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Distinguished Scholar to Discuss the Preservation of Blackbeard's Pirate Ship

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Office of University Communications

September 13, 2011

Presentation Will Appeal to “Scientists, Historians, and Treasure Hunters Alike”

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Have you ever wondered how shipwrecks stay intact under the sea for hundreds of years? Distinguished scholar Dr. Anthony Kennedy, a chemist from East Carolina University, will answer that question on Friday, Sept. 16, as he explores the chemistry behind the preservation of Blackbeard's sunken pirate ship. The presentation, sponsored by the Gardner-Webb department of natural sciences, will be held in Withrow Hall, room 206, at 1:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Dr. Venita Totten, professor of chemistry at Gardner-Webb, insisted that the presentation will interest “scientists, historians, and treasure hunters alike.” She also referred to it as a useful window into the world of graduate chemistry research. “ECU has a graduate program that might be an attractive option for future Gardner-Webb students,” she said.

Kennedy holds a doctorate in chemistry from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and spent seven years as principle investigator at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research's department of blood research before joining the faculty at East Carolina.

For more information about Kennedy's work, visit ecu.edu/cs-cas/chem/Anthony-Kennedy.cfm. For questions related to Friday's presentation, contact Totten at vtotten@gardner-webb.edu.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University was founded in 1905 and is home to over 4,300 students from 37 states and 21 foreign countries. Gardner-Webb seeks a higher ground in higher education – one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, balances conviction with compassion, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.