

# CAMPUS UPDATE



March 2022

## A note from the president..

Signs of normalcy have returned to ECU.

Despite the recent weather closures, it has been a rather busy time on campus. In recent weeks we've had a visit to the State Capitol for Higher Education Day, with over 20 representatives of ECU making the journey to promote higher education in the state. Numerous faculty, staff, students, and alums also came together to celebrate Black History Month by honoring the MLK Spirit Award winners and attending an address by Shannon LaNier, a direct descendant of President Thomas Jefferson.

Likewise, the ECU production of "Hello, Dolly!" drew large crowds, as did our men's and women's basketball games, with both teams earning a spot in this year's GAC Tournament.

Campus also saw many high school visitors for group tours, the annual "Junior Day," the Regional Science Fair, and OSSAA vocal competitions.

And March and April look to follow suit, with additional Fine Arts presentations, athletic events, the Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, our many awards banquets all to come.



**Dr. Jeffrey Gibson**  
Interim President  
East Central University



## Higher Education Day

More than 20 people traveled to the Oklahoma State Capitol to represent ECU at Higher Education Day Tuesday, Feb. 15. The students, faculty and administration gathered with hundreds of people from other Oklahoma universities and colleges to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in Oklahoma. Above left, Chancellor Allison Garrett poses with Gov. Kevin Stitt and the many college and university students and administrators. Above right, ECU students, administrators and Roary pose with RUSO regents Chris Van Denhende and Connie Reilly.

## Black History Month event a success



Shannon LaNier, a direct descendant of President Thomas Jefferson, spoke at ECU on Feb. 22 as part of Black History Month commemoration. At top left, LaNier speaks to students in a panel discussion. Above, the ECU Black Alumni Association poses with LaNier. At far left, Chancellor Allison Garrett visits with a student while Dr. Jeffrey Gibson speaks with reporters. At left, LaNier (center) poses with former Gov. George Nigh (right) and Donna Nigh.



Call ECU at 580-332-8000!

# TIGER TALES

## Duo premieres new piece for flutes



ECU faculty Dr. Alexandra Aguirre and Dr. Nathaniel Berman premiered a new work Feb. 21 for two flutes by Mexican composer Samuel Zyman, who is an instructor at Vanderbilt University and The Julliard School.

They also performed works by Astor Pizzolla, Paul Arma and Efraín Amaya. The premiere was part of a recital at Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center.

## ECU students' art on display

The third annual "The Love Show" featuring ECU students' artwork was displayed at Hot Shots Coffee House at 709 W. Main in Ada, just down the road from campus. A reception was held Feb. 10 for the artists and the show was scheduled to run through Feb. 28.



## Palentines' Paint Night

Pals gathered in ECU's Stanley Wagner Ballroom Feb. 8 to create Valentine themed artwork.



## Cole visits ECU

Congressman Tom Cole met with ECU Interim President Dr. Jeffrey Gibson, Oka' Institute Director Duane Smith, VP of Institutional Advancement Amy Ford and GOLD (Guard Officer Leadership Development) program leaders and students on Monday, Feb. 14. Gibson, Smith and First Lieutenant Bryce Chitwood thanked Cole for his support of the various federal grants at ECU.

## Three MLK Spirit Award winners named



Three East Central University students were recently honored with the MLK Spirit Award as part of ECU's Black History Month Commemoration on Feb. 22. Jaymin McClarty, Delanie Seals, and Jakaveon Shaw all received the honor. Pictured above from left are Dr. Christine Pappas, Dr. Shirley Mixon, Jakaveon Shaw, Delanie Seals, Jaymin McClarty and Chandra Miller. The award requires two criteria: leadership and service.



## ECU alum organize Clearview event

ECU Tigers were well represented Feb. 19, at Clearview's Black History Month "Life After Sports" presentation. ECU alum Dewey McClain and Darlean Calip shared about their lives post-graduation.



# EYES ON CAMPUS!

## Well, "Hello, Dolly!"

The ECU Theatre spring musical, featuring the notorious matchmaker Dolly Levi, took the stage for three performances on Feb. 11-13. "Hello, Dolly!", with music and lyrics written by Jerry Herman, was under the direction of ECU Theatre Instructor Vickie Reifsnider, with musical direction by Rudy Lupinski, choreography by Shelby Davis, and orchestral direction by Dr. Nicholas Meyers. ECU student Autumn Manus (right) starred as Dolly for two performances, while Nicole Erwin (pictured far right with Markus McClellan) took the lead for the third show.

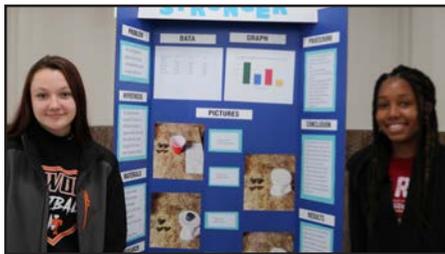


## Vocal Contest

*ECU hosted OSSAA Vocal District Contest on Feb. 22. Many high school students visited ECU to compete.*

## Science fair

*The Regional Science Fair was held at the ECU Stanley Wagner Ballroom on Thursday, Feb. 22.*



*Nearly 100 high school juniors visited ECU's campus to learn how to become an ECU Tiger.*

## Kyte speaks at 30th Parker Ethics Lecture

Dr. Richard Kyte delivered ECU's 30th Annual Oscar L. Parker Ethics Lecture on Thursday, Feb. 17 in Foundation Hall of the Chickasaw Business and Conference Center. During this session, Kyte spoke about "Institutions, Justice, and the Common Good."

Kyte is the endowed professor and director of the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. There, he teaches a variety of ethics courses dealing with issues in business, leadership and the environment. He has published and lectured widely on topics related to justice, forgiveness, virtue, and the meaning of life.

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 Oscar L. Parker, a highly respected educator, businessman, college administrator, civic leader of Ada, and an active supporter and longtime employee of ECU.



*Pictured from left are Dr. Michael Scott, director of the Oscar L. Parker Center; Dr. Richard Kyte, keynote speaker; and Interim ECU President Jeffrey Gibson.*



### Professor contributes to award-winning film

Professor Scott Ketchum contributed to and narrated an award-winning film about the last Choctaw removal to Oklahoma in 1902-1903. Ketchum is a descendant of a Choctaw citizen that was removed to Ardmore in 1903 from Mississippi.



**Ketchum**

The 36-minute short film "Ikhayana La Chi" (I Will Remember) has been receiving astounding recognition since its premiere. It has received the award for Achievement in Native Film Making at the 2021 NatiVisions Film Festival in Parker, Arizona and received recognition from the Bare Bones Film Festival.

It was nominated at the L.A. Skins Festival for Achievement in Short Film-making. "Ikhayana La Chi" recently won the award for Best American Indian/First Nation/Indigenous Feature at the Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival in Claremore.

Screenings have taken place in Wichita, Kansas at the alterNative Film Festival as the featured film; at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco; at the Fort Smith International Film Festival; and the Holba Pisachi Native Film Festival. Click for [more information](#) or to [view the film](#)

### New Oka' Institute director named

A new director is at the helm of the Oka' Institute at East Central University. Duane Smith, of Duane Smith and Associates, stepped into the role of executive director on Feb. 1. Former Senator Susan Paddack retired from the position in September, concluding Oka's maiden voyage through water issues. Smith's knowledge, experience and leadership will steer the institute into new waters. For more, please visit [ecok.edu/news](http://ecok.edu/news).



**Smith**

### Nursing applications

*The ECU School of Nursing has recently increased the amount of applicants that can be accepted by opening up a second entry point to the nursing program. Doing so helps ECU meet the demand for nursing jobs throughout the state of Oklahoma and beyond.*

*School of Nursing Director Darcy Duncan said potential nursing students can apply in the spring to begin the following fall semester. The application deadline is April 4 for students wanting to begin the program for the fall 2022 semester. Those hoping to begin in spring 2023, may apply beginning May 2.*

*Visit [ecok.edu/Nursing](http://ecok.edu/Nursing) for more information.*

# TIGER TOUGH!



ECU Tiger student-athletes continue competing in Spring Sports. Basketball teams competed in conference playoffs while softball, baseball and cross country are just getting started.

To follow the teams, stay connected with [www.ecutigers.com](http://www.ecutigers.com), the official ECU Athletics website! Now about these photos ...

**Above left:** Freshman AJ Ferguson Jr. takes the ball to the hoop.

**Above center:** Senior Alexis Lyons directs traffic on the court.

**Above right:** Sophomore Christian Whitaker is shown in action at a recent game.

**Right:** Sophomore Josi Goodman launches the ball across the field.



Follow events at [www.ecok.edu/calendar](http://www.ecok.edu/calendar)!



Upcoming Events...

# Spring Break!

## March 14-20

*Have a relaxing and safe week!*



### Scissortail Creative Writing Festival March 31-April 2

The annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival returns – in person – to ECU campus March 31-April 2, marking the 17th festival to take place.

A trio of celebrated authors – Arthur Sze, Jenn Givhan and Lou Berney, are the featured authors this year. The event is open and free to the public.

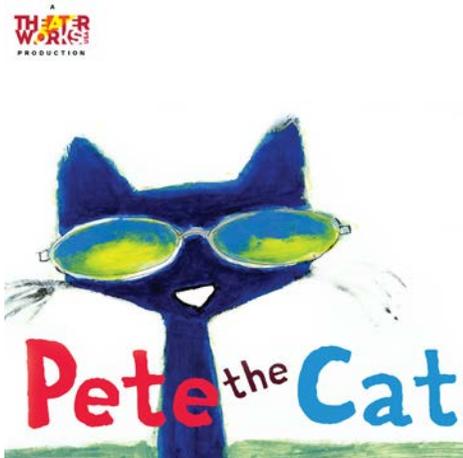
The Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, as always, features Oklahoma’s most prestigious high school creative writing competition, now in its 18th year. The annual Darryl Fisher Creative Writing Contest is open to all state high school students submitting poetry or short works of fiction. Awards for the state-wide competition will be announced on

Saturday, April 2. Winners from the Undergraduate Contest will be presented Friday, April 1 at the Estep Multimedia Center.

Sze, Berney and Givhan will highlight the three-day festival, which attracts some of the best known and unknown writing talents from around the country. More than 70 authors will be a part of the festival. The schedule, speaker bios and updates are available at [ecuscissortail.blogspot.com](http://ecuscissortail.blogspot.com).

For more information on the Scissortail Creative Writing Festival or questions about group attendance, contact organizer Dr. Ken Hada at 580-559-5557 or via email at [khada@ecok.edu](mailto:khada@ecok.edu).





## Pete the Cat - March 8

For Pete the Cat, life is an adventure no matter where you wind up. So the minute the groovy blue cat meets The Biddles, he gets the whole family rocking. That is, except for young Jimmy Biddle, the most organized second grader on planet Earth.

But when Jimmy draws a blank in art class during the last week of school, it turns out Pete is the perfect pal to help him out. Together, they set out on a mission to help Jimmy conquer second grade art, and along the way, they both learn a little something new about inspiration. Join Jimmy and Pete on an adventure of friendship, all the way to Paris and back in a VW Bus!

Purchase tickets at [ecok.edu/boxoffice](http://ecok.edu/boxoffice).



## John Daversa - March 10

John Daversa is a distinguished trumpet-player, composer, arranger, producer, bandleader and educator. He is world-renowned for his dynamic and emotive style of trumpet and EVI playing, along with imaginative, genre-bending compositions and arrangements. Originally from Los Angeles, CA, and a one time Ada resident, he is currently residing in Miami, FL where he is Chair of Studio Music and Jazz at Frost School of Music, University of Miami.

In addition to multiple awards as a bandleader and educator, his large jazz ensemble album, *American Dreamers: Voices of Hope*, Music of Freedom received three Grammy Awards and his big band album *Kaleidoscope Eyes: Music of the Beatles* received three Grammy nominations. He returns to Ada to help the Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center celebrate ten years of fine arts programming!

Purchase tickets at [ecok.edu/boxoffice](http://ecok.edu/boxoffice).



## The Second City - March 28

The Second City has been bringing the funny for over 60 years. We began in 1959 as a small comedy cabaret and have grown to become the first name in improv and comedy, with theaters and Training Centers in Chicago, Toronto, and Hollywood.

We've also taken improv off the stage, expanding our reach to include creative collaborations with a wide range of creative and corporate partners, wellness and education programs, TV, film and digital productions. ...and our alumni list includes some of the funniest names on the planet...

Purchase tickets at [ecok.edu/boxoffice](http://ecok.edu/boxoffice).