

East Carolina University

2008-2009

Cornerstone

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

Servire:

Harriot College
Makes its Mark



ALSO INSIDE

A Botanist's Journey
Lecture Series Schedule

Diverse Possibilities
A Country Doctor Transformed

Student Spotlight
A Half Century of Service

THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Dr. Linda Wolfe, Chair
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Biology

Dr. Jeff McKinnon, Chair
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Chemistry

Dr. Rickey Hicks, Chair
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Economics

Dr. Richard Ericson, Chair
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English

Dr. Mike Palmer, Interim Chair
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Foreign Languages and Literatures

Dr. Frank Romer, Chair
252-328-6232

Geography

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Geological Sciences

Dr. Steve Culver, Chair
252-328-6360

History

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Mathematics

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Dr. George Bailey, Chair
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Physics

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Political Science

Dr. Brad Lockerbie, Chair
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Psychology

Dr. Kathleen Row, Chair
252-328-6634

Sociology

Dr. Leon Wilson, Chair
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INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

African and African American Studies (BA and Minor)

Asian Studies (Minor)*

Classical Studies (Minor)*

Coastal and Marine Studies (Minor)

Ethnic Studies (Minor)

Great Books (Minor)*

Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Minor)

**International Studies (Minor, MA, and Certificate
in International Teaching)**

Leadership Studies (Minor)

Medieval and Renaissance Studies (Minor)

Multidisciplinary Studies (BA and BS)

Neuroscience (Minor)*

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 Diversity and Inequity Research

Center for the Liberal Arts

Center for Natural Hazards Research

Field Station for Coastal Studies at Lake Mattamuskeet

Harriot Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series

Institute for Historical and Cultural Research

Laboratory for Instructional Technology

Southern Coastal Heritage Program

www.ecu.edu/cs-cas

WELCOME

As William Butler Yeats writes, true education is *not* “the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” The flames of learning burn brightly here in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, as the range of *Cornerstone* 2008-2009 attests. This fire illuminates the present and the future and equips faculty and students to serve, living out the university’s motto, *Servire*. In fact, *Cornerstone* 2008-2009 might well be subtitled “the many faces of service.”

The brand new, electronic *Cornerstone* features a close look at the academic life and research agendas of Dean Alan R. White, whose interests are those both of a passionate science discipline researcher and of an encompassing liberal arts thinker.

Here you will also meet two Harriot College Advancement Council members: Gladys Howell and Virginia Hardy. Professor Howell is a respected retired academic who also served in an important “ambassadorial” role as the wife of ECU’s chancellor. Eastern North Carolina native Dr. Virginia Hardy now serves in East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine as the dean of academic affairs and brings new and fresh perspectives to the unfolding story of Harriot College.

Dr. Jesse Peel (of Everetts, North Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia) has contributed to the academic life of Harriot College and has expanded its horizons with the generous underwriting of an endowed chair in religious studies and many, many other gifts in support of students, diversity, and excellence. Student Anem Waheed is an inspiring example of the successful students whose learning journey has brought them here—to and through Harriot College.

Finally, Scott Wells provides a blueprint for how you can join in furthering and expanding Harriot College’s many successes with her important information on how to contribute. People who made financial contributions to Harriot College in this past year are listed in the honor roll of donors, which follows Wells’s article.

In addition, you will find a calendar of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences 2008–2009 Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. Previous years have featured world-class scholars such as paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey, and this year’s line-up has been equally impressive with Walter Isaacson (among others) on the series.

In these days of communication saturation, *Cornerstone* represents a powerful and effective tool to help get the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences’ story into the hands of people who are our partners – people who care deeply about Harriot College and who support it with their presence at events and with their crucial financial support. To do the best and the most with our valuable resources, Harriot College is exploring ways to control necessary costs and eliminate unnecessary ones. More than ever, thoughtful stewardship of resources is one of our essential goals, reflecting Harriot College’s ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility — hence this issue’s electronic format.

Cornerstone: savor the stories, and let us hear from you. What you read is only the beginning of the conversation.

Ad serviendum,

Lorraine Hale Robinson
robinsonlo@ecu.edu



On the front cover: Harriot College’s handsome new medallion, presented to those who make significant contributions that further the College’s many initiatives.



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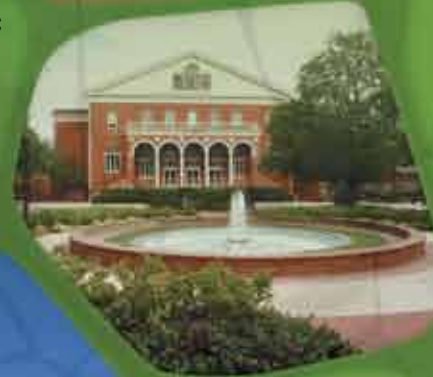
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There and Back Again

A Botanist's Journey to Service in Harriot College

Greenville, NC



Fargo, ND



Boulder, CO



Asheville, NC



Chapel Hill, NC



Huntington, WV

"Everything was outdoors."

That's how Alan White, Dean of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, describes his childhood in Asheville, North Carolina. From hikes in the Smokies and along the Appalachian Trail to an Outward Bound experience between his high school and college years, White's life experiences and perspectives have been "outside."

White's interest in the natural world led to lots of geology courses at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; but in his junior year, a cell biology course taught by Dr. R. Malcolm Brown, Jr., (who became White's PhD advisor) was a turning point. "I was hooked as I studied cellulose degradation under light and electron microscopes. I became an undergraduate research assistant the next semester, and this early work actually led directly to my PhD research. Today, with the world energy situation in crisis, the study of how proteins attack and break down cellulose in plant cell walls is at the heart of how we might provide solutions to energy needs."

His biological researches at UNC broadened into biochemistry, optics, and X-ray crystallography. White remembers his struggles

with the arcana and intricacies of the field but remembers and values the confidence-building that came from engaging with scientific complexities. Then, with a National Institutes of Health fellowship, White worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Colorado under Peter Albersheim, a pre-eminent authority in carbohydrate chemistry – a professional relationship that White still maintains.

From Boulder, White moved to Marshall University in West Virginia where he taught and continued to research. At that time, however, Marshall was not as intensely research-oriented, and White's National Science Foundation application could not be funded; so White moved to North Dakota State University in 1988.

At NDSU, White pursued his researches and brought over nine million dollars in grant funding to that institution. His career path at NDSU led him to become dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, but North Carolina family ties and the thought of warmer winters exerted a strong pull on him. In 2005, he was named dean of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University, but his commitment to the intellectual voyage of research remains strong.

"Today, with the world energy situation in crisis, the study of how proteins attack and break down cellulose in plant cell walls is at the heart of how we might provide solutions to energy needs."

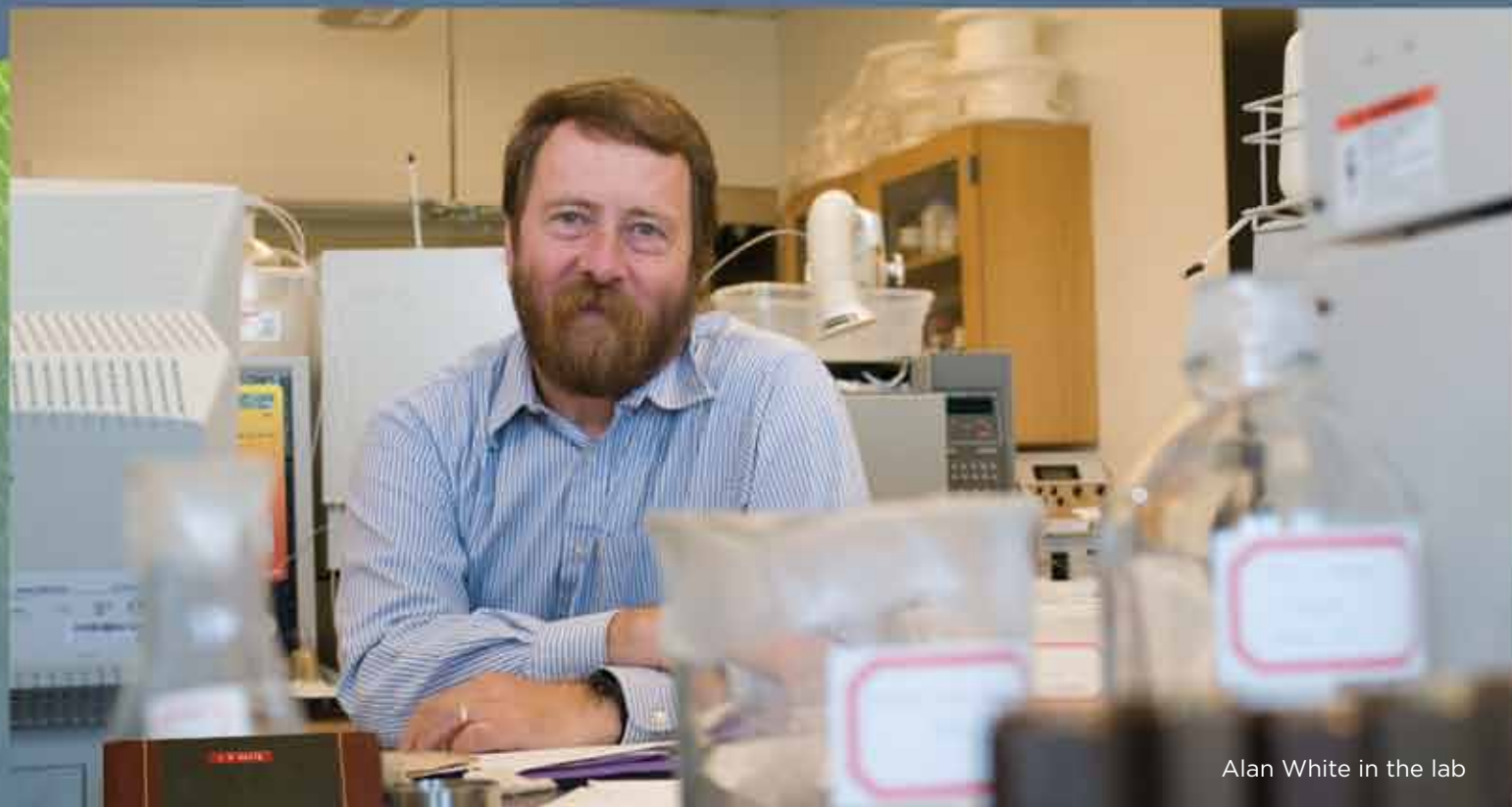
He has taken his "everything was outdoors" experience and brought it under the close scrutiny of laboratory examination. Underpinning his administrative service as dean of ECU's academic cornerstone is a research agenda that has explored plant cell wall polysaccharides – their chemical structure, biosynthesis, and degradation. White has studied how polysaccharides, specifically xyloglucans (hemicellulose polysaccharides), are synthesized in the Golgi apparatus and then secreted and incorporated into plant cell walls.

In lay terms, White says "When you look out the window, all the plants you see out there are standing upright because each individual plant cell has a rigid cell wall surrounding it. A plant's body has the shape it does because of these cell walls. Yet if we ask the simple question of how that cell wall is synthesized and constructed, we really don't have a good answer yet. My research career has been focused on trying to understand the synthesis and construction process."

This research has related applications to the production of cellulosic ethanol, another exciting, important, and timely area of current scientific investigation that may lead to new sources of readily renewable energy for our planet.

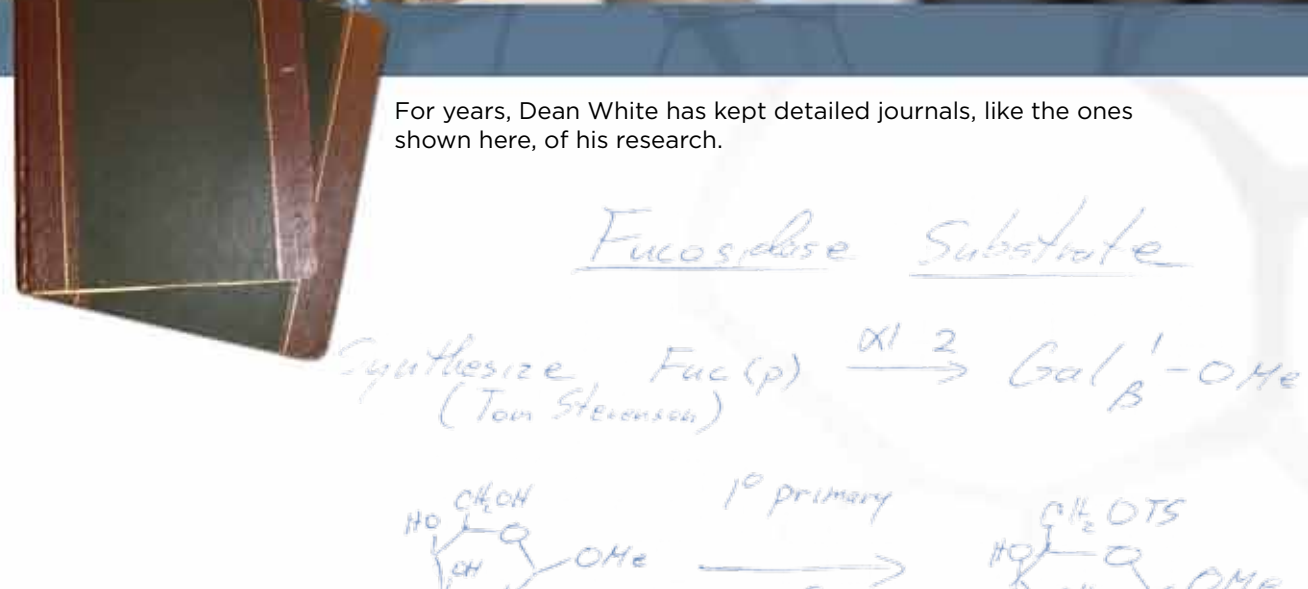
Along with his own commitment to research, White is fostering increased graduate and undergraduate opportunities for student engagement in research. "Such a grounding develops students as thinkers and contributors of new knowledge. As ECU has

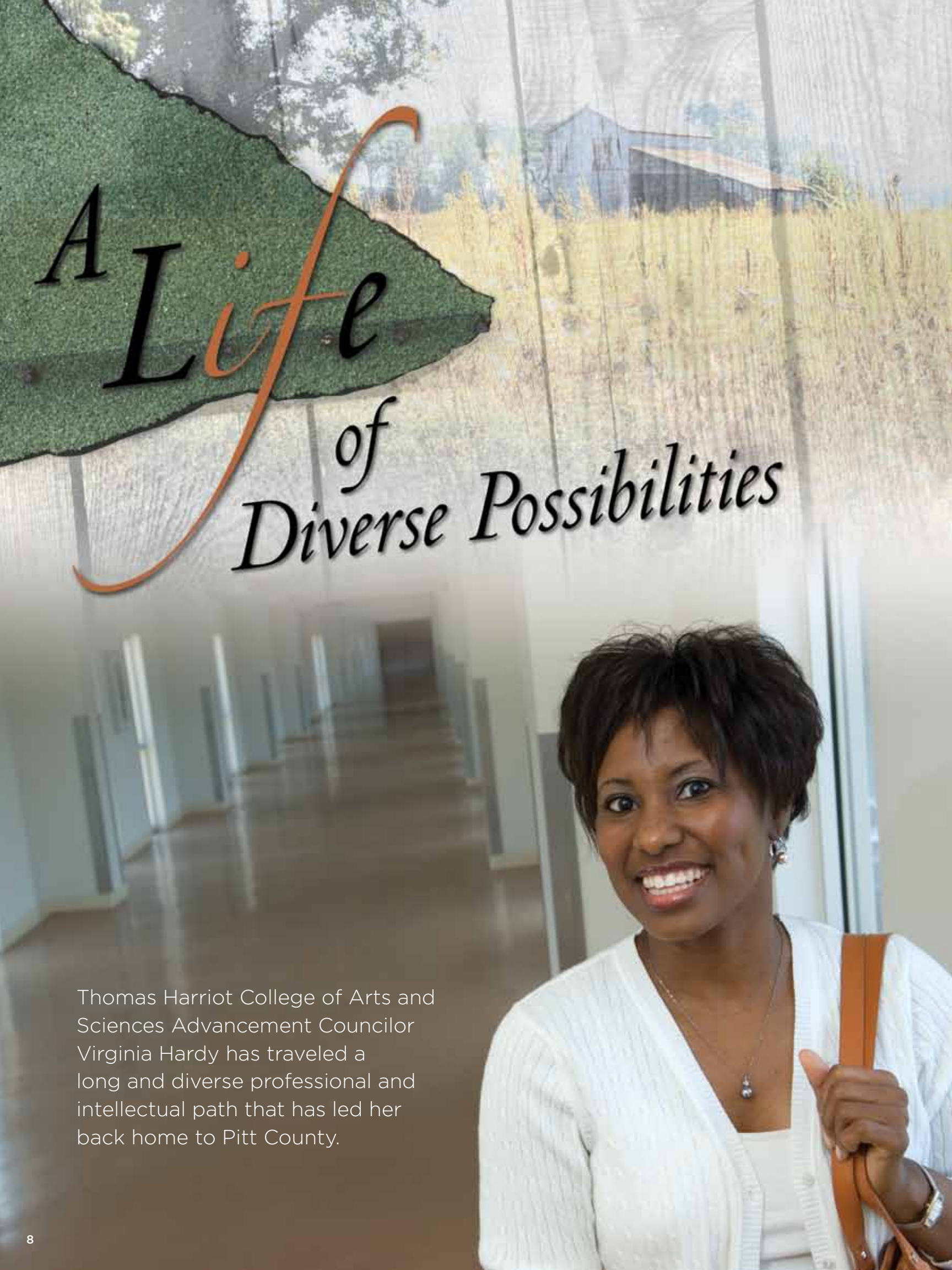
moved – especially in the last decade – to a more research-oriented climate, some may have feared a loss of quality in undergraduate instruction. But just the opposite is occurring: students are joining faculty as colleagues in creative problem-solving and in expanding the frontiers of knowledge. Being a strong research institution does not preclude strong undergraduate instruction: rather, strong research promotes instruction through inquiry- and problem-based learning. I've never forgotten that my career as a scholar and professor began as an undergraduate researcher. So I've always encouraged students to find a research project that excites them. There is no better way to learn science than by doing science – and this certainly applies to other disciplines as well. Students become partners in the construction of their own knowledge; and this sense of partnership, in turn, gives students an exciting 'ownership' of their knowledge and a still more exciting command of their lifelong journey. What greater service can Harriot College provide than this?"



Alan White in the lab

For years, Dean White has kept detailed journals, like the ones shown here, of his research.





A Life of Diverse Possibilities

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Councilor Virginia Hardy has traveled a long and diverse professional and intellectual path that has led her back home to Pitt County.

The youngest of eight in a farming family, Virginia Hardy inherited her family's strong work ethic and deep commitment to formal education. While her parents did not receive secondary education, they provided the opportunity for all eight of their children to receive postsecondary education. "My parents were my first and strongest role models," she says. "They worked hard and made several sacrifices to ensure that we were taken care of."

Hardy was the last of the eight to graduate from North Pitt High School (located in Pitt County), something that she is proud of even though she was always referred to as "someone's sister." Hardy followed two of her sisters to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she began work on a degree in English, building on her love of reading and writing. However, the seminal influence of Gladys Sanders, her eighth grade teacher who later became her mentor, redirected Hardy to her passion, education. Sanders taught diagramming of sentences and shared with Hardy an abiding

"...every person can be successful in different areas. Our responsibility as educators is to help identify and nurture that potential success when it is identified."

love of the order and beauty of language, and Sanders introduced Hardy to Rudyard Kipling's "If," a poem filled with both realism and possibility. After completing her degree in education, Hardy returned to Wellcome Middle School as a colleague of Sanders. At Wellcome, Hardy taught "at-risk" students and relished their challenges and their successes, contracting with each student to set and achieve personal and academic goals. Hardy describes her teaching experiences as wonderful and inspirational.

In order to aid her students holistically, Hardy earned her master's degree in counseling at East Carolina University. She then served as assistant principal at Wellcome where she was engaged in proactive (versus purely punitive) responses to students' behavioral and academic "challenges." Her goal was to encourage the parents to become involved in the educational process by investing in their children's potential for success.

After a brief stint at Chowan College, Hardy returned to Pitt County to care for her father who was ill. She took a position as a counselor in the Brody School of Medicine and later served as interim director of its Academic Support and Counseling Center for two years. During this time, Hardy began to re-examine the idea of pursuing a terminal degree, a process influenced by a sense of apprehension about the dissertation. During this time, Hardy also explored how to navigate successfully—both as an African American and as a female—in a heavily male-dominated field. With the help of a very special mentor, she was able to gain more self-confidence in her own leadership abilities.



Wellcome Middle School, where Hardy attended as a student and later taught and served as assistant principal.

A powerful 'extracurricular' influence on Hardy as she worked toward her doctoral degree from North Carolina State University was Hardy's one-year-old nephew, Andrew. After a long commute and classes at NCSU, when Hardy came in the door of her sister's home in Raleigh, Andrew would run to her with "unconditional regard." "Andrew's true acceptance of me at a challenging time in my life impacted me tremendously." That freeflowing love and acceptance is something that Hardy says she works to include in her personal and professional interactions.

This self-described 'generalist' has grown and advanced during her fourteen years at ECU. She served two years as interim senior associate dean for academic affairs at the Brody School of Medicine; she is currently in the permanent position. But while serving as interim associate dean, she was also East Carolina's chief diversity officer, a position in which she built new and dynamic relationships among university communities. "That position provided the opportunity to cultivate strong relationships with colleagues on the east campus which I hope to continue to nurture. It also allowed me to see the 'big picture' of the university, which will help me in my professional advancement."

Virginia Hardy believes that "every person can be successful in different areas. Our responsibility as educators is to help identify and nurture that potential success when it is identified." Her philosophy of education is an extension of this personal philosophy: "Here at ECU, we are committed to accessibility and academic excellence. Our comprehensive programs help to develop and prepare our students for

the next stages of life. If we do that, then our students are our own best ambassadors, as they live and work in communities far and near.”

Interested in psychosocial identity development in both life and on career tracks, Hardy aims to help individuals to gain a sense of self-awareness and self-actualization as she fosters leadership skills for both women and minorities. An unfortunate situation helped Hardy to journey on her own path of identity development: the unexpected death of her mother stimulated Hardy to take up pen and paper and to write her way out of the abyss of sudden grief, a writing skill that she honed under Dr. Pat Bizarro of ECU’s Coastal Plains Writing Project. Self-reflection, self-understanding, and eventual ‘truth’ have been the fruits of this sort of cathartic writing. Time now allows her to pick up a good fiction or leadership book.

Her own commitments are varied; they are leadership (clearly by example!), educational development, and the development of what she calls ‘creative networking.’ One of her latest professional connections is as a member of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council, on which Hardy is a natural fit for the breadth of liberal arts education that makes Harriot College the academic cornerstone of ECU.

To learn more about Virginia Hardy, see her councilor profile at the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences website.



Hardy performing her duties during a White Coat Ceremony at Brody School of Medicine.

if by Rudyard Kipling

*If you can keep your head when all about you
are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
but make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;*

*If you can dream -
and not make dreams your master;
If you can think -
and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
and treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to bear the truth you've spoken
twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
and stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;*

*If you can make one heap of all your winnings
and risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
and never breath a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
to serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
except the Will which says to them: "Hold on;"*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
if all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
with sixty seconds' worth of distance run -
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
and - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!*

Over the Next Rise, Around the Next Bend in the Road:

A Country Doctor Transformed and Transforming



Jesse Peel and feline friend Lucy at home in Everetts, North Carolina.

Liam Garcia, age 29, died Sunday afternoon of AIDS related complications. A major contributor

Jesse Peel was going to be a country doctor.

He certainly grew up in the logical environment – Everetts, a community just east of Robersonville in Martin County. His father (an NC State grad and farmer) and his mother (who had attended Louisburg College and was the local Baptist Church pianist) both stressed education. Besides – it was 1958, a time in American education when the space race was on and science was a major emphasis. So Jesse Peel enrolled in the pre-medical program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. But like the rolling eastern North Carolina terrain, one that reveals new vistas over each rise, Peel's initial intention was redirected when he discovered that his love of 'talking with people' made a psychiatry concentration the logical career match. After medical school and residency, Peel served with the 3rd Marine Division during the American



withdrawal from Viet Nam. While in the Far East and still talking to all sorts of people, he traveled the Orient. Then, upon his return to the United States, he was in charge of the psychiatric inpatient unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

From there, Peel explored new terrain as he went on to become very much a "city" doctor when he joined a large group practice in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1976. He was active in Northside Drive Baptist Church which is inclusive and visionary in its ministry – to those who are 'the least of these.' Since the early 1980s were the start of the AIDS epidemic, this health issue defined and dominated Peel's medical practice until his retirement in 1992.

Jon Perry, 43, of Provincetown died of AIDS on September 19, 1992.

In the mid 1980s, there were no treatments, and there were no services or agencies to deliver them to the stricken population. Peel was himself on the leading edge of response to the AIDS epidemic, helping to create the infrastructures that delivered care and assisted families. To assist AID Atlanta, a relatively small budget (\$60,000 a year) organization, Peel spearheaded a poolside fundraiser that raised an astonishing \$6,000 in an afternoon. That was just the beginning of Peel's extraordinary journey of generous service. He was tapped to serve on the Georgia state AIDS task force, and he worked with the Fulton County HIV Planning Council that administered the federal health care funding named for Ryan White.

Peel retired from his medical practice after he had buried countless friends, clients, and colleagues. And when his father died in 1986, Jesse Peel knew that he wanted to provide opportunities for young people. "My contribution would be a drop in the bucket at places like UNC or NC State, so I looked closer to home. I wanted to make an impact where my roots are. What I saw – just over the rise in Pitt County was East Carolina University. And I liked what I saw. ECU affords a real, human connection between donors and scholars; so my mother and I began a philanthropic project that has grown and grown. My mother presented one of the first Woolard Peel Scholarships to Williamston native Scarlett Gardner. What a success story Scarlett is! Undergrad in three years, a master's in one year, law school, and now she works in the office of North Carolina's Secretary of State."

Peel and his mother began expanding their involvement, serving on the scholars selection committee and doing thoughtful estate planning. Funds now provide the Helen and Woolard Peel Endowed Chair in Religious Studies. "I come from an area of little country congregations, so Religious Studies was another natural match for us."

While working on student scholarship and faculty endowments, a parallel 'opportunity' track presented itself. Peel was instrumental in helping East Carolina University to establish the Chancellor's Diversity Council and Harriot College's Center on Diversity and Inequality Research (now under the leadership of Dr. Lee Maril). "Diversity is not just about race or gender. It's about the whole range of human variation. So I also felt drawn to endowing chairs in Harriot College's Department of Sociology and in the College of Education. We need to help sociologists and especially teachers understand the most comprehensive breadth of the word 'diversity.' I want to have a long-term impact across the campus and across the region. We've got to learn to deal with differences, with the 'despised and rejected.' We've got to engage in healing and

reconciliation. And the first step in that process is compassionate understanding and education."

A tremendous exemplar of the success of ECU's pro-active diversity policy is 2008-2009 East Carolina Scholar Jesu Ruiz. Peel describes Jesu's journey to ECU: "Jesu came to the United States seven years ago; his parents had little if any formal education; and he wanted to be a surgeon – a cardiothoracic surgeon! He graduated first in his high school class of 400, he shadowed a doctor, and he worked 30 hours a week to help support his family. Jesu's on track, one day, to attend Brody School of Medicine – he's definitely not the typical med school applicant."

Just as education broadened his own horizons, Jesse Peel wants to open new vistas to students who might not otherwise have opportunities equal to their potentials. "The AIDS epidemic had an impact on my life, and it has inspired my giving. In Atlanta, there was an intense need for people to step up and to give. My parents both believed that to whom much is given is much expected. I can't do any less. C. S. Lewis says that we cannot settle on how much we ought to give; 'the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.'"

In recognition of his many contributions to the ECU community and to communities in and beyond the eastern North Carolina region, Peel was inducted in April 2008 as an honorary member into the East Carolina University Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and received the College Medallion in September 2008.



Jesse Peel's Contributions to ECU

helped East Carolina University establish the Chancellor's Diversity Council and Harriot College's Center on Diversity and Inequality Research

along with his mother, Helen Peel, established the J. Woolard Peel University Scholars Award

created the J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Professorship in Religious Studies.

set up a Core Competencies Program in the Brody School of Medicine.

established the Dr. Jesse R. Peel Distinguished Professorship in Social Diversity in the Department of Sociology

established the Dr. Jesse R. Peel Distinguished Professorship in Social Diversity in the College of Education

established The Institute for Social Diversity Fund

inducted into the East Carolina University Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi as an honorary member

received Harriot College medallion in recognition of service to the College

member of the Chancellor's Diversity Council

Arthur Depietro dies at 45; benefactor of AIDS relief grows



THE GRASS IS GREENEST IN HER OWN BACKYARD:

Gladys Howell Remembers a Half Century of Service

As East Carolina University and Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences celebrate their centennials, Professor Gladys David Howell's very special half-century of service is another cause for celebration.

Born and reared in Jacksonville, Florida, Gladys Evelyn David received her undergraduate and graduate degrees as well as beginning doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she majored in sociology and minored in anthropology and psychology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She then went on to teach for three years at Randolph Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she met and married John Howell, a PBK Duke graduate also teaching at Randolph Macon. From Randolph Macon, the Howells moved to Memphis State College [now University] from which John Howell was recruited to come to East Carolina College in 1957.

As Mrs. Howell observed, "When I came to Greenville, I had two boys, three-year-old David and six-week-old Joey and collected *Good Housekeeping* cookbooks," so family was her first priority for several years. East Carolina and the Howell's home on Library Street were going to be temporary way-stations on John Howell's career track. "The horizons were open, and we intended to move on after a few years. But Greenville surprised us with so many 'amenities.' We had congenial and stimulating colleagues, there was the state capital and its cultural activities within an easy drive, and there was proximity to the ocean. We never moved on, and we never had any regrets."



Arranging husband John Howell's hood at his chancellor inauguration, 1983.

When the Howells came to Greenville, Mrs. Howell describes the school as a "teaching institution, but one that was entering an exciting period of transition, a school percolating and growing." The reorganization of the institution into academic units (one of which would go on to become Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences) provided an overarching structure to unify the increasingly important liberal arts curriculum. In 1963, when East Carolina's Social Studies Department (an amalgam of the history, political science, economics, and sociology disciplines) was split into separate units, Dr. Melvin Williams, who came to chair the newly formed Sociology Department, invited Gladys Howell to join his faculty.

Happily juggling home and professional life, she taught thousands of students as people poured onto East Carolina's campus, the combined result of a growing population, a heightened awareness of the importance of higher education, and the GI bill. (Later when she was to live in the Chancellor's residence, she and Dr. Howell had their own "front door contest" – who would have more of their former students coming through their door at official functions? Those hundred-plus sociology classes that she taught for many years always made her the winner!)

Professor Howell also taught in the Anthropology Department organized by Blanche Watrous in 1964. Howell's Societies Around the World was a general education course that introduced countless ECC students to peoples far from the tobacco fields and fishing towns of eastern North Carolina. And Gladys Howell, scholar, delivered with Watrous "Methods, Merits, and Meaning of an Introductory Course in Ethnology," a scholarly presentation on the justification of a basic course intended as a "lens to broaden student outlooks. Then there's grading – one of the hardest things in teaching – but you don't know your students until you've read their papers. For me, the interaction with students as real people, as people with faces and names is essential. That kind of contact is genuinely transforming. It certainly was for me in my student days, and I hope that those of us who taught at East Carolina were part of the formation of students' values, characters, and personalities."

In addition to her classroom teaching, Howell served for years and years (“I really was semi-permanent!”) as the sociology representative on Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. There, full and spirited discussion of what would become the courses offered by the school was carried on with passion but also with an enormous spirit of cooperation and collegiality, and Howell’s contributions helped to shape liberal studies at ECU. “I believe in a solid liberal arts foundation – one that teaches the value of things over and above the immediate and the practical. Liberal arts together teach how to live a good life, a full life, a life of merit and meaning. And I am lucky to have been a part of laying ECU’s strong liberal arts foundations.”

But Howell – who came in the time of East Carolina’s fiftieth anniversary – remembers other less-chronicled aspects of East Carolina that are slipping away. On snow days, when her sons were dismissed from Wahl-Coates School on the college’s campus, the boys might “turn up in one of our offices,” evidence of ECC’s family-friendly atmosphere.

“I wanted to develop a sense of community within the university and with the town. Not many people have a chance to say that they are part of something on the verge, on the crest of great change.”

Then as John Howell assumed greater and greater responsibility at East Carolina, eventually being named Chancellor, Gladys Howell also took on new roles. As the Chancellor’s wife, she talks about her own non-teaching mission – “I wanted to develop a sense of community within the university and with the town. Not many



Chancellor John M. Howell with his wife, Gladys, and behind them, L to R: son Joey, Lisa (Joey’s wife), Sara Miller (David’s wife), and son David.

people have a chance to say that they are part of something on the verge, on the crest of great change. I remember being asked by Governor James Hunt to chair Pitt County’s 400th Celebration of the Roanoke Voyages. One of the projects was the creation of a commemorative quilt. This effort took me into communities across the county, and that kind of personal networking always makes things go better. The most wonderful thing was that, after all the work, the Pitt County Quilters’ Guild members made a gift to the University of their beautiful 400th anniversary quilt creation. Community collegiality is a basis for the University’s own centennial quilt unveiled this past March. On campus, in the classroom, and in my role as Chancellor’s wife, I had the opportunity to be a real participant in building this university.”

“John and I came to Greenville when the school was fifty years old; he was Chancellor for the seventy-fifth anniversary, and here we are, a part of ECU’s centennial! I now serve on as a member of the Harriot College Advancement Council, where I continue – in my fifty-first year in Greenville – to serve ECU. No, we never moved on, and we have no regrets.”



O. Max Gardner Award recipients. L to R: Ovid Pierce, Gladys Howell, Francis Speight, Stanley Riggs, and Kenlyn Riggs.

Student in the Spotlight

Two memories surface for Anem Waheed as she reflects on her journey into the medical field: her *Sesame Street* doctor’s kit and accompanying her dad on his hospital rounds. “Although the make-believe world in which I pretended to use my stethoscope, Band-Aids®, and ‘prescription pad’ may have been a first indication of my interest in medicine, it is relationships with people that intensified and accelerated my desire to serve as I study and eventually practice medicine,” she says.

When Anem Waheed came to East Carolina University, she soon realized that the common link among her interests in anthropology, teaching, and medicine was the capacity to engage with, learn from, and serve people of diverse backgrounds.

She has grown up in both the Pakistani and American cultures, and being part of two very different worlds has stimulated her interest in medical anthropology and contributed to her increasing connections with all sorts of people. “People’s enculturation directly impacts the way they perceive experiences in general and health issues in particular,” she observes. In the aftermath of the earthquake in Pakistan, a Khashmiri woman told Anem, “The ground shook. Everything broke. There was no food or medicine. My son’s hand was broken and we waited in line for five hours to come to the American hospital.”

Among Anem’s many service projects was teaching eye care in a rural community’s afterschool program. One little girl related that her parents “can’t find no doctor.” Then when working in a pharmacy, Anem encountered an elderly man who left his medicines on the counter because he wouldn’t have enough money until the beginning of the month. “Luckily, the head pharmacist looked over my shoulder and said, ‘Give them to him anyway. He can pay later, but he needs his medicines.’”

Relationships with people were part of the journey that brought this talented student to East Carolina University’s Harriot College of Arts and Sciences where she has majored in biology and minored in anthropology. Her broad liberal arts background and her life experiences with a rainbow of people and their needs have provided the foundation for Anem, who with passion and compassion, will one day serve others as a caring and committed physician.





Doug Gomes is the current president of the advancement council, and Harvey Sharp Wooten is a founding member.

COLLEGE DEVELOPS VALUABLE SERIES

by Scott Wells

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advancement Council established the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series and invested in its initial funding. Harriot College, the Advancement Council and other supporters want the lectures to become "the premier lecture series" in the region. The goal is to continue to build upon the excellence and success of the 2007-2008 series – not only for students, faculty and community, but also for the growth of eastern North Carolina.

The 2007-2008 inaugural year of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series (which included four lectures) was a very successful one. On September 27, 2007, the "inaugural lecture" featured Dr. Peter White, director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

The "premier lecture" held on October 10, 2007, brought a full house to Wright Auditorium with more than 700 ECU students, 400 faculty and 300 community members in attendance. Dr. Richard Leakey, professor of anthropology at Stony Brook University, and renowned for his work in early human origins, gave the lecture titled "On the Origins and Future of Humanity." During the spring semester, on February 21, Dr. Lisa Norling, associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota, presented the Sallie Southall Cotten lecture; and Dr. Mark Nicholls, president of St. Johns College at Cambridge University, presented the final lecture of the series – the Thomas Harriot Lecture – on April 10.

When the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advancement Council members voted to support the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series financially, council member Edward T. Smith issued a challenge for the rest of the councilors to match. The challenge immediately was accepted by many of the members. These funds, provided by the Advancement Council members, have made the lecture series possible.

To insure the continued financial success of the series, Dr. Alan R. White, dean of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, has made the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series the number one funding priority for Harriot College in East Carolina University's Second Century Campaign.



"The Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series was initially established and funded by the generous support of Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advancement Council members," says White. "Now, it is imperative that we establish an endowment to support the series – to stimulate and enhance the intellectual climate of ECU and the surrounding communities."

The 2008-2009 season has featured W. Randolph Chitwood, Jr., Walter Isaacson, Marcus Borg, and Eugenie Scott, with more lectures forthcoming.

To inquire about levels of support for the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series, please contact Scott Wells, Major Gifts Officer, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, at 252.328.9560, wells@ecu.edu, or Jennifer Tripp, Director of Development, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, at 252.328.4901, trippj@ecu.edu.

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W. Randolph Chitwood Jr., MD
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"Medical Discoveries in the 20th Century"

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PREMIER VOYAGES LECTURE
Walter Isaacson
CEO, Aspen Institute; Former CEO, CNN
"Creative Leaders Who Have Shaped Our World"

November 18, 2008
JARVIS LECTURE
Marcus Borg, PhD
Emeritus Professor, Oregon State University
"Christians in an Age of Empire: Then and Now"

January 27, 2009
SALLIE SOUTHALL COTTEN LECTURE
Eugenie C. Scott, PhD
Executive Director, National Center for Science Education
"Darwin's Legacy in Science and Society"

February 25, 2009
BREWSTER LECTURE IN HISTORY
Felipe Fernández-Armesto, PhD
St. Anthony's College, Oxford University
"The Man Who Gave His Name to America"

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Stephen Clucas, PhD
Birkbeck College, University of London
"The New Worlds of an Elizabethan Scientist"

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

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

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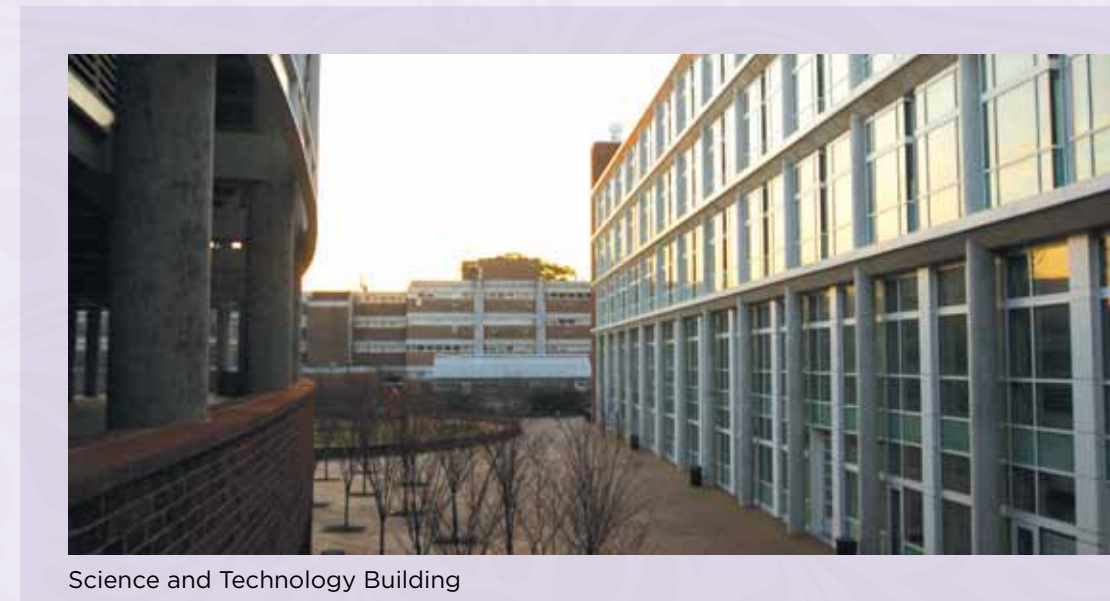
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Please feel free to request greater detailed information about these planned giving methods found in a booklet entitled, "A Guide to Creative Planned Giving Arrangements" or schedule an appointment to discuss how these gifts can help you leave a legacy at ECU.

High profile research serves to bring international attention to Harriot College: Dr. Jason Bond, ECU professor of biology, has named a newly discovered trapdoor spider, *Myrmekiaphila neilyoungi*, after the legendary rock star.

He has been featured on the *Colbert Report* where he christened a trapdoor spider species discovered in California *Aptostichus stephencolberti*, in honor of the show's host.

Bond is shown here with one of his favorite tarantulas.

Read more about Bond in the next issue of Cornerstone.



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