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 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

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Hello friends of Harriot College!

It is my great pleasure to share with you this latest issue of Cornerstone. I invite you to enjoy reading through these pages, which showcase just some of the ongoing excellence of East Carolina University’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

Among this issue’s features is a story on our pioneering coastal research, which deploys a National Science Foundation-funded acoustic wave glider (affectionately named “Blackbeard”) to advance understanding of marine life, ocean environment, currents, and the effects of ocean energy projects. This is interdisciplinary scientific teamwork at its finest! A second feature highlights this year’s premier lecture in the Voyages of Discovery Series, which saw Harriot College host national security and terrorism expert Peter Bergen. Bergen’s most timely presentation, “Making Sense in a World of Trouble,” successfully launched the Voyages series’ ninth year as the region’s foremost intellectual event. A third story spotlights one of Arts and Sciences’ top priorities—increasing the global competency and competitiveness of our students. The experiences of three students who traveled abroad on ECU programs (one in Costa Rica, another in France, a third in India) demonstrate just how life-changing and empowering international education can be. Finally, in our last story we are proud to update you on the establishment of a Biopharmaceutical Workforce Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence. Led by faculty in Harriot College’s Department of Chemistry, the Center of Excellence is positioning ECU to better partner with industry in one of North Carolina’s most important professional fields.

We hope that from these four glimpses into the life of Harriot College you are energized by the mission-driven work of our faculty, students, and staff. It is my privilege every day to help lead a group of scholars that is so committed to the success of our students, to the meaningful application of our research, and to the advancement of our community and region.

Toward these ends, 2014-15 was clearly a successful year. As indicated by almost every important metric, Harriot College is on the march. The popularity of our student programs is up (we graduated more students in the past academic year than ever before in the history of the College). External grant dollars for research are up…up 39% over last year and at their highest level in three years. Philanthropy and external gifts to the college are up, rising to their highest level in five years. We are successfully partnering with other colleges and schools here at ECU to advance shared goals, and we are writing a new and bold narrative about the value and impact of the liberal arts.

We often refer to Harriot College as “the cornerstone college” of East Carolina University, but we could just as easily deem ourselves ECU’s “central hub”…a vital, indispensable catalyst that can connect various parts of the university to achieve great things. These are exciting times, and we think you have every reason to be proud of your College of Arts and Sciences!

With thanks for your continued support,

William M. Downs, Dean
Greetings from the THCAS

Dean’s Advancement Council!

Our Council brings together more than 20 loyal alumni and staunch friends of Harriot College to provide advocacy, consultation, and support for the 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. Our members step up time and time again to help secure funds for the acclaimed Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series, for merit- and need-based student scholarships, and for world-class research. 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 & Sciences over the years.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the College’s new directions. The Harriot College Advancement Council is busy now garnering support for new scholarships that will help attract the best and brightest undergraduates to ECU to study in the natural sciences, mathematics, humanities, and social sciences. We are funding the Dean’s Early Career Award, which will annually recognize outstanding tenure-track faculty who are doing exceptional research. We are also doing our part to help realize the College’s ambition of doubling the number of students who study abroad each year, giving each a learning experience that will transform their lives. We are, finally, preparing to celebrate the 10th Anniversary Season of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

If, like us, you share the passion for Harriot College’s future, then please consider how best you might contribute. We would be happy to have your participation!

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East Carolina University scientists have been sending a small craft to navigate the North Carolina coast studying underwater noise and keeping tabs on tagged marine life all to better understand the ocean environment.

Called an acoustic wave glider, the metal-and-composite device is an ocean-going robot that studies underwater noise; acoustically tagged fish such as tuna, flounder and sharks; whales, plankton and ocean environmental conditions. The device is manufactured by Liquid Robotics and was funded by a $281,393 grant from the National Science Foundation. ECU researchers have nicknamed the craft “Blackbeard.”

ECU is among a handful of universities that have a wave glider and the only UNC-system school with one. Joseph Luczkovich, a biology professor and specialist in the sounds fish make, said the device will provide a significant step forward in ECU’s coastal research capabilities.

Cruising along the surface, it’s about the size of an ironing board. ECU researchers launched and tested it in August near the Queen Anne’s Revenge shipwreck near Morehead City and Beaufort and deployed again this month in the same area. Part of its initial work has been surveying an artificial reef established by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. Historically important feeding grounds for endangered species of right whales are in the area off Shackleford Banks, and ECU researchers hope to document the songs of northern right whales as they migrate past the coast, along with other fishes such as red drum, spotted seatrout and weakfish.

“It is a fully instrumented oceanographic platform for studying the acoustic environment off North Carolina,” Luczkovich said. “There are less than 400 individuals of the northern right whales left on Earth, and most of them pass by our coast on their migration from the Arctic off Greenland to the tropics.”

It also will provide valuable data on the potential effects of oil and gas exploration and wind turbine development in coastal waters.

“We expect the wave glider will jump-start our coastal acoustic research in this area,” said Luczkovich. “Oil and gas development, as well as wind energy turbines, have been proposed along our coast. Seismic surveys to locate deposits of oil and gas are likely to begin soon.”

These ocean energy projects must be conducted and sited in ways that avoid or minimize impacts to the whales and fish such as Atlantic sturgeon, an endangered species of ancient fish, he said.

“Many of these fishes are tagged acoustically, so we can detect their movements with the wave glider as well,” he said. Acoustic tags are small, surgically implanted sound-emitting devices that allow the detection and/or remote tracking of fish for fisheries research.

The wave glider can act as a stationary platform or be propelled to specific points using GPS technology. A submarine unit with wings or fins generates forward motion by wave action. Two solar panels provide energy for sensors.

ECU expects to receive funding to support these wave glider surveys from the NSF, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Office of Naval Research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to study the impacts on whales and fishes and their food supply. These agencies will use the data to minimize impacts to the ecosystem, while allowing some energy extraction in areas away from critical habitats.

ECU’s model has a unique suite of sensors including a system
for listening to and recording ocean soundscapes, sound-producing fishes and whales; an acoustic tag-detection system for finding tagged animals such as many fish species and sharks; and a fluorometer for measuring ocean color and plankton.

It also has a conductivity, temperature and depth sensor with oxygen-measurement capabilities. On the surface float are instruments for monitoring waves, currents and surface meteorology.

“It will send us alerts when right whales and other fishes are detected,” Luczkovich said. “So far, we have detected bottlenose dolphins and striped cusk eels (a sound-producing fish) in our first deployments. We are still analyzing the data; there was an acoustic algorithm match for right whale sounds, but that match has to be confirmed with our team after some additional work.”

His team has about 23 hours of sound files to analyze. Those files include red drum sounds as well as the sounds of an unidentified species that makes a quacking sound. The data also include temperature, salinity, ocean currents, turbidity and phytoplankton abundance.

Blackbeard is operated over an Internet connection via a satellite link and reports regularly on its location and sends data to shore. It can be at sea for one-month long missions.

ECU researchers are collaborating with scientists at Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort and at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Scientists from the NOAA, N.C. State University, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the UNC Institute of Marine Science are also being kept abreast of the work the wave glider is doing.

The wave glider will be deployed until the whales have passed by the coast, Luczkovich said. ECU will then report findings at the Coastal Estuarine Research Federation meeting in Portland, Oregon, in November, and to the NSF.

“In addition, we are alerting the U.S. Coast Guard about the general location of these proposed wave glider deployments so they can produce a local notice to mariners,” Luczkovich said. Boaters and commercial fishermen are urged to leave the wave glider alone. The device has warning labels on it, and people have been pulled overboard trying to grab the wave glider from a boat.

The device was built specifically for ECU. The team of ECU scientists working with it, in addition to Luczkovich, are Roger Rulifson of Department of Biology, Mark Sprague of Department of Physics and J.P. Walsh of the Department of Geological Sciences. Ramone Lopez-Rosado of the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy and Eric Diaddorio, Ryan Bradley and Mark Keusenkothen of the Office of Diving and Water Safety were involved in assembling and launching the unit. Coastal resources management doctoral students Cecilia Krahforst, Chuck Bangley and Tyler Peacock worked with the wave glider during the field testing.

The public may follow the wave glider’s deployments and key findings at its Facebook group “Blackbeard Sails the Seas for Science.”

(Photos taken by ECU Photographer Cliff Hollis.)
The rapid rise of the terrorist Islamic State group demonstrates the power of social media, acclaimed author and journalist Peter Bergen told a crowd at East Carolina University on the evening of September 29.

A national security analyst and terrorism expert, Bergen presented “Making Sense in a World of Trouble” in Wright Auditorium, as the premier lecture for the 2015–16 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

The world is witnessing its first “social media war,” Bergen said. The Islamic State, or ISIS, has drawn more than 8 million people to its cause through social media, he said, with more than 46,000 ISIS-associated Twitter accounts and English language websites that promote the group and provide step-by-step instructions on how to join.

ISIS has recruited more than 30,000 followers in the past two years, with thousands more joining each month, he said.

Bergen explained that ISIS developed out of the United States’ invasion of Iraq in 2003, which was intended to dismantle Al-Qaida.

By 2008, Al-Qaida was basically non-existent, he said, but in 2011 the remnants of that group restructured themselves in Syria into what is now known as ISIS.

He said that ISIS uses social media to convey a three-part message: They are winning. They are creating an “Islamic utopia” on Earth. They are inviting women to join and marry “heroic, Islamic fighters.”

“ISIS thinks they are ushering in the end of times,” he said. “They are also trying to promote it as jihadi cool.”

Efforts have begun to rein in the group’s use of social media, Bergen said. Facebook and Twitter are removing posts that promote violence. Former ISIS members are speaking out against it, indicating that ISIS is not the utopia it claims to be. Opposition groups have been formed. Muslim clerics are working to persuade young people not to join.
Despite the growth of ISIS, Bergen said the world is safer now than before the terror attacks of 9/11, thanks to improved no-fly lists and terror watch lists, enhanced communication between the CIA and FBI, a new Department of Homeland Security and 2,000 new FBI agents assigned to counter terrorism.

United States offensive measures such as the invasion of Afghanistan, drone strikes and the assassination of Osama bin Laden have played a strong role as well. People are also more observant, he added. Reports from citizens have prevented two separate attempts to detonate bombs on U.S. airlines, along with an attempt to explode bombs in an SUV parked in Times Square.

As a result, he said terrorism problems are largely managed. “The attack of 9/11 was a surprise, but we have created defensive measures which make it harder for people to come into the U.S. to attack us,” he said.

Bergen is a print and television journalist and author, the director of the national security studies program at the New America Foundation in Washington D.C., a fellow at Fordham University’s Center on National Security, and CNN’s national security analyst. He has held teaching positions at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, and at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

His presentation marked the beginning of the Voyages series’ ninth year. More than 22,000 have attended the lectures, which have brought 36 speakers to campus.

Speaking about the series, Provost Ron Mitchelson said. “It has educated, inspired and challenged us. It represents ECU’s commitment to the region and people of eastern North Carolina – fulfilling our pledge…our motto to serve.”

Prior to the evening presentation, Bergen met with a select group of faculty and students, including students enrolled in a security studies class and representatives from the Harriot College Dean’s Student Leadership Council.

For additional information about the Voyages series and upcoming speakers, visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

(Photos taken by ECU Photographer Cliff Hollis.)

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Global confidence, intercultural sensitivity and the ability to maneuver through varied settings are keys to success in an increasingly interconnected world. Studying abroad is an experience that Harriot College faculty and staff hope will prepare students with the knowledge, skills and values needed to succeed in an interdependent, multicultural society. Therefore, the college encourages its students to seek study abroad opportunities and has a goal to provide students with more opportunities to study abroad during their academic time at East Carolina University.

While enrolled at ECU, students have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad at universities and other institutions around the world, or they may participate in summer study abroad programs directed by ECU faculty members.

Below are three stories from Harriot College students who have taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in a summer study abroad experience.

**Studying Abroad in Costa Rica – Tristan’s Story**

Tristan D’Alessio, a senior majoring in geography with a concentration in human geography and a minor in economics, traveled abroad to Costa Rica during a three-week long field course in 2013. While in Costa Rica, under the direction of geography professor Dr. Tom Allen and associate professor Dr. Holly Hapke, D’Alessio journeyed to San Jose, Tamarindo, Monteverde, Arenal Volcano National Park, Puntarenas and Manzanillo.

For D’Alessio, studying abroad was an important opportunity to experience places not previously visited and to learn in an environment that is not the typical, traditional classroom setting. In addition, D’Alessio received a scholarship from the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, which helped offset the cost of studying abroad.

“[Allen and Hapke] showed me that education is not confined to a campus or classroom, provides an opportunity for research in the field, and allows for focused understanding,” said D’Alessio.

The purpose of the field course was to study the effects of deforestation and reforestation, and how these affected water quality in various areas. D’Alessio examined deforestation in relation to agricultural practices, urban development and increased tourism. He also examined passive reforestation and environmentally friendly lumber harvesting. An additional goal of the course was to study research-based tourism in agricultural, urban and rural locations.

While participating in the three-week course, D’Alessio said the most enjoyable aspects of the experience were being able to speak Spanish when dealing with others, learning about the geological features of the Arenal Volcano, studying the rain forests of Monteverde, learning more about active deforestation and reforestation efforts and traveling to multiple cities and beaches on the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

“In my experience,” said D’Alessio, “they [study abroad experiences] removed the monotony of the classroom and replaced it with active learning, as opposed to passive learning. For example, prior to going to Costa Rica, I chose water quality and runoff as an area of study. While observing urban and agricultural areas, I was able to see first hand how poverty and environments are interrelated.”

D’Alessio conducted a majority of his research at ECU prior to the trip.
“My tasks in Costa Rica were to determine if the research data were supported by my actual experiences,” said D’Alessio.

The experience of conducting hands-on research in the environment, which D’Alessio had previously researched in the classroom, proved very motivating.

“This experience in 2013 prompted me to travel more often,” he said.

In the summer of 2014, D’Alessio participated in a summer abroad experience in Italy, where the focus was on art and culture, primarily humanities driven experiences.

“I would encourage others to travel abroad as a way to learn about different cultures and form your own opinion of the host country and its people,” said D’Alessio.

Upon graduating in December 2015, D’Alessio plans to work for a year and then hopes to attend graduate school to study geographic information systems (GIS).

Studying Abroad in France – Lisa’s Story

Lisa Nicole Modigliani-Estraélla, a senior majoring in anthropology and medieval and renaissance studies, had the opportunity this past summer 2015 to study abroad for a month in Paris, France.

“My family heritage is rather multicultural, and I have always been interested in studying other cultures and languages. It is something that has fascinated me since I was a child,” said Modigliani-Estraélla. “It is one thing to study and read at home, or in class, about other cultures, or to watch many documentaries and travel shows like I have done, but to be able to physically travel to these places is something that I have dreamed of.”

Modigliani-Estraélla started studying French in high school, but did not think about pursuing it when she come to ECU. However, after taking a French class from instructor Dori St. Amant, from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Modigliani-Estraélla decided to pursue a French minor.

“St. Amant was very helpful and encouraging,” said Modigliani-Estraélla. “Her classes had that positive impact on my French educational pursuits, and I am very glad that I decided to continue with my studies in France!”

Under the direction St. Amant, Modigliani-Estraélla participated in two courses while studying abroad. One was an intensive French language course, while the second was a cultural immersion course.

“We had several interactive, speaking projects such as attending a ‘Franglish’ session, which is a fun event where native English and French speakers get to chat with one another, speaking one language for seven minutes each, and then switching tables to allow you to speak with multiple people,” said Modigliani-Estraélla. “In two hours, I was able to speak with about eight people.”

Throughout the month-long study in France, Modigliani-Estraélla had many opportunities to explore and expand her knowledge of the French culture through immersion projects and outings.

“I enjoyed the challenge of broadening my creativity with our projects,” said Modigliani-Estraélla. “Besides the usual homework of writing daily journals and weekly worksheets, my program had a detailed schedule where we would visit different museums, such as the Louvre, Musée de Cluny or Musée d’Orsay.”
“We participated in other excursions to specific historical places like the Maison de Victor Hugo, as well as attending other events around Paris, like the Paris-Plage – held in the summer where a beach is made along the Seine and filled with various activities for families to enjoy such as music and dance, zip lining, games and boating. One day we were able to go just outside Paris and visit the medieval town of Provins, where we cheered on a highly-active, medieval-themed drama and also saw the old collegiate church of Saint-Quiriace, where it is believed that Joan of Arc once heard mass.”

Modigliani-Estraélla said living and traveling throughout Paris was an “amazing experience,” which provided the opportunity to be surrounded by all the aspects that had, up to this point, only been part of her studies.

“I was in awe at all the rich, centuries-old architecture and other artwork that I was able to see every day while in France. There was beauty in everything,” said Modigliani-Estraélla.

“Another aspect of my experience that I valued was being immersed in this diverse culture,” she said. “I met and befriended people from all walks of life, and all nations. I liked how I could use what I learned in cultural anthropology to better understand the differences in society and culture.”

Modigliani-Estraélla believes the experience of studying abroad has prepared her for her future endeavors. Upon graduating in Spring 2016, she is interested in possibly teaching the English language in France, for a year or two, and then attending graduate school to pursue a doctorate degree.

“Studying abroad was the perfect opportunity for me, and I feel blessed to have been able to participate in this extraordinary event,” said Modigliani-Estraélla. “French fits perfectly in both my studies of cultural anthropology and medieval and renaissance studies. I gained valuable cross-cultural skills, while also enhancing other skills that I believe have prepared me for the future. Studying abroad not only helped me academically, but also further improved my global competency. I think that these skills will certainly help me in my career and my life in general.”

Studying Abroad in India – Shayna’s Story

Shayna Mooney, Greenville native, ECU graduate with a BS degree in Multidisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Neuroscience, a BA degree in Multidisciplinary Studies with a concentration in International Studies, and a first year medical student at the Brody School of Medicine, traveled abroad to India the summer after her freshman year at ECU in 2012. It was the Global Understanding course, offered through the Department of Anthropology, which first got Mooney interested in studying abroad.

“Through this course, I was able to interact with other university students in Mexico, Pakistan and Poland via video and chat, and learn about their cultural traditions, beliefs, lifestyles, values and views,” said Mooney. “I developed an interest in understanding different cultures, which motivated me to study abroad.”

Under the direction of Dr. Derek Maher, associate professor in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Science Religious Studies Program, Mooney studied in India for four weeks during the summer of 2012 through the Religion in India program.

“Dr. Maher is a wonderful person and role model. His vast knowledge and past experiences in India made this study abroad [experience] extremely unique,” said Mooney. “He really encouraged immersing ourselves in the culture and learning as much as we can from the people around us. I think the most important thing I learned from Dr. Maher was adaptability.”

While studying in India, Mooney backpacked throughout the cities of New Delhi, Agra, Varanasi, Rishikesh, Dharamsala and Amritsar, studying the many religions of the region, including the Baha’i faith, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Visiting different temples, holy sites and historical venues helped add to the understanding of each religion and culture.
“One of the favorite parts of my trip was the time spent in Dharamsala,” said Mooney. “This community is home to numerous Tibetan refugees and is also home to His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama. The Buddhist temple served as the center of life for the community. Hundreds of people would make the trek to the temple daily. During our very first morning, we lined up along the sides of the main street with the rest of the residents of Dharamsala. Soon, a long car procession came down the street, and in one of the cars was the Dalai Lama himself. We then followed the procession of cars to the place where he was speaking. It was such an incredible experience!”

Also while in Dharamsala, Mooney was able to spend a few days with a couple of young schoolgirls taught by the Tong Len nonprofit organization, which provides an education to children from displaced communities in the region. She became friends with two girls that reminded her of herself when she was younger.

“It was heart warming to see how much they valued and were grateful for their education, and how happy they were,” said Mooney. “These kids are a source of inspiration; they make me want to make the most of what I have and take every opportunity that crosses my path.”

Mooney said a global mindset is important for any career. As a future clinician, she sees the value her study abroad experience will bring when communicating with patients.

“Study abroad has helped me to understand how culture influences a person’s health, illness and the search for relief from disease,” said Mooney. “Patients bring their own worldviews and expectations to clinical settings. I understand the importance of culturally competent care, and I hope to use this knowledge to communicate effectively and personally with patients, playing close attention to how they feel and the meaning of what they say.”

In conclusion, Mooney whole-heartedly encourages all students to take advantage of the study abroad opportunities provided at ECU.

“Study abroad is an absolute must during college! Whether you attend a faculty-led trip, or you go through an exchange program, it’s an experience that will greatly impact you. You learn so much more about yourself and the world around you – more than you can learn in a classroom,” said Mooney.

“Do not miss out on a study abroad experience because you think you cannot fit it into your schedule, or that you cannot afford it. I promise it will be one of the best experiences you will ever have during your time at ECU.”

To learn more about study abroad opportunities at ECU, please visit www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/studyabroad.cfm.
Creating a Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence

By Lacey L. Gray

Harriot College and the Department of Chemistry announced in March 2015 that the Golden LEAF Foundation awarded East Carolina University $1.1 million to support the creation of a Biopharmaceutical Work Force Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence. The funded grant proposal was facilitated through ECU’s Office of Innovation and Economic Development. With the assistance of the grant, ECU will ensure the development of technically skilled and creative students to support the region’s employment goals.

“Leading this initiative to prepare even more of our undergraduate and graduate students in the sciences for careers in the pharmaceutical industry has been very rewarding thus far,” said Dr. Allison Danell, associate professor of chemistry and lead principal investigator on the Golden LEAF award.

“Strengthening and expanding the collaborations between the university and private industry is already generating great returns,” said Danell. “For our industrial partners and supporters, they are enjoying tremendous growth, and for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, investments in new equipment and personnel are greatly enriching the scientific inquiry in which our students and faculty engage.”

“ECU’s Department of Chemistry has partnered with industry scientists for many years to offer our graduates a leg up when looking for jobs in the pharmaceutical industry,” said Keith Holmes, grant project manager, Department of Chemistry teaching instructor and retired pharmaceutical executive. “We are proud that our work has culminated in this exciting grant and partnership, which will expand our personnel to develop a true capstone course for scientists from many disciplines.”

This fall, Harriot College moves forward on the implementation of the Biopharmaceutical Center of Excellence with the hiring of Dr. Jack Pender as Director of Pharmaceutical Training and Laboratory Services.

“This position is a dream come true for me,” said Pender. “After joining industry I did not see a feasible path back to academics without a post-doc and current publication record. Over the years, I volunteered with the Pharmaceutical Skills class, took a couple classes at ECU and worked on the laboratory-training program while employed at Metrics Inc (now Mayne Pharma) to help satisfy my thirst for acquiring and sharing knowledge. In hindsight, it is the blending of industrial experience with academic curiosity and the desire to help others understand that uniquely prepared me for this position. I am excited to be here and for the opportunity to help expand the program to support the region.”

As part of his new position at ECU, Pender teaches students in the Pharmaceutical Skills class. The class, which has been offered to students since 2004 in conjunction with strong collaboration from local pharmaceutical companies, was designed to prepare students to work in a pharmaceutical laboratory or related area of the pharmaceutical industry.

Currently, the lab is equipped for teaching the students about common instrumentation they will encounter in a pharmaceutical laboratory. It has high-pressure liquid chromatography, headspace gas chromatography and dissolution instruments, as well as basic laboratory equipment, including balances, pH meters and glassware.

“We plan to use the Golden LEAF Foundation grant to enhance the lab portion of the class with a Karl Fischer titrator, to teach moisture analysis, and an infrared spectrometer to
demonstrate identification testing as a quality control tool,” said Pender.

If the demand continues to rise, Pender plans to expand the course from nine students per year to 36, or more. His goal is to educate more of ECU’s undergraduate and graduate students on pharmaceutical topics and hands-on laboratory skills, helping to better prepare them for careers at companies like Patheon and MaynePharma in Greenville, Hospira in Rocky Mount, CMP Pharma in Farmville, and other regional pharmaceutical firms in Wilson – Purdue Pharma, Becton Dickinson, Merck, and Microbac Laboratories.

“Our students are uniquely prepared to be productive in one of these companies very quickly,” said Pender.

According to Pender, in the short-term, this will help support the planned growth of eastern North Carolina pharmaceutical companies Patheon and Mayne Pharma, which was announced earlier this year. In the long-term, he said it would enhance the level of pharmaceutical knowledge and reputation of the regional workforce and position Greenville and the surrounding areas as highly desirable locations for other companies and startups to grow.

“The feedback from the regional hiring managers and the alumni of the class has been great over the years,” said Pender. “In fact, now we have young professionals that took the class a few years ago volunteering in the laboratory with the current students. Neither the former students, nor the respective employers, would be willing to donate valuable work hours if they did not feel it was a worthwhile class.”

Pender’s goals as Director of Pharmaceutical Training and Laboratory Services also include training professionals on pharmaceutical-related topics, including drug design and discovery, sterile formulation, packaging, development and manufacturing, analytical development and quality control, analytical testing, development and consulting services, identifying or developing regional subject matter experts, and facilitating regional pharmaceutical professional collaboration and career development.

“Initially, we will be coordinating with pharmaceutical industry experts and instrument vendors to teach short courses for working professionals at ECU or a local conference center,” said Pender. “Once we get the program going, some of the other faculty and I will develop short courses in our respective areas of expertise to offer to the working professionals as well.”

In the expanded laboratory, professionals will have access to advanced technologies to support research and development, testing and training services. An inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS), a combination FTIR/Raman/NIR spectrometer and an ultra high-pressure liquid chromatography system (UHPLC) are in the process of being ordered.

Additionally, Pender said they have ordered a chromatographic modeling software package, DryLab4, to assist companies with their method development activities. Other technologies under consideration include an additional HPLC with a charged aerosol detector (CAD), an instrument used for testing particle size and a nano-calorimeter.

“We plan to use this equipment to also support university academics and research when not dedicated to regional pharmaceutical projects,” said Pender.

Golden LEAF’s mission is to promote the social welfare of North Carolina’s citizens, and their grants making focuses on three priorities: agriculture, job creation and retention, and workforce preparedness. With the assistance of the $1.1 million grant made earlier this year by the Golden LEAF Foundation, ECU is better equipped to prepare its students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed, to help serve the public professionals within the industry and lead regional transformation for eastern North Carolina.

(Photos taken by ECU Interim Director of Design Mike Litwin of the Good Manufacturing Practices Lab, Sci Tech, room 348.)
This fall, Harriot College welcomes three new members to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Advancement Council. The new members are Stewart Johnson, Charles Saunders and Matthew Slate.

Stewart Johnson received her BS degree in urban and regional planning from East Carolina University in 2012, graduating Magna Cum Laude. As a student, she said one of the things she appreciated most was the opportunity to get involved on campus.

“Since graduation, I have missed those networks, and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to be involved again with a new role on the Dean’s Advancement Council,” said Johnson.

Johnson is excited to be one of the three new members and has a couple of goals in mind for her tenure on the council.

“I hope to be able to bring a great energy to this group. It will be my goal to help further the council’s goals both on and off campus,” she said. In addition, Johnson said she hopes to support development and programs within the college, which will positively impact the university.

In her free time, Johnson enjoys helping her fiancé build furniture, creating anything with paint and hot glue, and traveling. She also said she is a huge Pirate football fan.

Charles Saunders is a retired Pitt Community College history and world religions instructor, and currently is an instructor in ECU’s Lifelong Learning Program, having taught a course in world religions for the past three years. In 2016, he will teach a course on “The Rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazi German: 1918-1939.” Saunders received his MA and BS degrees in history from ECU in 1989 and ’83 respectively.

“I am excited about becoming a member of the council,” said Saunders. “I hope to learn a lot from it and be a benefit when I can.”

Saunders believes his years as a professor will be beneficial to the group.

“The one thing I have plenty of is experience in higher education,” said Saunders. “I taught in the special studies program for two years at ECU and have 31 years of experience at PCC. Since we had so many students there transfer directly to ECU, I hope I can provide some insight from the transfer’s perspective.”

As a self-proclaimed ECU sports fanatic, Saunders said he rarely misses a football game, or any of the men or women’s basketball games. Also, since the eighth grade, Saunders said he has collected antique arms from the 17th – 19th centuries, with a concentration on the Islamic world and Southeast Asia. He said his collection already is slated to become part of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences collection.

Matthew Slate is director and senior trader in the Global Credit and Special Situations Group at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. He received his MBA degree in 2002 from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and his BS degree in biology with a minor in business administration from ECU in 1996.

“Joining the Dean’s Advancement Council is an exciting new endeavor for me. After spending some time with Dean Downs, it was easy to see he has a vision for the college, ensuring that each student is prepared academically and socially and has an appreciation for philanthropy,” said Slate. “Ensuring ECU continues to deliver hirable and prepared graduates that are ready to add value to society and appeal to potential employers remains a constant goal. Also, ensuring the faculty and staff have the best tools available to deliver the curriculum is crucial for success. One of the challenges is that employer’s demands constantly change. The council brings leaders from various backgrounds together to create a forum to discuss these changes and deliver the best academic programs possible at ECU. Being a part of the group that can assist Dean Downs in achieving this advancement is what motivated me to join the council.”

The skill sets Slate says he has acquired over the years, and during his time at ECU – problem solving techniques, undergraduate recruiting and interviewing for the Global Markets business, social interaction and teamwork – have prepared him to be a member of the council.

“I hope I can bring my experiences to the council and enhance ECU’s efforts in delivering well rounded graduates,” said Slate. A little known fact about Slate is that while attending ECU, he worked on air for WZMB, and unless you knew him well,
most would not have guessed he was one of the DJs hosting the hip-hop mix show on Saturday nights from '92-'96.

“I have always enjoyed hip-hop music,” said Slate “and when alone, I still crank up the volume and relive the 80s and 90s, which I believe was the greatest hip-hop era.”

In addition to his passion for hip-hop, Slate said keeping up with ECU sports has always been a hobby. However, what he said he treasures the most is spending time with his wife and daughter.

“Having the opportunity to watch my daughter participate in various musical performances, sporting events and art shows brings me the most joy,” he said.

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Advancement Council provides an opportunity for alumni and friends to become more involved with Harriot College, to use their influence and affluence to further Harriot College’s goals and to participate in ensuring its future success. The council provides advocacy, consultation and support for Harriot College and the continuing development of its liberal arts and graduate programs. Serving as an advocacy group both on campus and off, the council helps promote a positive image and good relations for the college with the rest of the university, as well as with the region, state and nation. It also helps relate the students, faculty and dean of Harriot College to society at large.

Transforming the College through Your Generous Support!

By Jennifer Tripp

Private support has helped the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences to grow in scope and quality, deepening our impact on our students and the world. We appreciate each and every donor for investing in the current and future success of the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. We are better because of you!

Through a combination of endowed scholarships, annually funded scholarships, and gifts to our scholarship accounts, Harriot College was able to award a total of $104,665 in scholarships to 74 students for the 2015-16 academic year. Thank You!

Make an Impact!

The Harriot College Annual Fund is the cornerstone of giving at the College. Your gift to the Annual Fund provides a necessary base of expendable and flexible revenue to support our core programs and initiatives. Some of these include the ability to recruit and retain the best students and faculty, offer hands-on learning opportunities, support research, provide study abroad living/learning opportunities essential for global learning, and purchase state-of-the-art equipment for our classrooms. Annual giving dollars enable Dean William Downs to allocate your support where it is needed most within the College.

You are invited to become a partner in shaping the future. Every gift is important and is a vote of confidence in Harriot College and its future. With your gift you change lives – those of students, faculty and communities across the globe.

Jennifer Tripp, Major Gifts Officer
trippj@ecu.edu
252-737-4201

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” - Sir Winston Churchill
The generosity of alumni and friends like you allows the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences to continue to offer its students an unmatched world-class education. Our first and most important commitment is to student success, and we are at work every day crafting new opportunities that enhance our students’ learning and equip them with the skills they need to enter a competitive job market. In the last year, support from private donations has:

- **Funded** merit-based and need-based scholarships that help recruit, retain, and graduate the students who will become North Carolina’s next generation of scientists, public leaders, educators, economists, authors, historians, and more. We have been particularly grateful for scholarship support that enables students to gain their first international experience, because studying abroad heightens competence and competitiveness in an increasingly global economy.

- **Helped** bring the world of ideas to ECU’s campus and to the Greenville community through the acclaimed Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series [www.ecu.edu/voyages/](http://www.ecu.edu/voyages/). Now in its ninth year, the Series has attracted more than 23,000 students, faculty, staff, and the broader public to hear from some of the world’s foremost authorities in the sciences, the arts, and the humanities. Widely recognized as eastern North Carolina’s premier intellectual event, the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series relies on the support of alumni and friends of the college like you.

- **Advanced** the research mission of our college by facilitating the recruitment and retention of top faculty and by ensuring that East Carolina University is the go-to institution in our region for problem-solving expertise. Funds from donors like you help Harriot College host major international conferences, they support investigators in the field and in the laboratory, and they grant students unique opportunities to work on projects beyond the classroom.

Because of your charitable gifts today’s Harriot College students and faculty are blazing new trails in social and physical sciences, literature and languages, mathematics, and the humanities.

*Many thanks for your continued support!*
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences 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 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, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

As with any donor list of this magnitude, it is extremely difficult to ensure that there are no omissions or errors. We have made every effort to carefully check the listing of each contribution. If for some reason a name has been omitted, or incorrectly listed, please notify Harriot College’s Major Gifts Officer, Jennifer Tripp, at 252-737-4201, so that we can correct our records.

Thank you.

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