



From the Office of President Richard Rafes

# East Central University

Campus Update July 25, 2008

## ECU AWARDED \$794,000 GRANT TO EXPAND ECU'S NURSING PROGRAM

A \$793,828 grant has been awarded to ECU's Department of Nursing to expand its nursing program in the Ardmore area and increase the number of students in its RN to BSN completion program.

The grant, from the Health Resources and Service Administration, will enable ECU to continue the expansion of its nursing program in Ardmore and offer the RN to BSN completion program every year. The grant also will help establish partnerships with K-12 grade schools to focus on recruiting American Indian students from rural areas.

According to Dr. Joe Catalano, nursing department chair, the university will receive the grant funds over a three-year period starting this month. This grant is great news for Ardmore and the state as a whole. A substantial portion of the grant funds will be used to continue the expansion of the ECU nursing program at Ardmore. People in the Ardmore area will have a better opportunity to become nurses, find good jobs and help address the critical nursing shortage.

The grants principal author was Dr. Anne Davis, ECU nursing professor.

## ECU TO OFFER A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING IN THE FALL

A new program designed to prepare students for the highly competitive world of quantitative and computation finance marks the latest expansion of ECU's School of Graduate Studies.

ECU will begin offering a master of science degree in accounting this fall. This 30-hour degree program will help prepare students to become eligible to take the CPA examination.

## ECU RECEIVES TWO NEW GRANTS TO ENHANCE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

ECU was awarded two \$7,500 grants from the Council on Social Work Education in collaboration with the Hartford Foundation.

According to Dr. Carol Bridges, human resources professor, one of the grants will help infuse the social work curriculum with content about working with older adults, as well as help recruit students interested in working with this growing population.

The second grant, the Baccalaureate Experiential Learning grant, is focused on providing opportunities for students to have interaction with older adults and attracting them to work as social workers with an aging population.

The grants' lead author was Satara Armstrong, ECU human resources assistant professor.

## ECU INTRODUCES CARPOOLING SERVICE FOR COMMUTERS

A new carpooling service just introduced at ECU can help cut transportation costs for ECU students, faculty and staff who live outside Ada.

The increase in gas prices has put a huge burden upon students, faculty and staff. The university continues to seek ways to decrease the impact of higher gas prices upon its students, faculty and staff and this initiative is an example of our efforts. Signing up for this program is absolutely free at [www.ecok.edu/carpool](http://www.ecok.edu/carpool).

**Attention Commuting ECU Employees**

**What would you do with an extra \$1,200 a year?**

**Why carpool?**

1. Save Money
2. Save wear and tear on your car
3. Green you extra time to prepare for your day
4. Allow you to catch a few extra Z's - unless you are not the driver
5. Free up existing parking spaces on campus
6. Reduce air pollution emissions and is better for the environment
7. Great way to reduce the expense of dining
8. Access more refreshed and ready to work
9. Meet new and interesting people
10. Meet new and interesting people

The average commuting employee can spend more than \$200 per month traveling to work.  
2 person carpool = \$1,200 saving for each person  
3 person carpool = \$1,800 savings for each person

**How do I get started?**  
Sign up for free and you can find potential carpool partners with similar work schedules and commuting preferences.

**Get Started Today!**  
[www.ecok.edu/carpool](http://www.ecok.edu/carpool)

580/332-8000

[www.ecok.edu](http://www.ecok.edu)

**VA EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP**

The ECU Veterans Upward Bound Program is sponsoring a VA Educational Benefits Workshop from 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 29 in the Estep Multimedia Center.

Anyone interested in learning more about VA Educational Benefits is encouraged to attend. For more information about the workshop, contact Mary Huckleberry at 580-559-5541.

**VETERANS WORKFORCE PROGRAM HAS ARRIVED IN OKLAHOMA CITY!**

VWIP hosted an informational workshop on Thursday, July 17 in Oklahoma City before starting classes in August.

VWIP assists veterans who may face employment barriers as they begin their transition into civilian jobs. ECU just received its third \$750,000 federal VWIP grant.

The VWIP pays stipends to veterans as they participate in the program's four weeks of academic training and four to six weeks of job training. The biggest part of the grant funds will go to the veterans, Huckleberry said.

**VUB GRANT RENEWED**

The Veterans Upward Bound Program at ECU has received a renewal award letter for 2008-09 from the U.S. Department of Education. The \$275,153 award will fund the program Sept. 1, 2008 through Aug. 31, 2009.

Veterans Upward Bound is designed to prepare eligible veterans to enter post-secondary programs, whether it is a technical or vocational school, or a 2- or 4-year college, anywhere in the United States.

Veterans Upward Bound has counselors and instructors trained to assist veterans with complete educational preparation. The program offers classes, workshops, and individualized instruction. In addition to the academic preparation, VUB offers information about programs of study and careers, assistance with admissions and financial aid applications, individual counseling, and referrals to other veteran services. All services are FREE!

**YOU'RE INVITED**

**What:**  
**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation and ECU

**When:**  
Tuesday, Aug. 5  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Where:**  
Front lawn of the University Center and Administration buildings

**Cost:**  
Free

Don't miss this great opportunity to meet local emergency responders who will be on campus to increase awareness about police programs in communities such as drug prevention town watch and other anti-crime efforts. Fun activities for children, free food and drinks and demonstrations are part of the National Night Out, a community-police partnership every August since 1984. It is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch in the United States and Canada.

**Art students looking for projects**

One house in the new Arts District of Ada @ East Main will be selected each fall to be repainted at no cost to homeowners through a grant ECU's Art Department has received from Campus Compact, a national coalition dedicated to campus-based civic engagement.

The students and the arts district's steering committee will select the homes to be painted. The houses must be inside the Arts District, an area bordered by Mississippi on the west, Francis on the east, 9th Street on the north and 14th Street on the south.

Residents interested in this program should call 580-559-5353.

**ECU EARNS AWARDS IN STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMPETITION**

ECU's Communications and Marketing Department garnered six awards during the annual competition of the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association. The department includes Amy Ford, director; Jill Frye, assistant director; Gina Smith, marketing coordinator; Ryan Wetherill, web manager; and Susan Ingram, administrative assistant.

**Awards included:**

- Second place in Special Publications for the "Inauguration of Richard Scott Rafes"
- Second place in the Video Feature category for "ECU Virtual Tour"
- Third place in the Cover Design for "Making Memories – Spring 2008 Schedule for the Center of Continuing Education"
- Honorable mention in Class Schedules for "Enjoy the Adventure – Summer 2008 Schedule for the Center of Continuing Education"

Jill Frye received two writing awards:

- Second place for her News Writing piece titled "Exchange Class Changes Attitudes Inside, Outside Prison"
- Third place for Featurette Writing "Johnson Excited About 60-Mile Walk for Breast Cancer."



**COACH SHANNON COACHES USA BASKETBALL TEAM**

ECU men's head basketball coach

Terry Shannon recently guided a team of USA basketball stars on a 5-0 run in a nine-day span through Europe.

Shannon, a last-minute replacement as the team's coach, led nine U.S. college players on the 2008 European Metropolis Tours. The team visited London, England; Paris, France; Bredene, Belgium; and the Netherlands in May.

**CHAPTER OF THE MONTH**

The ECU Physics Club was named "Chapter of the Month" by The Nucleus, a national resource for physics and astronomy.

**CAMPS, CAMPS AND MORE CAMPS**

This summer ECU has hosted hundreds of students including the Math and Science Summer Academy, Cheerleaders, Gifted & Talented Lyceum, Upward Bound, Math and Science Upward Bound and Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy . . . to name a few.



**WELCOME TO ECU**

**Marilyn Schwarz** has been named director of financial aid at ECU. She has more than 25 years experience in higher education financial aid. She comes to ECU from Murray State College where she has served as the director of financial aid since 1992.



**Dallas Coplin** was named the facilities coordinator for the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center this month. She has a bachelor of fine arts degree in drama, with an emphasis in technical production, from OU. Prior to coming to Ada, Coplin was the assistant manager of the Yukon Fine Arts Center.



**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

- July 25**  
President's Circle Roundup of Friends at Fossil Creek 6 p.m.
- August 16-17**  
Freshmen Orientation
- August 17**  
Block Party 6-8:30 p.m. University Center
- August 18**  
Fall Semester Begins  
Howdy Fair 11 a.m. - 1p.m. UC Lawn
- August 19**  
Beyond the Wall Poster Sale 10a.m.-6p.m. UC
- August 20**  
Magician- Nate Staniforth 7 p.m. Dorothy Summers
- August 21**  
Tie Dye 11a.m. - 2p.m. Danley Lawn
- August 25**  
Splash into Action 2-7p.m. UC Lawn
- August 26**  
PB & J and Bingo 11a.m. - 1p.m. UC
- August 27**  
Guitar Hero 7p.m. UC Snack Bar
- August 28**  
Dark Night (Batman) 7p.m. UC Estep Center