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(no subject)

1 message

Paul Tribble <ptrible@cnu.edu>

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To: employees <employees@cnu.edu>, faculty <faculty@cnu.edu>

The tragedy of UVA student, Hannah Graham's disappearance causes concern for the safety of all college and university campuses. The thoughts and prayers of the entire CNU community go out to our sister institution and to Hannah Graham's family and friends.

Over 11 years ago the suspect in the case, Jesse Matthew, was a student at CNU for a short time. He transferred from Liberty University to Christopher Newport in January 2003 and was here for the spring semester and for two months in the fall. He was a member of the football team from August 14 to September 12, 2003. During that time Matthew was accused of sexual assault. The incident was thoroughly investigated by CNU Police. No physical injuries were reported. The victim chose not to proceed with a criminal prosecution.

The university has been fully cooperating with law enforcement officials and will likely be included in news reports about Matthew. As you may know, student records, including information regarding internal disciplinary action, are protected by a federal law, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Unfortunately, this limits the information we can release.

Sexual abuse is a national tragedy and it touches all of our lives. When cases of sexual abuse are reported on campus they will always be fully investigated and the full resources of the University will be offered to victims to help them through very difficult times. We will encourage victims to proceed with criminal prosecution and to participate in CNU's disciplinary hearings. I can assure you that when someone is found responsible for egregious conduct such as sexual abuse, they will be expelled from this campus and a record of that action will be prominently placed on their official transcript so that other schools will be on notice that something serious has occurred.

As a University community, we must be vigilant, make wise decisions and do all we can to stay out of harm's way. We must look out for each other and pledge to end sexual violence on this campus and in our society. We must protect our fellow Captains on and off campus and "be the change."

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