

Campus Update

Students pack campus for ECU's 105th Interscholastic Meet

ADA, Okla. – East Central University recently hosted their 105th Interscholastic Meet across campus. The event, a long-standing tradition for ECU, brought approximately 700 high school students from across the state to participate.

High school students from 37 different schools across Oklahoma traveled to ECU to participate in more than 25 test and contest options, ranging from Shakespeare to Microsoft, French to Algebra and Choices in Wellness to Computer Programming, along with other diverse topics.

SEE INTERSCHOLASTIC, PAGE 3



66 students, a record number, took part in the U.S. History exam

2nd Annual NASA Princess Pageant honors First American students



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ECU's Lifetime Service Banquet honors university's longest serving employees

Dr. Gerald Williamson, Dr. Shirley Mixon and Becky Isaacs were each honored during the ECU Lifetime Service Banquet in March.

With more than 40 years of service each, ECU President Wendell Godwin recognized each individual for their decades of service and devotion to the university, its students and its community.

SEE LIFETIME, PAGE 4

Legislative Breakfast held on campus



Oklahoma Senator Jonathan Wingard and Representative Ronny Johns visited ECU for a Legislative Breakfast hosted on campus. The event was presented by The Chickasaw Nation and The Ada Area Chamber of Commerce. Also in attendance were Field Reps. from the offices of Congressman Tom Cole, Senator James Lankford and Senator Markwayne Mullin, among others.



The Parker Center for Ethics Luncheon & Lecture was held inside the Chickasaw business and Conference Center. This year's topic covered AI Ethics in Healthcare.

Self-Care room opens in honor of Margot Trémolières



A grand opening took place inside ECU's Chickasaw Business and Conference Center for a new Self-Care room dedicated to the memory of former student Margot Trémolières, an international student who attended ECU as part of the Global Education exchange with the University of Limoges in France.

The Self-Care room was made possible thanks to donations from the I-Dream Project and Dr. James Burke, among others. As well as the dedicated commitment of Dr. Destany Schafer-Morgan, Dr. Robin Roberson, Jo Anna Owens and Burke.

"Chintaloowali (I Sing to You)" debuts in Ataloi Theatre



The original symphonic orchestra came from a partnership between ECU alumnus and Chickasaw Nation citizen, Zach Garcia, and Oklahoma City Philharmonic Music Director Alexander Mickelthwate.

INTERSCHOLASTIC

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This year also featured new tests in graphic design, business and English, as well as, a photography competition, music performance and two essay contests that students were able to submit to in advance.

One of the most successful new additions to the Interscholastic Meet was a last-minute inclusion of the ECU Tiger Esports program, which ended up with participation from 14 different schools.

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

and Social Sciences, Dr. Mark Walling, reaffirmed his commitment to the continuing growth of ECU’s Interscholastic Meet for years to come, “We’re excited about getting more students into the exams next year and we’re going to find more exams to offer.”

Walling continued, “A big thank you to ECU President Wendell Godwin for supporting us, he provided our new medals and the ECU t-shirts for all the participants. A big thank you to [Executive Administrative

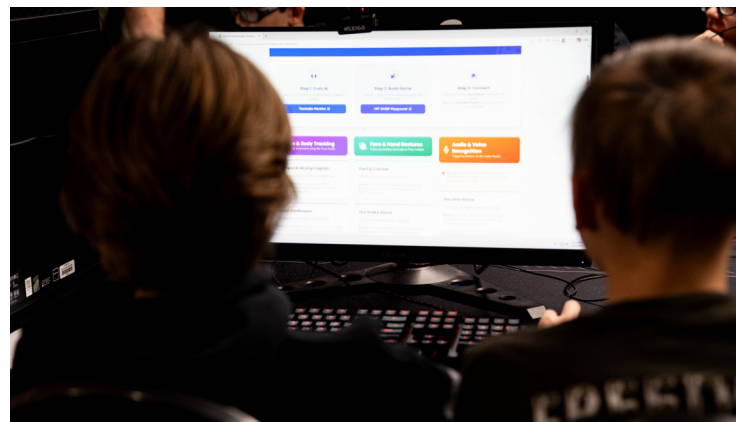
Assistant] Debra Reed, who was a major coordinator of the entire event and Jamie Davis [Director of Event Management] who set up activities in the ECU Foundation Hall that the students loved.”

Students who placed first through third received their own ECU Interscholastic Scholar medal, while fourth and fifth place students received certificates for their accomplishments. In addition, students who placed first through third also received ECU tuition scholarships.



ECU’s Transfer Day took place in March. Students interested in transferring to ECU were given the opportunity to tour campus and learn how to become a Tiger.

STEMPact Ada returned to campus with Machine Learning event



LIFETIME

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Dr. Gerald Williamson

Williamson began his career at ECU in 1978.

In 1985, he became Vice President of Student Services, a position he held for two decades. In that role, he was responsible for the development and management of non-classroom programs and services that enhanced the student experience.

In 2007, he officially transitioned from the university to the ECU Foundation, where he continues to serve as Senior Development Officer.

In that role, Williamson has continued to play a key part in advancing the university's growth. Any student who knew Williamson during their time at ECU, or knows him now through his work with alumni at the ECU Foundation, is familiar with the phrase he made synonymous with the university and its community, "Once a Tiger, Always a Tiger".



Becky Isaacs

Isaacs earned a B.S. in Accounting and an M.S. in Accounting, both from ECU.

She began her career with ECU in the summer of 1984 as secretary for the Financial Aid Office, a position she held for eight years and marked the beginning of a lifelong career of service to ECU.

In 2011, Isaacs became the Director of Financial Aid, a position she held until her retirement on July 1, 2025. As director, she supervised the operations of the Financial Aid Office, handled escalated student aid issues and maintained regulatory compliance with federal and state entities.

She also served as a key leader within the student development division and contributed to numerous campus committees including the Resource Allocation Committee, financial aid appeals, retention, scholarship, calendar and various hiring committees.



Dr. Shirley Mixon

Mixon began her career with ECU in the fall of 1978 with the Department of Business Education and Office Administration.

In 2016, Mixon was named Director and Professor for what is now referred to as the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

Mixon has served on a number of ECU committees and participates in campus and community services.

She has served as President for Oklahoma Women in Higher Education, serves as a Peer Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, serves on the Mercy Ada Hospital Board of Directors, and has served on East Central University Women's Club and more. For nearly five decades, Mixon has remained committed to working hand-in-hand with students, staff and faculty as the university has continued to grow and prosper.

PAGEANT

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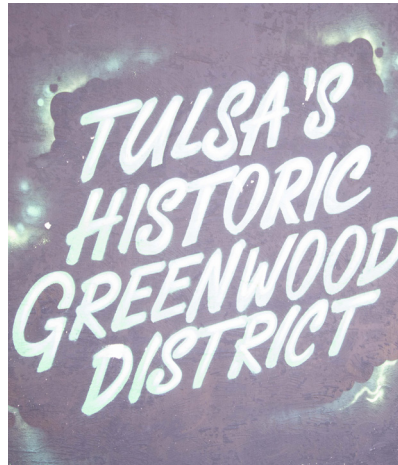
Gabrielle Nucosee named Miss Native American ECU for 2026-27 during the Native American Student Association pageant on ECU's campus.



ECU Showtime presents "Steel Magnolias" inside Chalmers-Herman Black Box Theatre



ECU students visit historical Tulsa museums



Twenty-Five students comprised of English, English Education, Elementary Education, Psychology, Physics, Nursing and Computer Science majors traveled to Tulsa, Okla. to visit the Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center and The Woody Guthrie Center.



A Kinesiology Health Fair took place and was open for all ECU students, staff and faculty.



Brave Spaces: Mental Health fair, presented by the Brandon Whitten Institute, was open to the ECU community in March.

OSSAA tournament comes to ECU

The Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) recently hosted their 4A Basketball Tournament in the Kerr Activities Center, bringing hundreds of spectators to ECU and the local community.

ECU band events kicked off in March

ECU's band season kicked off with the ECU Band and ECU Jazz Band concerts. More events are scheduled throughout April and May.

Upcoming Events

- April 1
 - Paws & Relax, 5:15 p.m.
- April 2
 - Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, 9 a.m.
 - Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Open Tournament, 5 p.m.
 - Softball vs. SNU, 5 p.m.
 - School of Business Scholarship Networking, 6 p.m.
 - Greek Week Lip Sync Battle, 7 p.m.
- April 3
 - Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, 9 a.m.
 - Softball vs. SNU, 1 p.m.
 - Greek Awards 2026, 6:30 p.m.
- April 4
 - Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, 9 a.m.
- April 6
 - Honors Students & Student Support Services Enrollment -DPPHS Awards Ceremony, 2 p.m.
- April 7
 - Graduate Students & Seniors Enrollment
 - Annual Student Art Exhibition Reception, 5 p.m.
- April 8
 - Juniors Enrollment
 - First-Time Transfer Student Enrollment
 - Careers in Psychology Faculty Panel, 12:30 p.m.
 - Stickball on the Lawn, 12:30 p.m.
 - Paws & Relax, 4 p.m.
- April 9
 - Sophomore Enrollment
 - ECU Honors Olympics Closing Ceremony, 3:30 p.m.
 - Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Open Tournament, 5 p.m.

“Originals” is an annual literary journal that has been a fixture of ECU since the 1950’s, with its predecessor dating back to 1912. The journal offers students, staff and faculty from any department across campus an opportunity to submit their writings or artwork for potential publication.

The three student editors for the 2026 volume of “Originals,” Sarah Christensen, Jayde Landreth and Megan Moss, alongside “Originals” faculty advisor Dr. Joshua Grasso, unveiled the 2026 volume in March. Copies are available to purchase through Grasso.

A Letter From the Editors

To the Reader,

An anthology of student writing has long been a tradition of East Central University. The first anthology, entitled *Flints and Flowers*, was edited and produced by an English class during the summer of 1912.

Publication of an anthology was suspended until after World War II. In 1949 an untitled anthology of student works was published by an English Instructor.

Ever since, students have served as editors to keep this tradition alive. *Originals* has been the title for the anthology for many years. The name was only changed once—in 1972—to *Voices* by the editorial staff.

Originals has everything to do with the heartfelt, unique, and interesting submissions we received.

Whether it was a poem, a story, or a piece of art, your contribution helped to make this edition a success. Each volume demonstrates that your

work is valuable and allows you to feel the pride of having a published piece in a journal with deep ties to the region. We value the bravery it takes to put your creative work out there and we hope this publication serves as a lasting record of your Original Voices.

Thank you!

From the 2026 Editorial Staff,

Sarah, Jayde, and Megan



DIAMOND

After Dark

MARCH 31, 2026

5:30 PM | FIRST GAME
7:30 PM | SECOND GAME

GLOW TIGERS

Come join us for our first ever night time softball game!

Scissortail ^{21st Annual} Creative Writing Festival

At East Central University - Ada, Oklahoma
Event is free and open to the public.

Featured Authors





Joseph Fasano Traci Brimhall Chera Hammons

Presenting 60+ authors from Oklahoma and beyond

APRIL *The Darryl Fisher High School Creative Writing Contest*

2nd - 4th - & -

2026 *Regional Undergraduate Creative Writing Contest*
*see website for details

www.ecuscissortail.blogspot.com

71st Annual Student Art Exhibition

Pogue Gallery, 3/12/2026 - 4/7/2026
Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Reception 5:00 - 6:00 4/7/2026

ECU All-Majors Spring Career Fair 2026

Explore Your Future

Don't miss out! Attend the Career Fair and take the first step towards your dream job today.

April 14th 10am-2pm

Foundation Hall - Chickasaw Business and Conference Center

BRING YOUR RESUME, DRESS TO IMPRESS, YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE.