A MESSAGE FROM DR. STEPHEN THOMAS, CAHS DEAN

This will be my last Dean’s Message to you since I will be retiring on Friday, October 31, 2014. I was hired in the School of Allied Health and Social Professions in 1980, and served over 34 years as a faculty member, graduate program coordinator and department chair until my employment as dean. Although I will be leaving the University, my wife and I plan to stay in Greenville and remain actively involved with ECU and the Greenville community. This copy of the Alliance features several articles that focus on my retirement celebrations that have both awed and humbled me. Since I began in my role as interim dean (2001-2002) and dean (2003-2014), Allied Health Sciences increased its enrollment nearly 75% (currently at 958 degree and certificate students), faculty by over 55% and staff by 40%. Because to this record growth, the School of Allied Health Sciences became the College of Allied Health Sciences. Several departments elevated the levels of their degree programs or opened new degree programs, and a variety of new certificate programs were started in face-to-face and web-based distance education formats. The Assistant Dean for Special Projects and an Associate Dean for Research were created and significant grant funding was garnered. We expanded the Major Gifts Officer position to fulltime and are in the process of hiring a part-time Coordinator of Development. Much of our recent growth and success is the result of the design and construction of the second largest building on the ECU campus that we occupied in May 2006, known as the Health Sciences Building, in which CAHS has the largest space. An Advising Office was started and the Office of Educational Technology was created and staffed to help faculty maximize student learning opportunities in our smart classrooms. Given the size of the allied health facilities, a Student Liaison...
The College of Allied Health Sciences celebrated homecoming weekend at East Carolina University Oct. 3 with a reception held in the Health Sciences Building lobby. With over 150 alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College registered to attend, the building was full of excited patrons exploring the various departments and enjoying a “treasure hunt” throughout the College.

The CAHS homecoming event began with a reception in the lobby where guests were treated with a performance from the ECU women’s a Capella group, The Magnolia Belles. Following welcoming remarks from Dean Stephen Thomas, who celebrated his last homecoming with the College before his upcoming retirement and Sydney Humphreys, student liaison to the Dean, Director of Development Pat Frede took the podium to present Dr. Thomas with a surprise. The CAHS Advancement Council along with the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation has renamed the Student Leadership Legacy Fund to the Dr. Stephen W. Thomas Leadership Legacy Student Fund. Dr. Thomas said he was made “speechless” by the honor and was grateful that a fund he feels so passionate about now holds his name.

After hearing instructions for the evening from Dr. Kathleen Cox, department chair in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, representatives from the ECU Ambassadors and CAHS Student Leaders Council led those in attendance throughout the College to learn more about each department and see presentations from faculty and students.

Alumni also used the homecoming event to meet up with fellow members of their graduating class. The Department of Physical Therapy class of 1984 had a reunion after the general reception with around 20 members of the class and faculty from that time enjoying a tour of the PT labs before gathering for dinner. Many of the alumni were surprised and thrilled to see the new advances in technology available for students since their years in the program.

At the end of the event, everyone who toured through the departments and marked off their “treasure map” was able to pick some “pirate booty” from the CAHS treasure chest of goodies donated by each department.
Shane Coltrain’s orthotics practice is seeing an increase of a particular type of patient, and he’s not happy about it.

His eight-year-old Greenville company, Orthotics and Prosthetics East, fits individuals who have lost limbs with prosthetic devices. In recent years he says he’s seen an uptick in patients with diabetes who have lost a foot.

“There are many things in life where the health care outcome is unavoidable—accidents, birth defects. But people with diabetes should not have to lose their feet,” he said.

He gives those patients special attention. “My diabetic patients, we see every four months” to be sure their prosthetic foot continues to fit and wear well, he said.

Coltrain’s specialty is treating patients who have lost a leg up to and including part of the hip. That’s called a hip disarticulation. “If there’s a hip disarticulation amputation in this area, typically I see them because I am one. That’s how I am fit.”

That’s one reason why Coltrain and his patients often develop special bonds. He knows what they’re going through.

He was active in sports growing up in Jamesville in Martin County. He especially loved baseball. In 1991 he developed an infection from a cut on his right leg, probably from sliding into second base, he said.

The infection got worse. Eventually the leg had to be amputated above the knee.

That was a personal tragedy, he said, but from it grew a rewarding career. “I do things differently than most practitioners simply because I know exactly what the patient is experiencing. A lot of the difficult fits in this area are referred to me.”

His career path has been long and winding.

After graduating from high school in 1993, he got a job working for a prosthetics and orthotics firm in New Bern while attending Craven Community College. Four years later he transferred to ECU. He completed a degree in rehabilitation studies in December 2000.

Then he transferred to Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago to study prosthetics and orthotics.

He returned to Greenville two years later and completed a residency at Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, a national leader in developing and fitting artificial limbs. He opened his Greenville practice in 2006.

His field is growing and evolving. Practitioners once depended on internships and residences to learn their craft, he says. Recently, a more rigorous academic discipline has emerged.

“There still are maybe just 10 or 12 schools throughout the country that have a prosthetics and orthotics discipline,” he said.

He believes in a team approach that connects his therapy with the...
Though she isn’t an alumnus, Grace Williams Ceruzzi says she recognized the passion of East Carolina University’s alumni and faculty through her husband Frank’s infectious love for his alma mater. Ceruzzi was so inspired by his unselfishness and generosity towards ECU and impressed with the University’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders’ dedication to the field of speech pathology that she has chosen to establish a fund to provide scholarship support to students concentrating in Assistive Technology Learning. Through her planned gift, Ceruzzi will assist others in a field of study that she feels exceptionally passionate about after helping children with communication disorders for 49 years. Ceruzzi has chosen to designate the College of Allied Health Sciences and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders as the recipient of a portion of a life insurance policy so that at the time of her passing her legacy and shall live on.

“I chose speech pathology for this scholarship as this has been my profession for 49 years. I attached the Assistive Technology component because this has been my special interest for the last 40 years,” said Ceruzzi, “It was my concentration of working with multi-handicapped children that led me to understand that speech would never be a possibility for some of them but communication was still their right and necessity for a complete life. Technology would be the way for them to have a voice, so using my speech and language background I was able to jump in on the growing movement to offer augmentative communication.”

Ceruzzi said that during her years as a speech pathologist the technology we have today was beyond her imagination. Her excitement at seeing a child learn how to control his or her environment by communicating feelings, wants, and hopes has grown as she has seen how new inventions and methods have aided field workers in making communication a possibility for every person. While her focus during her years in the field was centered on children, Ceruzzi is equally excited about how older adults have been affected by speech pathologists. “Now, we are also concentrating on the adults who have Lou Gehrig’s Disease, strokes and laryngectomies that require that same creativity and persistence to give anyone deprived of speech that same ability for communication to give them life again,” she said.

Her husband’s passion for ECU may have been a driving force behind her decision to designate a gift towards the University, but that decision was also aided by her experience with other ECU faculty and students.

During a workshop for the ECU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders led by Ceruzzi around 25 years ago, she was impressed by the University’s dedication to augmentative communication and assistive technology. “It was exciting to see that the University saw the potential for this specialty by creating a lab in the special education department so that teachers, speech pathologists, and others in allied health could be
Faculty and staff from across East Carolina University gathered at the East Carolina Heart Institute Oct. 13 to honor Dr. Stephen Thomas who will retire as the dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences Oct. 31 after 34 years with the College.

The evening began with two honorable presentations. Dr. Paul Toriello, chair of the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies and master of ceremonies for the reception along with Vice Chancellor Phyllis Horns presented Thomas with the honor of Dean Emeritus and a gold stole reflecting his new title. Dr. Don Ensley, professor emeritus from the Department of Health Services and Information Management and Amos Mills, benefactor of the Jean Mills Health Symposium recognized Thomas with a certificate of appreciation for his dedication to the annual symposium for the past 11 years.

Following the presentations, words of gratitude and praise for the Dean’s endless loyalty and passion for the field, along with quips about Thomas’ notoriously messy office were delivered by Dr. Horns, deans across the Health Sciences Campus, and chairs of the eight CAHS departments.

Thomas’ eldest daughter Dr. Darby Thomas also spoke stating that while she is happy to have inherited her father’s love for research and education; she too suffers from the “messy gene” showing photos of her current office and how it compares to the stacks of papers in Thomas’.

Thomas then took the podium to thank those in attendance for their continued commitment to the College. He recognized his chairs, faculty, staff, and fellow administrators, and then thanked his wife Melody for her unwavering support during his years as dean, interim dean, chair, and faculty member at the College.

Dr. Stephen Thomas came to ECU in 1980 as a faculty member in the rehabilitation studies department tasked to start and direct the vocational evaluation master’s degree program. He was named chair of the department in 1998 then later named interim dean of the College in April 2001. Prior to ECU, Thomas held academic, research and administrative positions with the University of Arizona in Tucson, the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie and others.

Dr. Stephen Thomas and his wife Melody pose next to the newly unveiled portrait of Dr. Thomas, painted by artist Irene Bailey.

Dr. Don Ensley shakes hands with Dean Thomas after presenting him with a plaque recognizing his dedication to the Annual Jean Mills Health Symposium.
If you walk by the Department of Physician Assistant Studies lab in the College of Allied Health Sciences, you may notice someone lying alone on a hospital bed. Don’t be alarmed, our students haven’t abandoned an ailing patient, that’s just the new patient simulator waiting for the next round of students to practice medical procedures and diagnoses skills with him.

This newest simulation tool effectively prepares PA students for their field by allowing them to act out patient scenarios in a controlled environment. The Laerdal SimMan Essentials patient simulator, which has been named “Sammy” by the the PA department, can present several different types of symptoms including dilated pupils, increased heart rate, strange lung sounds, and many other diagnosable issues. With pulse points in five different locations, eyes that blink, and several other life-like features, “Sammy” is as “real” as a patient can be without actually being alive.

“Simulation is a wonderful way for students to practice in a virtual environment where mistakes can be made and learned from without affecting real patients,” said Dr. Alan Gindoff, chair of the Department. Once a faculty member has used the wireless, touch-screen monitor to give the simulator a certain ailment, PA students then actually perform a physical examination, diagnose the problem and carry-out a treatment plan. With this method of learning, PA students can learn skills hands-on such as how to intubate, treat a pneumothorax (collapsed lung), perform an intraosseous infusion into the bone marrow of the simulator’s knee and chest, and administer drugs intravenously.

The patient simulator monitor tracks the heart rate, oxygen stats and blood pressure of the SimMan, similar to that of a hospital monitor. With this advanced technology, PA students are able to actually carry out diagnoses and treatments with a “patient” that reacts to their courses of action versus simply planning and discussing them. Also with the monitor, faculty is able to change and customize the SimMan’s condition at the touch of a button during the treatment, such as increasing his heart-rate, decreasing his oxygen levels or distending his abdomen.

With interchangeable and customizable parts, the SimMan can allow for several different types of scenarios that help prepare PA students for obstacles in the medical field, whether that is a swollen tongue making intubation difficult or a sudden need for CPR.

“Through simulation, student can apply medical management in near real-life scenarios so they may develop complex skill sets before they actually perform them on human beings,” said Gindoff, “This is unlike a multiple choice test where the answers are in front of you, waiting to be chosen from a list. This is like real-life where you have to use your knowledge to diagnose a variety of symptoms and what those symptoms may mean when presented all together.”

Through patient simulators, the Department of Physician Assistant studies is effectively preparing students for the medical field. “Sammy” may be just a patient simulator, but through his life-like symptoms and various diagnoses, he is training future PAs for real life patients.
Dr. Beth Velde Invited to Join Academy of Engagement Scholarship (ACES)

The Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES) board of directors has invited Dr. Beth Velde, director of strategic planning & the Mills Symposium for the College of Allied Health Sciences, to become an inaugural member of the Academy.

Dr. Velde was nominated and selected by peers because of her practice and model of excellence in collaboration with communities and the university while addressing critical issues of mutual benefit. She will be inducted to the Academy Oct. 7 at the Engagement Scholarship Consortium.

The mission of the Academy of Engaged Scholarship (ACES) is to assist in improving the physical, social, civic, and economic well-being of communities by advancing scholarship based on collaborative discovery by communities and their higher education partners. To do so, ACES selects persons in communities and higher education institutions who have been recognized by their peers as exceptional in their accomplishments in engagement to serve as members. These members then draw on that expertise to further the application of engagement for addressing the challenges and opportunities of community and higher education partners. Members selected will also have the opportunity to serve the greater good by advancing community engagement scholarship and advancing community-engaged disciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarly activities and knowledge to address regional, national, and global issues.

ACES explores critical and complex societal and community issues and provides recommendations, upon request, to inform local, regional, national, and international research and policy agendas using input and valuable data gathered through the involvement of leading community engagement scholars, community engagement partners, and knowledgeable community counterparts.

At the forefront of ACES’ mission is the need to ensure that all scholarly activities and policy initiatives keep in mind the needs of the constituents involved. Through their transparency, willingness to involve all groups in their practices, and encouragement of shared authority, ACES serves as a representative voice of allied groups in the field of engagement.

Beth Velde, PhD is a professor emerita within the College of Allied Health Sciences at East Carolina University and chair of the APLU’s Council on Engagement and Outreach. She directs the ECU Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy which prepares ECU faculty, graduate students and ECU scholars to partner with communities and conduct research that is important and relevant to the communities. Her research includes the culture of engagement at ECU, the perceptions of community partners regarding the roles and responsibilities of telling the story of community engagement, and the synergies between leadership and public service. She leads the ECU team for the Carnegie engaged university designation and chaired the working groups responsible for the SACS narratives on public service and community engagement.

Two students in the physician assistant studies program traveled to Belize this summer to volunteer and immerse themselves in a medical atmosphere quite different from eastern North Carolina.

Amy Petticrew and Cara Bailey, both seniors in the PA program who will graduate in December, spent a month working in Punta Gorda – a small rural town located in the Toledo district of Belize. The two worked mostly at Hillside Health Clinic there, treating East Indian and Mayan Belizean patients from newborns to senior citizens, with on-site doctors approving their assessments and plans.

The PA students saw routine complaints as well as worms, botflies, and leishmaniasis, a skin disease spread by parasites such as sandflies. Of all the infections, conditions and ailments they treated, Petticrew said the most unique thing she saw was a cutaneous myiasis, a botfly larvae growing in the scalp of a patient.

Hillside Health Clinic was started by an American church and staffs one full-time doctor, several temporary doctors from the U.S. and United Kingdom, and a full-time physical therapist. Petticrew and Bailey took advantage of the PA program’s international rotation elective to serve in Belize’s unique atmosphere. While both students paid tuition, dorm housing was provided for them.

Along with their time at Hillside, the group also visited mobile clinics in various Mayan villages where the students saw pigs, chickens, palapa-roofed houses and women dressed in traditional Mayan garb.

“We visited overnight clinics in distant villages where Peace Corps volunteers were stationed and there is no running water, electricity or air conditioning,” said Petticrew. Petticrew and Bailey also enjoyed fun activities on their weekends away from the clinic. The pair visited Guatemala and the Rio Dulce, attended the National Chocolate Festival and enjoyed activities such as snorkeling, zip-lining, water tubing and cave swimming.

Despite all the possibilities offered in Belize, Petticrew said she most enjoyed working in the clinic.

“My favorite part was being so immersed in such traditional culture without modern-day amenities and seeing the huge variety of cultures that have learned to live off the land.

ECU PA student Amy Petticrew, left, sits with other visiting providers outside a health post mobile clinic in Belize.
Dr. Robert Kulesher from the Department of Health Services and Information Management served on a panel of health professionals for WITN’s “Doctors of Call” segment Sept. 10. Dr. Kulesher answered calls regarding health insurance choices and provided resources for those trying to understand and select the right insurance for their needs.

Dr. Jason Brinkley, assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics has been invited to join the Customer Advisory Board for the JMP division of SAS Institute. The JMP Customer Advisory Board is a 16 member panel that serves in a consultative role to provide feedback regarding future directions, product features, and marketing and communications initiatives. The board consists of 16 members mostly coming from industry with current representation from Procter & Gamble, Archer Daniels Midland, Pacific Gas & Electric, Eastman Chemical Company, Bank of America, GlaxoSmithKline, and others. Dr. Brinkley is only one of three university affiliates on this year’s board. Responsibilities include conference calls and on site meetings which will feature demonstrations of new features in JMP, lively roundtable discussions about best practices in analytics, and the future of the analytic marketplace.

Dr. Givens Elected President of National Council

Dr. Gregg Givens, professor emeritus in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has been elected President of the National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Dr. Givens’ term will be for the 2015 calendar year.

Dr. Susie Harris Publishes Health Information Mgmt. Book

Dr. Susie Harris, associate professor from the Department of Health Services & Information Management has a book publication, Managing Health Informatics and Services Operations. This book explores management skills and techniques for undergraduate healthcare students and entry-level professionals pursuing a career in the management of health information management (HIM) departments.

Unlike other HIM texts which focus on topical areas, this book focuses on the functions found in a health information department and the uniqueness of HIM within the healthcare industry. Learn more on the publisher’s website at http://www.jblearning.com/catalog/9781284043747/.

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Want to see your news in The Alliance or online at www.ecu.edu/ah? Send exciting CAHS happenings to edmondsonl@ecu.edu.
CAHS Faculty and Students in the Spotlight

Dr. Jane Patton Presents Fieldwork Course for AOTA

Dr. Jane Patton, professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy presented the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Fieldwork Certificate Course in Fayetteville, Arkansas last month. The course provides occupational therapists with enhanced skills and strategies in supervising occupational therapy students.

Dr. Sheldon Downes’ Art Showcased in Laupus Exhibit

Sheldon Downes, Ed.D., Professor Emeritus from the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies presents a 2014 Fall Semester exhibit as part of the Art as Avocation series. Entitled, “The Beauty of Realism,” Downes showcases a collection of oil paintings that capture the beauty of landscapes and scenes from nature. The exhibit is on display in the Laupus Library 4th floor gallery beginning October 21 and will run through December 12, 2014. Please see attached flyer for more information. The opening reception will be held on October 21st at 4:30pm in the library’s 4th floor exhibit gallery and is open to the public.

PA Student Brandon Alspaugh Presented with NCAPA Scholarship

Brandon Alspaugh, a second-year student in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies was presented with the NCAPA Endowment scholarship from the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. These educational scholarships are awarded to one second/final-year student at each PA program in the state who is a member of NCAPA and submits a strong endowment grant application.

Dr. Méndez’s Poster Presentation Designated as “Meritorious Poster Submission” by ASHA

A poster presentation submitted for the 2014 American Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention by Dr. Lucía Méndez, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders has been designated as a Meritorious Poster Submission. The poster, entitled “The Impact of Vocabulary on Phonological Awareness Across Languages in Kindergarten Latino Children” will be presented Nov. 21 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. During the 2014 convention. The Meritorious Poster Submission recognition is for proposals judged by the Convention Program Committee to show extraordinary, exceptional, and innovative work. The association received 1611 total poster submissions in 2014, and only 55 were selected for meritorious recognition. Dr. Méndez’ poster will be recognized as such in the Convention program book and have a ribbon displayed on the poster board sign. Dr. Méndez’ and her coauthors Drs. Shelley Scarpino, Dana Bitetti & Carol Scheffner Hammer from Temple University, will receive a certificate of recognition during their presentation.
to the Dean’s Office position was developed and a CAHS student was hired to bring students together from all departments. In 2006, when Chancellor Ballard named ECU the Leadership University, CAHS created the first and the most active Student Leadership Council on campus that is chaired by the Student Liaison to the Dean’s Office. They have been involved in interprofessional education leadership opportunities such as lectures, lunch and learns and offering campus-wide leadership conferences on health care leadership.

Our new building has provided the opportunity to expand the existing Speech and Hearing Clinic, and open two new clinics, one in Physical Therapy and the Navigate Clinic that provides substance abuse, mental health and career counseling services. These clinics have supported outreach by faculty and students into the community and eastern North Carolina. The Department of Nutrition Science is attempting to relocate into the College of Allied Health Sciences, increasing the number of departments to nine and the number of degree programs to seventeen. Their goal is to be more involved in the delivery health and health care.

Thanks to excellent faculty, students, staff, administrators, alumni and our friends, the College has never been stronger. This has ensured a quality pool of dean applicants that are in the early stages of interviewing, and a new dean should join the College sometime in the spring or summer of 2014. Dr. Phyllis Horns, Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences Division will appoint an interim dean until a new dean is on board. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences and I will always look back on my many years of service with pride and affection.

Go Pirates,
Dr. Stephen W. Thomas, Dean and Professor

Donate a Gift to the Dr. Stephen W. Thomas Leadership Legacy Student Fund

Dean Stephen Thomas has always been a devoted advocate for the needs of students, both inside and outside the College of Allied Health Sciences.

In his honor, the college is very proud to offer an opportunity to honor Dean Thomas and his dedication through the Dr. Stephen W. Thomas Leadership Legacy Student Fund.

To make an online gift to this fund through the University Advancement on-line giving site follow these steps:
2. Select “Click here to choose the designation for your gift”.
3. Choose “Allied Health Sciences” from the drop down menu and click on Dr. Stephen W. Thomas Leadership Legacy Student Fund.

Should you need assistance, contact Director of Development Pat Frede via email at fredep@ecu.edu or phone at (252) 744-3523.

Save the Date
11th Annual Jean Mills Health Symposium
New Models for Empowering Personal and Community Health
featuring keynote speaker L. Allen Dobson, Jr., MD, President and CEO Community Care of North Carolina

February 6, 2015
East Carolina Heart Institute
exposed to this material in their training. This gave me hope that others could continue this vision and create even more exciting solutions,” she said.

During her tenure with Brunswick County Schools, Ceruzzi once again had the opportunity to interact with ECU when she worked with Amber Snyder, an ECU speech pathology graduate intern that left a lasting impression and also a special gift with Ceruzzi.

“When Amber left she framed a saying that I work by and circled it with photos of the children we worked with,” said Ceruzzi.

Ceruzzi is certainly not only teaching that philosophy but living by it as well as she continues to dedicate her time and funds towards the field of speech pathology and assistive technology learning. Through her endowed scholarship, others will be able to do the same.

The saying, which is the credo of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, says “Let no child be demeaned, nor have his wonder diminished because of our ignorance or inactivity. Let no child be deprived of discovery because we lack the resources to discover his problem. Let no child ever doubt himself or his mind because we are unsure of our commitment.”

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Coltrain adjusts a prosthetic device that can help his patients regain mobility following an amputation.

shape and dimension of the area above the amputation, because we have to tailor the socket—the part of the device that connects to their body-- to fit them perfectly.

“The reimbursement issues around Medicare have become more complex. They are doing more audits into patient outcomes, which actually was needed but it’s causing a lot of small practices to go out of business,” said Coltrain.

He connects his patients with local support groups and the Amputee Coalition, the nation’s largest organization serving patients with limb loss. He believes in the coalition’s approach to enhancing the quality of life for amputees and their families.

He hopes that technology will soon deliver a mechanical arm as rugged and natural as the C-leg.

“We aren't there yet because with the hand, you often use that outdoors, in wet weather. And that isn’t a good environment for a complicated device,” he said.

“But the Navy has technology where devices like that operate on ships on the ocean, so surely we can adapt that to making a hand that can pick up a cup of coffee and won’t fry if hot coffee spills on it.”
and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Thomas earned his doctorate of education and his master’s degree in rehabilitation studies from the University of Arizona and his bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Thomas, an avid sailor and boat enthusiast says that he bases his leadership philosophy on a quote by mariner and author John Rousmaniere, “The goal is not to sail the boat, but rather to help the boat sail herself.” While the College feels like Dean Thomas has done an amazing job teaching the “boat to sail herself”, the faculty and staff will certainly miss having him as the captain.

View a slideshow of photos from the event at http://www.ecu.edu/ah/news2.cfm.

Dr. Stephen Thomas inspects the inscription on his new rocking chair, a gift from the College to thank him for his 34 years of service with CAHS.

PA Students in Belize
Continued From Page 8

in Belize,” she said. “The opportunity for an international rotation is one of the reasons I chose to attend ECU.”

The international elective practicum is offered as part of the clinical curriculum in the PA program. Several students are participating in the 2014-2015 academic year with even more on the waiting list for next year.

“We have been offering the international elective since 2011 and have had many students take the opportunity to experience a new culture and gain an understanding of practicing medicine with very limited resources,” said Clinical Education Coordinator Julie Daniel-Yount. “The work is rewarding and allows them to grow as medical providers as they work alongside other disciplines to help the patients there. The Hillside staff and volunteer preceptors are a dedicated and talented group, and they do an excellent job of teaching our PA students during their month-long rotation.”

PA students are required to complete two elective practicums during the clinical year that may consist of two stateside electives, one stateside and one international elective, or two international electives. International clinics screen applicants and accept a predetermined number of students per rotation.

Get Connected with the College of Allied Health Sciences

To view more exciting news about the College of Allied Health Sciences visit www.ecu.edu/ah or check out our social media channels:

Facebook at www.facebook.com/ECUalliedhealth

Twitter at www.twitter.com/ECUHealthSci

Instagram at www.instagram.com/ecuhealthsci

Health Beat Blog at blog.ecu.edu/sites/healthbeat/

LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/east-carolina-university-division-of-health-sciences