It’s Monday Night!

By Mary Schulken

The technology balked, yet the learning went on in East Carolina University’s global classroom.

Some 70 ECU students who stayed up late for a first-ever campus get together with peers in Iraq didn’t get the experience they expected. The connection flittered, and instructors had to improvise.

Yet for many participants in the event dubbed the “Midnight Special,” the hour they spent conversing, on and off, with students at Kufa University via satellite reinforced lessons they’d been learning in the classroom.

“Working across the globe will obviously have its difficulties and it’s just something we have to work around,” said ECU student Jonathan Breton, 20, of Charlotte.

Jami Leibowitz, a professor of anthropology and lead teacher of ECU’s Global Understanding Teaching Team, said that’s an important part of what the university’s global understanding course tries to teach students.

“We hope students come away with some specific skills that will help them interact in the world with people who speak English as a
Med School ranked in top 10

By Doug Boyd

The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University ranks among the top medical schools in the country that emphasize primary care, according to the annual listing of the top graduate schools by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

ECU is 10th overall among primary care schools this year. In the rural medicine subcategory, the school ranks seventh. ECU also sent the seventh-highest percentage of its graduates, 54.3 percent, into primary care residencies between 2008 and 2010. U.S. News defines primary care as family medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine.

“The even better news is that the majority of our physicians still practice right here in North Carolina,” said Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the medical school.

“This is the very best return on the state’s investment that I can imagine.”

Also at ECU, the rehabilitation counseling graduate program in the College of Allied Health Sciences was ranked the 13th among such programs.

The U.S. News rankings of U.S. professional and graduate schools will be available on newsstands Tuesday, April 5. In medicine, the magazine considered the 126 accredited U.S. medical schools and 20 schools of osteopathic medicine.

This year, the University of Washington again was rated the top primary care school. Harvard University ranked first among medical schools that emphasize research.

ECU prof helps authenticate 1921 ‘Lost Colony’ movie

By Jeannine M. Hutson

For decades on Roanoke Island, a pristine copy of the first movie produced in North Carolina sat undisturbed, and possibly forgotten, in storage with other historical documents relating to the outdoor drama “The Lost Colony.”

Now the film is coming to light and the story of how the film came to be produced in Manteo in 1921 is being told.

Dr. Larry Tise, the Wilbur and Orville Wright Distinguished Professor of History at East Carolina University, and a historian at Roanoke Island Historical Association have confirmed that the film found recently is a true copy of the 46-minute silent movie, made in 1921, on the 1580s exploration of the Outer Banks.

It had long been assumed, Tise said, by film historians that no faithful copy of the film survived.

The researchers – Tise and houston of the Roanoke Island Historical Association – have been looking for a copy of the historic film for the last decade. Both have seen some badly deteriorated copies of the film and kept hoping that an undisturbed version existed, Tise said.

Houston has been cataloguing the vast historical records of the outdoor symphonic drama, “The Lost Colony” – which will celebrate 75 years in 2012 – and in February she found a stash of film and audio-tapes with obscure labels suggesting the items might be associated with the 1921 film.

Tise and Houston have also uncovered two previously unknown audio narratives of the film with the voice of Mabel Evans Jones, the film’s producer, explaining the scenes and how the film production came together in 1921 in Manteo.

A native of Manteo who attended East Carolina Teachers Training

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Brody tops nation in family medicine graduates

By Doug Boyd

East Carolina University sent more medical graduates into training as family medicine physicians during a recent 10-year period than any other school in the country.

ECU is also sending a majority of all its medical graduates into practice in North Carolina.

That’s according to the American Academy for Family Physicians, which measured the success of schools in producing family doctors between 1999 and 2009. The results show the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University sent nearly 19.5 percent of its graduates into family medicine residencies, or the additional training doctors normally receive after medical school before entering practice.

“It is clearly a remarkable achievement but comes as no surprise to the dedicated and loyal faculty who passionately teach, mentor and support our students,” said Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the school. “After all, we are an integral component of East Carolina University -- the leadership university -- with a profound dedication to serving the citizens of North Carolina. This acclaim represents objective evidence of achieving one of our core aspirations.”

ECU’s percentage of students entering family medicine is more than double the national average of 9.6 percent and leads the 124 medical schools the AAFP surveyed.

And the trend has continued; at Thursday’s national residency match day, 19 percent of ECU’s 68 senior medical students were accepted into family medicine residencies.

Joyner Library work earns honor

Joyner Library received the 2010 Gale Cengage Learning Award for Excellent in Reference and Adult Library Services for production of the online digital exhibit, “Seeds of Change: The Daily Reflector Image Collection.”

The $3,000 award is presented for development of imaginative and unique resources to meet patrons’ reference needs.

Seeds of Change includes more than 7,500 digitized images, multimedia files and documents that illustrate trends and development in eastern North Carolina between 1949 and 1967.

The images came from photographic negatives used in the Greenville newspaper, The Daily Reflector. Provided in the exhibit is a history of Pitt County and Greenville during this timeframe, as written by ECU history professor Christopher Oakley.

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Proposal includes parking decks, pedestrian access

By Mary Schulken

Parking decks, fewer cars on the campus core and key expansions along Reade and Tenth streets are in East Carolina University’s future if the new preliminary master facilities plan for campus takes root.

At the heart of that proposal, which ECU officials and planners stress will likely see tweaks, are a number of priorities: keeping academics on the core of campus, retaining open spaces, providing ample close-in parking, public safety and easy pedestrian access.

Planners gleaned those priorities from detailed data and public input, said Neal Kessler, a representative of Smithgroup/JJR, a planning and architecture company consulting on the plan.

The result is a proposed master plan for the next 20 years that expands the campus along Reade Street north of Fifth, refashions the Tenth Street corridor from Cotanche to College Hill, constructs three parking decks and closes some streets to traffic in the center of campus.

“One of the big observations we made that most of your academics, day to day, occur right on the eastern heart of this campus,” said Kessler. “This part of campus has almost reached its capacity for buildings. So, the question we asked ourselves is where would you look to put additional academic buildings.”

Kessler said planners picked the North Reade Street corridor based on the benefits: It’s near the core of campus, it ties into economic development for Greenville’s downtown area and the university already owns property along that stretch.

That expansion includes a performing arts center where the Willis Building now sits, across from the Greenville Town Common and a new parking deck. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)

The campus master plan for expansion at East Carolina University proposes growth along Reade Street, including a performing arts center across from the Greenville Town Common and a new parking deck. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)

In another expansion area, the plan proposes an academic building housing the colleges of education and business to the west of Cotanche Street along Tenth. It also recommends the university acquire property on the north side of Tenth stretching east and over time create what Kessler called an “edge” that would serve as more of a gateway to main campus.

Other recommendations include:

- Construction of a biosciences building where Christenberry Gym now stands.
- Closing Founder’s Drive to car traffic in the center of campus, except for service and emergency access. Cars would still enter from Fifth and Tenth streets but there would be no connector.
- Constructing a new student center and a parking deck near Mendenhall Student Center.
- Closing Chancellor’s Way by Cotton, Fleming and Jarvis dorms to cars except on move-in and move-out days.

Kessler and other representatives of his company presented the plans in open forums on campus. They will be posted at http://www.ecu.edu/masterplan/index.cfm.

Feedback from the forums will be used to tweak the plans, he said. A final version is expected to be ready by fall for consideration by the ECU Board of Trustees.
Significant contributors to nursing education, administration, research and practice were honored Feb. 25 as 40 nurses were inducted to the inaugural Hall of Fame in the East Carolina University College of Nursing. More than $40,000 raised through the creation of the Hall of Fame will support a new fund to provide merit-based scholarships for nursing students.

“Our legacy of excellence will continue with the scholarships,” said Dr. Sylvia Brown, dean of the College of Nursing.

The launching of the Hall of Fame program coincides with the 50th anniversary of nursing education at ECU.

Each inductee received a flame-shaped award, which Brown said reminded her of the nursing pin designed by the first nursing class 50 years ago.

“Each of our inductees is a bright light,” said Brown, who was inducted by Dr. Phyllis Horns, vice chancellor of health sciences. Brown, in turn, inducted Horns. Horns served as dean of Horns for 19 years.

Horns described the college as a jewel in the health sciences division and commended Brown’s leadership and the creation of the Hall of Fame. “I am reminded daily of the accomplishments of everyone in this room and those who couldn’t be here tonight,” she said. “I take great pride in this college.”

Inductees were: Gale Adcock, Dr. Alta W. Andrews, Helen Merrill Brinson, Dr. Sylvia T. Brown, Marshall Dewayne Byrd, Mary Sue Cummings Collier, Cindy Matthews Duber, Dr. Frances R. Eason, Dr. Martha Keehner Engelke, Dr. Lou W. Everett, Selba Morris Harris, Dr. Linda Dunnam Hofler, Dr. Phyllis N. Horns, Jacqueline Hutcherson, Dr. Mary K. Kirkpatrick, Dr. Dixie Koldjeski, Cynthia Sturdivant Kotrady, Karen C. Krupa, Dr. Judith Kuykendall, Dr. Therese G. Lawler, Belinda

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Patient’s advice helps doctor, family stay close

By Doug Boyd

Tommy Ellis sees a lot of patients in his family medicine practice at East Carolina University. Almost always, he is able to help them.

One day, however, the tables turned.

Marilyn Love, 70, a longtime patient of Ellis’, was at his office for a routine appointment. As the visit concluded, Love asked the doctor if there were anything she could do for him.

The question caught Ellis by surprise. He’s supposed to be the one making suggestions and coming up with answers, he thought. But since Love had grown children of her own, Ellis, 44, decided to ask for advice on raising teenagers.

Love’s response was swift: Buy a pingpong table.

A few days later, she followed up with a letter repeating the suggestion and adding other advice to help connect with his children.

That story, the pingpong table and the effect it’s had on Ellis’ family are featured in an essay he wrote for the Feb. 25 issue of Medical Economics, a bimonthly trade magazine for physicians. It earned Ellis the 2011 grand prize in the magazine’s writing contest for doctors.

On a recent Sunday evening, the family gathered in the garage and driveway, playing pingpong and shooting basketball. Since getting the table, Ellis said, friends and neighbors now drop by to play a few games. A youth Bible-study group meets there Wednesday nights. The crowds got so big the family put tables and chairs in the garage, giving it a restaurant/game room feel.

The pingpong table has done what Love said it would: contribute to conversation in a way TV-watching and music earbuds can’t.

“The pingpong kind of breaks the ice a little,” Ellis said. “Sometimes, things come up about friendships and the things that come up with friendships, the drama that comes up with friendships, peer pressure,” he said. The Ellises have four children -- three sons and one daughter -- ages 12-17.

Parents also wonder if they are setting the right type and number of boundaries, his wife added. Talking with teens about the topics isn’t easy.

But playing a game helps ease the atmosphere.

“They don’t feel like they’re being grilled,” Amy Ellis said of her children. “It’s a way to get them talking.”

She said that as her husband’s career advances, so does the age of his patients — and the knowledge they can potentially offer.

“There’s something to learn from every interaction if we listen as much as we talk,” she said. “There’s a lot of wisdom in that experience people just don’t tap into.”

Daughter Eve, 12, agreed. “I thought it was neat they were giving him advice instead of him giving them advice,” she said.

ECU students help catalog, photograph artifacts

By Jeannine M. Hutson

Graduate students from ECU’s maritime history program used part of their spring break to “rediscover” artifacts from the blockade-runner Modern Greece.

The Department of Cultural Resources’ Underwater Archaeology Branch (UAB) in conjunction with Fort Fisher State Historic Site and the Friends of Fort Fisher provided the opportunity March 7-9 for the students to explain artifacts from the Civil War-era vessel.

On the morning of June 27, 1862, the 210-feet blockade-runner evaded the ring of federal ships on its way to the eastern entrance to the Cape Fear River but was spotted by the U.S.S. Cambridge, which opened fire, according to information provided by the UAB. Soon the U.S.S. Stars and Stripes joined the Cambridge and under heavy fire the Modern Greece was forced ashore. To keep the cargo of clothing, cutlery, ammunition and rifles out of Yankee hands, Fort Fisher opened fire on the stranded vessel.

The vessel was believed to have been destroyed; in 1962 following a storm, the Modern Greece was uncovered. Lying 300 yards off of Fort Fisher in 25 feet of water, divers found that much of the vessel and its cargo were intact.

Over the next two years, the N.C. Department of Archives and History and the U.S. Navy joined forces to salvage as much of the ship and its contents as possible.

Their work recovered 11,500 artifacts. Some of those pieces were conserved and placed in museums throughout the state and nation, but a large number of items were left in tanks as UAB archaeologists moved on to other shipwrecks.

In light of the 150th anniversary of the Modern Greece’s sinking and of the 50 years since its salvage, awareness and concern for the artifacts not yet conserved has increased.

To answer initial questions concerning the type, amount and condition of artifacts, 11 graduate students from ECU and two student interns from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington were put to the task.

Under the direction of Susanne Grieve, director of conservation for ECU’s Maritime History Program, and Nathan Henry, assistant state archaeologist, the students recorded, catalogued, photographed, and determined the future conservation needs of the Civil War-era objects. The artifacts have been placed in new storage containers inside the UAB conservation facility.

The assessment of artifacts also provides recommendations on how best to use the conserved collection in the future with the hope that it can serve training and public education to the fullest extent.

For additional information, contact Susanne Grieve at ECU, 328-4407 or Madeline Spencer at the Underwater Archaeology Branch, 910-458-9042.

Vital Records

BORN: To Janet Malek (Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies), a daughter, Lila Irene, March 11.
East Carolina University’s efforts to prevent alcohol and drug abuse by fraternity and sorority members have been recognized as among the top in the nation.

ECU’s Greek Risk Management program was one of four finalists, nationwide, for the Outside the Classroom Prevention Excellence Award for Greek Life, an award given by the Students Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and Outside the Classroom, a company that designs and provides research based online drug and alcohol education programs for colleges and universities.

The award recognized the risk management program designed and implemented by Bob Morphet and Peter Romary in conjunction with the ECU Office of Greek Life. It builds upon ECU’s existing student safety and substance abuse prevention programs.

“Today’s college student is faced with so many new challenges such as stress, body image and financial problems, as well as significant social and academic anxiety and too many times they perceive drugs and alcohol as a viable solution,” said Morphet, program coordinator and member of ECU’s Center for Counseling and Student Development.

“As student affairs educators we are committed to educating our students about the potential dangers to them physically, mentally and academically, with the hope they don’t end up going down a wrong road,” he said.

Morphet works closely with Romary in Student legal Services, Keith Tingley, director of Greek Life and members of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Committee to raise awareness about the dangers of abuse.

“We spend a lot of time visiting Greek houses and attending meetings to deliver alcohol/drug prevention messages and identify resources on campus for the students to utilize in times of crisis,” said Romary.
Arts Festival

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painting, weaving, felting, papermaking, printmaking, portraiture and a myriad of other visual art media. Children also will have a chance to create artwork with help from professional artists and art students.

Featured artists will come from surrounding states, North Carolina, Greenville and from the ECU School of Art and Design.

This festival coincides with the Youth Arts Month sponsored by the North Carolina Art Education Association. It is hosted by the School of Art and Design. Supporters include ECU Office of the Provost, the College of Fine Arts and Communication, Target Corporation, the Ledonia Wright Center, the Friends of the School of Art and Design, the North Carolina Arts Council, Bank of America, and the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge.

Presentations

Performance by Lorraine Hale Robinson (English), a member of the early music ensemble The Ad Hoc Players, at the Palmer-Marsh House, cornerstone of the state historic site at Bath.

Presentation by Andrea Kitta (English) as keynote speaker at the Fife Folklore Conference at Utah State University.

Presentation by Sonja Bareiss (Physical Therapy) and Kori Brewer (Emergency Medicine), “The role of altered GSK-3B signaling in exercise-induced preservation of sensor function following spinal cord injury,” at the Annual Society for Neuroscience meeting in San Diego, Calif.

Presentation by Jacob Thorp (Physical Therapy), a continuing education workshop entitled “Mobilation, Manipulation and Muscle Energy Techniques for the Spine and Pelvis,” at Eastern AHEC.

Grant Funds ECU Scholarships

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“It is an amazing opportunity for talented North Carolina students who lack financial means to attend ECU and earn an engineering degree that will prepare them well for a successful career,” Griffin said.

The NSF Science, Technology, Engineering and Math project makes grants to universities to support academically talented, financially needy students pursuing associate, bachelor’s or graduate degrees in science and engineering. ECU’s grant application focused on expanding engineering in rural eastern North Carolina.

ECU’s scholarship recipients will be state residents who have already been accepted in the program.

They will work closely with the Noyce Scholars, a group of ECU graduate students who plan to become K-12 math and science teachers.

Research supported by the grant will focus on understanding how students learn engineering.

“This NSF grant allows us to take some very important steps forward to continue our growth in engineering in North Carolina,” said Dr. David White, dean of the ECU College of Technology and Computer Science.

An advisory board of faculty from ECU, Michigan Tech, Purdue, Virginia Commonwealth and Virginia Tech will oversee the project.
Student Health Prepares for National Accreditation

The ECU Student Health Services hosted an Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care Fair March 10 for its employees.

Designed to prepare employees for accreditation surveys scheduled for June 21 and 22, the event included interactive games on such topics as patient rights, quality of care and facilities and environment. Game winners were eligible to participate in drawings for prizes.

Preparation for accreditation is an ongoing process. Other preparation efforts include mock inspections, educational sessions, self-assessment of AAAHC standards, bimonthly chapter captain meetings, and updating policies.

AAAHC accreditation is a voluntary process which involves an onsite visit to measure an ambulatory health care organization’s quality of services and performance against nationally recognized standards. Student Health Services was re-accredited in 2008.

Photos from the SHS event show, from left to right, Latasha Gibbs, intern, and Shawnte’ Elbert, health educator, presenting the Nutrition Education Survivor game. Below, from left to right Cathy Buria, graduate assistant, and Kim Joyner, quality improvement manager, present a game called Swashbuckling with Captain Kim to Amy Viverette, insurance coordinator. (Contributed photos)

Publications


Article by Lee Grubb (Management), “Deliberate faking on personality and emotional intelligence measures,” in Psychological Reports.


Article by Denise E. Dickins (Accounting), “SOX in Hindsight” in Internal Auditing.


Article by Martha Alligood and Jane Miles (Nursing), “Nursing knowledge and health policy in process,” in Nursing Science Quarterly.

Article by David L. Smith (Foreign Languages & Literatures), “The Importance of the Visual in Christoph Ransmayr’s ‘Die Letzte Welt,’” in Modern Austrian Literature.

Appointments/Elections

Sue Leach (Physical Therapy) will serve a 2-year term on the Specialization Academy of Content Experts, through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

Kirk St. Amant (English) was elected member-at-large, executive committee of the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication.

Lorraine Hale Robinson (English) was appointed to the advisory board for Martin Community College and continues more than a decade of service as an arts and sciences advisory board member at Lenoir Community College. Robinson was appointed to the Friends of Hope Plantation board of directors and was named to the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association’s board of directors.

Will Banks (English) was invited to join the ReadWriteThink.org advisory board and the North Carolina English Teacher Association board.

NewsMakers

James Hupp (Dental Medicine) in The Daily Reflector and the Dunn Daily Record, on plans for an ECU School of Dental Medicine community service learning center in Lillington, Jan. 20.

V. L. Narasimhan (Computer Science) in The Hindu, a large English daily newspaper in India, on technology in medicine. The first part of the interview appeared Jan. 31; part two will appear later in the year. Visit http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/to-eworld/article140800.ecu.


Thomas Penders (Psychiatric Medicine) on WNCT-TV News on bath salts designer drug and its dangers, Feb. 25.

Patricia Clark (Theatre and Dance) in The Daily Reflector and the ECU Storybook Theatre’s production of “Seussical! The Music at ECU,” March 18.

Larry Tise (History) in the Daily Reflector, March 20, and the News and Observer, March 22, on the recovery of a film about The Lost Colony.

HOUSING FAIR: At a March 16 Housing Fair, Ellie Laughinghouse competes in a game to generate movement, triggering miles on a pedometer. Greg Underwood, of The Bellamy apartment complex, is behind her. The event provided a convenient location information on local housing for students interested in living off campus. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)

Service, Honors and Professional Activities

Sue Leach (Physical Therapy) was recognized at the 2011 Combined Sections Meeting in New Orleans for becoming a recertified neurologic certified specialist.

Takey Crist (Medicine) was honored with the Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Award by the American Hellenic Institute. The award was presented at the organization’s 36th anniversary dinner at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C.

V. L. Narasimhan (Computer Science) is technical chair for an international conference in India on cloud computing, followed by a workshop on telecare medicine. He will keynote both events and present research addresses at various universities, research establishments and IT industries in the area.

Debbie O’Neal (Education) was awarded the Carolina TESOL Distinguished Service Award (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). She will serve as the newly elected treasurer of Carolina TESOL.

An article by Communication faculty Sachiyo Shearman and Rebecca Dumlao, “A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Family Communication Patterns and Conflict between Young Adults and Parents,” was the second most downloaded article of the Journal of Family Communication through May 2010, via EBSCO database.

The 2011 First Quarter Facilities Services Awards for Excellence recipients were Keith Rush with Grounds Services for Spirit and Thomas Santana with Utilities Services – Steam for Service.
March 28, 2011

Professor helps authenticate ‘Lost Colony’ Film

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School, Jones returned to Roanoke Island in 1921, after one year at Columbia University. She was intent on creating good schools on the Outer Banks and on making an educational movie that told the story of North Carolina’s first colonists for the state’s school children, Tise said.

The original film was made 35 mm nitrate film, which was used by all film-makers at the time, Tise explained. However, over time nitrate becomes explosive so the original films had to be destroyed in the 1950s and 60s.

“The original film was stored at the Atlas Film Company in New York and when they realized that they had to destroy it, they contacted the Lost Colony and told them that they could make a 16 mm film copy for them,” Tise said.

The former director of the Institute of Outdoor Drama for North Carolina Mark Sumner told Tise that he remembered either three or five copies being made of that original film. One copy was used about 20 years ago, and was badly damaged, Tise said.

“As far as we know, this copy that lebame found is the only pristine copy in existence,” Tise said.

Tise describes his research colleague, Houston, as “an authority on almost anything having to do with Sir Walter Raleigh, Thomas Harriot, the Lost Colony or Queen Elizabeth.”

A five-minute version of the original film with music and Mabel Evans Jones’ commentary was shown at ECU March 24 as part of Houston’s lecture, “A Briefe and True Report of ‘The Lost Colony’ Drama in the New Found Land of Virginia.”

The audio tapes that Houston found were made in 1971 and 1976. As the film plays, Jones describes for the interviewer which local residents took what role, how the costumes were made and other interesting snippets of the history of the film that would have otherwise been lost, Tise said.

In one 26-minute recording, piano accompaniment plays silent movie era music matching the drama and action of the scenes, while Jones details the scenes. “It’s fascinating,” he said. The second part of that recording hasn’t been found; Houston and Tise continue to hope it will be located.

“We are always thrilled when we can assist groups such as the Roanoke Island Historical Association in researching, preserving and interpreting their rich historical materials,” Tise said.

“Already my colleagues at ECU in history, English, anthropology, geology and other fields have offered their expertise as we research ways of bringing this important treasure to a broader audience across North Carolina,” he said.

While Tise referred to the film as “The 1921 Lost Colony movie,” the actual title is longer and doesn’t contain any reference to the famous English colonists. The film’s title frame shows the work as “The Earliest English Expeditions and Attempted Settlements in the Territory of What Is Now the United States, 1584-1591.”

The Roanoke Island Historical Association owns the film as well as the audiotapes.

Houston and Tise are now working on a documentary history of the film to be premiered during the 75th anniversary of the outdoor drama.

“We’d like to present (the film) in a format that has the proper music and have a premiere at some point,” Tise said.

“We’re just scratching the surface thus far on this film,” Tise said. “Mabel Evans Jones and Elizabeth Grimball, two women of the same age, both from North Carolina, making the first movie in North Carolina is incredibly remarkable.”
Hughes responds with volunteer service

By Judy Currin

Elaine Hughes is well known among the movers and shakers that comprise Greenville’s army of volunteers. Her compassion for those in need is rooted in faith and reflected in her service.

“I want to be the help that comes freely,” said Hughes. A staff member in ECU’s Department of Exercise and Sport Science for the past five years, Hughes views service as a calling. And she always responds.

An active member of St. Peter’s Catholic Church since 1986, Hughes serves as an adult leader, providing service opportunities for Life Teen, the high school youth group. Youth from St. Peter’s and St. Gabriel parishes combine for faith development on Sunday evenings and many service activities.

Every other month she takes a small group of teenagers to RHA Howell Center/Tar River, a residential facility for children who have health problems requiring 24-hour nursing care. “The kids come away with a real sense of how blessed they are,” Hughes said.

She also enjoys volunteering with the Joy Soup Kitchen, coordinating a team to prepare enough soup and sandwiches to serve 125 people. Her group completes the preparation, while the soup kitchen staff serve those who come in for a meal, Hughes said.

She is on the board of directors for Riley’s Army, a Greenville-based non-profit volunteer group that provides support to children with cancer, as well as their families.

When work and volunteer commitments allow for leisure time, Hughes enjoys writing, a passion stirred by a children’s literature class she took as an undergraduate. The final class assignment was to write a children’s book.

“I was hooked,” she said. She dreamed from that point on of becoming a writer. She wrote three books for her son Joe Joe when he was little. She signed up for a class at ECU on publishing children’s books, and there met fellow writers who formed a writing and critiquing group that meets once a month.

Following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the writing group was encouraged by new member Christina Routolo to put pen to paper.

“We knew we wouldn’t be able to join a mission team,” Hughes said. So they pooled their efforts to create a book that recorded experiences in post-earthquake Haiti. The book “takes you to the devastation through stories and poems written to document and remember the tragedy,” Hughes said.

Interviews and more than 300 shared photographs from two mission teams that participated in Haiti’s recovery provided detailed first-hand accounts from the field.

“The Day the Earth Moved Haiti: From Havoc to Healing” is a collection of fiction, non-fiction and poetry written in response to the earthquake and recovery efforts.

Authors Elaine Hughes, Patricia Koenig, Christina Routolo, Elizabeth Thompson and Lynne Wigent are all members of the Greenville-based writer’s guild, Critique It For Me.

Routolo credits Hughes continued on p. 15
ECU political science faculty members Bob Thompson and Carmine Scavo will serve as co-directors of ECU’s Outreach Network in the Office of Engagement, Innovation and Economic Development. The network works with government offices and community organizations to promote sustainable growth and development. At the same time, the network employs ECU graduate assistants who apply academic knowledge toward resolving real-world problems in the region. The students help ECU provide services to local communities, while honing skills that will be required in their careers, Scavo said.

Scavo said the Outreach Network exemplifies the university motto, "Servire." He said the network has been “assisting local governments and non-profits in eastern North Carolina in capacity building since its inception in the 1990s.” Projects currently in the works include categorizing town ordinances and resolutions for the Town of Bayboro; developing a flow chart of the permitting process for developers in Pamlico County; and identifying potential funding sources for the Bath High School Preservation, the CHOSEN project in Greenville, Shiloh Farms Ministry outside of Goldsboro and the Turnage Theatre Foundation in Washington.

For additional information about the network, call 252-737-1348 or email outreachNet@ecu.edu.
Hughes responds

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with taking on “the brunt of the task of organizing the entire undertaking.”

“Elaine is dedicated to her family, church, community and to East Carolina University,” Routolo said.

Published by Tate Publishing, the book will be available in the fall of 2011. All proceeds from book sales will benefit three charities that work directly with Haiti — Compassion Weavers, the Hope for Haiti Foundation and the Ryan Epp’s Children’s Home. More details on the book are available at http://www.wix.com/haitibook/thedaytheearthmovedhaiti.

Hughes freely offers her help to Haiti, with thoughts of all the times she has been helped by others. “I know there have been times in my life when I have turned to others for support,” she said. “I am grateful to those special people who were there for me.”

Hughes’ response to the devastation in Haiti is yet another answer to a calling. Her answer is always, “Yes.”

Joyner work

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ECU Grieves Loss of Role Model

By Mary Schulken

Amanda “Mandy” Kelly’s life was brief, but her impact will be long-lived, said friends, classmates and teachers at East Carolina University.

“All our lives were uplifted by the splendid optimism that flowed from her heart,” said Douglas Schneider, a professor in the department of accounting, where Kelly, 24, was poised to get her master’s degree in May.

Kelly died March 21 in a car wreck on U.S. 264 in Wilson. More than 250 people attended a campus memorial service for her March 24. Afterwards, many walked to the Trustees Fountain to join a vigil in her honor.

At the service, friends recalled Kelly as a person who took time to know and care about everyone who crossed her path. They noted her integrity, her sense of humor and her zest for everything she undertook. Many described her as a role model and talked about how knowing her had changed them.

“She taught me to be a strong person and not a doormat,” said Farah Hussain, Kelly’s roommate and a fellow graduate student in accounting.

The couple had just celebrated their two-year, eight-month anniversary, he said. Brittany Harrell, Kelly’s neighbor, recalled long, frequent talks about school, friends, family, guys, frustrations and fears. More times than not, those talks ended with Kelly encouraging her, Harrell said.

“Always there was a motivational speech about doing my best at whatever task I had to do the next day,” she said. “We all knew Mandy as a teacher.”

Virginia Hardy, vice provost for student affairs, said Kelly’s life and loss issued a campus challenge.

“There are certain things the university honors in students: service, spirit … a quest for knowledge … opportunities to explore one’s inner self,” said Hardy. “All of these things Mandy modeled. We hope our faculty and students will model those things and make them Mandy’s legacy.”

Tremayne Smith, student body president, said Kelly’s love for ECU and her community here should be a comfort.

“Let us always remember the love that was shown by her for us,” he said.