

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ECU and Greenville to Host Fulbright Visiting Specialist from the Muslim World**

East Carolina University, in collaboration with several community partners, will host a Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan this fall. Dr. M. Aslam Khaki will spend 4 weeks at ECU and in the Greenville-Pitt County community delivering lectures, consulting with educators, and participating in cross-cultural discussions on the basic tenets of Islam, specialized topics in Islam, and the role of religion in the culture and politics of Muslim societies.

Dr. Khaki holds a Ph.D. in Education from Punjab University (Pakistan), a Master's degree (LLM) in Islamic Law from International Islamic University Pakistan, and a Bachelor's degree (LLB) in Law from Punjab University. He is currently a Jurisconsultant to the Federal Shariat Court in Islamabad, a Visiting Faculty Member at the Federal Judicial Academy in Pakistan, and a frequent lecturer at the Christian Study Centre in Ralwalpindi, Pakistan. Dr. Khaki has interests and expertise in human rights, juvenile justice, child psychology, modern Islamic law, family law, domestic violence, Islamic belief and practice, interfaith harmony, and Christian-Jewish-Muslim relations.

Dr. Khaki's visit to Greenville is sponsored by the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars under the auspices of its Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: *Direct Access to the Muslim World*. This program aims to promote understanding of Islamic civilization and the history, politics, and culture of today's Muslim world while increasing the Fulbright Visiting Specialist's understanding of American society and values.

Dr. Khaki's hosts at ECU are the Department of Geography, the International Studies Program, the Office of International Affairs, the Honors and EC Scholars Programs, and the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Community partners supporting his visit include the Pitt County Schools, the Greenville Noon Rotary Club, the World Affairs Council, *The Daily Reflector*, the Islamic Center, and the Inter-faith Alliance.

In addition to numerous classroom lectures, Dr. Khaki will deliver a public evening keynote address at ECU (7:00 PM, October 25, 2007 at the Willis Building). He will interact with Pitt County School educators and middle and high school students. And, he will give presentations in the community to the Inter-faith Alliance, the three Greenville Rotary Clubs, the World Affairs Council, and the Islamic Center.

Dr. Khaki will be accompanied by his spouse, Ms. Yasmin Haider who is an advocate (lawyer) of the Federal Shariat Court in Islamabad. Ms. Haider is particularly interested in domestic violence and the legal rights of women in Islam. She will also present a public lecture at ECU. Date/time/venue is to be announced.

For more information, contact: Dr. Holly Hapke, Department of Geography, ECU; tel: 328-1041 or e-mail: [hapkeh@ecu.edu](mailto:hapkeh@ecu.edu).