



College of Technology and Computer Science

Office of the Dean

East Carolina University

Science and Technology Bldg. Suite 100 • Greenville, NC 27858-4353

252-328-9600 office • 252-328-9635 dean • 252-328-4250 fax • www.tecs.ecu.edu

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ECU Partnership with HAN University in the Netherlands Promotes Global Sustainability

GREENVILLE (12/16/2008) – An East Carolina University Department of Construction Management assistant professor taught a Global Sustainability class to third year students from HAN University in the Netherlands on Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

Dr. Erich Connell taught the interactive class from ECU's campus while the students participated from their classroom in the Netherlands. Connell, a Certified Green Professional, discussed the current status of Global Sustainability in the United States as well as the future plans for going green and becoming a more efficient society.

“Our students must aware of their responsibility to preserve the environment,” said Connell. “This goes far beyond ECU or North Carolina or the United States; there are impacts felt across on a global scale.”

ECU and HAN University have been working together over the last couple years to create new opportunities for students in both countries. On December 2, 2008, Dutch professor Alfred Meyers taught ECU students from an Introduction to Construction Management course about the construction of systems that manage water in the development of land currently affecting the Netherlands and providing a unique view of sustainability to the ECU students.

“This is a great way to attract the attention of students in the Netherlands and the United States to the issue of global and green sustainability,” said Professor Alfred Meyers of HAN University. “In addition, we are introducing our students to different cultures, exciting new opportunities and the chance to make an impact to the environment.”

ECU and HAN University will continue intercontinental lectures in the spring 2009 semester which will include participants from Brazil and China as well other ECU professors. Connell and Meyers have begun discussions for possible Summer Study Abroad student trips to and from East Carolina in 2010 with hopes of including semester and academic year student exchanges.

“Our construction management program is one of the best in the country,” Connell added. “Developing an international component provides our graduates with the chance to begin their careers globally as well as here in the United States.”

For more information, please contact Chris Stansbury, Communications Coordinator for the College of Technology and Computer Science at (252) 328-9611.