Clayton died July 29. She was a teacher. **Billy "Bill" Burks** '74 '76 of Marion died July 8 at 96. A USMC WWII veteran, he taught school for several years. **Mary Kathleen Fleming** '77 of Selma died May 26. She taught special education at South Johnston High School for 10 years and later was head of human resources at Bayer and Perdue Pharmaceuticals. **Jane McKown Fuchs** '72 of Virginia Beach, Va., died June 27. She was a social worker in Norfolk for four years before deciding to stay home with her children. **Stephen Francis "Steve" Horne II** '72 of Greenville died June 28. A U.S Army veteran, he served in Vietnam in the 509th RRG Tay Ninh, 25th ARVN Division. For 40 years, he practiced law in Greenville with the law firm of Horne and Horne PLLC. Memorials may be made to ECU Educational Foundation, Ward Sports Medicine Bldg., Suite 304, Greenville, NC 27858. Please write "Football" in the memo line. **Brenda Gail Quashne** '71 of Southport died June 5. She retired after 30 years as an elementary school teacher in the Colonial School District, New Castle, Del. **Kay Stephenson Wallace** '76 of Clayton died June 21. Memorials may be made to the ECU Foundation, Mailstop 301, 2200 S. Charles Blvd., Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Please write "Kay Wallace Endowed Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.

1980s

Heather Bachmann Carter '89 of Poquoson, Va., died July 5. From 2007 to 2016, she taught at Trinity Christian Preschool in Poquoson. At ECU, she was a member of Alpha Phi Sorority. **Kenneth Lee Clark** '80 of Sanford died June 5. In the late 1970s, he started Clark Textile Machinery in Charlotte, which he maintained and managed until his retirement. **Sandra E. Gibson** '85 of Miami died Sept. 24. **Charles Allen Jones** '85 of Sanford died July 12. He was a U.S. Army veteran. **Dale Pierson "Peggy" Palmer** '80 of Tracy, Calif., died July 23. She was a nurse at Lenoir County Mental Health Center. **John James "Trey" West III** '86 of Durham died May 26. He had a 27-year career with Lowes Home Improvement. At ECU, he was pledge trainer and grand master for Kappa Sigma fraternity. **Charles Derrick "Bull" Williamson** '84 of Ocean Isle Beach died July 5. Starting in the 1980s, he began work with the family business, Williamson Realty Vacation Rentals.

1990s

Brian David Bartram '90 of Newport News died June 28. He was a procurement analyst for Newport News Shipbuilding. At ECU, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity. **Hayley Price Eberwein** '91 '92 of Clayton died July 12. She taught in elementary schools for 24 years. **Lynn Edna Griffith** '99 of Lexington died June 29. She was an educator and later a reference librarian for the Lexington Public Library. **Reva Dale Parker** '92 of Fayetteville died May 26. She was the art teacher at Morganton Road Elementary, Cumberland County Schools. **Joseph "Joey" Darrin Paul** '97 of Greenville died May 19. He worked for several years in a family-owned construction business and later in the homebuilding/land development industry in purchasing/estimating. **Amber Virginia Saleeby** '99 of Fayetteville died July 4. **Michelle Patricia Streath** '96 of New Bern died July 27. She was employed in the hotel and insurance industries.

2000s

Brian Eugene Brinkley '03 of Greenville died June 29. He was a department manager for Lowe's, assistant store manager for CVS and in the loan department at Wachovia Bank. **Christina Marie Dinardo Fisher** '10 of Hendersonville died May 24. She worked for Morrow Insurance for 10 years. **Gordon Stuart Giles Jr.** '06 of Kinston died July 8. For 22 years, he was a network engineer for Vidant Medical Center, Greenville. **Karen Martin Lee** '05 '10 of Greenville died May 27. She was director of the radiography program at Pitt Community College. **Jonathan Owens Pulley** '09 '11 of Norfolk, Va., died July 9. He was a counselor at PORT Human Services in Ahoskie. **Debra Mary Skinner** '09 of Sherrills Ford died June 8. For more than 30 years, she was a special education teacher in New Jersey and North Carolina. **Renee Lynn Desha Stokes** '09 of Wilson died June 13. She taught at Wellcome (Greenville) and Speight (Wilson) Middle Schools and later earned a culinary degree. **Michael Glenn West** '01 of Simpsonville, S.C., died June 14. A U.S. Navy veteran of Desert Storm and Somalia, he was vice president of retail banking for Park Sterling Bank in South Carolina and Georgia.

2010s

Eric Matthew Barlow '14 of Durham died June 3. He was an academic coordinator for UNC-Chapel Hill. **Graham Smith Ferguson** '11 of Raleigh died June 4. **Carson Wayne Rhodes** '16 of Tarboro died Sept. 18. He was a political science graduate and worked for the N.C. Democratic Party. **Patrick Thomas Browne** of Waldwick, N.J., a rising sophomore, died June 6. He was a member of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity.

FACULTY

Ben Oshel Bridgers of Sylva died July 9. He taught in the ECU English department from 1962 to 1963.

Maria Regina Figueiredo-Brown of Greenville died May 30. She was an assistant professor of educational leadership at ECU.

Dr. **Edward Garner Flickinger** of Nashua and Glen, N.H., died June 25. He was a professor of surgery at the ECU medical school from 1980 until 1989.

Roscoe Locke '81 of Greenville died July 29. He was an adjunct professor at ECU after serving as principal of Stokes, Belvoir, Bethel and Northwest elementary schools. In 2000, he was named Principal of the Year and inducted into the ECU Educators Hall of Fame in 2010.

Mary Nan Hudgins Mailman of Weatherford, Texas, died June 25. A lifelong musician and pianist, she was on ECU's School of Music piano faculty from 1962 until 1966.

Mary Evelyn McNeill of Greenville died July 20. From 1972 to 2001 she taught neuroanatomy at ECU's medical school. She received the Legion of Merit for her 35 years of active and reserve military service. She retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Betty J. Russell '55 of Greenville died May 30. She taught in ECU's physical education department from 1959 to 1964 and later worked in display design for J.C. Penney until her retirement.

David B. Stevens of Greenville died July 4 at 93. A WWII veteran and professor emeritus at ECU, he taught social work from 1970 to 1988 and was ECU's first full-time attorney. He retired as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Donations may be made to the ECU Foundation, 2200 South Charles Blvd., Greenville, NC 27858. Please write either "David B. and Willa H. Stevens Criminal Justice Scholarship" or "David B. and Willa H. Stevens Social Work Scholarship" in the memo line.

STAFF

Edna Earle Mills Adams of Greenville died Aug. 11. She retired from ECU Printing and Graphics after many years of service. **Haresh Motiram Advani** of Greenville died July 31. He was a power system and RCM engineer at ECU. **Debbie Alphin Cobb** of Winterville, died Sept. 28. She worked at ECU from 1998-2005. **Hazel Faulkner-Gooding** of Winterville, died Oct. 7. at 92. She worked at the Walter B. Jones Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center and retired from ECU in 1984. **William "Bill" Finch** died Aug. 12. He worked for several years as a pharmacist at the Brody School of Medicine. **Evelyn Downing Hinnant** of Greenville died June 15. She retired as a clerical secretary in ECU's math department. Memorial contributions may be made to the Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, Mailstop 301, 2200 S. Charles Blvd., Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Please write "Alzheimer's Research Fund" in the memo line. **Rena Lowery Manning** '48 of Greenville died June 10. She was assistant to the registrar at ECTC and later taught nursery school at Mimi's Kindergarten.

FRIENDS

Margaret Little Blount Harvey of Kinston died May 27 at 93. She created the Margaret Blount Harvey Literacy Institute at ECU. **James Randolph "Randy" Tripp** of Greenville died Aug. 24. He studied business at ECU in the 1950s. An Army veteran, he retired from the state, where he was a quality control coordinator of the Air Quality Monitoring Division of the Department of Environmental Management. Since 2000, he owned and operated Carolina Medical Support. He and his wife, Linda, co-chaired the 2004 Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center Hope Gala. He was a Centennial member of the East Carolina Alumni Association and a scholarship-level contributor to the Pirate Club and S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series.

"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

Lois Grigsby

1952 East Carolina chapter, Future Teachers of America

Courtesy University Archives

Students organize clothing drive for Koreans

In 1952, with war raging on the Korean peninsula, East Carolina's Future Teachers of America chapter and the Baptist Student Union sponsored a clothing drive for Korean civilians.

The collected clothing would be sent to Ewha Woman's University in Busan, in what is now South Korea, to be distributed. Ewha President Helen Kim was a former Ohio Wesleyan classmate of Lois Grigsby, an East Carolina English instructor. According to the Jan. 25, 1952, edition of the *TECO Echo*, Kim had reorganized the college, devastated by war, and moved it from Seoul. With the help of the U.S. Army and gifts from Methodist organizations, she managed to reopen the school in Busan.

The BSU and FTA placed posters and boxes in residence halls and urged students to donate their old clothes "as soon as possible," according to the *TECO Echo*.

Kim was one of Korea's most influential women leaders, and with her guidance Ewha survived the war and moved back to Seoul. Founded in 1886 by American Methodist missionary Mary F. Scranton, today it's the largest women's educational institution in the world, with more than 22,000 students.

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From left, ECU Army and Air Force ROTC cadets Tyler Pollard, Kira Adams, David Barker and Jacquelyn Nance present the colors Nov. 11 at ECU's annual paver dedication ceremony to honor veterans and civilians who worked for the military and related organizations.

Photo by Cliff Hollis