A message from the dean

Wow, what a year! Where do I begin? I have only enough space in my column to hit a few high points. The rest is contained in the pages of this issue of Alliance.

This year, we have had a record enrollment of 743 degree-seeking students, of which roughly 60 percent are at the master’s and doctoral levels. The number of new faculty and staff positions has also increased in the past few years to help accommodate this growth that has also been supported by the high-tech teaching and laboratory space in our new building. This growth has resulted in the UNC Board of Governors granting a change in status from the School of Allied Health Sciences to the College of Allied Health Sciences — a fitting tribute on the 40th anniversary of our establishment.

To celebrate our anniversary, we honored 41 distinguished alumni at our Oct. 27 homecoming event, held in our new building before a receptive crowd of 151 alumni, family, friends, faculty and retired faculty. What a great event, one we plan to repeat during homecoming this year.

Growth has occurred in other areas of the college as well, including our new Office of Research headed by our new associate dean for research, Dr. David Cistola, who holds medical and doctoral degrees. Dave came to us after 14 years as a National Institutes of Health researcher at Washington University in St. Louis. He has hired a grants and contracts administrator, and since his arrival July 1, Dave has effectively worked with faculty to significantly increase grant proposal submissions. This increased level of research excellence is also noted in The Chronicle of Higher Education, where Academic Analytics ranked the research productivity of faculty in the doctoral program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders ninth in the nation.

The growth doesn’t stop there. Our new full-time director of development, Patrice Frede, who joined the college last spring, facilitated record giving to allied health sciences to support its nine departments, the college, student scholarships and student leadership development.

Other significant events such as the third annual Research Day between the College of Allied Health Sciences and the Pitt County Memorial Hospital Regional Rehabilitation Center, the fourth annual Mills Health Symposium on rural health issues held Feb. 15-16 and other events too numerous to mention here will be highlighted throughout this issue of Alliance.

I sincerely thank all of you who have helped create a historic foundation of excellence. We are not just getting bigger, we’re getting better. Our outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni have made us what we are today: a college we can all be proud of, a future we can all share and a legacy on which we will build a better tomorrow. And tomorrow starts here, together.

Stephen W. Thomas, Ed.D.
Dean and Professor
By Crystal Batty

Kim Bell has been part of a health care revolution since graduating in 1975 from East Carolina University. Her oldest daughter, Nikki Bell, graduated in 2006 but is already seeing changes in health information management.

They are the only known mother and daughter to graduate, albeit 31 years apart, from ECU’s health services and information management department.

“The thing I tell my students is, if nothing else, health information management has been an outstanding area of work,” said Kim Bell, who has been chair of the health information management department at Edgecombe Community College in Tarboro since 1996. “It is very challenging and never a dull moment. Regulations change, case law changes, diagnosis change and treatment protocols change. There have probably been more changes in the past 10 years than in the past 40 years.”

The management of patient records and the way they are stored, shared and transmitted, the passage of federal regulations such as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act that help guide the care of those records, and the growth in the health care industry has resulted in many changes. The move from paper to electronic records has been one of the biggest.

“One of the things we emphasize now more so than in the past due to the faster pace of change is that lifelong learning is much more critical. You can easily get lost in the dust,” said Bell, a longtime consultant and member of the American Health Information Management Association for 33 years.

She is one of the region’s biggest supporters of the health information management field. It’s fitting because she was a cheerleader for ECU all four years and head cheerleader her senior year. She was in the third class of what was then called medical record science under legendary instructor and the first department chair Peggy Wood.

“Kim is dedicated to service and is unstinting in sharing her love for the profession,” said Dr. Elizabeth Layman, chair of ECU’s health services and information management department.

One of Bell’s biggest fans is her daughter.

“I am proud of my mom and I am grateful that she pushed for me to get a college education. I truly see what a difference it made in her life and ours and if I am half the hard worker she is I will do well in life,” Nikki Bell said. “She never knows when to slow down, strives to do the best and pushes her students to their fullest potential and never gives up on them. I am sure if it wasn’t for her helping them to open doors, some would not have the great positions and opportunities they have now.”

Bell’s department offers the only full online-degree granting program in ECC. It is one of only eight accredited health information technology programs in North Carolina. Her students had a 100 percent pass rate on the most recent national credentialing exam.

“Being a totally online program, it’s opened doors and pathways for people who may not be able to be here physically,” Bell said. “We are seeing increasingly sophisticated students entering our online program and with great results.” Several students applied on their own. Others left jobs that didn’t suit them. Their daughter was one who discovered the profession after trying another. Nikki Bell, who graduated with a double major in health services management and health information management, planned to go into veterinary medicine but had a change of heart after beginning studies at N.C. State University. “I knew I wanted to be on the back burner, not dealing with patients on the front line,” she said.

Working as a coder and auditor with East Carolina Neurology in Greenville is a perfect job. She reviews clinic charts and audits charts for diagnoses, reviews procedures for medical necessity, verifies diagnosis codes under Medicare policies, audits and bills East Carolina Neurology’s physician consultations at hospitals and clinics, and checks other data for accuracy and quality.

She credits her mom with giving her an overview of the profession, which really took hold at ECU.

“Once I started the program, I really understood what she was talking about and learned how health information management was so diverse and how many opportunities were out there in this profession,” Bell said. “I knew that coding was at the forefront and that was where I wanted to start. I am glad that I followed some advice from my mom for once and really see the big road ahead.”

Kim Bell, left, and Nikki Bell, right, are the only known mother and daughter to graduate from ECU’s health services and information management department. At center left, Nikki Bell thumbs through a scrapbook of her college days, sharing a photograph of her cheerleading stunt.
Preventing falls in Older Adults

By Crystal Baity

Practicing Tai Chi twice a week has improved 90-year-old Herbert “Bud” Consor’s balance and, in turn, decreased his chance of falling.

“You’re helping me,” said the retired mechanical engineer.

Consor is one of about 30 residents at Greenville’s Cypress Glen Retirement Community taking a Tai Chi class taught by East Carolina University occupational therapy graduate students who are studying exercise’s role in reducing falls in older adults.

The study is part of several research and community service projects on exercise and fall prevention in older adults conducted by an interdisciplinary team from the occupational and physical therapy departments in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Consor uses a walker, but maintains mental and physical agility by walking and cycling about a mile each day. He has survived three strokes, one heart attack and heart bypass surgery, surpassing the life expectancy of most men in his family.

His father, grandfather and great-grandfather all died at age 59.

Cherie Newton of Raleigh and Joni Long of Wallburg, second-year occupational therapy graduate students, have seen improvement in seniors in their Tai Chi class.

They are able to do daily activities more easily and many are more confident in walking without losing their balance.

“You can tell their balance is better. Some are bending farther down. Their range of motion is better,” Newton said. “It’s really a holistic exercise.”

Tai Chi is a great exercise for older adults because it features slow, controlled movements ideal for efficiently working muscles. Participants can stand or sit and progress at their own pace. It increases endurance, coordination, range of motion, upper and lower body strength and reduces stress and depression.

Carolyn Armitage, 86, said she loves the class. “It’s helping me with my balance,” said Armitage, who is building muscle strength in her right leg left weak by bone grafting following an earlier hip replacement.

Research into falls

Dr. Jane Painter, associate professor of occupational therapy, and her students also are investigating the relationship between depression and exercise. In a pilot study last fall, they measured depression in seniors before and after participation in a four-week Tai Chi class. Before starting the class, four people were found to have mild to moderate depression. But after four weeks of exercise, tests showed they were no longer depressed, Painter said.

In an earlier study, Painter surveyed senior adults to see if anxiety and depression are related to a fear of falling. In a concurrent study by Dr. Leslie Allison, depression and exercise. In a pilot study last fall, they measured depression in seniors before and after participation in a four-week Tai Chi class. Before starting the class, four people were found to have mild to moderate depression. But after four weeks of exercise, tests showed they were no longer depressed, Painter said.

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How to reduce your risk of falls:

Exercise has been shown to reduce the risk of falls by 30 to 50 percent in older adults. "Balance exercise is the number one thing you can do to reduce your risk of falls," Allison said.

A review of medications could help reduce fall risk as well. While many older adults must take medications, some medications have fewer side effects that alter balance, Allison said.

Taking four or more drugs increases a person’s risk of falling about two times and taking five or more drugs quadruples the risk. Taking any drug such as anti-depressants, sleeping pills or prescription pain killers that affect the central nervous system substantially increases the risk of falls. "The more you take, the higher the risk," Allison said.

She cautioned that no one should start an exercise program or modify medications without clearance from a physician.

Seniors also can reduce fall risk by having a home safety evaluation. Homes can be made safer by removing scatter rugs and other trip hazards and installing hand rails, ramps and adequate lighting.

Seniors interested in participating in ECU’s balance and fall prevention studies can contact Dr. Leslie Allison at 744-6236 or Dr. Jane Painter at 744-6194.

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Occupational therapy graduate student Joni Long of Wallburg leads a semiweekly exercise class.

I am an ECU allied health sciences student

Applied for undergraduate admission: 204
Admitted to undergraduate program: 138 (does not include second year students)
Applied for graduate admission: 958
Admitted for graduate program: 162
Total number applicants to all programs: 1,162
Total number accepted to all programs including distance education: 308

Students are from:

Female students: 595
Male students: 148
Total number of students: 743

Baccalaureate degrees held by graduate students: biology, chemistry, exercise physiology, exercise and sports science, psychology, recreation therapy

Average GPA admitted into undergraduate program: 3.3
Average GPA admitted into graduate program: 3.4

White students: 79 percent
Minority students: 21 percent

Other important statistics:
Approximately 60 percent of students are enrolled in master’s or doctoral programs; more than 88 percent of past graduates stayed in North Carolina for employment
By Doug Boyd

Kendrick Hill has a lot to say about his new cochlear implant.

“It kind of like saved my life,” Hill said recently. He can now hear music lyrics and telephone conversations and talk with his friends and co-workers.

“How does that make me feel? That makes me feel good after all these years,” he said.

A team of specialists with the Cochlear Implant Program of Eastern Carolina is helping restore the hearing of eastern North Carolina residents such as Hill. The team comprises the Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic at the East Carolina University College of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Bradley Brechtelsbauer with Eastern Carolina ENT-Head & Neck Surgery, and speech and audiology professionals at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. The program is also giving valuable experience to audiology and speech-language pathology students.

More than 70 people have received implants since the program began in 1999. They range in age from 16 to 90 years old. According to Food and Drug Administration 2005 data, nearly 22,000 U.S. adults and nearly 15,000 children have received them.

“A cochlear implant positively affects the patient and his or her family,” said Dr. Gregg Givens, chairman of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at ECU, of which the clinic is a part. “It’s the most rewarding thing I have done … in 35 years of clinical audiology. It has such an impact on patients’ lives.”

Cochlear implants are small, complex electronic devices that can help provide a sense of sound to a person who has severe to profound hearing loss. They consist of an external portion that sits behind the ear and an internal portion surgeons place under the skin along with an electrode array that curls around the cochlea.

An implant has a microphone, which picks up sound from the environment; a processor, which selects and arranges sounds picked up by the microphone; a transmitter and receiver/stimulator, which receive signals from the processor and convert them into electric impulses; and an electrode array, which collects impulses from the stimulator and sends them to different regions of the auditory nerve.

Adults who have lost all or most of their hearing learn to associate the signal provided by an implant with sounds they remember. Doing so often allows them to understand speech solely by listening through the implant, through visual cues such as lip-reading or sign language can still be important.

“They give us a way to connect people back to the world,” Brechtelsbauer said. “To hear a 78-year-old say ‘You’ve given me my life back’ is very compelling.”

With the cochlear implant program, candidates first see Brechtelsbauer. He then refers them to the ECU clinic for a comprehensive evaluation. They then go back to Brechtelsbauer for a final exam.

Brechtelsbauer performs surgery at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and patients typically spend one night in the hospital. Once the implant area has healed sufficiently, usually four to six weeks later, Dr. Sharon Rutledge, an audiologist and ECU clinical professor, activates the implant.

Patients return to the ECU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic periodically during the next 12 months for processor programming and aural rehabilitation. After that, they return at least once a year for follow-up visits.

Inset photo right, Kendrick Hill of Faison talks about the difference the cochlear implant has made in his life. Right, Kate Kennedy of Winterville heard her husband snore for the first time after receiving her implant. At top, cochlear implants bypass damaged parts of the ear to directly stimulate the auditory nerve. Kennedy’s implant is periodically checked.
The total cost can be as much as $100,000. Some insurance plans cover part or all of the cost.

Most children who receive implants are between 2 and 6 years old. Early implantation improves hearing outcomes. Patients who have received implants between the ages of 18 months and 12 years have the best chance of developing normal language and communication skills.

Research also shows that children who receive implants early are more likely to develop normal language and communication skills than children who receive implants later in life.

By Crystal Bay
For faculty seeking funding for research, the layers of paperwork and maze of administration may be daunting.

The process has been streamlined through the addition of Dr. David Cistola, associate dean for research in the College of Allied Health Sciences. A medical doctor and research scientist, he also is professor of clinical laboratory science in the college and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the Brody School of Medicine.

From idea to submission, the development of a grant proposal can take three to six months, sometimes a year or more. So it involves several entities.

“The regulatory environment surrounding research grants is becoming more and more complex. We help faculty understand those regulations and stay on track,” Cistola said.

Since joining the college in July, he is concentrating on three key areas: pre- and post-award support, building collaborative projects, and continuing his own research into proteins and their roles in Alzheimer’s and diabetes.

Cistola and Wendy Smith, the college’s grants and contracts administrator, provide support for all externally-funded projects and liaison between project investigators and ECU administration.

“Grants are awarded to universities, not simply to investigators. University officials must take the ultimate responsibility and must sign off on all projects, no matter how big or how small,” Cistola said.

“Our goal is to streamline the process and free up faculty members to do their work.”

The office manages grants already approved, provides accountability and coordination, and must sign off on all projects.

Cistola is looking at strengthening existing projects and build new ones.

“Some collaborations form on their own, others require intervention and support,” he said.

For instance, he spotted an opportunity for the Brody School of Medicine Telemedicine Center in providing counseling services to Fort Bragg soldiers.

“I recognized the opportunity for our rehabilitation studies faculty and students to play an important role,” he said.

Cistola’s motivation and passion for his work are traits shared by many faculty and staff in the college, and he has been well received across campus, Thomas said.

“He brings an excellent reputation as a researcher and a wealth of experience in research and external funding. He also brings an infectious energy level toward discovery and grantmanship,” Greens said.

Other projects under Cistola’s scope include community service and health delivery, health care disparities and graduate educational training.
Running for Life

By Crystal Baity

A researcher in the physical therapy department at East Carolina University has teamed up with a Furman University colleague to study running through the lifespan.

Dr. Blaise Williams from ECU and Dr. Ray Moss from Furman are studying runners aged 20 to 80 to see what changes occur in gait and biomechanics as they age.

Long term, investigators will look at individuals in groups to observe patterns or changes in patterns with age. The study could lead to suggestions for modified training for runners to decrease the risk of injury, possibly by changing the types of races or total number of miles run.

Williams and Moss already know that many physiological and biomedical changes occur with age. Older people are at risk of injury and stress fracture because they typically get stiffer with age. Stiffness in running can create more shock in limbs on top of a usual decrease in bone mineral density that comes with age.

“There are lots of changes as you age,” Williams said. “But no one has really looked at the changes specific to running.”

The study is important because many people who started running 25 or 30 years ago are still running today. Moss is one of them. Now 59, he still runs each week, although fewer miles than before, and cycles.

“We have an aging society,” Moss said. “The population of baby boomers is coming to fruition. And they want to keep active.”

Moss, professor of health and exercise science at Furman also is director of the Molnar Human Performance Laboratory. He said they have invested heavily in equipment bringing in a lot of new technology through their association with ECU. Williams has visited Furman several times in helping plan and set up the equipment.

“We have gone to great lengths to make sure our labs are the same and will generate comparable results,” Moss said.

In the lab, runners will receive a comprehensive evaluation and be asked their history of injuries. Physical therapists will measure hips, knees and feet. Muscle strength and extensibility will be recorded. A 3-D analysis of leg movement patterns will be taken as participants run on a 75-foot path with small reflective markers placed on their legs and feet which feed information into a sophisticated computerized system. Forces in legs and joints will be measured. Investigators will videotape runners to see if the computerized data matches what is actually seen and recorded.

A detailed report will be generated including recommendations ranging from specific exercises for strengthening, balance and coordination retraining running techniques.

About 15 to 20 runners from each decade, or a total of 120 to 150 runners, will participate between the two sites over an estimated two-year period. Data analysis will take about another year, Williams said.

New Balance, the athletic shoe company, has provided support by donating men’s and women’s running shoes to each lab. Researchers will share data from the study that could possibly help in shoe design or modifications.

ECU has collected data on 31 runners so far bolstered by strong support from Greenville-area run clubs. Moss said his lab will start collection soon by working with run clubs in the Greenville, S.C., area where Furman is located.

Williams added there is a need for additional sponsorship for personnel and training equipment.
Yesterday our dreams began.

By Crystal Baity

A pirate looks at 40.

The title of an old Jimmy Buffett song seems a fitting theme for the College of Allied Health Sciences this year.

Through four decades, the college continues to fulfill its mission of improving health care by graduating students in biochemistry, nursing, medical, and social sciences.

"Anything we do reflects the mission of the college," said Dr. Stephen Thomas, the fourth dean in the history of the college. A longtime faculty member, Thomas moved to Greenville as 1980 from the University of Arizona to Tucson to be an assistant professor in rehabilitation studies. Today, Thomas has steered the college through record enrollment, the addition of master’s and doctoral programs, budget cuts, university leadership changes, the construction and move to a new facility and the recent re-designation from school to college.

The next few years will bring more changes including a merger of the community health and health services and information management departments, additional certificate programs and collaboration with the new ECU School of Dentistry.

An ongoing challenge is finding clinical sites for students, something the college has dealt with since it opened. Some students still must make long drives to Elizabeth City or Wilmington for clinical training. In the past few years, legal requirements, liability insurance and background checks have made things more complex.

Enrollment growth adds to the challenge. The student body stood at 743, having increased 60 percent since fall 2001.

"It’s been meteoric. ECU as a university has grown and every college and department has participated in its growth," Thomas said.

The move in 2006 to the new Health Sciences Building has helped support the growth and brought all nine departments under one roof for the first time in 20 years. But it has its own challenges. Spread across four floors, faculty and staff are less easy to locate than they did in the old G. Belk Building. Thomas maintains communication with college leadership, department directors, program directors, and special faculty and staff gatherings throughout the year.

On average, more than 25 percent of graduates stay in North Carolina for employment as the college remains the leading university provider of allied health professionals. The first-time student pass rates on credentialing exams remain in the 90 to 100 percent range.

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Dr. Karen Wallace, social work and associate professor of Social Work, LCDs, examines a student's eye plan.

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Milestones

Years of excellence

Speech-language and auditory pathology develops health care management.

Epidemiology renamed biostatistics.

Plans begin for doctorate in rehabilitation occupational therapy adds post-doctoral studies from ECU.

First class of physician assistant studies students start.

Dr. Karen Sullivan, clinical microbiologist and associate professor of clinical laboratory science, examines a student's agar plate.

During his tenure, Thiele was instrumental in creating a biostatistics and epidemiology program. Social work became a separate school and moved out of the Bell Building after gaining approval to start a master's program in 1983.

Pioneer (and pirate) spirit

With Bell located at the far edge of main campus at the intersection of Greenville and Charles Boulevard and across from the stadium, a pioneer spirit was born.

With a separate budget, Thiele had "unusual independence. At least I didn't have to fight with other departments on campus. It worked well and to our advantage."

Thiele served for four chancellor's during his tenure, participated in many accreditations, recessions and budget cuts. "The major thing was our programs matured," Thiele said. "The professions were moving up and expanding and we had to move up and expand with them."

The master's degree for physical therapy had just been approved when he retired in summer 1991. "It was a fun time and all done with awfully good people," Thiele said. "I was the ringmaster of the circus. We dance around the middle to make sure people get on the horse properly."

He said everyone wanted the school to do and asked to do. Thiele said.

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Thinkers, doers and agents of change.

In October, alumni, friends, faculty and staff gathered in the College of Allied Health Sciences for a 40th anniversary celebration in conjunction with ECU’s homecoming and centennial. Forty-one top alumni were recognized from the college’s degree-granting programs. On the following pages, we are pleased to spotlight an outstanding graduate from each of the departments.

Community health connector

Thinks, doer and agent of change. Dr. Don Ensley uses these attributes to describe his former community health student, Deborah Albritton. “As her professor and mentor, I immediately became aware of her commitment to assisting others,” he said.

Albritton is director of Columbus County Healthy Carolinas based at Columbus Regional Healthcare System in Whiteville. She received her bachelor’s in community health administration and master’s of public administration with a concentration in health administration from ECU.

“She is full of energy and is driven by her passion to see positive results in whatever she engages in,” said Ensley, professor and chair of the community health department and assistant vice chancellor for community engagement at ECU.

Albritton has more than 20 years experience engaging community partners and capacity-building. In fact, capacity building is one of the “three Cs” that she is known for in her field. The others are communication and connections, Albritton said.

“I say communication is key. Connecting resources is so important, and finally, I love capacity building,” she said. “I credit much of my success to getting all the people around the table on the same page. I also like to stay focused.”

She served four years on the Governor’s Task Force for Healthy Carolinas and continues to serve as a liaison. She serves on the statewide Physical Activity and Nutrition steering committee. She serves on several county and regional committees working with area schools and hospitals.

“She is a leader in the health care arena, even today, are enhanced by her willingness to take chances and think outside of the box,” Ensley said.

Previously Albritton was a community development specialist with the Eastern North Carolina Poverty Committee, where she directed and implemented a workforce preparedness program in partnership with eight area social services departments and three community colleges.

A published researcher, she has experience consulting with hospitals, community and rural healthcare centers on marketing, community development and physician recruitment and retention. Albritton recently facilitated “Discover Columbus Program for the Rural Carolinas,” where the mobile rural county teams that addressed leadership development, heritage and eco-tourism and agribusiness initiatives.

Ensley noted her commitment to her family and her extended family, the community.

“She is the result of what I have attempted to share with students for 30 years. That is to see, to be, to change,” Ensley said. “Making a difference is her life’s work. It keeps her functioning and alive each day.”

Albritton credits her close Italian family for always supporting her endeavors. She is the daughter of Qull and Joyce Albritton of Ayden and has a brother, Jeff Albritton, a registered pharmacist and consultant from Emerald Isle. She and her husband, Steve Yost, marketing manager of North Carolina Southeast, have three cats, Rocky, Fred and Smokey.

Surgery’s playmaker

Anthony Bartholomew could be considered the point guard of the Brody School of Medicine Department of Surgery team.

As an administrator for surgery, Bartholomew is “a superb leader in the department and in the medical school,” said Dr. Michael Rotondo, professor and chair of surgery.

Bartholomew is in charge of all financials, clinical operations, faculty recruitment and business growth. This enables faculty physicians to care for patients and carry out their research and education mission. There is more competition today for consumers’ health care dollars than before and surgery is no exception, Bartholomew said.

“In very short order, Anthony has been able to produce the financial modeling for a modern-day department and lead us in business development,” Rotondo said.

“He performed so outstanding that he has been recognized as a leader among department administrations.”

Bartholomew’s business model has been emulated by other departments and has helped ECU Physicians’ overall bottom line, Rotondo said. He also has been instrumental in the establishment of the new department of cardiovascular sciences.

“If something really important has been going on, Anthony’s been involved,” Rotondo said.

A Louisburg native, Bartholomew graduated in 1992 with a bachelor’s in health information management from the University of Mississippi.

While there, he also earned a master’s in health services management degree from Webster University.

Bartholomew completed military service in 1997 and headed back to eastern North Carolina, where he became director of medical records at Brody School of Medicine on the heels of the creation of the electronic medical record to replace paper versions. He oversaw the transition project for the medical school.

After the creation of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, he was named privacy officer. While working full-time, he also completed a master’s of business administration degree from ECU in 2004. He joined surgery in 2005.

Bartholomew said a degree in health information management provides a solid foundation for many health care careers.

“Th is is such a broad overview of health care,” he said. “It is a very challenging and needed profession overall.”

On a personal level, Bartholomew’s integrity is stellar, Rotondo said. “You will not find a more honest and forthright person. He understands people and has a quiet leadership style that fits us well.”

In October, alumni, friends, faculty and staff gathered in the College of Allied Health Sciences for a 40th anniversary celebration in conjunction with ECU’s homecoming and centennial. Forty-one top alumni were recognized from the college’s degree-granting programs. On the following pages, we are pleased to spotlight an outstanding graduate from each of the departments.

Stories by Crystal Baity and Doug Boyd
Exceptional counselor, advocate

Shel Donness taught hundreds of graduate students, but none more captivating than Carol Grant Potter.

Donness, professor emerita in the rehabilitation studies program, remembers Potter as someone "always on top of the world. Upbeat, pleasant, happy. When someone is like that, it rubs off on everybody else. She makes you feel better right away."

Potter's insight and ability to empathize with the problems of others make her an exceptional counselor, Donness said.

Sometimes people tell Potter they forgot she has a disability. But she reminds them "it's a part of who Carol is and it's good."

Potter entered ECU's program in 1997 to work in the public sector. "ECU is known for preparing people to work in public rehabilitation," she said. "It's a commitment they continue to maintain."

After graduating with a master's in rehabilitation counseling in 1997, she worked four years as a rehabilitation counselor in Goldsboro, becoming increasingly frustrated with barriers she saw clients face in daily life.

Her appointment at age 26 to a national architectural compliance board tasked with developing the first minimum accessibility standards for federal buildings led her to explore more possibilities for making an impact.

She entered the third doctoral class in the rehabilitation program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. There, she met her husband, Raymond "Sam" Potter. She also helped start a private, non-profit center for independent living, a non-residential resource and advocacy center serving four counties. She found it difficult to direct the center and work on her dissertation at the same time.

Soon a job opportunity opened with Baylor University in Houston, working for a research and training center on independent living. The job included finishing her dissertation. After earning her doctorate in 1990, she taught at the University of Georgia. In 1997, she moved back to North Carolina to be closer to family and begin work with the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities and now as assistant director for community services in the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Her office is responsible for managing and providing technical assistance and support to rehab engineers who design customized home and vehicle modifications, recreational therapists and personal assistance program for help with daily life. The ATP has 10 full-service centers statewide offering professional assessments, demonstrations, loan and consultation about assistive technology devices and equipment for people with disabilities of all ages. The Access North Carolina Travel Guide, the nation's first guidebook for travelers with disabilities, provides information on the accessibility of the state's vacation destinations.

Potter, 54, grew up during a time of inaccessibility for people with disabilities. No mandatory education, no curb cuts, no building codes, no reserved parking.

"In the fifties and sixties, the expectation was that the person with the disability had to make the change and adapt to society, and that's not the philosophy of the disability rights movement," Potter said. Federal accessibility laws and building requirements enacted in the late '70s through the early '90s created change and helped change mindsets, she said.

Potter credits many people who have helped her along the way, from her elementary school principal in Raleigh to her classmates in the late '70s through the early '90s. She attributes her success and her enduring optimism to "the spirit of the '60s and '70s."

"It's a part of who Carol is and it's good," Potter said.
Thinkers, doers and agents of change.

Randy Strickland

Thinkers, doers and agents of change.

Randy Strickland

Randy Strickland describes his role at Spalding as "Chief academic officer". Strickland graduated from ECU in 1978 and earned a master's of business administration in 1991. He said he received his wisdom and leadership skills from his parents, Joe and JoAnne Rodri. "I believe I got the bug when I was just 6 years old when I used to go and help my dad with a former coach who had Lou Gehrig's Disease. Dad was always helping someone to heal. My mother is a nurse and her wisdom and leadership helped mold my interest," Watkins said of her parents, Joe and JoAnne Rodri.

Watkins is owner and president of Comprehensive Rehab of Wilson, a physical therapy rehabilitation company with 32 employees, two outpatient clinics and contracts with home health, nursing homes, a charter school, hospital and long-term care facility for the mentally ill.

She has been a guest lecturer in ECU's physical therapy department for many years and provides clinical training sites for students.

Watkins works with patients one or two days each week while managing her business. "Our biggest challenge is maintaining a sound financial base despite third-party insurance payers, federal program reimbursements, Medicare caps, managed care in state nursing facilities and home health settings. Preparing for change in the health care system is almost constant," Watkins said.

She credits her team of supervisors and clinicians for their dedication in taking care of each other as well as patients. "They are like family.

The number one client we must take care of is the patient," Watkins said. "We are the gatekeepers to prevention, education and healing of the client.

Watkins earned two degrees at ECU, her bachelor’s of science in physical therapy in 1981 and a master’s of business administration in 1991. She said she received a strong foundation of coursework and clinical education.

"Our instructors were there to let us learn and ask questions," she said.

Diagnosed with cervical cancer at age 29, Watkins said surviving the experience leads to a strong foundation of coursework and clinical education.

"I believe it's important to stay close to the window between ages 18 and 22 as graduates we were going out providing something new at ECU: health sciences, Strickland said. "Thinking back to his college days, Strickland remembered being part of something new at ECU's health sciences. "That was an exciting time, and we felt as graduates we were going out providing services that hadn't been provided before," Strickland said.

While he and his wife own property in the coastal town of Southport and plan to retire there one day, Strickland sees himself teaching and leading for many more years.

"I am blessed," said Watkins, now 48. "I have had a patient to write a poem about helping her with multiple sclerosis. It has been a wonderful life for me."

Service-oriented therapist

Eileen Rodri Watkins knew in high school that she would be a physical therapist, influenced by her father, a former head football and track coach, and her mother, a nurse.

"I believe I get the bug when I was just 6 years old when I used to go and help my dad with a former coach who had Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Dad was always helping someone to heal. My mother is a nurse and her wisdom and leadership helped mold my interest," Watkins said of her parents, Joe and JoAnne Rodri.

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Head of the class

"Chief academic officer" is how Dr. Randy Strickland describes his role at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky.

Strickland is senior vice president of academic affairs at Spalding, a university with multiple graduate programs, including two doctoral programs. He oversees academic units, compliance and the university master plan. Even with those responsibilities, some days can still find him teaching and leading for many more years.

"I've chosen to be in academic settings because I feel I've been able to contribute to the advancement of others, and I think that's very rewarding," Strickland said.

In addition, Strickland has served as vice president of the American Occupational Therapy Association, chairman of the Kentucky Occupational Therapy Board, chairman of the Commission on Practice of the AOTA and president of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

A focus of his work and research has been rules and standards for credentialing in the occupational therapy profession. Another research and practice interest is gerontology.

"He's made ECU proud … and had great impact on the profession," said Dr. Anne Dickerson, a professor of occupational therapy at ECU and the person who nominated Strickland as outstanding alumnus. "He's one of our top alums in terms of how far he has gone."

When he was at ECU, Strickland said, a student's life consisted largely of school and maybe a part-time job. Now, students typically work 30 to 50 hours a week, help care for family members, or are older and have their own families.

The bright side is that people no longer see something new at ECU: health sciences.

"Today, students have so much responsibility in addition to their role as students," Strickland said. "I think it's a positive change because we're teaching out to a very diverse population."

Thanking back to his college days, Strickland remembered being part of something new at ECU's health sciences. "That was an exciting time, and we felt as graduates we were going out providing services that hadn't been provided before," Strickland said.

While he and his wife own property in the coastal town of Southport and plan to retire there one day, Strickland sees himself teaching and leading for many more years. "I'm not stopping by any means yet," he said.

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Thinkers, doers and agents of change.

Brenda Ryals

Sound leader

Turning silence into sound is the goal of one of the College of Allied Health Sciences’ top alumni, Dr. Brenda Ryals. She is looking at how canaries can grow hair cells inside their ears and what that means for their hearing. “We know birds can regrow hair cells,” Ryals said. “With people, we know with age or noise or certain toxic drugs, we lose these hair cells, and they don’t grow back.”

A noted audiologist who’s published papers and spoken around the world, Ryals is director of the Auditory Research Lab at James Madison University in Virginia. She’s also a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders there and an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia. She’s been a researcher and professor since.

Ryals is also editor of Ear and Hearing, the journal of the American Auditory Society, and a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. In 1990, ECU recognized her as an outstanding alumna.

Her success comes as no surprise to another former professor, Dr. Garrett Hume. “She was a go-getter,” said Hume, now professor emeritus. “She set her goals high, and I know she would achieve them.”

When Ryals considers the giant steps that have been taken to improve hearing tests and treatments for hearing loss in the 40 years since she was a student at ECU, she says, “I can only imagine the wonderful things they’ll be seeing in the next forty years,” she said.

Leader of the Labs

The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences didn’t have to go far to find an outstanding alumna. Approximately 500 yards away, George Williams has been leading the laboratories at Pitt County Memorial Hospital for 30 years.

Williams came to East Carolina University from Asheville and graduated from the School of Allied Health Sciences in 1973. He was part of the first four-year class to graduate from the young school. He went right to work at PCMH and took the lead of the labs in 1977.

“My first big project was to move that lab from the old hospital to the new hospital,” he said recently in his office that overlooks the newest PCMH building project: a new cardiovascular bed tower.

That structure symbolizes the growth PCMH has seen during Williams’ career. When he started there, he said, he knew every employee’s face and every doctor’s name and face. That’s not the case now, with a medical staff of 650 and a hospital payroll of more than $200 million.

Though Williams hasn’t worked at the bench in many years, he has fond memories of hands-on laboratory work and the personal reward of playing a role in patient care.

“Tired of my work when I would work from seven in the morning till five, and everyone went home, and I was working in the lab till eleven,” Williams said. “Then I would be on call all night and back at work at 7 a.m., the following day.”

John Stallings, the longtime pharmacy administrator and now interim vice president at PCMH, has known Williams since they began working there in the 1970s. The two have golfed and fished together, and Stallings talked up Williams’ shrewd cookouts.

“Tired of knowing him all these years,” Stallings said. “As we like to say, we’ve helped train a lot of executives.”

While at PCMH, Williams has chaired or co-chaired three United Way campaigns. He has also worked as an ECU adjunct clinical laboratory faculty member.

However, he said, automation has led to labs being able to do more with less. Salaries haven’t kept pace with other health care fields, so talented lab workers move on to pharmaceutical sales, physician assistant school and other more lucrative careers.

As for himself, Williams said looking to slow down. “My health is good, and I enjoy what I do, so I’ll be here a while longer,” he said.
Chapter a new course

Dean Stephens Thomas said Frede’s ability to concentrate on one college and build personal and professional relationships with faculty, staff and alumni is already making a difference. A recent alumni telethon raised a record amount of money. Frede also organized the 40th anniversary celebration held in October. “She has come up with some very good ideas,” Thomas said.

Her plans include the establishment at least one endowed professorship in the college and endowed scholarships for each department.

“When some of our departments do not have any scholarships available for our students,” and I hope that by working together with alumni and friends that will change,” Frede said. “ECU was built on the premise of opportunity, and it’s my job to uphold that promise by making people aware of the many opportunities for them to be a part of the progress at the college.”

A Scranton, Pa., native, Frede graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and criminal justice administration. She earned a master’s degree in psychology and returned to a career in financial management. While a reservist, she has been to Bahrain, Vietnam Island, Netherlands and may be headed to Africa this year.

She said the Navy’s core values of honor, courage and commitment help guide her each day in “identifying our greatest needs, communicating our passion and serving as a treated steward of our donors’ generosity.”

Rural health needs

Mills symposium examines access and funding

By Crystal Baity

The unique needs of rural residents and their health were the main topic of the 4th annual Jean Mills Symposium held Feb. 15-16 in Greenville.

Each year the symposium features recognized experts who provide health and wellness related services to eastern North Carolinians. The symposium brings attention and seeks solutions to critical health care issues facing minority populations.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas C. Ricketts, professor of health policy and administration and social medicine and director of the health policy analysis unit in the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

His research has focused on policy making for the health care workforce and access to care for rural and underserved populations.

“Health disparities are inherently linked to issues of social, environmental and occupational justice,” said Dr. Beth Vidle, assistant dean and professor in the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences.

“Without inter-professional approaches to research and service and the collaboration with communities, health disparities cannot be addressed successfully.”

The Feb. 16 community outreach program featured five demonstrations, screenings and education for about 200 participants.

The event was hosted by the College of Allied Health Sciences in collaboration with the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation and Eastern Area Health Education Center.

The Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation gave a generous grant of $10,000.

Jean Elaine Mills earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977 and a master’s in public administration with a concentration in community health from ECU in 1984. She died from breast cancer in 2000. Amos T. Mills III, Jean’s brother, created the symposium to keep her spirit of discovery and community outreach alive.

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Professor and Associate Dean for Research

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Wendy Harding

Administrative Support Associate

Health Services and Information Management

Elizabeth Layman, PhD, RHIA, CCHS, FBHMA

Professor and Chair

Paul Bell, MPH, RHIA, CTR

Administrative Associate

Myra M. Brown, MBA, RHIA, CTR

Administrative Associate

Robert Campbell, EdD

Administrative Associate
Scholarships

Megan Bowker, Holly Honeycutt and Renee Wilson received the Barbara Bremer Award, given annually to graduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders for clinical work that makes a recognizable difference in the life of a client. Bremer is an alumna and long-standing supporter of the department. She is in private practice.

Physician assistant studies, received the Peggy H. Wood Scholarship. Wood began the ECU Health Information Management program and chaired it for 26 years. During her tenure, Wood trained most of the health information management professionals in eastern North Carolina.

Xiaoming Zeng, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor

Bonita Sasnett, EdD
Assistant Professor

Valerie Running and Katherine Stephehson received the George Hamilton Scholarship. Hamilton served as chairman of the physical therapy department from 1969 until 1988. He retired in 1995. Each scholarship is $500 and assists two deserving third-year physical therapy students enrolled full-time with grade point averages of 3.5 or more.

Amanda Jernigan received the Lyllian Pearl Eason Physical Therapy Scholarship. The $1,000 scholarship was awarded to a second-year student interested in the practice of geriatric physical therapy.

Tara Marshall received the Marilyn Edwards Award for Physical Therapy Scholarship. The $1,000 scholarship is awarded to a second-year student interested in the practice of geriatric physical therapy.

Sara Stanley received the Dale A. Huggins Scholarship. The $1,250 award goes annually to a physical therapy student who plans to practice in eastern North Carolina upon graduation and who demonstrates financial need.

Lynnette Massey, rehabilitation studies, received the 2007 Beth Lambeth Memorial Scholarship. It is awarded annually on the basis of exemplary leadership, scholarship and character in memory of Lambeth, who was a graduate student in rehabilitation counseling at ECU.

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Coordinator of the Substance Abuse Counseling Certification Program

Mary H. Chapin, PhD, LCP, CRC, CBDM, NCC
Assistant Professor

Director of Undergraduate Rehabilitation Series

News Briefs

The Department of Sciences and Disorders doctoral program is ranked ninth in a national study of faculty scholarly productivity.

The 2007 index, produced by Academic Analytics, compiles overall institutional rankings for faculty productivity for 375 universities that offer doctoral degrees. Also the graduate programs in the department recently were reaccredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation for the maximum eight-year period.

Dr. Anne Dickerson, professor of occupational therapy, was named one of 10 Centennial Women of Distinction in 2007 by the ECU Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Women and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

Dr. Robert Kalshofer, director of the health services management program, was recently appointed to the Undergraduate Program Committee of the Association in University Programs in Health Administration. His term runs through June 2010.

Dr. Elizabeth Layman, chair of the Department of Health Services and Information Management, was recently appointed to the Scholars Council, a partner of the University of North Carolina Tomorrow Corporation.

Carolyn Pagu, clinical assistant professor and didactic education coordinator for physician assistant studies, was appointed by Gen. Mike Easley to an advisory board of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services to establish a controlled substances reporting system.

Dr. Mark Stubbs, professor of rehabilitation studies, has been appointed to the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification, and the Council on Rehabilitation Education, which accredits all graduate-level rehabilitation counselor training programs.

Dr. Stephen Thomas, dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, is vice-chair of the Council for Allied Health in North Carolina. Thomas will become chair in 2009.

Dr. Xiaoming Zeng, assistant professor of health services and information management, has been named an ECU Scholar Teacher for 2007-2008.
1973
Michele Hill Donley (BS medical technology) of Wakefield is a group practice administrator and received a master’s in health administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2000.

1975
Patricia Ann Chase (BS communication sciences and disorders, MS ’79 audiology) of Johnson City, Tenn., received the East Tennessee State University Foundation Teaching Award in the College of Public and Allied Health, where she is an associate professor of communication disorders and audiologist in the ETSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

1977
Don Woodard (BS occupational therapy) is a certified hand therapist at Lewis-Gale Medical Center in Salem, Va. He and wife, Donna, have four sons.

1980
Hubert Donald “Doc” Vickers Jr. (BS school and community health education) of Greenville is a strategic territory manager with Simmons Bedding Company. He and wife, Leigh Vickers, have two daughters.

1982
Ulla-Britta Schroeder Dittmar (BS medical technology) of Apdau is a histotechnology instructor at Pitt Community College.

1985
Marie Vest Simmons (BS speech language pathology) of Raleigh is a preschool speech therapist in the Johnston County Schools. She and husband, Mark Simmons (’84), have three children.

1987
Bernice Gorham Cherry (BS school and community health education) of Greenville published “The Onion You Are Eating Is Someone Else’s Wonderfully” in 2004. She is co-owner of ZCS Inc., providing in-home care to people with mental retardation and development disabilities.

1988
Douglas Lee Dalton (MS rehabilitation counseling) of Fayetteville retired as a state vocational rehabilitation counselor. He is a lay speaker for the United Methodist Church.

1989
Geneva White Reit (MS audiology, Au ’83) of Raleigh is a consultant and president of the Raleigh Sexton Club.

1992
Donna West Clark (speech language and auditory pathology) of Jacksonville, Fla., is a stay-at-home mom with four children and plans to adopt a daughter from China this year.

1993
Lisa Roberts Seffrin (BS school and community health education) of Piedmont, S.C., and her husband, Mike (’91), celebrated the birth of daughter Mili Claire in March 2007. Mili has three brothers.

1994
Priscilla Nease Johnson (BS health information management) of Roanoke, Va., is a preschool teacher and has two daughters.

1996
Kerry Lynch Martinez (BS, MS ’88 communication sciences and disorders) of Glen Allen, Va., recently married and is a school speech language pathologist.

1998
Denise G. Brewer (BS school and community health education, Milfd ’85) is a consultant. She and husband, Dennis, live on their 36-foot sailboat traveling between Chesapeake Bay and Key West.

1999
John Alexander Staley (BS environmental science) of Summerfield is a regional manager for CJW Medical Center in Redmond, Va.

2000
Sherry Nicholson King (MS rehabilitation counseling) of Jacksonville, Fla., is a travel/contract physical therapist.

2002
John Robert Otrodo (physical therapy) of Columbia, S.C., is a travel/contract physical therapist.

2003
Steven Todd Holgred (MD physical assistant studies) of Rocky Mount is a Brody School of Medicine student and a family medicine provider in Zebulon. He and his wife had their first child, Connor Robert, in December 2006.

2004
Freya Hardy (BS physical therapy) of New York, N.Y., is director of the San Antonio, Texas, in working in nursing and developing a corporate wellness program.

2005
Sarah Baker Bradley (physical therapy) of Winterdale is a physical therapist at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She married John Kernen Bradley, an ECU alumna, on Aug. 5, 2006.

2006
K. Jason Berry (BS health services management) is an administrator at Kinston Medical Specialists in Kinston.

2007
Tammie Weston Clay (BS health services management) of Durham is a quality assurance manager with Arbor Healthcare.

2008
Aerian Heath Tatum (BS health information management) is associate project manager in public health sciences at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. She married Jimmy Lenze on Nov. 10.

2008
Candice “Christy” Craver Payne (BS health services) is an occupational therapy graduate at Piedmont, S.C., and her husband, Mike, an ECU graduate, had their first child, Averett Robert, Aug. 5, 2006.

2008
Freya Hardy (BS physical therapy) of New York, N.Y., is director of the San Antonio, Texas, in working in nursing and developing a corporate wellness program.

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2008
Sarah Baker Bradley (physical therapy) of Winterdale is a physical therapist at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She married John Kernen Bradley, an ECU alumna, on Aug. 5, 2006.

2008
Billy Collins (BS medical technology) of Asheville is a medical technology manager at AnMed Health in Anderson, S.C.

2008
Angela Childers (MS Rehabilitation Counseling, ’03) died from heart failure, part of February 2007 in Nepal fighting cloves where mining occurs. He is a certified rehabilitation counselor and licensed addiction counselor specialist for the Micah Addictive Disease Center in Idaho.
New faculty, retiring faculty

The College of Allied Health Sciences announces the following additions: Don Michael Bradley, Robert James Campbell, David Cistola, Mary K. Crozier, Michael H. Kennedy and Qiang Wu.

Don Michael Bradley, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, holds a bachelor’s of business administration from East Texas State University, a master’s degree in accounting from Texas Woman’s University and is pursuing his doctoral degree in occupational therapy from TWU.

Robert James Campbell is assistant professor in the Department of Health Services and Information Management. Campbell received his bachelor’s degree in politics and public policy from Bethany College, a master’s in library and information science and doctor of education in instructional design and technology from the University of Pittsburgh.

David Cistola is professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science and associate dean for research of the College of Allied Health Sciences. He also is a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the Brody School of Medicine. Cistola received his bachelor’s in biochemistry from State University of New York at Binghamton. He graduated with a medical degree and a doctoral degree in biochemistry and biophysics from Boston University.

Mary K. Crozier is associate professor and coordinator of the Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate Program in the Department of Rehabilitation Studies. Crozier received her bachelor’s degree in sociology from Old Dominion University, master’s in counseling education from the University of Virginia and doctorate in counseling education from the College of William and Mary.

Michael H. Kennedy, associate professor in the Department of Health Services and Information Management, has 31 years’ experience in teaching and health services administration in academia and the military. He was director of the doctoral health administration program at Central Michigan University, taught in the health services administration program at Slippery Rock University and was deputy director of the U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in health care administration.

Qiang Wu, assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics, received his master’s and doctoral degrees in statistics from the University of Pittsburgh. As a graduate student, he provided statistical consultation in post-mortem psychiatric research. His dissertation focused on clustering subjects with schizophrenia into possible heterogeneous groups. His research interests include multivariate data analysis, model-based clustering and statistical applications in neurology.

Holbert tees up for retirement

Dr. Don Holbert is changing his surroundings from purple and gold to blue and green. After 24 years at East Carolina University, the biostatistics professor is retiring. “I love being around the water and boats, so I’ll be doing more of that than I’ve been able to do during my working years,” Holbert said. “I also love to travel, to see other places, to learn about other cultures, and to visit friends and family, so I’m sure I’ll be doing more of that. And I suspect I’ll play a little more golf than I have recently.”

Holbert arrived at ECU in 1984 and was promoted to professor in 1989. He has taught 1,500 students, served on 50 graduate students committees and worked on 50 or more data analysis and interpretation projects. Significant changes during his career have involved the rapid development of software for statistical computing and graphics. “It is always a struggle to stay abreast of these developments,” Holbert said.

Looking back, Holbert says his career at ECU has been rewarding. “I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with many fine faculty colleagues and students, and I look forward to continuing these associations during my retirement.”

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Calendar 2008 - Allied health celebrates 40 years

April
20-26 National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
29 Occupational Therapy Graduate Student Research Symposium
May
9 College of Allied Health Sciences Graduate Recognition Ceremony
10 ECU Spring Commencement
18 National Better Hearing and Speech Month
September
21-27 National Rehabilitation Awareness Week
October
6-11 National Physician Assistant Week
College of Allied Health Sciences Homecoming Alumni Celebration
College of Allied Health Sciences Annual Family Picnic
National Physical Therapy Month
November
2-8 National Health Information and Technology Week
Allied Health Professions Week
7 4th annual Rehabilitation and Allied Health Research Day
Memories of you.

Things change but you can still keep in touch. In each issue of Alliance, we share news with your classmates wherever they are. We love photos, so send them along with your latest news by e-mail to baityc@ecu.edu or mail to Alliance Class Notes, Attn. Crystal Baity, editor, Health Sciences News, Lakeside Annex #3, 600 Mosey Blvd., Greenville NC 27834.