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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU's Voyages Lecture Series Features Scholar of African-American Literature and Folklore

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Feb. 1, 2010) — A scholar in African-American literature and folklore will deliver the Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Trudier Harris, professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will present "Little Old Ladies and the Last Word: An Exploration of Sassiness and Risqué Behavior in African-American Folklore."

Harris 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 also served on the faculties of the College of William and Mary, and Emory University, in addition to lecturing throughout the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Northern Ireland, Poland, South Africa and Spain.

She is the author of many books, including her most recent, "The Scary Mason-Dixon Line: African American Writers and the South," which was published by LSU Press in May of 2009. Harris is the author of "From Mammies to Militants: Domesticity in Black American Literature" (1982); "Exorcising Blackness: Historical and Literary Lynching and Burning Rituals" (1984); "Black Women in the Fiction of James Baldwin" (1985, for which she won the 1987 College Language Association Creative Scholarship Award); "Fiction and Folklore: The Novels of Toni Morrison" (1991); "The Power of the Porch: The Storyteller's Craft in Zora Neale Hurston, Gloria Naylor, and Randall Kenan" (1996); and "Saints, Sinners, Saviors: Strong Black Women in African American Literature" (2001). In 2003, she published her memoirs, "Summer Snow: Reflections from a Black Daughter of the South."

The Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture is presented through the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. The series annually brings prominent scholars representing a variety of disciplines to speak at the university. Complimentary tickets are available to ECU students, faculty and staff, and are \$10 for the general public. Tickets are available through the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788, 1-800-ECU-ARTS, or (voice/TTY) 252-328-4736. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

The Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series is made possible through contributions from the Dean's Advancement Council of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and additional friends and supporters of the college. For additional information about the series, contact John Tucker, director of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series, at 252-328-1028 or tuckerjo@ecu.edu, or visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

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