

# CAMPUS UPDATE



May 2021

## Pierson's Perceptions

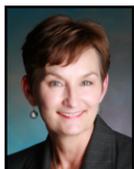
The flurry of activity that goes into neatly wrapping up a semester always brings mixed emotions. For some, there is the joy of accomplishment right alongside the poignancy that flavors the end of an exhilarating adventure.

Senior recitals and projects, awards ceremonies, all the academic rituals of springtime remind us of that bittersweet sensation that seems to accompany milestones. Add to this mix the challenge of the pandemic.

While the past year certainly challenged us, it did not slow us down. This spring, students continued to find success in and out of the classroom, serving in internships, student teaching, and obtaining valuable clinical practices.

Our faculty found ways to complete research and present at conferences to further the knowledge of their disciplines. Our staff worked tirelessly to implement a new enterprise system which provides greater service for our students. More recently, we have even found time to play and enjoy a few social events on campus.

Things are getting better. We will wrap up the final month of this challenging academic year with purpose and confidence and – with great joy – send another graduating class of Tigers roaring successfully into the world.



Dr. Katricia Pierson  
President  
East Central University

## Enrollment gaining steam

East Central University is enrolling some new Tigers!

ECU plans to return to full, in-person instruction beginning with the fall semester and has launched new, easier ways to enroll.

Priority enrollment for the 2021 summer and fall semesters at ECU took place in early April and is now open to all current and future students.

ECU offers more than 70 degree programs and 60 student organizations. ECU is consistently ranked among the most affordable universities in the country,



featuring an average class size of less than 20 students.

There has never been a better time to start. For more information, new

students and parents may contact the Office of Recruitment at 580-559-5628. To get started, visit [www.ecok.edu/apply](http://www.ecok.edu/apply).

## ECU consolidates Nursing program in Ada



An ECU Nursing student participates in the "white coat" ceremony, a formal welcome into the program.

In anticipation of growing its popular and esteemed program, East Central University's School of Nursing will expand admission and focus classroom instruction on the Ada campus.

The School of Nursing has offered classes on the Durant campus since 2001 – much of that time via televised instruction – and has assisted many students in earning their ECU Nursing degrees at that location.

Currently, ECU's School of Nursing accepts approximately 50 new students each year on the Ada campus and around 30 students on the Durant campus.

Consolidating instruction in Ada will allow ECU to expand the program to accept as many as 100 students annually, thereby increasing the total number of qualified nurses available to meet the healthcare demands of southeastern Oklahoma, northern Texas, and beyond.

Read much more at [www.ecok.com/news](http://www.ecok.com/news).

# TIGER TALES

## ECU alum named Alpha Chi 2021 Distinguished Alumna

Former East Central University standout Tana Lala-Pritchard has been named a 2020 Distinguished Alumna by the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society in recognition of her outstanding career work thus far. This award recognizes high-achieving university graduates amongst the top 10 percent in the U.S. who have used their academic excellence and scholarship to build a career of outstanding service and leadership for the greater good. After earning bachelor's degrees in both Political Science and Business Administration from ECU in



LALA-PRITCHARD

2002, with the highest academic honors, Lala-Pritchard earned her master's degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. To read the full story, visit [www.ecok.edu/news](http://www.ecok.edu/news).

## Linscheid Library delivers books to Davis Correctional Facility

East Central University's Linscheid Library is fulfilling its goal of serving populations that otherwise may be overlooked, most recently the Davis Correctional Facility. Linscheid Library recently donated 216 books to the library at the Holdenville-based facility. The books were collected through a "Beyond the Bars" book drive supplied by donations from ECU employees and students. Linscheid Library staff member Kelley Gutierrez managed the book drive and worked with the facility to create a list of recommended titles and subjects to collect. Many of the donated books satisfied the list, including books on prison life, job searching, and learning new skills.



The four ECU professors leading summer research projects for Oka' The Water Institute are (clockwise, from top left) Dr. Christine Pappas, Dr. Leah Dudley, Dr. Jessica Brumley and Kevin Blackwood.

## ECU professors to lead water research projects

Four East Central University professors will lead science-based water projects as part of the Oka' Institute's summer research program.

Leading undergraduates through the Summer Research Opportunity (SRO) projects are Kevin Blackwood, Dr. Jessica Brumley, Dr. Leah Dudley and Dr. Christine Pappas. SRO is a program that encourages water-related research at ECU.

This year's projects will support good watershed management, address a growing concern in agriculture, study the importance of native pollinators on crop yield, and examine travertine as a possible water quality indicator.

To learn about the four projects, visit [www.ecok.com/news](http://www.ecok.com/news).



## (Orange) Crushing it!

These three students were among many who came out and celebrated "Orange Crush" week on campus April 19-23.



Call ECU at 580-332-8000!



Stay up-to-date at [www.ecok.edu/news](http://www.ecok.edu/news)!



**Earth Day 2021**  
The ECU Environmental Health Science Club, including students and faculty, rallied on Centennial Plaza between Hallie Brown Ford Fine Arts Center and Horace Mann to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.



**Best tour on campus**  
ECU Recruiter Makayla Moss, right, guides a prospective student on a campus tour on a chilly, early spring morning. Moss and her fellow recruiters are always game to show off the beautiful campus, regardless of weather!

## ECU Foundation establishes new academic scholarships

The ECU Foundation has established two new academic scholarships beginning in 2021. The **Jeff Sewell Memorial Criminal Justice Scholarship** will be awarded to a successful East Central University student in that field of study.

Jeffery "Jeff" Sewell, of Atoka, was a 1988 ECU graduate. He graduated from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy in July 1988. Sewell served 32 years with the OHP, achieving the rank of Captain. In his first year of duty as an OHP Trooper, he was wounded in the line of duty and then provided lifesaving first aid to his assailant. As a result of his heroism and dedication to duty, he was named the 1988 Oklahoma Trooper of the Year.

The **Pam Horne Memorial Nursing Scholarship** will be awarded to a successful East Central University student in that field of study.

Pam Horne served as an R.N. and nurse manager in several units at Mercy Hospital in Ada for 20 years. A 1980 graduate of Ada High School, Horne was named the 2012 March of Dimes Oklahoma Pediatric Nurse of the Year. She mentored hundreds of college Nursing students and new graduates in her chosen profession.

Donations may be made securely online at [www.ecok.edu/donate/ways-give/online](http://www.ecok.edu/donate/ways-give/online), over the phone via credit card at 580-559-5611, or mailed to 1100 E. 14th St., PMB-Y8, Ada, OK 74820. To learn more, please visit [www.ecok.edu/donate](http://www.ecok.edu/donate).



## Greek Week!

Members of the Chi Omega organization perform during a talent show as part of the annual East Central University Greek Week festivities April 5-9. The fun and games lasted throughout the week and culminated in an awards banquet for all on-campus Greek organizations on the last day of the week. Other zany events included chariot races, Wheel of Fortune and Bumper Ball.



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



**An honorable banquet**  
ECU Honors students Taylor Martin, Wynnewood, and Emily Ford, Ada, enjoy their Honors Banquet on the University Center lawn on April 26.



**On the run**  
Michael Rosario of Katy, Texas, takes off for second base in a recent baseball game against Ouachita Baptist.



**Top of the podium**  
Zach Wells, of Blanchard, finished first in 1,500 Meters and second in the 800 at the Great American Conference Championships in Magnolia, Arkansas, April 15-17.



**Terrific Tigers**  
ECU head basketball coach Matt Cole honors Defensive Player of the Year (left) Mackenzie Crusoe, of Choctaw, and Offensive Player of the Year Kendall Schulte, of Skiatook, at the annual Tiger Athletics Awards Banquet.



**All business**  
Stonecipher School of Business Dean Wendell Godwin emcees the annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on April 27. The event was live streamed.

**ECU**  
Spring 2021  
Event Photos  
[www.ecok.edu/photos](http://www.ecok.edu/photos)



**Sticking with it**  
Brandon White Eagle, Chickasaw Nation stickball team coach, hosted a game on campus April 6 for NASNTI and invited his team to teach the sport's skills to interested ECU students.



**Speaking the language(s)**  
Students from English and Languages show their scholarship awards presented by the ECU Foundation at the department's annual awards ceremony on April 22.



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