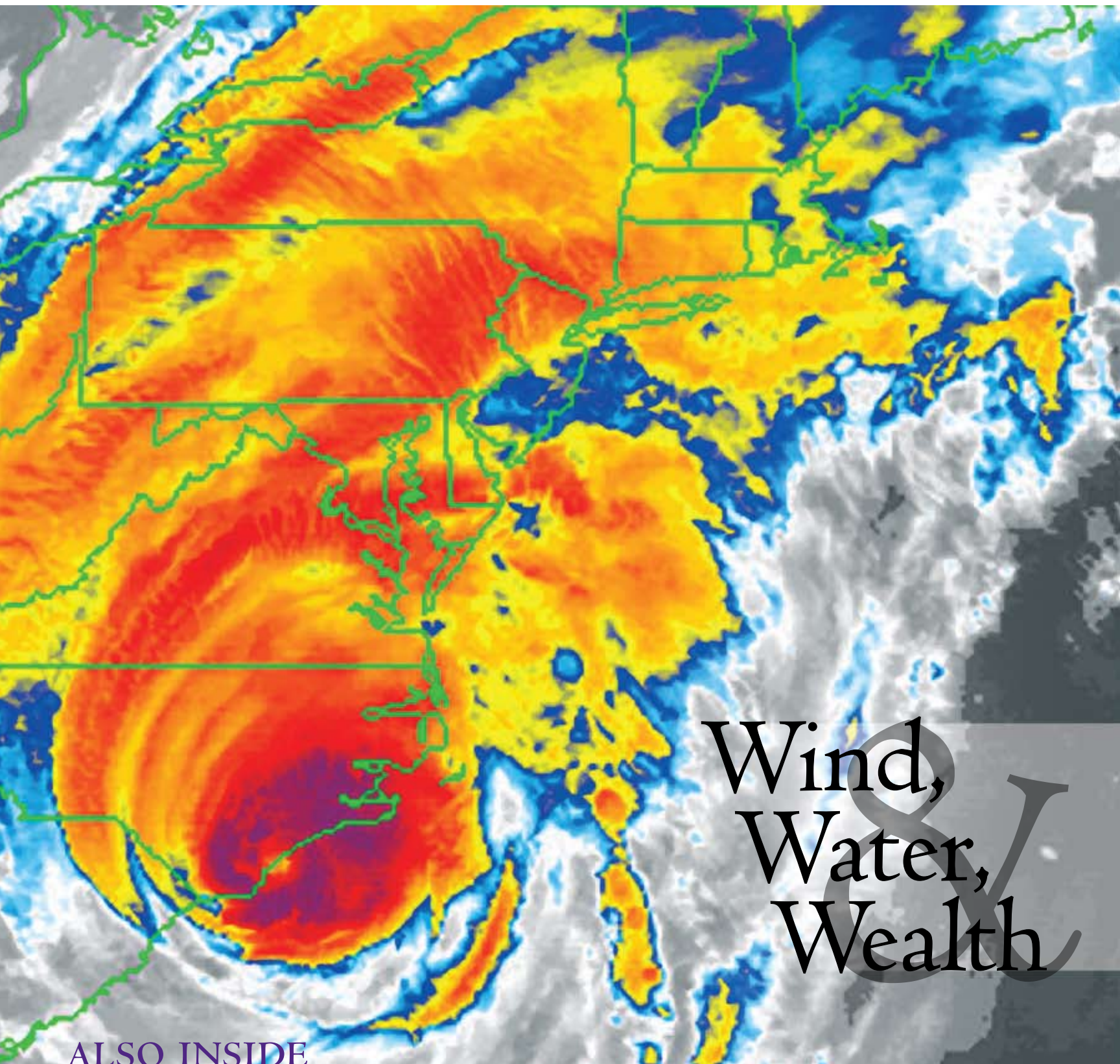


East Carolina University

Cornerstone

A PUBLICATION FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

2007-2008



Wind, Water, Wealth

ALSO INSIDE

Pursuing Ideas and Art
Reaching for Goals

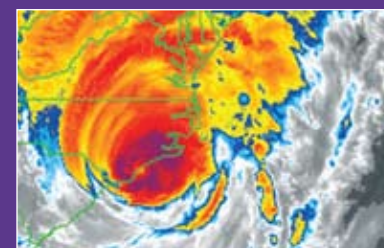
Making a Global Difference
Seeking Universal Answers

Honoring Liberal Arts Tradition
Recognizing Contributors



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 From the Dean
- 3 ECU Economist Explores Wind, Water, and Wealth
- 7 Ideas and Art: Leading Marketer Pursues Two Passions
- 9 New Alumna Reaches for Goals, Achieves Dreams
- 11 Researcher's Work Makes a Global Difference
- 13 Harriot Visitor Seeks Universal Answers in the Stars
- 14 Endowed Chair Honors Dean, Liberal Arts Tradition
- 15 College Contributors



On the front cover GOES-8 Colorized IR image of Hurricane Floyd directly over eastern North Carolina, September 16, 1999. IMAGE COURTESY OF NOAA.ORG

Opposite Success at ECU: The graduating class of 2007 was the first to don purple robes, and commencement exercises were held in ECU's Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Cornerstone is a publication for the alumni and friends of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University. It is produced by the Department of University Publications in collaboration with Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

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Classical Studies (Minor)*

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Ethnic Studies (Minor)

Great Books (Minor)*

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North Carolina Studies (Minor)

Religious Studies (Minor)*

Russian Studies (Minor)*

Security Studies (Minor and Certificate in Security Studies)

Women's Studies (BA and Minor)

* A multidisciplinary major with a focus in this area is available.

AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Center for the Liberal Arts

Center for Natural Hazards Research

Field Station for Coastal Studies at Mattamuskeet

Harriot Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series

Institute for Historical and Cultural Research

Laboratory for Instructional Technology

Southern Coastal Heritage Program

FROM THE DEAN



Dear Harriot College Friend,

Thank you for your enthusiastic response to the inaugural issue of *Cornerstone*. That first publication certainly set the bar high for our future issues, and I am pleased that this second *Cornerstone* explores equally fascinating aspects of Harriot College's diverse on-campus constituencies, the global reach of our faculty, activities of an alumnus from 1973 and an alumna from 2007, and stimulating Thomas Harriot-related events and presentations.

For their article, Scott Wells (Harriot College major gifts officer) and Leslie Worley (our director of development) share the inspiring story of the creation and ongoing growth of the W. Keats Sparrow Distinguished Chair in the Liberal Arts. I am honored to hold that title concurrent with my service as dean of Harriot College.

As is clear from the list of articles in this letter's opening paragraphs, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences continues to be a vibrant academic institution. And more than that, the activity of Harriot College cogently demonstrates how liberal arts education is the springboard to the richness of lifelong learning. This kind of learning never stops.

Contemporary life requires more than unreflective, cookie-cutter solutions to complex issues: contemporary life demands imagination and timely, agile response—two things that the timeless liberal arts tradition has been fostering for two millennia.

Hurricanes and flooding have been part of eastern North Carolina's life, especially since 1999. Economics professor Dr. Jamie Kruse's Center for Natural Hazards Research studies and develops models for hazards response. What could be more timely for our region—or for our national or global neighbors, whether they are in Louisiana or Indonesia? This compelling cover story will certainly whet your appetite for knowing more Harriot College stories.

And be sure to check out the list of presentations in the Harriot Voyages of Discovery series, headlined this year by distinguished paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey (discoverer, with Alan Walker, of "Turkana Boy," 1.6 million-year-old *Homo erectus* skeleton). Mark your calendars and join us for upcoming events. (And remember, for quick updates, our Web site is only a click away. Visit us at www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/.)

As I close, I invite you to let us hear from you. **You** are part of the Harriot College story, and we want to include your part of the conversation in our future issues.

Sincerely,

Alan R. White, Dean



Dr. Jamie Kruse, a professor in the Department of Economics, directs the Center for Natural Hazards Research in Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. The center focuses on how hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and erosion affect eastern North Carolina and beyond.

Wind, Water, & Wealth

ECU ECONOMIST EXPLORES CRUCIAL CONNECTIONS

The saying goes that “everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it.”

Harriot College’s Center for Natural Hazards Research (CNHR)—directed by economist Jamie Kruse and assisted by Scott Curtis (a geographer whose specialty is atmospheric science) and Craig Landry (an economist whose specialty is resource economics)—addresses the real-world ramifications of events that shape our earth and our lives.

Under Kruse’s direction, the center contributes in two important ways to the vital conversation on hazards. First, CNHR studies hazards-related losses and how those losses are measured. Eastern North Carolina has a potent reminder of the importance of this in the devastation caused by 1999’s Hurricane Floyd. This large geographical area—about the size of the state of Maryland—suffered from the weather event itself and then from the aftermath flooding, vestiges of which are still visible on the region’s landscape.

And CNHR calculates more than the damages or the dollars: the center looks at human economic behaviors related to catastrophic events. A region’s economy is also a kind of living organism, and studying economic impacts is really taking the pulse of a dynamic organism. Kruse and her colleagues look at federal and state funding in aftermath situations, but equally—or perhaps more importantly—they look at the value of loss reduction. If people can build and live in a region in a way that leads to

significantly lower costs in catastrophe aftermaths, the economic and emotional savings are enormous.

But CNHR is not focused only on East Carolina University’s traditional service region. The center is establishing a national reputation as Kruse and collaborators from biology, chemistry, English, geology, geography, sociology, and the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University will be part of the University of North Carolina system’s Renaissance Computing Institute.

RENCI@East Carolina University is a state-funded regional engagement center that emphasizes high-tech solutions and outreach to benefit North Carolina’s environment and the state’s citizens. The RENCi center, called the Center for Coastal System Informatics and Modeling, has projects that range from characterization of storm surge to the support of at-risk populations in times of disaster.

A region’s economy is also a kind of living organism, and studying economic impacts is really taking the pulse of a dynamic organism.

As complex as the scope and mission of the Center for Natural Hazards Research, Jamie Kruse is herself a consortium of varied experiences. A nontraditional student when she began her undergraduate and graduate studies, Kruse received her undergraduate degree in animal science, her MS in agricultural economics, and her PhD in economics. The latter was fortuitous—her family had relocated to Arizona, where she became a student of Nobel economics laureate Vernon Smith. His experimental economics lab studied the behaviors of human beings in controlled decision-making environments. Fascinated by

Continued on next page

“After Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast, we have to say to ourselves ‘surely we can do better than that.’”

the scope of this kind of research, Kruse is using this foundation and constructing new models here at ECU to serve the public good.

“After Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast, we have to say to ourselves ‘surely we can do better

than that,’” she says. “In any situation, people make decisions based on existing incentives. Without understanding the factors that motivate human action before, during, and after a natural disaster, we have no way to make policy decisions that will improve the overall environment.

“How people and government institutions perceive risks is the heart of good policy formulation. As CNHR helps institutions and people—especially the more vulnerable segments of our population—understand hazards-loss prevention and hazards responses, the more options we all will have. This is the crucial ‘public good’ connection among wind, water, and wealth.”

Although one of Harriot College’s newest collaborative research centers, the Center for Natural Hazards Research is already establishing itself as a resource that provides critical information services. The center has experienced progress and growth in virtually every one of its assessment measures that were developed concurrent with the center’s inception, and the activities of its core faculty members are supported and augmented by faculty across disciplines at ECU and faculty associates drawn from other university campuses. These campuses include many of the UNC-system universities and Duke University here in North Carolina as well as institutions such as Augusta State University, Mississippi State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, Texas Tech University, the University of Texas Pan American, the University of Colorado–Boulder, and the University of Maryland.

Funding—both internal and external—is another success story for the CNHR. ECU-based initiatives total thirty million dollars and include *North Carolina Coastal Hazards—Economic Implications of Severe Storms and Sea Level Rise* (a detailed report submitted to the UNC General Administration), the RENC1@East Carolina University Regional Engagement Center, and participation as a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence. External funding exceeds two million dollars and comes to ECU from agencies such



Harriot College's Center for Natural Hazards Research (CNHR) is located in the Brewster Building on East Carolina's Main Campus. It houses the Center for Coastal System Informatics and Modeling as well as the Center for Geographic Information Science.

as the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Commission on Energy Policy, the US Department of Education, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. With an enviable national funding record, the CNHR is certainly making a name for itself and for ECU.

CNHR core faculty member Okmyung Bin collaborated with colleagues at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Duke University, and Appalachian State University to prepare *Measuring the Impacts of Climate Change on North Carolina Coastal Resources*, a report to the Bipartisan Policy Center Inc., of Washington, D.C. This seminal document examines the impacts of climate change on North Carolina coastal resources and focuses on three subject areas: the impacts of sea-level rise on the coastal real estate market, the impacts of sea-level rise on coastal recreation and tourism, and the impacts of increased numbers of tropical storms and hurricanes on business activity. A report on any one of these topics would be of critical interest to ECU’s service region—all three mark the document as one that will powerfully influence bipartisan political decision-making at the national level.

All of these CNHR activities play an important part in undergraduate and graduate education, as center activities are incorporated into course work and as student assistantships with the center engage learners in active, ongoing research contributing to the region and the world and help to develop tomorrow’s scholars in this vital field. ■

CENTER FOR Geographic Information Science

Environmental risk, whether it is provided by nature or technology, is geographically distributed: some places are much riskier than others. Additionally, humans have organized this geographic space in ways that often put people and property directly in harm’s way.

Inventories and effective digital representations of these landscapes of risk and development are essential to understanding people’s risk assessments, responses to risks, and effective hazards-mitigation planning.

For example, eastern North Carolina’s coastal counties are rapidly developing, and they face significant risks presented by wind and water—hurricane winds, storm surge, and beach erosion.

Because the geographies of risk and development are such important components of overall societal well-being, the Center for Geographic Information Science at ECU plays a crucial technological role in assisting with hazards research, education, and outreach.

At a Glance

- Established 2001
- Located in D-212 Brewster Building on the Main Campus of East Carolina University
- Online at www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/giscenter/index.cfm
- Codirectors: Dr. Tom Crawford and Dr. Tom Allen
- **Mission:** To provide an organizational structure and a central facility for the purposes of enhancing research, instruction, and outreach activities that deal with creation and use of geographically referenced data
- **Available technologies:** GIS (Geographic Information Systems), GPS (Global Positioning Systems), RS (Remote Sensing), and a wide variety of digital data
- **Research projects** (selected):
 - The value that consumers place on ocean views (view sheds)
 - Varying rates of beach erosion
 - Coastal residential development and sprawl
 - Prediction of local weather and climate effects of El Niño
 - Creation of tools for more effective storm water management in the coastal zone



East Carolina alumnus Reid Overcash and his wife, Susan, share a passion for the arts. They, along with Dr. Stuart Wright, donated a collection of correspondence, manuscripts, and artwork by noted poet A. R. Ammons to East Carolina's Joyner Library.

Ideas and Art

Leading Marketer Pursues Two Passions

When Reid Overcash came to ECU, he was originally interested in teaching. But in time, he found he was drawn to philosophy—one of the most venerable traditional disciplines in the liberal arts.

Why? “Philosophy is all about building a logical argument, and I have a passion for understanding the last several thousand years of human thought,” says Overcash, now president of Strategic Insights.

Idea-driven, that passion has made Strategic Insights one of the leaders in brand marketing, with—among others—the successful North Carolina “Click It or Ticket” campaign (now gone national), and clients from Cisco to Citicorp to TireWare to the State of North Carolina. In his book *Whose Brand Is It Anyway?*, Overcash writes that marketing is not about “selling apples.” It is really about getting customers to “seek out the tree” (xiii).

More than just attempting to enhance marketing by printing a bigger logo, Overcash tells *Cornerstone*, “our business is good ideas: how to develop them, how to understand them, and how to use them to convince a target audience.”

But Overcash has done much more than create an industry-leading company in brand marketing. He and his wife, Susan, are avid art collectors. Their collections include photography from Eudora Welty (known principally as a Southern writer) and nineteenth-century English watercolors. They also share an interest in the on-set artwork created by Charlton Heston, and they have a significant collection of the works (visual and literary) of noted North Carolina poet A. R. Ammons. Their enthusiasm is a testimony to a life enriched by the breadth of liberal arts thought.

Furthermore, Reid and Susan Overcash are much more than collectors: they are, along with Dr. Stuart Wright,

OVERCASH-WRIGHT Literary Collection

The donation of correspondence, manuscripts, and artwork by North Carolina-born poet A. R. Ammons has established the Overcash-Wright Literary Collection at East Carolina University.

“There are in-depth manuscripts, works in progress, some private and business correspondence—it’s the best part of his personal correspondence,” said Reid Overcash, who with his wife, Susan, and friend Dr. Stuart Wright donated the collection. “[Ammons’s] artwork provides a fascinating complement to his writing, and I would like to see us use this as a foundation. There are other opportunities out there to expand our collection with writers either from eastern North Carolina or ECU.”

The entire donation is of significant appraised value, but the value for researchers will be much more. Maurice York, assistant director for Special Collections at ECU, observes, “To have students inspired by someone else’s work—that’s the most important thing we can accomplish. Not everything is on the Internet. This kind of a collection opens students’ eyes to types of library materials that students may not have known existed.”

the donors of Joyner Library Special Collections Department’s new collection of works and belongings from Ammons. Comprising visual art, personal materials, a descriptive bibliography, and a wealth of literary materials and manuscripts, the Ammons collection “is a vibrant beginning to primary source literary studies at ECU and is already a magnet for important literary research and researchers,” says Bruce Southard, chair of the Department of English in Harriot College.

Continued on next page

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Stuart Wright is a noted author, editor, translator, collector, and bibliographer. His work assembling many of the items that form the corpus of East Carolina's new collection of Ammons material is characterized by aesthetic sensitivity and serious historicity.

George Garrett, emeritus Henry Hoyns Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Virginia, has called him a "bibliographer of proven ability and the preeminent collector of modern and contemporary Southern literature."

Dr. Thomas Douglass, an assistant professor in the Department of English in Harriot College, visited Wright in England to review the collector's holdings.

"Wright collects with an eye on value and rarity," Douglass says, "not the sole business of an academic collection. Nevertheless, Wright has amassed a treasure of scholarly material."

Wright's collecting acumen is attested to by his election to membership in New York's prestigious Groller Club. In addition to ECU's Ammons collection, other single-author collections that Wright has assembled are housed in libraries at Vanderbilt University, Duke University, and the University of Texas at Austin.

The donation of the Ammons collection not only is an example of giving back. It will have scholars and student researchers—on and off campus—seeking out this treasure of research materials now housed Down East. ■

A(RCHIE) R(ANDOLPH) AMMONS 1926–2001

A. R. Ammons was born in near Whiteville in Columbus County, North Carolina. His childhood years on a farm brought him close to nature and to familial roots that would significantly influence his prolific literary output and would contribute to his being identified as a twentieth-century Transcendentalist.

He graduated near the top of his high school class in 1943 and then worked in the Wilmington shipyards. After serving in the United States Navy (where he began writing poetry), Ammons earned a bachelor of science degree from Wake Forest College in 1949. He was, in turn, an educator and a business executive and began publishing poetry in the early 1950s, his first collection, *Ommateum with Doxology*, appearing in 1955. Less than a decade later, his *Expressions at Sea Level* brought him widespread critical acclaim, and Ammons joined the faculty of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he wrote and taught for the rest of his life.

Much of Ammons's writing explores the points of nexus between human beings and their natural environments, and his styles expand beyond the conventional. Highly creative, experimental, and metaphysical in both content and medium (he once wrote a poem on adding machine tape, and he

regularly "played" with language), Ammons often engages in a kind of interior monologue. But unlike the nineteenth-century Transcendentalists, many of whom arrived at "resolutions" of the tensions that their poetry examined, Ammons remains firmly in the arena of the modern skeptic, raising for the reader provocative (and ultimately unanswered) questions about the nature of existence. Humankind is a work in progress. In this way, A. R. Ammons himself personifies some of the complexities inherent in his writing—he simply defies easy and total classification: his natural science background is never far from the fundamental philosophical questions that he raises.

This eastern North Carolina native published nearly twenty poetry collections and received two National Book Awards, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and Bollingen Prize. Readers interested in learning more about Ammons—the man and his work—will enjoy *Considering the Radiance*, a collection of essays compiled by David Burak (an Ammons student at Cornell) and Roger Gilbert (an Ammons colleague there). Readers also are invited to access the Ammons collection at East Carolina University's Joyner Library.



These samplings from North Carolina poet A. R. Ammons are from the Overcash-Wright Literary Collection housed in East Carolina's Joyner Library.

Student in the Spotlight

Reaching for goals and achieving dreams is at the heart of **Brandy Lorraine Shaw's** success in her undergraduate career in Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

The Harriot College chemistry major who minored in Hispanic studies calls Sparta, North Carolina, home. There she shadowed Dr. Jeff Ray both during her high school years and during her visits home from ECU.

Along her way at East Carolina University, Shaw—who was a member of the prestigious EC Scholars program—was named Phi Kappa Phi's Outstanding First Year Student; and she received the Keith D. Holmes Scholarship Award (Chemistry), the American Chemical Society Organic Chemistry Award, and the Robert Wright Alumni Award.

She was selected as an Early Assurance Alternate to ECU's Brody School of Medicine, where she plans to explore concentrations in surgery and internal medicine. But she is keeping the door open for experiences and opportunities yet unknown.

Shaw's interests range widely—she plays several musical instruments, paints and draws, and enjoys racquetball and tennis. Her broad horizons, both professionally and avocationally, echo the breadth of the vibrant liberal arts tradition embodied in Harriot College. ■



Researcher's Work Makes a GLOBAL Difference

Dr. Sitawa Kimuna, a sociology professor, has traveled internationally while pursuing research that has contributed to the lives of people around the world.



Compelling communicator.
Social and historical context builder.
Sitawa Kimuna is both.

Following her undergraduate education as a journalism major, Kimuna entered the field of journalism but felt that she wanted to do more than report on people—she wanted to serve them and contribute to their lives. She went on to earn dual master's degrees in mass communication and sociology and then completed her PhD in sociology at Kansas State University.

From this intense academic training, she has engaged with and studied populations in the United States, and she has traveled half a world away to engage with and study peoples of sub-Saharan Africa. And she has helped to change lives.

Kimuna's personal message of change is powerful: "We go to school thinking that we shall change the world. Then we become overwhelmed. But if we keep on going . . . change does occur. This is our responsibility to our world."

Her publishing goal is equally powerful: she seeks to place the results of her work in journals read by both policy makers and academicians. "I don't want my work to gather dust on some library shelf. I want my work to make a difference," she says.

Kimuna's research has an impact on many things: intergenerational relationships; the value of older populations as repositories of culture and as resources; risk behaviors, especially those that influence reproductive health; the range of traditions, values, and norms of sexual behaviors; gender-based violence; and demographic change brought about by in-migration and out-migration of people influenced by political climate or perceived economic opportunity.

The international importance of her research is attested to by her consulting work for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Kimuna synthesized findings of the intercountry program evaluation reports on reproductive health and gender needs for internally

displaced populations (IDPs) from seven countries across the globe: Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Palestine, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone. The seven nations had implemented programs to track displaced youth and to ensure that they had access to and use of sustainable, youth-friendly reproductive health services.

In December 2006, at the UNFPA headquarters in New York, Kimuna presented the results and recommendations of the synthesized report at the Expert Group Meeting on Young People in Emergency and Transition Situations organized by UNICEF and UNFPA. One notable aspect that emerged from the reports is the importance of peer training. UNFPA workshops facilitated peer training on methods of participatory evaluation. The use of peer teachers helped ensure that the affected areas' peer leaders were talking directly with counterparts who had a shared experience.

When she begins to design a study, she invites the people and institutions involved to become partners in the design. Such early collaborative efforts allow the people and institutions to become stakeholders both in the research and in the outcomes.

"As they experience the power of ownership of the project, populations and local institutions become involved in the research process and the formulation of relevant questions," she says. "I learn from the field, and my research has had increased exposure because of this crucial 'insider' information."

Harriet College Department of Sociology chair Lee Maril comments, "Dr. Kimuna is out in the field, in the best tradition of sociology, not only collecting the data but building a social and historical context out of which to analyze the data. The end result of her work is that she is contributing to the daily lives of those whom she studies. That's quite an achievement." ■

Dr. Owen Gingerich, one of the world's leading authorities on sixteenth-century cosmologist Nicolaus Copernicus, delivered the 2007 Thomas Harriot Voyages of Discovery Lecture.

Harriot Visitor Seeks Universal Answers

in the Stars

Looking closely at terrestrial artifacts—such as books—or broadly at the expanses of the universe, Owen Gingerich has seen “starry archipelagoes / and islands whose raving skies are opened to the voyager” (Arthur Rimbaud, *Le Bateau Ivre*, 1871).

A part of Gingerich's voyaging brought him to Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, where he delivered the 2007 Thomas Harriot Voyages of Discovery Lecture. The lecture was part of the series celebrating the many worlds of the English Renaissance polymath Thomas Harriot, for whom the college is named. (For more on Harriot himself, see the 2006–2007 edition of *Cornerstone*.)

Gingerich is professor emeritus of astronomy and of the history of science at Harvard University and senior astronomer emeritus of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. His personal journey to that stellar position began with a much humbler and seemingly unconnected event: following World War II, he was one of a group

“Our most earnest ambitions are in effect unspoken prayers—they define our deepest views on the meaning of life far more precisely than any outward profession of religion or ethics.”

Owen Gingerich, 1999

of Mennonites who were “cowboys” on a horse-laden ship bound for war-torn Poland. After earning his PhD in astrophysics (Harvard, 1962), later visits to Poland fostered his involvement in the quinquacentennial of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, sixteenth-century cosmologist whose work became the foundation of modern astronomy. From Frauenburg (then East Prussia, now Poland) to Århus to Beijing to places as distant as Melbourne and Moscow to San Diego and Sankt Gallen, Gingerich has pursued a lifelong voyage to study and catalogue hundreds of extant examples of Copernicus's *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium libri sex* (literally “Six books on the revolutions of the heavenly spheres”).

De revolutionibus had been branded by Arthur Koestler, mid-twentieth-century novelist and historian of early astronomy, as “the book nobody read.” What Gingerich has discovered is that Koestler was very much in error in the assumption of the Copernican book's soporific obscurity.

Gingerich's conclusion is that *De revolutionibus*—with its assertion of a heliocentric as opposed to geocentric universe—launched idea revolutions more profound than the Reformation. The assumptions

implicit in an earth-centered universe have led thinkers to look close to home, here, for answers to our fundamental human questions; assumptions implicit in “moving the earth out of the center” have also led thinkers to look outward, to explore the apparently limitless possibilities beyond those bound to the earth.

Copernicus changed where and how human beings look for answers, and Gingerich is himself at the forefront of contemporary scholarship that looks broadly, that looks beyond, that looks into the deep reaches of Rimbaud's “starry archipelagoes.” ■

2007–2008 Harriot Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series

September 27, 2007

Peter White

Professor of Botany, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Director, NC Botanical Gardens

“From the Appalachians to the Coastal Plain:
North Carolina's Wildflowers and Ecology”

October 10, 2007

PREMIER VOYAGES LECTURE

Richard Leakey

Paleoanthropologist, Archaeologist, Conservationist
Professor of Anthropology, Stony Brook University

“Why Our Origins Matter”

February 21, 2008

Lisa Norling

Associate Professor of History, University of Minnesota

“Captain Ahab Had a Wife”

April 10, 2008

2008 THOMAS HARRIOT LECTURE

Mark Nicholls

St. John's College, Cambridge University

“Sir Walter Raleigh and the Elizabethan World
of Thomas Harriot”

For further information about the series, visit us online at
www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/harriot/voyageslectures/.



Dr. Ron Mitchelson is chair of the Department of Geography, and Harvey Sharp Wooten is a founding member of the advancement council.

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Annual Honor Roll of Donors

Endowed Chair Honors Dean, Liberal Arts Tradition

Dr. W. Keats Sparrow retired from the deanship of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences on August 1, 2005, following a distinguished fifteen-year tenure as dean. When his retirement was announced, many of his colleagues and friends joined together to establish the W. Keats Sparrow Distinguished Chair in the Liberal Arts as a meaningful and lasting way to recognize his extraordinary contributions to Harriot College, East Carolina University, eastern North Carolina, and the broader liberal arts community.

This endowed chair (its title will be held by all future deans of Harriot College) was a funding project that was quickly embraced by the college's advancement council members, college faculty, and Sparrow's many friends.

Harvey Sharp Wooten, a founding member of the Harriot College Advancement Council, challenged other advancement council members by offering a match for each of their gifts to the Sparrow

Distinguished Chair. Dr. Ron Mitchelson, chair of the Department of Geography in Harriot College, spearheaded the effort with ECU's faculty for contributions to the project.

Under Wooten's and Mitchelson's dedicated leadership, more than \$100,000 has been pledged or already received for this endowment. Funds from the endowment are used by the Harriot College dean in order to promote liberal arts programs at East Carolina University. And the fund is not closed—continuing contributions are welcomed.

The endowed chair is a meaningful and permanent way to honor Sparrow and brings appropriate visibility and recognition to liberal arts programming and to the college's dean, who holds one of the most critical faculty and administrative positions at ECU.

Dr. Alan White, Sparrow's successor as dean, is the first holder of the W. Keats Sparrow Distinguished Chair in the Liberal Arts. ■

During the past academic 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 institutions and individuals 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, 2006, through June 30, 2007. To notify us of any changes or to add your name to the list, please contact Harriot College's director of development, Leslie Worley, 252-328-4901.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| James and Brenda Abbott | Debra Bautista | Roger and Gillian Brogneaux | William Cherry |
| Patricia Abbott | BD Matching Gift Program | John and Lisa Brooks | Shelton and Lela Chesson |
| ABC Moving & Storage | Harold and Patricia Beck | Lewis and Charlotte Brothers | Harvey and Cathy Chinlund |
| Emily Abendroth | Bobby and Connie Beckom | Carl and Charlotte Brow | Robert and Carol Christian |
| Marc Adler | Becton Dickinson & Company | James Browder | Edwin Chua |
| Hanna Adnan | Charles and Nancy Bedford | Charles Q. Brown | Robert and Edwina Churchill |
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