Pierson’s Perceptions
Happy 112th birthday, East Central University.

Having a birthday in the spring seems appropriate as it is a time of transition, renewal and growth. When Dan Hays donated the land that would eventually become ECU, he probably never dreamed of all the tremendous talent that would sprout here.

As we enter into the final half of this spring semester, we are thoughtful of what we have accomplished and what we have left to complete. Interestingly, our students will be enrolling for summer classes in our old registration system of Jenzabar and enrolling for fall classes in our new system, Colleague. Transitions are always a challenge. As we all know, however, the Tiger community always rises to the challenge. There are lots of activities still to participate in this spring, both virtually and in-person. Please join us at these events and share the spirit of challenge and success.

With all the question marks the past year has given us, one thing is certain: it was anything but normal. Here’s hoping ECU’s latest spring return to normalcy reflects a renewal of hope that life on campus can finally return to normal.

Campus planning a return to normalcy

Priority enrollment begins April 5

Thanks to a strong adherence to Covid-19 safety protocols across campus and a sharp rise in vaccine availability, East Central University plans to return to full, in-person instruction for the upcoming Fall 2021 semester.

Some safety protocols may remain in place for a while longer, but as always ECU will follow recommended guidelines as set forth by local, state and national health care agencies.

ECU is also making plans to host an in-person commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 8, at Koi Ishto Stadium.

The ceremony is for Spring and Summer 2021 graduate candidates, as well as the two 2020 graduating classes who were unable to experience an in-person commencement.

Meanwhile, priority enrollment begins for the Summer and Fall 2021 semesters on April 5 and continues to April 15.

To read many more details on these exciting developments, please visit the ECU website at www.ecok.edu/news.

Almost time to graduate!

Natalie Jack, of Ada, is just one of many ECU seniors very excited to learn about the return of an in-person commencement ceremony.

Dr. Katricia Pierson
President
East Central University

ECU librarian honored with Online Excellence Award

East Central University Public Services Librarian Marla Lobley has been honored with a 2021 Oklahoma Online Excellence Award. The award, presented by the Oklahoma Council for Online Learning Excellence (COLE), recognizes talent and expertise within distance learning throughout the state.

Dr. Jessica Koch, an Education instructor at ECU, nominated Lobley for the award, in particular for her work with Open Educational Resources (OER). These are free learning materials that have an open license to allow for increased student engagement and the promotion of equity in education. “I am so honored to receive this award and I am very grateful for my colleagues at ECU and in COLE who have helped me to lead OER efforts on our campus,” Lobley said. Read more at www.ecok.edu/news.

LOBLEY

Popular ECU creative writing festival returns, virtually

After an unexpected interruption by last year’s sudden Covid-19 outbreak, ECU’s popular Scissortail Creative Writing Festival is making its full, triumphant return – virtually. The 16th annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival takes place April 1-3, and the 2021 edition will take advantage of live-stream technology to connect authors with audiences. All authors will be live streaming presentations of their works during the first three days of April at www.youtube.com/tigermedia.

Are you ready for Tiger football??

In the photo at left, ECU wide receiver Chris Shaw, a junior from Richmond, Texas, makes a nice grab in a scrimmage at Harding University on March 4. The home football game this season is at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at Koi Ishto Stadium. Come support the team! For more information, please visit www.ecutigers.com. (Photo by Jay Hinton Photography.)
Oklahoma 2021 Teacher of Year is ECU student

Oklahoma’s 2021 Teacher of the Year is still in school at East Central University. Jessica Eschbach, who currently teaches in the Norman school system, received the prestigious honor from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The award has been presented annually since 1955.

Eschbach is currently enrolled in ECU’s master-level Educational Leadership program, which is designed for the graduate student specializing in administration for grades K-12. ECU’s online program is accredited on both national and state levels and all its instructors have administrative experience or are current practicing administrators. She is set to graduate this spring.

“I have enjoyed my time as a student at ECU so much,” Eschbach said. “The Educational Leadership program has helped me develop the necessary skills to be successful in an administrative role, while also being flexible and supportive of students like me who are managing work and school.”

Eschbach currently works as the Innovative Learning Coach at Norman North High School. To read the full story, please visit www.ecok.edu/news.

ESCHBACH

16th Annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival
Streaming Live April 1-3, 2021

Gone ... again!
Garrett Lemons, a red-shirt sophomore from Lone Grove, celebrates another of his team-leading home runs March 26 against Arkansas-Monticello. It has been a wacky year, so keep track of all games at www.ecutigers.com!

Give back at www.ecok.edu/donate!