

# CAMPUS UPDATE



December 2020

## Pierson's Perceptions

Don't look now, but we are almost to the finish line for the fall 2020 semester, one that has been uniquely challenging and one that has brought out the absolute best in our students, their families, our employees and our alumni.

When you look through the last Campus Update of the calendar year, you'll notice there aren't any photos or stories about the commencement exercise. We hinted in last month's Update about taking a safer approach to honoring our graduates – which is truly the peak of all we do here at ECU.

Without the details, suffice it to say that our staff is working hard to produce ECU's first-ever virtual commencement exercise. It involves pre-recorded pieces and lots of behind-the-scenes preparation and organization. Our Distinguished Alumni for 2020, Dr. Ed Huckeby and Ruben Elizarde, came to campus to make contributions – as did our Regent Connie Reilly. We can't thank them enough for their selfless participation.

These virtual commencement ceremonies – there are two, one for May 2020 graduates and one for December 2020 graduates – occur online on December 12, capping an interesting semester at ECU to say the least.

As 2020 winds down, we cast hopeful eyes toward a healthier and safer 2021. Enjoy the holidays and your families and we'll see you next semester!



Dr. Katricia Pierson  
President  
East Central University

## Athletics roars back!

### Pierson selected chair of GAC Presidents Council

Anybody else ready for some ECU sports?

After the Covid-19 pandemic forced our ECU student-athletes to sit out the entire fall 2020 semester, the Great American Conference

has announced a return to competition in the spring 2021 semester for all its member schools.

Traditional fall sports such as football, soccer and volleyball have amended schedules and will join spring sports, which will follow their previously approved schedules.

Spring sports at ECU include



baseball, softball, track and cross country. Basketball, which traditionally begins in late in the fall semester, will also start in the spring.

Helping shepherd the exciting relaunch

of athletics amid the pandemic is Dr. Katricia Pierson, ECU president, who was selected as chair of the GAC's Presidents Council. Her term runs through the end of the 2021-22 academic year.

To follow your favorite Tiger team and to keep updated on all schedule changes, visit [www.ecutigers.com](http://www.ecutigers.com).



### High school seniors flock to recruiting event

Despite the challenges Covid-19 presents, ECU hosted an incredibly successful Senior Day on November 4 attended by hundreds of prospects. With a strong adherence to safety guidelines, ECU has kept campus open throughout the fall. See more photos, Page 5.



Call ECU at 580-332-8000!

# TIGER TALES

## Social Work students help provide warmth to area dialysis patients

With a compassionate eye always trained on the community, students in ECU's Social Work Student Association (SWSA) raised money with the assistance of Norma's Restaurant in Pauls Valley to purchase and hand-deliver 25 comfortable blankets to local kidney dialysis patients. The SWSA endeavors to provide community outreach every semester to those in need and to agencies that have social workers on staff. This particular semester, Social



Work students reached out to a local dialysis center by providing new blankets to patients undergoing the treatment.

## President Pierson delivers presentation to state Business Ethics Consortium

Dr. Katricia Pierson, East Central University president, delivered a presentation for the November program of the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium. The topic was "The Role of Leaders in Promoting Ethics." She made her presentation via Zoom video conferencing on November 18 and discussed how working with three distinct stakeholders – students, faculty and staff – at a mid-size public university has advanced her understanding of what ethical behavior looks like in practice and the unique challenges it presents.

Read these stories *in full* at [www.ecok.edu/news/](http://www.ecok.edu/news/)!



Linscheid Library staff member Genan Westmoland displays a few of the laptops available for student check-out.

## ECU launches laptop lending library to aid virtual learning

Thanks to a U.S. Department of Education grant, ECU was able to acquire 100 laptops for the sole purpose of making them available to students.

A current ECU student with a valid University ID may check out a laptop from Linscheid Library for a 24-hour period to complete course work or take an exam. A student may also arrange to use a laptop for an extended period of time. Library personnel will make those arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

All available laptops are sanitized before they are checked out to students and again after they are returned. For more information, please contact Linscheid Library at 580-559-5376. Visit [www.ecok.com/news](http://www.ecok.com/news) to read much more about this program!



## Talk about a face mask!

An unidentified ECU student tries her hand at "blind painting" in the Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom on November 19.

# Crews keep campus safe, open

East Central University’s Physical Plant employees are the driving force in keeping the campus not only open during the Covid-19 pandemic, but also safe. Their collective diligence is a big reason ECU has remained open while other schools have been forced to close.

Physical Plant employees are “frontline” workers on campus, because they work in high-traffic areas. They maintain approximately 50 buildings across campus, including classrooms, offices and student housing facilities – in addition to keeping the grounds in excellent shape.

In addition to cleaning, crews replenish Covid-19 safety kits throughout campus, which include disinfectant sprays and wipes. They also maintain the more than 100 extra hand-sanitizing stations that were installed around campus at the beginning of the fall semester.

There are two cleaning crews on campus, one that works during daylight hours and another that works after hours. Between them, they keep the campus deep-cleaned and supplies on hand for those who need them, so there is no lapse in meeting all safety protocols. For more, visit [www.ecok.edu/news](http://www.ecok.edu/news).



**Leading the charge!**  
Physical Plant employees Kelly Low, left, and Roberta Armstrong pause by one of the many hand-sanitizing stations they help maintain around campus.



## Making progress ...

Improvements are being made all around campus. In the top photo, crews work on the renovation of the Bill S. Cole University Center. Above, workers rebuild the earthen slope between Fentem Hall and Stadium Drive.

Refer a Friend

# TIGER

CONNECTION

Do you have friends who want to attend ECU in 2021?  
Share this Application Waiver Code with them today!

**Apply21**  
expires January 15, 2021

580-559-5628  
[ecok.edu/apply](http://ecok.edu/apply)



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



### Making hot chocolate bombs

ECU students make hot chocolate bombs in Faust Hall as part of "First Generation College Student Day." This year marked the 55th anniversary of the Higher Education Act and ECU joined institutions across the country in celebrating the presence and experiences of first-generation college students, faculty and staff on campus.



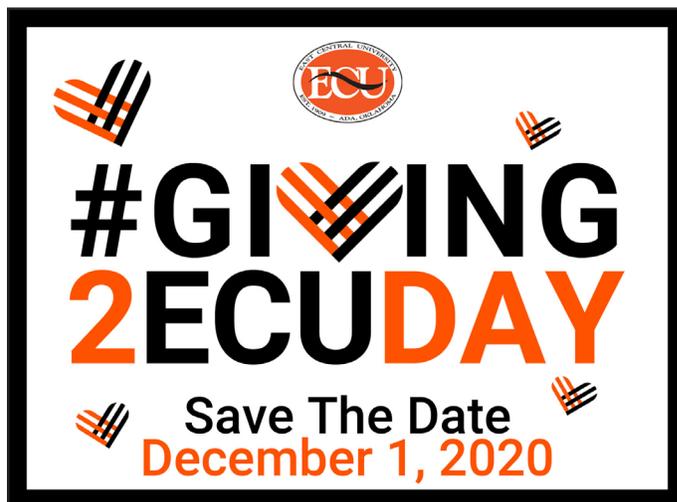
### First of the family!

ECU celebrated its first generation college students on the University Center lawn with a fun-filled event November 9 in observance of "First Generation College Student Day."



### Safety first

In the background, an ECU student visits with a professional on campus for the Career Expo on November 18 in the Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom of the Memorial Student Union. In the foreground is one of many Covid-19 safety posters displayed around campus. ECU has practiced safety around its events.



# ECU Senior Day – November 4, 2020



### New faces on campus

Although they aren't easy to see due to masks, hundreds of prospective ECU students and their parents visited campus on November 4 for Senior Day. While Covid-19 has generated new challenges, the turnout was good proving many high school students have their sights set on becoming a Tiger. At top left, students hang on tour guide Ashley Adamson's every word. Above, VP Amy Ford addresses the socially distanced seniors in Ataloa Theatre. At left, a prospective student and his mother take in the information.

### Have stick, will compete

Taking advantage of unseasonably warm weather this fall, stickball players have managed to play several matches on the lawn of the University Center. Note the ECU orange goal.



See more at [www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries/](http://www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries/)

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner cancelled due to Covid-19 safety concerns

For the first time in its history, Ada's annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will not take place due to safety concerns related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The tradition of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner originated on the ECU campus in the 1970's. The idea behind it was to join Ada area residents with faculty, students and employees of the University to celebrate the holiday together.

The meal has always been free of charge and, for many, represents the only chance to enjoy a holiday meal with the fellowship of others. Unfortunately, organizers felt there was simply too much risk to host the event this year.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner has been held in various locations over the years, from the old Irving School to Wintersmith Lodge to, most recently, the Pontotoc County Agri-Plex. The ECU Human Services Club served more than 3,000 people at last year's dinner.

To donate toward next year's event, contact Jeanene Taylor, 580-559-5435; Shelley Bailey, 580-559-5460; or Melissa Inglis, 580-559-5382.



### Stress relief, part one

*In what appeared to be a great way to relieve the stress of being cooped up throughout the day, ECU students participated in a friendly game of paintball near Koi Ishto Stadium on November 12.*



### Stress relief, part two

*In ANOTHER great way to relieve stress, a member of ECU's Percussion Ensemble performs during an invitation-only concert in Ataloa Theatre on November 19.*

CLICK ANYWHERE ON THE GRAPHIC TO LEARN MORE!



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