Randy Daniel Becomes Chair of the Department of Anthropology

GREENVILLE, N.C. (July 1, 2015) — Dr. Randy Daniel, professor of anthropology who has been with East Carolina University since 1996, is the next chair of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of Anthropology. Daniel has served as interim chair of the department since 2012.

“Being an interim chair has provided me with valuable experience in understanding the administrative workings of the department, particularly with respect to its relationship to the college and the university as a whole,” said Daniel. “I have particularly enjoyed getting to know the other chairs in the college and their departments.”

On the subject of becoming chair of the department, Daniel said, “I am honored to have the opportunity to work with a talented faculty of scholar-teachers and dedicated department staff. The Department of Anthropology has an established history of teaching, research and service within the university. I look forward to building on that tradition by implementing the department’s newly developed strategic plan, which aligns with the university’s commitments to student success, public service and regional transformation.”

Of his research interests, Daniel studies the archaeology of the Southeastern United States, particularly the archaeology of prehistoric hunter-gatherer adaptations at the end of the last Ice Age.

“My methodological specializations focus on prehistoric stone tool analysis,” said Daniel. “I’m interested in how prehistoric hunter-gatherers created stone tool technologies to solve their adaptive problems.”

Since arriving at ECU, much of Daniel’s fieldwork has focused on understanding the prehistoric occupation of the Tar River valley, including where and how long ago human settlement existed along the river.

Dr. William M. Downs, dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, praised Daniel’s leadership as Interim Chair.

“Anthropology is now on a decidedly positive trajectory, and Dr. Daniel’s effective service over the past three years in an interim capacity has been instrumental,” said Downs. “He understands quite well how anthropology can be a vital hub at ECU, partnering across campus to strengthen key programs in global understanding and cultural diversity, historic preservation, forensics, bioarchaeology and coastal studies.”

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