FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recent Grant Makes Collaborative Maritime Heritage Speaker Series Possible

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Nov. 11, 2014) — With the assistance of a grant from the Outer Banks Community Foundation, January 2015 will see the commencement of a year-long maritime heritage-themed speaker series on the Outer Banks. The program will celebrate the rich maritime heritage of northeastern North Carolina, with particular attention given to the wealth of shipwrecks found in our estuarine, coastal and offshore waters.

The result of a collaboration between the UNC Coastal Studies Institute (Maritime Heritage Program), East Carolina University Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences program in Maritime Studies and the Department of History, and the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum (NC Department of Cultural Resources) the program of presentations will see scholars from East Carolina University, the National Park Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Florida’s Bureau of Archaeological Research. Speakers will travel to the area each month from January to May and September to December to give presentations regarding ongoing or recently completed maritime archaeological investigations.

The series, “Our Underwater Heritage: Maritime Archaeology Projects in Coastal North Carolina,” will highlight a diversity of topics in local underwater archaeology, from the reconstruction of pivotal battles, iconic shipwrecks and critical industries of yesteryear, to the challenges involved in the study and preservation of maritime history.

Each presentation will be given twice a day at two venues. A morning presentation will occur at 11 a.m. at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, N.C., and a duplicate evening talk is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute in Wanchese, N.C. In addition, the programs held at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute will be streamed live at http://csi.northcarolina.edu/ustream and will be archived for future viewing at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/user/UNCCSI.

The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is a public, non-profit, educational institution. It is part of the North Carolina Maritime Museum System within the State History Museums Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources. The Museum is dedicated to the preservation, advancement and presentation of the maritime history and shipwrecks of the North Carolina Outer Banks from the earliest periods of exploration and/or colonization to the present day, with particular emphasis on the period from 1524 to 1945. The Museum preserves, researches, exhibits and interprets its collections for the benefit of the general public and specialized audiences. The Museum serves its diverse audiences in order to inspire appreciation, encourage discovery and promote an active, responsible understanding of the maritime heritage of the Outer Banks in itself and in relation to that of the United States and the broader history of seafaring.
The Outer Banks Community Foundation was organized in 1982 as a public charity to help meet local needs in Dare County and across all Outer Banks communities, from Corolla to Ocracoke Island. The Community Foundation accomplishes its mission by increasing charitable giving in the area, by managing charitable funds for individuals and agencies and by targeting grants toward the community’s most pressing needs and promising opportunities.

East Carolina University’s Maritime Studies Program, established in 1981, has a distinguished international reputation for teaching and research. Faculty and students have pursued many premier projects around the world, including investigations of the USS Monitor, CSS Alabama, USS Tecumseh, USS Arizona, Maple Leaf, sixteenth-century sites in Bermuda and Florida, and the Yorktown Shipwreck Archaeological Project. The Program offers a master's degree in maritime history and nautical archaeology. Combining classroom lectures and seminars with hands-on field projects and internships, the Maritime Program provides a thorough education for those interested in a professional career in maritime history and nautical archaeology.

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