FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU Hosts Guest Lecturer, Will Discuss Climate Change and Migration

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Feb. 10, 2014) — East Carolina University soon will host Dr. Anthony Oliver-Smith, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Florida, for a free, public discussion on climate change policy.

Oliver-Smith will discuss, “Climate Change and Forced Migration: Apocalypse or Adaptation?” at 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 19, in the Science and Technology Center Building, room C307. A light reception will immediately follow the lecture.

Since the 1970s, Oliver-Smith has performed anthropological research in Peru, Honduras, India, Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, Japan and throughout the United States. His work on disasters has focused on issues of the social construction of vulnerability and risk, post-disaster social organization, social consensus and conflict, and recovery and reconstruction efforts. His research on involuntary resettlement has focused on issues pertaining to the threat and impacts of displacement, formation of social movements, policy implications of resistance and the critiques of development policy and practice articulated by resistance movements. Within his areas of expertise, he has authored, edited or co-edited seven books and more than 70 journal articles and book chapters.

From 2005-09, Oliver-Smith held the Munich Re Foundation Chair on Social Vulnerability at the United Nations University Institute on Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany. In 2013, he was awarded the Bronislaw Malinowski Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Applied Anthropology.

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences 2013 Distinguished Professor, Dr. David Griffith, is sponsoring Oliver-Smith’s event. Griffith, professor of anthropology and interim director of the ECU Institute for Coastal Science and Policy, was named the 2013 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor during the college’s annual faculty convocation held in Wright Auditorium this past August. The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship is one of the most prestigious at ECU and is conferred upon a professor whose career exemplifies a commitment to and a love for knowledge and academic life, as demonstrated by outstanding teaching and advising, research and creative productivity, and professional service.

For additional information on Oliver-Smith’s visit, contact Griffith at 252-328-1748 or griffithd@ecu.edu. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the events.

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