FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andrew Morehead Becomes Chair of the Department of Chemistry

GREENVILLE, N.C. (July 1, 2015) — On July 1, Dr. Andrew Morehead, associate professor of chemistry and outgoing chair of the faculty, who has been with East Carolina University since 2003, will step into the role of chair for the college’s Department of Chemistry.

“I feel an equal amount of excitement and trepidation,” said Morehead. “The budgetary times that require all departments to do more with less brings ongoing challenges, but I also feel that the department is on a nice upward arc in terms of research publications, grants and our work with external constituents through training and sharing of expertise.”

Morehead, whose research interests lie at the interface of organic and inorganic chemistry, particularly in C-H activation and C-C bond forming reactions, will succeed associate professor of chemistry Dr. Allison Danell, who has served as the department’s interim chairperson since January 2014.

“Dr. Morehead will be an extremely dedicated and thoughtful leader of our department, and I am excited to make his transition as seamless as possible,” said Danell. Danell will return to the chemistry faculty, where she said she looks forward to investing more time into her research agenda and mentoring graduate students in the laboratory.

“During my service as interim chair, I have enjoyed promoting the accomplishments of the faculty, staff and students in the Department of Chemistry,” said Danell. “I have come to appreciate the tremendous amount of work and skill that goes into effectively managing the teaching and research operations of our department, and it has been extremely rewarding to aid faculty in setting and reaching their goals.”

As incoming chair, Morehead has several key goals atop his agenda.

“Chemistry is poised to make a great leap forward, with exciting new opportunities to work with emerging programs here at ECU and with the creation of the Biopharmaceutical Center, and existing and new economic development opportunities.” said Morehead. “I intend to act as a facilitator as the department’s faculty expand our research efforts and engage more students (at both the undergraduate and graduate level) in research and training that ensure them the skills and knowledge necessary to be outstanding employees, or competitive for the most prestigious professional and graduate programs. The publications and grant funding required to raise our national profile will naturally follow. I also want to build upon the outstanding work of Allison Danell and her team in leveraging resources to enhance economic development and ongoing partnerships with local industries.”
“Chemistry’s prospects for strengthening ties to industry and enhancing its grant-funded research portfolio are significant,” confirms Dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences William M. Downs. “In fact, I believe Chemistry can be among our university’s leaders in innovation and applied scholarship, and I’m delighted to have Dr. Morehead on the college team working toward those ends.”

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