

# CAMPUS ECU UPDATE

June 2018

## *Pierson's Perceptions*

*It was an outstanding 2017-2018 school year here at East Central University. With another commencement season in the books, it's a great feeling to reflect on the successes of our students not only on a local, regional and state basis but on a national level. We had students do undergraduate research and internships at various universities across the country and many participated in statewide and national competitions and achieved successes along the way. That's a credit to not only the students' diligent work, but the preparation made thanks to the hard work of faculty and staff on this campus.*

*It has been an honor to serve as your president for nearly a year and a half. I'm happy to be a leader at a higher-learning institution which cares greatly about its students. Indeed, a high volume of scholarship opportunities, gifts from our many alumni and supporters of ECU, allow our students to graduate with little or no debt. Thanks for your unwavering commitment to build on our successes.*



*Thank You for Supporting ECU!*

**Dr. Katricia Pierson**  
President  
East Central University

## **GRAY, BROWN ADDRESS CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION DURING SPRING 2018 EXERCISES**

ECU alums Janice Gray and Michael O. Brown addressed graduate candidates during ECU's 2018 Spring Commencement Exercises on May 12 at the Kerr Activities Center. Bachelor's degrees were conferred to 431 students while 131 more achieved master's degrees. Janice and her husband established their own CPA firm in Norman while Brown is a qualifying and life member of the Million Dollar Round Table, the Premier Association of Financial Professionals.



## **ECU CELEBRATES AN EVENING OF HONORS AND RECOGNITION**

The Floyd-Allen Family received the Distinguished Family Award during ECU's Annual Evening of Honors and Recognition on May 11. The Distinguished Alumni Awards went to Janice Gray, Michael O. Brown and Craig Scheef. The Distinguished Former Faculty Award went to Dr. Bill Chapman, and Dr. R. Darryl Fisher was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. The ECU Foundation, Inc., also recognized the 2016 and 2017 Centennial Endowments. See more photos on page 6.



## **BUSINESS SCHOLARS VISIT ALUMS, TAKE TOURS IN SEATTLE**

A group of ECU business scholar leaders had the opportunity to go to Seattle in May to visit and tour with ECU alums David Porter, of Microsoft, along with Kevin Turner, former COO of Microsoft and founder/CEO of Forward Progress Ventures, LLC, and John Gaines. The students were able to tour the facilities and listen to the wisdom of several leaders from the business world.



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**ECU MAKING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**



A series of town hall meetings conducted on the ECU campus, were designed to

plan the future, including program developments and budget decisions, along with aligning the goals of the entire university. ECU formed a Strategic Planning Committee composed of community members along with ECU faculty, staff and administration. The team is charged with developing a new strategic plan that will outline the university's goals and projects for the next three to five years.

**PRESIDENT PIERSON SPEAKS WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**



ECU President Katricia Pierson talks with Roff High School students and their parents at an event entitled "Making College a Reality," hosted by Oklahoma Heritage Bank and ECU alumnus Dr. R. Darryl Fisher.

**MILITARY, VETERANS HONORED WITH SPECIAL DAY**



Area veterans and military personnel were honored during Military Appreciation Day, hosted by the ECU Veterans Upward Bound Program, on May 17. Attendees were able to visit vendor tables, learn more about veteran services and



listen to speakers, including World War II Veteran and 92-year-old Milton Courtney.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE PART IN JUNIOR DAY**

High School juniors packed the Ataloa Theatre while experiencing college for a day on April 20 during Junior Day. Attendees were able to listen to a welcome from ECU President Katricia G. Pierson, hear a Distinguished Professor Lecture, receive a complimentary lunch, play carnival games and take a campus tour.



**MORE THAN 500 FIFTH GRADERS ATTEND ADA WATER FEST**

ECU's Oka' Institute hosted the 15th Annual Ada Water Fest on April 19 at ECU's Centennial Plaza. The purpose of the event was to teach elementary school students about the importance of water to individuals and to our community. More than 500 area fifth graders participated in both visual demonstrations and hands-on activities, along with exploring 16 water-related topics at different stations.



**SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS CONDUCTED ON ECU CAMPUS**

Hundreds of youth have come to campus this summer for a series of camps, including Oklahoma Business Week, a Robotics Camp and various athletic camps for basketball and football. More camps are expected throughout the remainder of the summer.





**ALUMNI REUNION SET FOR JUNE 29 IN OKC**



The ECU Alumni Association is hosting an Oklahoma City Area Alumni Reunion on Friday, June 29, beginning at 6 p.m. at TapWerks Ale House, 121 E. Sheridan, in Oklahoma City. Members and non-members of the ECU Alumni Association are welcome. Online registration is available at [alumni.ecok.edu/OKC2018](http://alumni.ecok.edu/OKC2018). For more information contact Ashia Hillman at [ahillman@ecok.edu](mailto:ahillman@ecok.edu) or 580-559-5651.

**WARD MAKES PRESENTATION AT DAVINCI AWARDS CEREMONY**



Amy Ward, director of ECU's Social Work Program, made a presentation during the "Spotlight on Creativity" segment at the DaVinci's recent awards ceremony. Ward developed an innovative method of enhancing social work students' learning experiences as well as brought together several departments across campus into a collaborative academic setting. Ward was named a 2017 winner of the prestigious DaVinci Fellow Award.

**FIRST WATER RESOURCE POLICY STUDENTS GRADUATE**



ECU's new Master in Water Resource Policy and Management Program celebrated its first-ever graduates during ECU's recent commencement exercises. Seven students participated in the ceremony. Those honored included: Tiffany Postoak, Ada; Sarita KC, Nepal; Oscar Loza Hoyos, Oklahoma City; Tiffany Maddox, Ada; Kevin Blackwood, Ada; David Roland, Ada and Taylor Hunter, Stratford.

**STUDENTS PRESENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECTS AT CONFERENCE**

Several ECU students and faculty made presentations at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond in April. Making presentations were: Conner Anderson, Joshua Hardage, Carly Heitland, Matthew B. Henry, Sam Howard, Sidney Lewis, Jonathan Lucas, Elsa Moseley and Dr. Jennifer McMahan, professor of philosophy and English.



**STUDENTS INITIATED INTO NEW CHAPTER OF CHEMISTRY HONOR SOCIETY**

Ten ECU students were initiated into the Nu Gamma Chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon, a chemistry honor society. The 10 include: Stephanie Annette Crawford, Rabeka Jae Lashbrook, Abigail Carolina Linares, Michaela Marie Lombardi, Madison Beth McNeil, Haley Lynn Perez, Aljan Ranjit, Cassie Richardson, Destiny K. Schlicher and Ryan Thomas Scott. The event also included the installation of the new chapter, including the granting of its charter and the presentation of the society's coat of arms and installation of the first officers.



**GHOSH CAPTURES GEORGE NIGH AWARD**

Srijita Dia Ghosh was named the winner of the 2018 George Nigh Award at ECU.



The award is named in honor of George Nigh, the former governor of Oklahoma and ECU alumnus. The four other finalists for the highly-competitive honor were Allyson Gregory, Darby Heard, Sidney Lewis and Elsa Mosley.

**BUSINESS STUDENTS ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN LOVE'S CUP**



ECU business students had yet another year of success, competing in the Love's Entrepreneur's Cup and capturing

several awards. The Love's Cup is a statewide competition, hosted by Innovation to Enterprise (i2E), that stimulates the real-world process of researching a market, writing a business plan and pitching to potential investors. ECU students Mackinsey Archer, of Choctaw, and Johnathan Harrington, of Holdenville, placed third in the Small Business Division. The pair also won the Product Category Interview. Archer was also awarded the \$5,000 Paulsen Award Scholarship. ECU's Louden Johnson, of Wayne, was the Small Business IBM Pitch Winner. Starla Cooper was the IT/App Category Interview winner and received \$1,000.

**SIX ACCOUNTING STUDENTS EARN OSCPA SCHOLARSHIPS**



Six East Central University students received \$11,250 in scholarships from the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants. Those six earning scholarships included Alexis Row with the Retha Duggan Scholarship and Ryan Jolly with the Rick Kells

Scholarship. The other four scholarship winners were Brooklin Schwabe, Kendall Hargis, Shelby O'Dell and Yashna Khadgi. Of the \$25,250 awarded from the OSCPA, the \$11,250 figure accounted for 44.5 percent of the scholarship dollars offered statewide. The scholarship number was six out of 15 (40 percent) going to ECU students.

**EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR RETIREMENT, YEARS OF SERVICE**

ECU faculty and staff were honored at an Evening of Employee Recognition. Honored included those who achieved awards, those who are retiring and those who have longevity at the university.



**C3 GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS FOR TIGER FOOTBALL**

Roary the Tiger posed with some of the participants in the C3 (Commitment to Championships Campaign)



Golf Tournament on May 21 at the WinStar Golf Club in Thackerville. Proceeds from the event went to the ECU football program for player equipment, recruiting expenses, team travel, retention incentives for coaches and expenses associated with postseason play.

**GAGE NAMED NEW HEAD COACH FOR ECU BASEBALL PROGRAM**

Lloyd Gage, who spent this past season as pitching coach at Seminole State College and the previous seven as an associate head coach at Murray State College, is the new head baseball coach for the Tigers. Gage helped Seminole State to a 44-11 record this spring, along with helping the Trojans capture an NJCAA Division I, Region II championship. At Murray State, he was part of four conference championships, two regional titles, two district crowns and two trips to the NJCAA Division II World Series.





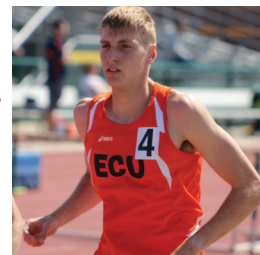
**PREISNER CLAIMS NATIONAL FREE-THROW PERCENTAGE CROWN**



ECU women's basketball player Lakin Preisner won the 2017-18 NCAA Division II Statistical Title for Free-Throw Percentage. She hit 65-of-68 attempts (95.6 percent) for the season while averaging 13.6 points and 6.2 rebounds.

**TRACK-CROSS COUNTRY STAR LARRY FILER NAMED TO ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA TEAM**

ECU's Larry Filer was named to the Google Cloud Academic All-America Men's Track/Cross Country Second Team and for the second year in a row to the All-District 7 Academic Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Filer, who just completed his junior year, has a 4.0 grade-point average and was named ECU Scholar Athlete of the Year.



**SOFTBALLER EWY NAMED THIRD TEAM**



**ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA**  
ECU softball infielder Mariah Ewy was named to the Google Cloud Academic All-America Division II Softball Third Team. Ewy, who has a 4.0 grade-point average in biology, was also named to the Academic All-District 7 Softball Team along with Tiger teammate and catcher/outfielder Breecia Crawford, who has a 4.0 GPA in physics. Ewy and Crawford were also named Great American Conference Elite Scholar-Athletes as each just completed their junior seasons for the Tigers.



**FIVE TIGERS CAPTURE ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS FOR TRACK**

Five ECU track athletes earned All-GAC recognition in seven events this past spring. Sophomore Dilland Gardner won the discus and placed third in the shot put. Teammate and junior Larry Filer finished second in both the 3,000-meter steeplechase and the 5,000-meter race. Senior Kevin Matthews won the 800 meters. On the women's side for ECU, senior Michaela Lombard took third in both the 5,000 and 10,000 meters and freshman Yvette Felix ended up fifth in the 10,000 meters.



**TIGER SOFTBALL PLAYERS PICK UP GAC POSTSEASON AWARDS**



Five Tiger softball players received GAC postseason recognition. Third baseman Catherine Barrera was named to the All-GAC Second Team while freshman pitcher Jacey Henry, senior first baseman Alissa Taylor, junior shortstop Mariah Ewy and senior outfielder Claresha Clemons received honorable mention accolades. Pictured is Catherine Barrera.

**TWO TIGER BASEBALL PLAYERS RECEIVE POSTSEASON HONORS**

Two ECU baseballers – Cale Ridling and Bryce Dimitroff - earned postseason recognition from the Great American Conference. The sophomore Ridling was selected to the Second Team as an outfielder while the senior Dimitroff picked up an honorable mention award as a shortstop. Pictured here is Cale Ridling.





SCENES FROM SPRING COMMENCEMENT, EVENING OF HONORS

