Judy Shepard advocates gay rights

By Ashley Cole
Staff Writer

“You are who you are and you love who you love, and that’s just the way it is,” Judy Shepard told about 200 people in attendance Feb. 21 in GPAC.

As part of the Distinguished Speaker Series, Shepard came to UNCP to share her story about the tragic death of her gay son and how it gave her the initiative to fight for awareness and equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Shepard held a forum earlier in the UC where students had the opportunity to have their questions answered. Later that evening, there was a reception and dinner in the Chancellor’s dining room where there were eager guests waiting to greet Shepard.

“I want to know more about Matthew, [he] is one of my inspirations and I really can relate to his story in so many ways,” said sophomore Felix Rucker.

Those who attended the dinner had the chance to meet Shepard and Chancellor Carter, as well as have their questions answered with two of them.

In Shepard signed books and took pictures.

Matthew

On the early morning of Oct. 11, the end of the world was Awoken by a phone call from Irwin Memorial Hospital in Laramie, Wyo.

The man on the other end told her something that no mother ever wants to hear: her son, Matthew, was in critical condition after being beaten and tied to a fence for 18 hours. Both Shepard and her husband, Dennis, were in Saudi Arabia when they received the unsettling news, and it would be a grueling 25 hours before they could be with their son.

When they arrived in Laramie, Shepard called their family and friends by his side, Matthew passed away.

“His death was later ruled a hate crime. His death gained national and international media attention.”

In light of their son’s death, the Shepards created the Matthew Shepard Foundation which aims to educate and raise awareness about equality and social justice.

Shepard spoke candidly about the university. “I get your mission, I embrace it and celebrate it,” he said.

Dr. Kenneth Kitts selected as Provost

By Kayloni Wyatt
Editor

Chancellor Kyle R. Carter has selected Dr. Kenneth Kitts as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He will begin on April 1.

He has widespread support throughout the campus, and I am confident that he is the right match for the university at this time in its history,” Chancellor Carter said in an email dated Feb. 9.

Dr. Kitts was the final candidate to visit the campus and interact with students, staff and faculty. During an open forum on Jan. 27, Dr. Kitts spoke about his family and friends by his side, Matthew passed away.

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Dr. Kitts was previously the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management at Francis Marion University in Florence, S.C.

“First, Dr. Kitts is a teacher-scholar who understands the faculty role and can serve as a role model for our faculty. He will be a strong leader for faculty members. Second, students will learn that Dr. Kitts has high expectations for them, and he will work to assure their success. Finally, he has gained tremendous experience in his eight years as Associate Provost at Francis Marion University,” Chancellor Carter said in the email.

“I think he’s an excellent choice. He’s from a university with the same background as ours. They have the same problems as we do, especially budget wise,” said Elizabeth Nunnery, a freshman senator and Robert Quizon, a junior senator and Robert Quizon, a junior senator.

“Dr. Kitts was previously the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Enroll- ment Management at Francis Marion University in Florence, S.C.”

Along with Quizon, Kimberly Nguyen, a sopho- more senator and Robert Nunnery, a freshman sena- tor, represented Pembroke at the meeting. As well, in attendance were the chancellor from the 17 institutions, Atul Bhula, president of University of North Caro- lina Association of Student Governments and two stu- dents from The Daily Tarheel.

The search committee and the administration spent over seven months looking for the right person to help UNCP transition to greater expectations and successes,” Chancellor Carter said.

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By Hilary Aker
Staff Writer

Three UNCP SGA offi- cers attended the Board of Governors meeting and Budget and Finance committee meeting of the Board of Governors in Chapel Hill Feb. 10, where the board approved tuition increases for the 2011-2012 school year.

The board voted unanimously to increase tuition, causing tuition for UNCP to increase by $572 next year, SGA President Arjay Quizon reported in his Twit- ter feed Feb. 10. The board also passed a proposal to in- crease fees, making UNCP’s total cost for tuition and fees for 2011-2012 $5,877, Quizon said.

Also discussed at the meeting were the plans for a student recreation center at the Greenvale campus. The new recreation center will cost a total of $91 mil- lion, which is roughly a 50%-64 increase in student fees for Greenvale students.

“According to the United States Department of Education, one of the most common reasons students seek counseling is depression and anxiety,” he said. He also noted, “Over the past four years, the highest crime re- port on UNCP campuses have been burglary, next to

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Inside

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
February 24, 2011

Volume 66, Issue No. 3

www.uncp.edu/jpineeddle

Gay Rights activist Judy Shepard, right, talks to Nick Canada, who performed in the Laramie Project last spring. Shepard’s son Matthew was killed Oct. 9, 1998 in Laramie, Wyo. Shepard was on campus Feb. 21 as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series.

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