Graduate student Sam Myers’ experience in the vacation rental industry and interest in sustainable energy is creating positive outcomes for vacation property owners. Myers has teamed with ECU’s Department of Engineering and Outer Beaches Realty of Hatteras Island on an Environmental Protection Agency funded project aimed at making vacation rental homes more environmentally friendly and economically efficient. Myers and two engineering students examined water and electricity usage in 30 rental homes by inspecting the flow rates of water fixtures and electricity usage of appliances, HVAC systems and lighting. They also inspected the houses for air leakages using a thermal imaging camera, infrared thermometer and an air velocity meter. The team will report its findings to property owners and show cost savings potential through practical retrofit options. According to Myers, the findings will help property owners in tourist destinations lower their utility bills during peak season, allow rental agencies to offer energy-saving alternatives to their clients, reduce negative environmental impacts, and make travel accommodations across the globe more sustainable.