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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU TECS Salutes Fallen Hero

On January 26, 2010, the College of Technology and Computer Science (TECS) lost one of its own. Sgt. David J. Smith, 25, senior, in the Technology Systems Department, died from severe wounds resulting from a suicide bomb attack in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. Sgt. Smith of Fredrick, Maryland, was deployed to Afghanistan in October 2009 after already serving one tour in Iraq in 2006-2007.

Sgt. Smith came to East Carolina University (ECU) in 2003 after joining the Marine Corps Reserves. He found a home in the technology systems program and was excited about earning his bachelors degree in distribution and logistics. Those who knew him at ECU said he loved to be the center of attention and had a great sense of humor. "David had an infectious laugh and smile," says Dr. Leslie Pagliari, associate dean of the College. "We will miss him in person, but his bravery will never be forgotten. He will forever be a pirate."

Sgt. Smith was remembered at ECU's annual Military Appreciation Dinner on November 5, 2010. His family was presented with a coin from the college in his memory and honor. The coin displayed three stars, representing leadership, service, and integrity, three outstanding traits exemplified by David. A leadership award has been created in Smith's name, which will be bestowed annually on an outstanding student in the college. This award will represent the college's highest honor for a student. The following day, Smith's family tossed the coin to begin the ECU vs. Navy football game for Military Appreciation Day. Smith's family was humbled by all the support from the college.

"Our valiant men and women in uniform are the heroes of this country," says Dr. David White, dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science. "And we as a college are pleased to give Sgt. David Smith this great tribute, as a student, a man, and one of our courageous soldiers."



Far left: John Jones, stepfather; Kristen Forse, sister; Kimberly Mott, fiancé; Daniel Brown, brother; Dr. Leslie Pagliari, associate dean of the college; Dr. David White, dean of the college; far right: Mary McWilliams, mother