FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mitchelson Steps in as Interim Chair of English

GREENVILLE, N.C. (June 22, 2009) — In an earlier than anticipated transition, East Carolina University Chair of the Department of Geography, Ron Mitchelson, has stepped into a new role as Interim Chair of the Department of English.

Mitchelson was scheduled to take over for current Interim Chair Mike Palmer, on August 1, when Palmer’s contract would expire. However, unforeseen health matters caused Palmer to step down earlier than expected. Now, Mitchelson will lead both the Department of English and the Department of Geography.

“My 12 years as chair were challenging and enjoyable,” Palmer said. “I had the opportunity to work with two great deans, their staffs and my fellow chairs. I’ll miss the camaraderie and the many friends I’ve made outside my home department of history.”

Currently, Palmer is working on a book manuscript, which will be completed at the end of August. His next project includes rewriting one of his novels.

“It has been a pleasure to work with Mike over the past decade,” Mitchelson said. “I am happy to step in for him as interim chair.”

Mitchelson has served as chair of the Department of Geography for the past 10 years, when he first came to ECU in 1999. On August 1, a new chair of geography will be announced, while Mitchelson continues as interim chair of English. As interim chair of English, Mitchelson hopes to assist in the search for a permanent chair for the department.

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