

# CAMPUS ECU UPDATE

February 2020

## Pierson's Perceptions

February saw many remarkable successes. ECU hosted its 101st Interscholastic Meet and students, teachers and administrators who attended are still talking about the fun they had while on campus.

Governor Anoatubby provided an excellent overview of tribal gaming at the Lou Watkins Lecture. Community members are still remarking on the pride they have in the Chickasaw Nation and our Distinguished Alumnus.

The Black Alumni Association and Louise Young Diversity Lecture combined forces to bring a powerful speaker to campus. Cheryl Brown Henderson's message was heard by a large audience and I'm still receiving compliments on the event.

At that lecture, Dr. Donnie Nero was awarded the BAA Trailblazer Award. At a statewide meeting, people shared with me their delight in seeing Dr. Nero recognized and reported that he shares his love for ECU wherever he goes.

Students also had remarkable success. Social media has been alive with the stories of a student presenting at the state Capitol during Higher Ed Day, our amazing student-athletes receiving Great American Conference recognition, and business students taking first place in the State Council for Human Resource Management competition.

When folks in the public share their comments with me, know that all credit is given to each of you for making ECU a wonderful and remarkable place.



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

## ECU BAA honors Nero with Trailblazer Award

The East Central University Black Alumni Association honored lifetime educator and ECU alum Dr. Donnie Nero with its prestigious Trailblazer Award as part of the program for the annual Louise Young Diversity Lecture on campus February 20.

A native of Spencer, Oklahoma, Nero graduated from Dunjee High School in 1967. He earned a bachelor's degree in Education from East Central University in 1971. Nero earned his master's degree in Education Administration in 1977 and his doctorate in Occupational and Adult

Education in 1993, both from Oklahoma State University.

Nero progressed through the ranks at Tulsa Community College to become Provost of the TCC Southeast Campus. He then achieved the presidency of Connors State College in 2000, becoming the first African American to lead a predominantly non-black college or university in the state of Oklahoma. Under his leadership, Connors experienced record student enrollment and campus renovation. He retired from the presidency in 2011.

In 2002, ECU named Nero a Distinguished Alumnus.



**DONNIE NERO**

See "Nero" on Page 4



### Keynote speaker

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby delivered the 2020 Lou Watkins Lecture on February 4 on the ECU campus. Anoatubby's presentation focused on the impact of tribal gaming on the state of Oklahoma and its communities.



## ECU inks partnership with Brazil university

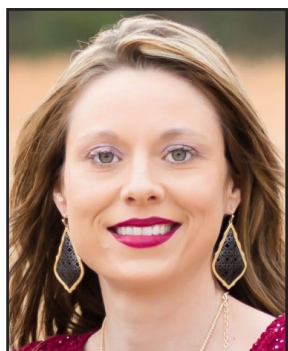
ECU entered into a new partnership with PUCPR School of Business at the end of January. Pictured, from left, are Wendell Godwin, dean of the Stonecipher School of Business; Dr. Mara Sukholutskaya, Global Education director; Bruno Fernandes, dean of the PUCPR School of Business; ECU President Dr. Katricia Pierson; and Dr. Stacey Bolin, Business professor. See full story on Page 3.

Call ECU at (580) 332-8000!

# TIGER TALES

## Massey elected nursing board president

East Central University Nursing instructor Liz Massey has been elected president of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing. Massey, MSN, NPD-BC, NEA-BC, NE-BC, RN, served as vice president for the previous two years. She was appointed to the board in July 2016 by Governor Mary Fallin and serves as a representative member on the Education IDP Committee and a member of the Criminal History Task Force Committee. Massey graduated from ECU in 2004 and currently serves as an instructor in the ECU Nursing program.



LIZ MASSEY

She obtained a Master's of Science degree in Nursing Education in 2012 from the University of Oklahoma. She anticipates completing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree from Chamberlain University in April 2020.

## ECU student speaks at state Capitol

An East Central University student recently spoke to an audience gathered at the 2020 Higher Education Day at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City. Ruth Herman of Waxahachie, Texas, accompanied Dr. Christine Pappas, ECU Political Science professor, to the annual event on February 11.



Herman is studying Political Science and Counseling with an emphasis on Human Services for the Deaf. She will graduate from ECU in 2021 and plans to pursue work in advocacy. "It was an amazing opportunity," Herman said. "I hope that my participation helped make an impact for the future of Oklahoma higher education." Pictured, from left, are Dr. Pappas, Herman, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson and OSRHE Regent Ann Holloway.



## Brown Henderson delivers powerful diversity lecture

Cheryl Brown Henderson, founder of the Brown Foundation and daughter of the man who led a fight for racial equality in the public school system, delivered East Central University's Louise Young Diversity Lecture on February 20 in the Ataloo Theatre of the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center.

ECU's Black Alumni Association co-sponsored the event with Louise Young. Henderson is one of three daughters of the late Rev. Oliver L. Brown, who in the fall of 1950 – along with 12 other parents in Topeka, Kansas, led by attorneys for the NAACP – filed suit on behalf of their children against the local Board of Education. Their case joined with cases from Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia and Washington, D.C. on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. On May 17, 1954, came the landmark decision known as Brown v. Board of Education.

Henderson's lecture, subtitled "The Legacy Continues," was met with appreciation and enthusiasm by the large crowd.



## Happy 250th, Beethoven!

East Central University's School of Fine Arts presented a concert celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) on February 23. As part of the festivities, ECU Show-time performed "Beethoven's Day" from the 1999 Broadway musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."



# ECU, Brazil's PUCPR form partnership

**Note:** In the spirit of the new partnership, this is the translated press release distributed by PUCPR.

The PUCPR School of Business, as of this year, has another partner for dual degrees in the areas of entrepreneurship and business: East Central University (ECU), an Oklahoma institution (USA).

The partnership is the result of an agreement for international cooperation established by universities during the visit of professor Bruno Fernandes, dean of the School of Business at PUCPR, to East Central University, at the end of January.

In the international programs of PUCPR, the double degree consists of taking part of the undergraduate course at the Brazilian university and at least one year at the partner institution abroad, which re-sults in a graduate or master's degree at the foreign university.

"With this type of experience, the student has the opportunity not only to learn concepts and tools in the business area,



## PUCPR

GRUPO MARISTA

but, above all, to live an international environment, improving new languages, creating a network and immersing in another culture," explains professor Fernandes. Also according to him, with a diploma of this modality, the student is more likely to achieve an international career, whether working in Brazil or abroad.

In addition to the double degree, the agreement between PUCPR and East Central University also includes the arrival of American students in Curitiba for an International Studies program. It includes lectures and activities with students and professors from PUCPR and visits to companies in the capital of Paraná.

Professors Wendell Godwin, dean of the ECU Business School, and Stacey Bolin, director of the American university's Center for Entrepreneurship, had already visited PUCPR, in early December, to get to know the institution before formalizing the partnership.

Jen Kober

# HOME GROWN

MARCH 5TH, 2020  
7:30 PM  
ATALOA THEATRE  
EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

For more information contact the ECU Box Office at 580-559-5751.



GROVES

BRANTLEY

MURPHY

## ECU Accounting grads honored

When it comes to accounting, count on East Central University.

The Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants released the names of its 2020 "Trailblazers" and "Path Finders." The OSCPA selected 10 Trailblazers and five Path Finders. Of the 15 award winners across the state, three earned their Accounting degrees from ECU.

The 2020 Trailblazers from ECU are Meredith Murphy, CPA, senior vice president and

operational risk officer with Vision Bank; and Mason Groves, CPA, director of accounting with People's Electric Cooperative. Murphy graduated from ECU in 2004 and Groves in 2016.

The 2020 Path Finder with an ECU connection is Wes Brantley, CPA, a consultant to the Chickasaw Nation. He graduated from ECU in 1962.

The OSCPA will recognize the award winners at its 102nd annual meeting on June 5 in Norman, Oklahoma.

Give back at [www.ecok.edu/donate!](http://www.ecok.edu/donate!)

## Nero



*Dr. Shirley Mixon, the 2019 Trailblazer Award winner, passes on the honor to Dr. Donnie Nero during the Louise Young Diversity Lecture on February 20.*

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In 2010, the ECU Educators Hall of Fame inducted him, along with fellow alum Jimmy Scales, making them the first African Americans to receive that honor. Also in 2010, Nero founded the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inc., and currently serves as its president.

In 2016, Nero completed two terms as chair of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. He is a founder of the Oklahoma Legal Issues Conference, a graduate of Leadership Tulsa Class XVIII, and Oklahoma

state coordinator of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. He is also a member of the Oklahoma Global Education Consortium.

The ECU Black Alumni Association presented Nero with the Trailblazer Award preceding the 2020 Louise Young Diversity Lecture that featured Cheryl Brown Henderson, whose father was instrumental in the 1954 landmark Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. He is the second person to receive the Trailblazer Award. The inaugural winner, Dr. Shirley Mixon, introduced Nero at the lecture.

## Grad gives back to ECU club

Wyatt Jones of Holdenville – a soldier now stationed at Fort Hood, Texas – went out of his way recently to return to Ada so he could visit his professors and to buy Russian chocolates from his former club. He also donated \$100 to the Russian Club through the ECU Foundation.

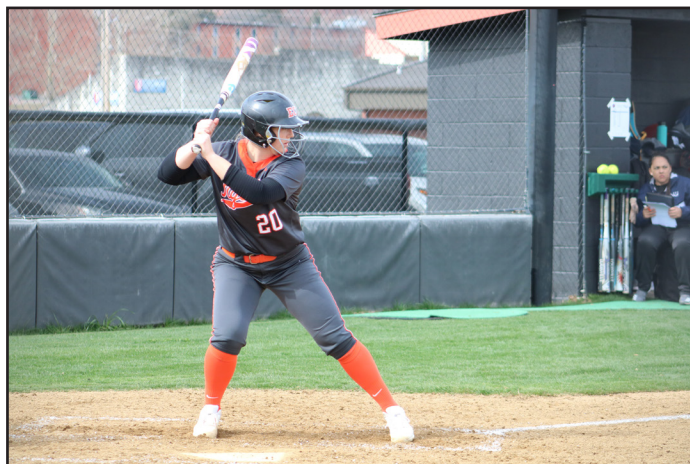
The chocolate sale is the Russian Club's traditional fundraiser, with proceeds being equally divided among club members to help with travel and

cultural activities expenses.

Jones earned a Cartography degree from ECU in 2017, but minored in Russian. He made two academic trips to Russia through the Study Abroad program, the first in 2015 and again the following year. The program provided him with valuable cultural experience as subsequent military trips to Poland and Bulgaria were made easier because of his previous travels to that part of the world.



*Pictured, from left, during a 2015 Study Abroad trip to Moscow are ECU graduates Kendrick Davis, Trevor Spradling, Kelsea Rabe, Wyatt Jones and Cohen McKinzie. Jones recently gave back to his club.*



## Spring sports now in full swing!

As March arrives, ECU Tiger softball and baseball are in full swing. Tiger track and field athletes are also starting to compete. At left, sophomore catcher Emma Barr of Flower Mound, Texas, prepares to take a cut at an oncoming pitch against Newman University. The Tigers took the game 7-0. At right, junior right hander Davis Rogers of Bokchito delivers a pitch to a Southwestern State University batter. Rogers is a transfer from Carl Albert State College. The teams split a double header. To keep up with the latest in the fast-moving world of ECU Tiger sports, visit the Athletics website at [www.ecutigers.com](http://www.ecutigers.com).

Follow all sports at [www.ecutigers.com](http://www.ecutigers.com)!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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\*\*\*ECU ATHLETIC EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN ORANGE!\*\*\*

## March 1

ECU Jazz Band 5th Annual Punch and Pie Concert  
3 p.m., Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center

## March 2

Last Day to Drop 1st 8-Week Classes  
"The Golden Age: Rachmaninov and His Greatest Poets"  
7:30 p.m., Ada Arts & Heritage Center (off campus)

## March 3

Baseball vs. Oklahoma Baptist  
2 p.m., Ken Turner Field

Movie Night  
6:30 p.m., Estep Multimedia Center

## March 5

"Homegrown: Comedy with Jen Kober"  
7:30 p.m., Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center

## March 6

1st 8-Week Classes End  
Baseball at Arkansas Tech  
Noon, Russellville, Arkansas  
Softball vs. Arkansas Tech (Double Header)  
1 p.m., Tiger Field  
ECU Esports Club CS:GO Tryouts  
5:30 p.m., PES Building (Room 131)

## March 7

Softball vs. Arkansas Tech (Double Header)  
Noon, Tiger Field  
Baseball at Arkansas Tech (Double Header)  
1 p.m., Russellville, Arkansas

## March 9

2nd 8-Week Classes Begin

## March 10

Baseball vs. Central Oklahoma  
3 p.m., Ken Turner Field

## March 11

Midterm Spring 2020 Grades Available at MyECU  
Inquiry-Based Instruction Professional Development  
8 a.m. Digital Humanities Lab/Linscheid Library  
Campus Activities Board presents "New Plant, New You"  
6:30 p.m., Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom

## March 13

Last Day to Add 2nd 8-Week Classes  
Last Day to Drop 2nd 8-Week Classes w/100% Refund  
Baseball vs. Southern Arkansas  
1 p.m., Ken Turner Field  
Softball at Southern Arkansas (Double Header)  
4 p.m., Magnolia, Arkansas  
Thomas Gamble "The Natural History" Exhibit Ends  
5 p.m., Pogue Gallery/Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center

## March 14

Softball at Southern Arkansas (Double Header)  
Noon, Magnolia, Arkansas  
Baseball vs. Southern Arkansas (Double Header)  
1 p.m., Ken Turner Field

## March 15

Online Graduation Application Opens for Fall 2020

March 16-20  
Spring Break

## March 17

Baseball at Oklahoma Baptist  
6 p.m., Shawnee, Oklahoma

## March 19

Track & Field at Bobby Lane Invitational  
8 a.m., University of Texas-Arlington

## March 20

Baseball at Arkansas-Monticello  
Noon, Monticello, Arkansas  
Softball vs. Arkansas-Monticello (Double Header)  
2 p.m., Tiger Field

## March 21

Softball vs. Arkansas-Monticello (Double Header)  
Noon, Tiger Field  
Baseball at Arkansas-Monticello (Double Header)  
1 p.m., Monticello, Arkansas

## March 24

Baseball vs. Rogers State  
2 p.m., Ken Turner Field  
Softball at Southeastern (Double Header)  
2 p.m., Durant, Oklahoma

## March 25

Founders Day

## March 26

Track & Field at Texas Relays  
8 a.m., Austin, Texas

## March 27

ECU SCREENS presents "All My Sons"  
6:30 p.m., Estep Multimedia Center  
Track & Field at Washington University Invitational  
8 a.m., St. Louis, Missouri  
Softball at Henderson State (Double Header)  
2 p.m., Arkadelphia, Arkansas  
Baseball vs. Henderson State  
3 p.m., Ken Turner Field

## March 28

Track & Field at OBU Invitational  
8 a.m., Shawnee, Oklahoma  
Softball at Henderson State (Double Header)  
Noon, Arkadelphia, Arkansas  
Baseball vs. Henderson State (Double Header)  
1 p.m., Ken Turner Field

## March 31

Baseball vs. Southeastern  
2 p.m., Ken Turner Field

**SAVE THE DATE: Monday, April 6, 2020**



See all campus events at [www.ecok.edu/calendar!](http://www.ecok.edu/calendar!)



Roary Tiger awards an unidentified area high school student a medal for her performance at ECU's 101st Interscholastic Meet on February 11. Several hundred competitors descended on campus for the event and were treated with fun activities and tours between academic contests.



Allison Bush of Sapulpa and her fellow cast mates perform "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" that ran February 13-15 in the beautiful Ataloe Theatre inside the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center.



ECU students aren't the only ones having fun on campus. The Pontotoc County Drug-Free Coalition held its fifth annual gala, disguised as an 80's prom murder mystery, in the Chickasaw Business & Conference Center on February 7.



Whitehead Elementary School Superintendent and Principal Lou Ann Wood answers questions during the Spring 2020 Education Fair in the ECU Memorial Student Union February 14. The career fair is an excellent networking opportunity for ECU Education majors and alumni.



Current ECU student teachers recently enrolled in a seminar focusing on a variety of particular concerns for any first-year teacher. Dr. David Thornton, ECU Education instructor, organized and hosted the seminar on campus. In this photo, Ada City Schools Superintendent Mike Anderson addresses the seminar attendees.

The ECU Foundation is turning

50

A year of golden celebration

Hickoff

FEBRUARY 2020

1970- 2020

Show your support for the ECU Foundation by donating from your couch or office chair!

\*More information enclosed

A no-show gala? Yes! To celebrate its 50th birthday in February 2020, the ECU Foundation sent out these fancy invitations for an "event" that wasn't. The novel campaign invited alumni and other community supporters of the University to make contributions from the comfort of their homes rather than carve time out of their busy schedules to attend an in-person gala. Black tie optional, indeed!

See MANY MORE photos at [www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries!](http://www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries!)



## SAVE THE DATE

**March 5, 2020**

Homegrown: Comedy with  
Jen Kober

**March 25, 2020**

ECU Founders Day

**April 10, 2020**

ECU Thunder Night, details TBA

**May 8, 2020**

Evening of Honors and Recognition

**May 29, 2020**

OKC Area Alumni Reunion  
details TBA

**June 5, 2020**

Tulsa Area Alumni Reunion  
details TBA

**September 25 & 26, 2020**

ECU Homecoming Weekend

**For more information visit**

**[www.ecok.edu/alumni/events](http://www.ecok.edu/alumni/events)**

## IN MEMORIAM

Robert Wayne Montgomery  
 Toni LaRuth O'Brien 1983  
 Lindsay Snow 1998  
 William Clay Stokes 1959  
 Sandra Wofford

The ECU family offers our  
deepest sympathy to the  
families of the alumni and  
friends we have lost.

## TIGER TRACKS



**Scott Burtch 2001 & '03**  
was picked to be the  
next Chief of Police in  
Sheldon, Iowa.



**Anita Holloway 1992**  
was named to  
the University of  
Oklahoma Board of  
Regents by Gov. Kevin  
Stitt.

The ECU Alumni Association Board of Directors recently selected new officers and committee members, and added two new members to the board. The current board of directors is as follows:

### OFFICERS

President - Willie Hughes '86  
 Vice President - Lacy Grammer '08  
 Secretary - Pat Fountain '80  
 Treasurer - Trevor Sutton '15  
 Past President - Tiffany Grant Evans '07



### MEMBERS

Finance Chair - Josh Hardage '18  
 Events Chair - Dia Ghosh '17  
 Communications Chair - Shawn Howard '97  
 Nominating & Membership Chair - Chris Van Denhende '82  
 Jesse Allen '09  
 James Brown '75  
 Dare Chronister '10  
 Robyn Elliott '02  
 Hillary Farrell '00  
 Chris Feiler '80  
 Josie Hammock '18  
 Taylor Howard '12  
 Sarita KC '13  
 Monica Neal '91  
 Ray Nicholas '83  
 Bipin Shiwakoti '13  
 Tommy Vass '88  
 Scott Williams '82  
 Timmy Young '88

