Hupp to Lead Dental School

By John Durham

Dr. James R. Hupp, dean of the dental school at the University of Mississippi for the last six years, will be the founding dean of the new school of dentistry at East Carolina University, Chancellor Steve Ballard announced Aug. 13.

“He has impeccable credentials and skills. He is a lead author of one of the world’s best-known dental textbooks, author of a large number of book chapters and scientific articles and editor-in-chief of an international dental journal. He was a member of the team that reviewed the initial plan for our dental school two years ago, and we expect him to help us develop a new model for dental education.”

The North Carolina General Assembly, in the recently completed session, appropriated $69 million to complete the construction of ECU’s new dental school, which expects to enroll its first students in 2011. It will be the second dental school in the state and will include education centers and clinics across the state where third- and fourth-year students will complete their dental education.

Hupp, who will join ECU on Nov. 1, said: “This is a once-in-a-career opportunity to help lead the creation of an educational institution. I feel my entire professional life has prepared me for the work necessary to carry forward the vision of a dental school that prepares individuals to become community- and service-minded primary-care dentists. “I was impressed by the talent that exists at the other schools and colleges of East Carolina University. ... I hope to have the new dental school live up to the high standards of this great university.”

Hupp previously served as chair of the Department of Dentistry in the University of Maryland Medical System and chair of the Department of Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Maryland Dental School. He also chaired the Department of Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and directed the residency program in Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

He holds a dental degree from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, a master’s degree from the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and a master’s degree in public health from the University of California, San Francisco. He also holds a master’s degree in health services administration from the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

Hupp completed his dental internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and residency in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Ecu Welcomes Back Faculty, Record Number of Students

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

East Carolina University expects another record number of students for the fall semester, which officially began with the annual faculty convocation Aug. 18 and the first day of school Aug. 20. ECU officials expect a total enrollment of about 27,000, up from last year’s 25,990.

In his welcoming address to faculty members Aug. 18, ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said that his aim for the coming year is to move forward with a plan to add teaching and research facilities for the east campus.

“ECU’s campus is expanding beyond its borders; more than 5,500 students are expected to reside in residence halls this semester, bringing on-campus housing beyond capacity. For the first time, university housing officials are assigning...”

Ecu Prof, Spider on ‘The Colbert Report’, p. 7

ECU, 2008 - 2009 Convocation Remarks, p. 2

‘Reverse Sail’ During Study Abroad To Africa, p. 7

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More than 1,800 freshmen have enrolled in fall seminars targeting their needs. The small classes of 20 to 25 allow classmates to get to know each other, explore career paths and learn skills such as time and money management.

The Class of 2012 can now connect online through the popular networking Web site, Facebook. First-year students can join a Facebook group to communicate with other new students and link up to campus organizations and activities that match their interests, Smith said.

And, once they’re on campus, ECU’s WOW! – Weeks of Welcome – program aims to keep first-year students involved.

“The way I describe it to students is, ‘seven weeks of things to do, places to go and people to see, all designed to help welcome you to the ECU community.’” said Carol Woodruff, director of ECU’s co-curricular programs and cultural outreach.

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Ballard Presents 2008-09 Challenges, Opportunities

Following are excerpts from the remarks given by East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard at the 2008 faculty convocation, held Aug. 18 in Wright Auditorium.

Today, I would like to talk about the institutional agenda for the coming year. My goal is to ensure that you are aware of several of our opportunities and challenges at ECU. We have worked well over the past four years to move the university forward. On average, over the past five years, faculty have received a 24 percent increase in overall compensation. We have added well over 400 new faculty positions. We’ve had the best legislative year in a long time: $107 million in new capital from the state. It provides us with opportunities for growth, and that is a huge step forward for ECU. These opportunities say a lot about where we are and in the next ten years, establish ourselves as a strong state focus. People all over the state can see how much we are doing. I am proud of our draft report, and it is conceptually sound. We have been selected to submit a new bond package. And we must do this in a very challenging economic environment.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2008-09

1. Our Place in the UNC System

We must continue the rapid progress we have made in the UNC system and with our Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, establish ourselves as a truly national university with a strong state focus. People all over the state can see how much we are doing. Three closely related and very important efforts are underway as we speak:

• The final report for UNC Tomorrow: This is the strategic plan for the entire UNC system. The quality of these reports being prepared by each of the campuses in the system will determine how each university fares in the biennial budget process and, especially, in priorities for capital projects. I’m extremely proud of our draft report and it is consistent with our own plan, ECU Tomorrow. It was submitted in May, under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Deirdre Mageean.

UNC Tomorrow asks us to address how we can enhance our programs in seven areas: global readiness, access to information resources and more state dollars we ask for from the state, and, perhaps most importantly, the emerging view of the vital role we play in the state.

Now here is a critical aspect of these efforts. You are a key part of them. They do not affect just those faculty members and administrators who serve on committees and draft the reports. They are about all of us -- administrators, faculty, staff and students.

2. Capital Projects

Our second opportunity we face this year is also a requirement... we must obtain state funding for vital classrooms, faculty offices and research laboratories, especially on the east campus. ... Without sufficient funding, our growth potential is severely limited and the quality of what we do will be threatened by a lack of physical space for our faculty and students.

The good news is that were extremely successful this year with legislative funding of $107 million and legislative approval of self-liquidating projects of over $90 million. All together, these projects exceed the capital funding we received in the 2001 Bond Package, which is no small accomplishment.

The bad news is that our enrollment growth has occurred primarily on the east campus and it is here that we find our most outdated, decrepit and over-stuffed buildings. ... Our priorities for the coming year include a new $130 million science building on the east campus to replace Howell Science Complex, a new Education and Business building and a Performing Arts Center. All have been approved by the Board of Governors and are ready to move forward to the General Assembly. Now we must secure state funding and convince state leaders how critical a new bond package will be to us. And we must do this in a very challenging economic environment.

3. The Second Century Campaign

The third opportunity is our campaign to secure the vital resources necessary to provide the margin of excellence at ECU. The first goal in this campaign is $200 million, as soon as possible, so we can move toward our next goal of $1 billion. That’s an imposing target, but that is what we need to make ECU TOMORROW successful. We are already more than halfway toward the first goal.

The next step is for every member of the community to help us create a culture of giving by contributing to the campaign, by talking with legislators about our vital needs, and by identifying the numerous positive impacts of our work for North Carolina. Now is the time to make a difference for ECU.

THREE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Let me conclude by mentioning three challenges for the coming year. The ECU Board of Trustees is well aware of these challenges and is expecting strong and clear responses during this academic year. All are manageable but some could be difficult:

• The State Economy
We have enjoyed unprecedented growth in the last five years and great support from the General Assembly. But the next two years look significantly different. State revenues are declining and nearly every prediction is that there will be a mid-year budget revision for all state agencies, and certainly higher education; we are one of the largest discretionary state agencies and will be affected. While I would do almost anything to avoid or prevent this cut, the more prudent approach is to get prepared for the downturn and take a conservative approach to our budget.

• Growth vs. Quality
The heart and soul of ECU is to make a difference for every one of our students and it becomes a bigger challenge every year. ECU is the fastest growing public university in the state, measured by total student headcount. No other university is close. There is much good from this growth, including new faculty positions, more state funding for information resources and more state support. This year, we expect to have the largest freshman class in our history and a total enrollment of over 27,000 students. At the same time, our retention rates have dropped and we know that retention is affected by academic preparation. The soul of ECU is to make a difference for every one of our students, and we must never lose that commitment.

• Infrastructure and Safety
Growth has also severely pressured our capacity to protect our community and to provide necessary services for our students, staff and faculty. In short, we must stop for a moment and address the question “What is the right pace of growth?” and “What are the immediate priorities for improving our infrastructure?” to serve more than 27,000 students. We do not yet have answers to these questions. However, we have made significant investments in campus safety and will continue to do that. No campus community is ever risk-free. We have a very strong partnership with the City of Greenville, that bears primary responsibility for protecting the majority of our students who live off campus, and that partnership gets stronger every day.

I have convened four workshops this summer that have addressed our largest risks and our immediate needs for better services: growth, better business operations and student services. This work is not complete, yet it is apparent that we must invest more resources in enrollment management, student services, and especially financial aid; better approaches to addressing risks we can identify; and student services across the board; from today’s honors program to improving academic assessment with those in the colleges.

So, it will be a busy year. Let’s focus on the opportunities we have to move the university forward. I need, and our leadership team needs, your intellect, energy, and skills to do it. And we can do it. It is possible and I look forward to working with each of you on these opportunities and dreams we have for this great university.
University Awarded for Fundraising Efforts

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has recognized ECU’s fundraising efforts with a 2008 CASE-Wealth Engine Award. ECU received an Overall Improvement award based on judges’ analysis of three years worth of fundrais-
ing data. “This CASE-Wealth Engine award is a wonderful recognition of the team of
staff, faculty, alumni, volunteers and donors we have at East Carolina University,” said
Mickey Dowdy, vice chancellor, ECU University Advancement. “It is a clear indication
of how much people believe in ECU, its students, and its impact on Eastern North Car-
olina.” To determine award winners, CASE judges looked for growth in the following
factors: total support, overall breadth in program areas and in individual program areas,
alumni donors and other individual donors, impact of the 12 largest gifts on total support
and the impact on economic development, overall breadth of program areas, and donor
engagement.

ECU Marks Centennial of Jarvis Hall Groundbreaking

One hundred years ago in July, C.V. York’s construction company started building
Jarvis Hall, the first structure to appear on the campus of East Carolina Teachers Col-
lege. On July 29, York’s grandson, Smokey York, returned to the building along with
ECU faculty, staff and supporters to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the origi-
nal groundbreaking. On display were the historic shovel used to break ground for Jarvis
Hall and a photograph documenting the July 29, 1908 event. “I don’t think anybody
could have realized then what East Carolina would come to mean to our state,” York,
chairman of York Properties, said. York’s family continued their involvement with ECU.
His grandfather’s company went on to build four more buildings on campus before mov-
ing the business to Raleigh, where it continues today. Jarvis Hall was named for an East
Carolina founder, Gov. Thomas Jarvis. The residence hall was renovated in 1999 and
continues to house ECU students.

Alumnus Creates Diversity Enhancing Scholarship

The College of Business at ECU has announced the establishment of a new diver-
sity enhancing scholarship, thanks to a charitable gift from alumnus Danny Scott ‘84
and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation Matching Gift Program. The $52,000 endowment
will fund the first diversity-based scholarship offered through an academic college at
ECU. The Danny R. Scott Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in the
College of Business who contributes to educational diversity while demonstrating aca-
demic excellence and financial need. The scholarship will total $2,300 per year. Scott
lives near St. Louis, Mo., with his wife Connie Shelton, a 1985 graduate of ECU. He has
worked with Anheuser-Busch for more than 19 years.

‘Take Heed’ Project To Share Tips on Off-Campus Living

ECU students, staff and community volunteers will visit more than 800 residences
in the neighborhoods surrounding the ECU campus Sept. 3, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.,
for the annual “Take Heed: Welcome to the Neighborhood” project. The volunteers will
distribute informational kits about off-campus living, Greenville recycling sched-
ules, emergency information, bylaws and other residential living tips. For additional information, contact Lucia F. Brannon, Off-Campus Student Services, at 328-2847 or brannonl@ecu.edu.

Chitwood To Deliver First in Voyages of Discovery Series

By Christine Nef

Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr., a renowned cardiothoracic surgeon and
senior associate vice chancellor of Health Sciences at East Carolina Univer-
sity, will deliver the inaugural North Car-
olina Lecture in the 2008-2009 Thomas
Harriot College of Arts and Sciences’ Voyages of DIS-
covey Lecture Series. The event will take place in
Wright Auditorium at 7 p.m., Sept. 24. It
is the first of six lectures in the series that
honors the accomplishments of Thomas Harriot.

Chitwood

Second Century Campaign Reaches Halfway Mark

By Jeannine Manning Hutson

Halftime through the Second Cen-
tury Campaign, East Carolina University
has raised $107,718,000, or 54 percent, of its $200 million campaign goal. This
achievement comes at the end of a record-breaking fundraising year at East Carolina. Gifts and pledges to ECU from all sources reached $56.2 million in the 2007-08 fiscal year, an all-time high.

“Raising half the financial goal for the Second Century Campaign repre-
sents great progress, yet we know the
second half of a campaign is always more challenging,” said Mickey Dowdy, vice
chancellor of University Advancement at ECU. “We have grown the list of individual
friends and donors who have supported the Second Century Campaign and look for-
ward to even greater things to come.”

Poorman Named ECU Director of Financial Aid

By John Durham

Julie L. Poorman, a veteran admin-
istrator of student financial services, has
been named director of financial aid at
East Carolina University.

Poorman joined ECU on Aug. 1
from the New College of Music in Boston,
where she served as director of the Office of
Student Financial Aid.

Previously she had been director of
state scholarship administration for the
Maryland Higher Education Commission
and director of the Office of Admissions
and Student Financial Aid at Eastern New
Mexico University.

She also served as an administrator in the Office of Student Financial Aid at Iowa State University.

Dr. Judy Bailey, senior executive
director of enrollment management at
ECU, said, “We are delighted to have a
leader of Julie Poorman’s experience and
ability join us in this critical position.
About 65 percent of our students receive
financial aid, and they will benefit from her expertise and insight.”

Poorman holds a bachelor’s degree in politi-
cal science and a master’s in public admin-
istration, both from Iowa State.

She is a frequent presenter at financial aid conferences and workshops and a nationally known trainer of other financial aid professionals.

Photo of Chitwood

Second Century Campaign Reaches Halfway Mark

East Carolina University

The strategic plan’s initiatives include expanding and strengthening scholarship programs, establishing dis-
tinguished professors, providing endow-
established cultural programs, strength-
ening research programs with a direct impact on economic development, expanding research into the causes, treat-
ment and cure of diseases most prevalent in the region and state, and supporting the construction of new campus facilities.
ECU Helps Build Hope for Greenville At-Risk Youth

By Christine Neff

At its heart, Building Hope is about building community—and it takes a village to do that.

At the Community Life Center on Ninth Street in Greenville, children thought to be at-risk academically or socially develop the educational skills and spiritual background they need to overcome life’s challenges.

Three local visionaries—a pastor, a businessman and an East Carolina University professor—founded the organization eight years ago with 15 elementary school students.

“We knew if we could plant the seeds with those 15 students, the fruit would be beyond anything we could imagine,” said Mark L’Esperance, co-founder and professor in ECU’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

They were right.

The center has now served 300 youth from first grade through graduation and continues to grow. It provides after-school tutoring, a safe place for students suspended from school, a dropout prevention program for young men and much more.

The non-profit organization has several full-time staff members but relies on community support to be successful. East Carolina University contributes to that success in a big way.

Students in ECU’s Family Counseling and Therapy Department give presentations on Internet safety. Interns from the Child and Family Therapy school dedicate hours at the center. Greek organizations plan holiday parties and other service events for the kids.

ECU Teaching Fellows and Project HEART volunteers tutor and mentor the children. “We could not run the program without these dedicated students,” said L’Esperance, president of Building Hope’s board of directors.

Betty Beacham, director of ECU’s
continued on page 11

Frellix Assumes Leadership Role

Dr. Gloria Frelix, a clinical assistant professor of radiology oncology at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, has been elected president of the Old North State Medical Society.

Frellix was elected June 13 and sworn in July 19. Her term lasts two years.

The Old North State Medical Society is the nation’s oldest association of black physicians.

Founded in 1886, the society works for equity in health care, equal opportunity for African-American health care professionals and equal care for blacks, other minorities and the poor.

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

Project Heart, noted the need for services like Building Hope in Greenville. “We’re pleased to be a part of it,” she said, of the program.

Project HEART provides the center with one to four students who serve as teachers for the year. They have been trained to work with children who face academic and social challenges. “We view this as a community venture, and it takes all of us to help these kids and their families,” Beacham said.

Project Heart education professor Mark L’Esperance is a founding member of Building Hope, a Greenville program that serves at-risk youth through mentoring, tutoring and life skills programs and activities. (Photo by Marc J. Kawanishi)

Stephanie West-Puckett, a member of the ECU English department, has incorporated volunteer work at Building Hope into two of her freshman-level courses. In spring 2008, her students led a storytelling project that involved the kids and their parents. The college students, who were learning the art of listening, typed the stories as they were told aloud. The project culminated in a printed collection, “Tar River Tales.”

“We were building literacy and communication skills, but I told the kids right away. ‘This is not going to be like school. This is going to be fun,’” West-Puckett said.

Help from ECU doesn’t always take academic forms.

Lester Zeager, a professor in ECU’s Economics Department, got involved through a landscape project several years ago. He helped turn the backyard into a playground, and now volunteers regularly.

“You’ll hear people talk about problems in the city, complaining about them,” he said. “Here’s a chance to go beyond that, to do something constructive to help make the community better.”

One of ECU’s biggest supporters has also been a lead benefactor for Building Hope. Walter Williams, founder of Trade Oil Company and an alumnus of ECU, has been involved since the program started and donated the 7,500-square foot facility where the organization meets.

“In our world today, about all you really have, if you’re poor, is hope,” Williams said. “I think they do a great job of trying to build that.”

ECU volunteers and Building Hope staff agree that both parties benefit from the connection.

“We know that (college) students learn better when they are involved in community service projects,” West-Puckett said.

“They make connections and

continued on page 11

Literary Homecoming Set for September

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

Through both word and song, East Carolina University will celebrate the region’s literary traditions Sept. 26 and 27. The Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming at Joyner Library, now in its fifth year, will offer interactive workshops in addition to panel presentations.

This year, 10 award-winning writers rooted in the history, literature and culture of eastern North Carolina will share their work and their experiences with homecoming participants.

“Meeting with and learning from writers serves as inspiration for the creative spirit,” said Maurice York, assistant director for ECU’s Special Collections.

“We hope by adding workshops to this year’s events, that the literary homecoming will nourish and revitalize this spirit.”

Clyde Edgerton, humorist and author of “Solo: My Adventures in the Air,” and Margaret Maron, author of several mysteries, including “Bootlegger’s Daughter,” will speak at the event. Also author and musician Bland Simpson; Sheila P. Moses, author of “The Legend of Buddy Bush”; and poet Minnie Bruce Pratt.

Doris Betts, author of many short stories and novels, will be presented with the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration Sept. 26. Author Randall Kenan, Betts’ former student, will lead the readings and tributes of Betts’ work, along with a musical performance by Bland Simpson.

A host of workshops—from playwriting and poetry to music making—will be offered throughout the day.

Garcia will lead a staged “readers’ theatre” format from Clyde Edgerton’s book, “The Floatplane Notebook.”

Literary Homecoming Events

Pre-Events:
• Sept. 4, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Sept. 4, at Pitt Community College: A discussion about children’s literature by Alan Bailey (Joyner Library) and Sheila Mendoza, media coordinator at South Central High School.
• Sept. 11, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sheppard Memorial Library: Barton College professor Rebecca Godwin will lead a discussion on Clyde Edgerton’s book, “Walking Across Egypt.”
• Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Cornerstone Baptist Church: Gera Miles (English) and PCC faculty member Regina Garcia will lead a discussion on Randall Kenan’s book, “The Fire This Time.”
• Sept. 17, 11 a.m. to noon, at PCC: PCC faculty member Regina Garcia will lead a staged “readers’ theatre” format from Clyde Edgerton’s book, “The Floatplane Notebook.”

Literary Homecoming Schedule:
• Sept. 26, 7 p.m., Joyner Library: North Carolina authors Randall Kenan and Bland Simpson will read and perform their work. Author Doris Betts will be presented with the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration.
• Sept. 27, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Joyner Library: Panel discussion: Inspiring Social Awareness for Younger Readers, by authors Eloise Greenfield and Sheila P. Moses; Workshop: Playing with the Facts.
Reynolds Grants Awarded

By Jeannine Manning Hutson

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust of Winston-Salem has awarded ECU three grants totaling $868,445 for health-care-related endeavors designed to benefit eastern North Carolina residents.

“ECU faculty and staff are leaders in addressing many of the pressing community health issues in eastern North Carolina,” said Karen McNeil-Miller, president, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. “It’s a natural fit for us to work closely with ECU in serving our mission of improving the health of lower income persons throughout the region.”

Since 1916, ECU’s motto has been servire, which means ‘to serve,” said Phyllis Horns, ECU interim vice chancellor for health sciences and interim dean of the Brody School of Medicine. ‘Partnering with the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust helps ECU extend this timeless spirit of service across our region and allows our faculty and staff to work with communities to address the health needs of eastern North Carolina. This service is a value we hold and a mission we cherish.”

One of the grants will provide $298,188 to establish mental health services in Greene County schools. ECU’s Department of Psychology, Greene County Health Care/Student Health Services, school personnel, and community members will work together to provide mental health services to students through school-based health centers.

“Students with unmet mental health needs are at risk for a host of problems,” said ECU psychology professor Jeanie Golden. “By addressing the mental health needs of school-aged children, the likelihood of breaking this cycle greatly increases.”

The second grant for $309,030 will facilitate the statewide expansion of a school nurse case management program for children with chronic diseases, a partnership between ECU and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services School of Health Initiative.

“Our goal is to improve the health, quality of life and academic success of children with chronic illness throughout North Carolina, with a particular emphasis on underserved counties,” said Martha K. Engelke, associate dean for research and scholarship at the ECU College of Nursing.

The third grant, for $261,227, will provide operating funds to help ECU kidney specialists implement a kidney disease treatment program at primary care clinics in eastern North Carolina.

“Influencing physician management of chronic kidney disease and promoting screening programs by utilizing existing healthcare infrastructures will impact this growing problem,” said Paul Bolin, professor of internal medicine and chief of the nephrology division at the Brody School of Medicine.

Since 2003, ECU has received nearly $2.3 million from the trust in support of 11 health-care-related projects.

Brody Welcomes Class of 2012

By Doug Boyd

Seventy-six new medical students capped their first week at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University Aug. 15 as they received their symbolic white coats.

This class is the largest in school history, topping last year’s 73 entering students. As usual, all students are North Carolina residents representing 32 counties from across the state. Thirty-nine are women, 37 are men. They range in age from 20 to 32. They have degrees from 29 different schools, led by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (15), ECU (13) and N.C. State University (12). Ten students have graduate degrees.

Among the class of 2012 are the four newest Brody Scholars: Nabeel H. Arastu of Greenville, Bryan Howington of Pembroke, Wesley Thomas O’Neal of Wilson and Mary Elizabeth Windham of Greenville.

ECU Professor Leads Local Teachers on Japan Trip

By Christine Neff

New horizons opened to Pitt County school teachers on a trip to Japan led by John Tucker, East Carolina University professor of history and director of the Asian Studies program.

Tucker took 12 public school teachers to Kyoto, Japan, for four weeks this summer. The purpose of the trip was to inspire teachers to infuse Japanese history, culture and language in their classrooms here at home.

“This was a way to internationalize our public school teachers,” Tucker said.

The group toured historic Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, Samurai castles and the grounds of the Imperial Palace in Kyoto. They saw cultural performances, including a Noh drama, visited four universities and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

A highlight of the trip was meeting Japanese teachers and students at several grade-level public schools. Anne Tillery of Ayden-Grifton High School noted how happy the schoolchildren seemed.

“That was so foreign to our experience,” she said.

“We didn’t see any apathy or discipline problems. We looked in the classrooms and saw kids totally engaged,” Tucker said.

Tucker described some of the differences in education between the United States and Japan.

“Their society places much more emphasis on the basics, including lessons found in American classrooms, instead of environmental issues. They are also concerned with environmental issues. They often lack computer technology in their students sometimes face.

“Going to a country like Japan teaches you what it means to be illiterate,” Tucker said.

The experience of navigating a non-English-speaking world helped teachers understand the communication barriers their students sometimes face.

Thomas Cooper of C.M. Eppes Junior High School, said he realized the importance of body language and visual cues to communicating. He would incorporate more of those in his classroom to help students that are learning English, he said.

While trip participants had their horizons broadened by the culture and history of Japan, one experience raised their outlook altogether—climbing Mt. Fuji. Several members of the group attempted the climb, stopping short of the summit. Tucker described the sunrise and sunset from Mt. Fuji, as well as a spectacular lightning display the group witnessed as they moved the clouds. “Not getting to the top was not bad at all,” he said.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad Program covered the costs of the trip, approximately $78,000.

The participants teach a range of age groups and disciplines at Pitt County Schools. The group included a recent ECU graduate and an ECU graduate student.
Rushing Encourages Excellence On and Off The Field

In coordination with the Recognition and Rewards Committee of the ECU Staff Senate, the Pieces of Eight series honoring exceptional ECU staff recognizes Chris Rushing.

By Judy Currin

Chris Rushing enjoys sharing his knowledge of the sport he knows so well. “He is entering his fourth season as ECU’s head volleyball coach and looking forward to the start of the 2008 season. “Our girls are working hard on the court as well as in the classroom,” Rushing said. “It’s good to see this type of desire and work ethic towards our goals.”

Academic achievement is a priority for Rushing. Last year’s team received the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award. The honor recognizes teams that carried a 3.30 or higher cumulative team grade point average throughout the school year.

“We are a relatively young team, with only one senior on our roster,” Rushing said. Rushing said he was grateful to ECU administration for helping the team make a schedule conducive to its situation, a schedule that included more home games.

“It’s more fun for our athletes to play at home in front of their friends they’ve made at ECU, as well as our wonderful community that supports us,” Rushing added. “Playing more at home also helps them to be able to attend more classes and get more quality study time.”

Rushing works to instill the same desire and work ethic in his volunteer efforts as the director of the East Carolina Junior Volleyball Club (ECJVC), now in his third year.

The non-profit ECJVC is organized and run by parents and coaches and affiliated with the Junior Olympic Volleyball Program, the national youth program of USA Volleyball.

Leslie Craigle (Business Services) is a board member. Her daughter, Pammy, now a junior at J.H. Rose High School, has been a team member since 2005.

“I believe there are about a 100 players in the club,” she said.

“This past season we had eight teams ranging from 12 to 18 years old.” Under Rushing’s leadership, the club has risen in national attention and respect. In 2008 he took his 16 and Under Team to the USA-Junior Volleyball Olympics.

The team, which included his daughter Aubrey and son Josh, as assistant coach, brought home the bronze medal. “The win was significant for me,” Rushing said. “When I was a member of the 1985 Junior Volleyball Olympic team from California, we also brought home a bronze. It’s just been 23 years.”

Rushing’s enthusiasm to improve the club has been contagious. “His experience as a college player (BYU 1990 All-time Letterman) and now coach, presents a wider vision to the board,” Craigle said. “He’s helped the club see the potential these girls have to compete at the highest levels and how we can grow as a club.”

Rushing spent untold hours looking for a home facility for ECJVC. He recently created a partnership with Court-side Athletics which now gives the girls plenty of opportunity to practice as well as the chance to work out year round for strength and conditioning.

“Watching the girls play, you can see the positive impact Chris has made on their skill level, competitive spirit and over-all love of the game,” Craigle said. Rushing’s enthusiasm also brings members of the ECU Volleyball Team to the club’s practice to assist in coaching, which gives them leadership experience and the opportunity to serve as role models for the younger players.

“It helps too that he’s a dad,” Craigle said. “He can relate to the team on that level of the court.” Rushing’s youngest daughter, Brooke, is a player.

“Having all three kids play allows me to spend more time with them,” he said.

Rushing is married to Jeannine Rushing, lecturer in ECU’s Department of Exercise and Sports Science.

Inducted into the Servire Society during ECU’s Centennial Celebration, Rushing embodies the university’s spirit – “to serve.”

Grant Expands Diabetes Services at Hobgood Clinic

By Christine Neff

East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine has received a grant to help a small community in rural Halifax County address one of its biggest health concerns – diabetes.

Local health officials estimate that 40 percent of the population in Hobgood suffers from pre-diabetes or diabetes. The disease was named as a contributing condition in 38 percent of the deaths in Halifax County between 2001 and 2005, according to the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics.

To help turn this tide, the College of American Pathologists’ Humanitarian Grant Program has awarded nearly $9,000 to the Hobgood Clinic, a diabetes testing and education program run by ECU medical students. ECU has provided cost-share funds of about $2,300.

The money will be used to purchase better testing equipment and supplies for the free clinic that meets twice a month. Now, student-volunteers check the height, weight and blood pressure of their clients and use a glucose meter to test their blood sugar levels. Clients with elevated levels are encouraged to see a physician or make lifestyle changes.

The new grant will pay for a more sophisticated method of testing, the Hemoglobin A1-C test, that measures the average of a patient’s blood glucose levels over a six to 12-week period.

Clients will also receive a visual “road map” of their progress relative to their goals. Some grant funds will be dedicated to attracting more clients and to doing follow-up home visits.

Tonya Johnson, a second-year medical student actively involved in the project, said the grant will benefit the community by bringing services to those who need them. The region is removed geographically from health resources, and some residents struggle to afford medical care.

“We hope to help 600 people, and it’s reasonable to think we could do that. But you know, if we help six people – or even one – and really make a difference, it will be worth it,” she said.

CAP Humanitarian Grants fund pathology and medical services for underserved patients and underdeveloped areas. In recent years, grants have provided cancer screenings for women in Kenya, outreach and testing for HIV/AIDS in Haiti and medical supplies for a laboratory in Nicaragua.

Karlene Hewan-Lowe, Heng Hong, Kimberly Winslow and Edna Denton of ECU’s Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Department submitted the successful grant proposal on behalf of the clinic.

The Hobgood Clinic meets the first and second Saturday of every month at the Thomas Shields Community Center. Services are free and open to the public.
Faculty, Students ‘Reverse Sail’ in African Study Abroad

By Christine Neff

In West Africa, the Sankofa bird—a mythical creature that flies forward while looking backward—teaches us that we must go back to our roots to move ahead. It’s an appropriate symbol for a study abroad trip taken by East Carolina University faculty and students this summer. The group traveled to Ghana as part of an intensive study of Africans in the diaspora with an emphasis on the transatlantic voyage from West Africa to the Americas.

David Dennard, history professor and director of ECU’s African and African American Studies program, and Kenneth Wilburn, director of undergraduate studies for the ECU Department of History, led the two-week trip this July. Dennard referred to it as “reversing sail,” returning to African roots in order to better understand the African American experience. “We can return,” he said, “but we’re returning as different subjects.”

Six students (both undergraduate and graduate) embarked on the journey that proved to be life changing. They were accompanied by Mary Jackson, director of ECU’s Carolyn Freeze Baynes Institute for Social Justice.

Before landing in Accra, Ghana’s capital city, the students read books and discussed the history of West Africa and the legacy of the slave trade. In Ghana, they visited museums, markets, cities and villages. They took part in a village festival, bought sweet pineapples on the roadside, five for a dollar, and saw craftsmen create Kente cloth, woodcarvings, pottery and more.

The pinnacle of the trip was when the group retraced the final journey of African slaves bound for America. They visited Assin Manso, a former slave market, and toured “castles” where slaves were held before being loaded on ships to cross the Atlantic.

The experience proved to be an emotional one. “Just seeing that major edifice,” Dennard said, shaking his head at the magnitude of the encounter.

He described the heavy stones used to construct the building, the iron bars over the windows and the “Door of No Return.” “You placed your hands on the wall, and it was eerie to think about the number of folks that were in these places, living in a dungeon before being placed in the belly of a ship to be brought to America,” he said.

Wilburn described the “unreal experience” of seeing a place of “very deep cruelty” in a place of beauty. “On one side, you’re on the beach looking through tropical trees and seeing this beautiful edifice on the side of a peninsula,” he said. “It’s just mind-boggling that you can have such a contrast in the same place.”

In lighter moments, the ECU group saw a different type of juxtaposition—that of the old world meeting a new one. While Ghana has a stable government and more developed economy than some of its neighbors, the old world still exists.

“You may find a guy with a herd of goats or cattle using a cell phone, a group of chickens walking under a Mercedes Benz,” Dennard said.

What also stood out was the hospitality of the people. “Hospitality is the religion of the Ghanaians. They are so warm and friendly,” he said.

Ghanaians Ekuia Mensah and her husband Thad Ulzen, a former ECU faculty member, assisted the travelers, many of whom were on their first international trip. “They are profoundly changed,” Wilburn said of the students.

For Wilburn and Dennard, that response justified the many hours—and headaches—they invested in planning the trip.

“And that’s why we take on this project, as really a labor of love,” Den- nard said.

ECU’s Division of Student Affairs provided financial support, as did the Le- donia Wright Cultural Center, the Carolyn Freeze Baynes Institute for Social Justice, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Academic Affairs and the Department of History.

ECU travelers to Ghana enjoyed warm hospitality from the people. Above, a Ghanaian grandmother and child pose for a quick photograph.

ECU Biologist, Spider Appears on ‘Colbert Report’

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

It’s been the summer of the spider at East Carolina.

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 first round of international media attention this spring after he named a spider after 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 show, “The Colbert Report,” that no spider had been named after him.

“I have lots of animals named after me: turtles, eagles, Ontario Junior League hockey mascots,” Colbert said.

“The world demands an eight-legged tribute to Stephen Colbert and I do not mean another barbershop quartet.”

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

“So tell me about my spider,” Colbert said.

“Does it shoot poison darts? Does it lay eggs in your ears?”

Colbert’s spider lives underground, in the sandy dunes on the California coast. The spider creates a “trapdoor” of web and soil at the opening of its lair and waits until a meal passes by. The spider then lashes out to capture the prey. Spiders in the trapdoor genus are distinguished primarily on the basis of differences in genitalia, Bond said, and through differences in DNA.

With several spiders in tow, Bond appeared live on “The Colbert Report” 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. Because Colbert doesn’t pronounce the “t” in his last name, it is silent in the spider’s name as well.

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

“But as long as these rules are followed you can give a new species just 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 have appeared in the August issue of the scientific journal Systematic Biology.

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East Carolina University
Bailey Examines Body Image
By Erica Plouffe Lazure

In eight chapters, 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.

“The book is about a people’s struggle in finding their particular preference for body image and recognizing their body images, body types and standard of beauty are greatly influencing today’s fashion, advertising, fitness, television, movie and political industries,” Bailey said.

Walker Awarded Professorship
Marianna Walker has been named recipient of the Barbara W. Bremer Distinquished Professorship in Language Learning and Literacy Disorders in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. It is the first distinguished professorship in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Barbara Bremer, a speech language pathologist, and Chris Bremer, professor emeritus of family medicine in the Brody School of Medicine, established the professorship to focus on research and education concerning school-aged language learning and literacy disorders and how they are related. Barbara Bremer earned her master’s degree in speech language pathology from ECU.

Walker will promote interdisciplinary teaching between Communication Sciences and Disorders, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and the Brody School of Medicine. She is an associate professor in the communication sciences and disorders.

She serves on the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech & Language Pathologists and Audiologists and is a fellow of the American Speech Hearing and Language Association.

ECU Study Abroad Includes Preview of Olympic Facilities
By Christine Neff

Thirteen students and four faculty members from East Carolina University’s Department of Construction Management had the chance to preview the 2008 Olympic facilities on a study abroad trip to China this summer.

The students and their advisers spent three weeks in the country and visited four cities, Beijing, Tianjin, Luoyang and Shanghai.

In Beijing, they saw the Beijing National Stadium that hosted the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics, as well as the athletic events and soccer finals. The large structure, also called “The Bird’s Nest,” seats 91,000 people.

The building impressed ECU students, who viewed it in its final stages of construction.

Bryan Disce, a student from Washington, D.C., noted the uniqueness of the massive, modern building.

“The whole structure really does look identical to a bird’s nest with the woven steel columns, the wavy bowl-shaped roofline and the open central space where the Olympic athletes will compete,” he said.

“The Chinese have created a very modern building that the world is already getting excited about.”

While in Beijing, the ECU group also saw the so-called “Bubble Building” or “Water Cube” that hosted the Olympic swimming competitions, and a high-rise building that resembles the Olympic torch.

Their tour of China took them to 40 locations of interest, including historical buildings and highways under construction. The trip was a first for the Construction Management program.

Hurley Helps Train Public School Orchestra Teachers
By Harley Dart

East Carolina University music education professor Greg Hurley has been awarded a grant for a program that will help alleviate the shortage of public school orchestra teachers.

Hurley will train the next generation of string educators and promote young string talent through the use of a teaching practicum for undergraduate music education students.

Beginning this fall, ECU String Project student teachers will instruct fourth- and fifth-grade violin, viola, cello and bass students, and participate in all other duties associated with teaching. The program will supplement string offerings for those in public school programs, and offer group instruction to those students who may not have access to a school music program.

The program is funded by a grant from the Dana Foundation through an application process from the National String Project Consortium. The NSPC is a coalition of String Project sites based at colleges and universities across the U.S. dedicated to increasing the number of children playing stringed instruments, and addressing the critical shortage of string teachers in the United States.

Hurley teaches undergraduate and graduate students at the School of Music and conducts the Eastern Youth Junior Orchestra, one of three orchestras that comprise the Eastern Youth Orchestras. He is past-president of both the North Carolina and Colorado units of the American String Teachers Association, and he is editor of the String Syllabus, Volume I for the American String Teachers Association.

Students interested in participating should contact Hurley at 328-1245 or by e-mail at hurley@ecu.edu.
Beijing Bound

ECU Graduate Aims For Paralympic Gold

By Christine Neff

Elexis Gillette vowed to “up” his game when he won a silver medal in the long jump at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.

“He’s the kind in this rapidly expanding field. A kaleidoscope of possibilities: Strategies for Assessing Human Capital Management faculty Xiaoming Zeng and Paul Bell, in the College of Allied Health Sciences, have been awarded a $50,000 grant from the UNC General Administration to develop a new online graduate-level certificate program in health informatics. The innovative online certificate program will be one of the first of its kind in this rapidly expanding field.

In the Spotlight

Appointments/Elections

Elizabeth Layman (Allied Health) was elected to the National Council on Certification of the American Health Information Management Association as HIA Edes for 2008. Larry Nash White (Education) was elected chair of the Library Administration and Management Association’s Planning and Evaluation of Library Services committee and vice chair/elect of the American Library Association’s Library Research Roundtable.

NewsMakers

Carmen Russioniello (Recreational Therapy) in The News and Observer on biofeedback as a tool to help Marines manage stress disorder, July 12.


Christopher J. Wingard (Medicine) in The U.S. News and World Report, on statins as a treatment for erectile dysfunction, Aug. 15.


Service, Honors and Professional Activities

Dorothy Rentscher (Nursing) was certified as a nurse educator through the National League for Nursing.

Nancy Stephenson (Nursing) was named 2007 Alumna of the Year by the Florida College of Medicine, has hon-
Morton, Griffin Publish Text on Construction Management


Danny Morton, an instructor of construction management, and Katy Griffin, lab supervisor for ECU’s construction management lab, wrote the step-by-step book that outlines effective project management, administration, and effec- tiveness in construction management. Jack Patterson of Western Carolina Uni- versity is a co-author.

The book includes details and examples, as well as an complete qual- ity manual that focuses on construction companies but can be adapted for any company seeking to define and control its processes. Used in ECU’s construction management classes, the book can help students understand the importance of a quality management system in the construction industry.

The intention of the book is to simplify understanding of project management and the requirements of the International Organization of Standard- ization,” Morton said. “The book focuses on small- to mid-sized construc- tion companies and contractors who need to implement a system to help them keep their company organized and profitable by streamlining and documenting work processes associated with construction.”

Tar River Vessel Investigated

ECU maritime studies professor Brad Rodgers is leading a team of inves- tigators in a preliminary archae- ological research of a vessel discovered in the Tar River near Old Sparta. Rodgers and his team will create a detailed map of the site, and analyze the hull structure and artifacts discovered in the vessel.

To complete the work, they lay face down in the river with masks and snorkels, recording the week on plastic sheets that float near their workstations.

“This is a pre-disturbance survey with no excavation and only recovery of diagnostic artifacts,” said Rodgers. “We have been working both in the archives and on site for about six weeks.”

Presentation by Su-ching Huang (English), “Gender Negotiation in Taiwanese American Literature: Interracial Desire in Yu Li-hua’s Fiction,” at a panel on Taiwanese Americans at the Association for Asian American Studies Annual Meeting in Chicago, Ill.

Presentation by Carol Christian and Ann Borisoff (Foreign Languages and Literatures), a one-day workshop, “A Modified Foreign Lan- guage Program,” for foreign language faculty at Guilford College in Greensboro.

Presentation by Irene Hamrick (Family Medicine), “Virtual Reality-Based Home Safety Inspection System,” at the Safety, Health and Environmental World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Hamrick also chaired a session.


Presentations by Lillian Burke (Internal Medi- cine) with co-presenters, “Medicaid Patients with Colorectal Cancer are Rarely Diagnosed by Screening Colonoscopy,” for the American Society of Clinical Oncology symposium on gastrointestinal cancer; a poster presentation with co-presenters, “Self-Exam is the Most Common Method of Breast Cancer Identification,” for the American Society of Clinical Oncology (featuring in AMA News); and “High-Dose IV Therapy: the Treatment of Leukemia and other Hematologic Diseases,” at the Duke Bone Marrow Transplant Conference.

Presentations by Health Services and Informa- tion Management faculty at the 2008 Assembly on Education conference in Louisville, Ky.; by Robert Campbell, “Teaching Creativity Skills to Health Information Management Students,” at the Faculty Development Institute and “Integrating Change and Transition Management in Health,” at the AOE Symposium; by Susie Harris and Ziaoming Zeng, “Web 2.0 for Online Educa- tion” at the AOE Symposium; and by Zeng, “Get Involved in Research: Top Five Things HIM Faculty Can Do to Kick-Start Research,” at the AOE Symposium. Campbell and Harris also served as panelists during the “Perspectives in Health Information Management” session.

Presentation by Julie Ocker (Medicine/TEDI BEAR Center director), and Pamela Whitted (TEDI BEAR Center Outreach Coordinator), “Aligning the Stars - Building Systems to Outlive Communities,” at the National Children’s Alliance Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Presentation by Jennifer Bugos (Music), Suzuki Training Enhances Semantic Clustering,” at the International Society for Music Education in Bologna, Italy.

Presentation by Jennifer Bugos (Music), Suzuki Training Enhances Semantic Clustering,” at the International Society for Music Education in Bologna, Italy.

Used Cell Phones Benefit Family Violence Program

By Christine Neff

Most people don’t have much use for an old cell phone. But, in the hands of a domestic violence victim, it could be a lifesaving tool.

That’s why Dawn Gibbs, a paralegal in East Carolina University’s Student Legal Services, began collecting used cell phones to donate to the Family Violence Program of Pitt County.

She began the on-campus drive three months ago, soliciting old phones and their accessories from faculty, staff and students at ECU. So far, she has received 160 phones, 39 chargers and 15 batteries, she said.

“People upgrade their cell phones all the time,” Gibbs said. “So instead of just having the phone sit around your house, you can donate it to a good cause.”

That good cause is local victims of domestic violence. Cell phone compa- nies activate working phones to make 911 calls only. The Family Violence Program then loans those phones to its clients for emergency use.

The cell phone companies make a small, monetary donation to the program for each phone they aren’t able to activ- ate.

Gibbs, who formerly worked in the district attorney’s office, said she knew the needs of the Family Violence Pro- gram and wanted to get ECU involved. “I thought this would be a great way to help out the organization,” she said.

The cell phone drive will continue for three months. Phones can be deliv- ered to the Legal Services department at 1704B Arlington Boulevard or dropped off at a donation booth set up once a month outside Wright Plaza. Drop off dates are Aug. 27, Sept. 24 and Oct. 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Gibbs at 737-1067 or e-mail gibbsm@ eku.edu.

Literary Homecoming Events

Expressing the Message though Genre Choice, by authors Jim Grimsley and Randall Kenan • Sept. 27, 11:15-12:30 p.m., Joyner Library: Panel Discussion: Locating Self: Exploring Social Issues through Poetry, Fiction, and Drama, by Jim Grimsley and Minnie Bruce Pratt; Workshop: A Red Clay Rambler has “Lunch at the Pic- cadilly,” by Clyde Edgerton and Bland Simpson.

• Sept. 27, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Men- denhall Student Center: Lunch break including a reading by Margaret Maron, advanced ticket purchase for the event is required • Sept. 27, 2:00-3:15 p.m., Joyner Library: Panel Discussion: Whodunit? Environmental Concerns in Mystery Novels, by Margaret Maron and Wanda Canada; Workshop: To Make Revolution Irresistible: Writing, Poetry, and Social Issues, by Minnie Bruce Pratt.

• Sept. 27, 4:00-5:00 p.m., Joyner Library: Keynote address: Clyde Edgerton.

East Carolina University
ECU Program Builds Hope

continued from page 3

L’Esperance said most volunteers come to Building Hope wanting to “give something back.” But “about 95 percent of the time,” he said, “they realize they’re getting something.”

The children benefit in many ways, too. They meet ECU students, members of the faculty and staff and get a feel for what higher education is all about. They gain role models, and develop positive adult relationships.

“This is an example of the community coming together to improve the lives of these kids. We realize that these are great kids with bright futures. We just have to put in a little extra time and energy to give them the chance to grow,” L’Esperance said.

For more information or to get involved, visit http://bhclc.org or call 757-1840.

Exhibitions


“Space Intersects Life,” exhibit of work by ECU interior design students, Joynor Library, 2nd floor. Through Sept. 25.


Series Starts with Chitwood

continued from page 4

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FRIDAY

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Fifth N.C. Literary Homecoming, ECU Campus, Joyner Library, 7 p.m. through Saturday, Sept. 27, 5 p.m. Family Weekend (through Sept. 28).

SATURDAY

26

Marcus Borg, a leading scholar on the historical Jesus and emeritus professor of religion and culture at Oregon State University, will deliver a talk titled, “Christians in the Age of Empire: Then and Now,” as the series’ Jarvis Lecture in Religion and Culture on Nov. 18. This event is co-sponsored by Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church and the interdisciplinary Religious Studies program at ECU.

The Thomas Harriot Lecture will be presented on April 2, 2009, by Stephan Clucas, professor at Birkbeck University of London and vice-chairman of the Thomas Harriot Seminar. This series finale is entitled, “Thomas Harriot: New Worlds of an Elizabethan Scientist” and will take place at 7 p.m. in the Science and Technology Building, Room OC-307.

All lectures, except the last one, will be presented at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Tickets are free for ECU faculty, staff and students. Community members can purchase tickets at $10 for each lecture or $50 for the series, through the ECU Central Ticket Office, 328-4788. For more information, visit http://www.ecu.edu/voyages/.

ECU history professor John A. Tucker directs the series.

In Memoriam

Frederick M. Parham (formerly Chemistry chair) died July 29.
Ruth R. Matthis (former ECU housemother - Chi Omega Sorority) died July 31.
Students enjoy the climbing wall during the annual Pirate Palooza Aug. 19, held as part of the ECU Weeks of Welcome activities to help connect new students to campus. Just prior to the Palooza, students attended the annual Student Convocation, where they received an official welcome to campus. (Photo by Marc J. Kawanishi)

‘WOW’ Programs Help Students Connect

This year’s WOW! includes cookouts, pizza parties, concerts, late nights at the Mendenhall Student Center with bowling, movies and billiards, the “ECU Star” talent show and a performance by a comedian. New this year, freshmen will participate in the ECU Reads program, forming groups to discuss, “My Freshman Year – What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student” by Rebekah Nathan.

And, during the first three days of classes, upperclassmen staffed “Ask a Pirate” booths to help direct new students to their classrooms. Some of the WOW! program’s goals are to enhance opportunities for students to connect with faculty and each other, to acquaint them with campus resources and help them gain a sense of ECU loyalty.

2008 will mark the fourth year that ECU has presented Weeks of Welcome, and research conducted after last year’s event provided positive feedback. When surveyed, students who participated said they felt “very connected to ECU” as a result of the activities, Woodruff said.

ECU Welcomes Record Number of Students

280 first-year students to university-contracted, off-campus housing units at North Crossing and Bellamy Suites. The Brody School of Medicine has 255 students enrolled in its MD program, with its largest entering class of 76 students. Four of these students are part of ECU’s “MD in 7” program, and are entering Brody after three years of undergraduate study. All medical students are North Carolina residents.

In addition to a record number of students, ECU will welcome more than 130 new faculty members and three new deans to campus. James R. Hupp was named founding dean of the new School of Dentistry; Linda Patriarca was named dean of the College of Education; and Paul R. G. Cunningham was named dean of the Brody School of Medicine and senior associate vice chancellor for medical affairs. Judy Sigauw was named dean of the College of Human Ecology, and will begin her post in January.

The East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU is nearing completion near the Brody School of Medicine, and construction on the new dental school will begin this semester. Groundbreaking for the new Family Medicine Center is scheduled for Sept. 26.

A newly renovated Todd Dining Hall has reopened on College Hill, and a ribbon-cutting for new fields and a pavilion at the North Recreation Complex is scheduled for Sept. 25.

Campus crews updated the exterior of the McGinnis Auditorium and Messick Theatre Arts Center this summer. During renovations, the ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre Series performed at the Turnage Theater in Washington.

Two more ECU residence halls – Cotten and Fleming – now have fire protection sprinkler systems, bringing the total to four residence halls with sprinklers. By 2012, all 15 residences halls on campus will have sprinklers.

New programs for incoming freshmen this semester include a required online alcohol education program – College Alc, for students under 21 years of age – and a summer reading program. The students read “My Freshman Year – What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student” by Rebekah Nathan.

Music After School

The ECU School of Music will hold a Kids Music After School vocal music program for grades 3 – 5. The program will meet on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Sept. 15 through Nov. 24.

Stuffed by ECU professors Linda High and Jeffrey Ward with support from ECU music education majors, the program will provide an opportunity for children to develop their singing voices and music reading skills.

Cost is $30 per family. For more information contact Jeffrey Ward at wardj@ecu.edu or 328-2557.

Dental School

Harvard University, a medical degree from the University of Connecticut, a law degree from Rutgers University and a master’s of business administration degree from Loyola College in Maryland.

He and his wife, Carmen, have four children. His interests include gardening, the Civil War, cooking, wine collecting, golf and classic Ford Mustangs.

Late-Night Fame

Other spiders in Bond’s arsenal have been named after Nelson Mandela, Angelina Jolie, and Bond’s wife, Kristen.

Bond is both a spider systematist – someone who studies organisms and how they are classified – and taxonomist – someone who classifies new species. Of the estimated 10 million species on the planet, only one and a half million of them have been identified and classified.

“We are amazed at how many species that have yet to be discovered,” Bond said. “But in reality we’ve probably only described a tenth of the species on the planet.”

There are more than 40,000 known species of spiders, Bond said, which represent a small fraction of those that have yet to be discovered. His research tracking the evolutionary diversification among spiders and other arthropods shows how new biodiversity is generated. Preserving the smallest species and their habitats is as critical as preserving the larger ones.

“While a lot of folks tend to focus on things like birds and mammals, it’s really the smaller things like spiders and insects and millipedes that sort of run the world,” Bond said. Bees, for example, pollinate plants for crops, while spiders keep the insect population in check. Destroying their habitats, whether through pesticides or development, he said, harms everyone.

“What organisms are we losing that has kept the ecosystem in check?” Bond asked. “We focus so much on human health and human quality of life. But that needs to have a broader definition that includes other aspects of scientific study,” he said.

“If we can’t feed people or have access to clean air, our priorities will have to shift very quickly.”