Welcome from Dean William M. Downs

Dear Friends of Harriot College,

I am pleased to share with you this latest issue of Cornerstone, our signature publication for alumni and friends of East Carolina University’s College of Arts and Sciences. In the pages that follow, I hope that you get a clear sense of just how successful 2017 was for our College and indeed for our entire University. Since release of our last issue, faculty research productivity has increased dramatically, unique opportunities for student learning have expanded, and philanthropic gifts have grown fourfold over the previous year. As ECU sets out to become America’s Next Great National University, it has the College of Arts and Sciences as its driving motor!

As I have said each year that I have had the privilege of serving as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I like who we are as a College. I am proud of the value we bring to this University and to our community. I am grateful for the partnerships that we are building on both east and west campuses. I like that we have stayed creative, entrepreneurial, and forward looking even as we have had to weather some fiscal discomfort.

And, in particular, I like our recent trajectory. Our programs are increasing in student popularity. We are expanding experiential learning opportunities (e.g., study abroad, internships, field courses, academic teams) for our students. We are doing some smart things to increase the quality of our degree programs and to make sure that our graduates are confident and ready for the job market. Our researchers are not only bringing in more grant dollars, but they are having profound impacts on their disciplines, they are impacting lives, they are strengthening communities, they are informing public policy, and they are improving practice in science and policy.

We have wonderful teams, at every level. I am grateful for the Dean’s Office staff, for our talented associate deans, for our understaffed but overachieving academic advisors, and for all the department chairs and program directors who make this College run so well. I am grateful for our world-class faculty, who inspire and who guide new cohorts of students to success each and every semester. And I am grateful to our dedicated college staff—the true unsung heroes of Harriot College—without whom we would get precisely little done each day.

I hope you are thrilled, just as I am, that we now have plans well underway for a new $90 million Biotechnology and Life Sciences Building to be built on the corner of 10th and Evans. Likewise, I hope you will join me in celebrating Harriot College’s resuscitation of ECU’s Center for Survey Research this past year. The Center will be a potent vehicle for public opinion research and teaching in the social sciences.

We do not believe in either cornerstones or hidden gems. We are working to be more visible in the immediate community, and we have taken “road shows” to Wake County, where we held a successful “Night of Pracy” at the Museum of Natural Science, and to Orange County, where we showcased 25 years of publishing the North Carolina Literary Review. We are rapidly increasing our capacity to spread the good news of the College through social media, and at latest count we have more than 1,400 followers.

To be sure, there’s something very special going on in the East. ECU’s academic prowess in the natural sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences is increasingly recognized and respected. We feel like we are building something special in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and we’d love to have the company of alumni and friends as we journey forward.

Thank you for everything each of you does to support the people and programs of Harriot College!

With regards,

William M. Downs

Dean

Greetings from the THCAS

As I prepare for my second year serving as the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Advancement Council Chair, I look back on what the College and Council accomplished last year feeling proud, encouraged and excited.

The Advancement Council is made up of more than 20 loyal alumni and friends of Harriot College to provide advocacy, consultation, and support for the College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University. As one of ECU’s longest serving and most impactful college-level advancement councils, we take great pride in our role promoting Harriot College’s distinctive degree programs, its nationally recognized faculty, its outstanding students and alumni, and its firm tradition of academic excellence.

The college named Dr. Scott Curtis the second Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council Distinguished Professorship in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Dr. Curtis is a professor of atmospheric science in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment and will receive funds each year from the endowment to enhance his research. The Council is honored to be a part of his work here at East Carolina University, and we look forward to what he accomplishes during his tenure in this professorship.

In addition to the professorship, the THCAS Advancement Council also funds the Dean’s Early Career Award, which annually recognizes outstanding tenure-track faculty doing exceptional research. Dr. Heidi Bonner in the Department of Criminal Justice received the 2017 award for her partnerships with local agencies to research decision making behavior and job stress and satisfaction, and evaluate policies pertaining to response to violence against women. Members of the Council continue to enhance the college’s Study Abroad scholarship offerings, sustainability of the Voyages of Discovery Series, student success, and staff development opportunities. Because we each care in a personal way about the success and stature of Harriot College, it has been gratifying for us to watch—and indeed help guide—the development of Arts and Sciences over the years.

As we look ahead, the Harriot College Advancement Council will continue its momentous commitment to establishing new scholarships and programs that help attract the best and brightest to study the natural sciences, mathematics, humanities, and social sciences. In particular, the Council is embarking on a student mentorship program this year.

Through continued fundraising, exceptional stewardship, and aggressive advocacy, the Harriot College Advancement Council will support the college now and into the future. If you share our passion for Harriot College’s future, then please consider how best you might contribute. We would be happy to have your participation!

Jim Mullen, Chair

Advancement Council

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

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What it Means to be a Leader: A Student’s Perspective
by Katharine Chandler, THCAS Dean’s Student Leadership Council Member

Leadership is one of the most difficult terms to define, as it has a variety of meanings for various people. However, ECU seems to have successfully defined leadership for the modern student as “the relational process of inspiring, empowering, and influencing positive change.” I pride myself on my leadership skills, and I believe that this definition of leadership accurately reflects what I consider to be leadership.

During my time at ECU, I have found myself in numerous positions that require leadership skills. For example, I hold the office of president for both my Philosophy and English honor societies, along with the office of historian for my history honor society. I hold these offices in order to encourage my fellow students to become more involved in their academics outside of a classroom setting.

I also volunteer as a global ambassador - a study abroad peer advisor - to help students discover which study abroad program is right for them. I do this by explaining the costs of programs, what courses are offered, which scholarships are available, and which type of program (summer, semester, or year-long) is best for each student and how they ought to approach the application process. Additionally, as a representative on the Dean’s Student Leadership Council for the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, I give a voice to my department’s needs while discovering the needs of other departments. I am learning to appreciate the unity of the various academic disciplines.

After I graduate, my future ventures will, without a doubt, be shaped by my leadership experiences at ECU. It is through my many roles that my leadership skills have been cultivated. These skills will be vital in further years of higher education as well as my career.

I have learned that a strong leader is flexible in their leadership philosophy, approachable, and positively influential. I am grateful for the opportunities that ECU has offered me, especially in terms of developing my leadership skills, and I am confident that I will continue to develop these skills long after I graduate, ensuring my success in future endeavors.

What it Means to be a Leader: A Student’s Perspective
by Virginia Vasquez-Rios, THCAS Dean’s Student Leadership Council Member

Over the course of my life, I have realized there are varying types of leadership. People lead on the premise of two things: their idea of what makes a great leader and how they would want to be led themselves.

Taking that into account, I decided I wanted to lead by example and enthusiasm. As the biology student representative for the THCAS Dean’s Student Leadership Council, I work to pass on my passion to my peers and classmates. I enjoy volunteering at events such as open houses or Pirates Abroad, where I can be the face of biology for incoming freshman. I lead them on tours, answer their questions, and share my contact information if they ever need help in the future.

Last spring, I had the wonderful opportunity to deliver a short speech to the freshman at Harriot College’s ECU excels ceremony. I wanted to share how I had come to find success and my place at ECU in hopes of leading them in the right direction.

These, and many other experiences I have been a part of as a student leader, have instilled confidence and a deeper passion in me for leading my ECU community.

In the future, I envision serving my society as an emergency room physician. With that dream in mind, I know that my work at ECU is molding me into a better person, leader, and eventually a well-rounded doctor.

Beyond Your Degree
by John Stowe, ECU Career Services

East Carolina University’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and Career Services, with funding support from Enterprise Holding, hosted a career development conference, “The Arts and Sciences: Beyond Your Degree,” February 23, 2017, at ECU’s Mendenhall Student Center.

The event was designed to help liberal arts students prepare for graduation and careers beyond ECU. Tremayne Smith, former SGA president and ECU Arts and Sciences alumnus, delivered the opening keynote address.

After the keynote, students and faculty attended workshop sessions on topics that included translating your educational experience, job interview preparation, resume construction, social media management and graduate/professional school preparation.

The college also hosted a pair of panel discussions featuring Arts and Sciences alumni sharing their stories of success and career preparation along with advice for students ready to tackle the job market.

The evening concluded with a reception where students, faculty, staff and alumni interacted to help strengthen networking skills. Speakers included Dr. William Downs, dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Ron Mitchelson, ECU provost; and Dr. Virginia Vasquez-Rios, THCAS Dean’s Student Leadership Council Member.
Second Annual Student Scholarship Luncheon

Harriot College hosted its second annual student scholarship luncheon September 22, 2017 in the Murphy Center's Harvey Hall. This academic year, 175 THCAS students received nearly $215,000 in scholarship support from 331 donors.

ECU Provost Dr. Ron Mitchell said in his opening remarks, “It really is a remarkable thing.”

Retired United States Air Force Colonel Thomas Shubert, ECU ROTC and Harriot College political science alumnus, presented this year’s keynote address. He told the students that it is necessary in one’s life to take risks and chances, not to be afraid to fail, to continue on and make an impact by serving as a mentor for others.

“You have to take risks,” said Shubert, “Learn from failure and you are still going to succeed.”

Following Shubert’s remarks, three scholarship recipients formally thanked their donors and expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunities provided them.

“I am grateful for this opportunity the Minges and the Gornay families have given me,” said Stephen Hart, junior political science major, who was the recipient of the Col. Louis & Mrs. Trudy Gornay Award and the John F. Minges III Scholarship. Hart, “I want to represent the donors and the Political Science Department to the best of my ability - with hard work and dedication - to further my academic success.”

In concluding the event, THCAS Dean William Downs congratulated all the students and thanked the donors for their support.

THCAS Students Receive Robert H. Wright Awards

Julien Catalin Dodu of Oshawa, Ontario, Canada graduated magna cum laude as a triple major in neuroscience, mathematics, and psychology. As one of his nominators stated, “He is a true ‘student champion’ due to his excellence in and out of the classroom. Julien came to ECU on a full athletic scholarship for swimming and was a leader on the back-to-back conference championship swim teams in 2015 and 2016, which included an individual championship. Julien’s thirst for knowledge has led him to pursue his PhD in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Victoria. Julien hopes to one day lead his own lab.”

Lilian Lee Faulconer of Smithfield, NC will graduate summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts in political science, a bachelor of arts in multidisciplinary studies and a certificate in global understanding in just three years of college. Serving and working hard to achieve her goals is something that is second nature to Lilian. Her service to both the ECU campus and the Eastern North Carolina community is around 1000 hours. An EC Scholar, Lilian has won several other scholarships, including the Senator John P. East Award, which is the highest political science scholarship award. Outside of campus, Lilian has volunteered for many organizations including the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. She was also Miss Kinston-Lenoir County in 2016. After graduation, Lilian plans to continue her education at ECU by getting a master’s degree in psychology with a concentration in sport psychology, and then she plans on attending law school.

Zoe Witt Hinton of Louisburg, NC will graduate summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in multidisciplinary studies with a concentration in neuroscience, and a minor in religious studies. Zoe’s compassion and selflessness for others is something that several of her nominators conveyed over-and-over again. One said that Zoe is “brilliant, she is passionate about learning and she possesses an unmatched ability to heal and serve.” Her many awards include the 2016-2017 Edelen Pearce Graduate Fellowship, offered by the ECU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, and an undergraduate research and creativity award. She studied abroad in both India and Spain. She has submitted preliminary neurosurgical medical illustrations. Beyond her time in the classroom, Zoe has been a surgical intern at the East Carolina Heart Institute and the Hospital Clinic de Barcelona as well as a student observer at several medical institutions. Zoe was also an undergraduate laboratory assistant in the Dewitt Lab in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology in the Brody School of Medicine. Zoe plans to begin medical school in the fall of 2017 to pursue a career in procedural medicine.

Inaugural THCAS Staff Awards Recognition Ceremony

On May 9, 2017, the THCAS Staff Council hosted its inaugural Staff Awards and Recognition Ceremony. The event honors all dedicated THCAS staff members, recognizes the hard work they engage in on a day-to-day basis, and awards two special honors.

Suzanne Powell, lead administrative associate in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, received the “Senior Staff Excellence Award,” and Beverly Estorge, administrative support associate in the Department of Economics, received the “Junior Staff Excellence Award.”

“When I read the email informing me that I was selected for the Senior Staff Excellence Award, my first reaction was to re-read the email because surely I had read it wrong. I am not used to recognition on such a large scale, and I felt a bit overwhelmed,” said Powell. “I am thankful to the college and Dean Downs for noticing the need to include and embrace the college’s staff and creating the vehicle to let them be heard and to be recognized.”

Estorge also was surprised to hear she was receiving the Junior Staff Excellence Award.

“I wake up every morning so thankful for my job at ECU and winning this award means putting icing on the cake,” said Estorge. “The THCAS Staff Council has done a great job at making me feel like all of the ‘behind-the-scenes’ work is noticed and valued.”

2017 THCAS Awards

THCAS Advancement Council Distinguished Professor in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Dr. Scott Curtis, professor of atmospheric science in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, was awarded the title of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council Distinguished Professorship in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics this past spring.

“I am very honored to receive the professorship,” said Curtis. “I sincerely thank Dean Downs, the Advancement Council and the selection committee. This award is truly recognition of all the amazing natural science and mathematical scholarship that occur in our college. I look forward to developing new partnerships and research avenues through this award.”

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council Distinguished Professorship was first awarded in Spring 2011. This is only the second time the professorship has been awarded since its establishment.

Dean’s Early Career Award

Dr. Heidi Bonner, assistant professor of criminal justice, received the 2017 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Early Career Award. The award, which recognizes and rewards exceptional performance by tenured-track assistant professors and is made possible through the generosity of the Harriot College Advancement Council, was announced at a special reception in Bonner’s honor. Bonner also was recognized at Harriot College’s 2017 Fall Convocation.

“I was incredibly flattered to be selected,” said Bonner. “I know many people in the college who do incredible work and it was an honor to be this year’s recipient.”

Bonner has been at ECU for five years. She teaches predominantly in the criminal justice graduate program and focuses on policing, courts and research methods. She received her Ph.D. in criminal justice from the University at Albany, SUNY in 2012.
New Administrative Profiles

Director of University Studies Program

On July 24, 2017, Dr. Amy Shannon was named the new Director of the University Studies Program, which joined Harriot College earlier in 2017. Shannon brings more than 15 years of experience in academic advising, university leadership and teaching to the position. Since 2014, she has been lead coordinator for undergraduate advising in the ECU College of Education.

“I am honored and excited to be the new director,” said Shannon. “As an undergraduate student, I followed a non-traditional approach to my studies by designing my own degree plan. This personal experience, along with my professional background within higher education, will serve me well in advocating and supporting the University Studies program and students.”

One of Shannon’s goals for the program is to strengthen partnerships with North Carolina community colleges.

“Transfer students with a large number of credit hours need to be aware that the University Studies degree is a viable option to completing their undergraduate degree,” said Shannon. Shannon earned her Ed.D. in educational leadership from ECU in 2013, and she holds a Master of Science in Counselor Education from Emporia State University (2000) and a BS in Environmental Science from Central Missouri State University (1998).

Chair of the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment

Dr. Thad Wasklewicz, professor of geomorphology and director of the Terrain Analysis Laboratory, stepped into his new role as chair of the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment effective August 1, 2017. He succeeded Dr. Burrell Montz, who has served as chair since coming to ECU in 2009.

“I am excited and ready to promote our program in a manner that grows student interest and increases our presence in the eastern North Carolina community,” said Wasklewicz.

Other goals are to increase marketing of the planning and geography programs to attract more students and funding, and perform more service-oriented community activities grounded in current departmental research.

“Our program is not a typical destination location for students by interacting with local high schools and community colleges, and building stronger connections between programs here on campus - to not only increase our majors but also to increase the number of students involved in our classes - is one of the things I’d like to see progress during my tenure as chair.”

Wasklewicz came to ECU in 2007 as an associate professor and became full professor in 2014. Over the past decade, he has been actively involved in the department through teaching, mentoring students as honors thesis, thesis and dissertation chair or committee member, serving the university and department on multiple committees, and collaborating with colleagues on research related to environmental change detection and geospatial technologies.

Throughout his career, Wasklewicz has received more than $2 million in grant funding and has presented his research at more than 90 professional meetings and university seminars. He is the author or co-author of more than 40 articles and chapters published in peer-reviewed journals and books, and he is a member of the Association of American Geographers, the Geological Society of America and the American Geophysical Union.

Originally from New York, Retired Colonel Thomas W. Shubert joked that he was the international student on campus when he arrived at ECU in 1970.

Four years later, Shubert and his future wife, Kathy, both received their BA degrees in political science and were commissioned through ECU’s Air Force ROTC program.

While attending ECU, Shubert said his favorite professors were Dr. Suggs, a retired navy commander who served as his thesis advisor; and Dr. John East, honors program seminar leader who later became a U.S. senator from North Carolina.

Shubert said it was their background and perspective on real-world issues that really made the most impact on him.

He also stated that the people, atmosphere and chance to get involved in different activities while living on campus was a good experience for him.

“The students who didn’t live on campus missed out. I think that’s a big difference,” said Shubert. “College is an experience that allows you to figure out who you are – what the possibilities are moving forward.”

Nowadays, Shubert said he often sees students whose lives are planned out for them from the age of eight or nine, and that they don’t deviate from those plans. He says that students are afraid to take risks.

“Your experience here is to take risks and take things you don’t want to take. You may not like certain classes, but you will be a better person for it,” said Shubert. “That’s the thing with a liberal arts education - A liberal arts education gives you the ability to comprehend other issues. It gives you that wider perspective.”

After attending undergraduate pilot training, Shubert served in operational assignments flying B-52 strategic bombers and mission support aircraft, while Kathy spent four years as a maintenance officer on the airplanes Tom flew, keeping him in the air.

“Kathy was the first female to graduate from ECU’s ROTC program as a line officer,” said Shubert.

Later, Shubert attended U.S. Naval postgraduate school, as well as Korean language training at the Defense Language Institute, and earned a Master of Arts in national security affairs, majoring in East Asian Studies.

Over his 30 year military career, Shubert served as a political-military affairs officer with the United States Pacific Command; assistant air attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia; air attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark; military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense; and chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

Upon retirement from the Air Force in February 2005, he entered civil service and has held roles in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as country director for Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia; and as chief of the Air Operations Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

Currently, Shubert advises the Civil Air Patrol – a unit of 70,000 people. He oversees foreign language training and professional military developmental education for the Air Force.
The early sixties were a very good period of time for East Carolina College (ECC). It was the fastest growing college in North Carolina!

Dr. C.Q. Brown (in 1969)

I arranged a visit to the campus through Dr. Robert Holt, vice president and dean of the college. Upon arrival, Dr. Robert Williams, dean of arts and sciences, arranged for the chair of the geography department Dr. Cramer to show me around the campus. I was quite impressed with the spirit of the faculty I met and the campus.

My report to Dr. Williams following the visit included recommended actions needed to serve the region and strengthen ECC. I emphasized coastal processes, communities dependent on coastal resources and coastal environments and the beginning of interdisciplinary endeavors. As boats and vehicles became available, horizons expanded. A vacant school house in Manteo became available for use by ECU. University renovations made it useful for teaching and research. This resulted in an education opportunity to have a semester-in-residence program in Manteo, which was highly successful and envied by other institutions.

In 1969, ECU learned the University of North Carolina was making plans to submit a proposal to the Sea Grant program of the National Science Foundation. Upon learning about the program, Dr. Williams and Dr. Robert C. Friday, UNC president, and Dr. Leo W. Jenkins, ECU chancellor, signed a Memorandum of Agreement Concerning Procedure for Cooperation between UNC and ECU in Programs Qualifying for Sea Grant Institutional Support,” on Jan. 7, 1970 and Jan. 14, 1970, respectively.

ECU submitted a proposal to the Office of Sea Grant Programs with a total budget of $2.19 million. Eight projects were submitted ranging from $4,000-$33,000.

This was a milestone event, which sparked confidence and enthusiasm, as well as gaining resources and achieving state recognition. ECU played a major role over the years with the Sea Grant program and Leo was a great supporter.

The department continued to expand in needed areas to address regional issues. A significant example is the hydro-geology program. Communities dependent on ground water for their supplies have been beneficiaries of the expertise available at ECU.

Marine Science Council Appointment

In 1968, Governor Dan Moore conceived of the N.C. Marine Science Council to enhance our state’s interest in ocean exploration and improve overall capabilities in developing coastal resources. As Gov. Bob Scott’s appointee to the Council in February 1970, I served on the Facilities Planning Committee in planning for three laboratories to serve research, education and public service functions. Coastal Resource Centers were established at Fort Fisher, Bogue Banks and Roanoke Island, which are known today as Aquarim.

Establishment of these facilities and ongoing involvement with the Marine Science Council was another significant milestone in our quest to contribute in all ways to the unique needs of our coastal region.

About Leo Jenkins - Our Leader

Dr. C.Q. Brown, Seth Sutton, and Steve Culver

Working with and for Dr. Jenkins was a great learning experience. He was very direct and quick to make decisions. Dr. Jenkins surrounded himself with very talented leaders who were overseeing existing academic programs while developing new ones. I now realize that such administrative oversight is absolutely necessary for stability and growth while reaching out to new horizons.

They were facilitators of things to come.

Traveling with Dr. Jenkins was a master operator, receiving standing ovations on many occasions. It was an exciting time and a privilege to witness first-hand Dr. Jenkins in action, as he moved ECU from a regional college to being a part of the UNC University System complete with a medical school.

During that same period, and with Dr. Jenkins’ support of the Sea Grant and Marine Sciences Initiatives, the Department of Geology also gained state and national awareness.

Today, into the Future

Visiting the Department of Geology and Sciences today is like a dream come true. It is beyond my wildest dream that I would see such progress in my lifetime. Not only is the faculty much larger but so are the facilities. Everything is “store bought” and “state-of-the-art.” The magnitude of a single grant today dwarfs the first Sea Grant proposal for the entire university. Research today has moved far beyond coastal North Carolina into exploration of international waters.

To top all that, who would have thought there would be a successor to the lovable “R/V Sweet Riggs,” which is standing ready to shove off on a quest for the high seas?

What can we expect in 2067?

ECU Geological Sciences 50th Anniversary: How it all Began

by Dr. Charles Quentin “C.Q.” Brown, founder of the Geological Science Department
Harriot College Researchers Making an Impact

Social Sciences Research (History/ Maritime Studies)

Researchers in Harriot College’s Program in Maritime Studies are working with the Department of Defense on a project they hope will give some peace of mind to U.S. military families who lost loved ones during World War II. Dr. Jennifer McKinnon, associate professor of maritime studies, and Dr. Jason Raupp, program archaeologist, led a team to perform an underwater archaeological investigation of a U.S. Army Air Forces B-24H Liberator Heavy Bomber. The bomber, with its crew of 10, was shot down North of Rome, Italy in 1944.

The investigation is funded by a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAAP) contract whose mission is to search for, recover and identify potential remains from missing personnel during past conflicts.

“The cause of recovering lost service members is something that you can’t even put a value on,” said Dr. Anna Froula, associate professor of English at Towson University.

“Participating in this DPAAP project was an incredibly rewarding experience,” said Wright. “This allowed us to use our skills as archaeologists (and archaeology students) to assist in their mission. Talk about archaeology with a cause!”

English Professors Use NEH Grant to Work with Student Veterans

Dr. Anna Froula, associate professor of film studies, received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of nearly $65,000 to work with student veterans over a two-year period. Earlier this year, she designed a two-week Soldier to Scholar bridge program to bring together war scholars and student veterans that were beginning their studies at ECU this fall.

Froula’s team includes fellow English faculty members Dr. Andrea Kitta and Zack Perkinson, as well as Nicole Jablonski, assistant director of ECU’s Student Veteran Services, and Dr. Jonathan Vincent, assistant professor of English at Towson University.

“Participating in this DPAAP project was an incredibly rewarding experience,” said Wright. “This allowed us to use our skills as archaeologists (and archaeology students) to assist in their mission. Talk about archaeology with a cause!”

McKinnon. “As a maritime archaeologist studying shipwrecks, often you wonder how practical, meaningful or how impactful your research is, and it can’t imagine a more impactful project than giving families peace of mind knowing where their family members were lost.”

In addition to McKinnon and Raupp, the team included Mark Keusenkothen and Jason Nunn, two ECU dive safety officers; Annie Wright, ECU maritime studies graduate student; Matt Hanks, an archaeologist with the National Park Service; Joe Hoyt, an ECU maritime studies alumnus working with NOAA; and an Italian colleague Dr. Massimiliano Secci.

“Participating in this DPAAP project was an incredibly rewarding experience,” said Wright. “This allowed us to use our skills as archaeologists (and archaeology students) to assist in their mission. Talk about archaeology with a cause!”

Patent Success: Doctoral Student Helps Develop Cancer-Fighting Compound

Contributions by Doug Boyd, ECU News Services

Daniel Ladin isn’t an ordinary student. He’s part of a team of ECU scientists led by Dr. Colin Burns and Dr. Allison Danell, associate professors of chemistry, and Rukiyah Van Dross-Anderson, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the Brody School of Medicine, who have synthesized a molecule that may treat skin cancer at a lower cost and without surgery.

Ladin spent a year working with Burns and Danell, starting with molecules of similar structure to the fatty acid molecule Van Dross-Anderson had identified that could kill tumor cells. They made the molecules more complex until they found a molecule that killed tumor cells without harming non-tumor cells. Then they synthesized it.

“We think this drug can offer an alternative approach as a chemotherapy agent and do it at low cost for the patients of eastern North Carolina,” said Ladin. “We’d also like to use it as a way to reduce the amount of recurrence (following surgery). Sometimes when you get the tumor removed, it will grow back. What we want to do is make those margins a little bit smaller for the surgeon and also add this drug there so we can eliminate any stray tumor cells that we may not have gotten with the surgical procedure.”

The four researchers patented their molecule and were inducted into the National Academy of Inventors earlier this year.

Stroke Study: Project Aims to Identify Genetic Markers for Stroke Risk

Contributions by Jules Norwood, ECU News Services

Strokes are the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States and the top cause of serious long-term disability, and two Harriot College biology professors are working to identify genetic markers that indicate greater risk of recurrent stroke.

Work by Dr. Keith Keene and Dr. Michael Brewer may provide insight into personalized risk assessment, targeted prevention and response to treatment, helping to reduce the health impact of strokes. The project is funded by a $450,000 National Institutes of Health grant they received in early 2017, which also gives ECU students the opportunity to be involved in the research process.

Using DNA from a clinical trial conducted in the 1990s, Keene and Brewer are examining two regions of the human genome that have been identified in previous research as potentially having markers that could indicate a higher risk of recurrent stroke. The sample represents a mix of ethnicities, which Keene said is important because different ethnicities have different likelihoods for suffering a stroke.

“Our goal is to get to where you can essentially tailor someone’s treatment, their clinical outlook and how they’re cared for by incorporating genetic information, diet, exercise, the big picture of that person’s overall environment and what is contributing to use it as a way to reduce the amount of recurrence (following surgery). Sometimes when you get the tumor removed, it will grow back. What we want to do is make those margins a little bit smaller for the surgeon and also add this drug there so we can eliminate any stray tumor cells that we may not have gotten with the surgical procedure.”

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Dr. Michael Brewer and Dr. Keith Keene

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Contributions by Doug Boyd, ECU News Services

Daniel Ladin isn’t an ordinary student. He’s part of a team of ECU scientists led by Dr. Colin Burns and Dr. Allison Danell, associate professors of chemistry, and Rukiyah Van Dross-Anderson, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the Brody School of Medicine, who have synthesized a molecule that may treat skin cancer at a lower cost and without surgery.

Ladin spent a year working with Burns and Danell, starting with molecules of similar structure to the fatty acid molecule Van Dross-Anderson had identified that could kill tumor cells. They made the molecules more complex until they found a molecule that killed tumor cells without harming non-tumor cells. Then they synthesized it.

“We think this drug can offer an alternative approach as a chemotherapy agent and do it at low cost for the patients of eastern North Carolina,” said Ladin. “We’d also like to use it as a way to reduce the amount of recurrence (following surgery). Sometimes when you get the tumor removed, it will grow back. What we want to do is make those margins a little bit smaller for the surgeon and also add this drug there so we can eliminate any stray tumor cells that we may not have gotten with the surgical procedure.”

The four researchers patented their molecule and were inducted into the National Academy of Inventors earlier this year.

Dr. Michael Brewer and Dr. Keith Keene

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When the Voyages of Discovery Series was established in 2007 by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Advancement Council, it was the council’s vision that the series would become known as the premier intellectual event in eastern North Carolina.

“There are few things in which I’ve been involved that give me deeper personal satisfaction than the Voyages of Discovery Series,” said Advancement Council member Ms. Harvey Sharp Wooten. “This series is Harriot College’s gift to the university community and to the region.”

Now in its second decade, the Voyages of Discovery Series is enlightening audiences and transforming the region through prominent and distinguished leaders whose expertise span the abundant fields that make up the arts and sciences.

Dr. John Tucker, ECU historian and Harriot College professor of history, served as the Voyages first director and helped shape the series for eight seasons from 2007 through 2015.

Tucker was enthused to be part of the Voyages adventure.

“I thought it was a very promising and exciting undertaking, especially since the director would be involved from the very beginning,” said Tucker. “This series had a valuable contribution to make to the intellectual culture of the campus.”

Impacting the Community

Prior to the establishment of the Voyages Series, local culture often was shaped by athletics, performing arts and emerging medicine.

“Frequently, our culture in Greenville is defined by football games and athletic events, which is fine,” said Tucker. “I go to many of them.”

“It’s just that the mission of the university often was not communicated outside of the classroom as well as it should, and the Voyages Series provided an opportunity for that to happen,” he said.

During his time as director, Tucker wanted to make the events meaningful to the programs that exist on campus too, not just of interest to the community.

He said, making the events resonate with academic programs was an “opportunity to bring together the community and the campus.”

“I think it elevates the intellectual culture of knowledge, discussion, discourse and understanding, especially for those that attend the lectures,” said Tucker. “But even for those that don’t [attend], you see and you hear that they have occurred, and you understand this is part of the community.”

The community’s response to the Voyages Series is what impressed Tucker most about the early years of the series.

“People were very ready for this opportunity,” said Tucker. “People were ready to be a part of the life of the campus, and I thought that was encouraging.”

The first presentation in the series about North Carolina plants had a standing-room only turnout. Later that first season, human anthropologist Richard Leakey’s discussion was a sell-out.

And the series continues to draw crowds, including near capacity audiences for some of the series’ premier speakers, including American feminist icon Gloria Steinem, freedom fighter and Wing Commander Sir Samuel Roshdie, famed British primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall, and New York Times reporter Bob Woodward.

“Some of the speakers have even told us that they were Tweeting about being here as it was happening,” said Johnson, pointing out author and astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson and Rushdie as guests of the series who used social media while on campus.

“We know that people in the audience are communicating about what is going on at the moment and those are being shared,” said Johnson. “It sends a message about ECU being involved with some of the great thinkers, explorers and adventurers of our time.”

Student Engagement

Over the years, it has become a custom for each invited Voyages guest to spend one-on-one time with a select group of undergraduate and graduate students during the afternoon, prior to the evening event.

This tradition began during Tucker’s time as director of the series.

For students to be able to meet one-on-one in small gatherings with the Voyages guest “is a meaningful dimension of the series,” said Tucker.

Tucker also mentioned that Rushdie even participated by video conference in several student classes, giving students an “extended opportunity to learn from this great writer!”

From Johnson’s personal point of view, one of the things that impresses him most about the series is how the speakers are more than happy to share of themselves and take the time to interact with the students.

“We would like the Voyages of Discovery Series to be known as an intellectual event,” said Johnson. “I find those as moving as anything. Those are experiences the students will never forget.”

Voyages into the Future

Although Tucker has not been as involved in the Voyages Series since his time as director, he is happy Harriot College is able to provide the community with this enlightening, intellectual event.

“I’m glad to see it continue,” said Tucker. “I hope that it has a grand future.”

Looking towards the future of the series, current series director Johnson sees financial security as a goal.

“We want to secure the future of this series, and to do that, we have to secure it financially,” said Johnson. “In five years, we hope the series has reached that financial independence.”

Johnson believes the series can become financially sound with the assistance of a strong endowment, a strong group of donors and a strong group of people from the community and university who want to attend these events.

At that point, the series will have increased flexibility in terms of who may be invited to continue to transform the community and beyond.

“I would like to see more interaction with people from different fields, so that the audience is better able to provide the community with this enlightening, intellectual event,” said Johnson. “I’m glad to see it continue,” said Tucker. “I hope that it has a grand future.”

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I’d like to pay by check. Please make checks payable to: ECU FOUNDATION INC. with Voyages of Discovery noted in the memo line and return in the enclosed envelope.

I’d like to use my credit or debit card. To make a contribution by credit or debit card, you may donate online at www.ecu.edu/voyages/support.cfm or call Jessica Nottingham at 252-737-1753.

I’d like to make a recurring gift. Please visit www.ecu.edu/voyages/support.cfm to set up a recurring gift by credit or debit card.

* Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent that the law allows.
Record Breaking Year for THCAS Philanthropy

The 2017 fiscal year (July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017) was a record year in philanthropy and fundraising for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences with a grand total of $5.48 million. Professors to internship and scholarships, our alumni and friends have been undaunted when it comes to their generous support of college initiatives, and the impact is immeasurable.

New funds established during the 2017 fiscal year:
• Chris and Mary Lynn Kidd Scholarship for Chemistry and History Students
• Dr. Greg and Mrs. Carin Lapicki Endowment in Physics
• Dr. Hal J. Riedman - Riedman Endowment in Biology Scholarship
• Lynn “Skip” Dickerson Geology Internship Scholarship
• Paul A. Toll – Toll Foundation Endowment in Sociology

Dr. Jesse Peel

Harriott College 2017 Donor Spotlights

This year, the Harriot College has graciously benefited from the generosity of our alumni and donors in a variety of ways. In particular, donors have had an increased interest in contributing to planned and estate giving, establishing professorships that recruit top faculty, and creating life-changing internships and study abroad experiences. Below are a few examples of 2017 donors who supported Harriot College in one or more of these methods.

Dr. Jesse Peel ’09 honorary alumnus: For more than 30 years, the Peel family from Everests, a small town in eastern North Carolina, believed ECU was the future of their region, and they have served the Harriot College and the University, privately and publically, ever since.

Helen Peel of Everett’s and her son Dr. Jesse Peel of Atlanta, Georgia, were one of 10 families to help establish the EC Scholars Award Program, which is funded by the 1986 J. Woolard Peel University Scholars Award that memorializes Jesse’s father, Woolard Peel.

Approximately 10 years later, Helen established a life estate in a manner that upon her death, her estate would pass to the J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinction Professorship in Economics. This estate was endowed in July 2007, and was the first Peel professorship at ECU.

Jesse has set up a retained life estate planned gift that will create another two distinguished professorships and provide funding for ECU’s Institute for Social Diversity.

The Dr. Jesse R. Peel Distinguished Professorship in Gender Studies and the Dr. Jesse R. Peel Distinguished Professorship in LGBT Studies, both in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, provides opportunities that will attract and retain outstanding faculty members. Additionally, Jesse established an endowed scholarship in the economics program.

Ms. Patricia Beaver ’78: Patricia Beaver believes that ECU played a large role in her success as a successful businesswoman. She has generously included ECU’s Department of Geosciences in her estate plans—a decision that will have permanent impact. A Greensboro native who now lives in Denver, Beaver graduated with a degree in geological sciences in 1978. At 16 years old, she was the youngest student to enter ECU and has said that the independence she found at ECU led her to a successful 30-year career with the Oil and Gas Commission of the State of Colorado.

She was a student of Dr. Stan Riggs, and completed her “field camp” in Colorado, where she has lived ever since leaving Pirate Nation.

Dr. Peel has also set up a fund to establish the Corporate Competence Program for the Brody School of Medicine in his estate plans and continue to support the Honors College and the EC Scholars Program.

In terms of service, Dr. Peel helped the University establish the Chancellor’s Diversity Council and the Center for Diversity and Inequality Research in the Department of Sociology. Jesse is an honorary member of East Carolina’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, and he received the Thomas Harriot College medallion in recognition of service to the college. Dr. Peel was awarded the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Peel spent his career practicing psychiatry, including assisting the 3rd Marine Division during the American withdrawal from Vietnam. He was in practice in Atlanta, GA from 1976 through his retirement in 1992 and played a significant role in how the city responded to the AIDS epidemic of the 1980’s. He underwrote his undergraduate degree and Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and he also was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

The Alumni Association’s Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes alumni with a minimum of five years of work history, outstanding and uncommon achievement in one’s profession, civic affairs, and/or politics. Recipients of this award are selected by an alumni committee and present the honorees as role models to students and other alumni. It is expected that recipients are recognized by their peers and professional standards being truly outstanding within their professions.

ECU Alumni Award Recipients

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Outstanding Alumni Awards:
• Arthur “Art” Beeler ’75 - Fayetteville, NC - BS in Social Work/
• Criminal Justice

Art Beeler is currently a clinical assistant professor at North Carolina Central University in the Department of Criminal Justice and member of ECU’s Criminal Justice Department Advisory Council. Since 1977, he has taught at eight institutions of higher education including Duke University and ECU. He has also recently served as a consultant for the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections chaired a task force reviewing mental health services for the department. He is currently in involved in the Granville County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (chair), North Carolina Sentencing and Advisory Commission (commissioner), and North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections (project consultant). Beeler is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Dalia Lama Compassion in Action Award, Gus Moeller Award for correctional excellence, US Surgeon’s General Medalion, Global Award on Terrorism Medal, and Distinguished Alum from the ECU Criminal Justice Department. He holds a MGA (Executive Masters of Administration) from the University of Maryland University College. He and his wife, Jo Anna, reside in Franklinton.

Dr. Jesse Peel

E.C. University Award Recipients

• Jeffrey Newman ’68, ’74 - Raleigh, NC - BA 8 in Psychology

Jim Newman is a former U.S. Navy Reserve officer and worked with the Department of Defense in several years of service to the United States Navy, where he retired with the rank of Rear Admiral. Newman has served in over 36 positions within the North Carolina state government, including CFO/Controller in the NC Department of Revenue, Chief of the State Productivity Center, and Coordinator for State’s Efficiency Project. He was appointed by Governor Pat McCrory to the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2013 for significant contributions to the State of North Carolina, and has been recognized as a North Carolina Ambassador. Newman also was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal and Defense Mentoring Service Medal for his military service. He served as treasurer and chair (2012-2013) for the Carolina Alumni Association board of directors, and is currently a member of its Emeritus Council. Along with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, Newman holds a Masters of Business degree from ECU, an accounting graduate certificate from the University of Alabama, and CPA licenses in North Carolina and Texas. He and his wife, Judy, currently reside in Raleigh.

Distinguished Service Award:

Harry Stubbs, IV ’74, ’77 - posthumously - Greenville, NC - BS in Political Science

Harry Stubbs, IV (1952-2015) had a career in our nation’s capital that spanned 32 years, primarily with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). While in Washington, D.C., Stubbs was very active in the Alumni Association and was part of the “unofficial” welcoming committee to Pirates who were new to the area. He was president of the Washington D.C./Metro Alumni Chapter for several years, where he organized alumni events and co-ed alumni team that competed in four different sports. Stubbs was an avid Pirates fan and volunteered and served on the board of directors from 1999-2011 and 2014, until his death in 2015. He was a member of the Leo Jenkins Society, the Chancellor’s Society, the Order of the Cupola, and Centennial Member of the alumni association. Stubbs also supported the Joynier Library, the East Carolina Heart Institute, the A.J. Fletcher School of Music as well as the ECU scholarships. He will forever be remembered for his love and service to ECU, and as an outspoken, rabid Pirate fan.

Harry Stubbs, IV
or incorrectly listed, please notify Harriot College’s Director of Alumni Relations and Outreach, Jessica Nottingham, faculty. The following list reflects gifts made to Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

We have made every effort to carefully check the listing of each contribution. If for some reason a name has been misprinted, or incorrectly listed, please notify Harriot College’s Director of Alumni Relations and Outreach, Jessica Nottingham, faculty. The following list reflects gifts made to Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

As don our list donor of this magnitude, it is extremely difficult to ensure that there are no errors or omissions. We

THCAS Annual Honor Roll of Donors

During the past year, hundreds of friends have generously supported Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences with their financial gifts. In these days of shrinking government funding, contributions from individuals and groups provide expanded programming, academic opportunities, and liberal arts enrichment for students and faculty. The following list reflects gifts made to Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

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THCAS Continues to Expand

Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice was welcomed into Harriot College as the 16th department in January 2016. The program came into existence in the 1990’s and became a department in 2003. Criminal justice constitutes the third-largest undergraduate major in Harriot College, boasting approximately 175 graduates each year.

BS in University Studies

In March 2017, ECU’s BS in University Studies was moved into Harriot College’s academic unit. Established in 2014, the BSUS differs from Harriot College’s Multidisciplinary Studies Program. It is intended for students in their junior year or beyond who have had a more divergent academic journey.

ECU Center for Survey Research

ECU’s Center for Survey Research reopened in Harriot College in March 2017. Formed in 1989, the center provides survey research expertise to various public and private agencies and organizations, university scholars, students and interest groups in eastern North Carolina and beyond. The center ensures access to widely-used methods of professional public opinion assessment.

University Writing Program

In July 2017, the University Writing Program transitioned into the Harriot College academic unit. The University Writing Program includes two components: University Writing Center and Writing Across the Curriculum.

• University Writing Center - The UWC offers peer consulting services to students, faculty and staff. Appointments may be made to work with trained undergraduate and graduate writing consultants at any stage of the writing process.

• Writing Across the Curriculum - WAC is designed to assist students in applying the differences in writing conventions across disciplines. Central to the WAC program are writing intensive courses offered by programs across the university. WAC also provides extensive faculty support through a variety of professional development opportunities.