GREENVILLE, N.C. (Aug. 6, 2012) — Dr. Alan R. White, dean of East Carolina University’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, is pleased to announce the 2012-13 season of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. Established in 2007, the series advances the spirit of exploration and discovery that is the hallmark of the liberal arts, and since its inception has featured speakers of international renown and wide public interest.

“This series has become the premier intellectual event for students, staff and faculty of ECU and for the people of eastern North Carolina. It is a showcase for the quality of academic life at ECU,” said White.

During the 2012-13 season five speakers will visit ECU to address topics ranging from science and human potential, to human evolution, the U.S. space program and leadership, Christianity and sexual politics, and the Battle of Nooherooka in early North Carolina history.

The series begins on Sept. 5 with a University Lecture Celebrating Diversity. Dr. Mae C. Jemison, the first African American female to travel to space, will discuss “Exploring the Frontiers of Science and Human Potential.” Cosponsors of the lecture include the ECU Space Grant Project; the Division of Health Sciences; Joyner Library; the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center; the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Relations; and Go-Science, an eastern North Carolina organization fostering science awareness and knowledge.

At the Premier Lecture on Oct. 2, ECU will welcome Dr. Louise Leakey, paleontologist, conservationist and explorer-in-residence at National Geographic. Leakey will speak on “Secrets in the Sands: Revelations into How We Became Human.”

A special addition in this season’s program is the Space Lecture. On Nov. 13, Colonel Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot and command a space shuttle, will discuss “Leadership Lessons from Apollo to Discovery.” The ECU Space Grant Project is cosponsoring this event.

This year’s Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture on March 5, 2013, will feature Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Cosponsored by the ECU Religious Studies Program and Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church, Levine will discuss “Strange Bedfellows: The Bible, American Politics, and Homosexuality.”
Rounding out the series on March 21, 2013, is a joint Thomas Harriot Lecture/Lawrence F. Brewster Lecture in History, cosponsored by the ECU Department of History. Dr. Daniel K. Richter, Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History at the University of Pennsylvania, will examine “Native Peoples and the Battle of Nooherooka.”

The Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series is made possible through contributions from Harriot College’s Dean’s Advancement Council, various university organizations, and many friends and supporters. To make a contribution, or for additional information, contact Dr. John Tucker, director of the lecture series, at 252-328-1028 or tuckerjo@ecu.edu, or visit the series’ website at http://www.ecu.edu/voyages.

All lectures are open to the public and begin at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium on the campus of ECU, unless otherwise noted. Complimentary tickets are available to ECU students, faculty and staff, and are $10 for the general public, with the exception of the March 2013 Jarvis Lecture, which is free to all attendees. For tickets, call the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

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