FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU English Chair Awarded $270,000 NEH Grant

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Aug. 27, 2014) — East Carolina University’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, chair of the Department of English, is the recipient of a $270,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The award is a three-year grant in support of “The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne,” which is housed at ECU.

On Sept. 1, Johnson will become the general editor for the Donne Variorum, a collaborative research project involving more than 40 international scholars. The project has been funded by the NEH since 1986, with a total of more than $1.8 million.

“I was relieved and delighted to receive the news of the grant, and I’m honored to be associated with this project,” said Johnson. “This is now the eleventh grant we have received from NEH, and it is worth noting that the two largest of those grants have come since the Donne project moved here to ECU—a tribute to Cindy Putnam-Evans and Gina Betcher in the Thomas Harriot College who provided such able and informed support, as well as the assistance of Ramona Brown.”

The Donne Variorum, including its online component DigitalDonne (http://donnevariorum.tamu.edu) has been described by other scholars as “one of the most important scholarly ventures in English literature,” (Brian Vickers, Times Literary Supplement, 25 Jan. 2008) and “one of the most successful collaborative ventures in Renaissance studies of our time” (Stanley Stewart, Renaissance Talk, p. 159).

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