

CAMPUS UPDATE



July/August 2021

Pierson's Perceptions

The end of summer, the month of August, is a traditional time of harvest – canning pickles and cooking zucchini every way possible. We share the bounty from our gardens with our friends and neighbors.

It can also be seen as ECU's harvest time. During this time of year, we begin to hear how our recent graduates are doing with their completion of national certification exams (our NCLEX pass rate is about 97% and we are waiting on a few more students to test) and landing their first professional jobs (we have alumni starting their careers as attorneys, social workers, accountants, nurses, teachers and so much more).

ECU's garden is perennially fruitful. Tigers from every era are remarkably successful, as can be seen in the stories of our Distinguished Alumni, Service and Former Faculty award recipients.

The loyalty and dedication that is demonstrated by our students, alumni, friends, faculty and staff cannot be overlooked. They are the blooms in our garden.

We will continue to tend our garden with care so that we can share our bounty of quality people with the rest of our neighbors around the world.



Dr. Katricia Pierson
President
East Central University

Humphers named 2021 Distinguished Alumnus

Devon Energy Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer Jeremy Humphers has been named East Central University's Distinguished Alumnus for 2021.

"It's definitely humbling and it's an honor," Humphers said. "It's hard to take individual credit for it. I have been surrounded by a lot of people who have helped me be successful, and anytime some kind of acknowledgment like this comes my way it's easy for me to see a lot of people who helped me get there."

Humphers graduated from ECU with honors in 1996, earning his degree in Accounting and has gone on to achieve incredible success in his field.

To read the entire article, please visit www.ecok.edu/news. To watch a video about Humphers, [click here!](#)



JEREMY HUMPHERS

Johnson tabbed as Interim AD



ECU Tigers Football Coach Al Johnson has been tabbed as Interim Athletic Director effective July 26.

"Coach Johnson has more than 25 years of experience playing for and coaching college and professional teams and building teams throughout

the country," said ECU President Katricia Pierson. "We are pleased he is able to continue his role as head football coach as well."

Johnson will replace Dr. Jeff Williams, who stepped down after eight years to concentrate on teaching and family. To read more, visit www.ecok.edu/news.

TIGER TALES

ECU unveils new Data Science program concentration

ECU's Mathematics and Computer Science department just unveiled its new concentration in Data Science, a study program that combines elements of math, computer science and statistics to provide students with the skills they need to interact with data in the modern world. "This program concentration has been several years in the making, with key members of the department working hard to ensure the right combination of courses," said Dr. Mary Harper, chair of ECU's Mathematics and Computer Science department. "We are excited to offer a degree that is very marketable in the growing field of predictive analytics and analyzing data to help businesses improve customer service and products, while reducing costs." For more information on the new Data Science program, please contact Dr. Harper at mharper@ecok.edu.



DR. HARPER

'Tiger Parent Updates' aim to keep families in campus loop

An informed, engaged and supportive family will play an instrumental role in a student's successful academic journey. That's why ECU is making every effort to provide fresh information, resources and opportunities to connect and guide families through the wide range of experiences their students will have while learning (and living) on campus. Parents and family members may subscribe to the "Tiger Parent Updates" email list to receive regular dispatches on the latest and greatest happenings on the ECU campus. To sign up for Tiger Parent Updates and to read more about how to get – and stay – involved with ECU campus news, events and resources, please visit www.ecok.edu/tiger-parent-family-central.



RUTLEDGE



SPIVEY

Rutledge, Spivey honored for distinguished service

ECU has recognized two people for their outstanding service, one as a former faculty member and the other for volunteer work with the ECU Foundation.

Dr. Carl Rutledge was presented with ECU's 2021 Distinguished Former Faculty Award. Rutledge retired as chair of ECU's Physics department in 2018. In his 37 years of service, he taught not only Physics courses, but also Astronomy, Photography and Fortran programming.

Highlighting a decade of service on the Foundation's Board of Directors, as well as its Investment Committee, Yancy Spivey has been named the 2021 recipient of ECU's Distinguished Service Award.

To read full feature stories on these honored recipients, please visit www.ecok.edu/news.



(Two-legged) Tigers visit the Zoo

The ECU Alumni Association hosted an "ECU Alumni Day at the Zoo" on Saturday, July 31, at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden. More than 100 ECU Tigers showed up for the free event throughout the day despite the intense heat!



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Tigers earn Academic All-Conference honors

The Great American Conference announced a new record of 1,269 student-athletes that achieved Academic All-Conference honors in all sports sponsored by the league for the 2020-21 academic year. That represents an increase of 293 from the prior high.

ECU saw a total of 84 student-athletes claim the honor from all 11 sponsored sports. **Softball** led the way with 13 representatives; **Baseball** added 12; **Football** had 11; **Women's Basketball** had 10; **Soccer** kicked in eight; **Men's Cross Country and Track & Field** contributed six each; **Women's Track & Field, Men's Basketball and Volleyball** each netted five; and **Women's Cross Country** added three.



The number of ECU student-athletes to make the list increased from 58 in the 2019-20 season.

For student-athletes to be recognized on the Academic All-Conference team, they must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing (true freshmen and redshirt freshmen are not eligible) and must have completed at least one full academic year at the nominating institution.

In addition, the student-athlete's grade-point average must be a minimum of 3.3 based on the 4.0 system, and shall be cumulative for the student-athlete's entire collegiate career.

Hitting the links for a good cause

ECU President Dr. Katricia Pierson and Seth Tinsley pause for a quick photo during the 14th annual Daniel Minnich Golf Tournament in July. The tournament raised about \$3,000 for the Daniel Minnich Memorial Student Teaching Scholarship this year. Minnich was an ECU student who passed away during his student-teaching semester. His namesake scholarship is awarded to a deserving Education student during his/her student-teaching semester. Tinsley was his best friend.

Regular hours return



Effective August 2, East Central University has returned to a regular five-day work week. All campus offices are now open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Give back at www.ecok.edu/donate/



Well-deserved honor

Dr. Carol Bridges was recently gifted an ECU Honor Bench from a close friend. The Honor Benches are located in front of Science Hall on the northern end of campus. As the inscription on her bench explains, Bridges was a Linscheid Distinguished Teaching Professor and the Social Work program director, dedicating 35 years of service to ECU from 1978 through 2013.

President Pierson named HLC trustee

East Central University President Dr. Katricia Pierson has been named to the Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), an independent corporation founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States.



DR. PIERSON

The HLC, based in Chicago, accredits nearly a thousand colleges and universities. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of HLC and is made up of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 members. One of every seven trustees is a public representative, and the others are broadly representative of HLC institutions. Pierson's term as trustee begins September 1.

"It is an honor to have been nominated to serve and I look forward to working with the other trustees," Pierson said. "Accreditation of colleges and universities provides the assurance that quality education is occurring at our institutions of higher education. I'm thrilled to be a part of the Commission's work."



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