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basketball off to
a great season,
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the Seahawk



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ABC News Primetime:

*scheduled to air
program about the
2004 murders of
UNCW students
Jessica Faulkner
and Christen
Naujoks*

When:
Tonight@ 10 p.m.

Where:
Your local ABC
channel

Students are
encouraged to watch
the program and send
any comments to:
editor@theseahawk.org

UNCW professors conduct study on racial views

BENJAMIN MAHAN
STAFF WRITER

James Johnson was sitting in a barbershop four years ago when a group of white police officers walked past the window. Someone in the shop said that the officers looked like members of the Klu Klux Klan.

Shocked by the seemingly off-handed assumption that a few white police officers in a group must be associated with the KKK, Johnson asked the 10 other young blacks in the shop if they thought that all white people share the same beliefs of the Klan. They said yes and believed that the typical white person is only suppressing their true feelings.

This experience, and others like it, compelled Johnson, a professor of psychology at UNCW, to investigate further into anti-white biases and prejudices held by some blacks.

His efforts and the efforts of fellow psychology professor Len Lecci, have resulted in a comparative article on anti-white bias, which is scheduled for publication in an upcoming issue of the psychology journal "Personality and Individual Differences."

The article, "Predicting Perceived Racism and Acceptance of Negative Behavioral Intergroup Responses: Validating the Johnson-Lecci Scale in a College and Community Sample of Blacks," is based on a 2003 study conducted by Johnson and Lecci, which measured anti-white bias amongst college students from predominantly black universities and blacks from the local community.

When compared to black members of the community, the students who attended the predominantly black university were more likely to perceive and confront racism when it may or may not be there; they were more likely to participate in white discriminatory behaviors with their

peers and high-bias blacks were least likely to interact with whites, Johnson said.

"No conspiracy theory involving whites harming blacks can be too extreme for high-bias blacks," Johnson said. "For example, they believe that: the levees in New Orleans were broken intentionally to kill and/or displace blacks; and white authorities send drugs into the black community to reduce the black population."

Blacks that attend colleges with few white students may be predisposed to anti-white bias because of their university environment, according to the report.

However, Johnson has seen evidence that suggests strong anti-white bias has more to do with racist encounters than it does with educational experiences.

Johnson spoke about a friend's confrontation with racism. When his friend was young, his mother worked as a maid for a white household. She became ill and was hospitalized. The family visited her once, not out of concern of her well-being, but instead they wanted to know when she was coming back



Len Lecci



James Johnson

to work.

"I don't know why white people are surprised," said Rashid Shabazz, interim director of the Upperman African-American Cultural Center. "With the history of this country and the way the country is going currently, I don't know why this would be newsworthy."

Shabazz said that anti-white bias feelings are so prevalent within black universities because they are an isolated community.

According to Lecci, anti-white biases are difficult to quantify because of their complexity.

Lecci said that previous scales were inadequate because they simply inverted anti-black sentiments held by whites and applied them toward anti-white attitudes held by blacks.

"Terms like prejudice and bias are terms coined by whites to describe the out-group," Lecci said.

Consequently, the professors scrapped the old paradigm and devised the first empirically validated scale – the Johnson-Lecci scale, a four factor analysis based

on 38 ambiguous statements developed to predict racial perception tendencies of blacks.

Some of the statements that drew the strongest bias response were, "I believe that most whites would discriminate against blacks if they could get away with it," and "I believe that most whites think that they are superior to blacks."

"I am concerned about the high-bias student because when a white professor is lecturing they miss out on content because they are looking for racial remarks," Johnson said.

Johnson also said that high-biased students are more likely to blame a poor grade on a racist professor.

Currently, Johnson and Lecci are investigating whether or not anti-white bias views are detrimental to those who hold them. Johnson is also involved in researching cancer patients who may discontinue their chemotherapy treatments because of their mistrust of white doctors.

Join your fellow students and UNCW faculty at a ceremony to commemorate Veteran's Day

Where | Campus Commons in front of Randall Library

When | 10:30 a.m. Nov. 11

A moment of silence will be observed at 11:11 a.m.
marked by the chiming of the clock tower.