

CAMPUS UPDATE



December 2021

Pierson's Perceptions

The Fall 2021 harvest is at hand – and, wow, what a harvest of success and honors it has been! The fruits of this particularly bountiful harvest sure are tasting sweet.

You don't have to look any further than our amazing football team, which just completed its most successful season in a decade. That team is a shining example of the pride and fight that all ECU Tigers have.

But I encourage you to look further. In fact, look as deeply as you can and you will uncover example after example of what it means to be an ECU Tiger.

Whether it's our gifted students winning competitive awards, our faculty members receiving accolades, our alumni making waves out in the world, or our dedicated and hard-working staff members keeping the whole ship afloat, ECU Tiger pride shines through time and again.

Remember last December? Because of the situation the world was in, we held a virtual commencement for Fall 2020 graduates. Thankfully some of those came back to walk with the Spring 2021 class.

As I said at the outset, the fruits of this harvest seem extra sweet – especially for the approximately 300 Fall 2021 graduates who in a matter of days will participate in a proper, traditional commencement all their own.

Happy holidays to each and every member of the ECU Tiger family. Bring on 2022!



Dr. Katricia Pierson
President
East Central University



Tigers weather the Storm!

The ECU football team celebrates a hard-fought, season-ending victory over bitter rival Southeastern in the Great American Classic in Durant on November 13. It was ECU's second consecutive victory in the rivalry game and the 104th overall meeting between the two teams. The Tigers finished the 2021 season at 7-4, their best record since an 8-3 mark in 2011. See [Page 6](#) for more Tiger Athletics!



Future Tigers enjoy campus on Senior Day

Hundreds of area high school students visited the ECU campus on November 3 for the traditional Senior Day. Realizing that students are faced with many options for college, ECU opens its doors each fall semester and extends a warm invitation to them. The 2021 event was a unmitigated success, and mask-free!



Call ECU at 580-332-8000!

TIGER TALES

ECU Mass Comm student earns prestigious OETA scholarship

An ECU junior has earned a \$1,000 scholarship from the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA)



TOMLINSON

as one of the state's most promising media students. Cliff Tomlinson, of Coalgate, is studying Mass Communications at ECU and learned of the award in early November, which is earmarked to help with his tuition and books. OETA is the state's PBS television affiliate. The scholarship is limited to four broadcasting students from Oklahoma. This year, it is being awarded in honor and memory of William "Bill" Thrash and Gene Dillehay as a tribute to their outstanding service to OETA and the broadcasting industry.

ECU Fall 2021 Commencement event scheduled for December 11

ECU's Fall 2021 Commencement exercises have been set for Saturday, December 11. Commencement returns to the Kerr Activities Center, where it traditionally has been held. Last spring, the event shifted outdoors to Koi Ishto Stadium due to lingering Covid-19 concerns. As is tradition, master's degrees will be conferred first, followed by bachelor's degrees. The keynote address will be delivered by ECU's 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Jeremy Humphers, a senior vice president and chief accounting officer at Devon Energy. Humphers graduated with honors from ECU in 1996 and is a native of Pontotoc County. Doors to the Kerr Activities Center open at 8 a.m. and commencement begins at 10 a.m. Attendees can expect ceremonies to last about two hours. A complete visitor's guide can be found [here](#).



HUMPHERS



ECU students deliver hygiene kits

Members of the ECU Social Work Student Association, in a partnership with ECU Wesley, assembled and delivered personal hygiene kits to members of the Ada community's disadvantaged population. The project was also intended to bring attention to "Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week," which this year was November 13-21.

Students honor Pappas with new campus bench

Dr. Christine Pappas was officially honored for her hard work and dedication to students on November 18 with a prestigious bench on the ECU campus. The bench is located next to the Tiger Fountain in front of Science Hall as part of a de facto "ring of honor" that recognizes those who made indelible impressions on the University, its students and its patrons. Pappas is now chair of ECU's Political Science and Legal Studies programs in the Department of Law, Politics and Society. As professor, she teaches Political Science Research Methods, Tribal Politics, Constitutional Law, Women in Politics and more. The idea of honoring Pappas with a bench originated with Dr. Brandon Hill, vice president of Student Development. But it was her students who took the suggestion and ran with it. To read much more, please visit www.ecok.edu/news.



DR. PAPPAS, seated, and DR. SHIRLEY MIXON





Celebrating entrepreneurship!

In the photo at left, Michelle Finch-Walker (center) receives a plaque for being named ECU's 2021 Entrepreneur of the Year. Finch-Walker, an ECU alum, is co-owner of Girls Gone Wine. She is pictured with Wendell Godwin and Dr. Stacey Bolin. Above, ECU Business professor Dr. Germain Pichop speaks to a group of visiting high school students on campus to participate in Tiger Tank, an entrepreneurial pitch competition. These events are part of the annual Limes Lecture, which Finch-Walker delivered on November 10.



White Coat ceremony

ECU Nursing students participated in the White Coat ceremony on November 15. During the ceremony, a white coat is placed on each student's shoulders, signifying their entrance into the medical profession.



Sing out

Members of the ECU Chorale perform at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on November 23, under direction of Dr. Steven Walker.



Bing, bang, boom!

The ECU Percussion Ensemble, under direction of Dr. Nick Meyers, performs inside the Ataloo Theatre on November 18.



First Gen Day

Rhonda Hibbard of ECU NASNTI speaks to a student about Financial Literacy during First Gen Day on November 16.



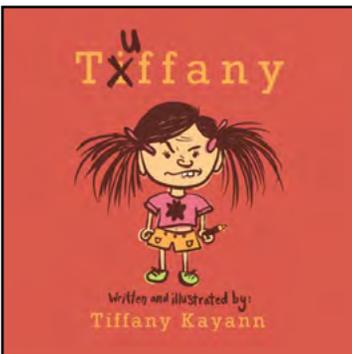


Alpha Chi inducts new members

ECU inducted new members into its Gamma chapter of Alpha Chi on November 15 inside the Ataloo Theatre. Alpha Chi is the National College Honor Society and membership is limited to the top 10 percent of juniors, seniors and graduate students at colleges and universities. The Alpha Chi organization turns 100 years old in 2022. Pictured at top are the new inductees. At left is ECU professor Dr. Ken Hada, who served as guest speaker for the ceremony. Hada read from his latest book of published poetry titled *Contour Feathers*.

ECU senior art exhibits on display now

Three ECU senior art exhibits are currently on display in the Pogue Gallery, located inside Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center through December 3. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and all exhibits are free and open to the public. The artists (their works are pictured here, from left) are Tiffany Johnson, of Allen; Tanner Hudnall, of Wewoka; and Adyson Sullivan, of Shawnee. Read more about the artists at www.ecok.edu/news.



Follow events at www.ecok.edu/calendar!



EYES ON CAMPUS!



Potential ECU students take a selfie while on a campus tour.



ECU student Garrett Workman contributes some fine fretwork to the Jazz Band concert on November 29.



ECU students celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, inside the Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom on November 3.



Theatre instructor Vickie Reifsnider prepares for the Majors Fair on November 3.



ECU student Kaylee Thoma displays her work at the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences meeting on campus November 5.



ECU Russian Language students visited the Russian Food Store in Oklahoma City on October 3.





TIGER TOUGH!

ECU Tiger student-athletes are back in full swing in 2021, following a mostly inactive year due to Covid-19. All games are on this year so come out and support your favorite sport! To follow the teams, stay connected with www.ecutigers.com, the official ECU Athletics website that is bursting with information! Now about these photos ...

Top left: Romello Wilbert, senior guard from The Woodlands, Texas, looks for an opening against Rogers State.

Top right: Madison Rehl, redshirt senior guard from Edmond, directs traffic on the court.

Above left: A Tiger gets a lift to finish a dunk at Tiger Jam.

Above right: Kemyra Landry, redshirt sophomore from Dallas, and Nyah Walker, junior from Bryant, Texas, go up to block.

Right: Mackenzie Crusoe, basketball redshirt freshman from Choctaw, takes it deep in the Softball Home Run Derby.



Follow all sports at www.ecutigers.com!