

CAMPUS UPDATE



PRIORITY ENROLLMENT
BEGINS NOVEMBER 1!

October 2021

Pierson's Perceptions

It is always a challenge to succinctly summarize a person, place, feeling, thought, event or thing. That is because life and all its myriad presentations are complicated, layered and nuanced. Some say what you see is what you get. Others like to say there is more going on than meets the eye. These seemingly opposite expressions clearly illustrate the chasm that lies between.

Regardless, I want to take up this challenge and share a few words about the incredible return of ECU Homecoming. To use another expression, you don't know what you have until it is gone. Missing Homecoming last year because of Covid-19 left an enormous hole in our collective Tiger hearts. Yes, we all missed much more than that, but there is no single event that better defines and encompasses who we are as a university.

No other event on campus brings past, present and future together like Homecoming. No other event on campus brings so many people together in such a joyous and spirited way. It is our summit, our jubilee. It is our connective tissue, linking Tiger hearts and minds closely together for one very special weekend. I am beyond grateful it has returned.

So about that challenge. With ECU Homecoming, both idioms ring true: what you see is what you get and there is definitely more going on than meets the eye – and Tigers, it is all good.



Dr. Katricia Pierson
President
East Central University

What a Homecoming!



The Tigers lit up the scoreboard, the GOLD cannon boomed, and the capacity crowd roared – and that was just the football game! After missing it last year, ECU brought Homecoming festivities back and school spirit was off the charts. See **Pages 3-4** for more Homecoming coverage!



TIGER TALES

ECU English professor Dr. Ken Hada published ninth collection of poetry

Dr. Ken Hada, an English professor at ECU, has just published his ninth collection of original poetry titled *Contour Feathers*. Hada is a well-known and award-winning poet and five of his previous eight poetry collections were selected as finalists for an Oklahoma Book Award, an honor determined by the state's Department of Libraries. *Contour Feathers* continues in the vein of some of his earlier work in that the "voice" in the poems is seeking order and/or wisdom from the natural world. Hada is a tenured professor in the English and Languages department and has taught at ECU since 2000. He is the founder and director of the Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, a popular event that brings authors and poets from around the country to the ECU campus each spring.



ECU professor Dr. Jacintha Webster named Legal Studies pre-law advisor

ECU has named Dr. Jacintha Webster as its new pre-law advisor, effective immediately. The pre-law advisor assists students in navigating the law school application process. Webster, who is an assistant professor of Legal Studies at ECU, replaces Dr. Christine Pappas in the role. Pappas, who is chair of ECU's Politics, Law and Society department, had served as pre-law advisor since 2005. Webster graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Political Science degree in 2012 and from Oklahoma City University with a Juris Doctorate in 2016. She has also served as a staff attorney for Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) and the Oklahoma House of Representatives. She specializes in Indian Law and is chair of that section of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

Check out the entire stories at www.ecok.edu/news/



Got your goat(s)!

Goat Yoga made a welcome return to campus this fall. This student may have gotten a little more than she expected, but her smile seems to say she is cool with it. Watch the video!



ECU alum returns to deliver 2021 Rothbaum Lecture

Accomplished History professor and ECU alumna Dr. Shae Smith Cox returned to campus September 20 to deliver the annual Rothbaum Lecture.

Cox is an assistant professor of History at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, where she teaches courses on Women's History, Southern History and the U.S. Civil War.

The topic of her lecture at ECU was "When Women Vote: Struggles and Triumphs of the 19th Amendment."

Cox earned her Ph.D. in American History from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in May 2020, with a minor in Public History. She specializes in 19th century race and gender with an emphasis on material culture and memory of the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction.

To learn more about her, visit www.shaesmithcox.com. For the full story, visit www.ecok.edu/news/.



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Homecoming 2021

ECU Homecoming 2021 was a big success and the photos on these pages only scratch the surface of all the events that took place over the weekend. To see more photos, visit www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries!

- No. 1: ECU Black Alumni Association gathered at Pigskin's Barbecue Friday night.
- No. 2: "Golden Tiger" John Williams (Class of 1970) holds his student yearbook photo.
- No. 3: The ECU Band marches in the parade.
- No. 4: A student hula-hoops at the pep rally.
- No. 5: A student in silhouette at the bonfire.
- No. 6: One of many teams who competed in the ECU Alumni Association Golf Tournament.
- No. 7: Homecoming royalty and court pose after the coronation at halftime of the game.
- No. 8: President Pierson enjoys the parade.
- No. 9: Alumnae enjoy pre-game tailgating.
- No. 10: A student competes in a dodgeball tournament during Homecoming Week.
- No. 11: Jimmy Scales (Class of 1966) honors the life and legacy of ECU professor O.W. Lee.
- No. 12: Member of the ECU Tiger basketball team prepare to march in the parade.
- No. 13: Members of ECU Showtime ride on their Olympic-themed parade float.



TIGERPALOOZA!

The Bron Warren Tournament of Bands

Sideline last year due to the pandemic, the popular "Tigerpalooza: The Bron Warren Tournament of Bands" competition made a triumphant return to Koi Ishto Stadium on September 25. Tigerpalooza was organized in 2010 in memory of Bron Warren. Proceeds from the marching band contest fund scholarships for members of the Pride of Tigerland marching band. The event and scholarship's namesake, Hugh Bronson "Bron" Warren III, was a 2007 ECU graduate and a talented multi-instrumentalist. High schools that competed in this year's Tigerpalooza include the Oklahoma Home School Band, Antlers, Holdenville, Kingston, Ada, Midwest City, Altus, Durant, Elgin, Duncan, Ponca City and Norman. To see more photos, visit www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries!



In the top left photo, the ECU "Pride of Tigerland" marching band performs for the crowd. At top right, Tigerpalooza supporters cheer on their school band. In the photo above, Bronson Warren (in hat) and his family take in the festivities at the event named for his son. Bron was a 2007 ECU grad and a talented multi-instrumentalist.



Time to become a Tiger?

These high school seniors attended an area-wide college fair on the ECU campus on September 17. Enrollment for new students begins next month!

About the QR Codes ...

You may have noticed, starting with last month's Campus Update, the appearance of these strange little black and white boxes with seemingly random patterns inside. For those who may not know, these are called "QR Codes." They are a fun way to link to external media such as social media and video, and what makes them useful is they can be activated via the camera on your



phone – either from a computer screen or from a printed page. They work either way! The code pictured here is a simple link to our website, for example. At ECU, we want to provide our friends and supporters with as interesting and immersive an experience as technology allows. We'd love to hear your feedback on them. Send us your thoughts at [ecuinfo@ecok.edu!](mailto:ecuinfo@ecok.edu)



See more at www.ecok.edu/photo-galleries!



Brown receives Milam Award

The ECU Athletics Department has awarded its annual Milam Award to Richard Brown, a former Tiger football player that now counts among his many accomplishments as being a Big 12 Conference Football Official, family man and philanthropist. Since 1972, the Milam Award has been presented at ECU's homecoming football game to a former Tiger football player who not only excelled in the classroom and on the gridiron, but also distinguished himself in his chosen career. The award is named in honor of Joe Milam, a former educator and coach in the states of Oklahoma and Texas. Pictured with Brown are Keith Miller and President Pierson.

Use your phone to scan the QR Code to watch a video about Richard Brown!



Tigers are roaring!

After having their seasons sidelined by Covid-19, the men and women of ECU Tiger Athletics are back in action and roaring with a vengeance. Space in this small publication doesn't allow for coverage of the incredible success they are experiencing so far this year. Please visit www.ecutigers.com to follow your favorite teams or come out and support them!



Follow all sports at www.ecutigers.com!