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**GENDER DYNAMICS IN THE AMERICAN WHALING INDUSTRY:
TOPIC OF LECTURE SERIES DEDICATED TO ADVANCING WOMEN'S STUDIES**

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Greenville – Television reality shows such as *Man vs. Wild*, *Ice Road Truckers* and *Deadliest Catch* hype the intensity of dangerous professions, focusing on the men who perform these jobs. However, does anyone ever consider the women behind the men? What are their stories? What are their struggles?

Dr. Lisa Norling, associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota, has pondered similar questions. Her research focuses on the connection between maritime history and women's history.

On Thursday, February 21, Norling will give a public lecture "Captain Ahab Had a Wife" at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium on the East Carolina University campus.

Titled for her prizewinning book, Norling examines gender dynamics in the American whaling industry from the 18th through 19th centuries. Her findings show how the dramatic growth of the whaling industry and restructuring of life at sea and onshore reflected and reinforced evolving concepts about sexual difference, love and marriage.

She revealed the overlooked side of the industry, reconstructing the lives of the "Cape Horn widows," through letters and diaries of men and women, ship owners' records, census reports, and newspaper and magazine articles. However, Norling equally recognizes and emphasizes the importance of the sailors and ships that have, for centuries, linked America to the rest of the world.

Norling has the honor of being chosen as this year's Sallie Southall Cotten lecturer, presented through the college's Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series. Delivered annually, the Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture is given by a woman of distinction on a topic related to women's studies.

Cotten, or "Mother Cotten," as she was affectionately known, was an advocate of women's education, legal rights and leadership roles in community affairs during the early 20th century. Cotten led a life of service as a teacher, writer, poet and leader of various women's clubs, and she is widely acclaimed for her contributions to society.

Captain Ahab Had a Wife, published by the University of North Carolina Press (2000), has won many awards, including the 2001 Frederick Jackson Turner Award for best first book in American History, from the Organization of American Historians; the 2001 John Lyman Award for best book in American Maritime History, from the North Atlantic Society for Oceanic History; and the 2002 L. Byrne Waterman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Whales and Whaling-Related Research and Pedagogy in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences, from the Kendall Institute of the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

The Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series is made possible through generous contributions from the Dean's Advancement Council of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the East Carolina Alumni Association and additional friends and supporters of the college.

Tickets for the lecture may be obtained through the ECU Central Ticket Office. The cost to the general public is \$10. Students, faculty and staff may obtain free tickets. Please call the Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788, 1-800 ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4736 (V/TTY).

For additional information, contact John Tucker, director of the lecture series, at tuckerjo@ecu.edu or (252) 328-1028. Information also is available at www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/harriot/voyageslectures/.

In addition to her lecture at ECU, Norling will also give a presentation on Friday, February 22, at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the North Carolina Maritime Museum, 315 Front Street, Beaufort. On Saturday, February 23, she will give her lecture at 2 p.m. in the Tryon Palace Visitor's Center Auditorium, 610 Pollock Street, New Bern.

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