

# CAMPUS UPDATE

June 2021

## Pierson's Perceptions

First off, a huge thank you goes to all the people who made our spring 2021 commencement ceremony a success. Our recent graduates and their families are still reporting how much they appreciated having the ceremony. For an event with so many moving parts, it went very smoothly.

People in the community have also said that seeing the activity made them feel like ECU was back to normal and that made them feel wonderful. If you were not in attendance, all you have to do is look at the photos to see all the smiling faces.

With that accomplished, now we watch with great pride and joy as our students enter their professional careers or advance in their current ones because of the knowledge and skills gained while they were with us. We are a family and we take great care to make sure the next generation of Tigers is ready to roar.

Indeed, with our exceptional ECU faculty and staff, we take for granted that critical transfer of knowledge. It was a wonderful moment recently to celebrate and recognize our cherished staff members, from physical plant employees to teaching excellence awards to the Charlee Lanis Staff Award. We also wish our retirees happiness in their new adventures.

As with life in general, there is a cyclical nature to all things and this is especially evident at ECU each spring. We are Tigers and we will always stick together.



Dr. Katricia Pierson  
President  
East Central University

More photos  
on Page 5!



## Congratulations ECU grads!

No matter which direction you turned, it was all sunglasses and smiles during ECU's Spring 2021 Commencement event on May 8 at Koi Ishto Stadium. In a break with tradition, the graduation ceremony took place outdoors instead of inside the Kerr Activities Center. This was to ensure the safety of attendees and to accommodate the 2020 grads who missed out on an in-person ceremony because of the pandemic. Luckily, the weather cooperated and everyone seemed to enjoy the change of pace. See many more images from the event at [www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries](http://www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries).



## Going for GOLD

After a five-year absence, East Central University is welcoming the Oklahoma Army National Guard's GOLD Program back to campus in time for the fall 2021 semester. The Guard Officer Leadership Development Program was instituted to develop federally commissioned officers for the Oklahoma Army National Guard. To learn more about the return of ECU's GOLD Program, please visit [www.ecok.edu/gold](http://www.ecok.edu/gold).

# TIGER TALES

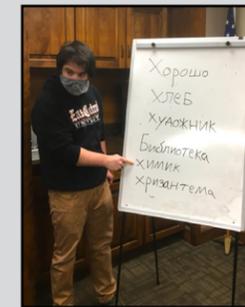
## ECU alumnus Van Denhede named newest RUSO regent

The Oklahoma Senate has confirmed Christopher Van Denhede, of Tulsa, to the governing board of the Regional University System of Oklahoma. Van Denhede was appointed by Gov. Kevin Stitt and fills the position that includes Logan, Oklahoma, Cleveland, McClain, Garvin, Murray and Payne counties. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from East Central University and his MBA from Oklahoma City University. He is a Certified Public Accountant and serves on several boards including the East Central University Alumni Association. RUSO governs East Central University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma. Together these institutions enroll more than 37,000 students annually.



## Russian language program a success at local library

Thanks to an East Central University professor and her students, more local residents are now familiar with the beauty of Russian language and culture. Dr. Mara Sukholutskaya, a longtime Languages professor and director of Global Education at ECU, and her advanced-level students just finished teaching Russian to children ages 9-12 in a six-month run at the Ada Public Library. The free classes were held each Thursday evening at the library. Despite Covid-19, only two classes had to be cancelled – and that was due to bad weather. Because the Russian language program was so successful, Sukholutskaya said she hopes to revive it in coming semesters.



## West claims 2021 George Nigh Award as top senior grad

In an exciting end to what can only be described as an unusual year, Brittany West won the George Nigh Award as East Central University's top graduate for 2021.

The George Nigh Award goes to the top graduating senior from ECU annually and is named in honor of the former governor of Oklahoma and ECU alumnus. In addition to governor, Nigh served multiple terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and as lieutenant governor. He also served as president of the University of Central Oklahoma.



BRITTANY WEST

West was one of five ECU seniors named as finalists for the 2021 Nigh Award, all worthy candidates. The remaining four finalists were **Tylor Arnold**, of Pryor; **Sydney Dungen**, of Alvin, Texas; **Madison Rehl**, of Edmond; and **Ruth Herman**, of Waxahachie, Texas.

To read the entire story, including the academic highlights from all five nominees, visit [www.ecok.edu/news](http://www.ecok.edu/news).



## Water-wise graduates

ECU launched its unique, new master's program in Water Resource Policy and Management five years ago, and is now placing its growing number of graduates at the national vanguard of solving water-related challenges. ECU's program is the only one in the U.S. that combines law and policy, environmental science and Native American law. Spring 2021 WRPM graduates pictured (from left) are Joshua Faulkner, Katherine Hamric and Miguel Inclan, and director Dr. Christine Pappas. Read more about WRPM at [www.ecok.edu/news](http://www.ecok.edu/news).



Call ECU at 580-332-8000!



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### Taking care of business!

ECU's Stonecipher School of Business continues to create and showcase successful students with every challenging competition it undertakes. In the photo above, members of the Enactus team's Village Poultry Enterprise project presented in April at the 2021 Enactus National Expo, where it bested 30 other university-led projects on its way to first place for its early-stage results. As a first-place national winner, ECU's project will now be entered into a global competition this October. At left, Megan Boyles and Lynsey Bonner won the Interview competition in the Service category for their all-inclusive venue idea "Swift and Sweet Events." Their overall project idea advanced to the finals, ultimately earning third-place honors in the Small Business division. The team won a total of \$6,000 in prize money. To read more about the success of these amazing students, please visit [www.ecok.edu/news](http://www.ecok.edu/news).

### A 'vine' day for ECU Foundation

In 2008, while their friend and Broken Bow school teacher Shawn Hutchings was battling breast cancer, the "Girls Gone Wine" owners developed the wine "Friends 4 Life." A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this wine was used to fund scholarships for Hutchings' children. After Shawn lost her battle with breast cancer, the girls decided to keep producing it to honor her passion for education by donating proceeds each year for scholarships for students who have had to overcome personal hardships to continue their educations. Over \$225,000 has been donated since 2008 with the ECU Foundation recently receiving \$17,500. The ECU Foundation is appreciative to be part of this wonderful legacy. Pictured, from left, are John Hargrave, Foundation CEO; Buffy Lovelis, Foundation COO; and Rhonda Reed, Michelle Finch (ECU Class of 1986), and Chandra Rickey, owners of Girls Gone Wine.



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### ECU Employee Appreciation

Academic Advisor and NCAA Eligibility Officer Debbie Claxton, left, accepts the prestigious Charlee Lanis Memorial Staff Award from Dr. Katricia Pierson, ECU president. The annual ECU Employee Appreciation event took place on campus on May 4. To read the related story, please visit [www.ecok.edu/news](http://www.ecok.edu/news). To see many more images, check out [www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries](http://www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries).

## EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

### 2021 FOOTBALL CAMPS

9TH - 12TH GRADE | ALL POSITIONS

CAMP 1: JUNE 5, 2021 | 3PM - 5PM  
REGISTRATION 2PM - 3PM

\$39 LOCATION  
DEL CITY HIGH SCHOOL, OK

CAMP 2: JUNE 12, 2021 | 3PM - 5PM  
REGISTRATION 2PM - 3PM

\$39 LOCATION  
RED OAK HIGH SCHOOL, TX

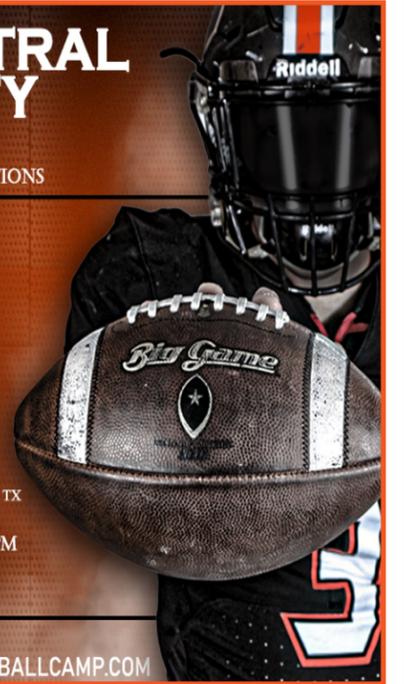
CAMP 3: JULY 17, 2021 | 3PM - 5PM  
REGISTRATION 2PM - 3M

\$39 LOCATION  
NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, TX

CAMP 4: JULY 24, 2021 | 10AM - 12PM  
REGISTRATION 9AM - 10AM

\$39 LOCATION  
EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

GAC Nike ECUFOOTBALLCAMP.COM



# BASKETBALL

# TIGER CAMP



EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

**\$80 / CAMPER**

SIGN UP AT:  
**TIGERBASKETBALLSCHOOL.COM**

**JUNE 7-10**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MAX PENDERY: [MPENDERY@ECOK.EDU](mailto:MPENDERY@ECOK.EDU) / 513-965-1341



For a full list of ECU Tiger summer athletic camp opportunities, please visit [www.ecutigers.com/](http://www.ecutigers.com/)



Follow all sports at [www.ecutigers.com/](http://www.ecutigers.com/)

### SPRING COMMENCEMENT IS A ROARING SUCCESS!!!



### ECU sets summer hours



Starting Monday, June 7, East Central University will move to four-day work weeks (7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily) with offices closed on Fridays. The regular five-day work week resumes on Monday, August 2.

What started out as a way to make up for missed ceremonies halted by the coronavirus pandemic turned into one of the most enjoyable commencement events in recent ECU history! The weather was cooperative and everyone seemed to enjoy the big outdoor celebration. Many 2020 graduates who had to forego an in-person ceremony joined the 2021 grads for a fun event!



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

### ECU, SSC students team up on project



Several students from East Central University and Seminole State College recently collaborated on a community service project as part of their Composition II curriculum for the spring semester.

The course, taught by ECU/SSC shared Assistant Professor of English Jamie Worthley, featured a section on the idea that we do not battle consumerism by avoiding purchases; we battle consumerism by knowing our morals, values, roots and history.

The students put into practice what they have learned – specifically by volunteering to help the homeless community. Students traveled to the homeless shelter “Mama T’s” in Ada to clean and freshen up the landscape by pulling weeds and clearing away litter.

Overall, 26 volunteers from ECU and SSC, including Professor Worthley, lent a hand in caring for the homeless community.

### GREEK DISCOVERY DAY!

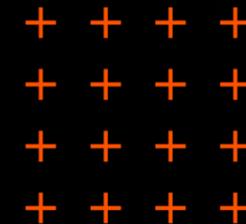
*Sisters are like flowers.*

*Join East Central for  
Greek Discovery Day  
June 5th, 2021*

*they brighten your day.*

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)**

# ENROLL *for* FALL 2021



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