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## Innocence, Racial Justice, and the End of the Death Penalty in North Carolina

### Distinguished Speakers Series, Spring 2013

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North Carolina, once one of the more prolific users of capital punishment, has executed no inmates since 2006, and no North Carolina jury sentenced any individual to death in 2012, an historical first. Speakers in this series will explore issues of wrongful conviction, the controversies surrounding the Racial Justice Act, and the future of capital punishment in the Tar Heel State.

- February 13. Rep. Paul “Skip” Stam.** Rep. Stam (R-Wake County) was one of the strongest critics of the 2009 Racial Justice Act and a prime mover of its revision in 2011.
- February 20. Glen Edward Chapman and Prof. Pam Laughon.** Ed served 15 years on NC’s death row for two murders he did not commit. Pam Laughon of UNC-A was an investigator assigned to his defense at trial and subsequently an advocate for his release.
- February 27. William Michael Dillon.** Bill Dillon, a Chapel Hill resident, served 27 years in Florida for a murder he did not commit. He is now a recording artist and public speaker.
- March 6. Ron McAndrew.** Ron was the warden at Florida State Prison and was responsible for administering executions using the electric chair. He is now an advocate for abolition.
- March 20. Christine Mumma and Greg Taylor.** Greg Taylor served 17 years in prison for a crime of which he was found to be innocent. Chris is the Director of the NC Center on Actual Innocence and was Greg’s attorney.
- March 27. Theresa A. Newman and LaMonte Armstrong.** LaMonte served 17 years in a NC prison for a murder of which he was innocent. Theresa Newman is Director of the Duke Wrongful Convictions Clinic, Professor at the Duke Law School, and served as his attorney for release.
- April 3. Tye Hunter.** Tye Hunter is Executive Director of the Center for Death Penalty Litigation and represented inmates appealing their sentences under the Racial Justice Act.
- April 10. Scott Bass and Mrs. Shirley Burns.** Scott is Executive Director of Murder Victims’ Families for Reconciliation. Mrs. Burns is the mother of Marcus Robinson, who was sentenced to death but successful in his use of the Racial Justice Act in having his death sentence changed to Life in Prison without Parole. Mrs. Burns other son Curtis was murdered but the killer received a term sentence.
- April 17. Judge Gregory Weeks.** Judge Weeks presided over cases under the Racial Justice Act. In December 2012 he retired from the bench.

All events begin at 5:30pm in Room 200, Genome Sciences Building, on the UNC campus.

Sponsors: UNC Department of Political Science, UNC Department of African and African-American Studies, UNC Law School Innocence Project, UNC Law School Center for Civil Rights, UNC Black Student Movement, North Carolina Coalition for a Moratorium