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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enhancing Oneself: Harriot College Staff Members Pursue Advanced Degrees at ECU

Greenville – As many career educators and staff who work in education are aware, a college degree benefits a person at any stage of life. One does not have to be a recent high school graduate or in his or her early 20s to benefit from a higher education. Three ladies who work in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of English understand these advantages. Stacey Atkinson, Shavon Carey and Brandy Dashnaw each are currently pursuing their master's degrees from East Carolina University.

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

Atkinson, who has worked at the university for the past 2½ years, received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from ECU in December 2005. She currently is taking courses at ECU for her master of business administration but is switching paths to pursue her master of arts in English with a concentration in technical and professional communication. She plans to receive this degree in the fall of 2009.

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

“To further advance yourself in today’s workforce, higher education is mandatory,” says Carey.

Carey, who is an eastern North Carolina native, received her bachelor of arts degree in communication from ECU in December 2006. While serving as the administrative assistant to the director of graduate studies in the Department of English, Carey also is pursuing her post-baccalaureate certificate in professional communications. Next fall, she will begin courses for a master of arts degree in English with a concentration in technical and professional communication and hopes to complete the degree from ECU 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 and will receive the degree in the fall of 2009.

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

For additional information about Atkinson, Carey or Dashnaw, contact the Department of English at 252.328.6041.

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