

UNCP *Today* WINTER 2008

The magazine for alumni and friends of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke



2008 Alumni & Service Awards

Mac Campbell '68, Ginnell Curtis Birch '02, Mike Olson,
and Dick Taylor take home top awards, pg. 3



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UNCP Today

Winter 2008

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UNCP *Today* magazine is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the University by the Division for University and Community Relations. 15,000 copies were printed on recycled paper at a cost of \$1.49 each. UNCP is a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.

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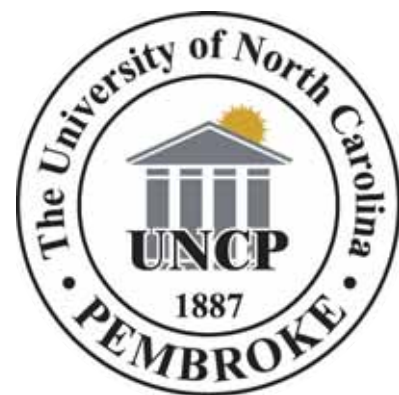
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UNCP in top 30 for service to military

As a provider of higher education to military personnel at Fort Bragg, UNCP was selected by *Military Advanced Education* magazine as one of the top 30 military-friendly universities in the U.S.

With approximately 16,000 military and Department of Defense civilian subscribers, *Military Advanced Education* is a quarterly publication focused on higher education for the military. It was founded to address the growing need for advanced education, professional development or additional coursework within the military and qualified Department of Defense civilians. Its audience includes mid-career military officers and education offices.

The strengths of UNCP's application included:

- flexibility regarding standard policies, such as drop-add;
- dollar value of education received, such as comparative tuition and fee structure;
- UNCP contribution to learning resources; and
- flexibility regarding the schedule of courses.

UNCP launched an aggressive campaign in 2003 to offer more degree programs. Based on the University's demonstrated high value and proven academic rigor, the University was approved to offer seven degree programs at Fort Bragg. The University works with the Education Services Office at the base.

On the military reservation, UNCP offers undergraduate programs in:

- Bachelor of Science in nursing
- Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration in management
- Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice

graduate programs in:

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Arts in physical education
 - a) Concentration in physical education licensure and sports administration
 - b) Concentration in sports administration
- Master of Arts in mathematics education
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)
- MAT middle grades education specialization
- MAT physical education specialization
- MAT secondary mathematics education (grades 9-12)
- MAT secondary social studies education (grades 9-12)

UNCP at Fort Bragg may be contacted by calling (910) 436-4295.

Chancellor's Message

Alumni, Donors and Friends



In addition to continuing their dedication to exceptional classroom teaching, our faculty published 11 books in 2007, thus contributing to the storehouse of knowledge on a global scale.

The future of scholarship at UNCP is more promising than ever with the recent addition of five new endowed professorships. We have received pledges for two nursing chairs, from the Brooks family (Healthkeeperz) and Robert and Ann Zucker; two chairs in the School of Business have been funded by the Thomas Family Foundation and

BB&T; and one in education, the Joseph B. Oxendine professorship, has been funded by the C.D. Spangler Foundation.

We are expecting to see even more scholarship from our faculty and from our students. As undergraduate research takes off, so has the Esther Maynor Honors College. The first full scholarship was granted in 2007 from the Maynor gift, which is the largest in University history.

As our endowment continues to rise, additional support will become available to outstanding undergraduate scholars. The endowment surpassed \$10 million in 2007, up from \$4.4 million at the start of the decade.

Construction continued in 2007 with the completion of the O.R. Sampson Academic Building, our first new classroom building in 27 years. A new health building is in the planning stages.

Construction of new student housing on and off campus has produced one of the most important changes at your University. With more than 2,500 residential students, the door is open to new and high quality campus activities.

It would not be appropriate to finish without a word about football. Coach Pete Shinnick, his staff and our young team deserve congratulations on their great first season. We are excited that all Braves sports are off to a good year, so far.

I encourage you to come out to support our winter and spring sports, as well as attending some of the outstanding events at the Givens Performing Arts Center.

Your University is working hard to give our students and many constituencies a wonderful experience. We are proud of what has been accomplished but know that the best is yet to come. Join us as we move UNCP into tomorrow.

Allen C. Meadors

Allen C. Meadors, Ph.D., FACHE
Chancellor

UNCP gives 2008 alumni and service awards

Mac Campbell, of Elizabethtown, N.C., and Dick Taylor, of Lumberton, N.C., won top awards at the 2008 Alumni Awards Banquet on February 8 at the University.

Also honored were the newest inductees of the Athletic Hall of Fame, basketball great Ginnell Curtis Birch and former wrestling coach Mike Olson, who built UNCP's wrestling program into a powerhouse.

Campbell, a 1968 UNCP graduate, was recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award, and Taylor won the Distinguished Service Award. Both contributed generously to the University and both support the University "in spirit and in person," Chancellor Meadors said in opening remarks.

Athletic Director Dan Kenney introduced both award recipients. He said Campbell represents an outstanding example of professionalism, community involvement, family values and loyalty.

Campbell was a University trustee when Chancellor Meadors was hired and he served on the Football Advisory Board that helped launch UNCP's new era of football. His contribution earned naming rights to the Mac and Sylvia Campbell Wellness Center in the English E. Jones Athletic Center.

"I've been very blessed as a person for my family and for what this University did for me and my family," Campbell said. "I thank you for this honor on behalf of all the outstanding alumni this University has produced."

A petroleum retailer and distributor with outlets across eastern North Carolina, Campbell is vice chairman of the state Board of Transportation. He is a past president of the Braves Club and winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Taylor was praised for his personal engagement with the University and his leadership.

"Dick Taylor was the first to step forward in a really large way to give generously," Kenney said of the Dick and Lenore Taylor Track. "He also gives generously of his time and talents."

Taylor thanked the University for "letting me work with this great group of faculty, staff and students."



Mac Campbell and Dick Taylor pose with their awards.



"It's been a terrific, gratifying and humbling experience," Taylor said. "Lenore and I have come to love this University more and more."

Ginnell Curtis Birch found her way into the Hall of Fame faster than any athlete in UNCP history, her former coach Sandi Mitchell Littleton noted.

"She wanted to win every game, every free-throw shooting contest and every sprint and every drill," Littleton said. "Once when I was unable to coach, she told me not to worry, 'I will be an extension of you.'"

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Cover Story

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A 2002 graduate, Curtis Birch was twice an all-American and four-times an all-Peach Belt selection. She finished number two on UNCP's all-time scoring list and holds the single-game scoring record of 47 points.

"I want to thank the University for giving me the opportunity to play collegiate basketball, and for a wonderful education," she said. "I want to thank coach Mitchell for believing in me."



Chancellor Meador welcomes and congratulates the night's award winners.



James Bass, Director of Alumni Relations

Olson took UNCP wrestling off the mat from 1971-82 to compete head-to-head

against much larger schools including UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State. In all, he coached for 46 years at six institutions and had a career winning mark of 82 percent.

At UNCP, Olson coached 16 All-Americans, won five consecutive conference championships and nine district championships. He was introduced by his son Jim as "my father, my hero."

"My father's greatest accomplishment was molding young men into leaders," Jim Olson said.

Coach Olson delivered an inspirational talk, concluding with the audience participating in a "go Braves go" cheer. A large contingent of former UNCP wrestlers was on hand.

"My wife and I were talking the other day, and we agreed if we could go back to any place, this is where we'd be," he said. "I always asked my wrestlers to see themselves doing their best, and most of them did better.

"They dared to go beyond," he said. "They dared to put Pembroke on the map, and they did." ■



Coach Mike Olson and Ginnell Curtis Birch pose with their awards.

Jamee Hunt crowned Miss UNCP 2008

by Hannah Simpson

Junior Jamee Hunt won the crown January 31 at the 56th Annual Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant held at the Givens Performing Arts Center. Hunt, from Rowland, N.C., competed against seven contestants in the categories of



Miss UNCP 2008 Jamee Hunt

interview, swimwear, talent and evening gown. The event was presided over by Miss North Carolina Jessica Jacobs of High Point, N.C., and the Rev. Kent Chavis, a vice president of Lumbee Guaranty Bank.

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The event was presided over by Miss North Carolina Jessica Jacobs of High Point, N.C., and the Rev. Kent Chavis, a vice president of Lumbee Guaranty Bank.

In addition to a \$1,000 scholarship, Hunt was also awarded the Jessica Reed and Family Community Service Award and a \$100 scholarship.

A health promotions major, Hunt said she had

no expectations of winning the pageant, despite winning first runner-up in the 2007 pageant. She plans to work hard on her platform: ACTIONS- A Commitment to Improving Our Nation's Students, a dropout prevention program.

Junior Jessica Capps from Selma, N.C., was first runner-up, winning a \$500 scholarship; junior Pia Jessup from White Oak, N.C., was second runner-up, winning a \$300 scholarship; and junior Justina Carter from Red Springs, N.C., was third runner-up, winning a \$200 scholarship.



Miss North Carolina and pageant Mistress of Ceremonies Jessica Jacobs (left) and Miss UNCP Jamee Hunt

Tiffany Taylor was nominated by her competitors as Miss Congeniality.

Deidra Locklear, a senior mass communications major from Pembroke, gave her final performance as Miss UNCP 2007, singing "All the World's a Stage" and "It's Time to Say Goodbye," before her final walk and the crowning of the new Miss UNCP.

"It's very bitter sweet," said Locklear, who works

at Children International, a clinical research company, in Wilmington. Locklear plans to attend graduate school in public administration.

"I'm truly going to miss Deidra, but I think Jamee's going to be a good ambassador for UNCP," said Robert Cooper, director of the Office of Student Life.

Earlier in the day, the contestants participated in a formal interview with the judges, which is 25 percent of the total score. During the competition, the answer to one question was worth five percent, health and fitness in the swimsuit category was worth 15 percent, talent was 35 percent, and confidence and personality in the evening gown category was 20 percent.

The audience gave a standing ovation to second runner-up Pia Jessup for her talent, an original monologue titled Reflection, which uplifted the perception of women.



Miss UNCP Jamee Hunt and her court from left: 1st runner-up Jessica Capps, Jamee Hunt, 3rd runner-up Justina Carter and 2nd runner-up Pia Jessup

Jessup, the reigning Miss Ebony Pride, said she was encouraged to compete by fellow African American Student Organization members. She said she is glad she can now return to normal student activities.

Miss North Carolina performed a ballet routine to Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." She finished as fourth runner-up in the Miss America Pageant.

Outstanding Teen 2007 Alexis Locklear, a cousin of Deidra Locklear, sang "Fever" and "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" from Phantom of the Opera.

Participating contestants included junior Alicia Colette Oxendine from Laurinburg, N.C.; junior Jessica Branning from Thomasville, N.C.; and freshman Jasmine Floyd from Wilmington, N.C. ■

UNCP celebrates University Center's 20th year, new Annex



The new University Center Annex

The University celebrated the 20th year of the James B. Chavis University Center on October 3.

The hub of student activity and services at UNCP, the University Center got its first major addition with the opening of a \$5 million Annex. The Annex houses a large assembly room, four conference rooms and offices for Student Housing, Residence Life and Student Activities.

Dr. James B. Chavis, who guided planning of the University Center before retiring in 1999 as vice chancellor for Student Affairs, was on hand for the festivities. Dr. Diane Jones, current vice chancellor for Student Affairs, praised Dr. Chavis.

"In his 21 years as vice chancellor, Dr. Chavis was loved and admired at this University," Dr. Jones said. "This building was his vision."

University Center Director Cynthia Oxendine said students, faculty and staff are excited about the Annex.

"The Annex is online, and we're very excited about it," Oxendine said. "The Annex project was developed while Dr. Chavis was here and is just now coming to fruition."



Dr. James B. Chavis

Ground was broken for the original University Center in 1985, and it was dedicated two years later. With its signature pyramid skylights, tall ceilings, spacious dining facilities, offices, bowling alleys and game room, it was an extraordinary addition to campus, Chancellor Meadors said.

"This student center has truly lived up to its definition as the hub of the University," Chancellor Meadors said. "It continues to serve the campus and its students well."

The University Center, or UC as it is known, is home to two dining facilities, the Cafeteria and Bert's, which was recently renovated with a World of Wings restaurant.

About 100 people were on hand for the event that honored the building and its namesake. James B. Chavis '63 worked 34 years at the University, starting as director of the old student center. ■

Pennington joins UNCP's Board of Trustees



Lumberton Mayor Dr. Raymond B. Pennington joined the Board of Trustees of the University.

The former athletics director at UNCP was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley on September 28. He will serve through June 2009, filling the unexpired term of Carl Meares Jr. of Fair Bluff, N.C.

Dr. Pennington said he looks forward to working with the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Meadors during these "exciting times."

"I appreciate the governor's confidence in appointing me to the Board of Trustees," Dr. Pennington said. "For me, this is a continuation of my work with the University, and I look forward to helping it continue to grow."

"Having worked for the University for 40 years and having a wife, son and daughter who are graduates, I have a real vested interest in UNCP," he said.

Chancellor Meadors welcomed Dr. Pennington to the board.

"UNCP is honored to have Dr. Pennington join the University's Board of Trustees," Chancellor Meadors said. "Dr. Pennington has a longstanding relationship with the University, which will serve him and the University well in his role as a trustee."

Dr. Pennington, who earned a doctorate in education from Duke University and a Master's in Education from UNC-Chapel Hill, worked at UNCP from 1963 – 2003 as a baseball coach, professor and athletics director.

A Lumberton city councilman from 1983-87, he was elected mayor in 1991 and has served continuously since then. Dr. Pennington also serves on the Robeson Community College Foundation Board of Directors and is past chair of the Robeson County Democratic Party.

Dr. Pennington was elected to the UNCP and East Carolina University (ECU) Athletic Halls of Fame. He completed his undergraduate studies at ECU.

A Rotarian and Shrine Club member, he is married with two children and one grandchild. ■

FSU, UNCP get \$1.5 million for research equipment

Collaboration between Fayetteville State University (FSU), UNC Pembroke and the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Army Research resulted in \$1.5 million funding this fall for an advanced electron probe microanalyzer to further student and faculty research along with commercial and military applications.

The microanalyzer will allow scientists and their students to unlock the secrets of the planet and the universe, said FSU's Dr. Steven Singletary '96 and UNCP's Dr. Lee Phillips. Dr. Singletary initiated the process that resulted in funding from Congress' 2008 defense budget.

North Carolina's U.S. Sen. Richard Burr and Rep. Bob Etheridge guided the legislation through the Congressional budget process. UNC General Administration's (GA) Office of Federal Relations and its Washington, D.C., office provided guidance and support for the project.

From nearby Tar Heel, N.C., Dr. Singletary received a master's degree from Texas Christian University, a doctorate from M.I.T. and did post-doctoral work at the University of Arizona.

The microanalyzer will be located at FSU and will be accessible electronically to UNCP and other chemists, biologists, geologists and forensic scientists to study inorganic and some organic materials.

Top administrators at FSU and Chancellor Meadors and Provost Dr. Charles Harrington were closely involved in the process that included personal visits to Washington, D.C.

"The Chancellor and I felt it important to work closely with our



Dr. Lee Phillips



Dr. Steven Singletary

federal legislators in an attempt to move this project forward and obtain the funding necessary," Dr. Harrington said. "It was definitely a team effort. This funding from the Department of Defense is a testament to the potential for our contribution to research in these areas."

Dr. Singletary's research focuses on the heavens, while Dr. Phillips keeps his feet on the ground.

"I analyze meteorites," said Dr. Singletary. "I want to see how planets were assembled; I want to find out how the rocks got here."

Dr. Phillips, also an eastern North Carolina native, is interested in the coast and how it evolved.

"The microanalyzer will help me better understand the relationship between changes in sea levels and the precipitation of carbonate cements, or binding agents, in transitional marine deposits," Dr. Phillips said. "This is the best machine possible for this type of work."

"The microanalyzer has micro-imaging capability that allows scientists to collect data with an extraordinary degree of precision," he continued. "What we can do is limited only by our imagination."

The equipment is expected to be operating by this fall. Dr. Linda Little, UNCP's director for Sponsored Research and Programs and federal relations officer, said the federal funding was the result of an extraordinary collaboration.

"This was a team effort on a multi-institutional project," Little said.

The team included Emily Dickens, FSU's director of community and government affairs, David Camps, director of Sponsored Research and Programs at FSU, Miles Lackey, director of UNC's federal government relations and Kimrey Rhinehardt, UNC's vice president for federal relations.

"Our congressional delegation and UNC-GA were instrumental, as was our sponsor at the Office of Army Research," Little said. Faculty members at UNCP and FSU also assisted with the grant application. ■

UNCP to begin new bachelor's degree program

The University will roll out a new Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies aimed at students served by the region's community colleges.

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina approved the program in November. It will launch in fall 2008 at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, N.C., and the plan is to expand the program to other community colleges in the region.

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program will appeal to students in a college track and to others already in the job market – in public, non-profit or business professions – who seek advancement or a career change with the aid of a college degree.

Eight majors with 20 tracks will be available, and UNCP administrators expect some courses to be taught online.

Majors and tracks within those majors include:

- Applied Professional Studies - Advertising, Community Recreation, Economic Development, Health Promotion, International, Office Administration and Theatre
- Applied Information Technology – Operations Management
- Criminal Justice – Applied Information Technology, Forensics and Sociology
- Cultural and Family Studies – Spanish
- Hispanic Commerce – Community Emphasis
- Hospitality – Hotel and Restaurant Administration
- Public and Non-profit Administration – General Accountancy, Communication, Public Management and Spanish

For more information about the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, please contact the Continuing and Distance Education at (910) 521-6367 or email ced@uncp.edu. ■

Faculty/Staff Mentions



Dr. Carmen Calabrese became the executive director of the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship on November 1. A faculty member in the School of Business and former director of the MBA program, he teaches small business management and entrepreneurship. At the Entrepreneurship Center, he will create a business incubator to support the success and growth of new businesses.

Historian **Dr. Jeff Frederick** seeks to shed new light on a controversial figure in his book "Stand up for Alabama: Governor George Wallace" (University of Alabama Press; Tuscaloosa; 2007; 489 pages). Dr. Frederick joined UNCP's faculty in 2003. He teaches a full range of courses at UNCP from entry level U.S. history to Civil Rights, the new South, the old South, American political history and sports and society.



Economist **Dr. Edwin C. Mensah** has written a book on the adoption of new technologies in agriculture: "Economics of Technology Adoption: A Simple Approach" (VDM; 2007). Dr. Mensah earned his doctorate in economics from North Carolina State University and is in his fourth year on the faculty of the School of Business.

Robert L. Orr is the University's new chief information officer and associate vice chancellor for Information Services. He leads the Office of University Computing and Information Services with responsibility for campus information technology and support of teaching and learning with technology. With a First Class FCC Radio Engineering license, Orr earned an associate degree in electronic engineering and a Bachelor of Science degree in communications and a Master's of Human Resources from Western Carolina University. He is working on his doctorate at Western Carolina.



Dr. David B. Oxendine, a professor in the School of Education, has written a book titled "Perceived Fairness of an Ethnic Validation Procedure: Implications for Lumbee Federal Recognition" (BDM; 2007). A Pembroke native, he received a Ph.D. in psychology from NC State University. He joined UNCP's School of Education faculty in 2005.

Biology professor **Dr. David Zeigler** explores biodiversity in his new book "Understanding Biodiversity" (2007; Praeger Publishers; Westport, Conn.). He joined UNCP's faculty in 1989 and has taught a long list of courses including introductory biology, marine biology, zoology, parasitology and evolution.



'The Pine Needle' turned 60!

The Pine Needle student newspaper at the University celebrated its 60th anniversary last fall with record-setting accomplishments.

First published in 1947, the paper has grown into a significant, professional-quality medium, according to faculty adviser Dr. Judy Curtis.

"I'm continually amazed at what our students have been able to accomplish," Dr. Curtis said. "They seem to outdo each other every year."

This year, the bi-weekly *The Pine Needle* scaled new heights by moving up to full broadsheet-sized newspaper. If that weren't enough, the October 11 issue had two sections and reached a record 20 pages, 10 in full color.



"This was our first Homecoming during a football season in 56 years," Dr. Curtis explained. "With that spectacular event, as well as all of the other news occurring around campus, there has been a lot to cover in the two weeks before Homecoming 2007."

The Homecoming issue included a special eight-page section and complete sports coverage.

Lots of students work on *The Pine Needle* each year. For 2007-08, the newspaper has a staff of 34.

Robert Deckert is the editor and Christian Felkl serves as managing editor. Other senior staff members include Michael Graham, Web editor; Abigail Overfelt, news editor; Tashieka Hammond, photo editor; Kayloni Wyatt, around the campus editor; Hannah Simpson, around the town editor, Robert Kelley, sports editor; and Margaret Damghani, opinion editor.

The paper accepts paid advertising from national brands as well as local businesses. It boasts a circulation of 4,000 on campus and in the town of Pembroke via racks in restaurants, stores and public buildings. In addition, the paper is circulated at the University's satellite campuses.

"I am so proud of the students. It's a huge job putting out a 20-page paper," Dr. Curtis said. "Although journalism majors make up most of the staff, all majors are welcome."

The Mass Communications Department offers academic tracks in journalism, public relations and broadcasting. For more information, please call (910) 521-6204 or email pineneedle@uncp.edu. ■

The Legacy Bench Campaign

The Legacy Bench Campaign is an affordable naming opportunity at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. For \$1,500 you can leave a legacy for yourself, a family member or a special friend on the campus. Your name or the name of a loved one will be inscribed on a beautifully crafted bench to be located at strategic sites throughout campus.

Purchase a bench (or benches) through this offer and receive a FREE one-year membership in the UNCP Chancellor's Club!

910-521-6515 • alison.decinti@uncp.edu



UNCP's Office for Advancement adds Alisia Oxendine

Alisia Scott Oxendine joined the Office for Advancement at the University in the newly created position of Collegiate Director of Development.

Oxendine, who was a special assistant to Congressman Mike McIntyre, will be responsible for resource development for UNCP's academic departments and programs. She reports to Sandy Waterkotte, vice chancellor for Advancement.



"We are so pleased to be adding a position in Advancement that will have the interaction with deans and department heads as its priority," Waterkotte said. "Alisia is the perfect person for this position, since she brings a great understanding of the community and our state, as well as an honest affection for UNCP."

A graduate of Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., Oxendine received a Master of Public Administration degree from UNCP in December 2007. Her work experience includes public relations, marketing, government and media relations and resource development in a variety of settings in health care, education and government.

"This position is a great fit based on my service and experience in the public and private sectors," Oxendine said. "I am honored to continue serving my community and look forward to being part of the University and its Advancement team."

Oxendine worked in Congressman McIntyre's local office where she researched issues critical to the region in rural health care,

education, economic development, housing, armed forces and American Indian affairs among others.

As a student intern working with the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, Oxendine found her calling.

"I worked for senators John McCain and Daniel Inouye at the time the (Lumbee) Federal Recognition bill was introduced into the Senate," Oxendine said. "The bill lost by two votes, but the experience planted the idea to return to my own community to work and make a difference where I felt I was needed most."

Oxendine is a Lumberton, N.C., native. She is married to realtor Brion Oxendine, and they have two children. She said UNCP has played an enormous role in her family.

"My husband and his father and mother are UNCP graduates and so is my mother," Oxendine said. "UNCP has played a vital role in our lives just as it plays a vital role throughout this community and region."

Oxendine also worked six years as a violence prevention specialist for the Public Schools of Robeson County and in public and government relations and business development for Native Angels Homecare and Hospice in Lumberton.

At UNCP, she will work to develop academic programs with faculty, department chairs and deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and schools of Education and Business.

"We will sit down and evaluate the needs and priorities in collaboration with each department, and I will work to develop relationships with prospective donors to support and to assist them in meeting their goals and expanding their vision," Oxendine said. "I am looking forward to working with everyone." ■

UNCP loses professor Dr. Mary Guy Beaver

Dr. Mary Guy Beaver, a professor in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department, died on September 16 after a brief illness.

She was coordinator of UNCP's Recreation Program and an outdoor enthusiast. In her eighth year on the faculty, she was a Desert Storm and Desert Shield veteran.

A native of Oglethorpe, Ga., Dr. Beaver was well liked by colleagues and students alike. She was remembered for her hard work and spirit in a memorial service on October 3.

Student and recreation major Rachel Cadden said Dr. Beaver "made sure her students were laughing a lot and learning more."

Dr. William Gash, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said "Mary Guy was an excellent teacher, mentor, advisor and friend. She went about making a difference to everyone she knew in her quiet and genuine manner."



Retired wrestling coach P.J. Smith said Dr. Beaver was very well respected. "She worked very hard to be able to teach and coach in higher education," Smith said. "This was her dream."

Dr. Beaver earned a Doctorate of Arts in physical education from Middle Tennessee State University where she also earned an undergraduate degree in health and a Master of Science degree in physical education. She also earned a Master's degree in Education from Berry College.

Dr. Beaver worked at the high school, community college and university levels. She was head of Southeastern Community College's Parks and Outdoor Recreation Department from 1993-97 before taking a job as a ranger with the National Park Service at Mammoth Cave, Ky.

She spent summers as director of a Girl Scout Camp in Chattanooga, Tenn., and was member of the U.S. Army Reserves from 1984-91.

Dr. Beaver's department has originated a memorial scholarship in her name. For more information or to contribute, please contact the Office for Advancement at (910) 521-6252 or advancement@uncp.edu. ■

Dr. Menefee returns to UNCP as Thomas Distinguished Professor

Dr. Mike Menefee is the new Thomas Family Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship. He was the University's William H. Belk Distinguished Professor from 1990-94.

Dr. Menefee returns to UNCP from a distinguished 13-year career at Purdue University where he was a Peterson Faculty Fellow and a Burton D. Morgan Fellow at the Center for Entrepreneurship in the university's Discovery Park.

At UNCP, Dr. Menefee will lead several entrepreneurship programs. That too will be a familiar role because in the early 1990s, he played a part in the birth of the Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development.

Dr. Menefee will help launch the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship. He will also help plan new undergraduate programs in entrepreneurship.

Dr. Eric Dent, dean of the School of Business, is pleased to have Dr. Menefee at the Center and on his faculty.

"Mike Menefee is the perfect person to fill this important role for the University and region," Dr. Dent said. "He is a top-notch scholar with tremendous expertise in entrepreneurship.

"He is also very familiar with our region and already has a network of connections that will accelerate what the Thomas Center can do to help organizations in the region," he said.

"It's good to be back at a place where there are so many good people, and I have so many good relationships," Dr. Menefee said in an interview from his office at COMtech. COMtech, a business incubator in Robeson County, is also the location of UNCP's Regional Center and the biotechnology research and training facility, which will break ground this fall.

"Returning to UNCP to teach, research and work in entrepreneurship is an opportunity to do here what I did successfully at



Purdue," he said. "I'm very excited about the mission of the Thomas Entrepreneurship Center."

Dr. Menefee started and directed the Purdue entrepreneurship

program, located at the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship at Discover Park, which quickly grew to include more than 700 students. He also directed the Public Policy Institute as a Kettering Fellow.

Awarded professor emeritus status, Dr. Menefee won several awards, including the 2007 Thomson-South-Western Outstanding Educator Award, the 2007 Federation of Business Disciplines Educator of the Year Award and the 2007 Southwest Case Research Outstanding Educator.

He has an outstanding record of scholarship also. Dr. Menefee is co-author of "Human Behavior in Organizations," which is going into its second printing.

Over the years, he collaborated with several UNCP business professors on articles that were published in business journals.

"I have co-authored a number of articles with Dr. John Parnell, the current William H. Belk Distinguished Professor, and Dr. Rick Crandall, Dr. Ed Powers and Dr. Christopher Ziemnowicz, and we plan more joint projects," Dr. Menefee said. "I am looking forward to working with the faculty."

Dr. Menefee said he is pleased to see UNCP's growing enrollment.

"A lot of good things are happening at UNCP," he said. "This University is a well-kept secret that people are just beginning to discover.

"UNCP has so much to offer in terms of small classes, great faculty and diversity," Dr. Menefee added. "This is a University on the move today with potential for more

growth and development opportunities for the region."

Dr. Menefee is familiar with the region's economy having performed development work in several municipalities and counties.

"This University has helped the region in many ways and is in a position to do even more with programs in entrepreneurship," he said. "While the University raises the skill level of entrepreneurs, the Thomas Family Center will stimulate entrepreneurship through assistance to start-ups and existing small businesses.

"I had a good conversation with Jim Thomas before taking this position," Dr. Menefee said. "I appreciate his vision to help people here."

A grant from the Thomas Family Foundation launched the Entrepreneurship Center and the distinguished professorship. Thomas is a Pembroke, N.C., native who is a successful commercial real estate developer in Los Angeles.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in management from Northern Illinois University, Dr. Menefee earned a Master of Science degree in civil engineering and management and a Ph.D. in administrative science from Purdue University.

He has earned certificates as a financial

"While the University raises the skill level of entrepreneurs, the Thomas Family Center will stimulate entrepreneurship through assistance to start-ups and existing small businesses.

analyst from Dunn and Bradstreet, corporate accounting, human resource management, mediation from UNCP and Bible studies and counseling from Moody Bible Institute.

The Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship at COMtech may be contacted at (910) 775-4208. ■

UNCP's Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence hails from South Africa



Dr. Chisepo J. J. Mphaisha comes to the University as an international Fulbright Scholar from Cape Town South Africa's University of the Western Cape with an enrollment of over 15,000 students.

Cape Town is the legislative capital of South Africa. It is also a city that is near Robben Island where political prisoners were jailed during the Apartheid era, and the Cape of Good Hope that was historically a stopover for sailing ships to and from

India and the Orient. With its beautiful beaches and mountain ranges, Cape Town is also home to the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape, the University of Stellenbosch, and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Dr. Kevin Freeman of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Dr. Robert Schneider, former associate vice chancellor for International Programs and Dr. Linda Little, director of the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs, were instrumental in bringing Dr. Mphaisha to UNCP.

"The presence of such distinguished international faculty is a critical part of our effort to create a truly international learning environment on campus and to prepare students for success in the 21st century," Dr. Schneider said. "His scholarship on administrative reform in South Africa is widely known, and he has a remarkable reputation in his field.

"Most importantly, he will bring to our students a truly valuable perspective on the historic and critically important changes and challenges associated with the South African experience," he continued.

Dr. Mphaisha concurs, "UNCP is a diversified University, so we will see how we make room for each other to work and succeed. I also see my purpose for being here as one of sharing experiences beyond the classroom," he said.

Dr. Mphaisha's academic background is in public and international affairs. He was educated in Zambia and the U.S. He earned a Master's of Public Administration degree (MPA) in 1977 and a Ph.D. in 1979 from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Mphaisha has taught university undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students for over three decades. He taught at the University of Zambia from 1974-94. He then moved to the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, in 1995 to take up the post of professor of public administration.

This is the second time Dr. Mphaisha is Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in the U.S. He was Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in the 1985-86 academic year at the University of Richmond in Virginia, during which time he was invited to guest-lecture at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Colgate University, Cornell University, Indiana University South-East, Haverford College and the University of Pittsburgh.

"The goal of the Fulbright program is to foster understanding between the American people and peoples from other parts of the world through the mutual exchange of views on social, economic, political and institutional issues confronting the U.S., and I am eager to work towards the realization of that mission," Dr. Mphaisha said.

He takes his role as a Fulbright Scholar very seriously. "My research interests are wide and varied, and I hope to have some time to do comparative research, perhaps with local governments while I am here."

This semester, he is teaching two courses. One – comparative public administration compares and contrasts bureaucratic experiences in developed and developing nations. The second course, which the Department of Political Science and Public Administration asked Dr. Mphaisha to design and teach, deals with government and politics in South Africa. This course focuses on the evolution of the post-apartheid state.

"UNCP is a diversified University, so we will see how we make room for each other to work and succeed. I also see my purpose for being here as one of sharing experiences beyond the classroom," he said.

South Africa is a multi-lingual and multi-ethnic country with 11 official languages, including English and Afrikaans.

After the 1994 non-racial elections, the real transformation of the state and society in South Africa began. The new government had three tasks. The first was the development of a non-racial state and public service, with all of the educational and training implications. The second was the creation of a balance between a private sector that could serve as the engine of economic growth and a public sector that could meet the country's overwhelming social needs. The third was the creation of a policy-making process that could plan, coordinate and manage economic development into the 21st century. The course demonstrates that these socio-economic and political problems remain pervasive in contemporary South Africa.

Dr. Mphaisha finds UNCP students to be "quite good" on the whole. More importantly, departmental colleagues have helped him immensely to quickly settle down.

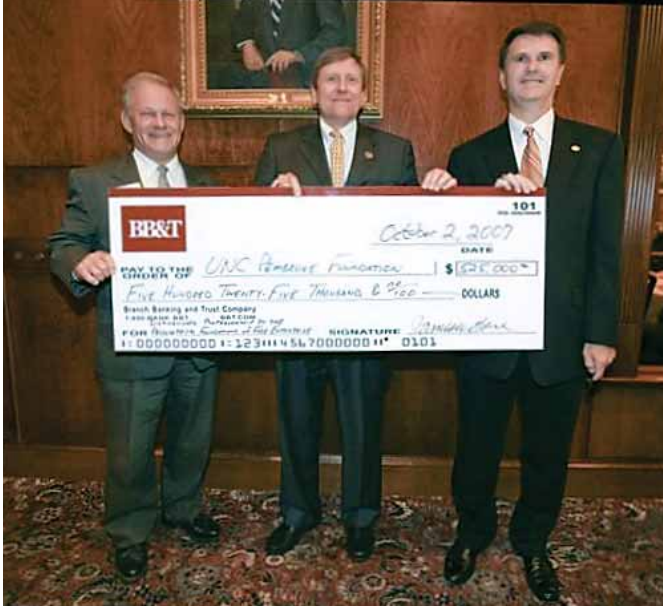
His wife, Victoria, accompanies him on his one-year sojourn. They have between them six daughters and a last-born son, now age 17. They also have four grandsons and one granddaughter.

"My wife and I find Pembroke a beautiful place," he said. "There is a friendliness here that you do not easily find in a very large city. The people are ever so polite and friendly," Dr. Mphaisha said. "My wife has, for instance, joined a prayer group, which is something she enjoys at home in Cape Town...praying for others in order to look for and to find Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord."

To contact Dr. Mphaisha, please call (910) 775 4279 or email chisepo.mphaisha@uncp.edu.

BB&T endows distinguished professorship at UNCP

A gift from BB&T Corporation has established an Endowed Professorship in the Philosophical Foundations of Free Enterprise in the School of Business.



BB&T endowed professorship—From left: BB&T's Jeff Etheridge, Chancellor Meadors and BB&T's James Gore.

BB&T, a super regional bank headquartered in Winston-Salem, N.C., with deep roots in Southeastern North Carolina, has contributed \$500,000 towards a \$1 million endowment that will bring a distinguished scholar and teacher to the University.

An additional gift of \$25,000 will purchase books and materials to advance the teaching of the moral and philosophical underpinnings of capitalism.

The endowment carries with it the objective of teaching future generations of business leaders the moral and philosophical principles underlying free markets, said John Allison, BB&T's chairman and chief executive officer.

"We believe there needs to be a deeper understanding of the morality of capitalism and its causal relationship to economic well-being," Allison said. "This contribution will encourage business graduates who enter the workplace to have a firm grasp of the moral principles underlying free markets, a better understanding of our economy, and an enhanced ability to make meaningful contributions to the world."

The gift, which is to be made over five years, will be matched by the North Carolina General Assembly's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. As an endowment, the gift will fund the professorship perpetually.

It is UNCP's fifth distinguished professorship and third in the School of Business. Distinguished professorships that are funded

from outside sources represent an outstanding opportunity for institutions of higher education, said Dr. Eric Dent, dean of the school.

"The establishment of the BB&T Endowed Professorship in the Philosophical Foundations of Free Enterprise will allow us to recruit or retain a 'superstar' faculty member in this area," Dr. Dent continued. "It is also admirable for a large company such as BB&T to want to support the teaching of ethics, and this gift will allow us to expand our offerings in this area."

Chancellor Meadors thanked the bank and its leadership for investing in higher education.

"This gift to The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is meaningful because of its size and its purpose," Chancellor Meadors said. "It also speaks to BB&T's considerable relationship with this University and the communities they serve."

"We greatly appreciate BB&T's generosity and the leadership of people like James Gore and Jeff Etheridge," Dr. Meadors said.

Gore, Lumberton city executive, and Etheridge, southeast region president, were on hand October 2 to discuss the program and gift with UNCP administration.

BB&T is a full-service financial institution built on a strong foundation that emphasizes 10 primary values and the significance of individuals' character. (Visit www.bbt.com to learn more about the corporation's philosophy.)

BB&T and its employees are long-time supporters of the School of Business and UNCP. Allison was the Distinguished Business Executive Speaker at UNCP in 2006, discussing the company's vision and values. More information about the company is available at <http://www.bbt.com>. ■

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or email: advancement@uncp.edu.

Donors meet recipients at Annual Scholarship Dinner

James Sibbett and Sara Pack spoke for student scholarship recipients to thank donors at the 4th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner at the University November 29.

The dinner, attended by 118 scholarship donors, is the annual event when donors and recipients meet. In many ways, Sibbett's and Pack's stories are typical of UNCP students.

A non-traditional student, Sibbett served in the Army before returning to school to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor. With wife, Siiri, also enrolled at UNCP, money was needed.

"When I read about the David Parke Scholarship, I felt we had something in common," Sibbett said. "Mr. Parke was serving his country in Korea when he went missing in action.

"I read that he wanted to go to medical school, and so do I," Sibbett concluded. "Because of this event, I was able to meet his sister, Marti Baldwin, who has become a friend and has welcomed me into her family.

"I am thankful," Sibbett said.

More than three of every four students at UNCP receive financial assistance of some kind. A member of the Esther Maynor Honors



From left: Front Row - Martha Baldwin, Mary Ann Elliott and Sarah Pack. Back Row - James Sibbett, Chancellor Meadors, Provost Charles Harrington and Joshua Posey.

College and the first recipient of the Maynor Scholarship, Pack said without it, she would not be in college.

"I consider it a great honor to be here," Pack said. "More than anything, I am grateful to the donor.

"Every new person I meet, every class I take would not have happened without this scholarship," she said. "This has completely changed my life; it has changed my life in every way possible."

Mary Ann Elliott, a Lumberton, N.C., native who did not graduate from high school but became CEO of a global aerospace company, said her mother inspired her to create two endowed scholarships at UNCP.

"My mother struggled so hard to go to nursing school," Elliott said. "She never gave up, and that inspired me. Now it is my time to give back."

Chancellor Meadors thanked the donors on behalf of the University.

"This event brings together our most precious resources – our students – with our most precious friends – our donors," Chancellor Meadors said. "The opportunity to get a college education is priceless, and to make it possible for another person is to change history.

"If there is one thing I could say to the students in this room, it is to remember this day and the help you received, and give back when it is your time." ■

Add Your Name

to the First and Ten Donor Wall
at the UNCP Football Stadium,
call 910-521-6252

Raleigh donors establish endowed professorship

A Raleigh, N.C., couple founded an endowed professorship in the Nursing Department at the University.

Robert L. and Anne S. Zucker established the \$250,000 endowment as part of a charitable trust. It will perpetually fund a nursing faculty position.

The Zuckers, owners of Outdoor Equipment Distributors, Inc., established similar gifts for nursing programs at UNC-Chapel Hill and East Carolina University. They also fund a scholarship program at NC State University.

“We selected nursing because it is a profession that helps people and that goes with our business philosophy,” Robert Zucker said. “People don’t often think of nursing schools, but nurses help a lot of people.”

The family had ties to UNC-Chapel Hill and East Carolina, but none with UNCP before the gift. The Zuckers are friends of UNCP Board of Trustees Chair Breeden Blackwell ‘68.

“We have been friends for the past 8-10 years, and I suggested he take a look at my little University,” Dr. Blackwell said. “Unknown to me, Bob came to UNCP and had lunch with Chancellor Meadors.

“There is no question this gift will benefit the University, its students and patients in our region,” Dr. Blackwell said. “I guess you never know what will happen when you start bragging about your University.”

Zucker said his visit to UNCP opened his eyes.

“I was amazed when I came to the University with all the new buildings and its modern campus,” he said. “I’ve always had a great love for small universities because you can get to know so many people.”

The gift agreement was announced on October 6 at UNCP’s Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) nursing campus in Lumberton. Nearly 50 enthusiastic nursing students welcomed the news from the audience.

“Anne and I are amazed and surprised by the reception we have received today,” Zucker said. “Eastern North Carolina will certainly be happy to have all of you good nurses.

“We’re going to need all of you, and we hope you are all going to be very successful,” he continued. “Thank you. Anne and I won’t forget this day.”

Nursing Department Chair Barbara Synowiez said the gift is an important one for the young nursing program.

“An endowed professorship represents one of the greatest gifts a university can receive,” Dr. Synowiez said. “It will ensure the quality and reputation of this department and advance our mission in the region.”

UNCP graduated the first students from its four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in May 2007. A RN-to-BSN program has been in place since 1992 with campuses at UNCP, Sandhills Community College Campus, Southeastern Community College Campus and Fort Bragg.

On hand for the announcement were SRMC CEO Joanne Anderson and vice presidents, David Sumner, Teresa Barnes and



From left: Donors Robert L. and Anne S. Zucker, Dr. Barbara Synowiez, chair of the Nursing Department, and Trustee Dr. Breeden Blackwell.

Morris Bullock. UNCP Trustees Dick Taylor and Dr. Raymond Pennington were also on hand.

Upon receipt of the gift, UNCP is eligible to apply for a dollar-for-dollar match as part of the North Carolina General Assembly’s Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. ■

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UNCP is funded for a distinguished professorship in education

A new endowed distinguished professorship at the University is named for Chancellor Emeritus Joseph B. Oxendine.

The distinguished professorship is in UNCP's School of Education and funded by the C.D. Spangler Foundation, Inc. It is the first of as many as five chairs at UNCP funded by the foundation, which pledged \$26.9 million to establish up to 96 professorships at the 16 UNC campuses.

Spangler, who was president of UNC from 1986-97, requested that the chair be named for Dr. Oxendine, who was chancellor of UNCP from 1989-99. In a letter with a check for \$250,000, UNC President Emeritus Spangler requested the naming.

"This chair is to be named for Chancellor Emeritus Joseph B. Oxendine, who has provided time and energy in support of our University," Spangler said. "I encourage you to see that a well-qualified professor is selected for this honor."

Dr. Charles Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said the University is extremely grateful for the gift.

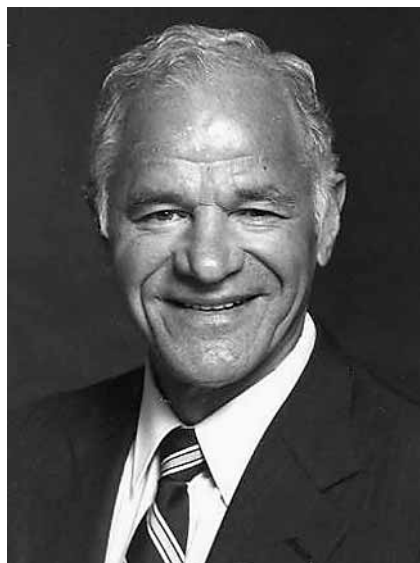
"Thanks to a very generous gift from the C.D. Spangler Foundation, we are slotted to receive five endowed professorships, one each year for five years," Dr. Harrington said. "We were given the option of choosing the discipline, and, given the University's unique history as a teacher training school for American Indians, it made perfect sense to us that our first chair from the Spangler grant should be in teacher education."

The North Carolina General Assembly's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund will match the challenge grant from the Spangler Foundation. As an endowment, the gift will fund the professorship forever.

A successful Charlotte, N.C., businessman, Spangler is a friend to UNCP, Dr. Oxendine said.

"C.D. Spangler was a superb leader, and I always believed that he was very supportive of all the UNC institutions," Dr. Oxendine said. "I am tremendously honored and humbled to have my name associated in perpetuity with a distinguished professorship. An endowed professorship enhances the quality and stature of an institution and its programs," he said.

In 2007, the Spangler Foundation committed to provide \$6.9 million, the full private funding required to endow one distinguished professorship on every UNC campus. Beginning in 2008, the foundation will invest up to \$20 million over five years to help each campus qualify for one additional endowed chair each year, potentially adding 80 additional professorships.



From January 2008-2012, UNC institutions may apply annually to the Foundation for a grant of \$250,000 to be used to qualify for state matching funds from the Board of Governors' Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. The combined state and private funds will be used to create either a \$500,000 or a \$1 million endowed chair in one of the traditional arts and sciences disciplines, or in teacher education, or engineering, or nursing. Additionally, private gifts from UNCP donors may be used to increase the amount that the state will then match.

Both proposals are contingent on the N.C. General Assembly providing state matching funds totaling \$4.6 million annually through the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. Created by the General Assembly

in 1985, the fund has provided matching funds for 302 professorships across UNC, including the Thomas Family Distinguished Professorship in Entrepreneurship at UNCP.

Previously, Spangler and his family foundation have made gifts to endow or complete 37 distinguished professorships across the University.

Commenting on the proposals, Spangler said: "Good professors are professors who like teaching students and like doing research. This effort on the part of my family is intended to retain, reward, and recruit good professors. We hope there will be positive results."

Chancellor Meadors said the initiative would have a dramatic, lasting impact on academic quality at UNCP.

"This is a remarkable opportunity for our University, and I am especially pleased that President Emeritus Spangler honored Chancellor Emeritus Joseph Oxendine with this honor," said Chancellor Meadors. "Education is UNCP's great historic mission, and there are many challenges for the future in training teachers for tomorrow, so we are especially grateful to C.D. Spangler Jr. and the foundation."

"Good professors are professors who like teaching students and like doing research."

Besides the Thomas Distinguished Professorship, UNCP has three other distinguished professorships: the Martha Beach Chair in Art, the William C. Friday Distinguished Professorship in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and the William H. Belk Chair of Management in the School of Business. ■

Two Facilities Dedicated by First and Ten Campaign Donors

New Century Bancorp and Carolina Professional Mental Health Associates (CPMHA) have made an investment in the new football program at UNC Pembroke.

The New Century Bank Athletic Training Room in UNCP's new Bob Caton Fieldhouse was dedicated October 24. The CPMHA Concession facility at the football stadium was dedicated November 7. The concession area will be part of the planned multi-purpose building that will also house the Paul and Pat Willoughby Press Box and the First Bank Chancellor's Box. It will rise up from behind the main stadium grandstands.

New Century Bancorp was founded in 2000 and is headquartered in Dunn, N.C. With assets of \$590 million, the bank has branches in Pembroke, Lumberton, Raeford, Clinton, Goldsboro, Lillington and Dunn. A contribution of \$15,000 earned naming rights to the facility, which Chancellor Meadors noted is a very busy place.

"It might be a busier facility than we'd like it to be, but we are a first year program," Chancellor Meadors said. "On behalf of the University, I'd like to thank New Century Bancorp for this truly important gift.

"Football is as much a community project as it is a University project, and New Century is a great friend of this community," he continued. "As the University has grown, so have the community and the bank."

William Hedgepeth II, president and CEO, led a contingent of New Century bankers to Pembroke.

"We are honored to have our name on this fine facility," Hedgepeth said. "We look forward to working with the University as we continue to strengthen the communities we serve."

Pembroke Branch Manager Lucille Locklear said the relationship is a matter of vision and faith.

"This is the first step of a great friendship," she said.

New Century Bank's south division entered the Robeson County market in the summer of 2006 when it purchased Progressive Savings Bank.

Among the bank's staff on hand for the dedication were southern Regional Executive John McFayden, Vice President Jay Britt,



Concessions dedication – From left: Carolina Professional Mental Health Associates staff: Jody Thomas, Joni Floyd Thomas, Chancellor Meadors, Frederick Stephens, Jonna Davis and Daryl Locklear.

City Executive Johnny Lee, Human Resources Director Lynn Johnson and Marketing Coordinator Dana Cochran.

CPMHA founder and partner Frederick Stephens, a UNCP graduate and faculty member in the Social Work Department, echoed Hedgepeth's sentiments.

"I would like to thank all those individuals who made this day possible," Stephens said.

Stephens thanked his family and colleagues who inspired and guided him as a student and professional. In particular, he thanked key members of CPMHA's staff, including business partner Jody Thomas, '01, Joni Floyd Thomas '03, Jonna Davis '03 and Daryl Locklear '96.

"If not for these people and their striving for excellence, this would not be possible," Stephens said.

A Columbus County native, Stephens earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from UNCP in 1987, a Master of Social Work degree from the University of California at Berkley and joined UNC Pembroke's faculty in 1992.

Carolina Professional Mental Health Associates was founded in 2004 and has 70 employees. It serves Robeson, Scotland, Columbus and Bladen counties.

Chancellor Meadors linked the health care provider's gift to the University's larger mission.

"A university is a lot more than athletics and academics," Chancellor Meadors said. "A student's educational experience builds the total person, similar to the purpose of mental healthcare providers."

Football coach Pete Shinnick thanked Carolina Professional Mental Health Associates for its gift.

"The concession facility will be important pieces of this overall facility," he said. "I continue to be excited by the generosity that comes from the people in this community."

For more information about the First and Ten Campaign for Football and Athletic Excellence and giving at UNCP, please contact the Office for Advancement at 910-521-6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu. ■



New Century gift – From left: Lucille Locklear, Chancellor Meadors, William Hedgepeth, John McFayden, Johnny Lee and Jay Britt

Writer's endowment established at UNCP

A fund established by Dr. Anita R. Guynn would support writers and writing at the University. The planned endowment has ambitious goals.

A composition professor, Dr. Guynn dedicated the WriteReader Endowed Fund to her parents, Donald and Hilda Guynn, and to "all parents who read to their children with the goal to celebrate the work of students and professional writers at UNCP."



"My parents never went to college, but my mother always read to us," she said. "My parents worked and saved money to send me to school."

Funds generated from the endowment will be used to support events sponsored by the University's Writers Series, Writing Across the Curriculum program and University Writing Center.

The fund was originated with a \$7,000 gift and is nearing the endowment mark of \$10,000.

"It started with the Writers Series Committee, which I am a member of," Dr. Guynn said. "We invite authors to speak and teach workshops at the University, but we needed additional funding to support the events."

Dr. Guynn thought a permanent fund would underwrite the program most effectively. She has bigger plans for the endowment.

"Eventually, I am hoping enough people give to the fund so that we could have a writer in residence," she said. "Having a published author here to spend time with students and give readings would be exciting for the University and community."

In her sixth year on the faculty of the Department of English, Theatre, and Languages, Dr. Guynn teaches beginning and advanced composition, and now is teaching a new course titled Creative Non-Fiction.

Dr. Guynn grew up near Blacksburg, Va., and did her undergraduate work at Virginia Tech and earned a Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina. ■

UNCP fraternity honors Dr. Sylvester Wooten

Dr. Sylvester Wooten, a retired University administrator, was honored by members of Omega Psi Phi fraternity on October 6 with an endowed scholarship.

"Dr. Wooten impacted so many lives, and this scholarship will impact many more lives," said Newy Scruggs, a fraternity member and 1994 UNCP graduate. "We will always remember him."

The Omega Psi Phi/Dr. Sylvester Wooten Endowed Scholarship was launched on October 6 with a \$10,000 gift from its members. On hand for the announcement were Ken Spencer '91, Bernard Griffin '89 and Artis Hill '92 along with members of Dr. Wooten's family including daughters, Candice and Shanita, and wife, Eveland.

The scholarship came as a surprise to Dr. Wooten, a 30-year administrator in higher education who was director of UNCP's Office of Continuing Education for more than 20 years.

"I couldn't find a better group of young men to work with," Dr. Wooten said. "I'm very proud of them. Thank you for this honor."

Fraternity members presented Dr. Wooten with a carved wooden medallion of the fraternity symbol. Dr. Wooten put it on, saying "I have not worn this in 40 years." He was an Omega at Winston-Salem State University.

The fraternity, which is no longer active at UNCP, was founded in 1911 at Howard University and has a long and distinguished history. Dr. Wooten was an administrator and professor at Winston-Salem State for five years before being named director of Continuing Education at UNCP in 1977.

A native of Proctorville, N.C., in Robeson County, Dr. Wooten earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Winston-Salem State, a Master of Science in guidance from Virginia State College and a doctorate in counselor education from the University of Virginia.



From left: Omega Psi Phi members Artis Hill, Bernard Griffin, Newy Scruggs and Ken Spencer, Dr. Sylvester Wooten, Candice, Eveland and Shanita Wooten

For Newy Scruggs, it was the second scholarship the sports broadcaster has established at his alma mater. The Newy Scruggs Sports Broadcasting Endowed Scholarship benefited its first student this fall, Scruggs said.

Before the presentation, Scruggs taped a 30-minute "UNCP Conversations" program in UNCP's WNCP-TV studios. Scruggs is sports anchor for NBC-5 in Dallas, Texas. He also works for ESPN Radio and writes a weekly newspaper column for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Scruggs said he owes a great deal to his University.

"Great schools are great because people keep putting money back into them," he said. "When I interviewed for a scholarship here years ago, I said I would reward them for helping me. That's why I'm here today."

For more information about giving at UNCP, please contact the Office for Advancement at 910.521.6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu ■



From left: James Bass, Alisia Oxendine, Wendell Staton, Sandy Waterkotte, Teresa Oxendine and Alison DeCinti.

To UNCP's Donors:

These pages are dedicated to UNCP's donors who make it possible for the University to grow in ways that could not have been imagined just six years ago. We in the Advancement office are proud of our association with each of you and hope that you are gratified to count your name among the more than 2,000 names on this list. Over the past few years, the amount that alumni and friends contribute to this institution has tripled. This fact is not only important to UNCP's continued growth, but is also important to today's students who see and feel the impact of your gifts every day.

Our sincere thanks to those of you whose names are found in this listing including our Chancellor's Club members who are recognized with a feather beside their names. For those who are not yet listed, we look forward to telling you the UNCP success story over the next year and to counting you among this important group in 2008!

Sincerely,

Sandy Waterkotte, Vice Chancellor for Advancement
James Bass, Director of Alumni Relations
Alison DeCinti, Assistant Director of Major and Planned Gifts
Alisia Oxendine, Collegiate Director of Development

Teresa Oxendine, Assistant Vice Chancellor and
Director of Donor Relations
Wendell Staton, Associate Vice Chancellor and
Director of Major and Planned Gifts.

Note: The Office of Advancement has done its best to ensure that names are listed as the donor prefers. If we have made an error, please email us at advancement@uncp.edu so we may correct our records.

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Albert "Newy" Scruggs and Wendell Staton on the set of "UNCP Conversations" of WNCP.

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*Glennis Hunt and Tom Curry
 at the Alumni Holiday Drop-In.*

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From left: Lisa Holmes, Susan Moore, and Ravonda Lowery at the Alumni Holiday Drop-In.

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Thomas Oxendine at the Football Kick-off Gala

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Bobbie Maass, Barbara Meadors, and Senator David Weinstein at the Football Kick-Off Gala

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The Braves take on Greensboro in their first home game.

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alumni

Greetings, Alumni



I am excited to extend congratulations to the most recent additions to our Alumni Association, the Class of 2007. We are proud of you and are here to serve you in any capacity that we can. Good luck in all your endeavors, and remember that you will always have a home at UNCP.

The Holiday Drop-In was a tremendous success again this year. More than 150 alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University were in attendance. The cheerful atmosphere and majestic décor made for a festive, fun-filled evening. Thank you to all who were able to attend. And if you could not attend, we hope to see you next year.

This year's Alumni Awards Banquet was held on February 8 in the new University Center Annex. Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Outstanding Alumni Award and the Distinguished Service Award: Mac Campbell and Dick Taylor. We are honored and proud to have recipients who demonstrate impeccable character and a commitment to excellence in all aspects of their lives.

In closing, I would like to extend a gigantic thank you to all of the alumni who have taken the opportunity to support the University during this year's Annual Fund campaign. Your support is essential to continue to provide current and future students with meaningful life experiences and educational opportunities for a lifetime. If you have not given to the Annual Fund and would like to do so, please contact our Alumni Relations Office today.

In Black and Gold,

Jason S. Bentzler

UNCP graduates 458 on December 8

The 458 UNCP graduates were given advice and encouragement at Winter Commencement on December 8.

Keynote speaker and award-winning physics and astronomy professor, Dr. Jose D'Arruda, offered a story about his own education that few, if any, had heard before.

Dr. D'Arruda, who has spent 32 years in UNCP's classrooms, graduated from high school twice, he said. After finishing in a non-



Dr. Jose D'Arruda, Grand Marshal and Commencement Speaker

college track, he returned to high school only to be told there were no seats in one class, and that he would have to stand at the back of the room.

"I remember how humiliating it was to go back after I had just graduated, and this was compounded by the fact that when I went to chemistry class, Mr. Pelletier sent me back to the office saying they had no room for me in the class," Dr. D'Arruda said.

"So, stand I did, and by the end of the year, I won first prize in the science fair with my experimental nuclear cloud chamber," he said.

"Lesson: don't give up on yourself no matter what people say or how hard things may be."

The 2007 UNC Board of Governors teaching award winner also advised the graduates to find their addiction. His passion was microcomputers at the time they were first introduced to the public in the early 1980s.

"I was addicted, and no amount of good advice or friendly warning could change my mind," he said. "Technology has changed the world; don't miss the next revolution."

"Get addicted, all you need is a heart, a little courage and a brain, qualities which you all have and only need to attach to a dream."

Chancellor Meadors, who presided over commencement ceremonies, offered the final piece of advice.

"Always appreciate the past, but don't be held back by it," Chancellor Meadors said. "Remember this American Indian saying: we don't inherit this earth from our forefathers; we borrow it from our children."

Greetings to the graduates and their families were given by William Smith, a member of the UNC Board of Governors, Dr. Breeden Blackwell, chair of the UNCP Board of Trustees, Dr. David Zeigler, chair of the Faculty Senate, Dwight Humphrey, president of the Student Government Association and Floyd Locklear, first vice president of the Alumni Association. ■



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UNC Pembroke Legacies: The Griffin Family

by Hannah Simpson

Like many families here, the Griffin's education, careers and family life are intimately linked with their University.

Today, Bobby '77 and Christine Griffin '82 live in Lakewood Estates, a comfortable suburb of Lumberton. Their children, Anthony '97, Bobby Wayne '95, and Tina '95, an attorney, CPA and doctor respectively, credit their success to their parents' belief in hard work, education and their alma mater, UNC Pembroke.

In a recent interview, the family looked back on the role of education in their family and careers.

"We never put it in our children's minds to stop their education after high school," Christine said. "It was always assumed they would continue on to college."

"We wanted a better life for our children," Bobby said. "Education was the way."

High school sweethearts who married in 1966, Christine and Bobby founded Griffin's Accounting, which remains a family business run by their son, Bobby Wayne. Christine described her time at UNCP (then Pembroke State University) as "a sacrifice."

Bobby also graduated with a business degree, which he chose while in the Army. When Bobby finished his four-year tour of duty, the family came home to a busy life of family, work and college.

Bobby began night school part time, and he and Christine both worked. The last year of college, Bobby quit his job and attended full time.

"We wanted a better life for our children," Bobby said. "Education was the way."

"It all started at UNCP," Bobby said. "I [didn't] want to always push the pencil for someone else."

"I always thought of it as temporary," Christine said of their struggle to make ends meet. "I did what I had to do when I had to.

"It was a major sacrifice for our children, and I think that's why the children excelled later on," she said. "They saw how hard it was."

Christine persevered and graduated in 1982 with a degree in accounting. It was her dream to open an accounting firm.

"It was something I had a burning desire to do," she said.

"I can remember sleeping on the floor [of the business as a child]," Bobby Wayne said, laughing. He worked in the business

before going to college and later, degree in hand, decided to follow in his parent's footsteps.

Bobby Wayne has two children, ages 7 years and 9 weeks, with wife, Buffie Emanuel, who is a 1996 UNCP graduate. The entire Griffin family owes a great deal to the transformative power of education in general and UNCP specifically.

"There are a lot of people in the community who would not have an education (without UNCP)," Bobby said. Bobby Wayne echoed his father, saying that UNCP's growth represents community growth.

Tina said she was sometimes "encouraged more than I wanted to be" when it came to college, but in the end, it was what she needed.

She wasn't ready to leave home for school, so Pembroke was the perfect choice because of the proximity, and also due to her family's legacy of attendance. Tina said she enjoyed the one-on-one interaction that UNCP provided for students, which was a major factor in her success as a student.

Tina went to medical school at Chapel Hill in 1995, but said, despite mingling with students from larger and more prestigious schools, she didn't "feel like I went to medical school lacking."

Anthony was on his way to an accounting degree, when he realized he wasn't motivated by the work. So, he turned to law.

Anthony said he was inspired to attend UNCP because of his wife and younger sister; he had worked construction for seven years before he decided to obtain a degree. There, he was able to acquire an internship in the Office of Grants, which helped him get a part-time job, where he stayed for the remainder of his undergraduate career. He has three children ages 5, 12 and 16. He said he hopes his children will follow in his footsteps and attain an education after high school.

Bobby and Christine have come a long way since their days of working several jobs, attending classes and caring for children, and their children reaped the benefits.

"Education provides a lot of opportunity," Bobby Wayne said.



From left: Anthony, Christine, Tina, Bobby, and Bobby Wayne Griffin

Braves' football earns Homecoming 2007 victory



Homecoming 2007 King DaTwon Canty of Asheboro, N.C., and Queen Candy Panzo Pambu of the Congo

The first fall Homecoming in more than 50 years at the University was capped off with an impressive 31-21 football win on Lumbee Guaranty Bank Field.

A record crowd of 4,384 cheered the Braves on, and an estimated 2,000 tailgated before the game.

The new-era Braves football team earned its third victory of the inaugural season on October 6 over Webber International. UNCP amassed nearly 400 yards of total offense and took advantage of five turnovers.

Running back Brandon McLaurin recorded his second consecutive 100-yard game, and the Braves got

144 passing yards from quarterback Cory Smith.

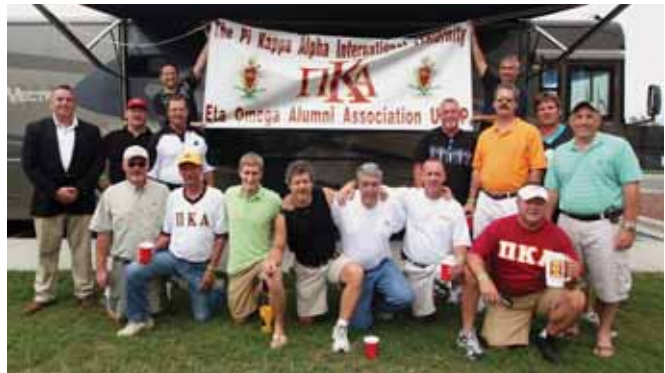
Defensive stars included tackle James Littlejohn with 10 solo tackles and a key sack and linebacker John Stokes with nine solo tackles.

Homecoming week was loaded with exciting events, including a sold-out Givens Performing Arts Center for the musical production of "Hairspray." Popular hip-hop artist T-Pain packed the Main Gym of the Jones Center on Saturday night with more than 3,000 fans.

A parade, pep rally, semi-formal dance and more were part of the weeklong festivities.

Tailgating also proved to be a very popular sport with loyal Braves fans. UNCP Police Chief McDuffie Cummings said nearly 500 available spaces were filled as tailgaters jammed UNCP parking lots in the hours before kick-off.

The new Spirit Award for tailgating went to Pi Kappa Alpha, which arrived with a large motor home and tables loaded with food. More than 50 fraternity members, their wives and friends attended the 1970s and early 80s reunion.



The new Homecoming Spirit Award for tailgating went to the Pi Kappa Alpha reunion pictured here.

UNCP tailgating received high marks from veteran tailgaters Mike Caudill '75 and Jay '78 and Noreen '80 Tilley. "It's outstanding!" Jay Tilley said.

There was more reason to celebrate as Pi Kappa Alpha's UNCP Alumni Chapter received its national charter this fall, said Bill Mason Jr. '80. He said the group remains organized at annual beach weekends.

Terry Register '79, who brought the RV, said "This is really going to help the University. You miss out on a lot of fun without football."

"We've started a new tradition today," said Jimbo Blasingame '80, a retired Lt. Colonel who traveled from Yorktown, Va., to the game.

David Ellen '80, son of the late UNCP baseball coach Harold Ellen, came from Jacksonville, Fla. "We went to the Jacksonville game, and it was really impressive to see how many UNCP fans made the trip."

John Joseph '79 thanked fraternity brother Dr. Glen Burnette Jr. '80, UNCP's Vice Chancellor for University and Community Relations, for organizing the event.

"This is a really great group of friends who enjoy getting together," Dr. Burnette said. "They came from all over the country to renew friendships at the new Homecoming."

Tailgaters included Greeks and sports teams, recent and older grads, parents of players and many, many friends of the University. On the football field, the Braves did not waste much time getting the fans into the game, forcing a fumble on the opening kick-off and scoring four plays later.

However, Webber International scored the next 14 points. The Braves responded when Keith Farrington finished a four-play, 63-yard drive with a 28-yard touchdown reception. The Braves took the lead seven seconds later when Troy Russell intercepted a pass on the opening play of the next possession and raced 29 yards for the go-ahead score.

Webber International tied the game with 6:19 to go in the third quarter, but Cory Smith plunged over from the one to put the Braves ahead for good. An insurance field goal by Andrew Williams wrapped up scoring. ■



Homecoming reunion of 1947-51 football teams - From left: Vardell Swett, James C. Dial, Jesse E. Oxendine, Louis Oxendine, Tom Oxendine, Zeb "Bud" Lowry, Jr., Monroe Lowry, Fred Locklear, James A. Jones, John W. "Ned" Sampson, Delton Ray Locklear.

UNCP broadcasting personnel tour ESPN headquarters

Representatives from the broadcasting track of UNCP's Mass Communications Department visited ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., in October for a tour and meetings with human resources executives. They also met with University alumni working at "the worldwide leader in sports."

Department Chair Dr. Jamie Litty has cultivated a recruiting relationship with the production side of ESPN for nearly three years and was invited by Tony Valentino, manager of technical recruitment, and his boss, Fred Brown. The two men, former broadcasters themselves, have visited UNCP twice to conduct one-on-one interviews with broadcasting and journalism majors and to speak in classes.

Dr. Litty traveled with George Johnson, assistant director of broadcasting and an adjunct faculty member teaching computer animation and media integration courses for the department. Also making the trip was Sallyann Clark, producer/director for WNCN-TV, the department's cable operation that functions as a laboratory for the broadcasting curriculum.

They met with former students Melina Savage '06, Rollie Boone '06, and Jackie Bower '06, who all landed jobs with ESPN within a year of interviewing in Pembroke.

"The ESPN campus and facilities are almost mind-boggling," said Johnson. "On their campus are a million miles of fiber optic cable, studio cameras operated by people in another building, and master control of dozens of program signals around the world. They say they take in as many as 40,000 feeds of sports video a day. And they have never stopped construction in Bristol since their first broadcast in 1979."

Clark noted, "They have an entire department dedicated to several versions of the 'ESPN Bottom Line' (the sports 'ticker' that crawls across the bottom of the TV screen on half a dozen ESPN channels). They have a vast news room and sports research department and innovations in video displays throughout the facility. And numerous Emmy's and Cable Ace Awards everywhere, of course."

The former UNCP students have widely different jobs and work schedules. Video editor Boone, a former Braves' basketball player,



At ESPN with UNCP grads – From left: UNCP broadcasting program contingent, George Johnson, Dr. Jamie Litty and Sallyann Clark meet with Rollie Boone '06, Jackie Bower '06 at ESPN studios in Bristol, Conn.

works four days a week. He came in on his day off to meet the Pembroke contingent and to keep his appointment for a free massage!

Bower, a former Braves' soccer player, is on the producers' track and only recently made the switch to a 9-to-5 routine. She looks forward to visiting the UNCP soccer team later this month on her first vacation since February.

Savage completed training on studio cameras this summer and has since "cleared" the training for video playback. Her work day starts at 5 p.m., and in 12 hours, she caught a flight for her first trip back to North Carolina since starting at ESPN in April. Savage played basketball at UNCP.

This spring semester, the Mass Communication Department expects to host Brown, Valentino and Joe Franco, manager of production operations, who will also be coordinating internships this year.

For information about Mass Communications programs, please call (910) 521-6654 or email masscomm@uncp.edu. ■

Robeson County native named among state's best nurses



Patricia Brady, RN '96, originally from Parkton, was named a Great 100 Nurse for 2007. She is one of three RNs from Cape Fear Valley Hospital Medical Center to win the prestigious honor in 2007.

The Great 100 is a grassroots peer-recognition organization that annually honors the state's nursing professionals.

Brady works as a staff RN at Cape Fear Valley Children's Center in Fayetteville and has 23 years of pediatric nursing experience. She

is also a member of Cape Fear Valley's Nursing Congress and volunteers at free community clinics.

Brady received her associate degree from Fayetteville Technical Community College, where she also served as president and vice president of the school's Alumni Association Board of Directors. Brady lives in Hope Mills with her husband, Jim, and has four grown children. Three of them also work at Cape Fear Valley.

This is the 19th year the Great 100 has bestowed awards. The Great 100 was created in 1988 to help identify and honor the state's best registered nurses, based on their professional ability and contributions to improving healthcare services in their community. ■

alumni notes

Class Notes

'71 ■ **Jimmy D. "Bear" Hill** of High Point is a sales representative for Triad Freightliner of Greensboro, Inc.

'74 ■ **Mary Helen Baker** is a human service coordinator for Cumberland County Mental Health. She resides in Red Springs. ■ **Ron Oxendine** is CEO of RNB Technology, Inc. He resides in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Arlington, Va.

'75 ■ **Joe Allen** resides in Oviedo, Fla., with his wife **Lynn '77**. Joe is the executive producer and director of sales for PROSTAGE, Inc. Lynn teaches elementary school in Geneva, Fla., and received a Walt Disney Teacherific Award for a program she developed for the school. ■ **Dr. Kenneth Edward Locklear** is a physician for Robeson Family Practice Associates in Red Springs. He resides in Pembroke.

'78 ■ **Ray Oxendine**, a St. Pauls native, is an assistant controller at UNCP. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has served the State of North Carolina for 24 years in many capacities, including payroll accountant, accounting manager, systems accountant, internal auditor and business analyst.

'79 ■ **Kwasi "Paul" Baffour-Addae** of Ghana, Africa, is chairman and CEO of Bosa International Group GH LTD.

'81 ■ **Howard Hughes** is captain of special operations at the Richland County Sheriff's Department in Columbia, S.C., where he has been employed as a deputy sheriff since 1983. He worked for 21 years in the Criminal Investigations and Internal Affairs divisions. In April, Hughes was elected president of the Eta Omega Alumni Association of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. The organiza-

tion's members continue to meet annually at Myrtle Beach, S.C., and during Homecoming weekends at UNCP.

'82 ■ **Edward G. Beale** is a public health administrator in Cumberland County. He resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Robert Byrd** is employed with Alston & Bird LLP in its administrative services department. He resides in Charlotte.

'85 ■ **Petri Rekola** manages the Rekola Oy Trolley Systems. He lives in Helsinki, Finland.

'86 ■ **Samuel Brewington** is an assistant special agent for the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation. He resides in Wade.

■ **Robert Hindman** is a personnel supervisor for Conway Freight. He lives in Fayetteville.

'88 ■ **Marion Williams Jr.** of Goldsboro, is a qualified mental retardation professional for the O'Berry Center.

'89 ■ **Tonja Springer** is a chemist and lab inspector with North Carolina Division of the Environment and Natural Resources. She resides in Clayton.

■ **Wendy Cashion** and her husband, Boyce, adopted a baby boy, Nicholas, on May 28. The Cashions reside in Kannapolis. Wendy is a lab analyst for the City of Charlotte.



'91 ■ **Skip Lovette**, a Certified Public Accountant in Greensboro, was appointed to the Accounting Education Committee of the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants.

■ **Millicent Strickland** married Mark Collins on September 8. She is a grant administrator for Robeson County. Mark is a chief petty officer serving in the U.S. Navy.

'92 ■ **Darren Currie** is town manager for Lake Waccamaw, where he resides.

■ **Reagan McHugh** works as a Head Start teacher for the Fairfax School District. She resides in Fairfax, Va. ■ **Angela Revels-Bullard** is vice chancellor of Human Resources at Fayetteville State University. She lives in Pembroke. ■ **Angelia Rutherford** of Fayetteville, is a sales representative for the *Fayetteville Observer*. ■ **Glenda Sherrill** is an art teacher for the Richmond County Schools. She resides in Rockingham. ■ **Bobby Snipes** is a sales manager with Crown Automotive. He resides in Simpsonville, S.C. ■ **Robert Williamson** works for Three Oaks Contractors. He resides in Ravenel, S.C., with his wife, Amy, and his son, Russ.

'93 ■ **Marsha Beattie** is a social worker for Gaston County. She resides in Bessemer City. ■ **Joseph Osman** is an assistant district attorney in the office of the Robeson County District Attorney. He lives in Lumberton. ■ **John C. Peyrouse III** is a controller with Marriott RTP. He resides in Morrisville. ■ **Deana Williams** is a social worker with the Wayne County Department of Social Services. She resides in Goldsboro.

'94 ■ **Teresa Cummings**, a clinical qualified professional, was promoted to area manager for the mental health company, Behavior Link. She resides in Lumberton.

Class Notes

'95 ■ **Bryan Carter** of Pineville, is a sales manager for Countrywide Home Loans. ■ **Dr. Katina Dial Pittman** opened McCrimmon Family Dentistry. Dr. Pittman lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, Brian, and son, Henry.

'96 ■ **Willie D. Christian** returned from Iraq after helping train Iraqi soldiers and police. He is an access and visitation coordinator with the N.C. Administrative Office for the Courts. He resides in Lumberton. ■ **William Vaughn Cowan** is an insurance adjuster for N.C. Farm Bureau. He resides in Goldsboro with his wife, Kimberly, a social worker with Wayne County Health Department, and their one-year-old son, Matthew. ■ **Stephanie Price** moved to Greenville to work as an education consultant with Sylvan Learning Center. She is also a tutor for the area public school system. ■ **Angela Oxendine Smith** is a clinical social worker for Fort Bragg GS Civilian and lives in Fayetteville. ■ **Sharon Wilkerson-Turner** is an exceptional children's teacher at Cumberland County Schools. She resides in Fayetteville.

'97 ■ **Melissa Wayne** is a teacher for the Public Schools of Robeson County and resides in Rowland.

'98 ■ **Neal R. Locklear** is an insurance agent with N.C. Farm Bureau and resides in Lumberton. ■ **Corey Davell McNeil** is a software field service engineer with Cotton Inc. He lives in Raleigh. ■ **Tiffany Murray** is a high school math teacher with Marlboro (S.C.) County Schools. She lives in Maxton. ■ **Felicia Renee Treadwell** is a quality control assistant with Cirrus Pharmaceuticals. She lives in Raleigh.

'99 ■ **Sulayman A. Kadir** is a teacher with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and lives in Charlotte with his family.

'00 ■ **Corey Leatherwood** started his own business in Charlotte. ■ **Tamara Thorn** is a STR Clinician III with Pathways Lime. She resides in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

'01 ■ **Bryon Coltrane** and his wife, Shirley, announced the birth of their son, Kipling Ayden, on July 26. Bryon is a communications technician with Microelectronics Center of North Carolina. The family lives in Youngsville. ■ **Dan Froelich** is a technology fellow at North Carolina Teacher Academy. He works with teachers across the state on development programs in the area of instructional technology. He resides in New Bern.

■ **Heather Guyton** and John Patrick Thompson were married on September 15. The couple lives in Bladenboro. ■ **Scottie Locklear** is vice president of marketing at Health Care Connections. He earned a master's degree in human resources development from Webster University in South Carolina. Locklear has one son, Tyler Andrew, born on April 4, weighing 5lbs. 6 oz. He resides in Pembroke. ■ **Jennifer Kay McNeil** is an advertising designer and layout coordinator with *The News and Observer*. She resides in Raleigh. ■ **Heather Parsons** and her husband, Joe, welcomed their first child, Joseph Gardner IV. The family resides in Rockingham where Heather is a school counselor. ■ **Courtney Walters** is an employee assistance counselor with First Health of the Carolinas. Walters is also an adjunct instructor at UNCP. She lives in Fayetteville.



'02 ■ **Shane Brown** is a case manager for Cape Fear Valley Behavioral Health and resides in Fayetteville. ■ **William Flagler Jr.** is director of emergency planning at Northern Virginia Community College. He resides in Ashburn, Va. ■ **Kathy Florez** is a teacher with Harnett County Schools and lives in Cameron. ■ **Camille Locklear Goins** is a special populations coordinator with South Robeson High School. She is also working towards a Master's degree in Public Administration at UNCP. Goins resides in Pembroke with her husband, Kevin, and their one-year-old son, Caleb. ■ **Stephanie Porter Johnson** and her husband, David Joel, announced the birth of their first child, Kensley Brooke, on Oct. 14.



■ **Johnna Lowery** is an exceptional children's teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She is married to Chris, who is employed with the Lumbee Tribe of N.C. The couple has one son, Christian, born May 31, 2006. ■ **Ina R. Oxendine** is a senior program and special events coordinator with the Town of Southern Pines' Recreation and Parks Department. She resides in Pinehurst. ■ **Jeanmarie Zerovick** is a clinical research associate specialist with Piedmont Research Center. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing in July, and she resides in Apex.

'03 ■ **Dana Reece Byrd** is a paralegal at Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog LLP. She resides in Fuquay-Varina. ■ **Lisa Chewing** is an accounts payable office assistant with AVR Group Inc. She resides in Morven. ■ **Kylie Cirol** is a teacher with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and is engaged to Jermy McKinney. She lives in Belmont.

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alumni notes

Class Notes

'03 continued from page 39

■ **Shana Gray** is a features page designer and copy editor at *The Banner-Herald* in Athens, Ga.

■ **Tennille F. Jones** is a social studies teacher with Columbus County Schools. She resides in Loris, S.C.

■ **Jessica Reed** is a neuroscience specialist at Takeda Pharmaceuticals. She resides in Greenville. ■ **Hattena Worriax** is pursuing a Master's degree in School Administration. She is a seventh grade science teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She lives in the Union Chapel community with her husband, Kelly, and two children, Justin and Haylee Elizabeth.

'04 ■ **Nathaniel Cox** is an online consultant for *The Fayetteville Observer*. He is married to current UNCP student Maggie Tillman. The couple resides in Laurinburg.

■ **Cara Glick** married Norman Merritt on August 4. She is a qualified professional for Learning Perspectives Inc. She and her husband reside in Hampstead.

■ **Carla C. Jacobs** is a senior accountant with Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP. She resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Kristi Jones** is a community support specialist with Community Innovations. She resides in Lumberton with her two children.

■ **Jennifer Langley** graduated from Regent University with a Master of Business Administration degree. She is enrolled in law school and resides in Chesapeake, Va.

■ **Hoyt McCormick** is principal of St. Pauls High School. He lives in Lumberton.

■ **Anna "Beth" Ruff** and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Anna Grace, on July 28. Anna is a teacher at Jack Britt High School. The family resides in Hope Mills. ■ **Michael Dean Simmons** is pursuing a doctor of chiropractic degree. He holds a degree in nutrition and resides in Marietta, Ga.

■ **Cotina Ames** is a 401K specialist with Fidelity Investments. She lives in Raleigh.

'05 ■ **Maria Barbee** is an administrative assistant for Richmond County Schools. She resides in Hamlet.

■ **Stephanie Cash** is a math teacher at Granville Central High School in Stem. She lives in Butner. ■ **Brenda Duarte** married Christopher Oldacre. Brenda is a retired police officer and her husband is a sergeant with the Fayetteville Police Department.

■ **Shannon Rae Gentry**, of Mt. Airy, joined the Peace Corps and is stationed in Tonga. She has been teaching English and other subjects at the primary school level and working as an informal health and environmental educator for her host community.

■ **Tabitha Locklear** is a backup systems administrator with Robeson Community College. She lives in Rowland. ■ **Alicia Brooke Lowry** is a first grade teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton. ■ **Lisa Stewart** is marketing communication coordinator at the Carolina Center for Integrative Medicine in Raleigh, where she lives. ■ **Robert L. Summers II** is an actor with the Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre. He resides in Wichita, Kan.

■ **Katherine (Greer) Townsend** was married on March 3. She is employed with the Triangle Aquatics Center in Cary and resides in Fuquay-Varina.

'06 ■ **Brian Allen** is an assistant recruiter with the Kleinstein Group. He lives in Fair Haven. ■ **Jessica Campbell** is a controller with the U.S. Air Force and lives in Charlotte. ■ **Daisha Gaines** is a retail license renewals coordinator for The Pantry. She resides in Goldston. ■ **Victor R. Gonzalez** is a proof operator with Bank of America. He lives in Tampa, Fla. ■ **Marko Gospojevic** is a research chemist for Cargill in Charlotte. He is enrolled in graduate school at UNC Charlotte. ■ **Crystal Lanoza** is a lab analyst with Metrics Inc. She resides in Greenville.

■ **Renette Locklear** is a payroll accountant with Robeson Healthcare. She and her two sons, Josiah Matthew and James Gabriel, live in Shannon. ■ **Evan Saleeby** teaches civics and coaches the junior varsity boys' soccer team for Hoke County Schools. She resides in Raeford.

'07 ■ **Robert A. Britt** is pursuing a medical degree at The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

■ **Alexandria Cogdill** was awarded a cancer research fellowship for three years with the National Cancer Institute's Surgery Branch. She works for the National Cancer Institute at the National Institute of Health with immunologist Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg. She resides in Bethesda, Md. ■ **Jeannie Hardin** is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton.

■ **Nicole Needham** is a management trainee with Enterprise Rent-A-Car. She resides in Morrisville. ■ **Krystal Sease** is a teacher at Douglas Byrd High School in Fayetteville, where she resides. ■ **Kevin Smith** is a community specialist with the City of Raleigh. He lives in Garner. ■ **Megan Volz** works with the Greensboro Coliseum Complex. She lives in Greensboro.



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Rev. Welton Lowry remembered

Rev. Welton Lowry (September 26, 1913 – March 12, 2004) grew up on land that would become The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. In 1923, he witnessed the construction of Old Main, the oldest building on campus.

A schoolteacher and principal in Robeson and Bladen counties, Rev. Lowry ministered at several area churches for 69 years. He attended first through twelfth grades and received a two-year degree at Cherokee Indian Normal School of Robeson County (now UNCP). Rev. Lowry returned to complete requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1948. He also received a Master of Arts degree in School Administration from George Peabody University/Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn.

Rev. Lowry blazed many trails for Lumbee Indians. In 1939, he was among the first American Indians to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps Flying Cadets. He had an important role in the creation of the national Indian Education Act (IEA), which provides resources for the education of American Indians. Perhaps his greatest cause was federal recognition of Lumbees. He made several trips to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the cause.

Rev. Lowry was a Chancellor's Club member and a past President of the UNCP Alumni Association and won its Distinguished Service Award in 1983. In 2003, his gift established "The Ministry Through Education Endowed Scholarship" at UNCP for undergraduate students majoring in religion or education with a concentration in religion.

Rev. Lowry won many awards for his good works, including the Leo Reno Award from the National Education Association for his work with American Indians. Awarded an Honorary Doctorate from UNCP in 1991, an excerpt from the official citation read: "Rev. Lowry's dedication to people, through decades of service in the schools and churches of this region, has touched the lives of many of us. Pembroke State University is proud to present this Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to a son of this very land, and of this institution."



Rev. Welton Lowry



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