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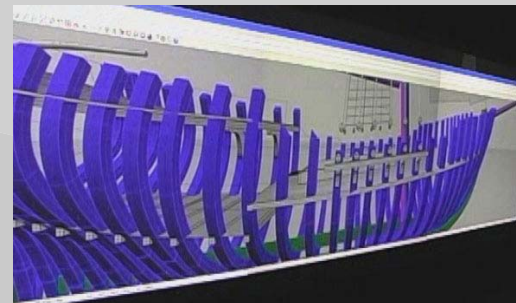
NEWSLETTER OF THE THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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FALL 2008

ALAN R. WHITE, DEAN



VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

LECTURER MEETS WITH STUDENT LEADERS



On October 8, Walter Isaacson, president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, was the featured speaker for the premier lecture in the Thomas Harriot Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. The premier lecture was sponsored by the David Julian and Virginia Suther Whichard Fund.

Prior to his public lecture on “Creative Leaders Who Have Shaped Our World,” Isaacson met with a small group of students from the college’s first leadership studies course, “Introduction to Leadership Studies.”

“Meeting with Walter Isaacson was a tremendous opportunity for our students,” says Michael Brown, associate dean for undergraduate studies and director of the leadership studies program. “He is a world-class leader with a sound understanding of both the practical and scholarly underpinnings of leadership. Mr. Isaacson was able to demonstrate how useful the liberal arts are to understanding leadership—how knowing about history, philosophy and political science, for example—deepens ones understanding and appreciation for

leadership and the relationship of leadership to human welfare.”

During his public presentation in Wright Auditorium, Isaacson discussed the importance of being creative, open-minded thinkers. He focused on two main figures in America’s history that he believes made an impact because of their creativity and spirit: Benjamin Franklin and Albert Einstein.

“Being creative and open-minded is such an important part of leadership and making great contributions to this world,” Isaacson said.

Isaacson received his bachelor of arts in history and literature from Harvard College and his master of arts in philosophy, politics and economics at Pembroke College, Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He began his career in journalism at the *Sunday Times* of London and then the New Orleans *Times-Picayune/States-Item*.

In 1978, Isaacson joined *Time* magazine and served as a political correspondent, national editor and editor of new media before

becoming the magazine’s 14th managing editor in 1996. In 2001, he became chairman and CEO of CNN, and two years later, he became president and CEO of the Aspen Institute.

He is the author of several best-selling biographies including *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (2007), *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (2003) and *Kissinger: A Biography* (1992).

The Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series is made possible through generous contributions from the Dean’s Advancement Council, the East Carolina Alumni Association and additional friends and supporters of the college. For more information about the series, visit www.ecu.edu/voyages. A list of the remaining lectures can also be found in the events section of this newsletter on page 15.

(Photo: Isaacson is greeted by student Brittany Bates at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Welch. Photo taken by Perceval Murphy.)

J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Professorship Announced

This fall, the college was pleased to announce that Dr. Mary Nyangweso Wangila joined the faculty as the first recipient of the J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Professorship in Religious Studies.

“I feel tremendously honored,” says Wangila. “What fascinates me about the position are the values that it embodies – values of diversity, social justice – values which I have embraced in my teaching and research, and values that I hope to continue to promote in the classroom and the university in an effort to make a difference in our communities.”

Established in 2007 by Dr. Jesse R. Peel, the professorship honors Peel’s parents J. Woolard and Helen K. Peel of Everetts, NC.

As recipient of this distinguished professorship, Wangila’s primary duties will be to enhance the offerings of the Religious Studies program by maintaining an active research and teaching agenda, serving on the Religious Studies Committee and contributing to the Department of Philosophy, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and ECU. She is now the third full-time religious studies professor in the department.

Wangila comes to ECU from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is the author of *Female Circumcision: The Interplay between Religion, Gender and Culture in Kenya* (Orbis Books, 2007), as well as many other publications in scholarly journals and selected book chapters.

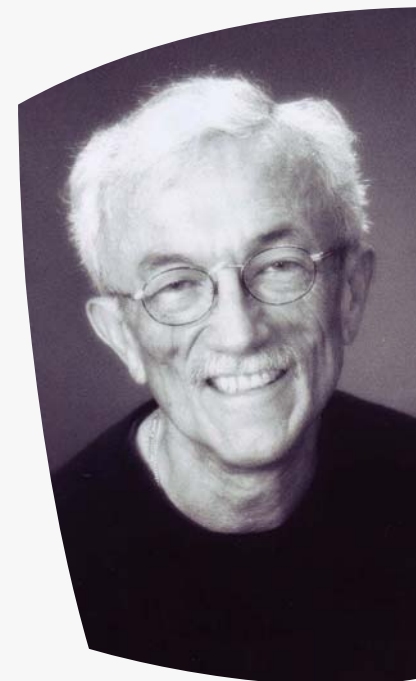
She has served as an invited speaker at a symposium on “Women and HIV/AIDS in Africa” held at the University of Illinois and as a presenter at the American Academy of Religion in Washington, DC. Wangila is a member of the African Studies Association and the American Academy of Religion.

Professor Wangila received her doctoral and master of philosophy degrees in sociology of religion from Drew University in 2004 and 2002 respectively; a master of theology from Emory University in 1999; a master of philosophy in religion from Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya, in 1992; and her bachelor of education from Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya, in 1988.

Dr. Mary Nyangweso Wangila



Dr. Jesse R. Peel



Biologist and His Spiders Make National News: Appear on Colbert Report

A pair of newly discovered trapdoor spiders made national headlines – and the late-night talk show circuit – after an ECU biologist named them after a rock star and late-night talk show host.

Jason Bond, who studies and classifies new species of trapdoor spiders, enjoyed a round of international media attention this spring after he named a spider after

at <http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/168483/may-14-2008/who-s-not-honoring-me-now---science>.

On June 24, Colbert called Bond during his show to inquire about the spiders, and to ask if Bond would name one of the 27 recently discovered spider species after him. Bond agreed.

With several spiders in tow, Bond appeared live on “The Colbert Report” on August 6, to talk about the newly named spider, the *Aptostichus stephencolberti*.

Colbert, in a Dating Game-style format, “interviewed” the three spiders before selecting the trapdoor species that best suited him. “Spida of Love,” can be viewed at <http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/178730/august-06-2008/spida-of-love--jason-bond>.

Ever since word got out that there are still a couple of unnamed spiders, Bond has received inquiries from across the country asking for the honor. He’s not made any decisions just yet. The rules to naming a new species, Bond said, are rather strict.

“But as long as these rules are followed you can give a new species just about any name you please,” Bond said.

While Bond’s spider naming has made international headlines, the

naming of spiders is one small aspect of his research, which encompasses taxonomy, evolutionary studies and biodiversity. Bond has received grants from the National Science Foundation to classify the trapdoor spider species and to contribute to the foundation’s Tree of Life project. The findings of his discovery appeared in the August issue of the scientific journal *Systematic Biology*. Other spiders in Bond’s arsenal have been named after Nelson Mandela, Angelina Jolie, and Bond’s wife, Kristen.

(Note: The full article for this story, written by Erica Plouffe Lazure, originally appeared in the Aug. 29, 2008 issue of *Pieces of Eight*, at www.ecu.edu/news/poe/Arch.cfm.)

(Photo provided by Jason Bond.)



the rock legend Neil Young. News of the *Myrmekiaphila neilyoungi* reached as far east as *The Times of India*, as far north as Canada’s CBC, and in venues as widely read as the *New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Bond’s naming venture also caught the attention of late night talk show host and comedian, Stephen Colbert, who complained on his Comedy Central show, “The Colbert Report,” that no spider had been named after him. “Who’s Not Honoring Me Now,” can be viewed

Excavations in Search of State Governor Richard Caswell Grave

Richard Caswell is considered a prominent figure in North Carolina's history. He has been called a Revolutionary War hero, and he served as North Carolina's first governor after the war. In an effort to more fully explore his life and death, anthropology professors Dr. Charles Ewen and Dr. Megan Perry, and graduate students Sheri Balko, NJ Mullens and Jonathan Smith, have been searching for Caswell's final resting place.

At the time of his death, Caswell owned two cemeteries in Kinston, NC, and it was believed that he was buried in one of them. In 2000, excavations at the cemetery in downtown Kinston found two individuals. However, analysis at the Smithsonian determined that neither of them were the governor.

On May 14, an excavation began at the cemetery located at the CSS Neuse State Historic Site and Governor Caswell Memorial, to determine if this is the location of Caswell's grave. New evidence, based on historical documents, oral history and an early 20th century photograph of the cemetery suggests that Caswell is buried next to his two wives and one of his daughters.

Previously, a grave shaft was partially excavated in a location identified with ground-penetrating radar, and wooden planks were exposed just below the water table.

After consultation with conservators and archaeologists from ECU's Maritime History program, the Queen Anne's Revenge Conservation Lab and Of Grave Concerns, cemetery removal specialists, a plan was made to carefully investigate the waterlogged remains.

Anthropology graduate student Balko hoped to uncover evidence that would identify the grave's occupant as Caswell. However, it was soon discovered that the gravesite contained the bottom of a casket, and nothing more.

What has happened to Caswell's body? Why is this important? The mystery continues as Balko conducts her master's thesis, researching state and historical archives and interviewing members of the North Carolina Masons, a group that Caswell served as Grand Master.

Will the mystery one day be solved? Right now, it is a work in progress.

Sponsors of the project include the Moseley-Bright chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; the CSS Neuse State

Historic Site and Governor Caswell Memorial; and Clair Hadley and Martha Marble, who have been crucial in identifying intact descendant lines for the purpose of ancient DNA testing.



(Photo: Sheri Balko, Harriot College Dean emeritus Keats Sparrow, NJ Mullens and Jonathan Smith contemplate Caswell's possible burial site. Photo provided by Dr. Charles Ewen)

History Professor, Students Authenticate Wright Brothers Artifact

This past April, along with several Harriot College students, Dr. Larry Tise, history professor and a leading Wright brothers authority, worked to analyze and authenticate the history of a small wooden table believed to be used by the Wright Brothers at their “camp” in Kitty Hawk.

After close examination and further

Owner of the table, Ron Ciarmello, an Outer Banks jeweler, came to own the table after he answered a classified ad earlier this year.

Ciarmello said the person selling the table said her family had it for about a century and had used it through the years in the family laundry room and as a utility table in a family-operated barbershop. The family was moving and had decided to sell it.

Ciarmello contacted Tise after seeing his book at the Wright Brothers National Memorial gift shop and finding that the book contained an image of the table.

Tise travelled to Kitty Hawk and met Ciarmello. “We examined and studied the table for almost three hours,” said Tise. “The more we looked, the more we decided this could not be a fluke.”

The table consists of three “convincing” components: the legs are from a pre-existing writing table and the top is made from the sides of a shipping crate and two remnants of ash rib material used by the Wrights to build their gliders.

The different types of wood, combined with the shipping label addressed to Wilbur Wright, “W. Wright, Elizabeth City, North Carolina,” and a distinctive exposed

nail that can be seen in the same location on the table in photos of the Wright’s camp, led Tise and his students to conclude this was the same table.

The table was shown publicly for the first time on April 24 at the Wright Brothers National Memorial site in Kill Devil Hills. It was presented during a public program where Tise and his students discussed their research and findings on the little known secret flights of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk in May 1908.

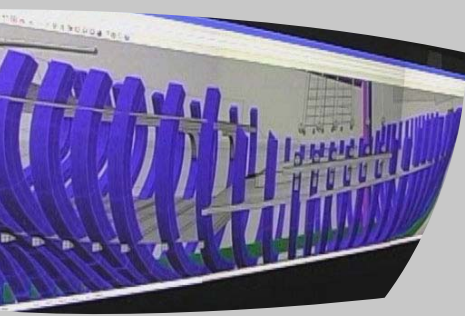
For more information on the Wright brothers’ life in Kitty Hawk and their 1908 flight, go to www.WorldAloft.org. Also, more on the Wright brothers can be found at <http://www.digital.lib.ecu.edu/exhibits/wright/index.html>.

(Photo: Ron Ciarmello, left, and Dr. Larry Tise, history professor and expert on the Wright brothers, examine the table. Photo by Cliff Hollis, ECU News Services.)



study of the table, Tise said he is positive it is the same table shown in 1902 photographs of the Wright brothers’ living quarters, which appear in Tise’s book “Hidden Images: Discovering Details in the Wright Brothers’ Kitty Hawk Photographs 1900-1911.”

Eric Ray, maritime studies graduate student, and **Robert Howard**, geological sciences graduate student, received top honors at the first-ever ECU Visualization Challenge competition held by the RENCI at ECU Engagement Center and the Center for Coastal Systems Informatics and Modeling this past spring.



Other Visualization Challenge participants included **Chris Betancourt**, biology graduate student; **Laurynas Gedminas**, geography undergraduate; **Nadine Kopf**, maritime studies graduate student; **David Lagomasino**, geological sciences graduate student; **Suzanne McArdle**, geography graduate student; and **Garrett Nelson**, geography graduate student.

Congratulations to the 11 students who completed their MA in International Studies this past May. They are **Laura Amerson** (Rwanda/Kinyarwanda/Public Health), **Kristin Bolton** (Spain/Spanish/Security Studies), **Andrea Cadwell** (Afghanistan/Pashto/Security Studies), **Carrie Carman** (El Salvador/Spanish/Hispanic Studies), **Harmon Driscoll** (Italy/French/Museum Studies), **Sandeep Gottipamula** (English/US/Business), **Steven Mann** (Brazil-

Argentina/Spanish/Security Studies), **Rachel Parker** (Switzerland/French/Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies), **Alexander Penn** (UK/Chinese/Security Studies), **Katherine Weingarten** (Luxembourg/German/Security Studies), and **Sijia Yang** (US/English/Business).

In addition to having completed a concentration in international studies with a thesis or non-thesis option, the students spent at least 10 weeks in an international setting and met foreign language requirements.

This summer, ECU biology students received the top two awards in the student paper competition at the 32nd annual meeting of the American Arachnological Society, held at the University of California, Berkeley.

Amy K. Stockman, a doctoral student, won first place for her paper, "An Integrative Method to Delimiting Cohesion Species: Finding the Population-Species Interface in Trapdoor Spiders with Extreme Genetic Divergence and Geographic Structuring," co-authored by biology professor Dr. Jason E. Bond.

Ashley L. Bailey, a sophomore and GlaxoSmithKline Women in Science Scholar, won second place for her paper, "Evolution of Male Genitalia in the Trapdoor Spider Genus *Myrmekiaphila*," co-authored by Dr. Brent E. Hendrixson and Dr. Jason E. Bond.

Jason Glisson, senior anthropology student, attended an archaeology

field school in Belize this summer. While working at a site near Mayan temples in La Milpa, Glisson discovered an underground chamber that measured 2-meters in diameter. Within the chamber, he discovered the skeletal remains of a young man, which osteologists date to over 1,000 years old, and possibly 1,500 years old. This is one of the oldest burials to be discovered at the site, to date. Because of his discovery, Glisson has been invited to co-author a written report on the skeleton. He also discovered the only piece of pottery marked with a Mayan hieroglyph at the site.

Glisson also is the 2008 recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which is allowing Glisson to study abroad at the University of Tuebingen in Germany for the 2008-09 academic year. The scholarship is sponsored



by the U.S. Department of State and the Institute of International Education.

(Photo: Glisson outside the entrance to the underground chamber. Photo provided by Glisson.)

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESSES

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

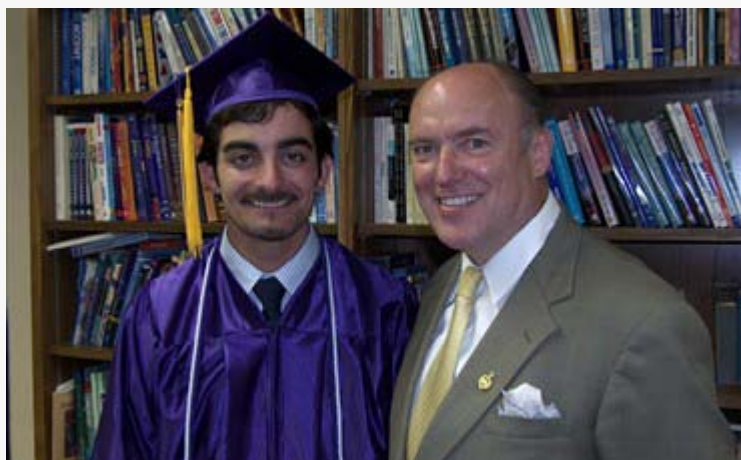


Foreign Languages Graduation Photos

(left to right) Drew Ligon, Christopher Edwards and Thomas Taylor



(left to right) Diane Diefenbach, Rebecca Caudle and John Duffus



(left to right) Thomas Taylor with professor Frederick Fladenmuller

Congratulations to all of the Harriot College nominees that received certificates at the 12th annual Teaching Awards Ceremony held this past spring, hosted by the Faculty Senate and Chancellor Steve Ballard. Nominees from the college included **Erik Everhart**, psychology; **Carol Goodwillie**, biology; **Gregg Hecimovich**, English; **Yumin Li**, chemistry; **Javier Lorenzo**, foreign languages and literatures; **Andrew Morehead**, chemistry; **Sherry Southard**, English; **Heather Vance-Chalcraft**, biology; and **Christy Walcott**, psychology.

African and African-American Studies

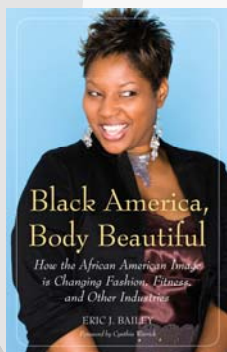
History professor and director of the African and African American



Studies Program, **David Dennard**, led a study abroad trip to Ghana, Africa this past July. Six ECU students and other faculty embarked on the two-week journey as part of an intensive study of the African diaspora with an emphasis on the transatlantic voyage from West Africa to the Americas.

(Photo: David Dennard, center, and ECU student Ina Johnson, left, try on colorful Kente cloth while a local vendor works to make a sale.)

Anthropology



Eric Bailey recently published his book “Black America, Body Beautiful: How the African American Image is Changing Fashion, Fitness and Other Industries.” In the book, Bailey offers a range of personal observations, case studies, assessments, timelines and online discussions that detail the rising influence of black body types in mainstream media and other industries. One of four book signings took place at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Greenville.

Asian Studies

For four weeks this summer, **John Tucker**, history professor and director of the Asian Studies Program, led 12 public school teachers to Kyoto, Japan. The purpose of the trip was to inspire teachers to infuse Japanese history, culture and language in their classrooms here at home. The trip was funded by a grant



from the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad Program.

(Photo: John Tucker with a group of grade school students in Japan.)

Biology

During the college’s fall faculty convocation held August 18, on behalf of the ECU Center for Faculty Excellence, **Mark Brinson** was presented with a plaque in recognition of his nomination to the UNC system for the 2008 O. Max Gardner Award.

Carol Goodwillie was one of two Harriot College awardees to receive the 2008 UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award at the 12th annual Teaching Awards Ceremony this past spring, hosted by the Faculty Senate and Chancellor Steve Ballard

Heather Vance-Chalcraft was the recipient of one of the two, 2008 ECU Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Awards presented at the 12th annual Teaching Awards Ceremony this past spring, hosted by the Faculty Senate and Chancellor Steve Ballard

Chemistry

Colin Burns, assistant professor of biochemistry and biophysics, is the recent recipient of a \$199,000 National Institutes of Health grant, which will support his research titled “Molecular Aspects of Copper and Zinc Promoted Prion-Prion Interactions.”

Andrew Morehead was one of two Harriot College awardees to receive the 2008 UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award at the 12th annual Teaching

FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Awards Ceremony this past spring, hosted by the Faculty Senate and Chancellor Steve Ballard

This summer, **Rickey Hicks** was



awarded more than \$400,000 by the US Department of Defense for his collaborative project with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., involving antibacterial research. He was subsequently interviewed and appeared on WNCT-TV on June 17.

Joe Walas, glassblower for the chemistry department, was recently appointed to the position of Board of Trustee of The American Scientific Glassblowers Society at their annual meeting held in Atlantic City, NJ.

English

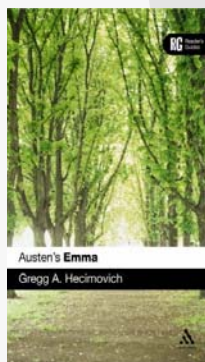
Three staff members in the department are working towards their master's degrees. **Stacey Atkinson** and **Shavon Carey** are currently working on their master of arts in technical and professional communication. **Brandy Dashnaw** is pursuing her masters in adult education.

Margaret Bauer, Rives Chair of Southern Literature, was selected by the ECU Faculty Awards Committee to receive a 5-Year Achievement in Research and Creative Activity award from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies. As part of the award, she will conduct a public

seminar on some aspect of her research.

Gregg Hecimovich received the 2008 Max Ray Joyner Award for Faculty Service through Continuing Education at the 12th annual Teaching Awards Ceremony this past spring, hosted by the Faculty Senate and Chancellor Steve Ballard

Hecimovich also is the author of the book "Austen's Emma," which will be published by Continuum in 2009. This is his fourth book to be published.



Susan Howard hopes to lead a group of students on a summer study abroad program to the Amazon region of South America, which will include stops in the countries of Guyana and Brazil. The program "Global and Multicultural Discourse in Guyana and Brazil," will include undergraduate and graduates from English, women's studies, ethnic studies, and religious studies.

Foreign Languages & Literatures

Jill Twark, associate professor of German, published *Humor, Satire, and Identity: Eastern German Literature in the 1990s* (2007).

Geological Sciences

At the college's fall faculty convocation held on August 18, **Steve Culver** was announced as the 2008 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor. Dean White presented Culver with an

honorary plaque and one of the new Harriot College medallions for his exemplary leadership to the college.



(Photo: Chancellor Ballard, Provost Sheerer, Culver, and Dean White)

History

Mike Palmer was recently awarded first prize in the fourth annual Cold War Essay Contest sponsored by the John A. Adams Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. Palmer received an honorary plaque and \$2,000 for his article "The Genesis of the Sixth Fleet: The U.S. Navy and Early Cold War Foreign Policy in the Mediterranean, 1946-1948." His article will be published in the *Journal of Military History*.

This summer, **Gerry Prokopowicz** was as a guest on the radio show "The State of Things," hosted by Frank Stasio aired on North Carolina Public Radio – WUNC. To listen to the program go <http://wunc.org/tsot/archive/sot0707abc08.mp3/view>.

Larry Tise has two different Wright brothers' exhibits currently showing at museums in the state. "World Aloft: 1908," charts the sequence of events during April and May 1908 that led to the discovery of the Wright brothers by the press, and shows the first published photographs of a Wright flight. This exhibit is showing

at the Wright Brothers Memorial at Kill Devil Hills until December 31.

Another exhibit entitled “Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills 1900-1911: New Discoveries on the Wright Brothers,” opened this summer and is being shown at the NC Museum of History. The exhibit, which will run through the end of the year, includes a set of photographs of the Wright brothers, which were discovered by Tise, as well as an introduction to the Wright flyer that is displayed in the lobby of the museum.

Maritime History & Nautical Archaeology

Brad Rodgers, primary investigator for the Old Sparta project, is working with graduate student technicians **Liz Wyllie** and **Theresa Hicks** in an effort to analyze, detail, and document the Old Sparta vessel located in the Tar River next to the Highway 42 Bridge at Old Sparta. This summer Rodgers was awarded a \$25,000 grant for the project.

Physics

George Bissinger recently was elected as a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America for 35 years of analysis combining physics and violin acoustics. Bissinger will be formally acknowledged and presented with a certificate at the ASA meeting in Miami on Nov. 12.

Psychology

Mike Brown, professor and associate dean for undergraduate studies in the college, is one of the inaugural members of the Servire society for his work with the Red Cross.

Lisa Campbell, gave a lecture on

“Gender, Race and Class: Healthy, Wealthy and Wise—An Adage to Live by for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” at the 7th annual North Carolina Conference on Aging held in Greenville on October 28-30.

Erik Everhart was selected by the ECU Faculty Awards Committee to receive a 5-Year Achievement in Research and Creative Activity award from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies. As part of the award, he will conduct a public seminar on some aspect of his research.

This summer, **Beverly Harju** was awarded a \$5,000 Fulbright Outreach, Mentoring and Enrichment grant from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Association. She is past president of the North Carolina Fulbright Chapter and currently serves as board member and eastern area coordinator for the state.

On June 4, research by **Kathleen Row**, who has been studying the question of forgiveness and how it relates to spirituality, well-being and health, was featured in a PBS documentary “The Power of Forgiveness.” The documentary has aired on PBS stations across the country.

Sociology

The ECU Faculty Awards Committee selected **Jeff Johnson** as the 2008 ECU Lifetime Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity award winner. His financial award comes from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies. As part of the award, he will conduct a public seminar on some aspect of his research.

Lee Maril, was formally announced

at the college’s fall faculty convocation held August 18, as the appointed Director-elect of the newly created Center for Social Diversity and Inequality Research, housed within the Department of Sociology.

Jim Mitchell served as a member of the program committee for the 7th annual North Carolina Conference on Aging held in Greenville on October 28-30. He moderated a panel discussion on “Examples of Research Down-East, The ECU Perspective.”

Religious Studies

Mary Nyangweso Wangila has joined the faculty of the college this fall as the first recipient of the J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Professorship in Religious Studies, established in 2007 by Dr. Jesse R. Peel in memory of his parents.

PERSONAL ON PERSONNEL IN HARRIOT COLLEGE

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

New Positions & Promotions



Dr. Steve Culver, (8/18/2008) Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences, was announced as the 2008 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor at the college's fall, faculty convocation.



Dr. Gregg Hecimovich, (8/1/2008) associate professor of English, was appointed the new Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Distance Education for the college, replacing Dr. Marieke Van Willigen.

Dr. Tom McConnell, (7/1/2008) professor of biology and former Interim Chair of the Department of Biology, has stepped into his new role as Interim Chair of the Department of Mathematics. (Photo not shown)



Dr. Jeffrey Scott McKinnon, (8/1/2008) is the newly hired Chair of the Department of Biology, who comes to ECU from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.



Ms. Jennifer Tripp, (6/16/2008) joined the staff of Harriot College as its new Director of Development, filling the spot vacated by Ms. Leslie Worley.

Dr. Marieke Van Willigen, (8/1/2008) professor of sociology and former Associate Dean for Faculty Development, assumed her new role as Interim Chair of the Department of Sociology this summer. (Photo not shown)

Dr. Mary A. Nyangweso Wangila, (5/1/2008) newly hired religious studies professor in the Department of Philosophy, has been named the first J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Professor in Religious Studies. Wangila comes to ECU from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Retirements

Patrick Bizarro, professor of English, retired this past August.

John Childers, associate professor of behavioral health and gerontology in psychology, will be retiring at the end of this semester in December.

Robert Denney, assistant professor of educational psychology, began a 3-year phased retirement this past spring in May.

Marie Farr, first director of the Women's Studies Program and professor in the Department of English, retired in Spring 2008. A reception was held on April 25 in the Mendenhall Student Center.

Clement Handron, teaching assistant professor of clinical and general psychology, retired this past May. However, he will return in the spring 2009 semester as a part-time adjunct teaching professor for the department.

Beverly Harju, associate professor of clinical health psychology, will be retiring at the end of this semester in December.

Claire Pittman, professor of history, retired this past August.

DEPARTMENTS & CHAIRS

Anthropology - Linda Wolfe
Biology - Jeff McKinnon
Chemistry - Rickey Hicks
Economics - Richard Ericson
English - Michael Palmer (Interim Chair)
Foreign Languages & Literatures - Frank Romer
Geography - Ron Mitchelson
Geological Sciences - Steve Culver
History - Gerry Prokopowicz (Acting Chair)
Maritime History & Nautical Archaeology - Larry Babits, Director
Mathematics - Tom McConnell (Interim Chair)
Philosophy - George Bailey
Physics - John Sutherland
Political Science - Brad Lockerbie
Psychology - Kathleen Row
Sociology - Marieke Van Willigen (Interim Chair)

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS & DIRECTORS

African and African American Studies - David Dennard
Asian Studies - John Tucker
Classical Studies - John Stevens
Coastal and Marine Studies - Bob Edwards
Ethnic Studies - Ellen Arnold
Great Books - John Stevens
Indigenous Peoples of the Americas - Linda Wolfe
International Studies - Sylvie Debevec Henning
Leadership Studies - Michael Brown
Medieval and Renaissance Studies - Kevin Moll
Multidisciplinary Studies - Calvin Mercer
Neuroscience - Tuan Tran
North Carolina Studies - Tom Shields
Religious Studies - Calvin Mercer and Derek Maher
Russian Studies - Elena Murenina
Security Studies - Jalil Roshandel
Women's Studies - Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

DEAN'S STAFF

Dr. Alan R. White, Dean
Mr. Todd Berry, Associate Dean for Data and Resource Management
Dr. Larry Bolen, Associate Dean for Planning
Dr. Michael Brown, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
Dr. Cindy Putnam-Evans, Associate Dean for Research
Dr. Heather Ries, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies
Dr. Gregg Hecimovich, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Distance Education

Ms. Lacey Gray, Director of Marketing and Communications
Mr. Perceval Murphy, Instructional Technology Consultant
Ms. Jennifer Tripp, Director of Development
Ms. Scott Wells, Major Gifts Officer

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COLLEGE AWARDS

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Spring 2008 ECU Treasured Pirate Awards

ECU's Treasured Pirate Award is designed to reward the special or unique contributions of ECU employees to their college/unit or to the university. The program recognizes any permanent SPA, CSS, or EPA employee within their college or unit. Award recipients receive an award certificate and a gift of their choice from the Treasure Pirate Reward Gift Catalog.

The Treasured Pirate Award program is coordinated by the Staff Development Unit of the Department of Human Resources and is supported through the generous sponsorship of TIAA-CREF. To learn more about the award or to view the gift catalog, go to www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/hr/Treasured_Pirate_Program.cfm.

Congratulations to the Harriot College recipients of the Spring 2008 ECU Treasured Pirate Awards!

Allen Bateman
Research Operations Manager, Chemistry

Angela Cline
Administrative Support Associate, Political Science

Patrick Cutler
Graduate Assistant, Chemistry

Sheila Ellis
Administrative Support Associate, Political Science

Marie Farr
Associate Professor, English

Mary Olson
Administrative Support Associate, Chemistry

Timothy Romack
Assistant Professor, Chemistry

(Treasured Pirate awardees for the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semester will appear in future issues of Magnetic East.)

Spring 2009 Harriot College Research Awards

The Harriot College Research Awards competition is among the most important activities in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. The college is pleased to sponsor these awards as part of our effort to support and promote research and publication. These awards provide additional reassigned time to allow the faculty member to focus on scholarly endeavors.

Congratulations to the Spring 2009 Harriot College Research Award recipients.

Derek Alderman, Geography
Shahna Arps, Anthropology
Juan Daneri, Foreign Languages & Literatures
Nicholas Georgalis, Philosophy
Rhonda Evans-Case, Political Science
Mohammed Jahan-Parvar, Economics
Elias Katsoulis, Mathematics
Zi-Wie Lin, Physics
Kwang Hun Lim, Chemistry
Haiyong Liu, Economics
Christopher Oakley, History
John Stiller, Biology
Jennifer Valko, Foreign Languages & Literatures
Liza Wieland, English
Yong Zhu, Biology

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Mrs. John M. Howell

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Mr. Tod Thorne
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Mr. Michael W. Yorke



Upcoming Events...

- **November 10**

Dr. Calvin Mercer, co-chair of the Religious Studies Program, will speak on "Religion and the Environment: Friends or Foes," at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Oakmont Drive, Greenville. All are invited to attend. See www.ecu.edu/religionprogram for more information, or contact James Cooke at jccooke@suddenlink.net.

- **November 15**

ECU Fall Open House, 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Bate Building

- **November 18**

Dr. Marcus Borg will present the Voyages of Discovery Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture, co-sponsored by the Religious Studies program and Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. Borg will discuss "Christians in an Age of Empire: Then and Now," at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Complimentary tickets are available through the ECU Central Ticket Office.

- **January 27, 2009**

Dr. Eugenie C. Scott will present the Voyages of Discovery Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. She will discuss "Darwin's Legacy in Science and Society." Students, faculty and staff may obtain complimentary tickets through the ECU Central Ticket Office.

- **February 25, 2009**

Dr. Felipe Fernández-Armesto will present the Voyages of Discovery Brewster Lecture in History, co-sponsored by the Department of History. He will discuss "The Man Who Gave His Name to America," at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Complimentary tickets are available through the ECU Central Ticket Office.

- **April 2, 2009**

Dr. Stephen Clucas will present the Voyages of Discovery Thomas Harriot Lecture entitled "The New Worlds of an Elizabethan Scientist," at 7 p.m. in C307 Science and Technology Building. Students, faculty and staff may obtain complimentary tickets through the ECU Central Ticket Office.

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

East Carolina University

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Greenville, NC 27858-4353

Phone: 252-328-6249; Fax: 252-328-4263

www.ecu.edu/cas