The Sexual Battery Conference Committee of the Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women is hosting its 33rd Annual Conference this year on Tuesday, May 6th, 2014 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4000 NW 53rd Avenue from 8:00 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. The conference is open to the public. The cost of the conference is $80.00 for non-students and $40.00 for students. Continuing education credits are available at a cost of $30.00 for Psychologists and Licensed Mental Health Professionals (F.S.S. 490 & 491). Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included in the registration fee. The purpose of this yearly conference is to provide a forum to discuss current trends in the fields of sexual violence and intimate partner violence prevention and intervention including evidence-based best-practices as well as to highlight emerging areas of focus for the field.

This year's program will explore ways to address the challenges of providing victim-centered intervention and prevention services designed to promote individual recovery from various forms of oppression including child abuse, domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual battery. This conference is relevant for those who work in law enforcement, child advocacy, mental health, victim services, domestic violence shelters, education, medical settings, the judicial system, and for survivors and other members of the public who are concerned with these issues. This conference can provide 5 CE credits for psychologists, licensed mental health and marriage and family therapists, and licensed social workers.

Two featured speakers of the conference this year include Debra Holbrook and Brad Dennis. Debra S. Holbrook, BSN, RN, SANE-A, FNE A/P is the Forensic Nursing Coordinator for Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore, MD and is Adjunct Faculty at the Institute for Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. In her current role, Debra coordinates care to victims of sexual assault and interpersonal violence and manages a team of 30+ FNEs for 24/7 comprehensive forensic medical care. She directs training and supervision of all aspects of FNE positions, training to all Baltimore City police, EMT, Maryland State Police academies as well as monthly mandatory in-service update for these populations. Debra serves on the National Panel of Experts for the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) for which she
Debra participates on a team of national experts on standard of care for victims of sexual assault. Debra is also a National Trainer for OVC and lectures on state and national levels to groups needing expert training in standards of care for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. As a National Forensic Science Expert for the National Institute of Justice, Debra reviews proposals for National Institute of Justice Funding on all levels requiring expert advice as forensic science expert.

Brad Dennis is the National Search Director for the KlaasKIDS Foundation and founder of Called2Rescue. He managed the community-assisted search effort following the abduction of 12 year-old Polly Hannah Klaas in 1993, which has become the model for child abduction search strategies. Brad has over twenty-six years of experience in search and rescue and crisis management, and has managed search efforts for over 300 missing/abducted children around the country. His efforts to locate missing and abducted children has led to the discovery of traffickers abducting and recruiting our children into the unsavory world of sex trafficking. Brad has been instrumental in the rescue of numerous children from sex trafficking and the intelligence he has gathered has assisted in taking down several child prostitution rings. His rescue efforts for missing children have been chronicled on CNN, The Early Show, The Today Show, Dateline, MSNBC, and 48 Hours.

For conference or Sexual Battery Committee information, please contact Debra Weiss, Sexual Battery Conference Chair, at: debralyn@ufl.edu

Released by: Major Brad Barber, Assistant Director
Reviewed by: Deputy Chief Tony Dunn, Associate Director
Number: 14-08