lg/March 23, 2009

Contact:

Lacey Gray, Director of Marketing and Communications
252.737.1754, grayl@ecu.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU PRESENTS FINAL LECTURE IN VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY LECTURE SERIES

GREENVILLE, N.C. (March 23, 2009) — Invited guest lecturer Dr. Stephen Clucas, professor in the School of English and Humanities at Birkbeck, University of London, will be on the campus of East Carolina University to conclude the 2008-09 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences’ Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Clucas will present the Thomas Harriot Lecture, discussing “Thomas Harriot: New Worlds of an Elizabethan Scientist,” at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 2, in the Science and Technology Building, Room C-307. Tickets are not needed for this lecture. The event is free and open to the public.

“As we commemorate the 400th anniversary of the introduction of the telescope to astronomical observations – and the pioneering role Thomas Harriot played in that revolution – we are honored to have Professor Stephen Clucas with us to describe Harriot's many scientific contributions to the western world,” says Dr. Larry Tise, professor of history. “As one of the world's foremost Harriot scholars, Dr. Clucas will help us further understand this colorful, brilliant, but little known figure at the core of the Elizabethan Renaissance who was the first scientist to set foot on the shores of what is now North Carolina, and whose name is now attached to ECU's College of Arts and Sciences.”

The Thomas Harriot Lecture is the sixth lecture in the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series, made possible through generous contributions from the Dean’s Advancement Council of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the East Carolina Alumni Association and additional friends and supporters of the college.

“The Harriot Lecture is the cornerstone of the Voyages Series, one meant to bring to light the explorations and discoveries that Harriot so fully pioneered,” says Dean Alan White.

During his lecture, Clucas will describe the new worlds of science and research that began in England during the reign of Elizabeth I. He will describe how Elizabethans, inspired by Sir Walter Raleigh and Thomas Harriot, laid the groundwork for an English colonial empire.

“Thomas Harriot – a genius in mathematics, geometry, navigation, astronomy, natural science and letters – was an active participant, seminal thinker and a guiding hand in articulating the way Englishmen would comprehend and measure these new worlds of exploration and research,” says Tise.

Professor Clucas has been teaching at Birkbeck since 1991 and has served as Vice-Chairman of the Thomas Harriot Seminar, a biennial seminar held at the University of Durham, UK, devoted to the life and times of Elizabethan scientist and mathematician Thomas Harriot, since 1990. He is co-editor of the journal Intellectual History Review, and he is a member of the Council of the International Society for Intellectual History.
For more information on the lecture series, contact Dr. John Tucker at tuckerjo@ecu.edu or 252.328.1028, or visit www.ecu.edu/voyages. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252.737.1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

In conjunction with this year’s Thomas Harriot lecture, Dr. Tise is hosting a conference from April 1 – 4 in commemoration of the 400th year since Thomas Harriot pioneered the use of the telescope, producing some of the first astronomical charts and drawings.

Free, public events will be held at the Morehead Planetarium, North Carolina Museum of History, ECU’s School of Art & Design, ECU’s Joyner Library and the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Roanoke Island. For a complete roster of the Thomas Harriot Quadricentennial Conference program, and event times and locations, go to www.ecu.edu/cas/harriot400.

###