



## College of Technology and Computer Science

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### Chinese scholars join ECU's Department of Construction Management

GREENVILLE (8/11/09) – A pair of visiting scholars from China will be joining East Carolina University's Department of Construction Management in August.

**Dr. Xinhua He** is currently a professor in the Department of Management Science and Engineering at Shanghai Maritime University, which financed her year-long visit to the United States and East Carolina University. He has a background in construction engineering and management, as well as management science and engineering. Her vast research interests include construction system management, logistics and supply chain management, construction materials, construction and project management, transportation management and planning.

Dr. He will jointly conduct research projects, deliver lectures and presentations and develop a quality management system where statistics tools will be integrated to improve construction and management.

**Ms. Minzhi Liu** is currently a senior researcher in the Policy Research Center of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China, which is funding her visit to ECU for the next six months. She is also an adjunct professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Science with research specialties in construction law, building construction standards and construction safety.

During her time at ECU, Liu will promote an understanding of international construction practices and foster future collaborative research in this area. She will be studying U.S. construction laws, standards and common practices in the construction industry.

“These two distinguished international scholars deliver shared research interests and experience which will allow this endeavor to be beneficial for East Carolina University and our construction management faculty and students,” said Dr. David Watkins, interim chair for the ECU Department of Construction Management. “In addition, this can further strengthen our international research, lecture and curriculum exchange while at the same time developing international partnerships.”

The ECU Department of Construction Management has developed a growing relationship with universities and industry in China over the last 18 months. In May 2008, a group of faculty members and students spent three weeks studying in China on a summer study abroad trip, which included stops at major construction universities as well as the Caterpillar plant in China.

Two ECU graduates who attended the summer study abroad trip as students, Ray Harrell and Mike Grinshpon, have been accepted by Tsinghua University in Beijing, China to do graduate work in the Sustainable Building Technology Laboratory. Both were offered full Tsinghua scholarships and Chinese Government High Education Commission Scholarships.

For additional information, contact Chris Stansbury, communications coordinator for the College of Technology and Computer Science at (252) 328-9611.