

CAMPUS ECU UPDATE

October 2020

Pierson's Perceptions

Two separate studies (both mentioned in this issue of the Campus Update) were released in September by independent, unrelated higher education research groups that confirm what many already know and many more have known for a long time – that East Central University is a winning combination of quality and affordability.

ECU is fully accredited and offers a wide variety of degree programs taught by top-notch instructors. Our beautiful campus boasts excellent facilities. Outside of the classroom, ECU offers a rich campus life with more than 60 student clubs and organizations. Whether it's athletics, arts, humanities or sciences, ECU has a rewarding pursuit for just about any student – all without the high price tag that accompanies so many other institutions.

For many of our students, ECU is also close to home. With Covid-19 still a factor in our lives, it makes a lot of sense to stay closer to loved ones while working toward a degree. At ECU, a student can have it all – a high-quality education at an affordable price, while staying near those who matter most.

Our Distinguished Alumni knew this, as the same was true then as it is now. When I look around campus I see intelligent, caring students embracing the challenges of these unprecedented times and I know their heads and their hearts are in the right places. No matter the era, the ECU spirit remains strong.



Dr. Katricia Pierson
President
East Central University

Elizarde, Huckeby named 2020 Distinguished Alums

Two members from East Central University's Class of 1970 have been recognized as Distinguished Alumni for 2020.

Ruben Elizarde and Dr. Ed Huckeby received the prestigious honor this month. The award presentations traditionally take place in May at the annual Evening of Honors and Recognition banquet. Because the pandemic preempted this year's event, ECU representatives hand-delivered the news – along with the distinctive tiger trophies – to the recipients at their homes.

"We are pleased to recognize Ruben Elizarde



RUBEN ELIZARDE



DR. ED HUCKEBY

and Dr. Ed Huckeby as East Central University 2020 Distinguished Alumni," said Dr. Katricia Pierson, ECU president. "Both men have achieved above and beyond in their chosen fields, elevating not only their own ca-

reers but also the value of the ECU experience. We are honored to add their names to an esteemed list of alumni who have built exemplary lives after graduation."

To read their bios, visit www.ecok.edu/news.



Longtime professor honored with bench

The East Central University Foundation honored Dr. Mara Sukholutskaia, longtime Languages professor and Global Education director, by dedicating a commemorative bench in her name on September 4. To see more photos of this and other events, visit www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries.

Call ECU at 580-332-8000!

TIGER TALES

Pandemic precautions can't dampen Education students' enthusiasm

As in all classrooms, ECU's Education students are wearing face coverings, socially distancing, and



cleaning work areas. With science-based subjects, however, there is a significant amount of hands-on learning involved. Dr. David Thornton's Elementary Science

Methods classes took extra precautions in class, which did nothing to dampen the high spirits of his students. "The masks and shields could not hide their enthusiasm," Thornton said. "They are as eager as they have ever been to join the teaching profession."

Dr. Christopher Bean delivers annual Rothbaum Lecture on George Mason

Dr. Christopher Bean, chair of ECU's History department, presented the Rothbaum Lecture September 17. ECU's Rothbaum Lecture occurs each year on Constitution Day in



order to recognize this important historical event. Bean's lecture was titled "George Mason: Father of the Bill Rights." Attendees were required to meet ECU's Covid-19 safety protocols, including wearing face coverings and observing social distancing. Hand sanitizer and disposable masks were also made available.



Getting it done

ECU students living through the pandemic haven't been deterred from their studies. Whether in class or online, inside or out, they are doing what it takes to earn their degrees. These three students took advantage of a pleasant morning to work on a group assignment at a patio table outside the Bill S. Cole University Center.

ECU among nation's best for low student loan debt

ECU ranked 57th lowest in the nation in LendEDU's student loan debt study, with only 17 percent of its 2019 graduating class carrying any. That compares very favorably to the national average of 55 percent.

In terms of dollars, the study pegged the per-student, national average for loan debt at graduation in 2019 at \$29,076. At ECU, that figure was \$21,665, about 25 percent below the national average. Read more about it at www.ecok.edu/news.



Jazz at the golden hour

The ECU Jazz Band took advantage of a beautiful evening on September 28 to perform its first concert of the fall 2020 semester on Centennial Plaza, which was well attended.



Benita Erwin scholarship now officially endowed

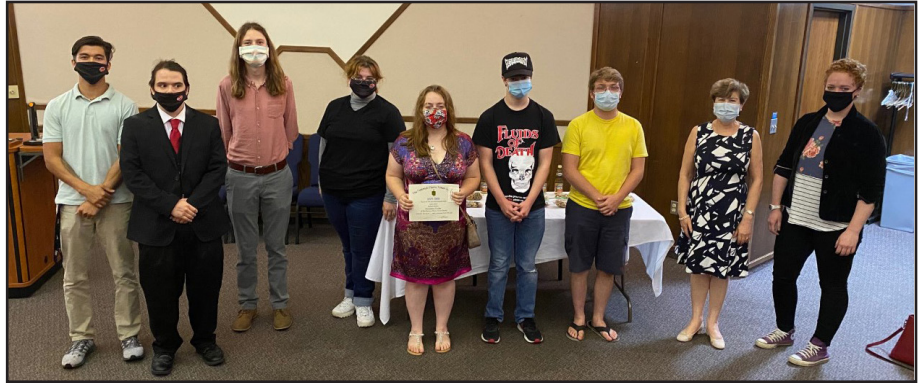
The ECU Foundation has announced that the Benita Wallace Erwin Memorial Scholarship is now officially endowed. The scholarship was established by her family to honor her legacy as a helping professional and servant.

As funds allow, an annual scholarship shall be awarded to an outstanding Social Work undergraduate student who demonstrates interest and commitment to social justice, social change and advocacy. The applicant will also possess leadership qualities to have a positive impact in the social work profession.

Preference will be given to native American applicants. The scholarship will be awarded during the spring semester. For more details, please contact the ECU Foundation at www.ecok.edu/donate.

NOTICE!

All **2020 HOMECOMING** events are canceled due to Covid-19 precautions.



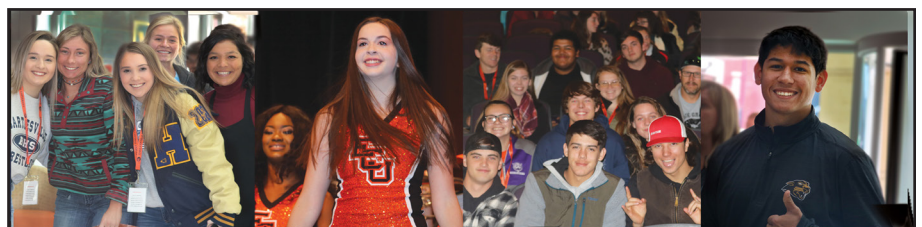
Slavic Honor Society

The ECU chapter of the National Slavic Honor Society, "Dobro Slovo," held its initiation ceremony in September. Second from right is sponsor Dr. Mara Sukholutska.



The colors of fall ...

In an effort to keep campus life as normal as possible during Covid-19, many events are being held outdoors, including this fun tie-dye painting project.



TIGER TIDBITS ...

Tiger Athletics set to implement improved Hall of Fame procedure

ECU Tiger Athletics is moving forward with an improved Hall of Fame election procedure. Nominations will be accepted at any time by anyone, with January 31 being the annual deadline. Nominees who are not selected to that year's class will remain in the voting queue for future ballots. A new category for teams has also been added. Nominations may be submitted online, with categories for student-athlete, team, coach or administration, and distinctive service (non-athletic department members). For more details, visit www.ecutigers.com.

Online Human Services program among most affordable in nation

ECU's online Human Services program has been recognized as one of the most affordable in the nation. According to online research group the Education Reference Desk – which draws its numbers from the National Center for Education Statistics – ECU ranks second on the most affordable list. For more information, visit www.eduref.net.

Accounting alumni earn statewide honors at OSCP virtual ceremony

Three graduates of ECU's Accounting program have earned statewide recognition for their work. Alumni Tony Scott ('82), Jimmy Williams ('87) and Frank Crawford ('85) were recognized by the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants during a virtual awards ceremony September 22. For more information, visit www.ecok.edu/news.

Veterans Student Support Services receives \$1.3 million federal grant

The U.S. Department of Education announced that ECU has received a Veterans Student Support Services grant to help more student-veterans succeed in, and graduate from, college. ECU will receive a total of just over \$1.3 million at the rate of \$261,888 per year for the next five years beginning September 1. The grant sunsets on August 31, 2025. For more information, visit www.ecok.edu/news.

Williams named to NCAA Covid-19 advisory group

ECU Director of Athletics Dr. Jeff Williams has been named to the new NCAA Covid-19 Medical Advisory Group, which brings together professionals from all three NCAA divisions and all five of the autonomy conferences in Division I.



DR. JEFF WILLIAMS

The purpose of the group includes: 1) Reviewing emerging Covid-19 research and data to provide guidance to the NCAA membership regarding training, practice and competition, with a primary focus on testing paradigms and mitigating infection spread; 2) Specifically providing guidance regarding appropriate Covid-19 protocols applicable to training, practice and competition in winter and spring sports; 3) Providing guidance for conducting all sports competitions and championships, including on-site management of student-athletes and essential personnel, nonessential personnel and fans; 4) Providing guidance related to physiological, medical and mental health consequences of Covid-19; and 5) Assessing other emerging information such as vaccines and new medical treatments for the purpose of providing guidance to NCAA member schools.

More information is available at www.ecutigers.com.

Give \$20 in 2020!

Make a gift of
\$20 or more to
East Central University
today & we will send
you an ECU mask!*



*Now through December 31, 2020,
while supplies last.

Follow all sports at www.ecutigers.com!

ECU Foundation Annual Meeting via ZOOM

Thursday,
October 22nd



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.

Thurs., Oct. 22 via ZOOM - 10 AM
Please request ZOOM ID & Password
in writing to foundation@ecok.edu by
10/21/2020

JOIN NOW!



\$35 ANNUAL / \$300 LIFETIME
ECOK.EDU/JOINNOW

IN MEMORIAM

Leota Allen
 Dr. Rosemarie Ann Benya, Ph.D.
 Glen Cobb, 1962
 Ruth Jackson, 1968
 Derrell Kunkel, 1957
 Annie Ryan, 1974
 Jeff Sewell, 1985
 Mona 'Elaine' Whelchel, 1976 & '85

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

TIGER TRACKS

ECU 2020 Distinguished Alumni

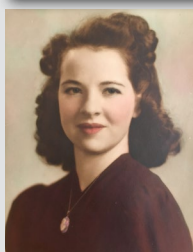


Ruben Elizarde



Dr. Ed Huckeby

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISH



Opal Justina Edwards Berryhill was born on Sept. 12, 1920, and celebrated her 100th birthday last month!

Berryhill graduated from ECU in May of 1942. Her mother sold chickens to pay for her first-semester tuition of college. Berryhill paid for the remainder of her college tuition by ironing, cleaning houses, babysitting and working in the Horace Mann building.

Immediately after graduation, she was a substitute teacher. Her first full-time job was teaching the third grade at Country Estates

Elementary School in Midwest City, Oklahoma. She continued to teach at that school for the next 30 years while she and her husband raised four children.

Today, Berryhill is still physically active while living at an assisted living center. Her greatest enjoyment continues to be keeping up with her family, which includes nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. It is her joy that her Tiger legacy is continued by her youngest grandchild, who is a freshman at ECU this fall.

