

# CAMPUS ECU UPDATE

January 2019

## Pierson's Perceptions

*January is a time for resolve, promise and hope. The campus begins its spring 2019 semester with all of these characteristics in mind. As the spring semester unfolds we renew our commitment to serving students wherever they may be in their educational journey. Faculty and staff share in the work of providing access to and success along the journey. The campus has begun developing more online programs to help more students achieve the dream of a university degree. We also continue to work with area businesses and Native American Nations to better understand and therefore meet their workforce needs. If we made one resolution this year, it is to help more students earn a degree from ECU. We share in the students' journey and seek ways to provide exceptional experiences that will benefit them for a lifetime.*



Dr. Katricia Pierson  
President  
East Central University

## ECU RANKED THIRD IN STATE BY TWO WEBSITES

ECU was ranked third in Oklahoma by the website Best Colleges.com for a rigorous and culturally relevant education. ECU was also ranked third in the state overall



and second in state public institutions for low to zero debt by its students, according to the website The Student Loan Report. Best Colleges.com noted ECU for its offering of degree programs in such fields as accounting, business administration, English and music. Best Colleges.com also noted that ECU is the only institution in the state and one of only a few in the United States to offer an accredited B.S. degree in environmental health science and one of only a handful in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in medical physics. According to The Student Loan Report was not only recognized for its low student debt, but 45 percent of ECU graduates have zero debt. ECU's average debt per borrower figure was \$9,427.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED ON FEB. 23

ECU will celebrate Black History Month with "Unifying the Past, While Empowering the Future," on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m.-noon in the Ataloo Theatre of the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center. The event will include speakers, music, panel discussion



and a question and answer session. The panel will include Judge David Lewis, Dr. Jimmy Scales, Dr. Donnie Nero and other current and former ECU students. (Scales is pictured).

## NEWLY-ELECTED STATE REP ADDRESSES ECU GRADUATES

State Representative Ronny Johns addressed ECU's graduating seniors at the 2018 Fall Commencement on Dec. 15 in the Kerr Activities Center. Johns, an ECU alum, was elected to the Oklahoma House District 25 seat in November. There were 214 bachelor's degrees granted and 95 master's.



580-332-8000

www.ecok.edu

## STUDENTS LEARN AT RAMADAN



### SYMPOSIUM

Outstanding professionals from the neuroscience field were on

hand for the Seventh Annual Raniyah T. Ramadan Symposium on Jan. 23. The featured speakers included Dr. Lauren Ethridge, Dr. Martin-Paul Agbaga and Dr. Jonathan Wren. The Ramadan Symposium is named in honor of the late Dr. Raniyah Ramadan, who was a research scientist in neuro-ophthalmology. The symposium was established and is sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Tawfik Z. Ramadan, the parents of the late Raniyah Ramadan.

## SPORT PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM BENEFITS STUDENTS, ATHLETICS

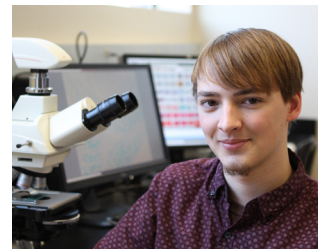


Dr. Suzanne Pottratz heads a unique program which not only benefits students in the ECU Department of Psychology, but ECU Athletics as well. In 2017 ECU, under the direction of Pottratz, launched a Sport Psychology Program, the only one

like it in the entire state. The program is an option under the umbrella of ECU's Master of Science in Psychological Services. Pottratz, who is a certified mental performance consultant, currently works with ECU athletes and teams in enhancing their mental approach to training and competitions. Among the tools used in the program are imagery, positive self-talk, goal-setting, relaxation, overcoming anxiety and handling pressure.

## OSU-CHS SEEKS ECU STUDENTS FOR RURAL PHYSICIANS PROGRAM

A Memorandum of Understanding Agreement was recently established between ECU and Oklahoma State University – Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine called the “3+1 Program.” OSU-CHS will admit ECU students who desire to become primary care physicians in rural and underserved Oklahoma. The “3+1 Program” then allows ECU students to complete their pre-doctoral medical training in seven years through three years of undergraduate education and four years of medical education at OSU-CHS in its Rural Medical Track (RMT).



## ECU OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS KIDS

Oklahoma public school teachers now have the opportunity to send their own children to ECU through the Teacher's Promise Scholarship. The \$1,500 tuition waiver per year (\$750 per semester) can be applied up to four years (or eight semesters) as first-time, fulltime freshman are eligible. Other requirements are that the potential ECU student be a dependent of an Oklahoma public school teacher, that the parent and student be Oklahoma residents, that the student meets regular ECU admission standards and that a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) be on file with the university.



# FIGHT ON TIGERS!

**ECU WEBMASTER, VIDEOGRAPHER SIRCY HONORED**



Jacob Sircy, webmaster and videographer for ECU's Office of Communications and Marketing, was recently named the winner of the 2018 Randy Talley Rising Star Award at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) Fall Conference in Oklahoma City. Sircy, who earned his undergraduate degree in mass media from ECU in 2011, was the ringleader in ECU launching its new university website late last summer. He has also displayed his videography skills in developing recruitment videos and commercials.

was recently named the winner of the 2018 Randy Talley Rising Star Award at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) Fall Conference in Oklahoma City. Sircy, who earned his undergraduate degree in mass media from ECU in 2011, was the ringleader in ECU launching its new university website late last summer. He has also displayed his videography skills in developing recruitment videos and commercials.

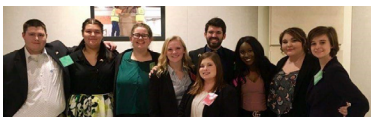
**ECU EARNS VOTING AWARD FOR FIFTH STRAIGHT TIME**



Student Heather Hall (center), representing ECU, was presented the Oklahoma Campus Compact 2018 Voter Registration Contest, hosted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. It was the fifth straight time in which ECU captured the award.. Pictured with Hall are State Regent Chair Jay Helm (left) and OSRHE Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

Student Heather Hall (center), representing ECU, was presented the Oklahoma Campus Compact 2018 Voter Registration Contest, hosted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. It was the fifth straight time in which ECU captured the award.. Pictured with Hall are State Regent Chair Jay Helm (left) and OSRHE Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

**STUDENTS PLACE THIRD AT STATE**



These ECU students recently participated in Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature activities. Pictured are: Cody Bowen, Bradie Breedlove, Lydia Bomboy, Carli Heitland, Alex Courtney, Skyler Riddle, Ryleigh Cooper, Mikayla Lott and Ruth Herman. They were named the third-best delegation in the state for both the House and Senate along with being the third best for O.I.L.

These ECU students recently participated in Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature activities. Pictured are: Cody Bowen, Bradie Breedlove, Lydia Bomboy, Carli Heitland, Alex Courtney, Skyler Riddle, Ryleigh Cooper, Mikayla Lott and Ruth Herman. They were named the third-best delegation in the state for both the House and Senate along with being the third best for O.I.L.

**HOLIDAY CARDS FOR SOLDIERS SIGNED, SENT BY ECU STUDENTS**

ECU students (from left) Erika Lara, Katelynn McCarn and Brenna Heffley, sign holiday cards for the "Operation Holiday Cards for Soldiers" event held recently on campus.



On Christmas Day, Cassie Johnson, academic success coach from the Student Support Services Office, and Vencent Johnson, of Upward Bound 2, traveled to Italy to deliver the cards in person to Del Din Military Base in Vicenza, Italy.

ECU THEATRE PRESENTS

**MAN OF LA MANCHA**

An Adaptation by Peter Raby  
Based on a Translation by Leonid Ignatieff

**ATALOA THEATRE**  
HALLIE BROWN FORD FINE ARTS CENTER  
FEB. 14-16, 2019 7:30 PM

**Tickets:**

- \$10 Adults, \$9 Senior Citizens & Non-ECU Students
- ECU Alumni receive \$1 discount
- \$7 Grades 7-12, \$5 Children 12 & Under
- Admission is free for all ECU Students, Faculty & Staff with ECU ID

ECU Box Office • 580-559-5751 • [boxoffice@ecok.edu](mailto:boxoffice@ecok.edu) • [ecok.edu/FineArts](http://ecok.edu/FineArts)

**POUDEL WINS TIGER TANK COMPETITION**



ECU student Pradip Poudel claimed the championship prize in the College Division of the recent 2018 ECU Tiger Tank

Competition. Poudel’s project “All-in-One” is an app and website that lists local services offered in one easy-to-find location. Pictured with Poudel is Wendell Godwin, dean of the ECU Stonipher School of Business. The award was presented at the Leonard Limes Lecture and Luncheon. The team of Noah Holle and Bennett Harvey placed second while Mackinsey Archer took third.

**ALPHA CHI FALL INDUCTION CEREMONY CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER**



Inductions were held for ECU’s Oklahoma Gamma Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society this past fall. Alpha Chi is comprised of the top 10 percent of juniors and seniors at ECU. Students must have at least a 3.5 grade-point average to join. The objective of Alpha Chi is to promote and recognize superior scholarship and those elements of character which make scholarship effective for service.

**STUDENT TEACHERS FOR SPRING 2019**



This group of ECU students are doing their student teaching this spring in various elementary, junior high and high schools around the area and state.

**TIGERS CROWNED GAC MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS**

The ECU men’s cross country team won the Great American Conference Championship as four of its runners – senior Larry Filer (first place), junior Eliud Koech (second), freshman Jakaveon Shaw (third) and junior Tommy Grebe (seventh) - earned All-GAC First Team honors while freshman Carson Sandvik (12th) was All-GAC Second Team.



**ECU WOMEN THIRD IN GAC MEET**

The ECU women’s cross country squad –behind All-GAC First Team efforts of redshirt junior Anna Mora (fourth place) and sophomore Kyleigh Norris (10th) – placed third in the team standings at the Great American Conference Championships. The Tigers also swept the 18th-20th spots – junior Abbie Winchester (18th), sophomore Barbara Johnson (19th) and redshirt junior Yvette Felix (20th) good enough for each to garner ALL-GAC Second Team awards.



**MORA, KOECH HONORED FOR REGIONAL EFFORTS**

Two Tiger cross country runners – redshirt junior Anna Mora on the women’s side and junior Eliud Koech on the men’s side – were named to the 2018 USTFCCCA All-Central Region Team. A total of 200 men from 91 different programs and 200 women from 94 different programs earned the distinction of All-Region.



**TIGER PUNTER VOTED TO TWO**



**ALL-REGION TEAMS**  
ECU sophomore punter Jack Preston was named both D2 CCA All-Super Region 3 First Team and Don Hansen's All-Super Region 3 First Team.

Preston averaged 42 yards per punt, had 13 punts travel more than 50 yards and even had one which journeyed 81 yards.

**TWO ON ALL-GAC FOOTBALL FIRST TEAM**



Senior wide receiver Trinity Benson and junior punter Jack Preston were named to the 2018 All-GAC First Team while senior tight end Tre Harvey, junior offensive lineman Wyatt Galante and senior outside linebacker Jamil Young were named honorable mention. Benson

was also named honorable mention as a return specialist. Benson caught 45 passes for 507 yards and four touchdowns this past season.

**ECU SOCCER PAIR BUTLER, CASTILLO HONORED BY GAC**



Tiger junior defender Alyssa Butler was selected to the All-GAC Soccer Second Team while teammate and junior midfielder Alexis Castillo was honorable mention for the 2018 season. It was the third straight



season in which the pair earned all-conference accolades. Butler was an All-GAC First Team pick in 2017 and an honorable mention in 2016. Castillo was named to the All-GAC Second Team as a freshman and a sophomore. Castillo collected three goals and two assists for the

season while Butler assisted one goal during the 2018 campaign.

**TIGER GUARD TALLEY NAMED GAC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE WEEK TWICE**

ECU junior guard Camron Talley was named GAC Men's Basketball Player of the Week on Jan. 7 after averaging 26.5 points and 5.5 rebounds in Tiger victories over Harding and Arkansas Tech. He also eclipsed the 1,000-point scoring mark in his career that week. Talley was named GAC Player of the Week again on Jan. 28 as he averaged 27.0 points and 4.0 rebounds in wins over Henderson State and Ouachita Baptist.



**COACH HAVENS GOES OVER CENTURY MARK IN CAREER WINS**

Ja Havens, ECU men's head basketball coach, reached a milestone on Nov. 17 when he earned his 100th career coaching victory for the Tigers in their 109-71 home victory over Bacone.



**TWO ECU WOMEN EARN PLAYER OF THE WEEK AWARDS**

Tiger senior Lakin Preisner was named GAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week on Nov. 26 and senior Tia Williams



achieved the same honor on Jan. 2. Preisner averaged 22.0 points and 8.5 rebounds in ECU wins over Northern State and Arkansas-Ft. Smith. She also shot 41.7 percent from 3-point range and was a near-perfect 17-of-18 from the free-throw line. Williams tallied 19 points and connected on four 3-point shots in the Tigers' upset victory over then 22nd-ranked Central Oklahoma. She also recorded three steals in that game.

*A Flashback to 2018 Fall Commencement*

