



# MAGNETIC EAST

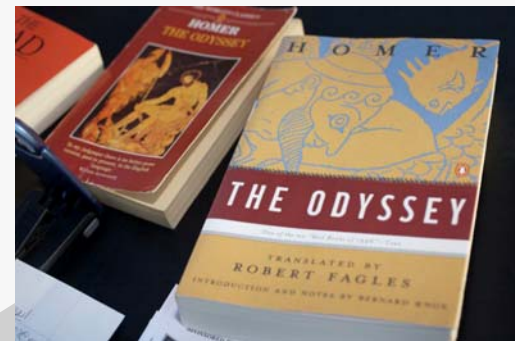
NEWSLETTER OF THE THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

IN THIS ISSUE

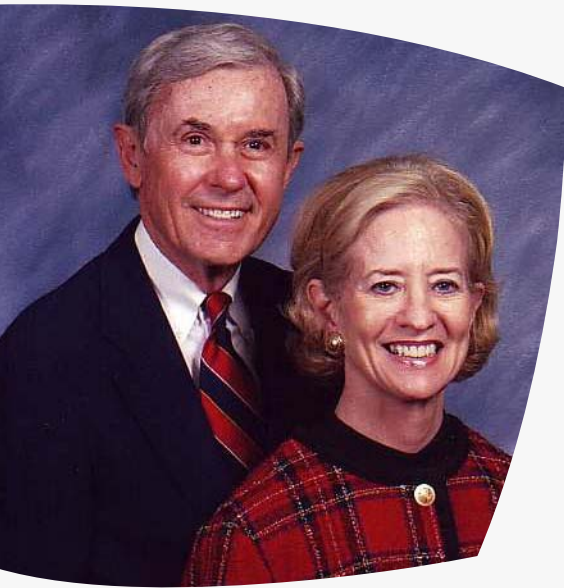
- ▶ **ECU ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM..... 2**  
Generous Alumnus Provides for Quality Education Through ECU Advanced Placement Program
- ▶ **NOTEWORTHY NEWS.....4**  
Classics Program Presents “Odyssey Live!”  
Biologist’s Paper Praised as “Evolutionary Gem” by Nature Magazine  
Chemistry Surpasses \$50,000 in Donations for Student Labs  
ECU Scholars Gather in London  
Enhancing Oneself: Benefits of a Higher Education
- ▶ **FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....9**  
Departmental/Program Highlights
- ▶ **PERSONNEL IN HARRIOT COLLEGE..... 12**  
New Positions & Promotions  
Retirements  
Farwell Appointed ECU Director of Undergraduate Research
- ▶ **CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESSES..... 14**  
Student Successes
- ▶ **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY AWARDS..... 15**  
Scholar-Teacher Awards  
Women of Distinction  
Treasured Pirate Awards
- ▶ **DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAMS & DEAN’S STAFF..... 16**  
Departments & Chairs  
Interdisciplinary Programs & Directors  
Dean’s Staff
- ▶ **UPCOMING EVENTS..... 17**  
Upcoming Events

SPRING 2009

ALAN R. WHITE, DEAN



## GENEROUS ALUMNUS PROVIDES FOR QUALITY EDUCATION THROUGH ECU ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM



**Photo: Charles and Nancy Bedford**

The pride felt for one's alma mater is enhancing the educational experiences of not only students but also educators throughout the Southern U.S., and especially in eastern North Carolina. In collaboration with East Carolina University's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Math, Science and Instructional Technology in the College of Education, Charles and Nancy Bedford are improving the quality of education through their keen vision and generous gifts to the university.

As former Program Officer for the College Board with responsibility for the Advanced Placement Program in the Southern Region, Charles Bedford was aware that Advanced Placement teachers in the east lacked educational growth opportunities. He felt that East Carolina University had the ability and obligation to play a role in meeting the needs of regional AP teachers through numerous venues,

such as graduate course work, AP workshops and faculty mentoring. Bedford, who is a '55 graduate of ECU's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and a '57 graduate of the College of Education, was instrumental in establishing the first officially endorsed College Board Advanced Placement Program at ECU. He recognized the important role that the university could play in establishing an AP Institute in eastern North Carolina.

"The APP [Advanced Placement Program] has done more to enhance academic excellence in the South than any other individual endeavor," Bedford says. "By the College Board providing curricular guidelines for secondary teachers to teach college-level courses to able students, many students have been challenged and encouraged to pursue excellence. Consequently, teaching and learning become more exciting, and the APP prevents good students from becoming bored while retaining outstanding teachers."

The ECU Advanced Placement Summer Institute began training teachers under its official title during the summer of 2005. Prior to the opening of the Institute, local educators had to travel 3 ½ to 7 hours to Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and even Virginia or Georgia, to take other AP courses. The closest institute was located at North Carolina State and only offered two AP courses each summer.

"I think their vision and generosity opened the door to accessible professional development for our many Advanced Placement teachers in eastern North Carolina," says Margaret Wirth, director of the

program at ECU. "The Bedfords understand that by raising the bar in educating our local youth – through providing Advanced Placement courses – helps improve the entire quality of life in the region."

The AP Summer Institute, which is housed in the Department of Math, Science and Instructional Technology in the College of Education, prepares teachers to teach Advanced Placement curriculum with confidence. Participants, who are taught and mentored by professors in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, learn about the goals and concepts involved in teaching AP courses. They examine pedagogy, the uses of technology, assessment practices, pacing guides, and course structure and content, while sharing their ideas and experiences with others in attendance.

"The AP Summer Institute is a wonderful collaboration between our faculty in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and our colleagues in the College of Education," says Alan White, dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. "I am extremely pleased that we can provide local educators the tools necessary to better prepare students in AP classes for a rewarding and productive educational experience."

Each year, the Institute attracts between 40 and 120 teachers from across the U.S., including professionals from Maine, Florida and Texas. In its first summer, the Institute registered 98 teachers.

A bargain registration fee, made possible because of donations from

**[cont. on page 3]**

## Advanced Placement Program continued...

the Bedfords, makes the Institute an accessible option for many teachers.

“It is truly the best deal around,” Wirth says. “It is filling a real need for area AP teachers by providing quality professional development in high stakes courses, at a reasonable price, in an accessible location. What could be better than that?”

Wirth says the Institute receives many letters, emails and glowing evaluations from participants each summer.

One participant in the AP English Literature and Composition sessions wrote, “I am excited about how much information I can use. This session gave me real information and materials to take to my class.”

An AP Statistics session attendee noted, “This was a wonderful workshop. This will be my first year teaching AP Statistics and I feel very well prepared after attending this workshop.”

Finally, one AP Calculus attendee admitted, “I have learned all the mistakes I have been making and will not make again.”

According to Wirth, teachers leave the Institute confident in their

knowledge and eager to teach. They have attended sessions appropriate for the courses they will teach, and each participant leaves with notebooks, course manuals, subject texts and College Board test preparation manuals and materials that will assist them in their teaching of AP courses.

Wirth knows first-hand how convenient the AP Summer Institute is for local educators. Prior to coming to work at ECU, she taught AP Calculus and AP Statistics at J.H. Rose High School in Greenville. She had to travel to Atlanta, Ga., to be trained to teach AP Statistics, because this was the closest institute in the southern region to offer the course.

Thus, it became one of Wirth’s career goals to establish AP training workshops at ECU, and with the wishes of the Bedfords and their kindhearted financial support, the dream has become reality.

“The Bedfords are truly special people, and I am thankful everyday they have cared enough about ECU to help fund this institute each year,” says Wirth.



**Photo 1:** Rhonda Kempton (2nd from right), Pitt County professor, participates in the AP statistics session

**Photo 2:** Sara Edwards and Ann McClung, teachers at South Central High School, attend the AP Biology session

**Photo 3:** AP Physics consultant Greg Jacobs

Photos courtesy of the ECU AP Summer Institute.



## Classics Program Presents “Odyssey Live!” Faculty and Students Recite Epic Poem in Day-Long Event

On March 19 at the Cupola in the center of the ECU campus, faculty, students and the community had the opportunity to attend a unique, event known as “Odyssey LIVE!”

“Odyssey LIVE!” was an all-day reading of Homer's epic poem, the *Odyssey*, unabridged, non-stop from beginning to end. The epic adventure began at 8:00 a.m., and was presented by faculty and students from the Classical Studies Program in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, along with generous assistance from other ECU faculty and student volunteers.

“Homer's *Odyssey* was always performed orally in ancient Greece. We wanted to give our audience the chance to hear the epic, not just read it,” says John Given, director of the Classical Studies Program and coordinator of the event. “Plus, it's just a great story – love, sex, violence, intrigue, monsters, gods – it's got it all.”

The *Odyssey* is one of two major, ancient Greek poems attributed to Homer. Considered a sequel to Homer's first work the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey* comprises 12,110 lines of dactylic hexameter and centers on

the Greek hero Odysseus – or Ulysses, as he was known in Roman myths – and his long journey home following the fall of Troy.

For approximately 15 hours, audiences could come and hear the song of the Sirens, cower at the one-eyed Cyclops, travel to the underworld to meet Achilles, marvel at the crafty ploys of Penelope, listen to the tales of Helen of Troy and witness Odysseus take violent revenge on the 100 suitors who dared to vie for his wife's hand.

## Biologist's Paper Praised as "Evolutionary Gem" by Nature Magazine

Late last fall, a highly distinguished scientific journal, *Nature*, released a list of 15 papers published within the past decade that they consider to be "Evolutionary Gems," illustrating the "breadth, depth and power of evolutionary thinking." Number six among their list of 15 prestigious publications is "Evidence for Ecology's Role in Speciation," co-authored by Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of Biology Chair Dr. Jeff McKinnon.

"I am very pleased at this recognition, which I did not expect," said McKinnon. "I enjoy the fact that two of my former students are on the paper. This is a nice salute to their hard work."

Within their article, McKinnon and co-authors David Kingsley and Dolph Schluter, examine and

confirm the evolutionary hypothesis that divergent natural selection plays a key role in speciation.

By studying a species of fish known as sticklebacks taken from Alaska, British Columbia, Iceland, the United Kingdom, Norway and Japan, McKinnon and his team were able to provide firm evidence that the fish have adapted to living in streams, and in the process, have become less likely to mate with the marine sticklebacks from whom they evolved.



## Chemistry Surpasses \$50,000 in Donations for Student Labs

This spring, the Department of Chemistry surpassed \$50,000 for donations made this year in support of student labs, when two representatives from Purdue Pharmaceuticals L.P. in Wilson, NC, presented the department with a \$10,000 check.

The funds, delivered on February 19 by Associate Director of Human Resources Josh Thompson and Human Resources Manager Angie Kearney, will be used to replace old equipment in undergraduate teaching laboratories with new items, including 11 stirring hot plates and 50 double burette holders and stands.

"We are pleased to support the university's efforts to train the region's next generation of scientists," said David Lundie, Purdue's Vice President of Manufacturing and Supply Chain. "The study of chemistry is the foundation upon which young people can build rewarding careers in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and many other areas."

While on campus, Thompson and Kearney had the opportunity to tour labs that will benefit from their company's donation. One of the labs scheduled to receive the new equipment can accommodate 48

students, working in pods of 4, at 12 stations throughout the lab.

Approximately 650 freshmen take a chemistry course with lab each academic year, indicating the enormous benefit of being able to replace the well-used equipment.

"Without the generous support of our regional industrial partners, we would not be able to provide our students with essential equipment to develop their laboratory skill sets in preparation for employment in a very technically complex and competitive workforce," says Keith Holmes, analytical chemistry

[cont. Page 6]

# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

*from Around the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences*

## Chemistry continued...

instructor and liaison for many of the donations received by the department.

According to Holmes, the department has been very fortunate this year and last year to receive several gifts from regional businesses, including pharmaceutical companies, development companies and contract analytical laboratories. Monetary donations and gifts-in-kind for the two years now equals \$250,000.

This year, the department has had to replace many different pieces of equipment, all financed through the more than \$50,000 donated to the department from local companies. Utilizing a \$10,000 gift from DSM and a \$5,000 gift from Metrics, Inc., both located in Greenville, a \$15,000 Fourier-Transform infrared spectrometer could be purchased. The only functioning FT-IR unit

failed late last spring, according to Holmes, but was replaced so that the laboratory was back up and running for fall 2008.

A total of 48 interface units used to connect experiments from measuring devices to laboratory computers, costing nearly \$14,000, were replaced through part of a gift from Merck & Co., in Wilson, NC.

Other examples of equipment replaced, include 11 analytical balances that were causing laboratory problems due to errors in the readings of the balances; 24 rolling step stools being ordered from alumni donations to the undergraduate teaching laboratories capital campaign, which will allow shorter students the ability to safely read burettes in the laboratory; and 24 colorimeters, a measuring device used with the computer interfaced experiments.

New lab equipment is not the only form of donation made by local companies. For the past two years, the department also has received \$10,000 from Metrics, Inc., which funds five undergraduate student assistantships each semester at \$1,000 each.

It is due to the generosity of these local companies that students in the department of chemistry will benefit for years to come.

Dr. Holmes says that additional funding applications have already been filed for possible gifts to be made in the coming year. "If these gifts are approved, all needed equipment for the undergraduate general chemistry laboratories will have been purchased, and we will be starting on properly equipping the undergraduate organic chemistry laboratories."



**From left to right:** Keith Holmes, Josh Thompson, Angie Kearney and Rickey Hicks

## ECU Scholars Gather in London Discuss Life Works of Sir Walter Raleigh

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences is seeking to promote research on the original explorations of the North Carolina coast fostered by Sir Walter Raleigh and undertaken by Thomas Harriot.

In pursuit of this goal, professors Mark Nicholls of St. John’s College at the University of Cambridge and Larry Tise of Harriot College, invited Raleigh scholars from five nations to meet at the Tower of London in January to discuss the status of research on Walter Raleigh and his world.

The Raleigh Research Circle, which includes 24 leading scholars of the period, gathered for two days of animated discussion held January 9-10 in Tower Hill at the Tower of London, where Raleigh spent the last 15 years of his life as a prisoner convicted of treason, and where he wrote the first volume of *Historie of the World* (1614).

“We were very fortunate that all of the Raleigh scholars we contacted – whether in the US, Canada, Britain, Germany or France – were eager to participate in this new endeavor,” said Tise, co-organizer of the conference. “This was probably the

largest gathering of Raleigh aficionados (in this case, scholars actively researching portions of Sir Walter Raleigh’s life and career) since the day he was beheaded in the Old Palace Yard at Westminster in London on October 29, 1618.”

Topics of discussion during the conference included sessions on Raleigh’s life, beliefs, explorations and writings. A consensus emerged that critical analysis of Raleigh’s writings and works is needed. Not since 1829 have Raleigh’s works been published as a whole.

With the 400th anniversary of the publication of *Historie of the World* approaching in 2014, the Raleigh Research Circle agreed to collaborate and bring together Raleigh’s most important works, digitized, analyzed and critiqued.

Professor Frank Romer, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at ECU, will serve as general editor of the

“*Historie of the World*” project. Professors Nicholls and Tise will serve as editorial directors. Along with contributions from other members of the group, Romer also will work in close collaboration with Robert Anthony, curator of the



North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

“He [Raleigh] played a significant role in Elizabethan life,” Romer said. “I was very glad there was interest and support getting his lesser works into print.”

*Photo by Jane Spooner*

## Enhancing Oneself: Benefits of a Higher Education Harriot College Staff Pursue Advanced Degrees at ECU

Many people who work in education know that a college degree benefits a person at any stage of life. Five administrators within the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of English understand these advantages. Stacey Atkinson, Shavon Carey and Brandy Dashnaw are currently pursuing post-baccalaureate degrees from East Carolina University, and fellow colleagues, Susan Howard and Rachel Webb, will join them as graduate students this fall.

“Continuing studies is important in so many careers,” says Atkinson, technology coordinator for the department. “[And] studies have shown your children will likely follow your path.”

Atkinson, who has worked at the university for more than 2½ years, received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from ECU in December 2005. She currently is taking courses for her master of business administration, and will receive her degree sometime next year.

During her spare time, Atkinson likes to work in the yard, read and sample beers from around the world.

Carey, who serves as administrative assistant to the director of graduate studies in the Department of English, received her bachelor of arts degree in communication from ECU in December 2006. She

currently is pursuing her post-baccalaureate certificate in professional communications, and will begin taking courses this fall for her master of arts degree in English with a concentration in technical and professional communication. Carey’s goal is to complete the degree in the fall of 2010.

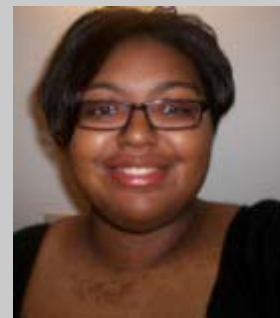
In her free time, Carey enjoys spending time with her family, reading and shopping.

“The true benefit of an advanced degree is for the betterment of oneself,” says Dashnaw, office supervisor and assistant to the chair in the Department of English.

Dashnaw, who has worked at the university for the past three years, received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Western Kentucky University in May 2003. She began taking courses at ECU for her masters in adult education during the summer of 2006. This summer she will be working on her master’s thesis and will complete her degree in the fall.

When not hard at work, Dashnaw enjoys traveling, reading, kayaking, watching Kentucky basketball and playing with her dogs Foudy and Timmy.

This fall, Susan Howard and Rachel Webb will begin taking courses in pursuit of their graduate degrees.



**Photo 1:** Brandy Dashnaw

**Photo 2:** Shavon Carey

**Photo 3:** Stacey Atkinson

## Anthropology

Assistant professor of anthropology, **Dr. Tony Boudreaux**, was awarded the C.B. Moore Award for Excellence in Southeastern Archaeology by a Young Scholar. The award is given in memory of Clarence Bloomfield Moore (1852-1936), and is presented by the Lower Mississippi Survey, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Theology at Harvard University. Boudreaux received the award at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference held in Charlotte this past November 2008.

## Asian Studies



**Dr. John Tucker**, director of the Asian Studies Program, recently was awarded an \$84,000 U.S.

Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant. The grant will support a four-week trip to Japan, later this summer, for 12 teachers who participate in the ECU Asia Seminar for Teachers. This semester, the Asian Studies Interdisciplinary Program has continued its ECU Asia Seminar for Teachers, funded by the North Carolina Teaching About Asia Network. Working with **Dr. Nobuaki Takahashi**, professor of Japanese language, and Joyner Library, the ECU Asia Seminar for Teachers has been promoting knowledge about Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In conjunction with the

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Poster Exhibit, a Hiroshima Film Festival was held on February 7. Three films were shown and included, "Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima," "Barefoot Gen," and "Black Rain." Another project conducted by the ECU Asia Seminar in conjunction with Joyner Library involves origami – the art of folding paper. Via the instruction of **Dr. Takahashi**, they are working on producing 1,000 paper cranes for donation to the Hiroshima Peace Park.



## Biology

On February 12, in celebration of evolutionist Charles Darwin's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, **Dr. Jason Bond** and the Department of Biology hosted an open house and gave the public an opportunity to become part of evolutionary history. Donations were collected for a scholarship fund to support students who conduct biodiversity research. Two individuals, who made the largest donations, were each given the opportunity to name one of Dr. Bond's trapdoor spiders. Pam and Danny Tripp of Dunn, NC, will be naming their spider dantrippi. Phil Evans and **Cindy Putnam-Evans**, Harriot College associate dean for research and professor of biology, will name their spider after their son Nathaniel.

*Natural History* magazine featured an article on their website based on the research of biology chair **Dr. Jeff McKinnon**, and co-authors, Lawrence M. Dill, University of British Columbia, and Suzanne M. Gray, Queen's University, Ontario. The article titled "Games Fishes Play," discusses the mating habits of sailfin silversides, and how one species, *Telmatherina sarasinorum*, will chase off the courting male of another species, spawn with the female, and then proceed to eat her eggs.

## English

Director of ECU's First-Year Writing Program and professor of rhetoric and composition, **Dr. William Banks**, gave the keynote address at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Student Success in First-Year Composition Conference held at Georgia Southern University on February 6. Banks discussed "Digital Literacies, Digital Ethics: Writing in(to) the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." He has worked extensively in composition, writing studies, and the use of electronic media in composition.

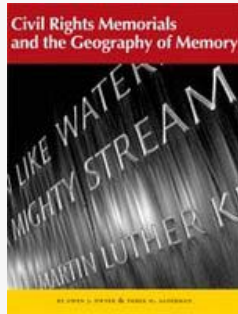
## Geography

A new book, co-authored by **Dr. Derek Alderman**, associate professor of geography, and Owen Dwyer of Indiana University, has won the 2008 Association of American Geographers Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography. In Civil Rights Memorials and the Geography of Memory, Alderman and Dwyer look at how America remembers Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement in public places. They carry out the first critical

# FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

examination of the monuments, museums, parks, and streets dedicated to the African-American struggle for civil rights. Alderman and Dwyer will be presented with a certificate and cash honorarium of \$1,000 at the AAG Awards Luncheon in Las Vegas, NV, on March 27.



## History

**Dr. Charles Calhoun** recently published a new book titled Minority Victory: Gilded Age Politics and the Front Porch Campaign of 1888, which received a prominent review in the Wall Street Journal. To read the review, go to <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122835300019477951.html>.



History professor and Interim Chair of the Department of English, **Dr. Michael Palmer**, was a special guest speaker at a forum titled “Obama, America, and the World: Strategic Challenges and Choices.” The forum, which was held at Temple University in

Philadelphia, PA, on March 2, was sponsored by the Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy.



On February 12, President Lincoln’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, **Dr. Gerry Prokopowicz**, Lincoln historian and chair of the Department of History, spoke at the 77<sup>th</sup> Watchorn Lincoln Dinner held at the University of Redlands’ Orton Center in Redlands, CA. The Watchorn Lincoln Dinner began in 1932 by Robert Watchorn, who gave the Lincoln Memorial Shrine to the university in memory of his son, Emory.

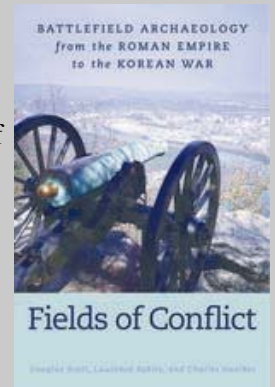
## International Studies

Director of International Studies, **Dr. Sylvie Henning**, coordinated the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Foreign Policy Association’s Great Decisions Program, hosted by ECU and sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Eastern North Carolina, which was held January 17 – March 7. The program consists of a series of lectures led by academic and professional experts from across the US. Topics during this year’s program included US and rising powers, energy and the global economy, the global food supply, the Arctic, Egypt in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Cuba after Castro, universal human rights, and Afghanistan/Pakistan.

## Maritime History &

## Nautical Archaeology

**Dr. Larry Babits**, director and professor of maritime studies, and co-authors Charles Haecker and Douglas Scott, published a new book in February titled Fields of Conflict: Battlefield Archaeology from the Roman Empire to the Korean War. The book reveals new interpretations of classic battles and explores how archaeology is used regardless of geographic or temporal location. First showing the reader how to identify a battlefield from earthworks and particular artifacts, the authors then foster a new understanding of warfare by examining some of the best-preserved battlefields in the world.



## Political Science

Assistant professor, **Dr. Rhonda Evans Case**, recently published an article titled “Friends or Foes? The Commonwealth and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in the Federal Courts,” which appeared in the *Australian Journal of Political Science*.

Three assistant professors of political science, **Drs. Alethia Cook, Marie Olson Lounsbery, and Dursun Peksen**, attended this year’s International Studies Association’s annual convention. Dr. Cook presented two of her papers, and a joint paper with Dr. Olson Lounsbery, on the factors

influencing strategy choice among rebel groups in civil war areas. Dr. Peksen presented three co-authored papers, focusing on gendered consequences of economic statecraft, the impact of foreign military intervention on the enhancement of women's socio-economic and political rights in target nations, and the role of welfare policies on the onset of civil wars. Dr. Olson Lounsbury also presented a second paper concerning when states experiencing civil war are likely to request intervention.

**Dr. Jalil Roshandel**, associate professor of political science, made contributions to the Middle East Institute's project on "The Iranian Revolution at 30." The final version of this entire publication was released recently and can be downloaded for free online at [www.mideasti.org/viewpoint/the-iranian-revolution-30](http://www.mideasti.org/viewpoint/the-iranian-revolution-30).

## Psychology



**Dr. Michael Brown**, Harriot College associate dean for undergraduate studies and professor of psychology, has been re-appointed to the Assistant and Associate Deans' Committee for the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences. The Council is a national

association of baccalaureate degree-granting colleges of arts and sciences whose purpose is to sustain the arts and sciences as a leading influence in American higher education. As a member of the Committee, Brown will be involved in representing the interests and professional development needs of assistant and associate deans across the United States.



Assistant professor of psychology, **Jeannie Golden**, was inducted into ECU's new Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy on February 2. A ceremony was held with Chancellor Ballard and other administrators and academic leaders, with inductees sharing their vision for enhancing their scholarly work as they make significant contributions to the health, vitality and prosperity of communities throughout eastern North Carolina.

**Dr. Susan McCammon** has been invited to present a talk at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association to be held in Toronto, Canada this August. McCammon will discuss evidence-based practices for serious mental illness and emotional disturbance.

Assistant professor of psychology, **Dr. Tuan Tran**, has received a nearly \$115,000 grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse

and Alcoholism from the National Institutes of Health. "Is Maternal Iron Status a Risk Factor in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome?" is a collaborative effort between Dr. Tran and Dr. Susan Smith at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who is also receiving funding from the NIH. Tran and Smith will examine the harmful effects of prenatal maternal iron inadequacy and fetal alcohol exposure in rodents. This may serve as a model for such interactive effects in human cases of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). As a corollary, if maternal iron inadequacy worsens neurobehavioral outcomes in FAS, then maternal iron sufficiency may be beneficial in reducing the severity of fetal alcohol-induced outcomes.

**Dr. Christy Walcott**, assistant professor of psychology, has been named to the editorial board of the journal, *School Psychology Review*.

# PERSONAL ON PERSONNEL IN HARRIOT COLLEGE

*Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences*

## New Positions & Promotions

**Dr. Robert Fox**, (1/1/2009) is one of two visiting professors holding the 2009 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Whichard Chair. This spring, Fox is teaching an honors course in the Department of History.

**Dr. John Given**, (12/2/2008) assistant professor of classics, was appointed the new Director of Classical Studies this past December, filling the position vacated by professor John Stevens.

**Dr. Peter Green**, (1/1/2009) is the second of two visiting professors holding the 2009 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Whichard Chair. This spring, Green is teaching in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures & Linguistics.

**Dr. Leon C. Wilson**, (1/1/2009) is the newly hired Chair of the Department of Sociology, who comes to ECU from Wayne State University in Detroit.

**Dr. Michael Brown**, (1/1/2009) Harriot College Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and professor of psychology, recently took on an additional role as coordinator for the EC Scholars program, appointed by Provost Marilyn Sheerer.

This year, two new faculty joined the Department of Biology; **Drs. David Kimmel and Matt Schrenk**.

This year, two tenure-track and three full-time, fixed term faculty members joined the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures & Linguistics. The two tenure-track faculty are **Susanne Jones**, a specialist in 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century German literature and film; and **Anne-Helene Miller**, a specialist in late Medieval/early Modern France. The three full-time, fixed term faculty include **Deicy Jimenez, Richard Kirstin, and Sandra Kregar**.

## Retirements



**Dr. John S. Childers**, associate professor of behavioral health and gerontology in psychology, retired this past December, after serving in academia for more than 40 years.



**Dr. Beverly Harju**, associate professor of clinical health psychology, retired this past December, after 15 years of service to ECU and the Department of Psychology.

## Farwell Appointed ECU Director of Undergraduate Research

This past fall, Dr. Mary A. Farwell, associate professor of biology, was appointed to the position of Director of Undergraduate Research in the Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

“As a mentor to undergraduate research students for over 20 years, and as a supporter of undergraduate research at ECU, I am excited to be entering this position,” says Farwell. “A quality undergraduate research program attracts the best students to the University and plays an important part for the future success of our graduates in whatever careers they aspire to.”



As director of undergraduate research, Dr. Farwell is responsible for helping facilitate, organize and fund undergraduate research projects, advocating within and outside the university for undergraduate research and support.

While at ECU, Farwell has taught numerous courses and maintains an active research agenda. She has directed more than 40 undergraduate student research projects and 14 graduate student research projects, and she has served on more than 40 thesis committees and 8 doctoral dissertation committees.

Throughout her years of research, study and publications, Farwell has been the recipient of many grants and awards. Since 2000, she has received more than \$250,000 in funding from the National Institutes of Health, Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, Burroughs Wellcome Fund and North Carolina Sea Grant mini-grants.

Farwell received her doctoral degree in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley in 1989, and her bachelor of science degree in biology with honors from Brown University in 1982, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Prior to coming to ECU, Farwell held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina, a postdoctoral associate professorship at the University of California and a research associate position in the Department of Clinical Lab Science at Miriam Hospital, Providence, R.I.

## CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESSES

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences



**Teddy Allen**, a master's student in the Department of Geography, whose emphasis is on a high level combination of atmospheric and geographic information sciences, returned to the US on March 2. Allen spent a few months in Rome as an intern working with the Early Warning Systems Program within the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. On the last day of his internship, Allen was offered a job with the FAO. If he accepts, Allen would work with remote sensing applications.



**Jenna Bone**, a senior biochemistry major, has been carrying out research in the field of biophysics with biology professor Dr. Mary

Farwell and physics professor Dr. Xin-Hua Hu. Her research has pioneered a new way to kill cancer cells. After graduation, Bone plans to attend graduate school to obtain her PhD.

**Jason Cone**, clinical psychology graduate student, and **Kateri Norton**, psychology undergraduate, attended the North Carolina Applied Behavioral Analysis Conference earlier this semester where they both won awards. Cone is the winner of the Student Scholarship Award, and Norton is the winner of the Undergraduate Poster Award. Both students will receive a monetary prize and a plaque in recognition of their work.

**Anna Dykgreve**, a Russian studies major in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, has received a fully-funded 2009 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Award for her proposed project "Soviet Musical Comedy as Art, Politics and Entertainment: G. Alexandrov's VOLGA-VOLGA in the context of the 1930s and Beyond." The award is given through the Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

**Kari Kirian**, a graduate student in the health psychology doctoral program, has had the recent honor of being published in the prestigious cardiology journal, *Circulation*. Her research, co-authored by Dr. Samuel F. Sears and Julie B. Shea, is titled "How to Respond to an Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator Recall."



**Christopher Richardson** is a senior who will graduate this spring and is majoring in biology, neuroscience, and psychology, with a minor in chemistry. Currently, Richardson is working in a behavioral neuroscience laboratory at ECU, researching fetal alcohol syndrome under the direction of neuroscience program director Dr. Tuan Tran. He also assists in the DNA repair laboratory in the Department of Biology, under the direction of Dr. Alex Georgakilas. Richardson is an honors student, former captain of the East Carolina Marching Pirates Drumline and is aspiring to become an osteopathic medical doctor.

## 2008-2009 ECU Scholar-Teacher Awards

Each academic year, the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs recognizes members of the ECU faculty who have effectively integrated research and creative activity in their classroom teaching, and who mentor other faculty and student scholars. Criteria for awardees, who are nominated by their respective college deans, also include demonstrated excellence in the classroom and an outstanding record of scholarly accomplishments.

Congratulations to the three Harriot College recipients of the 2008-2009 ECU Scholar-Teacher Awards!

**Bob Edwards, Sociology**  
**David Knox, Sociology**  
**Peter Standish, Foreign Languages, Literatures and Linguistics**

Along with eight other ECU Scholar-Teachers, Bob, David, and Peter will attend a luncheon held in their honor. Each award winner will have their name engraved on a plaque, and they each will receive professional travel and student research stipends to be used in support of their integrated scholarship and teaching.

Awardees also will make a brief (15-minute) presentation on the integration of research and creative activity in teaching, and provide a poster or display during ECU's Annual Research & Creative Achievement Week, being held March 30 – April 3. This year's

presentations, which are open to the public, will be April 2, in the Mendenhall Great Rooms and Room 244.

## 2009 ECU Women of Distinction

Each semester, the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women seeks nominations for the ECU Women of Distinction Award. This biannual award recognizes outstanding contributions by women within the ECU and surrounding eastern North Carolina communities, who have shown leadership, commitment, determination, generosity of spirit and time, community building, or the ability to empower and mentor others. Awardees include current and past ECU faculty, staff, administrators, and alumnae, as well as local women who serve as community leaders.

Congratulations to the two Harriot College recipients of the 2009 ECU Women of Distinction Award!

**Marie Farr, English**  
**Bonnie Mani, Political Science**

Along with eight other Women of Distinction, Marie and Bonnie were honored at a reception held in their honor on March 4, in ECU's Joyner Library.

## Fall 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](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/hr/Treasured_Pirate_Program.cfm).

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

**Angela Cline, Political Science**  
**Brandy Dashnaw, English**  
**Michelle Eble, English**  
**Sheila Ellis, Political Science**  
**Lisa Gibbs, Anthropology**  
**Donna Lillian, English**  
**Tamara McKeel, Physics**  
**Dare Merritt, Geological Sciences**  
**Bettina Moore, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences' Dean's Office**  
**Kimberly Moore, Economics**  
**Brenda Morton, Mathematics**  
**Christopher Newton, Chemistry**  
**Mary Olson, Chemistry**  
**Dawn Phillips, Psychology**  
**Samuel Sears, Psychology**  
**Wendy Sharer, English**  
**Kristin Voytek, Chemistry**  
**John Woods, Geological Sciences**  
**Karl Wuensch, Psychology**

(Treasured Pirate awardees for the Spring 2009 semester will appear in a future issue of Magnetic East.)

## DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAMS & DEAN'S STAFF

*Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences*

### 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 - Leon Wilson

### INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS & DIRECTORS

African and African American Studies - David Dennard  
Asian Studies - John Tucker  
Classical Studies - John Given  
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

Ms. Denise Miller, Senior Executive Assistant  
Ms. Exie Anderson, Budget Assistant  
Ms. Michelle Menns, Office Assistant  
Ms. Tina Moore, Personnel Assistant  
Ms. JoAnne Poore, Personnel Clerk  
Ms. Carol Packard, Office Assitant

# Upcoming Events...

## ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL

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Mr. Robert L. Jones  
Chancellor Emeritus and  
Mrs. John M. Howell

### CHAIR

Mr. Doug Gomes

### VICE-CHAIR

Ms. Harvey S. Wooten

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Mr. Edward T. Smith  
Mr. Tod Thorne  
Mr. Glenn C. Woodard, Jr.  
Mr. Mike W. Yorke



- **April 1-4**  
Thomas Harriot Quadricentennial (400th) Commemorative Conference:  
During the spring and summer of 1609, Thomas Harriot entered into a new realm of exploration—a revolutionary examination of the universe with the aid of telescopic lens. Within weeks, Harriot was observing and charting the movement of planets in our solar system, moons in their orbits, and stars sprinkled across the heavens.  
  
This historic exploration is the focal point of the Harriot Quadricentennial, an international conference being held April 1-4 at four historic centers in North Carolina. For more information, go to [www.ecu.edu/cas/harriot400](http://www.ecu.edu/cas/harriot400).
- **April 2**  
Dr. Stephen Clucas will present the Voyages of Discovery Thomas Harriot Lecture entitled “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.
- **April 15**  
Dean Alan White’s Open Forum on the Budget, 3 p.m., Bate 1028
- **April 18**  
ECU’s International Festival, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Greenville Town Commons
- **April 23**  
Dr. Oswyn Murray, formerly of Balliol College at Oxford University, London, will present a free, public lecture on Arnaldo Momigliano, a distinguished 20th-century classical historian who fled the anti-Jewish laws of Mussolini’s Italy for Oxford. Dr. Murray’s lecture will focus on Momigliano’s works on peace and liberty, written as a young scholar in 1940. This event is co-sponsored by the Classical Studies Program and the Program in Great Books. (Time and location to be announced.)
- **April 24-25**  
Dr. Heidi Byrnes of Georgetown University will conduct a workshop on revisioning and revising the undergraduate foreign language curriculum in the context of global perspectives and 21st century skills. For more information, contact the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at 252.328.6232.  
7 p.m. in C307 Science and Technology Building. Students, faculty and staff may obtain complimentary tickets through the ECU Central Ticket Office.
- **April 29**  
ECU International Potluck Dinner, Willis Building. (Time to be announced.)
- **May 8**  
ECU Spring Convocation

# MAGNETIC EAST

**Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences**

**East Carolina University**

1002 Bate Building

Greenville, NC 27858-4353

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

