

# Workshop promotes preserving city history



JULIETTE COOKE/THE DAILY REFLECTOR

Participants listen to a presentation on recording oral histories by National Park Services historian Lu Ann Jones at Joyner Library on Friday morning.

## Joyner Library holds sessions on interviewing

BY JENNIFER BRIDGERS  
For The Daily Reflector

An effort to document the history of a Greenville community erased by an urban redevelopment project has spawned a workshop series to engage more people in collecting oral histories.

East Carolina University's Joyner Library held its first two sessions aimed at arming participants with the skills and tools to conduct accurate and thorough interviews that will preserve stories for posterity.

"Now, we're really trying to expand and document the entire Greenville community and beyond," said Heather White, director of library project development. "So, we're hoping by offering these free workshops, we can really



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Lu Ann Jones leads a workshop that guides participants on compiling an oral history project on Friday.

engage community members to assist us in that endeavor."

White said the effort is a direct result of a project to preserve the history of Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, which once stood on what is now

the northwest corner of the Greenville Town Common. A redevelopment project forced the congregation to abandon the building and residents of the surrounding Shore Drive neighborhood to move.

The city of Greenville now is building a monument on the church site that will serve as a gateway to the Town Common and offer the histories of the church and people who lived there.

White said the workshops last week and upcoming sessions are a part of the North Carolina Humanities Council Large Grant that Joyner Library received for the Sycamore Hill project.

Lu Ann Jones, a former ECU professor who now works with the National Parks Service, led a session at the Lucile Gorham Intergenerational Center in west Greenville on Thursday and one at the library on Friday.

Jones has worked on several large oral history

See HISTORY, A5

Belk has announced Family Promise, a homelessness.

## Family Promise to help in Greenville

BY KAREN EDWARDS  
The Daily Reflector

Bright red and green with the words "Love" dot the desktop landscape at the Greenville Mall, an advertising campaign get customers to merchandise and for others.

But the signs convey a deeper message, inviting shoppers hope and support families in need.

Belk has announced million partners Family Promise, a nonprofit address family homelessness. The retailer is asking customers to share

## DSS seeks to hire

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON  
The Daily Reflector

Pitt County Services is seeking from the Board of Commissioners to grant that would terms to work agency's child welfare.

The board is scheduled to consider the item at its meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. today.

Lectures draw good crowds, prompt lively



on somebody's sofa ... You go to school as a child and you don't know ... where you're going to be sleeping and you have to carry everything with you all the time."

Another reason that Belk partnered with Family Promise is that it has a

Ashley Rhame, the store manager at the Greenville Mall Belk, finds Family Promise's focus on preventing homelessness to be "really cool."

"It's not just about shelters. It's about how to build up families and how to keep them together and get them on their feet and get

in the community interested in learning more about the establishment of the Greenville affiliate, he said.

For more information about Family Promise visit <https://familypromise.org>. John Porter-Acee can be reached at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church at 355-2125.

private party at the business, located north of N.C. 903, when a disturbance occurred with shots fired, the release said.

Evidence showed that shots had been from a rifle, the release said. Three vehicles and two buildings were struck by bullets. There were no reported in-

it to be stolen  
ous Greenville

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King, 18, Dou  
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## HISTORY

Continued from A1

projects including the Southern Oral History program at UNC Chapel Hill and the History of Southern Agriculture project with the National Museum of American History.

She donated her time last week because she thinks oral history is an important tool, she said.

"It's more than a casual conversation," said Jones. "[I want to] help people discipline their enthusiasm that they bring to the oral history process so that the interviews are done well and that the interviews will have life beyond the actual interviews themselves."

The workshop focused on the entire oral history process as well as interview and documentation skills. The main point the workshop drove home was the importance oral history and why it needs to be a part of

every history related project.

Both Jones and White agree that oral history gives a voice to the voiceless and helps preserve stories of minority communities.

"I think one of the things oral history does is allow us to get multiple perspectives," said Jones. "The archives historically has weighed in favor of certain people — people who could write, people who had the time to write, the skills to write."

Several participants already had experience documenting oral history in projects including documenting the Louisiana rodeo circuit and the stories of indigenous communities in the Pacific during World War II.

Jennifer McKinnon, an associate professor with ECU's Department of History in Maritime Studies, said she came to listen to an expert in a skill she uses frequently in her work.

"I use oral history in my

research," said McKinnon. "So, it's great to be able to come and see somebody who's an expert in the field and brush up on some of my techniques and also learn from some other folks, too."

Kristin O'Lear, a graduate student in ECU's Department of History, attended the workshop to learn more about a method of documentation that she could use when working on her thesis, and later on in her professional career.

"It was very informative and I think it really helps tailor my professional goals," said O'Lear. "[It] really adds depth to what I want to do and add that as an element to future research."

Upcoming workshops at the library will focus on genealogy, taught by Jennifer Daugherty from 10 to noon on March 23, and a digital humanities workshop taught by Ann Whistant from 10 a.m. to noon on April 27.

## LECTURES

Continued from A1

idea that no one should fight a war for moral reasons, but it should only fight for its survival and its own self-interest.

"If a country's core interests are threatened," Kassab said. "For instance, if Hawaii was being invaded, that's when you would go to war. ... You don't go to war to prop up a democracy, or to save people, unfortunately ... don't go to war for that ... because never ... I believe never, a humanitarian intervention has actually worked in a way that has saved people's lives."

"You cannot create a democracy for other people," Kassab continued after an guest shared his experience in the region. "If they want that democracy, it's

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## GRANT

Continued from A1

Carolina University School of Social Work. Two full-time social workers would supervise them while they work with victims of criminal abuse, neglect and abandonment.

The memorandum said the grant would be accepted only if another grant application of \$608,423 over a two-year period is approved by the Governor's Crime Commission.

The two grants would help fund the interns' equipment and in-state travel expenses, provide

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Also on  
agenda:

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