

Pee Dee the Pirate ^[1]

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Pee Dee the Pirate

ECU, Greenville

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Description: The statue of the East Carolina University mascot, Pee Dee the Pirate, stands 13 feet tall and is constructed from three tons of cast bronze atop a concrete base. The pirate is dressed in typical swashbuckler attire, with a large tricorne hat, tall cuffed boots, and a pistol in his belt. He is depicted ready for action, with his right foot resting atop a mound of cannon balls and his right hand raised high brandishing his sword. A small cannon is placed on his right. The sculpture sits on a large semi-circular base that holds a bronze plaque with the inscription.

Inscription:

THE ECU PIRATE / A GIFT TO / EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY / FROM / IRWIN BELK. / SCULPTED BY / JODI HOLLNAGEL-JUBRAN / AND HANNA JUBRAN / DEDICATED / OCTOBER 23, 1999.

Dedication date: 10/23/1999

Creator: Hanna Jubran, Sculptor Jodi Hollnagel-Jubran, Sculptor

Materials & Techniques: Bronze, concrete

Sponsor: Private donation by Irwin Belk and guidance given by the East Carolina University Educational Foundation, Inc. (also known as the "Pirate Club")

Unveiling & Dedication: The monument was dedicated and unveiled on October 23, 1999 as part of East Carolina University's homecoming festivities.

Subject notes: The name "Pee Dee" comes from North Carolina's long history with pirates. The Pee Dee River, running along the border between North Carolina and South Carolina, was a popular encampment for the pirates of the area. The mascot's appearance is based on the most well-known 18th century pirate of the region, Edward "Blackbeard" Teach. The statue was a gift from Belk Department Store magnate Irwin Belk, a statewide supporter of college athletics. According to the ECU Pirates website, the name for the mascot came from a naming contest in the local Pitt County schools.

Controversies: According to the website of the ECU Pirates, in 1985 ECU's chancellor shortened the mascot's name to simply "The Pirate" after complaints from the student body that they had no input in selecting the name.

Location: The monument sits in a brick courtyard outside the west end of the ECU stadium between the Murphy Center to the north and the Scales Field House to the south.

Landscape: The monument sits in a brick courtyard. A small lawn area and plantings are adjacent to the courtyard.

City: Greenville

County: Pitt

Subjects: Educational Institutions, Mascots

Latitude: 35.59656

Longitude: -77.36665

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Origin - location:

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[Greenville](#) ^[7]

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