



Stocknotes

Commerce Club Publication for the College of Business

Fall 2008

Gift Supports New Risk and Insurance Program

The College of Business recently announced the creation of a \$50,000 endowment from the North Carolina Surplus Lines Association (NCSLA), a support agency for licensees who underwrite unique and hard-to-place risks. The endowment will support a new risk and insurance concentration being developed by the College's finance department.

"The NCSLA is a very strong advocate of education," NCSLA Past President Josh Chappell said. "Offering this gift to East Carolina is an outstanding opportunity for us to help the university create and strengthen its insurance program."

Chappell said the new risk and insurance concentration will allow his organization to introduce several students to the surplus lines industry, which makes up about seven percent of the total commercial insurance marketplace in the U.S.

"It is extremely important for us to attract young, talented people to the surplus lines industry – and why shouldn't they come from our home state colleges and universities?" Chappell said

Dr. Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said, "We are sincerely grateful to the NCSLA for its investment in

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ECU College of Business to Host Former U.S. Comptroller General

The College of Business at East Carolina University will host the Honorable David M. Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General, as its fourth speaker in the Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series.

Walker's presentation, which is free and open to the public, will be held at the Hilton Greenville on Nov. 5 at 3:30 p.m. U.S. Rep. Walter Jones is scheduled to attend the event and introduce the speaker.

In March 2008, Walker left his position as U.S. Comptroller General – serving as the nation's top auditor as well as head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He held both presidential appointments for 10 years.

Walker currently serves as president and chief executive officer of the newly-established Peter G. Peterson Foundation, an organization dedicated to increasing public awareness and action regarding several key issues facing the U.S. – including health care, energy, education, entitlement benefits, and national debt. The Peterson Foundation was established with a \$1 billion endowment by Peter Peterson, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce and senior chairman and co-founder of The Blackstone Group.

Dr. Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said, "Mr. Walker is a dynamic speaker with an important message for our country – we need to get our financial house in order. As one of the nation's foremost financial authorities, his insight will be both enriching and enlightening."

In July 2007, the College of Business announced the establishment of the Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series, made possible by a gift from alumni Steve and Ellen Cunanan of Richboro, Pa. Matching funds were also provided by the Johnson & Johnson Foundation. The Series is designed to bring distinguished leaders to Greenville, representing for-profit and non-profit firms, entrepreneurial activities, government, and public affairs. Topics highlight leadership, professional development, ethics, and the role of business in modern society.

Another upcoming installment of the Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series will feature Loretta Penn, chief service excellence officer of the Spherion Corporation, on Feb. 5. In addition, Erik Peterson, senior vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, will speak on April 2. Please mark your calendar!



The Honorable David M. Walker



College of Business *notes*

ECU Alumnus Creates New Diversity Enhancing Scholarship

The College of Business announced on July 29 the creation of a new diversity enhancing scholarship, thanks to a charitable gift from alumnus Danny Scott (MGMT '84) and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation Matching Gift Program. The \$52,000 endowment will fund the first diversity-based scholarship offered through an academic college at ECU.

The Danny R. Scott Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in the College of Business who contributes to educational diversity while demonstrating academic excellence and financial need. The amount of each scholarship will total \$2,300 per year.

"This scholarship is a way for me to help deserving students attain a quality education, while also reflecting the university's strong commitment to diversity and education," Scott said. "Student body diversity entails many dimensions, and I believe it's crucial to the classroom as well as campus life to include a wide array of backgrounds and perspectives to enhance the learning experience."

Scott lives near St. Louis, Mo., with his wife Connie Shelton, a 1985 graduate of ECU. He has worked with Anheuser-Busch for more than

19 years. Most recently, he was named vice president of diversity – a new position focused on developing and implementing Anheuser-Busch's company-wide strategy for diversity and inclusion.

"The College of Business is grateful to Danny Scott and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation for creating this new scholarship – an opportunity that will help our students while enriching ECU's academic environment," Dr. Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said.



Danny Scott (MGMT '84)

The first recipient of the Danny R. Scott Scholarship will be announced in April for the 2009-2010 academic year. Scholarship application forms will be available beginning Feb. 1, 2009, for this and other scholarships administered by the College of Business Scholarship Committee.

College of Business Honors Record Number of Scholarship Recipients

The College of Business recently announced a record number of scholarship recipients, recognizing 96 undergraduate and graduate students at a spring awards banquet. The scholarship amounts totaled \$120,000 for the 2008-2009 academic year – almost doubling last year's sum of \$65,000.

The 2008 College of Business Scholarship Awards Banquet was held on April 29 at the Hilton Greenville, where more than 250 people honored the recipients at a formal dinner. Participants included students, donors, ECU faculty and staff, as well as other special guests.

Dr. Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said, "These scholarships reflect the generosity of our alumni, faculty, and friends. They have shared their success so that others can succeed."

He continued, "The awards also celebrate those individuals who have accomplished high academic achievement, with the expectation that they will continue to lead and inspire future generations."

Scholarships are generated from endowments and funds designed to assist students enrolled in the ECU College of Business. Award recipients are selected annually by the College of Business Scholarship Committee.

For a complete listing of 2008-2009 scholarship recipients, please refer to page 20.

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our students." He continued, "Their support will help us provide top-notch instruction in the growing field of insurance, preparing today's students to become tomorrow's insurance professionals."

The fund established by the NCSLA will work in tandem with the recently announced gift from the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina, which established a faculty chair in support of the risk and insurance concentration.

The concentration will be developed by faculty during the 2008-2009 academic year.

The North Carolina Surplus Lines Association, a regulatory support organization by statute, provides support to surplus lines licensees committed to the wholesale distribution system and the surplus lines industry. The association provides networking, regulatory, legislative and education activities on behalf of its members.

Homecoming Social Planned for Nov. 8

Join us for the annual College of Business Homecoming Social!

The College of Business will host a Homecoming Social for alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends during the Homecoming Parade on Saturday, Nov. 8. Constituents and their families are invited to stop by for coffee, continental breakfast, and Pirate hospitality – and enjoy the Homecoming Parade.

The College of Business tent will be located across from the ECU Chancellor's residence on Fifth Street, in front of Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

The event is free and is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar!

Who: College of Business alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends

What: Annual College of Business Homecoming Social

Where: ECU Campus near Fifth Street, in front of Jenkins Fine Arts Center

When: Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

College of Business Launches Financial Wellness Institute

The College of Business recently formed the Financial Wellness Institute (FWI) – an entity designed to introduce basic personal finance to ECU students, faculty and staff, and the community.

Led by teaching instructor Mark Weitzel (FINA), the student outreach arm of FWI is primarily achieved through a for-credit personal finance class, FINA 1904, which is open to all majors. The course strives to teach practical, real-world information that students can apply to their everyday lives – such as developing a personal budget, understanding the dangers of credit cards, and learning how to be a smart consumer.

The course has been taught primarily by Len Rhodes, assistant dean for graduate programs; however, due to the popularity of FINA 1904, the course has grown to 500 students each semester to be taught by both Weitzel and Rhodes starting Fall 2008.

Weitzel also guest lectures to student organizations and other classes throughout the semester, helping students better understand the complexities of their personal finances – and hopefully sparking an interest in business.

In the future, the FWI plans to expand deeper into the ECU community. Earlier this year, for example, the FWI presented to ECU staff in Human Resources as part of training certification. Additionally, the HR department has agreed to sponsor a 10-course FWI lecture series in the fall that will be available to all ECU faculty and staff.

Ultimately, the FWI plans to offer its lectures and services to the general public. Details are still under development.

For more information about the FWI, please contact Mark Weitzel at weitzelm@ecu.edu or 252-328-9877.



Mark Weitzel
Director of the Financial
Wellness Institute

Faculty notes

College of Business Delivers Courses for State Farm Agents

The College of Business educated more than 100 State Farm representatives as part of the insurance company's 18-month "PhD Program," a series of seminars designed to develop agents' leadership skills and business acumen.

Coordinated by Department of Marketing & Supply Chain Management Chair Ken Anselmi, the College of Business offered an integrated curriculum of various courses and topics from May 14-15 and August 12-13.

Areas of study included thinking strategically, building teams, managing customer relationships, and planning for retirement.

Approximately 106 agents and area managers from across the mid-Atlantic attended the event.

"The State Farm program was built from scratch," Anselmi explained. "Starting with a blank slate, we surveyed agents and visited State Farm branches to determine which 23 courses and topics to offer. Ultimately, the design of the program was a team effort with 12 faculty and three staff members. It was very unique."

Faculty involved with the instruction included Scott Below, Mark Weitzel, James Nelson, Dan Schisler, Cal Christian, Mark McCarthy, Shanan Gibson, Joy Karriker, Lee Grubb, Judith Hunt, Richard Gooner and Judy Wagner. Staff included Amanda Lewis, Sharon Wall, and Jeff Hope.

State Farm initially contacted the College of Business several years ago about its "PhD Program," with the idea to incorporate a uni-

versity experience while bringing small business knowledge and skills to its representatives. As part of the event, Anselmi also coordinated a baseball game outing, dinner at the Murphy Center, and use of ECU Student Transit.

Mike Allen, agency field executive for State Farm Insurance Companies, said, "My agents were very impressed with the faculty and staff at ECU. I look forward to forging ahead with a long lasting, rewarding relationship."

Allen added that the experience at ECU reminded him of a book by Russell Conwell, called *Acres of Diamonds*.

"We search all over looking for the rewards of work and education – and the rewards are usually in our own backyards," Allen said. "ECU is a fine institution that is located in my backyard, and I am very delighted that I discovered it. I challenge all businesses and individuals in eastern North Carolina to take advantage of this great gem."



Department of Finance Chair Dr. Scott Below teaches a course during the State Farm "Ph.D. Program."



State Farm agents watch the Pirates take on UNC-Wilmington during a May 13 baseball outing.



Before attending an ECU baseball game, State Farm agents enjoy a cookout at ECU's Clark-LeClair Stadium

Schadler Honored for Excellence in Teaching

East Carolina University recently honored Associate Professor Frederick Schadler (FINA) with the 2008 Robert L. Jones Award for Outstanding Teaching – an annual award given to three instructors through the East Carolina Alumni Association. Schadler, a faculty member at ECU for more than 20 years, teaches investment classes to undergraduate and graduate students. He also instructs a new mutual funds management operations course offered through the MBA program.

“With so many outstanding instructors at ECU, it’s truly an honor to receive this award,” Schadler said. “I place a very high value on teaching and working with my students at all levels. It’s nice to be rewarded for something that I enjoy so much.”

Although his courses have the reputation of being difficult – only about 10% of his final grades are As – students consistently remark that they learn a lot of useful information from Schadler, especially through class projects using “real world” company data. Schadler said these projects are a relatively new addition to his coursework, based on evidence that students learn better with applied lecture.

“I expect a lot from my students. The course projects are challenging, and I don’t accept excuses,” Schadler explained. “In the end, I think this approach makes students more responsible and better learners.”

Named for Robert L. “Roddy” Jones (’58), former Chair of the ECU Board of Trustees and the UNC Board of Governors, the Robert L. Jones Award for Outstanding Teaching is given annually to three of the university’s finest educators. Jones currently resides in Raleigh, where he serves as Chairman of Davidson & Jones Hotel Corporation and Chairman of the Davidson and Jones Corporation.

Other College of Business finalists for 2008 university teaching awards included Dr. Michael Harris (MGMT), Dr. John Kros (MSCM), Dr. Kenneth MacLeod (MSCM), and Dr. Douglas Schneider (ACCT).



(Left to right) Dr. Lee Grubb, Dr. Michael Harris, Dr. John Kros, Dr. Frederick Schadler, and Dr. Kenneth MacLeod attend a teaching awards ceremony held April 29 at ECU.

Hunt Selected for 2008 BRIDGES Program



Dr. Judith Hunt (MGMT)

Associate Professor Judith Hunt (MGMT) was recently accepted into the 2008 BRIDGES program, a statewide professional development course for women in higher education.

Sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill, the annual program is designed to help women identify, understand, and move into leadership roles. To participate, women are selected through a competitive application process and review.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in BRIDGES,” Hunt said. “I look forward to honing my leadership skills while also networking with other women.”

In addition to Hunt, two other College of Business faculty members have participated in the program to date: Dr. Shanan Gibson (MGMT) graduated in 2007 and Dr. Margaret O’Hara, assistant dean for on-line programs, completed the program in 2006. O’Hara also serves on the BRIDGES Advisory Board.

BRIDGES sessions are held on four weekends every year from September to November. Since its inception in 1993, more than 500 women from public and private universities across North Carolina have completed the program. It is open to faculty members as well as administrators in higher education.

Faculty notes

Killingsworth Completes Service to UNC Faculty Assembly

Associate Professor Brenda Killingsworth (MIS) recently completed three years of service as chair of the UNC Faculty Assembly, the elected body of faculty representatives from the 16-campus UNC System.

In her role as chair, Killingsworth served as the chief liaison officer between the Assembly and the President of the University, the Board of Governors, and other agencies. She was first elected chair in Spring 2005 and was re-elected for two subsequent terms.

As part of her duties, she also served on the University of North Carolina Tomorrow Commission – a committee established to identify the needs facing N.C. over the next 20 years and develop and implement responses.

At a June 2008 Board of Governors meeting, UNC System President Erskine Bowles recognized Killingsworth's service. "Brenda's sacrifice of time and effort away from her family and from the University was a gift to all of us," Bowles said. "I know for a fact that Brenda has earned – and I mean absolutely earned – the trust and respect during this time period of

her colleagues, of the people here at General Administration, this board, our chancellors, and the people of North Carolina."

The Faculty Assembly also honored Killingsworth at the end of her term, presenting her with a resolution that noted her critical role in strengthening communication and collaboration, representing faculty views in working through challenging issues, and adopting innovative approaches that strengthened the effectiveness of the Faculty Assembly.

In addition to her extensive service throughout the years, Killingsworth has been recognized for her academic research, which has focused primarily on information systems for health care, labor markets, and higher education. She has earned awards from the U.S. Department of Labor, International Association of Personnel in Employment Security, and National Decision Sciences Institute.

Killingsworth has also been honored with numerous teaching excellence awards during her tenure at ECU. She has taught in the College of Business since 1987.



Dr. Brenda Killingsworth (left) stands with UNC System President Erskine Bowles, her mother Rennie Killingsworth, and daughter Sarah Kleckley at a UNC Tomorrow Community Forum held in Sylva, N.C.

ECU Finance Professors Win National Award

Two East Carolina University finance professors have received top honors for their paper exploring trends in the stock market.

College of Business Associate Dean Stanley Eakins and Assistant Professor Samuel Tibbs won the 2008 Charles H. Dow Award from the Market Technicians Association (MTA), honoring their excellence and creativity in technical analysis. William DeShurko, president of Ohio-based 401 Advisor, LLC, also co-authored the paper.

Eakins, Tibbs, and DeShurko were honored with individual plaques and a \$2,000 cash prize at an MTA symposium held May 16 in New

York City, where more than 300 people attended a special paper presentation.

The paper, titled "Using Style Index Momentum to Generate Alpha," explores how past performance can predict future performance when looking at certain groups of stocks.

The Charles H. Dow Award is named for the journalist who created the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the second oldest continuing U.S. market index. Dow also established The Wall Street Journal and co-founded Dow Jones & Company.

The award has been presented 11 times since 1994.



(Left to right) George A. Schade, Jr., chair of the Charles H. Dow Award Committee, presents a plaque to Assistant Professor Samuel Tibbs at an MTA symposium in New York City. (Not pictured: College of Business Associate Dean Stanley Eakins)

Westmoreland Recognized with University “Spirit Award”

East Carolina University honored Dr. Jim Westmoreland with the “Spirit Award” during a March 27 centennial celebration. The special recognition was one of 13 Centennial Awards for Excellence bestowed in 2008, with winners in the categories of leadership, service, spirit and ambition.

Westmoreland, who serves as associate dean for external affairs in the College of Business, has worked at ECU for more than 32 years. During the first six years of his career, he primarily worked with the Division of Student Life, focusing on campus living and orientation programs.

For the next 20 years, he worked with ECU Career Services – initially as assistant director and ultimately director. Since 2001, he has functioned as an ambassador for the College of Business, a role that involves connecting students, alumni, and faculty with each other.

“I try to support others wherever I am,” Westmoreland said. “Whether on campus or off, in my community/church, or with students traveling to D.C. or Australia, I want the best positive image for all persons associated with East Carolina University.”

Westmoreland earned his doctorate from N.C. State University in 1989. He also holds two masters degrees in counseling and adult education from ECU, as well as an undergraduate degree from ECU in political science/business.

Some of Westmoreland’s other recent honors include serving as keynote speaker for ECU’s Omicron Delta Kappa chapter – a national leadership honor society – in 2008. In 2006, he was honored for his outstanding leadership with student groups as the Student Activities Center’s banquet speaker/honoree. The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce recognized Westmoreland as Volunteer of the Year in 2004, commemorating his work with teen leadership programs.

“I see my own career as so much more than just a job,” he said. “I try to offer a positive spirit in whatever I do and wherever I interact with others. The motto of ECU – ‘to serve’ – has been one I have tried to live.”



Dr. Jim Westmoreland

Lewis Places First in Sickle Cell Fundraiser



Deborah Lewis

Deborah Lewis recently earned first place in her age group for the 2008 Walk 4 Sickle Cell fundraiser, held July 12.

Lewis, who serves as an administrative support associate for College of Business online programs, participated in the 5K run/walk event to benefit the N.C. Sickle Cell Foundation and ECU’s Camp Hope – a week-long camping experience for children with sickle cell disease.

Coordinated through Koinonia Christian Center Church in Greenville, the event raised \$27,000 through contributions with 449 people participating in the race.

Lewis also volunteers for the Food Literacy Partners Program of Pitt County and the Shepherd’s Helpers. In addition, she recently completed the City of Greenville Citizens’ Police Academy.

Alumni notes

2008

Anne Michelle Feyer (MGMT) is working as the Finance Manager at Feyer Ford and Mercury in Plymouth, N.C. She married Eric Feyer (COMM '06) in June 2007.

Christopher Freed (MGMT) plans to marry Aimee Rea on October 12, 2008. He will be entering active duty with the U.S. Air Force on November 17, 2008.

Chad Thompson (MBA) has been hired as Nortel's Common Platforms Product Line Manager in Raleigh.

Erica Wilson (MBA, MKTG '06) was hired as the Director of Membership and Convention Services at the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) in Wilmington, N.C. She did an internship with NACWAA starting in July 2007 and completed her MBA online.

2007

Elizabeth Anne Creech (MSA) was approved for licensure as a certified public accountant by the N.C. State Board of CPA Examiners.

Ashley Elizabeth Perkinson (MSA) was approved for licensure as a certified public accountant by the N.C. State Board of CPA Examiners.

Kelly Griffin Smith (MBA, MGMT '03) is Chief Financial Officer for Crabworks, LLC in Greenville.

Joseph Timothy Tomkiewicz (MBA, MGMT '06) married Amanda Ryan Kellar (ECU '07) in Lewisville, N.C., on April 5, 2008. The couple resides in Greenville, where Joe is a logistics manager for ABC Phones and Amanda is a nurse at PCMH.

2006

Wes Collins (MBA) is a brokerage associate with Vanguard in Charlotte.

Megan Handy (ACCT) married Sam Handy in St. Johnsbury, Vt., in October 2006. She has worked as financial analyst for Sony Electronics in San Diego since August 2007.

John Bradley Ipock (MSA, FINA '01) was approved for licensure as a certified public accountant by the N.C. State Board of CPA Examiners. He is employed by Dixon Hughes in Greenville.

Candace Cheryl Moore (MBA, MGMT '04) is a Banking Officer in

Commercial Lending with BB&T in Wilmington, N.C.

Alex Pappas (MSA) is a certified public accountant with H. Edwin Gray, CPA, P.A. in Greenville.

Mark Edward Shafer (MGMT & FINA) married Amber Brittany Story (ECU '07) in Greenville on April 5, 2008. Mark is an associate for AFLAC Insurance in Raleigh.

Leanne Teal (ACCT) is employed in the North Carolina State Auditor's office in Raleigh.

2005

Melissa Callaway (MBA) recently began employment with Brown & Caldwell, a full-service environmental engineering and consulting firm with 45 offices and 1,500+ professionals across the country. She is living and working in Raleigh.

Sarah Lindsay Dixon (FINA) married Tyler Allen Pate on April 5, 2008, in Winterville. She is employed by Pitt County Memorial Hospital as the Regional Pharmacy Accounting Coordinator.

Nicholas Gerich (DSCI) is employed with Chickasaw Nation Industries in Albuquerque, N.M.

Cristina Meilicke (MBA, MGMT '04) is the Latin American Coordinator for NACCO in Greenville. She and her husband, Francisco Lopez, live in Winterville.

Shalinee Prasada (BSA/MSA) of Rocky Mount was certified as a CPA after two years with Oettinger & Norwood and two years with H&R Block. In 2003, she became an enrolled agent with the IRS.



Jeana Schmidt (MBA, MGMT '03)

Jeana Schmidt (MBA, MGMT '03) works with SAS Institute as a Pricing Analyst for U.S. Federal Government Operations at SAS Headquarters in Cary, N.C.

Robert Dennis Strickland III (MBA, ACCT '03) is a business banker with BB&T in Raleigh, where he and his wife Elisabeth reside.

2004

Brian Drew (MBA, MGMT '97) is currently working with EMBARQ as an Outside Plant Supervisor. He has been with EMBARQ for 10 years and recently moved from Greenville to Fayetteville due to promotion. He and his wife Joy have a five-month-old daughter named Emily Joy.

Stephen Richard King (MSA) was approved for licensure as a certified public accountant by the N.C. State Board of CPA Examiners.

Todd Slagle (MBA) works at The Cedars of Chapel Hill as a home care and clinic office manager. He primarily focuses on payroll, billing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budgeting, and scheduling.

David Orzo Thigpen (MBA) is working with USDA Rural Development in the North Carolina State office. Working as a business programs specialist, he reviews business and industry loans and issues government guarantees for commercial lenders on eligible loans.

Muharrem Tulumoglu (MBA) has been working for Bayyurt Marble Inc. in Clifton, N.J. for 3½ years. He started in accounting and is currently serving as the general manager of the company.

John Tyson (FINA) has been named assistant treasurer for Select Bank & Trust Co., a Greenville-based bank. Since joining Select Bank in November 2004, he has served as a teller and customer service representative and has worked in loan operations. His new responsibilities include general accounting, investment portfolio accounting, and asset and liability management. He is currently pursuing his MBA at ECU.

Vernon James Webb (FINA) accepted a job as credit compliance officer with Waccamaw Bank in Whiteville. He reports directly to the chief credit officer and was specifically hired to help start a centralized commercial lending department. He also recently became engaged to Jennifer Dail.

Lori Ann Grady Worley (MBA) is Area Finance & Planning Manager for Softwood Lumber Technologies – Atlantic Area for Weyerhaeuser. She and her husband Christopher live in New Bern.

2003

Kendall Barnes (MKTG) was hired as the Senior Media Planner at MarketSmart Advertising in Morrisville, N.C.

Nicole Collier (MBA, FINA '00) is the Grants Manager for Virginia Beach City Public Schools. She and her husband Derick live in Chesapeake, Va.

Johnny Corbett (MGMT) is Banking Center Manager and Assistant Vice President for Bank of America in Greenville. At the end of 2007, he received the Divisional Award of Excellence, the highest recognition awarded by Bank of America's Community Division. Johnny plans to marry Heather Foreman (ECU '04) in October.

Julianne Elliott Cordon (MBA, FINA '00) is Controller for Metaldyne, Inc. in Whitsett, N.C. She and her husband Troy live in Graham.

Robert Creech (DSCI) was recently promoted to Network Engineer at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, N.C. He serves on ECU's Department of Technology Systems – Information and Computer Technology Advisory Board.

Bo Gregory (MBA) was promoted to Statewide Economic Developer for the N.C. Department of Commerce's Business & Industry Division. He is currently focusing on the Defense Sector and Canadian businesses looking to relocate their facilities to North Carolina.

Regina McCoy (FINA) lives in Washington, D.C., and works for BB&T.

Kimberly Bond Rabago (ACCT) is working at Ernst & Young in Austin, Tex. She received her Masters in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006 and married Tim Rabago in 2007.

Cassandra Robinson (MSA, Math '96), a senior internal auditor with BB&T in Winston-Salem, was promoted to banking officer.

Melissa Green Short (MBA) and her husband, Brian (MD '02), are the proud parents of a baby girl, Caroline Elizabeth, born May 18. The Shorts live in Raleigh.



Caroline Short

John C. Southern III (MBA, MGMT '02), branch operations manager, has been promoted to banking officer with the 1422 Carolina Ave., Washington, branch of The East Carolina Bank. He has been with ECB since October 2005.

Trevor Strauss (MBA) recently accepted the position of Marketing Consultant for Merritt Hawkins & Associates, the largest permanent physician recruiting firm in the nation, specializing in the New York and New Jersey marketplace. Trevor lives and works out of Atlanta, Ga.

Brianne Clark Voelp (MSA) and her husband had their first child, a son named Owen, in July 2007. They recently sold their house in Ayden and are moving to Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alumni notes

2002

Vernon Gerald “Jerry” Childs III (DSCI) and his wife Georgia (HHP '93 and '95) of Greenville had a son, Vernon Gerald “Jeremy” Childs IV, on December 12. Jerry is a technology consultant at ECU.

Erica Fazio Dewar (MBA) is Assistant Controller for Marymount Manhattan College of New York, N.Y. She and her husband Andrew live in Manorville, N.Y.

Carlton “Wayne” Evans II (ACCT) was promoted to partner at Tatum & Edwards CPAs, PA on January 1, 2007. He is the co-founder of Converting Hearts Ministry for Addicted Men, established on July 13, 2007.

Martin Henderson (MBA, MKTG '00) is Territory Global Services Leader for IBM. He lives and works in the Atlanta area.

Tara Lilley (MBA) married Gabe Hardison (ECU '96) on May 31, 2008. Tara is employed as BB&T Bankcard Services Online Products Manager in Wilson. The couple lives in Winterville.

Amanda Love Markovitch (MBA, MGMT '01) has been named Product Manager – Mechanical Filtration for a North Carolina-based manufacturer of laboratory safety equipment. Her role involves selling and marketing ductless containment solutions to Pharmaceutical and Life Science companies, among other markets. She has been with the company for five years and has recently been inducted into the President's Circle.

Frederick Moreno (MKTG) has returned to Raleigh to attend N.C. Central University Law School after working with Wells Fargo Bank in Charlotte for five years. Upon completion of his first year, he has made the Dean's list and has received a full tuition scholarship based on academic performance. His summer internship involved working directly with the corporate counsel of a Fortune 500 company.

Mike Sandlin (FINA) has received his Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation from the College of Financial Planning. He is a Financial Advisor for Scott & Stringfellow, Inc. in the firm's Raleigh office. He also holds his Series 7, 66, and 31 licenses in addition to his life and health insurance licenses.

Caroline Toumey (FINA) married Henry Dellinger on February 2, 2008, in Charlotte. She is the Human Resources Manager of Bobcats Sports and Entertainment in Charlotte.

Amanda Turner (ACCT) recently accepted a position with Collins Kemp & Patterson, PLLC, in Red Springs, N.C., as Senior Accountant.

James (“Jim”) M. Wallace (MBA) is a Financial Advisor with AXA Advisors in Raleigh, N.C.

2001

Mary Ruth Davis Brantley (MBA, MKTG '00) married Michael Sikes on May 10, 2008. She is an Account Manager at DSM Pharmaceuticals in Greenville, and the couple resides in Winterville.

Ginger Perry (ACCT) is a Senior Tax Analyst for Freddie Mac in Annandale, Va.

Christi J. Roark (ACCT) has been promoted to Assistant Vice President at First South Bank. As the assistant controller, her responsibilities include preparation of financial and regulatory reporting, financial analysis, cash management, and forecasting reports. She also assists with the management of the bank's liquidity portfolio, borrowings, investment analysis and other financial activities.

Megan Oliver Styron (MGMT) is Operations Team Leader for Wachovia Bank in Winterville.

John R. Wiley (BSA/MSA) is Technical Manager for the AICPA's Professional Ethics Division in Durham. He and his wife Katherine reside in Wake Forest.

2000

Jeff Baucom (MGMT) has been working with the State Employees' Credit Union since graduation in 2000. He is Vice President/City Executive of the Indian Trail branch of the SECU.

Brian Cook (ACCT) recently started a company called Draw My Home LLC in Virginia. The firm creates two and three dimensional floor plans for real estate agents.

Ibrahim Khan (MGMT) received his MBA from a private university in St. Louis, Mo., in 2002. He has been employed with the Boeing Company for more than eight years. He is happily married to Sadia Khan (ECU '03), and they have a two year-old son, Haroon.

Bridget Maklos (DSCI) is an AES Programmer for UFJPI in MacClenny, Fla.

1999

Mance Edmondson Jr. (MKTG) is Senior Vice President of Equity Trading for FBR Capital Markets in Arlington, Va. He and his wife Sara live in Washington, D.C.

John Larew (MGMT) is the Director of Information Technology at UCHS. He lives in Cornelius, N.C.

Leigh LeClair (MBA) is now the Verizon Alliance Program Manager at Lenovo International, servicing the Americas Group. Her new position involves working with both the Field and Inside Sales Representatives – helping with sales and activation of Wireless WAN networking products embedded on Lenovo Thinkpad computers. She lives in Cary.

Matthew Levine (MBA, FINA '98) is a Manager with BearingPoint in the Triangle area and lives in Fuquay-Varina.

1998

Rebecca Amos (MKTG) works in marketing for Sysco Foodservice in Suffolk, Va. She and her husband Rick live in Chesapeake, Va.

T.D. Gribble (MBA, MGMT '95) and his wife Dana are the proud parents of a baby boy, Anthony David Gribble, Jr. born March 3, 2008. T.D. teaches in the Department of Management at ECU.

Linda L. Miles (FINA) earned her Ph.D. in Finance from The Pennsylvania State University. She resides in Bloomington, Ill.

Dari Payrow (MKTG) is a National Manager of Enterprise Sales for American Fiber Systems in Atlanta.

1997

David L. Warner (FINA, BUSA '84) has been in the investment industry since 1997 and with Evergreen Investments since 2000. He lives in Charlotte but travels every week to his territory in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. David currently holds his Series 7, 24, 63, and 65 licenses and is working toward his Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA) designation.



**Sean Frelke
(MBA '96)**

1996

Sean Frelke (MBA) is a Senior Vice President and Private Client Advisor in Private Wealth Management with SunTrust Bank in Wilmington, N.C.

1995

John Haney (MSA) is Tax Manager for Bennett Thrasher CPAs in Raleigh.

1994

Lindsey Crisp (ACCT), who serves as President and CEO of Carver Machine Works, Inc., located in Washington, N.C., recently announced the completion of the company's 50,000 square foot expansion. This expansion represents \$3 million in new facilities and \$1 million in additional equipment. Carver Machine Works (CMW) is a metal fabrication and rebuild facility servicing the chemical, paper, power generation, defense and aerospace industries. Lindsey is a licensed CPA in North Carolina and serves on ECU's engineering advisory board.

1993

Dean Taylor (MBA, MKTG '91) has been named director of retail sales for the Carolinas, Tennessee Region for Verizon Wireless. He will be responsible for directing store operations, employee development and productivity, customer retention initiatives and meeting the region's sales goals and objectives. He will manage the staff and operations of more than 156 retail store and kiosk locations throughout the Carolinas and Tennessee.

1991

Audrey Elizabeth Ellis (MKTG) is employed with El Segundo Family Chiropractic and lives in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Jon L. Frank (FINA) is Vice President and Controller of NCI Information Systems, Inc. in Reston, VA. He and his wife Buffy live in Bristow, Va.

Shelley Harvey Tubaugh (MBA) was promoted to Vice President of Human Resources at Grady-White Boats in Greenville after working in customer service, marketing, and purchasing at the company since 1988.

Howard T. Wood (MKTG) is the owner of a business called Laundrymen in Durham.

1990

Chris Dunn (MKTG) and his wife, Rebecca Robertson Dunn (ECU '94) recently adopted a son, C.J., who was born in August 2007. Chris is the Executive Director of the Arts Council of Moore County in Southwestern Pines, N.C., and a freelance musician on trumpet.

Alumni notes

Sharon Dixon Justice (MBA, MGMT '87) was recently promoted to Senior Vice President with Wachovia Bank. As a Senior Human Resources Business Partner, she supports commercial, business, and community banking segments for the corporation. She and her husband **Charlie (MBA '91)** reside in Greenville with their two children.

Lt. Colonel Rob Morris (MGMT) is the Deputy Director for Plans and Programs, Job Interagency Task Force South, in Key West, Fla. An Air Force ROTC participant at ECU, he has been in the Air Force for 16 years. Rob and his wife Deb have two daughters, Olivia (7) and Emma (4).

Stephanie Quinn Morris (MGMT) is a Physician Recruitment Coordinator at Lenoir Memorial Hospital in Kinston. She and her husband Kenneth live in Trent Woods, N.C.

1989

Marcie Hartner Blong (ACCT) has worked at Bank of America for the last 12 years in Charlotte, N.C. During that time, she has managed the SEC Reporting Group for the bank, working on press releases, the annual report, and SEC filings. After this position, she worked in a variety of other areas at the bank, including Finance and Human Resource/Compensation positions.

Lisa Horne Buffaloe (FINA) is a Budget Analyst for the Public Works Commission in Eastover, N.C.

Scott R. Kirtland (MKTG) is co-founder and partner of Knightsbridge Surety Brokerage in Manhattan, N.Y., specializing in Surety Bonds and Insurance.

1987

Don Hale (FINA) was honored for 10 years of service with Community Health Systems, the largest publicly traded hospital company in the U.S. As senior regional director for patient financial services, he oversees the business office and patient access operations for 14 hospitals in six states. He, his wife Sylvia, and their daughter, Ashton, live at Lake Norman.

1985

Terry Daniels Boykin (MKTG) of Clayton, a financial systems coordinator, was promoted to vice president at BB&T after 21 years with the bank.

Sonya Keel (ACCT) of Nashville joined the Oettinger & Norwood firm in Rocky Mount. Originally from Williamston, she is a CPA with 20 years of experience in public and private accounting, and she is involved in her church's youth programs.

Will Yarborough (MBA, MGMT '78) is CEO of the U.S. Postal Service Federal Credit Union, which recently merged with the Raleigh Post Office Employees' Federal Credit Union. In addition to the new Raleigh office, USPS FCU serves postal employees and their families in all 50 states through locations in Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and Los Angeles. Yarborough is also a member of the ECU Business Advisory Council.



Will Yarborough (MBA '85, MGMT '78)

1984

Michael Gudely (MBA, DSCI '82) was named president of the Carolina Commerce Bank after four years as COO of American Community Bank. He and his wife Teresa (NURS '80) live in Charlotte.

Mike Odom (MGMT) and his wife Sherrie (PHYSTHER '85) opened Greenville Physical Therapy & Associates Inc. in April. Sherry is president and manager of clinical services, and Mike is the business manager for the practice. Mike has more than 20 years of experience in the dealer financial services division of Wachovia.

Patricia "Pat" Williams (FINA), an employee of the law firm White & Allen PA since 1977, retired after 40 total years of service to the legal community.

1983

Joseph W. Clark (MGMT), of Durham, was recently recognized as "Lifetime Certified Local Governmental Purchasing Officer" and "Purchaser of the Year" by the Carolina Association of Governmental Purchasing (CAGP). Joseph currently works for the City of Durham as Purchasing Manager/Deputy Finance Officer. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the CAGP as Treasurer.

1982

Kim Kermon (ACCT) is the Accounting Manager for Jones Insurance Agency in Garner, N.C. She has been with this independent agency for more than three years and is very excited about working in a paperless environment. She spends her spare time with family and friends at Pleasure Island and has reunited with many ECU graduates at the beach.

Wayne E. Murphy (MKTG), Senior Vice President of Southern Bank, has been promoted to Regional Supervisor of the bank's central region, which includes Martin, Edgecombe, and Pitt Counties. He has been employed by Southern Bank since 1995 and has more than 24 years of experience in the financial industry. Wayne is also a board member of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce and an advisory board member of the Northeastern Entrepreneurial Roundtable (NEER).

1981

Randy K. Langley (MKTG) of Battleboro is the new account manager with The Parks Agency of Nationwide Insurance.

Sky Larsen (MKTG) is the circulation supervisor at the public library in downtown Scottsdale, Ariz.

1974

Tom Southern (BUSA) has qualified for MassMutual's Leader's Club, an award given to the top 10% of financial services professionals representing MassMutual. Southern lives and works in New Bern.



**Tom Southern
(BUSA '74)**

1973

Ed Carlson (MBA, BUSA '73) retired in March after a 35-year sales leadership career in the telecommunications industry with Bell South, AT&T, and Lucent Technologies.

1971

Richard "Ric" Cox (ACCT), a certified public accountant and managing member of BVL Consulting Group LLC, has earned the professional accreditation of Certified Forensic Financial Analyst (CFFA) awarded by the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts.

1967

Eddie Cockman (BUSA) has retired after working for a Norwegian company for the past 15 years, with his last assignment in Brazil.

In Memoriam

2000s

Alicia Ann Robinson (FINA and ACCT '04), age 29, died April 22, 2008, after a four-year battle with breast cancer. She was employed by Boddie-Noell of Rocky Mount in the accounting department. She lived in Rocky Mount, N.C., and enjoyed quilting, sewing, cooking, racing, baseball, football, and going to the beach.

Tina Michelle Vandiford-Roberson (MKTG '01) died June 24, 2008, from cancer. She was pursuing her nursing degree at ECU at the time of her death and was scheduled to graduate in December 2008.

1990s

Kristina L. Bryan Hobbs (ACCT '96) died January 9. She worked at the ECU Cashier's Office, was an artist, and served as a member of Covenant United Methodist Church. She enjoyed spending time with her daughter, Sophie.

Mary Duval Renn (ACCT '92) died January 1. For 20 years, until her 2002 retirement, she was an accountant for AccuCopy. She was a member of the Young Life Committee of Pitt County.

Tull H. Worthington Sr. (MBA '90, FINA '88) of Greenville died December 24. A Winterville native, he served in the Air Force during the Korean War and was later a farmer, cucumber broker, co-owner of Keel's Tobacco Warehouse, and member of the Eastern Antique Tractor Club.

1980s

Duane Daugherty (MBA '80, MKTG '78) died April 8, 2008.

1960s

Harold J. Mills (BUSA '66) died March 22, 2008. After graduating from ECU, he was employed at Fieldcrest Mills for a short time and began working with Burroughs-Wellcome as an accountant, retiring in 1993 after 24 years of service.

Robert L. Powell Jr. (BUSA '67) of Springfield, Ore., died December 8. For 32 years, he was an agent with Ward Insurance in Springfield. Memorials may be made to the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center.

1950s

Robert Houston Broome III (BUSA '58) of Greensboro died Jan. 22. He worked for the N.C. Department of Transportation for 30 years before retiring as a division right-of-way agent.

Please e-mail updates on yourself
or classmates to cclub@ecu.edu

Alumni notes

Alumni Highlight: Wanda Burgamy (MKTG '80)

When Wanda Hayes Burgamy (MKTG '80) first came to East Carolina University, she planned to study the piano and become a music therapist. She switched to business, however, after talking with her father one weekend at home in Hampton, Va. – choosing a major that would give her a more well-rounded degree.

Today, Burgamy works as a business development manager for Dell, leading the company's strategic programs for education, state, and local government. As part of her responsibilities, she handles projects that include classroom technologies and integrated learning for clients across the country, as well as in-vehicle computer technology for police cars.

Burgamy says she uses the business principles she learned at ECU every day in her work with Dell. And, having played the piano since she was six years old, she also credits her musical training for keying in a unique skill that has been invaluable: seeing the big picture.

In addition to working with Dell, which involves telecommuting from her beach home in Nags Head, Burgamy keeps many irons in the fire. She teaches several business classes at the College of the Albemarle and is currently working on three different books – all while pursuing her Doctor of Management online in Organizational Leadership from the University of Phoenix.

"I'm a lifelong learner," Burgamy explained. "I think the day I stop learning will be the day I die."

Burgamy plans to earn her D.M. by Spring 2009. Growing up with a mother who served in an executive management position in the 1970s and 1980s, Burgamy chose a dissertation topic that explores the gender influence on leadership. More specifically, her dissertation, which examines gender differences in technology leadership, is influenced by both her own personal experiences and watching those of her mother in the workplace during her youth.

"I don't think we're that different," Burgamy said, talking about her dissertation work. "We can all lead and guide if we want to – a person's title or gender doesn't matter."

Before moving back to North Carolina in 2006, Burgamy worked for the government as a computer programmer in Washington, D.C., until 1990. She then moved to Atlanta, where she lived for 17 years – first serving as an IT project manager and application developer. She then worked as global operations manager



Wanda Burgamy (MKTG '80)

for EMC Corporation, a leading manufacturer of software and systems for information management and storage.

While in Atlanta, she also earned her MBA from Georgia State University in 1996 – the same year she met her husband. Burgamy says the information she learned at Georgia State helped reinforce what she had previously learned at ECU.

"Many people find it odd that I studied marketing at ECU but ended up in technology," Burgamy said. "It all goes back to the ability to see the big picture and solve problems. Both fields are about creating something, and I like to build the future."

Burgamy says she's excited about the new curriculum changes in the College of Business, which will teach leadership and other "soft skills."

"In my experience, leadership skills are critical," she said. "You make choices everyday to lead yourself or lead others. Teaching these skills will put ECU in a unique position."

"I look forward to coming back to campus and being a guest speaker to share my leadership experiences. I have a strong desire to help others, and I love giving back to ECU."

"I'm a lifelong learner. I think the day I stop learning will be the day I die"
-- Wanda Burgamy

Alumni Highlight: Jerry Chase (MKTG '81)

A self-described “tumbleweed,” Jerry Chase (MKTG '81) has traveled to places near and far.

With a father in the Marine Corps, Chase's family enjoyed living in places such as Japan, New York, Virginia, and South Carolina throughout his childhood. Ultimately, he landed in eastern North Carolina during his teen years, attending White Oak High School in Jacksonville. That's when he began to hear a lot about Chancellor Leo Jenkins and exciting developments taking place in Greenville – so he decided ECU was the place for him.

“ECU was a turning point for me,” Chase said. “I wasn't a good student in high school, and I wasn't involved. Leo Jenkins was the Chancellor of ECU at the time. He was a remarkable leader and was passionate about growing the university and developing eastern North Carolina. He seemed to be everywhere and was frequently covered in the media. His charisma and vision for the university and the region were big reasons I became excited by ECU.”

Chase enrolled at ECU in 1978, immersing himself in his studies as well as the university culture. He loved campus life so much that he lived in Belk Hall for three years. Despite having a car, Chase says he rarely ventured beyond the boundaries of ECU – even for groceries. “I remember a wonderful environment of learning and cultural experiences at East Carolina,” Chase explained. “It was a life changing experience for me, bridging the gap between where I was and where I wanted to be.”

Graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1981 with a marketing concentration, Chase joined the Marine Corps to become an infantry officer. Instead of an infantry officer, however, the Marine Corps needed aviators, so he was recruited to fly airplanes based mostly out of Cherry Point, N.C. During his service to the military, Chase says he built a strong foundation for leadership, process, and crisis management.

After 6½ years of flying, he decided to earn an MBA rather than transition to the civilian world by working as a commercial pilot, a path many of his friends chose. Chase said he wanted to take his learnings and go to the next step, so he applied to only one place – Harvard Business School – and was accepted, graduating with honors in 1989.

Over the past 20 years, Chase has established a strong reputation as an effective leader who can guide companies in the right direction. He has spent a significant portion of his career leading companies that



Jerry Chase (MKTG '81)

require turnaround management. A recent example is Terayon Communication Systems, Inc., which he and his team sold to Motorola in July 2007.

In February of this year, Chase was named president and chief executive officer of Lantronix, Inc. – a leading but unprofitable innovator in device networking and data center management technologies. He now lives in the San Francisco Bay area with his wife, and he commutes to the company's headquarters in southern California.

“I remember a wonderful environment of learning and cultural experiences at East Carolina. It was a life changing experience for me, bridging the gap between where I was and where I wanted to be” -- Jerry Chase

Although Chase lives on the West Coast, he still maintains strong ties to ECU – including service as a board member of the BB&T Leadership Center.

“When I think back to my days at ECU, I remember a very supportive, interested group of professors who shared Jenkins' vision of what ECU could be,” Chase said. “It's exciting to see many of those visions becoming a reality today.”

Alumni notes

Alumni Highlight: Donna Phillips (MKTG '91, MBA '94)



Donna Phillips
(MKTG '91, MBA '94)

As a Senior Economic Developer with the N.C. Department of Commerce, Donna Phillips' typical day is anything but typical.

Phillips currently covers both the Eastern Regional Office in Greenville and the Northeastern Regional Office in Edenton – an area that spans 29 counties. From local businesses to multinational corporations, Phillips is responsible for all recruitment efforts in her region, including building /site searches, data collection, preparation of proposals, client visits/tours and all appropriate follow up.

"I knew nothing about economic development while attending ECU," Phillips said. "I knew I wanted to pursue marketing in some way, but never did I imagine I would be marketing the State of North Carolina."

Originally from Murfreesboro, N.C., Phillips began a career in economic development after earning her MBA in 1994. She initially worked as a marketing assistant for the Wayne County Economic Development Commission, where she also helped the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce.

From 1995 to 1999, she served as assistant director for the Duplin County Economic Development Commission. Since that time, she has worked with the N.C. Department of Commerce's Business/Industry Division – with the mission to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for all North Carolinians.

Known for her strong interpersonal skills and ability to work a deal, Phillips says she applies every aspect of her education to her profession – from accounting to marketing. She was recently awarded the N.C. Department of Commerce Excellence Award for Creativity, recognizing the respect and integrity she has for herself and others, as well as her vast knowledge of expertise while working on a new Client Relationship Management System. Phillips was nominated by her co-workers, which she says is the highest honor one can receive.

When asked about her most memorable professors, Phillips listed Dr. Maggie Capen, Dr. Havva Meric, and Don Boldt as her favorites.

"I had some wonderful professors during my tenure at ECU. Dr. Capen taught me to love statistics, Dr. Meric taught me everything about marketing, and Mr. Boldt taught me about to believe in myself and how to be a true professional," Phillips said.

In addition to her career, she stays active in the community while also juggling a family. Phillips and her husband, Tommy Askew, especially enjoy time with their recent addition – a three-year-old son, Carter.

"I love my family, and at the end of the day, I enjoy the personal reward of helping others find employment so they can provide for their families," Phillips explained. "Some of my proudest accomplishments are to see a building that has been available for a while get new life with a new company and put people back to work."

"I still get the same warm, fuzzy feeling every time a project decides to come to N.C. – no matter how big or small."

Four Alumni Join Staff of Albemarle Bank & Trust

Four ECU alumni recently joined the staff of Albemarle Bank & Trust (AB&T), a de novo bank that will be headquartered in Edenton, N.C., with current loan production offices located in Edenton and Greenville.

Melissa D. Marsal (HIST '92) serves as AB&T's executive vice president and chief marketing officer. Michael D. Holt (MBA '04) is assistant vice president and business banker for AB&T. D. Paul Powers, Jr. (FINA '92, MBA '94) serves as executive vice president and regional president of AB&T. L. Christopher Haddock (ACCT '96) is vice president and city executive of AB&T. All four alumni work in AB&T's newly opened Greenville loan production office.

AB&T has filed its formal applications with the State Banking Commission and hopes to open its first full-service branch in Edenton in Fall 2008.



(Left to right) Alumni Melissa Marsal, Michael Holt, Paul Powers, and Chris Haddock comprise the staff of the new Albemarle Bank & Trust loan production office in Greenville.

Reese Chosen Most Promising Woman Entrepreneur of 2008

Recent ECU graduate Marie Watkins Reese (MGMT '08) has been named the Most Promising Woman Entrepreneur of 2008 by the Greenville Business and Professional Women's Network (BPWN).

Reese, who received the award in April as a senior, served as a mentor and tutor to student athletes during her time at ECU. A member of various honors organizations, she was recognized for her managerial traits, financial responsibility, and overall strong business sense.

The BPWN honored Reese with a cash award of \$500 and plaque. The runners-up, Carla Olive (MGMT '08) and Paige Wagoner (MGMT '08), each received a cash award of \$250. A separate plaque with the winner's name and all previous recipients will be displayed in the Bate Building at ECU.

Each year, the BPWN collaborates with the College of Business to honor the Most Promising Woman Entrepreneur. Michael Harris, director of the Small Business Institute at ECU and assistant professor in the Department of Management, nominates three candidates who are then interviewed by the BPWN awards committee. The committee selects a winner based upon academic performance, community interaction, and future plans.

The BPWN was established on January 1, 2006, after a merger between the Women Business Owners and Women's Network. The mission of the BPWN is to promote and enhance the professional standing of women in Pitt County.



(Left to right) Carla Olive, Marie Reese, Paige Wagoner, and Dr. Michael Harris (MGMT) attend the annual BPWN awards ceremony.

Couple Found Romance in Management Course



Rick, Chase, and Lyndsi Herring.

When Rick Herring (MD/MBA '04) and Lyndsi Taylor Herring (MA '03) first enrolled in Professor Topé Bello's International Management course, they expected to learn about organizations in the global economy. Little did they know, however, that they would also find their future spouse within the walls of Bate.

It all began in Fall 2001, when they attended the same MGMT 6322 night class. Rick Herring noticed Lyndsi on the first day, when she volunteered to serve as Bello's attendance taker to earn some extra "brownie points."

During a break, the two chatted and discovered they lived in the same apartment complex. Soon afterward, a group of Bello's students began a tradition of going out to dinner after class – the two became fast friends and were soon a couple.

Following a proposal in Venice, Italy, the Herrings were married on June 5, 2004. They currently live in Charlottesville, Va., where Rick is pursuing a two-year fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at the University of Virginia. Lyndsi, who earned her MA in Industrial / Organizational Psychology, teaches several online classes for ECU's Department of Psychology while also taking care of their two-year-old son, Chase.

They are expecting another child in November – a baby girl.

Student notes

Finance Student Elected Student Body President

The student body at ECU recently elected senior finance student Andrew Griffin as 2008-2009 president of the Student Government Association, the official representative governing body for ECU students.

He won the election on March 26 after a record turnout of 3,431 student voters – 500 more voters than the previous student election. He took office on April 28.

Originally from Fuquay-Varina, N.C., Griffin previously served as vice president during the 2007-2008 academic year. He said this experience inspired him to continue his student government involvement.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to lead ECU’s student body,” Griffin said. “The campaign was a grueling process, but I’m proud of the positive campaign my team ran. Now I can fully immerse myself into ECU activities and focus on doing the best job possible.”

In addition to student government activities, Griffin is involved with Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, ECU Rugby, Ducks Unlimited, and Order of Omega – a co-ed honor society that recognizes the top three percent of fraternity and sorority members at ECU by their grade point average.

Griffin plans to pursue his MBA at East Carolina after completing his undergraduate course work.



Andrew Griffin, a senior finance major and president of the Student Government Association, is sworn into office while his parents Jeff and Kay Griffin look on. The ceremony was held during an ECU Board of Trustees meeting held July 17.

Photo courtesy of Marc Kawanishi.

MBA Students Win Second Place in Statewide Case Competition

A team of three ECU students recently won second place in the 21st Annual Graduate Business Student Competition, sponsored by the North Carolina Small Business Technology and Development Center (SBTDC).

As part of the statewide competition, MBA team members Eron Earley-Thiele, Stephanie Edwards, and Gregory Hodges worked with a client company all semester, provided in depth counseling, and then presented a written case report and oral presentation before a panel of judges in Chapel Hill, competing against other universities.

Len Rhodes, assistant dean for graduate programs, and Dr. David West (MSCM) served as faculty liaisons for the team. Business counselor Debbie Hathaway functioned as SBTDC advisor.

For the competition, ECU’s team worked with the university’s Student Transit Authority (ECUSTA), which is responsible for providing transit services to and from ECU’s main campus.

According to Rhodes, ECUSTA faced several challenges, especially the perception that buses were running inefficiently. After analyzing departmental and industry ridership data, as well as comparing ECU to other collegiate systems, the MBA team generated key recommendations for improvement.

Several of the team’s suggestions have already been implemented with positive results. ECUSTA general manager Wood Davidson said his group planned to test the remainder of the team’s recommendations and permanently adopt those that will make a positive impact on service.

“One of the most important benefits of this competition is that students get to apply what they have learned in the classroom to a real life problem,” Rhodes said. “They also learn that businesses don’t always operate as textbooks say they do. It’s a true hands-on learning experience.”



(Left to right) Gregory Hodges, Stephanie Edwards, Wood Davidson (client), Eron Earley-Thiele.

Local Physician Earns MBA Online

In a normal day, OB/GYN physician and Assistant Professor Tom Kraemer examines dozens of patients, performs surgery, and helps educate resident physicians at The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. He also began serving as division head of Gynecology last year, which added the role of managing the department's faculty practice site – ECU Women's Physicians – to his duties.

Sometime during his hectic schedule, Kraemer carves out an hour or two for his MBA studies.

Kraemer decided he needed formal business training in 2006, shortly after he was appointed to Brody's Medical Practice Planning Board. He soon enrolled in the MBA program at ECU, tackling one online course per semester so he could better understand the hospital's financial side.

With five classes under his belt to date, Kraemer says his business education has already proved useful.

"Every class I've taken so far has been helpful," Kraemer said. "I'm always learning how to do something better – from understanding spreadsheets to helping motivate people. I've even discovered ways to provide better patient care using information I've learned."

Being an online student has its challenges, however. Kraemer said the hardest part of distance education in the MBA program is the homework so far.

"Business is much different than medicine," he explained. "After 20 years of practicing medicine, I'm used to reading medical articles and running with it. I've learned that the MBA requires time – time for studying and time for homework. You can't simply run through it."

Kraemer said he learned that lesson the hard way in a decision science course. Soon afterward, he developed better time management skills to juggle his numerous activities.

When Kraemer isn't working, he enjoys time at home with his two children and wife Suzanne, a physician who serves as program director of Internal Medicine at The Brody School of Medicine.

"My family and job come first, and the MBA coursework is usually third or fourth on the list," Kraemer said. "The demands of my job have become difficult, but taking time to understand business has been invaluable."

Kraemer has found his MBA education so valuable, in fact, that he and resident physician Paul Brezina (MD/MBA '04) are currently developing a one-month basic financial management elective, which will be offered to fourth-year medical students at ECU beginning Spring 2009.

The course will introduce the "meat and potatoes" of finance, increasing medical student awareness of financial challenges and opportunities affecting the practice of medicine.

"Business is everywhere," Kraemer explained, "and running the business of medicine is difficult. These challenges will heighten over the coming years, so I believe it's important to inform future doctors before they launch into their careers."



**Dr. Thomas Kraemer,
MBA student**

SAM Wins National Award

The East Carolina University Chapter of the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) recently won first place in the Campus Chapter Performance Program, Small Chapter Division. The award recognized the student organization's outstanding team activities while supporting the mission of SAM.

Throughout the 2007-2008 academic year, SAM members coordinated various activities, including fundraising events, campus speakers, and membership drives – among other events such as field trips and chapter meetings.

In addition, the ECU chapter of SAM encouraged its members to contribute at least five hours of community service per semester. Overall, SAM members logged 65 hours of community service in 2007-2008, helping causes such as Give2the Troops, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Campus Cleanup, and the Food Drive.

ECU's chapter was honored with a plaque during the 2007-2008 SAM International Business Conference, held April 3-6 in Arlington, Va.

At the national level, SAM was founded in 1912 by the colleagues and supporters of Frederick Taylor, known as the "Father of Scientific Management." It is a non-profit organization run and advanced by hundreds of volunteers.

The ECU chapter of SAM is a student organization open to all majors. It currently has 20 student members and two faculty advisors, John Davis (MGMT) and Dr. Lee Grubb (MGMT).



(Left to right) Marie Reese, Cecily Bolton, Andrew Wheeley, Heather Wolfe, faculty advisor John Davis, and Katy Duncan participate in the SAM International Business Conference in Arlington, Va.

Student notes

2008 College of Business Scholarship Awards

The College of Business Scholarship Awards recognize students who accomplish high academic achievement coupled with community service. Recipients for the 2008-2009 academic year were honored on April 29 at the College of Business Scholarship Recognition Banquet. Award recipients are selected by the College of Business Scholarship Committee.

The Gourley Scholarship

Chelsea Elizabeth Rodd FINA Auburn, MA

The Benton Family Access Scholarship

Michelle Opal Medlin MIS Youngsville, NC

The David A. & Pamela S. Bond Access Scholarships

Maria Auxiliadora Guillermo BSA/MSA Apex, NC
Ashley Christine Scudiero MGMT Kitty Hawk, NC
Robert Lloyd Heidel ACCT Gastonia, NC
Anthony Joseph Muccio MIS Davidson, NC
Sharon Rosetta Jones FINA Vanceboro, NC
Jenna Marie Lindsay FINA Greenville, NC
Tara Michelle Austin MGMT Hudson, NC

The Howard and Virginia Brown Community Spirit Scholarship

Elsa Savannah Swenson BSA/MSA Lenoir, NC

The Ryan and Shana Perry Graduate Business Scholarship

Eric Spencer Dutton MSA Carthage, NC

The Eakins Scholarship

Millicent Nyakupfuka FINA Zimbabwe

The Chesson Scholarships

Laurel Alysia Astin MGMT Farmville, NC
Dana Elizabeth Wagoner MKTG Shallotte, NC

The George Coffman Scholarship

Casey Megan Colby MKTG Wilmington, NC

The Kevin M. and Lori Coates Shannon Scholarship in Business

Amanda Tyson Holloman MGMT Walstonburg, NC

The Margery W. and R. Roy Pearce Scholarship in Marketing

Ashley Elizabeth Gwaltney BSA/MSA Greenville, NC

The Donald L. and Barbara H. Hatch Scholarship

Aliana Elise Worley MKTG Apex, NC

The Grady and Martha Davis Scholarship

Ashley Faith Griffin MGMT Kinston, NC

The Archie R. Burnette Scholarships in Finance

Blake Wesley Briesse Finance Snellville, GA
Amy White Phippkins Finance Eure, NC

The Audrey J. Smith Scholarship

Tendai Angela Ndabvonga MBA Zimbabwe

The Centura Bank Scholarships

Sarah Kathryn Langston FINA Princeton, NC
Thomas Vincent Iacone MKTG Cary, NC

The Commerce Club Scholarships

Emily Mae Gartland MGMT Raleigh, NC
Amber Lynn Gill BSA/MSA Greenville, NC

The Connally Branch Scholarship

Wylie Starr Bindeman FINA/MGMT Dunn, NC

The Danny R. Scott Scholarship

Neal W. Cooper MGMT Chester, NY

The David R. Howell Scholarship

Shana Janel Williams MKTG Rochester, NY

The Dixon Hughes Accounting Scholarship

Cara June Hall BSA/MSA Burlington, NC

The Emma Morris Scholarship

Kelly Johanna Morgan MGMT Havelock, NC

Elizabeth A. & Kenneth A. Schneider Accounting Scholarship

Mary Evans Pace MSA Jacksonville, NC

The Ernst & Young Accounting Scholarships

Cassandra Marie Durham BSA/MSA Apex, NC
William Albert Tetterton BSA/MSA Bethel, NC

The Frank Booth Memorial Scholarship

Lisa Archie McCaffity ACCT Newport, NC

The Grant Thornton Accounting Scholarship

Jared Prescott Edens BSA/MSA Raleigh, NC

The Hal S. Johnson Scholarship

Nathan Leland Bounds FINA Bowie, MD

The Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina Scholarships

Kyle Ray Ash FINA Roanoke Rapids, NC
Ann Marie Toebe FINA Cary, NC
Joel Brent Stocks FINA/ACCT Greenville, NC

The James E. & Deborah L. Hooper Scholarship

Nicholas Edward Bost BSA/MSA Faith, NC

The James W. and Anne H. Nordan Scholarship

LeAnn Marie Walker BSA/MSA Greenville, NC

The Judi Marvel Scholarship

LaQuan Nevonne Lucas MBA Elm City, NC

The Latney W. Pittard Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Victoria Lilley BSA/MSA Jamesville, NC

McGladrey & Pullen Alumni Scholarships

Rachel Michelle Maddox BSA/MSA Chapel Hill, NC
Brandon Derel Brake MSA Nashville, NC

McGladrey & Pullen Accounting Scholarships

Elizabeth Ann Hanlon MSA Fort Wayne, IN
Haley Margaret Jenkins BSA/MSA New Bern, NC

The Michael L. Bunting Business Scholarship

Kelly Christine Geyer MKTG Corolla, NC

The North Carolina Board of CPA Examiners Scholarship

Jacquitta Timaurus Boone BSA/MSA Murfreesboro, NC

The North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants Scholarships

Sarah McClendon Elder BSA/MSA Burlington, NC
Stephanie Jo Rogers BSA/MSA Raleigh, NC
Leslie Elizabeth Matthews MSA Raleigh, NC
Jaimie Lee Niemond BSA/MSA Mt. Olive, NC

The Raymond and Martha Jones American Marketing Association Scholarship

Lindsay Marie Dellana MKTG Greenville, NC

The William F. West Memorial Scholarship

Shamara Shirmella Woods MGMT St. Kitts (Caribbean)

The Benjamin Lane Abbott Scholarship

William Miles McNamara MKTG Cary, NC

The William H. and Lisa D. Shreve Scholarship

Jason Douglas Potts ACCT New Bern, NC

The Management Department Student Award

Brooke Nicole Anthony MGMT Thomasville, NC

The Management Information Systems Scholarship

Lyubov M. Gurskaya MIS Russia/Manteo, NC

The Pitt-Greenville Board of Realtors Scholarship

Michelle Miranda Ross FINA Charlotte, NC

The Umesh and Usha Gulati Scholarship for International Understanding

Allison Elizabeth Hubbard MGMT Wake Forest, NC

The J. Fred Hamblen Scholarship

Bryan Alexander Bozzone MKTG Wilmington, DE

The Michael and Rose O'Hara Scholarships

Frances Marie Herring BSBA Clinton, NC
Walter Daniel Rowland BSBA Kernersville, NC

The Accounting Faculty Meritorious Student Award

Joshua Andrew Morgan BSA/MSA Rocky Mount, NC

The Anna Francis and Philip Alexander Jukoski Memorial Scholarship

Eron Earley-Thiele MBA Greenville, NC

The Beta Alpha Psi Scholarship

Christian Hernandez MSA Greenville, NC

The Coastal Plains Chapter of the North Carolina Association of CPAs Scholarships

Charles Hardee Cadwell ACCT Raleigh, NC
Julie Susann Ward BSA/MSA Tyner, NC

The Gary L. Warren Scholarship in Business

Katelyn Leigh O'Brien MKTG Wilmington, NC

The University Book Exchange Business Scholarships

Stacey Drew Hanna MKTG Wilmington, NC
Timothy Bryan Sanderson MKTG Kinston, NC
Jordyn Pennington Vicinus MKTG Raleigh, NC

The Andrew J. Pappas Memorial Scholarship

Javon Louis Starnes MKTG Wilmington, NC

The Elsie L. and Silas D. Abernathy Scholarship

Anthony Joseph Masciangelo FINA Virginia Beach, VA

The James L. and Ann T. Bichsel Scholarship

Neelam Sunil Patel FINA Raleigh, NC

Commerce Club Book Scholarships

Keith Michael Monroe MKTG Greensboro, NC
Meghan Fitzpatrick Horne MKTG West Chester, PA
Andrew Hamilton Griffin FINA Holly Springs, NC
Dianne Beamon Saieed MBA Greenville, NC
Caroline Ballance BSA/MSA Englehard, NC
Kristi Nicole Reaves MSA Timberlake, NC
Tim John Zwilling FINA Raleigh, NC
Sarah Danielle Elswick MKTG Elizabeth City, NC
Valerie Elyse Gibson BSA/MSA Conover, NC
Michael Alijournan Ellis MBA Goldsboro, NC

The Conley Marketing Scholarships

Julie Lynn Schuman MKTG Jacksonville, NC
Stephanie Leann Lyon MKTG Elkland, PA
Cristina Marie Graziano MKTG Howell, NJ

The Student Accounting Society Scholarship

Matthew William Molloy BSA/MSA New Jersey

The Ward Property Brokers Scholarship

Miles Jeffrey Tart FINA Clayton, NC

The Credit Professionals International Scholarship

Lauren Elizabeth Webster MGMT Greenville, NC

The First American Savings Bank Scholarship

Lindsey R. Welchel MKTG Midlothian, VA

The Institute of Management Accountants Scholarship

Haylee Amanda Bridges BSA/MSA Stoneville, NC

Worsley Graduate Fellowship

Haley Margaret Jenkins BSA/MSA New Bern, NC

New Students Inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma

The College of Business recently inducted more than 20 students into Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society serving business programs accredited by AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

An induction banquet was held May 1 at the Greenville Hilton, where chapter honoree Bruce Biggs (BSBA '66) delivered the keynote address. Biggs serves as president of Biggs Pontiac Buick Cadillac GMC in Elizabeth City, N.C.

Two times per year, the College of Business inducts eligible students and faculty into Beta Gamma Sigma. Membership is by invitation only, and students are invited to join based upon academic performance.

Beta Gamma Sigma membership is the highest recognition a business student can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB International.

Assistant Professor Dr. Shanan Gibson (MGMT) currently serves as faculty advisor.

BETA GAMMA SIGMA INDUCTEES — SPRING 2008

Juniors	Seniors	Graduate Students	Faculty
Amber L. Gill	Hope E. Almy Sarah M. Hammond Johnny Jernigan Marian K. Jones Patrick A. Reale William Smith	Monika Angelova George Caudle Michael W. Dickerson Eric S. Dutton Jennifer L. Friedley Allison E. Henkel Angela M. Ianuzzi Daniel B. Jones Amy M. Lenfestey Nikolay Markov Kristopher B. Peed Christopher Sepich Jon Sholar Tiffany C. Woodward	William C. McDowell

HIRE ECU TALENT

Bring the signature skills and talent of ECU business students and graduates into your workplace!

Now you can easily access our talented pool to fill your hiring needs - post a position on the COB Career Services web site by visiting www.ecu.edu/cs-bus/careers or call 252-737-1236.

The COB Career Services office helps match our talented business students with high quality internships and full-time jobs - and we stand ready to assist you.

Campaign notes

Donor Highlight: Jerry Fisher (MBA '68)

Although Jerry Fisher (MBA'68) has lived in Chapel Hill for decades, his blood still runs purple. In fact, he says it's possible to root for the Tar Heels and Pirates at the same time, a valuable skill he acquired after earning his undergraduate degree at UNC-CH and MBA from ECU.

For 30 years, Fisher served as associate director of the budget and director of reports & cost analysis at UNC-CH – essentially responsible for the university's financial planning. Prior to that, he worked with the Auditor General's office in the Air Force.

Since retiring from UNC-CH in 2000, Fisher continues to stay active. He substitute teaches at a Christian school in the Durham area and enjoys time with his wife and family. He also follows ECU happenings closely – especially athletics and administration changes – and he contributes regularly to the College of Business.

"The university is where we prepare for our professional lives," Fisher said. "If you have a love for your university, then it's natural to want to give support so that future generations can benefit."

In addition to giving back financially, Fisher says he has served as an unofficial recruiter for East Carolina over the years, recommending ECU to potential students – particularly those interested in the ROTC program. He also hopes his future grandson will one day consider becoming a Pirate, following in his footsteps.



**Jerry Fisher (MBA '68)
and his wife, Elizabeth**

"Being from Fayetteville, I have known about ECU all my life," he said. "I'm proud of my alma mater and all of the growth that East Carolina is experiencing."

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Donor Highlight: Ken Gunn (ACCT '80)



Ken Gunn (ACCT '80)

A native Virginian, Ken Gunn (ACCT '80) thanks his parents for introducing him to East Carolina University.

Gunn was torn between attending Virginia Tech or ECU when he was looking at colleges in the mid 1970s. He knew about East Carolina primarily through his mother, who had taken classes at ECU, and his father, who was originally from North Carolina and graduated from N.C. State University in 1943.

Outside of family ties, Gunn says he ultimately chose ECU because of its high quality business program and small size at the time – about half the size it is today. He studied accounting and graduated in 1980.

Gunn currently serves as director of budget and financial reporting for the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services. He has been with the department since 1987 and was promoted to his director position three years ago.

He also recently earned his Master of Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University after five years of night school – and he credits ECU with laying the foundation for his success. Although he lives in Richmond, Va., Gunn stays involved with Pirate activities and contributes regularly to the College of Business.

"I try to give back everything I can to ECU," Gunn explained. "ECU prepared me for where I am today – it laid the foundation for me to become a CPA and so many other things. I could have never accomplished all I have without East Carolina."

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Donor Highlight: Roxie Register (BSA/MSA '01)

Roxie Riggs Register always knew she wanted to stay near her home in eastern North Carolina.

A native of Cove City, N.C., Register says she first went to a community college after graduating from high school to study nursing. A few classes later, however, she knew she wasn't cut out for a career in health care. Instead, she discovered that accounting was her passion – so she transferred to East Carolina University to pursue her combined BSA/MSA.

Since 2005, Register has served as a partner with AG Salem & Associates, PLLC, a New Bern-based firm that prepares tax returns for businesses, individuals, estates, trusts, and non-profits. The company also offers bookkeeping, payroll, and consulting services.

A licensed CPA, Register said her education at ECU taught her real world scenarios along with textbook situations, helping to prepare her for a career in accounting.

"I give back to ECU to show my appreciation for the education I received and for the professors who helped me even outside the classroom," she said.

Register and her husband, Wayne, are currently expecting their first child, due in September. After taking some time off toward the end of the year, Register said she will be back to work in early 2009 – ready to start fresh for tax season.

College of Business Campaign Update

Were off and running!

With our first century behind us, East Carolina University is embarking on the next 100 years with a special \$200 million fundraising effort – the Second Century Campaign. Already, ECU is more than half-way toward reaching its goal.

At the College of Business, we ultimately hope to have 25 percent of our alumni participate in supporting the campaign. So far, we have raised \$4.5 million toward the College's \$30 million goal.

Our success to date demonstrates the commitment of our alumni and friends in supporting the university and our business students, and it has already produced wonderful results. We have two new endowed professorships, new access scholarships for our students, and our total pool of financial aid has more than doubled.

There is much more to come and much more to do.

For all that a university hopes to accomplish, there can be no greater goal than to provide students with the opportunity to receive an excellent education. To learn more information about how you can support the Second Century Campaign and the College of Business, please see our contact information below. We'd be delighted to discuss our areas of need.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Colin O'Connor
Major Gifts Officer
College of Business
East Carolina University
252-328-9562
oconnorc@ecu.edu

Jim Westmoreland
Associate Dean for External Affairs
College of Business
East Carolina University
252-328-0130
westmorelandj@ecu.edu



College of Business Advancement Team members Jim Westmoreland, Associate Dean for External Affairs (left), and Colin O'Connor, Major Gifts Officer.

Retired Professor Makes a Difference in Community

Since retiring from East Carolina University in 2002, Professor Emeritus of Accounting and former Department Chair Larry Hagler has focused less on teaching debits and credits and has instead ramped up his volunteer work.

Five years ago, Hagler and his wife, Millie, founded the Shepherd's Helpers – a ministry group of Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church (UMC) in Greenville. With a mission based on the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Shepherd's Helpers initially planned to focus on simple projects to help the church's senior population, performing tasks such as changing light bulbs, installing ceiling fans, and completing other minor chores.

However, the group's project requests immediately expanded to help even more people with bigger carpentry projects – mostly constructing handicap access ramps for seniors as well as the physically disabled throughout Pitt County. Today, more than 75% of the group's projects assist those outside the church.

The Shepherd's Helpers team has also expanded from 15 church members to dozens of volunteers recruited from the College of Business and beyond. Group members now include university professors, a retired engineer, computer consultants, a financial manager, students, housewives, professional carpenters, electricians, and numerous other professionals.

To date, the Shepherd's Helpers group has built more than 24 handicap access ramps – eight this year – and four low rise steps, which aids those who can still walk but need some assistance.

"We try to build a large project every month," Hagler said. "Our united goal is to help make life easier for those whose life circumstances provide special challenges."

He also noted that although the Shepherd's Helpers is a ministry of Jarvis Memorial UMC, no funds are included in the church's budget to support the group. Hagler says that some families can afford to pay for a completed ramp; however, finding the resources to pay for the materials cost of a typical ramp (\$1,250) has been another issue he has tackled head-on.

Recently, the Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation awarded a grant to the Shepherd's Helpers, which will purchase materials for an estimated 12 handicap ramps/home access projects through June 30, 2009, and will provide financial assistance to replace tools. Other monetary contributors for projects to date have included the Pitt County Council on Aging, Burney & Burney Construction, Oakmont Baptist Church, Arlington Boulevard Baptist Church, and Jarvis Memorial UMC.



Dr. Larry Hagler and volunteer worker Dr. Margaret O'Hara, assistant dean for online programs, stand by a ramp built by the Shepherd's Helpers at a home near Farmville, N.C.

"I'm thrilled with what we've accomplished in five years," Hagler said. "While the labor is intensive, it's heartwarming to help neighbors in need of our services. The true reward for a volunteer is the smile of a recipient when he/she can move outside and restore some mobility."

About Stocknotes

Stocknotes is published by the Commerce Club, ECU's College of Business alumni organization. It is designed to connect, engage, and inform alumni, partners, and other friends of the College of Business.

You can also read Stocknotes online at <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-bus/stocknotes.cfm>, where both past and current issues are available.

We welcome your letters and comments.

Please e-mail cclub@ecu.edu or contact us at 252-328-6377.

College of Business - Commerce Club
1200 Harold H. Bate Building
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353

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