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The Weekly October 21, 2002

North Carolina Central School of Law

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The Weekly

www.nccu.edu/law/theweekly.html

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Upcoming Events:

- The 2L Student Focus Group is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 22 at 1:00pm in the Dean's Conference Room. Pizza provided.
- BSA will have a general body meeting On Weds., Oct. 23, from 3:00-5:00pm in Rom 100.
- The Forum on the Innocence Project will be held Thurs., Oct. 24, from 11:30 am to 1:00pm in the Moot Courtroom (see related story).
- Students interested in playing on our team in the Law School Softball Tourney (scheduled for Sat., Nov. 9) should see 3L Dakeer Farrar ASAP!
- The Trial Advocacy Board will host the annual Mike Easley Competition on Nov. 6, 2002. The problem will be available on Oct. 23, 2002 in the library.

Innocence Project Program To Be Held Thursday

Can you imagine being convicted of a crime that you did not commit? It is hard to believe, but it does happen, as recent North Carolina cases show. Ronald Cotton, a North Carolina resident, was convicted of a rape he did not commit. While his victim was convinced that he was the rapist, she misidentified him. DNA evidence cleared Ronald Cotton after he had spent years in prison. Interestingly, that same DNA evidence identified the real perpetrator of the crime. More recently, Terence Garner, another North Carolina resident, was convicted of robbery, kidnapping and attempted murder and sentenced to 25 years, despite co-defendants' statements to prosecutors that the actual perpetrator was a different "Terance." The actual perpetrator, Terence DeLoache, was a cousin of one of the defendants. Terence Garner was freed only after a January 2002 PBS documentary drew national attention to the miscarriage of justice in his case.

Most wrongful convictions involve mistaken identifications, false confessions, ineffective assistance of counsel, and defective or erroneous forensic evidence. Recent news coverage continues to

bring national attention to the problem and in North Carolina, the North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence has been formed to assist inmates with claims of actual innocence. The Project is a non-profit organization, supported by Duke University School of Law, UNC School of Law, and the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Students evaluate prisoner claims of innocence and recommend whether further investigation or action should be undertaken. The Project accepts only those cases in which actual innocence may be proved; prisoner requests for assistance with legal or procedural errors at trial are not considered.

NCCU School of Law is sponsoring an information session on Thursday, October 24, 2002, to introduce the Innocence Project to students and faculty. NCCU law students can participate in the work of the Project through an affiliation with Duke University School of Law, as NCCU 2L student Chris Schulz is doing this semester. Student work with the Project is eligible for pro bono credit.



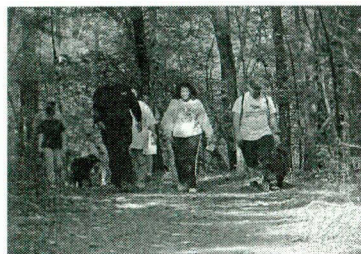
Garner's story was featured in the August 2002 NCATL Trial Briefs magazine.

Speakers for the information session will be Mark Montgomery, the Durham attorney who received national attention for his representation of Terence Garner; Pete Weitzel, Executive Director of the North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence and a professor at Duke Law School and the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communications; and Walter Bizetta, a Duke Law student who manages the Innocence Project at Duke.

Please join us on Thursday, October 24. To accommodate class schedules there will be two sessions, one at 11:30 and another at 12:15, with a reception following each discussion.

Email news for *The Weekly* to
Carol Stanley, Editor, at
cstanley@wpo.nccu.edu.

PICS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SOCIETY HIKE, OCT. 18 at ENO RIVER STATE PARK!!



SCHOOL OF LAW NEWS:

NCCU Provost Reuben has scheduled a meeting with students, faculty and staff in Room 102 on Monday, October 28 at 4:00pm. Please plan to attend.

Classes will be suspended from 9:00am until 12 noon on Friday, November 1st for the Annual Founder's Day Convocation.

PLEASE do not leave trash in the classrooms, or other areas of the Law School. Please take the time to find a trash can and throw away your trash. Let's try to keep our Law School TIDY.

If you use the tables in the back foyer in another area in the building, it is your responsibility to return them back to the back foyer area.

Flyers and announcement notices are NOT to be posted on any glass, metal or wooden doors! This includes the glass doors and windows at the front and back entrances of the Law School. Please post flyers and announcements on the bulletin boards only!

LEXERCISE AND WIN A PRIZE! Stop by the Lexis Table this week and earn a scratch card that's worth points, plane tickets, \$50 Gift Certificate to Best Buy, and more! Also, everyday in October, Lexis will award 100,000 points to a lucky student. All you have to do is log on and research on Lexis.

SCHOOL OF LAW SPOTLIGHT ... Attorney Perry!

Nichelle Jones Perry is the Director of Academic Support at the North Carolina Central University School of Law. Attorney Perry also coordinates the PBAP Program, which is how many 1Ls meet her for the first time.

Attorney Perry was born in Englewood, NJ. She received her B.A. from the State University of New York at New Paltz, and her J.D. from NCCU School of Law in 1993. She also has a M.L.S. (Master's of Library Science)

from NCCU.

After graduating from Law School, Attorney Perry was an associate in a Fayetteville, N.C. law firm. She also clerked for Judge Clifton E. Johnson '67 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

Attorney Perry's husband, Alex, is a 1993 graduate of the Law School, and practices with his brothers in the law firm of Perry, Perry & Perry in Durham. Attor-

ney Perry and her husband have two boys, Jordan (age 4) and Ian (age 2).

Trivia: Attorney Perry and Dean Lavelle clerked together for Judge Johnson on the North Carolina Court of Appeals!

