THE DAILY CLIPS

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Lecture latest in group’s anti-trafficking efforts

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

Law enforcement and residents of Pitt County continue spreading awareness about human trafficking, thanks to a Pitt County Sheriff’s Office grant and the efforts of Eastern N.C. Stop Human Trafficking Now.

Human trafficking is the use of fraud, force and coercion for commercial sex, involuntary servitude and slavery.

Since the advocacy group was founded approximately one year ago, founder Pam Strickland of Farmville said she’s been working to make the crime a “more and more common topic of conversation.”

Strickland first became aware of human trafficking crimes four years ago, but only on an international scale.

“This is going on all over the world,” she said.

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BY THE NUMBERS

12.3 million people worldwide in forced/bonded labor, forced child labor or sexual servitude.

$31.6 billion annually is made from trafficking enterprises.

800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year.

14,500 people are trafficked into the United States annually.

100,000 human trafficking victims are living in the United States.

— Estimates provided by the Salvation Army’s Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking

HUMAN
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said. “The more I learned about it, the closer to home it got. It’s going on here. We may not know about it but it’s going on in Pitt County.”

The organization hosted Lisa Thompson of the Salvation Army’s Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking in an East Carolina University classroom on Wednesday. Thompson offered a primer on human trafficking of all kinds to the 35 students, victim advocates, law enforcement officials, social workers and concerned citizens.

“There’s no question that it’s a huge problem,” she told them.

Forced laborers can be found in the domestic service industry, sweatshops and factories, begging, agricultural work, mining and military service. Then there’s the commercial sex trade, from prostitution to child brides.

“There’s not an industry out there ... where people won’t exploit people for profit,” Thompson said.

She offered examples of real cases for discussion, developed following the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, and encouraged people to become aware of the warning signs, such as evidence of being controlled, not speaking on one’s own behalf, inability to move or leave a job, physical abuse and fear or depression.

Eastern N.C. Stop Human Trafficking Now is taking its efforts one step further by raising funds through the sale of fair trade coffee, chocolates and teas. Strickland wants people to include fair-trade products in their everyday purchases.

“If we, as a community, demand products that are slave free, the business community is going to listen,” she said.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
Eloisa James is an author leading a "double life." She is a Shakespearean professor who also is a New York Times bestselling author of popular romance.

James will talk about what it's like to have a split writing life — writing for love, writing for money and writing about Shakespeare — during her presentation at 7:30 p.m. today in Joyner Library's Teaching Resource Center, second floor. Her lecture is titled "Shakespeare in Love: From the Renaissance to the Romance."

As a bestselling author, James writes historical romances for HarperCollins Publishers. Her novels repeatedly have received starred reviews from Publishers' Weekly and Library Journal.

As a scholar, James graduated from Harvard, Oxford and Yale universities and eventually became a Shakespearean professor, publishing an academic work with Oxford University Press.

She is an associate professor and head of the creative writing program at Fordham University in New York. Her "double life" is a source of fascination to the media and her readers. In her professorial guise, she's written a New York Times op-ed defending romance, as well as articles published everywhere from women's magazines such as More to writers' journals such as the Romance Writers' Report.
African-American scholar, author visits ECU

The Daily Reflector

Trudier Harris, a scholar of African-American literature and culture and professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, visited the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center Wednesday before delivering the Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture on Wednesday night at East Carolina University.

About 30 people met with Harris at the center, including teachers, professors and community members, to talk with her about her career and experiences.

Harris also spoke on "Little Old Ladies and the Last Word: An Exploration of Sassiness and Risoqué Behavior in African-American Folklore" in ECU's Wright Auditorium as part of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyage of Discovery Lecture Series.

She is a recipient of the UNC system Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching, the William C. Friday Award for Excellence in Teaching and the John Hurt Fisher Award of the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English, for outstanding contributions in English scholarship.

During her 36 years of full-time teaching, Harris has served on the faculties of the College of William and Mary and Emory University. She also has lectured throughout the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Northern Ireland, Poland, South Africa and Spain.

Harris is the author of many books, including her most recent, "The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South."
Largely rural N.C. ranks 40th in Internet access

North Carolina ranks 40th nationwide in the percentage of individuals who report living in homes with Internet access, according to Census data released this week.

About seven in 10 N.C. residents can connect to the Internet at home, according to information released Tuesday.

Nationally, about 74 percent of residents said they had home Internet connections. Northeastern and Western states such as New Hampshire (84 percent), Alaska (83 percent) and Utah (83 percent) took the lead. Mississippi was lowest at 57 percent.

North Carolina has been working hard to improve Internet access - and particularly access to faster broadband networks, said Jane Patterson, head of the N.C. Authority, a state agency charged with spreading Internet access.

The state's large rural population - more than 3 million, she said, ranking second only to Texas - makes wiring communities much more difficult than in a tiny, compact state such as New Hampshire.

Anita Blanchard, a UNC Charlotte professor who studies how groups and communities form online, said once people get access to the Internet, they find it easy to use, and it brings down barriers to communication.

"North Carolina is a little behind" in giving everyone access, she said, but "it's becoming like the television and the telephone. When it started [taking off] back in the mid-90s, people thought it was weird to be online interacting with other people.

"Now, it's expected that you'll be maintaining relationships online," she said.

Internet access is improving in North Carolina.

A survey conducted in 2008 by an East Carolina University professor showed that only 36 percent of N.C. homes had Internet access in 1999.

"People don't realize how rural North Carolina is," Patterson said. "It's been a long haul, an uphill climb, but we're making it."
UNC gets ready to search

Hannah Gage hadn't even left the building after UNC-system President Erskine Bowles' retirement announcement last week before her phone started chirping.

Everyone, it seems, has an instant opinion on who the public university system's next leader should be, and who should help decide.

"Some people think it should be a North Carolinian, and other people think it should be an Ivy Leaguer," said Gage, who as chairwoman of the UNC system's Board of Governors will be a key player in the search in coming months."Everybody's already telling us what we're supposed to do."

For the record, there are no candidates under consideration yet, Gage said. Nor is there even a search committee.

With the state still in a budget crunch, that eventual committee may have to pinch pennies. It may not do a statewide "listening tour" as it did in 2005 prior to hiring Bowles. That tour drew small crowds; this time, a Web site soliciting public input may suffice, Gage said.

The UNC system will probably hire a search consultant to do much of the behind-the-scenes wrangling of candidates. In 2005, the UNC system paid $75,000 for the service.

"With a search this large, it would be crazy and almost irresponsible not to have a consultant," Gage said. "At [UNC's General Administration office] we don't have the depth to peel off a couple people to work full time on this."

Bowles, a former chief of staff in the Clinton White House, announced last week he plans to retire at the end of the year. That leaves the UNC system about 10 months to find someone to lead a system of 16 universities, more than 200,000 students and a budget of about $7 billion.

It shouldn't be a problem, said Terry Hartle, senior vice president with the Washington D.C.-based American Council on Education. The UNC system has a stellar national reputation due in large part to the state's long commitment to access and affordability, Hartle said. Tuition is low compared to many states, and the state's budget situation is far better than many others, he added.

"The last four years have been financially challenging for all public universities, and I think the University of North Carolina system has fared better than most," he said. "There will be plenty of highly qualified, desirable candidates."

Some would like the next president cut from the Bowles mold - a politically savvy workaholic who emphasizes efficiency. Though Bowles had no experience in higher education when he arrived in Chapel Hill, he knew how to multi-task and answer to a range of constituencies.
"I would like to see someone similar in style and vision," said Lawrence Davenport, chairman of the N.C. State University Board of Trustees. "He was transparent and made difficult decisions quickly. That made things easier for everyone."

Jane Shaw, president of the Raleigh-based John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, credited Bowles for navigating budget and job cuts, making the university more efficient, and laying out clear annual goals. She hopes the next president continues Bowles' initiatives such as an ongoing study of K-12 teaching and analyses of the effectiveness of campus centers and institutes.

"It would have been a lot better if [Bowles] stayed another five years," she said. "He did accomplish a lot, but whether those changes stay depends on who follows him."

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Clarksville native named College Journalist of the Year

Karen Shugart · Reader Submitted · February 17, 2010

GREENVILLE, N.C. Clarksville native Carlton Purvis was recently named College Journalist of the Year for his work while a student at East Carolina University.

His award was among four that ECU received from the Southeast Journalism Conference at its annual meeting held Feb. 11 to 13 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La.

Purvis was a copy editor and news editor at The East Carolinian, ECU’s student-run newspaper. After graduating in December with a double major in journalism and anthropology, Purvis is a multimedia journalist at the Morning News in Florence, S.C. He served in the U.S. Marines from 2004 to 2006.

Purvis received a $1,000 prize for the award, which the SEJC panel of media experts gave based on journalistic ability, leadership skills, appreciation for journalism’s ethical and legal responsibilities, and potential for future success, among other attributes.

Current news editor Samantha Hughes won second place in the SEJC on-site competition in the News Rewrite category. Hughes is a sophomore communication major from Fayetteville.

Editorial cartoonist Adrian Parhamovich placed fourth in the Best News-Editorial Artist-Illustrator category. Parhamovich is an art major with a concentration in animation and interactive design.

Expressions, ECU’s student-produced multicultural magazine, won sixth place in the Best College Magazine category. Chaunte Rucker, a business administration major, was 2009 general manager of Expressions. The winter/spring 2010 edition was printed and released this week.

This was the first year ECU has entered the SEJC competition. ECU was the only N.C. school to win awards at the conference. Hughes and Katelyn

Couse, editor of The East Carolinian, attended the conference, which included journalism workshops and discussions with more than 200 students across the Southeast.

The SEJC strives to encourage interest in student journalism and create closer ties among journalism schools in the Southeast United States.

For more information about these awards or about ECU’s Office of Student Media, please contact Paul Isom, Director of Student Media and TEC editorial adviser at 252-328-9234.
Duke doctors offer grim diagnosis after trip to Haiti

A group of 14 doctors and nurses from Duke University Medical Center returned from a 10-day mission in Haiti, where they said injuries and health problems were still vastly untreated after the January earthquake.

Dr. Ian Greenwald, the team leader, said conditions in Port-au-Prince were especially horrific. Doctors were caring for patients in a tent city on the grounds of a hospital that had crumbled during the initial earthquake and subsequent aftershocks.

"I would say that in no way is Haiti out of the emergency phase after this event," Greenwald said. He said many people are still in need of surgeries, revisions to procedures they underwent in crude conditions, infection control and disease management.

"There are truly massive issues," he said.

The Duke team went into the country in collaboration with Partners in Health, which has run a hospital in Conge, Haiti, for years. The organization's founder, Dr. Paul Farmer, is a Duke graduate.

Greenwald said a second group from Duke is planning another mission in upcoming weeks. They also will serve with Partners in Health.

The first group set out for the disaster zone on Feb. 5 and returned Sunday. About half its members worked at the Partners in Health hospital in Conge. That hospital is overwhelmed with the influx of patients from Port-au-Prince, which is at least two hours away by vehicle.

The other half of the team worked at a giant field hospital in Port-au-Prince.

Greenwald said that the heat was sweltering, adding to the difficult conditions. And most operations were done under the battery power of vehicle headlights, he said. "There are frequent power outages, particularly at night, which renders the tents completely pitch black. Providing care in that environment is both physically and emotionally challenging."

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Students complained about prof charged in rampage

By JAY REEVES (AP) – 19 hours ago

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Students said they signed a petition and complained to no avail about the classroom conduct of an Alabama professor accused of killing three colleagues and wounding three others in a shooting rampage at a faculty meeting.

The students upset with biology professor Amy Bishop told The Associated Press they went to University of Alabama in Huntsville administrators at least three times a year ago, complaining that she was ineffective in the classroom and had odd, unsettling ways.

The students said Bishop never made eye contact during conversations, taught by reading out of a textbook and made frequent references to Harvard University, her beloved alma mater.

"We could tell something was off, that she was not like other teachers," said nursing student Caitlin Phillips.

Still, they said, they saw no sign she might turn violent.

Bishop is charged with one count of capital murder and three counts of attempted murder in the shootings Friday in a campus conference room where members of the biology department were meeting.

She is being held without bond and does not yet have an attorney. Police have not revealed a motive, but colleagues say she was vocal in her displeasure about being denied tenure in March of last year. Her appeal was denied in November.

There have been revelations since the shooting that she killed her brother with a shotgun in Braintree, Mass., in 1986 but was never charged because police said it was an accident, and that she and her husband were scrutinized in 1993 after someone sent pipe bombs to a Harvard professor she worked with. The bombs did not go off and no one was ever charged in that case either.

In 2002, Bishop was charged with assault, battery and disorderly conduct after a tirade at the International House of Pancakes in Peabody, Mass. Peabody police Capt. Dennis Bonaito said Bishop became incensed when she found out another woman had received the restaurant's last booster seat. Bishop hit the woman while shouting, "I am Dr. Amy Bishop," according to the police report.

"The whole incident was just stupid," Bishop's husband, James Anderson, said Wednesday.

Asked if he was referring to his wife's actions, he said: "Everything."

"It was way overblown," he said. "Someone trying to make something out of nothing."

He also defended his wife's teaching, saying the "vast majority" of students were happy with her. He said his wife taught the "out course" for nursing students, who would either go on toward a degree or quit the program based on how they did in her class.

"If they didn't make it through, they didn't make it," he said. "So it's natural for some to be unhappy."

He said classroom performance was not an issue in her tenure file, which has not been made public.

Bishop's students said they first wrote a letter to biology department chairman Gopi K. Podila — one of the victims of Friday's shooting — then met with him and finally submitted a petition that dozens of them had signed.

"Podila just sort of blew us off," said Phillips, who was among a group of five students who met with him in fall 2008 or early 2009 to air their concerns.

After students met privately with Podila, Phillips said, Bishop seemingly made a point in class to use some of the same phrases they had so they would know she knew about it.

"It was like she was parroting what we had said," Phillips said.

University President David B. Williams said Tuesday that student evaluations were one of many factors in the tenure evaluation process, but he was unaware of any student petition against Bishop.

Other tenured professors in the department made the decision not to grant her tenure, a type of job security given to academics, but the votes of the committee were not made public. Podila was supportive of her, Williams noted.

Associated Press Writer Greg Bluestein contributed to this report.