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lg/November 3, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chemistry Department to Honor 92-Year-Old Alumnus at Homecoming

Greenville – The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of Chemistry will commemorate their annual homecoming celebration at East Carolina University by paying tribute to its oldest alumnus and scholarship supporter, Mr. Frank D. Kizer. In a ceremony from 5 – 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 7, on the third floor of the Science and Technology Building, Kizer, a 92-year-old graduate of East Carolina Teachers College, will be presented with a certificate of appreciation and a plaque for his scholarship contributions to the department. Kizer established one of the first scholarships in the department, which is still being awarded today.

“I am honored to receive this award,” says Kizer. “The education I received from East Carolina Teachers College some 66 years ago, along with the love and support of my wife, enabled me to have a satisfying and successful career as a high school chemistry and physics teacher as well as supervisor of science education for the state of Virginia.”

“My sister and I are pleased that our father is being recognized for his contribution to ECU,” says youngest daughter Marion Kizer Renne. “His love of learning and the example he set as a teacher inspired us both to pursue degrees in education.”

Kizer began studies at ECTC in the summer of 1939 and received his bachelor of arts in science and social studies in 1942 and his master of arts degree in 1949. He did post-graduate work at Columbia University, Cornell University, the University of Colorado, University of Virginia and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Early in his career, Kizer taught high school chemistry and physics and was a science department chairman. Later, he joined the Virginia Department of Education, where he retired as state supervisor of science after 23 years of service.

Prior to his teaching career, Kizer was employed as a chemist for Barrow Agee Laboratories in Memphis, Tenn., and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va. He also was the founder and first president of the Council of State Science Supervisors (CS3), where he served as executive secretary and chairman of the Safety Committee; evaluator of the NASA Spacemobile Program, later renamed the Aerospace Education Services Program; and chairman and director of several regional and national conferences.

Throughout his career, Kizer has received many honors and awards, including a DuPont and Shell Merit Fellowship, National Science Teachers Association award for Distinguished Service to Science Education, U.S. Army Civilian Service Medal, Virginia Wildlife Federation Educator of the Year Award, Fellow of the Virginia Academy of Science and Kentucky Colonel's Commission.

Four generations of the Kizer family have attended ECU, including Frank's mother-in-law, his oldest daughter Ann Kizer Spain ('64), a granddaughter ('92) and a grandson ('94). Another granddaughter spent three years at ECU.

“He is very proud that his children and grandchildren value education,” says youngest daughter Renne. “He has high hopes that all of their great-grandchildren will follow suit.”

For additional information, please contact chemistry professor Keith Holmes at 252-737-1566 or holmesk@ecu.edu.

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Pictures:

Frank Kizer – A 25-year-old Frank in cap and gown for his ‘42 BA graduation.

Helen and Frank Kizer 70th – Helen and Frank at their 70th wedding anniversary in 2007. In this photo, Helen is 90 and Frank is 91 years old.