Cornerstone is a publication for the alumni and friends of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University. It is produced by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

General editor: Lacey L. Gray
Contributing authors: William M. Downs, Lacey L. Gray, Jim Mullen, Jessica Nottingham, and John Stowe
Contributing photographers: Cliff Hollis and Rob Taylor Photography & Design
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Hello friends of Harriot College!

What an exciting time to be at East Carolina University! Under the leadership of new Chancellor Cecil Staton, ECU is moving decisively forward to become the country’s next great national university. We are sharpening and vigorously promoting our brand to ensure that East Carolina is no longer a “hidden gem”—to the contrary, we are telling our institutional story more broadly and loudly than ever before. Included in that story are the current goals of enhancing our profile as a leading research university, securing more opportunities for experiential and international student learning, and better preparing our students for their professional careers. It is this last goal—the professional development of Arts and Sciences students—that provides the featured theme for this current issue of Cornerstone.

As East Carolina University’s liberal arts college, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences is firmly committed to our core mission of providing students with the kind of comprehensive, world-class education that yields good citizens, lifelong learners, and servant-leaders. Producing truly educated graduates is our most enduring and non-negotiable objective, and we are proud that the liberal arts are alive and doing very well at ECU.

That said, in the 21st century’s second decade it is now abundantly clear that any college of arts and sciences must also be much more intentional than in the past about how we ready our graduates for the world ahead of them. We can prepare our students to be citizens in a diverse, global society while simultaneously positioning them for successful careers. These are complementary, not contradictory, goals. Being much more intentional means that we must sometimes counter popular myths about the supposedly dim career prospects of graduates from our disciplines. In point of fact, data from employers in our region and across the country consistently document the demand those employers place on the skills we in the arts and sciences are best positioned to provide—e.g., critical thinking, effective communication, and the ability to solve complex problems while working in teams.

As you read the pages that follow, I hope you will join me in being impressed by the efforts across Harriot College to equip students with the knowledge and confidence they need to enter competitive job markets. Many of our departments teach professional seminars, arrange internships, and work closely with students to identify post-graduation opportunities. You will read individual stories of students and alumni who seized upon unique experiences to improve their career prospects…and to make a positive difference in their professions and in their communities.

Thank you for taking the time to (re)acquaint yourself with some of the latest happenings from Harriot College. We appreciate the support you provide in so many ways, and we invite you to join us in spreading the good news about East Carolina University’s largest and most diverse college!

With all best wishes,

William M. Downs, Dean
Greetings from the THCAS
Dean’s Advancement Council Chair!

The Advancement Council is made up of more than 20 loyal alumni and friends of Harriot College to provide advocacy, consultation, and support for the College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University. As one of ECU’s longest serving and most impactful college-level advancement councils, we take great pride in our role promoting Harriot College’s distinctive degree programs, nationally recognized faculty, outstanding students and alumni, and firm tradition of academic excellence.

Personally, I am most passionate about the college’s mission to double the number of students in the college who study abroad. I have witnessed first-hand the influence that global experiences can have on a college student’s life and professional endeavors. Going abroad can expose students to unimaginable opportunities. Also, growing up in Greenville, I’ve seen how the University has emerged to be an academic leader in North Carolina and beyond. I had the pleasure of receiving both an undergraduate and graduate degree from ECU, which have shaped my life significantly. Additionally, I’ve had a very successful and rewarding career as an ECU administrator until my retirement a few years ago.

Our members step up time-and-time again to help secure funds for the Study Abroad Program, the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series, for merit and need-based student scholarships, and for world-class research. Because we each care in a personal way about the success and stature of Harriot College, it has been gratifying for us to watch—and indeed help guide—the development of Arts & Sciences over the years.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the College’s new directions under the leadership of Dean William Downs. The Harriot College Advancement Council is continuing to establish support for new scholarships that will help attract the best and brightest undergraduates to ECU to study in the natural sciences, mathematics, humanities, and social sciences. We are funding the Dean’s Early Career Award, which will annually recognize outstanding tenure-track faculty who are doing exceptional research.

Our goal will always be to put our students first by providing them with the resources they need to be successful. Through continued fundraising, exceptional stewardship, and aggressive advocacy, the Harriot College Advancement Council will support the college now and into the future.

If you share our passion for Harriot College’s future, then please consider how best you might contribute. We would be happy to have your participation!

Jim Mullen, Chair
Advancement Council
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
New Member Profile: Amanda Tilley

Since the publication of Harriot College’s 2015-16 Cornerstone magazine last fall, Dean Downs has welcomed one new member to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Advancement Council.

The newest member of the council is Amanda Tilley. Tilley received her M.A. degree in English with a concentration in American Literature from East Carolina University in 2003. Currently, she is a franchise operator for the Krispy Kreme Doughnut Company in Greenville, Goldsboro and Rocky Mount, NC.

“I am excited to serve on the Advancement Council for multiple reasons,” said Tilley. “My English degrees have served me well in my business role. Communication – both written and oral – is a critical part of my success. Second, the liberal arts are under fire, and I think it’s important to recognize a degree in this field prepares an individual well for a variety of career pursuits.”

As an ECU alumna, Tilley understands the challenges and ambitious goals the university has for the future, and during her tenure on the council, she looks forward to supporting the college and students.

“ECU is doing innovative things in numerous departments. It is a university on the rise and rightfully growing its reputation,” she said. “I am glad to have the opportunity to be an advocate for these great programs and students.”

In her free time, Tilley loves reading, cooking and spending time at the beach.

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Advancement Council provides an opportunity for alumni and friends to become more involved with Harriot College, to use their influence and affluence to further Harriot College’s goals and to participate in ensuring its future success. The council provides advocacy, consultation and support for Harriot College and the continuing development of its liberal arts and graduate programs. Serving as an advocacy group both on campus and off, the council helps promote a positive image and good relations for the college with the rest of the university, as well as with the region, state and nation.

Your Support is Transforming the College

By Jessica Nottingham

Private support helps the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences grow in scope and quality, deepening our impact on our students and the world. We appreciate each and every donor for investing in the current and future success of the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. We are better because of you!

Through a combination of endowed scholarships, annually funded scholarships, and gifts to our scholarship accounts, Harriot College was able to award a total of approximately $330,000 in scholarships to 156 students for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Outside of scholarship support, the Harriot College Priority Fund is the cornerstone of giving at the College. Gifts to the Priority Fund provide a necessary base of expendable and flexible revenue to support our core programs and initiatives. Some examples are the ability to recruit and retain the best students and faculty, offer hands-on learning opportunities, support research, provide study abroad living/learning opportunities essential for global learning, and purchase state-of-the-art equipment for our classrooms. Harriot College Priority Fund dollars enable Dean William Downs to allocate your support where it is needed most within the College.

You are invited to become a partner in shaping the future. Every gift is important and is a vote of confidence in Harriot College and its future. With your gift you change lives – those of students, faculty and communities across the globe.

Thank you for your support and generosity in advancing Harriot College!
Faculty in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences want their students to be prepared for the job market and to succeed in all future endeavors. To that end, many departments in Harriot College offer professional development courses, programs and seminars throughout the year that provide students with additional skills they will need outside the classroom.

“In the 21st century, it is a virtual certainty that our graduates will work or interact with someone from a different ethnic or cultural background than their own. With its emphasis on understanding cultural diversity, anthropology uniquely prepares students to interact with those individuals,” said Dr. Randy Daniel, chair of the Department of Anthropology. “As such, students in our professional development class learn that anthropology is a gateway major to a variety of jobs. They begin to understand that what they have learned in anthropology doesn’t prepare them for a job, but for any job.”

Seminars often expose students to new ideas or current topics in the ever changing global environment.

“The workshops and seminars that our students help organize for each other, often involving a mixture of faculty and student panelists, are important because they can address new topics and issues not covered in conventional courses,” said Dr. Jeffrey McKinnon, chair of the Department of Biology. “For example, we have had workshops on the role of social media in science today, including thoughts on best practices, as well as altmetrics (the non-traditional measures of a scientific paper’s impact) and how to maximize them.”

McKinnon points out how professional courses and seminars prepare students for the job market.

“These workshops and sessions help to give our students a little extra readiness, even an edge, in rapidly changing scientific workplaces,” said McKinnon. “They help them to succeed and establish strong career foundations.”

Below is a list of professional development courses, programs and seminars offered throughout the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences that help prepare our students for the job market.

**Anthropology** offers a “Professional Development” course for its majors. Objectives of the course include recognizing the types of practical skills students need to specialize in archaeology, cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, medical anthropology, or other anthropology subspecialties, and how these skills can assist students in obtaining jobs; learning about specific job opportunities and internships related to a student’s area of interest; providing an opportunity for various organizations at ECU to present information on practical skill building strategies to students; and providing a forum for students to learn from other anthropology majors about the practical skills they have acquired through their anthropological training. This class includes a lecture from a former major about how anthropology relates to their job. For additional information, visit [www.ecu.edu/anth/](http://www.ecu.edu/anth/).

In addition, Anthropology offers an annual “Anthropology Alumni Lecture Series,” whose purpose is for former ECU anthropology students to share their expertise and experiences to current anthropology students who are preparing to graduate, or who anticipate graduating in the next few years. The lecture series creates more of a constructive, practical dialogue and skill-building opportunity between recent ECU anthropology graduates and current ECU anthropology majors. For additional information, visit [www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/anth/Annual-Anthropology-Alumni-Lecture-Series.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/anth/Annual-Anthropology-Alumni-Lecture-Series.cfm).

**Biology** offers a “Research in Progress” Seminar Series run by graduate students and post-doctoral students. The series features conventional research talks by regional peers, as well as workshops and professional development sessions on topics that include fellowship writing, altmetrics in research publication, social media in science, the three-minute thesis competition workshop, communicating science to the general public, and managing your data. This year’s organizers of the “Research in Progress” seminar series are PhD students Dan Newhouse and Amelia Helms. For additional information, visit [www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/biology/ripseminar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/biology/ripseminar.cfm).

**Economics** offers a Seminar Series throughout the academic year open to students and the general public on topics related to the state of the economy. In addition, the Economics Society offers a professional workshop for all economics majors during the spring semester, which highlights the topics of resume writing, job interview skills, and etiquette. For additional information, visit [sites.google.com/site/ecueconseminarseries/](http://sites.google.com/site/ecueconseminarseries/).

**English** offers an English Professional Seminar (ENGL 4999), a one-credit free elective course each fall, to students majoring in English. In the seminar, students explore career and graduate school options; prepare resumes, cover letters, writing samples, and their senior portfolios; and reflect on the skills they have developed as English majors. For additional information, visit [www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/engl/careers.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/engl/careers.cfm).
In addition, most English graduate students engage in some type of teaching activity during their program at ECU, meaning graduate students are well prepared for teaching jobs. Many graduate students are offered the opportunity to do other sorts of professional work, such as editing disciplinary journals or working on communications for the department. To prepare students who plan to go on the academic job market, the department hosts a formal Jobs Group as well as informal mentoring and advising.

Geography, Planning and Environment offers departmental Seminars. These seminars are presented by graduate students as part of their thesis proposal defense. For additional information, visit www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/geog/.

Geological Sciences offers a Seminar Series to its students and majors each Friday. Speakers from ECU and other North Carolina universities present topics related to the field of geological sciences. For additional information, visit www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/geology/seminarseries.cfm.

Geological Sciences also requires majors in the department to take the North Carolina Summer Geology Field Course offered each summer in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. The field course is a six-week, six-semester hour capstone course that emphasizes field mapping and is designed to train students in field oriented problem solving and critical thinking that will prepare them for a professional career in the geological sciences. For additional information, visit core.ecu.edu/geology/HARPER/SummerFieldCourse/index.htm.

Physics offers a Colloquia and a Seminar Series each semester, with multiple presentations each month on topics related to the field of physics. The colloquia and seminars are led by professors and researchers from ECU and other North Carolina universities and are open to all students. For additional information, visit www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/physics/Colloquia.cfm.

Political Science hosts the annual, Foreign Policy Association’s “Great Decisions Program” each spring semester. This series of lectures on topics related to foreign policy, international relations, and national security, runs eight consecutive weeks on Saturday mornings. Experts in their fields provide presentations on the topics selected by the Foreign Policy Association. The series is open to the public and teachers may earn continuing education credit for attendance. For additional information, visit www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/greatdecisions/home.cfm.

Psychology incorporates a “Research Activity” requirement into the PSYC 1000 and PSYC 1060 course for all its students. Psychology is rooted in the research findings of psychological scientists from around the world. Because of the centrality and importance of research to understanding psychology as a science, all students enrolled in face-to-face sections of PSYC 1000 or PSYC 1060 are required to experience the research process first-hand, as a participant and/or consumer of research. This opportunity is designed to show students how the science of psychology is conducted first-hand, a form of active learning that may enhance the student’s understanding and memory for the material in the psychology course; help the student to better evaluate other research that he or she reads or learns about; provide the student with a unique and often interesting opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research; and to inspire the student to get involved in a research project as part of his or her academic training. For additional information, visit www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/psyc/researchactivity.cfm.

Corporations Who Attend ECU Career Fairs to Hire THCAS Graduates

(Information gathered from Fall 2015 through Fall 2016 - 31 employers)

Alcami           Fortune-Johnson General Contractors
Aegis Therapies  GEICO
Builders Mutual Insurance Company  Homes by Dickerson
Cisco Systems, Inc.  Hospira, a Pfizer Company
City of Kinston  Huttig Building Products, Inc.
Collabera  Insight Global
Credit Suisse  Keystone Insurers Group, Inc.
David Weekley Homes  Mayne Pharma
Enterprise Holdings  MP Consulting Services, LLC
Federal Bureau of Investigation  Nutanix
Fidelity Investments  Patheon Pharmaceuticals
Piper Companies
Pitt Community College
RTI International
Sherwin-Williams Automotive Finishes
The Select Group
Total Quality Logistics (TQL)
Travelers
WilcoHess, LLC/ Speedway
Youth Villages
Real-World Experience: Internships Lead to Student Success

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences students prepare for success in their lives in a number of ways. Through their broad liberal arts education, Harriot College students acquire the tools needed to adapt to a changing work environment and to think outside the box. Participating in faculty or mentor-led research projects give Harriot College students the skills to address specific problems within their field of study. Seeking out and taking part in internships allow Harriot College students the ability to gain real-world experiences that help prepare them for future successes.

“In English, our for-credit internship program focuses on writing in careers,” said Chair of the Department of English Dr. Marianne Montgomery. “Internships allow students to apply the writing and thinking skills they’re developing in the classroom to workplace situations.”

Not only do internships give students real-world experiences, they provide experiential-learning. Using the skills, competencies and knowledge taught in the classroom, students have to address questions and challenges that arise in a work-place atmosphere.

“Experiential learning is often our students’ first true opportunity to apply not just the skills and knowledge, but the versatility, problem-solving capacity and initiative that we’ve worked so hard to foster in our students,” said Brent Henze, professional communication internship coordinator in the Department of English. “Its benefits, when it’s done properly, are genuinely transformative for students – especially those students who we expect to become the leaders of tomorrow.”

Here are the stories of two Harriot College students and one alumna who have taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in internships, preparing them to become tomorrow’s leaders.

Cheyenne Bowman
Graduate Student
Pursuing her MS degree in chemistry

From a young age, Cheyenne Bowman, who will receive her MS degree in chemistry from ECU in spring 2017, knew she had a passion for science. Growing up in a military family, Bowman moved frequently, and while she was living in England during her first year of elementary school she remembers a science experiment she performed connecting circuits to light up a light bulb. She was hooked.

“That is probably when I realized I loved science,” said Bowman.

Throughout her academic journey, Bowman said she felt supported by her family, teachers and guidance councilors.

While attending Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, N.C., Bowman took a chemistry class and participated in a forensic science camp that she said “cemented my intention on becoming a chemist.”

Bowman continued her pursuit of chemistry, earning her bachelor of science degree in chemistry from ECU in 2015. Now, as she pursues her graduate degree, Bowman is participating in an internship with RTI International in Raleigh, N.C. Founded in 1958 as the first scientific organization in the Research Triangle Park, RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research organization dedicated to conducting research that improves the human condition.

Through her internship, Bowman is assisting with a multi-disciplinary, research study regarding organophosphates and heavy metals and their relationship to diabetes. The study is a collaboration among RTI International and ECU associate professor of chemistry Dr. Anne Spuches; Lisa Domico, teaching assistant professor in the Brody School of Medicine; and Walter Pories, professor in the Brody School of Medicine.

According to Domico, one in 10 adults in North Carolina have been diagnosed with diabetes, while one in 3 may have diabetes, but are unaware of their condition. In addition, two-thirds of adults in the state are overweight or obese, a risk factor in the development of diabetes.

The goal of the study is to examine the hypothesis that the increasing presence of organophosphate insecticides and heavy metals in water run-off and soil are associated with the
rising incidence of obesity and diabetes in individuals living in eastern North Carolina.

“Cheyenne is focusing more on the organophosphate side of the project and is currently developing analytical methods to detect and quantitate organophosphates in serum and plasma,” said Spuches.

In addition to method validation, sample preparation and analyses, and data evaluation, Bowman is learning to use an ultra performance liquid chromatography instrument (UPLC). The UPLC instrument is a tool that improves the sensitivity, resolution and speed of analysis of a mixture using chromatography—a method of separating a mixture of components into its individual components.

“I have enjoyed getting to know more people and learning new techniques and instruments,” said Bowman.

Bowman knows that participating in an internship while pursuing her degree is very beneficial, and said it has prepared her for her future career. She also had a bit of advice for other students considering an internship in their fields of study.

“Internships help you figure out if this field is something you really want to do,” said Bowman. “Ask questions. The people you meet could be your contacts to help you get further in your career. So get to know them.”

Once she receives her master’s degree, Bowman plans to pursue her PhD degree in chemistry and begin working in the area of forensic science for a government laboratory. One day, she also wants to teach high school chemistry, passing along her joy for science to the next generation.

**D’Andre’ Johnson**
Undergraduate Student
Pursuing duel degrees: BA in English, with a concentration in creative writing & BFA, with a concentration in animation/interactive design

During his childhood, D’Andre’ Johnson said he was inspired by the movie “Spirited Away,” and animated shows like “Gundam Wing” and “Dragonball Z.” However, it wasn’t just the multimedia work that caught his attention. The stories also intrigued him, which is why he is now pursuing duel degrees with concentrations in creative writing and animation/interactive design.

“I love multimedia work,” said Johnson. “Aside from experiencing the visuals, I also became intrigued by the story of these shows.”

This fall, as he works on his degrees, Johnson is interning with the Greenville Office of Economic Development. It may seem a bit removed from writing and animation, but he says he is learning valuable skills he will apply to his future.

“I chose to partake in this internship, specifically, because in the future I would like to open my own multimedia company instead of just working in one,” said Johnson. “However, to do that, experience in business and economics are essential.”

Through his internship, Johnson assists in supervising other small businesses that have opened up in Greenville. He participates in meetings concerning the detailing of budgeting and event planning, and he conducts research into the logistics of accomplishing specific goals, which he says helps him see all the small details of what it takes to reach that goal.

“The people I work with have been amazing, and I enjoy the positive, collaborative work environment that they present,” said Johnson. “It is something I want to strive for in opening my own company.”

As someone who sees the bigger picture, Johnson encourages other students to participate in internships that will broaden their experience and knowledge.

“Formal education is necessary. However, it is an amazing feeling when you’re doing an internship and you know that you’re not just doing something else that’s required, but something that you want to do that will help you gain the experience hiring professionals are looking for,” said Johnson. “It gives you a huge advantage to be able to step into something that will give you another step up towards your goals.”
Melissa surveys a WWII oil tanker at Maro Reef in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Photo Credit: Dr. Jason Raupp.

Melissa Price, MA
Senior Archaeologist
Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, Underwater Sector

“While studying archaeology during my undergraduate career, I saw a documentary about Titanic. I was struck by the sheer depth of the wreck, and the advanced technology required to travel more than two miles below the ocean’s surface to reach it,” said Melissa Price (’15), who began her graduate studies in ECU’s Program in Maritime Studies in August 2013.

Afterwards, Price began researching underwater archaeology and considering a career in the field. She wanted to study shipwrecks and use the technology required to access those wrecks: SCUBA, remote sensing equipment, and submersibles.

While working towards her master of arts degree at ECU, Price participated in two internships.

From July to August 2015, Price joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Reef Assessment Monitoring Program in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as an underwater archaeologist.

The NWHI are a chain of islands, atolls and shoals extending approximately 1,240 miles northwest from the main Hawaiian Islands. These islands, with the exception of Midway Atoll, are not inhabited and are protected as part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Along with a group of other scientists, Price spent more than a month at sea investigating and monitoring known shipwreck sites, searching for reported underwater sites and conducting terrestrial surveys on select islands. The research vessel stopped at seven locations and docked at four islands.

Price’s team checked on known shipwrecks in the area, measuring and photographing them to log how they change in their environments over time. In between islands, they caught up on data processing, researched potential sites and prepared equipment for the next location. After much hard work and days of searching, they were lucky to find two new sites: a WWII Navy oil tanker wrecked at Maro Reef in 1957 and a WWII-era plane at Midway Atoll.

“It is an incredible experience to see a moment of history, eerily frozen in time,” said Price.

“You never know what an internship might bring,” said Dr. Jennifer McKinnon, associate professor in the program in maritime studies. "For Melissa, the internship with Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary led to the significant discovery of a WWII-era ship (USNS Mission San Miguel), which had been searched for in previous seasons and never located. Imagine as a graduate student helping discovery a shipwreck never before found!”

Price’s second internship took place shortly after she graduated from ECU. In May 2016, Price was invited to participate in the Petra North Ridge Project, a joint archaeological field project in Jordan, led by ECU professor of biological anthropology Dr. Megan Perry and her colleagues at NC State.

The goal of the project was to excavate shaft tombs and domestic structures to learn about the non-elite ancient residents of Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. While in Jordan, Price served as an artifact field conservator. Her primary duties were to clean, consolidate and conserve the artifacts that were brought in from the field.

“Perhaps my favorite part was spending upwards of eight hours in a pit, excavating a thin copper alloy pan with paintbrushes and dental picks. The highlight was when it came out in (mostly) one piece!” said Price.

“I learned much in those six weeks and conserved an amazing array of objects, the likes of which I had only ever seen behind glass in museums,” she said. “Petra is one of the most fascinating
archaeological sites I have ever seen, and I still wonder at humans’ determination to carve out a life in an environment as unforgiving as the desert.”

Not only did Price enjoy the “breathtaking” locations while performing her internships, but she said the work among those involved made a lasting impression.

“There is something to be said about the stellar teams with whom I worked closely during these internships,” said Price. “I certainly made some life-long friends.”

Participating in her internships gave Price the skills needed to be successful in her career.

“I learned how to adapt to situations and to be a fast and independent learner, especially when I felt I did not have the experience required for certain tasks,” said Price.

In giving advice to current and future students, Price whole-heartedly encourages students to participate in an internship.

“Even if an opportunity does not align perfectly with your career goals, you will still have a wonderful adventure and learn something new along the way,” said Price.

“Melissa took full advantage of the Maritime Program’s initiative to place graduate students in internships,” said McKinnon. “In fact, her excitement and exemplary performance in the first internship led to her personally securing future internships with NOAA and a non-profit.”

Since earning her degree at ECU, Price rejoined NOAA for an ocean-bottom mapping expedition in the Pacific, in which she spent a month at sea using multi-beam bathymetry to record seamounts between the Marshall Islands and Guam. She also spent more than a month at sea around Bermuda with Project Baseline and the Nekton Foundation, whose purpose was to study the health of the ocean, particularly the effects of overfishing and pollution.

Price joined the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research in September 2016 and now serves as a senior archaeologist in the underwater sector.

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By the Numbers: THCAS Students Take Advantage of the Following Services

(Information gathered from 2015-2016 academic year)

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Applying Liberal Arts Degrees to Careers:
Harriot College Alumni Excel

After graduating with a broad liberal arts education, Harriot College alumni are prepared for a lifetime of leadership and adaptability in this ever-changing, diverse 21st century. Alumni often demonstrate leadership in their professions and communities, and work towards finding solutions to challenges facing their state and the nation.

Following are just a few examples of alumni who raise the public profile of a degree in the humanities, social sciences, natural science and mathematics, demonstrating how graduates with liberal arts degrees excel in their careers. These individuals illustrate how they are working to make a brighter tomorrow and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Art Beeler

BS professional degree in Correctional Administration and Social Work, ECU 1975
US Bureau of Prisons Warden, Butner Correctional Institution (ret.)
Clinical Assistant Professor, North Carolina Central University

Art Beeler, a native of eastern North Carolina, exemplifies how a liberal arts graduate demonstrates leadership, finds solutions to problems and adapts to changing work environments.

While pursuing his five-year bachelor of science professional degree in correctional administration and social work at East Carolina University (it was not a graduate program at that time), Beeler became a volunteer probation officer for the late North Carolina probation officer, Bob Robinson. In his studies, Beeler was immersed in the theory and practice of using such a degree.

John Ball, department chairman at the time, only hired professors who had significant work experience, giving ECU students a broad educational experience who could take the theory and make it applicable to the work setting. One of those teachers, the late Herman “Gus” Moeller, became Beeler’s friend and mentor, guiding him towards considering an internship with the US Bureau of Prisons. Beeler took that internship and the rest, so to speak, is history.

After completing his degree from ECU in 1975, Beeler accepted an appointment as a correctional officer for a salary of $7,400; married Jo, his wife of 41 years; and began his journey of more than 30 years with the US Bureau of Prisons, relocating to various locations throughout the United States; and obtaining a graduate degree from the University of Maryland and various other professional certifications along the way.

The first two years as a correctional officer were “among the most formative” of his career, said Beeler.

It was at this time that Beeler was transferred to a number of locations within the US Bureau of Prisons. He went to Washington, DC, where he learned a lot about the Witness Protection Program, correctional programs, immigration and naturalization of Cubans and Haitians, and international transfers. He was sent back to Petersburg for a short time and then went to Duluth, Minn., where he served as an assistant superintendent and had the challenge of helping to open a minimum security facility on an old Air Force Base.

“My first real association with prison health care came at Duluth, as we were experimenting with contract health care,” said Beeler. The skills he learned at Duluth would pop up in other positions throughout Beeler’s career.

Beeler’s next assignment was in Lexington, Ky., at a correctional facility that housed both men and women and served as a health care facility for lower-level offenders.

After Lexington, Beeler was named superintendent at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., during which time he oversaw the building of three new dormitories, an educational complex, a receiving and discharge area, and the reconstruction of a dining facility, all using inmate labor.

“Suffice it to say, that for the time I was there, I learned a bunch about building codes, fire codes, environmental compliance – what today we call ‘green technology’ – and inter-agency collaboration,” said Beeler.

Next, Beeler became warden at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago.

“Chicago was a learning experience for me,” said Beeler. “More than anywhere else, I learned that even though we all work for the same ‘government,’ we do not always have the same purpose or goal.”

After Chicago, Beeler became warden of the Federal Correctional Institution in El Reno, Okla., where the Bureau moved an average of 500 inmates a day into or out of the facility, via the Marshal’s Airlift, which Beeler said some called “Con Air.” At the time, the facility served as the most secure facility in the South Central Region, housing more than 1,300 medium- and high-security offenders.

In El Reno, Beeler learned more about labor-management relations, collaboration and the “need for absolute integrity.”

Over the next few years, Beeler returned to Washington, D.C. and
Lexington, and then was sent to Fort Dix, N.J., and finally back to the state of North Carolina, where he served as warden at the Federal Medical Center in Butner, N.C., prior to his retirement in 2009.

Retirement, however, has not slowed Beeler down. He has worked as a consultant for the NC Department of Correction and for the Department of State in Afghanistan; has done some pro-bono work on prisoner reentry; served on a task force on the management of the mentally ill in North Carolina prisons; and now serves as a clinical assistant professor at North Carolina Central University. In his free time, he receives great joy from spending time with his granddaughter, Lilly, thrift store shopping and reading for pleasure.

Over the course of his career, Beeler said the paths he traveled taught him a lot.

“The most important thing I have learned throughout this journey is it is about people. People – meaning public, staff, inmates and everyone else I have had the pleasure to meet,” said Beeler. “Building relationships is among the most important things you can do in this business.”

Beeler’s educational experience at ECU prepared him well for his career, and he feels a liberal arts education is important for whatever profession a person chooses.

“East Carolina University prepared me well both from a theoretical standpoint, and from a practical standpoint,” said Beeler. “A liberal education has never been more important. As we have entered into the world of globalization, we have found ourselves becoming too specialized. To move forward in society, students need to not just know how to build their ‘widget,’ they need to know where it fits into the larger scheme of things. A liberal arts education will help them achieve this in whatever profession they choose.”

Carrie Leigh Browder
BA degree in Political Science/BA degree in Philosophy, ECU 2012
Criminal Defense Attorney, Dysart Willis Law Firm, Raleigh

A native of Spring Hope, N.C., Carrie Browder received her bachelor of arts degrees in philosophy and political science at ECU in 2012. She went on to attend Campbell University School of Law and is licensed to practice in all North Carolina state courts and in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Currently, Browder is a criminal defense attorney for the Dysart Willis Law Firm in Raleigh. She represents clients in State and Federal court.

Browder’s inspiration for pursuing law began while she was a student of philosophy at ECU. However, when Browder was young, her family experienced the criminal justice system in an unfortunate way.

When she was 15-years-old, Browder’s father’s company was investigated on allegations of embezzling taxpayer funds. Ultimately, Browder’s father was sentenced to a minimum of five years in prison, and he began serving his sentence shortly after Browder turned 16.

“Even with this very personal encounter with the criminal justice system, I never considered becoming an attorney until I began taking philosophy classes at ECU,” said Browder. “My philosophy degree prepared me for law school, and ultimately, my criminal defense practice.”

Browder said philosophy prepared her with the tools she needs to reason through new problems, which arise daily in court, pick apart complex legal arguments and communicate effective arguments.

“I love my job. I am in state court just about every day,” said Browder. “I also am responsible for writing all of our federal motions and briefs (a skill I honed writing philosophy papers at ECU) and am responsible for several federal cases of my own.”

Beyond work, Browder enjoys being active. She often competes in local CrossFit competitions, Tough Mudder mud runs, and occasionally participates in long-distance races.
Dr. Douglas Privette
BS degree in Biology, ECU 1972
Virgil Clark ’50 Distinguished Service Award

This year, Douglas Privette was recognized during the 2016 ECU Homecoming weekend as the Virgil Clark ’50 Distinguished Service Award recipient. The Alumni Association’s Virgil Clark ’50 Distinguished Service Award is one of the most prestigious offered by the university. It recognizes uncommon and outstanding service to the Alumni Association and/or the university as a whole. Recipients should also adhere to standards of moral and ethical conduct that would cause the University to be proud to present the recipients as role models for students and other alumni.

Privette completed his bachelor of science degree in biology from ECU in 1972. He is a member of the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors. Since joining the board in 2010, he has served on several committees including investment, engagement, and development and donor relations. He travels throughout the state to meet with alumni and gain support for professorships, endowments and scholarships. He and his wife Terry set up a scholarship in the Brody School of Medicine and have included the school in their estate plan. Previously he served as the director of regional development for the East Carolina Heart Institute from 2009 to 2015. He spent more than 25 years as a cardiologist in eastern North Carolina. As one of the first students in the Brody School of Medicine, he attended for one year before transferring to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to get his medical degree there, as was the standard at the time. He and Terry reside in Greenville and have three children and seven grandchildren.

Maj. Gen. Frederick Padilla
BA degree in Geography, Planning and Environment, ECU 1982
Outstanding Alumni Award

This year, Maj. Gen. Frederick Padilla is one of the recipients of ECU’s 2016 Outstanding Alumni Award, which was presented to Padilla during ECU’s 2016 Homecoming weekend. The Alumni Association’s Outstanding Alumni Award is one of the most prestigious offered by the university. It recognizes alumni with a minimum of five years of work history, outstanding and uncommon achievement in one’s profession, civic affairs, and/or politics. Recipients adhere to standards of moral and ethical conduct that would cause the university to be proud to present the honorees as role models for students and other alumni. It is expected that recipients are recognized by their professional peers as being truly outstanding within their professions.

Padilla earned his bachelor of arts degree in geography from ECU in 1982. He is the 15th president of National Defense University, the nation’s premier joint military higher education institution. With more than 30 years in the Marine Corps, Padilla has served throughout the Middle East, Mediterranean, and Pacific, including combat deployments in Somalia and Iraq. His prior positions include director of operations with Plans, Policies and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps and commanding general of the Third Marine Division.

After earning his bachelor’s degree from ECU, he went on to earn his master of arts in national security and strategic studies at the Naval War College. He also attended the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Air Command and Staff College, and Armed Forces Staff College. He is the recipient of numerous personal and unit awards and honors, including the Legion of Merit (with Combat V and two gold stars), a Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with oak leaf), and the Combat Action Ribbon (with gold star).

He and his wife Cindy reside in Quantico, VA with their daughter, Amy. They also have five grown children: Sam, Ricky, Bonnie, Laura, and Taylor.
East Carolina University’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences hosted its inaugural scholarship luncheon September 23, 2016.

At the event, 156 scholarship recipients for the 2016-17 academic year were honored, and 68 donors who provide the financial gifts that fund the scholarships were formally thanked.

“We are starting a tradition of saying thank you with this inaugural event,” said Dr. William M. Downs, dean of the THCAS. “The college is dedicated to student success and growth, and scholarships allow us to attract the best and brightest and enhance our educational experiences.”

Christopher Dyba, vice chancellor for University Advancement, congratulated the scholars and touched on how gifts from donors make an ECU education accessible and attainable.

“Scholarship support and student success gets to the core mission of the university,” said Dyba. “Your giving makes a difference.”

Mr. Charles Saunders, ECU and Harriot College alumnus, scholarship donor and member of the THCAS Dean’s Advancement Council, presented the keynote address.

Saunders, who said he was excited to attend the luncheon and be on the campus “where it all began,” received his master’s and bachelor’s degrees in history from ECU in 1989 and 1983, respectively. He then went on to teach history at Pitt Community College prior to his retirement.

“I went to work at the same place for 31 years, and I loved it,” said Saunders. “I hope that for all of you; that you can be that fortunate.”

In his opening remarks, Saunders said that the path through life is not an easy, straight line.

“From the day you are born, until the day you die, everything in between is a learning process. There are curves, bumps and obstacles in the road of life,” said Saunders. “Life is a process.”

Saunders said there are two things that really mattered most in his life; his “beloved parents,” who adopted him a few days before Christmas in 1960; and East Carolina University, who provided Saunders with scholarship support that covered three years of his education. Therefore, in honor of his parents and the impact ECU played in his life, Saunders created three scholarships: The Miriam Perry Saunders Education Scholarship Fund, The Saunders Business Scholarship and the Charles Edward Saunders Scholarship.

“When your life is more settled, look back. See what ECU has done for you and consider giving back,” said Saunders. “I think you will see, like I did, that ECU was a very big part of your life’s process.”

Following Saunders’ remarks, two Harriot College scholarship recipients formally thanked their donors and expressed their sincere gratitude for the opportunity provided them.

When she learned she had received the Harvey S. Wooten Study Abroad Scholarship, Genesis Burgos said, “I screamed so loud. I felt like I just won the Mega Millions.”

Burgos, who is majoring in Spanish and photography, said this was the first scholarship she has ever received. It provided her the opportunity to travel beyond the East Coast and outside of the country for the first time and to experience a different culture.

“If it wasn’t for this scholarship, I’d never have gotten to go to Spain,” said Burgos.

Looking at Ms. Wooten, Burgos said, “I want to say ‘thank you.’
You don’t know how much this means.”

Taylor Forbes, who is majoring in chemistry, biochemistry and applied physics, is a recipient of the Franklin Kizer Scholarship.

“When I found out, I was extremely overjoyed,” said Forbes.

In discussing her scholarship, Forbes said she is awed that someone donated their money to help a stranger. She is encouraged that someone believes in what she is doing, and now she has more time to dedicate to her studies.

“I am able to pursue my dreams and make a difference in other people’s lives like the Kizers have done in mine,” concluded Forbes. “I am humbled and eternally grateful.”

More than 150 scholarship recipients, donors and department faculty attended the inaugural Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Luncheon, held in Harvey Hall of the Murphy Center. Also at the event, recipients had the opportunity to have a professional photo taken together with their donors to memorialize the day. Photos are viewable and available for download in a gallery located at robtaylorphoto.com/hcassaysthankyou.

Downs, who was pleased with the message of “thanks,” plans to make the luncheon an annual event.

Extending the Reach of Your Contribution

Our first and most important commitment is to student success, and we are at work every day crafting new opportunities that enhance our students’ learning and equip them with the skills they need to enter a competitive job market. The generosity of alumni and friends like you allows the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences to continue to offer its students an unmatched world-class education.

Private donations help up accomplish the following on an annual basis:

• Fund merit-based and need-based scholarships that help recruit, retain, and graduate the students who will become North Carolina’s next generation of scientists, public leaders, educators, economists, authors, historians, and more. We have been particularly grateful for scholarship support that enables students to gain their first international experience, because studying abroad heightens competence and competitiveness in an increasingly global economy.

• Help bring the world of ideas to ECU’s campus and to the Greenville community through the acclaimed Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series (www.ecu.edu/voyages). Now in its 10th year, the Series has attracted more than 23,000 students, faculty, staff, and the broader public to hear from some of the world’s foremost authorities in the sciences, the arts, and the humanities. Widely recognized as eastern North Carolina’s premier intellectual event, the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series relies on the support of alumni and friends of the college.

• Advance the research mission of our college by facilitating the recruitment and retention of top faculty and by ensuring that East Carolina University is the go-to institution in our region for problem-solving expertise. Funds from donors help Harriot College host major international conferences, support investigators in the field and in the laboratory, and grant students unique opportunities to work on projects beyond the classroom.

Charitable gifts allow today’s Harriot College students and faculty to blaze new trails in social and physical sciences, literature and languages, mathematics, and the humanities.
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
Annual Honor Roll of Donors

During the past year, hundreds of friends have generously supported Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences with their financial gifts. In these days of shrinking government funding, contributions from institutions and individuals provide expanded programming, academic opportunities, and liberal arts enrichment for students and faculty. The following list reflects gifts made to Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

As with any donor list of this magnitude, it is extremely difficult to ensure that there are no omissions or errors. We have made every effort to carefully check the listing of each contribution. If for some reason a name has been omitted, or incorrectly listed, please notify Harriot College’s Director of Alumni Relations and Outreach, Jessica Nottingham, at 252-737-1753, so that we may correct our records. Thank you.

Updated as of June 30, 2016

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mckinnonj@ecu.edu
328-6718

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moreheada@ecu.edu
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baileyg@ecu.edu
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