# CAMPUS ESU UPDATE



### Pierson's Perceptions

We are excited with what is happening at East Central University and want to share it with you more frequently. We now plan to publish many of our successes monthly in our Campus Update.

This edition focuses on our February achievements along with spotlighting upcoming events, including the everpopular Founders Day which is for March 27. We hope you are able to observe 110 years of educating students with us. We have also celebrated the diversity we have had for over 50 years. The recently formed Black Alumni Association had a highly successful Black History Month event on February 23.

We recently learned of ECU's impact on the local economy. Indeed, for every dollar in state appropriations ECU receives, \$9.80 is returned to the area economy. That's a \$150,000,000,000 impact.

The spring semester is noted for being a busy time on campus. Take a look at what we

have to offer.



Dr. Katricia Pierson President East Central University

### **ECU CONTINUES TO HAVE POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT**

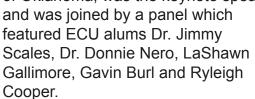
ECU is making a positive impact on its local economy. According to the State Chamber Research Foundation's report, "The Economic Role of Oklahoma's Public Colleges and Universities," ECU generated expenditures of \$96.5 million in Fiscal Year 2016 and support-



ed \$150 million in total economic output. The impact on the local economy was the third-highest among the Regional University System of Oklahoma. Under the category of ration of economic output to appropriations, ECU had a \$9.80 in economic output per dollar of state appropriations which was the second-highest among RUSO institutions.

#### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED**

ECU Black Alumni Association hosted a
Black History Month with an event on Feb.
23 in the Ataloa Theatre. Judge David B.
Lewis, of the Court of Criminal Appeals
of Oklahoma, was the keynote speaker

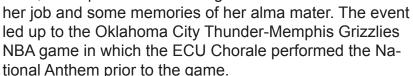


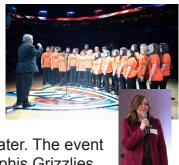




#### **ECU INVADES OKC THUNDER GAME**

Alumni and friends of ECU gathered in Oklahoma City for "Thunder Up Night" at the Colcord Hotel on Feb. 7. The event featured special guest and Oklahoma State Auditor Cindy Byrd, a 1997 ECU alum, who spoke to the contingent about





#### **FOUNDERS DAY SET - MARCH 27th**



ECU will celebrate its 110th year of existence with Founder's Day on Wed., March 27, at noon on Centennial Plaza. The event is

in celebration of the founding of ECU which actually took place on March 25, 1909. The event will feature food, presentations and fun.

# GOODEN TO DELIVER LOUISE YOUNG DIVERSITY LECTURE



Beverly Gooden, viral hashtag creator and victim's right advocate, will deliver ECU's Louise Young Diversity Lecture on Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in the At-

aloa Theatre of the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center. The title of her presentation is "Why I Stayed, The Complexity of Domestic Violence." The event is free and open to everyone. The lecture is sponsored by Young, who is a graduate of Ada Public Schools and ECU (B.A. in geography in 1969). Young was an instructor of geography at ECU.

# ECU ALUM RECEIVES FULLBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLAR AWARD



ECU alum Dr. Jeff Griffitts, a professor at Southern Nazarene University, is the recipient of the Fullbright U.S. Scholar Award to Hun-

gary for teaching and research in Environmental Health. Griffitts will conduct research and lecture at Szent Istvan University. Recipients of Fullbright Awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement as well as record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields. Griffitts graduated from ECU in 2003 with a degree in environmental health science and was part of ECU's McNair Scholars Program.

#### ANNUAL PARKER ETHICS LECTURE

Alfonzo Alexander, the chief ethics and diversity officer for the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy and the president of the



NASBA's Center for Public Trust, was the keynote speaker at ECU's recent Parker Ethics Lecture. The lecture is named after Oscar L. Parker. At ECU, the Oscar L. Parker Center for the Advancement of Ethical Standards in Business and Society was established in late 1988 as a fitting and lasting memorial to Parker, a highly respected educator, businessman, college administrator, civic leader of Ada and an active supporter and long-time ECU employee.



#### **BWI CONDUCTS 'FABULOUS 50s' GALA**



The Brandon Whitten Institute and Pontotoc County Drug Free Coalition conducted its Fourth Annual Gala with a Fabulous 50s theme on Feb. 22 in ECU Foundation Hall. The pur-

pose of the event is to raise awareness of substance abuse in the community.

#### PALMER JAZZ EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



ECU instructor Kirk Palmer was named Oklahoma
Collegiate Jazz Educator of the Year at the Oklahoma
Music Educators Association Winter Conference in Tulsa. Palmer has been

the jazz band leader and trumpet instructor at ECU since 2015. During his tenure as leader, the jazz band has performed at several jazz festivals, including the Wichita Jazz Festival, Southwestern Oklahoma State University Jazz Festival and the University of Kansas Jazz Festival where the jazz band won recognition as the top performing ensemble at the festival.

# STUDENTS ATTEND HIGHER ED DAY AT STATE CAPITOL



ECU students
along with President Katricia Pierson and faculty
recently visited the
Oklahoma State

Capitol in Oklahoma City for Higher Education Day. Sen. Greg McCortney and Rep. Ronny Johns addressed the students in the State Judicial Center's Great Room. The group was able to tour the Justice Center, accompanied by several Supreme Court justices and then toured the State Capitol as a whole.

# FOUR ECU STUDENTS AWARDED TEACH 2 REACH SCHOLARSHIPS

Four ECU students

- Christy Higgins,
Jessica Wilcox, Jaley
Brown and Nikki
Wright – were awarded education schol-



arships through the Teach 2 Reach Program and the Choctaw Nation. Teach 2 Reach is a grant-funded opportunity to encourage students from Native American heritage to excel in their undergraduate teacher education programs and to support them in their future careers.

### THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS 'MAN

OF LA MANCHA'

The ECU Theatre Department presented "Man of La Mancha," Feb. 14-16, in At-



aloa Theatre of the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center. The classic musical production was directed by Alan Marshall and starred Dr. Richard Groetzinger as Cervantes/Don Quixote. Rudy Lupinski was the musical director.

# ECU STUDENT HERMAN FARES WELL IN SPEECH. DEBATE EVENTS

Ruth Herman, a member of ECU's Tigers Speech and Debate Team, placed runner-up in the individual competition in the International Public Debate Association competition and was recognized for her



debating and public speaking skills by placing first speaker in the Oklahoma Interstate Forensics Association on Feb. 23 at Oklahoma City University. Herman also took fourth place in the University of Oklahoma's Public Debate Tournament on Feb. 9. Herman majors in deaf and rehabilitation counseling and is a sophomore from Waxahachie, Texas.

### **Campus Update February 2019**

#### SR BASKETBALL PLAYERS RECOGNIZED



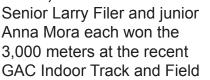
ECU senior basketball players - women: Lakin Preisner and Tia Williams; men: Jamey Woods and Da'Rion King - were honored for their career efforts in ECU's final home



basketball games at the Kerr Activities Center on Feb. 23 against Southern Arkansas. Both ECU teams have qualified

for the Great American Conference Championship Tournament which runs from March 6-10 in Bartlesville.

#### FILER, MORA CHAMPIONS





Championships in Norman. ECU junior Eliud Koech finished right behind Filer for second place in the that 3,000-meter race. Caleb Eagans was second in the long jump and Dilland Gardner finished third in the shot put. The ECU distance medley team of Barbara Johnson, Naomi Simulus, Danielle Davidson and Mora claimed second while Yvette Felix took third in the 5,000-meter race.

### **ECU UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Monday, March 4

3 p.m. - ECU Concerto Competition; Ataloa Theatre

#### Tuesday, March 5

2 p.m. - Baseball vs. Southeastern (home)

#### Tuesday, March 5

7 p.m. - Louise Young Diversity Lecture; Ataloa Theatre

#### Friday, March 8

2 p.m. – Baseball vs. Arkansas Tech (home)

#### Saturday, March 9

1 p.m. – Baseball v Arkansas Tech (home doubleheader)

#### Monday, March 11

7:30 p.m. – Frankenstein; Ataloa Theatre

#### Tuesday, March 12

2 p.m. – Baseball vs.Rogers State (home) 4 p.m. – ECU Student Mock Interviews; Linschied Library

#### Wednesday, March 13

8 a.m. – Pre-State Concert Band Festival 10 a.m. – Kinesiology Depart/Club Health Fair; McBride

#### Thursday, March 14

All Day – 2019 High School Junior Day 10 a.m. – ECU Retirees Brunch; Regents Room 6 p.m. – Alpha Chi Induction; Stanley Wagner Ballroom 7:30 p.m. – Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel Concert; Ada Arts & Heritage Center

#### Friday, March 15

2 p.m. – Softball vs. S. Arkansas (home doubleheader)

#### Saturday, March 16

Noon – Softball vs. S. Arkansas (home doubleheader)

### Monday, March 18-Friday, March 22 Spring Break (campus closed)

#### Friday, March 22

2 p.m. - Baseball vs. Arkansas-Monticello (home)

#### Saturday, March 23

1 p.m. – Baseball vs. Arkansas-Monticello (home doubleheader)

#### Monday, March 25

ECU Dress for Success Professional Clothing Drive Ends

#### March 26, 27 & 28

8 a.m. – 2A-4A High School Concert Band Festival

#### Tuesday, March 26

11:30 a.m. – Education Awards Luncheon 2 p.m. – Baseball vs. Oklahoma Baptist (home) 2 p.m. – Softball v Southeastern (home doubleheader)

#### Wednesday, March 27

Noon - Founder's Day Celebration; Centennial Plaza

#### Thursday, March 28

5:30 p.m. – President's Club Meeting; Estep

#### Friday, March 29

2 p.m. – Softball vs Henderson State (home doubleheader) 6:30 p.m. – ECU Screens Presents "Julie"

#### Saturday, March 30

Noon – Softball vs Henderson State (home doubleheader)