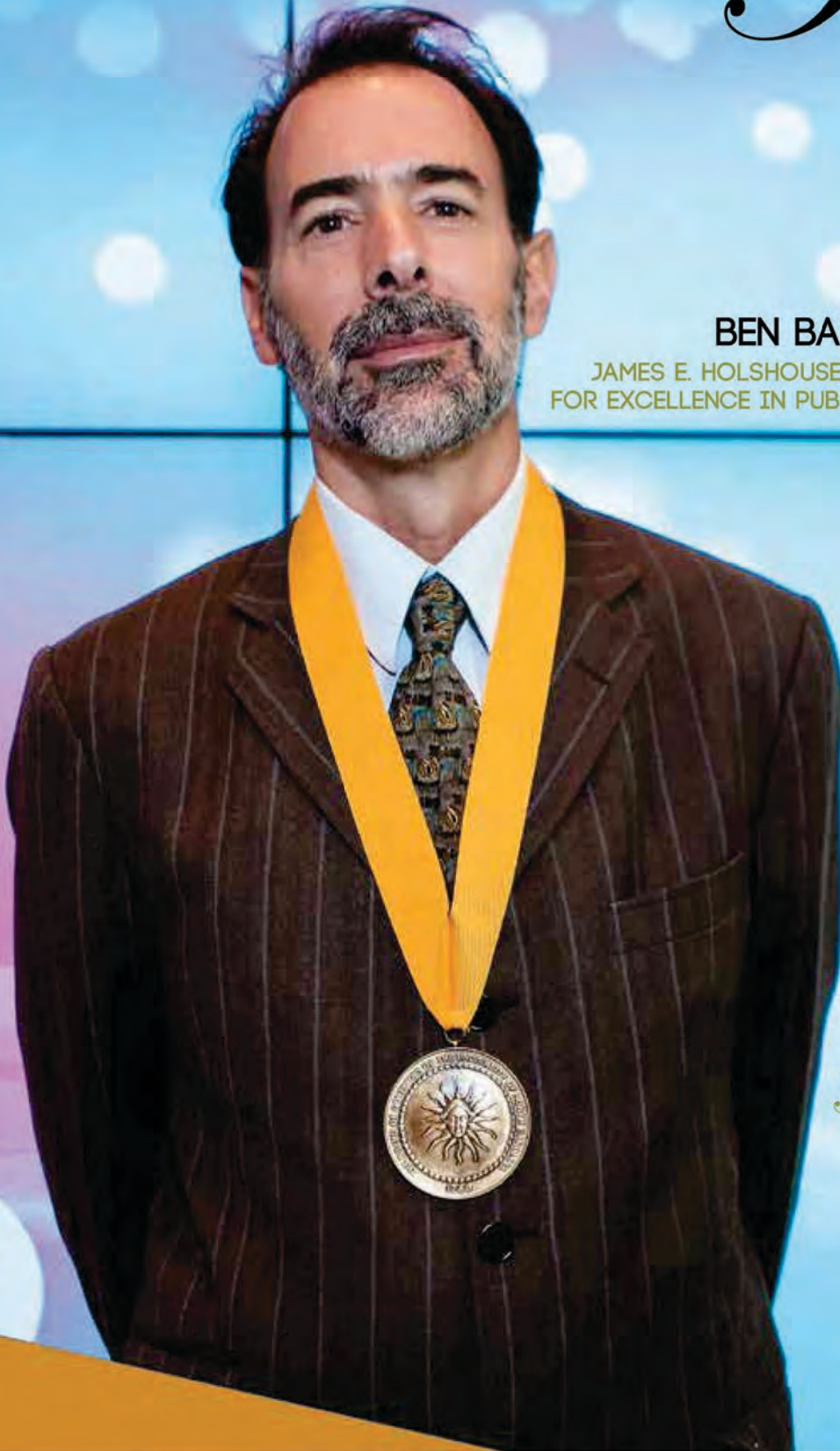


UNCP

Alumni & Friends of the University of North Carolina Pembroke

Winter
2014
Today



BEN BAHR, PH.D.

JAMES E. HOLSHOUSER JR. AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Feature Section

**BUILDING
STUDENT
SUCCESS**

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DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING GPAC SHOWS!

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GISELLE



TUE. APRIL 1



Three Dog Night

FRI. APRIL 4



River People

Music and Culture Fest

SAT. APRIL 26

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The university is reaching out to the community to give the local economy a lift by building a business incubator in downtown Pembroke. Small business consulting will be provided by the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship and the Small Business and Technology Development Center.

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Braves football just wrapped up a magical season. There were three television appearances, memorable victories against ranked opponents and the first home playoff game.

16 Student Success



What defines student success? Take a look at some outstanding students and their accomplishments. Also, we examine some of the institutional elements of success, including a world class faculty.

26 Advancement



Some of the university's greatest friends have joined to support the new Southeastern American Indian Studies program by contributing to endow a distinguished professorship. This outstanding professor's research, community and student engagement will make UNCP a national center of the study of American Indians in the southeastern U.S.

30 Alumni News



Alumni define UNCP as an institution. Their success is a shared accomplishment of the entire university community. Catch up on the achievements of your classmates, friends and fellow graduates in Class Notes and more.

ON THE COVER: *Photographer Raul Rubiera Jr. snapped this photo moments after Dr. Ben Bahr was announced as the winner of UNC's Holshouser Award.*

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CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME

I am excited to share this issue of *UNCP Today* magazine with you. The articles in these pages will bring you up to date on UNC Pembroke's many recent accomplishments: faculty awards and publications, our students' achievements in the classroom and on the playing field, the development of our newest academic programs and the exciting launch of a long-awaited regional engagement project, as well as our newest trustees, recent events and several special initiatives underway.

One of UNC Pembroke's most notable recent achievements was the UNC Board of Governors' announcement to honor UNC Pembroke's Dr. Ben Bahr with the James B. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service. As a scientist, Dr. Bahr's cutting-edge research represents hope to the millions of Americans suffering with Alzheimer's disease. As a teacher, Dr. Bahr's engagement of UNCP students as research associates is ensuring that his technical expertise in bench research is being passed on to the next generation of scientists.

Our award-winning Dr. Bahr is in good company. This issue will update you on the research of several faculty members who have published books in their field of study. It's important to note that these faculty, in addition to producing current research, are also contributing to the classroom experience of our students. Because of instructors like these, our students are performing better academically with each passing semester, earning scholarships, internships and awards of their own. You'll be introduced to some of the techniques used to engage these students, including distance education, living-learning communities and other programs.

The past few months have been very exciting for Braves athletics, with the national broadcast of our football team's victories over Winston-Salem State University and Valdosta State, the team's record of nine wins and two losses and the excitement of post-season play. Our basketball team is also shaping up to be a strong contender.

In these pages you'll read how UNC Pembroke's Entrepreneurship Incubator—in development for years—finally became a reality in the fall. Before a crowd of supporters from the university and the community, we launched the project that will enhance the training of entrepreneurs and increase the number of business enterprises in the region.

After careful searches, a new director of the Southeast American Indian Studies Program was named, as was a new director for the Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Center. These accomplishments—along with our ongoing engagement with the region, our work to advance our university, and our effort to cultivate alumni—are all described in the pages of this issue of *UNCP Today*.

I know that, as a friend, alumnus or supporter of UNC Pembroke, you'll enjoy reading up on how UNC Pembroke is continuing its history of excellence in education and commitment to serving the region.

Sincerely,



Chancellor Kyle R. Carter

2013 WINTER COMMENCEMENT



Commencement speaker Tim Ritter invited graduates to speak at their own commencement

PLACES THEY'VE BEEN

As one of the nation's most diverse schools, UNCP's students will go far to follow their dreams, and many have already traveled far.

From Hamlet, N.C., Crystal and Ronnie Long graduated together Saturday. One of 21 graduating veterans, Ronnie was deployed twice to the Middle East while Crystal raised their two children.

Business major Luke Rotramel, who got off work to drive from Greensboro, N.C., the morning of commencement, had another story. "Last summer, I smuggled Bibles into China - 604 of them," said Rotramel, who also visited Burmese refugee camps in Thailand. "My wish for the future is to balance mission work with my job."

James Ellison hopes his talent for musical theatre will take him all the way to Broadway. "I will get a job in Wilmington, and, hopefully, land a some acting roles."

Graduating Magna Cum Laude Saturday, Elka Groothuis traveled a long way to attend UNCP. A soccer player from the Netherlands, she will remain at UNCP to join the master's program in sports administration.

1st Lt. Dawu Bowman, who was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan four times, studied at several universities over seven years to earn a degree in criminal justice from UNCP.

As a school founded in 1887 to train school teachers, Marajo Kellihan and Jacob Glenn, who earned Master of Arts in Teaching degrees, exemplify UNCP's mission. Both are teaching science at their former high school.

As Dr. Seuss said: "With brains in their heads and feet in their shoes," UNCP's graduates paused to celebrate before commencing their next journey.

As he was giving inspirational advice to graduates, Chancellor Carter thanked the graduates for inspiring him: "What makes it so great are the people at this university - each with their own unique story."

There were 533 success stories at 2013 Winter Commencement. Many of the graduates traveled a long way to get to this day, and as Commencement Speaker Dr. Tim Ritter noted, they left Pembroke for destinations near and far.

During two ceremonies on December 6-7, the university conferred degrees on 533 graduates. Commencement on Friday evening saw 61 graduates "hooded" in the Givens Performing Arts Center. On a blustery Saturday morning, 453 students received bachelor's degrees in the Main Gym of the English E. Jones Health and Physical Education Center.

As he spoke, Dr. Ritter turned the tables and walked into the throng of graduates to ask them to speak at their own commencement. The offer was met with cheers.

GRADUATES SPEAK

"Oh my gosh!" the first student said. "What I've learned is that you have to be prepared by doing your homework."

Another student thanked faculty members for his internship in their research labs. And another student said her most meaningful educational experience happened far from Pembroke while studying in Spain.

The graduate students also weighed in: "My memories are about the great faculty here. I know they often wondered why we didn't learn enough in high school. So, I've become a high school teacher to make sure you don't say that about my students."

Dr. Ritter was the recipient of the 2013 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. A 17-year veteran physics teacher and director of the Undergraduate Research and Creativity Center, he is well traveled. As a commander in the Navy Reserves, he was deployed twice after 9/11.

Dr. Ritter said he was challenged to give memorable advice to the graduates. So, he gave them advice from Dr. Seuss, reading from "Oh the Places You'll Go." He earned a standing ovation when he finished.

Entrepreneurship Incubator



TRANSFORMATIVE

University reaches out to its neighbors to build a business incubator



On December 6, 2013, Chancellor Carter officially launched the Entrepreneurship Incubator, a community outreach project that he calls "transformative."

Located in a 17,000-square-foot storefront on Main Street in Pembroke, the incubator will provide space for 8-to-12 start-up businesses. The building will also house the offices of two existing UNCP small business development offices - the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship and the Small Business and Technology Development Center.

With a planned opening in summer 2015, the incubator is expected to produce 115 jobs and create private investment of \$1.15 million within three years. In addition to serving community startups, UNCP business students will get hands-on experience working in the Incubator. The School of Business will manage the incubator.

The launch of the Entrepreneurship Incubator was two years in the making. In September, the university received approval of a \$932,000 grant from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration.

The grant, when combined with a \$200,000 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation, will cover

the cost of renovating the building. Private contributors gave \$210,000 toward the purchase of the building.

Chancellor Carter called the incubator a catalyst for the community development and an asset for the university and its business students. "This is a proud day for UNCP," he said. "Since I arrived in Pembroke, we have looked for something that would bring the town and university together."

The project is the Carter administration's most aggressive outreach program. "I have called this a transformative project for many good reasons," Chancellor Carter said.

It has positives for academics too. "This project opens up a world of opportunities for our faculty and students," said Dr. Ken Kitts, UNCP's provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. "The incubator as a learning laboratory will help students apply knowledge gained in the classroom and understand how businesses go from concept to reality."

The project represents the coming together of public and private funding, said Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor for Advancement. In addition to the grants, the project received contributions from Jim and Sally Thomas Foundation, Mary Ann Elliott Foundation, Lumbree Guaranty Bank, Pembroke Hardware, CoreVantage Technologies, Dr. Robin Cummings, Dr. and Mrs. Kyle Carter, Ron Brown and Russell Livermore.

The Entrepreneurship Incubator will be managed by the School of Business, which has been identified by the university as a funding priority. The Office of Advancement has been charged with garnering private support to continue to enhance the incubator and other initiatives within the school.

BEN BAHR HONORED BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Dr. Ben Bahr takes great pride in explaining the complexities of his research to lay people.

Dr. Bahr, an internationally recognized expert on age-related, neuro-degenerative disorders, has received the James E. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service from the UNC Board of Governors.

Presented during the board's November meeting, the award is a first for a UNCP professor. It was established by the Board of Governors in 2007 to encourage, identify, recognize and reward distinguished public service and outreach by faculty across the university system.

Dr. Bahr said it is gratifying to be recognized with such a distinguished award, and he credited the support of the university and his laboratory team. He also thanked Board of Governors member Dick Taylor of Lumberton, who advocated for Dr. Bahr in the awards committee.

"This is great for the university, my team and Alzheimer's awareness in general," he said. "This is a team effort. We generally have 5-10 students in the lab at any time. Three students will be listed as co-authors on my next publication, and Dr. Samuel Ikonne's name is on our patent."

The 2013 award carries a \$7,500 cash prize. Dr. Bahr is the William C. Friday Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at UNCP and was recruited to the university in 2009.

UNCP is known as a teaching institution, and Dr. Bahr's work has enabled undergraduate students to participate in groundbreaking

research that has global implications for improving health and quality of life. In 2011, he won the national Outstanding Mentor Award from the Council for Undergraduate Research.

Nearly everyone has a family member or knows a family touched by the memory-robbing disease. Deaths from Alzheimer's disease are up 66 percent and rising. "This is why this research is so critical," he said.

Dr. Bahr's lab works with a special strain of mice, which have the disease. By first identifying the pathways through which brain cells eliminate destructive proteins, Dr. Bahr has been able to create a molecule to accelerate that process. Research shows that removing these proteins improves cognition and memory in laboratory animals, potentially improving the long-term outlook for people.

Dr. Bahr identified a molecular compound (PADK) that could slow or even reverse the course of the disease by accelerating the removal of destructive proteins. Last year, he filed UNCP's first patent application.

"The thing I hear most is 'I had no idea that things like this were happening in Pembroke,'" he said.

At this stage in his research, Dr. Bahr is transforming himself from scientist to entrepreneur as he seeks funding for clinic trials for his research. The newest donor to his research was Bahr himself. He immediately deposited his prize winnings into his lab account.

With the recognition that the public service award has brought, Dr. Bahr will get the opportunity to sharpen his explanations of complex neurological diseases. He is a great ambassador for the university.

BEN BAHR
with student research team



HOMECOMING 2013



The Spirit of Pembroke

Homecoming week highlighted
by a record-setting win

Homecoming 2013 will go down in the books as one of the most spirited. It will also be remembered as the homecoming when Braves football shattered the school record for points by defeating Tusculum 60-20.

The Braves, who have lost only one homecoming game since the return of football in 2007, piled up 30 first downs and 584 yards of offense. The team put on a show for 5,286 appreciative fans as it surged toward a playoff berth.

A week full of activities preceded the game. On Thursday, the annual Homecoming Parade fielded 99 entries of very spirited students, faculty and staff who chanted, cheered and played music through town to campus. An estimated 4,000 onlookers turned out.

At the 45th annual Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony on Thursday evening, Pembroke dentist Dr. Jeff Collins '74 was named Outstanding Alumnus, Dorothy Blue '55, a retired teacher, was named Distinguished Service Award winner, and Fairmont High School art teacher Ashley Berdeau '08 was named Outstanding Young Alumna. (Please see page 30 for the full story.)

Two men and two women were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Soccer standouts Melanie Cobb '08 and Sascha Goerres '05, softball player Nicole McCorkle Headdings '06 and basketball player Joe Robisch received the distinctive honor.

The theme for Homecoming 2013 was "The Spirit of Pembroke," and spirits ran high before game time. Donnie Byers '92 said the team's national ranking has made him proud to be a Brave. "It's surprising that we have become a national powerhouse so quickly," he said. "It adds to the fun."

W.J. Strickland, a Washington, D.C., resident who was enjoying his 50th class reunion, was flat out astonished: "A few years ago none of this was here. Incredible! This shows the power of people coming together – the impossible becomes possible."

Student Government Association President Emily Ashley threw in a digital age analysis: "The Braves have set social media on fire again. Twitter and Facebook have blown up."



TAILGATING

Before the game, Campus Police Chief McDuffie Cummings '92 estimated more than 4,000 tailgaters. "It's going to be a great crowd, and everything is going well."

"I always look forward to this," Tim Brayboy '64 said, while standing a few feet from Alumni Association President Aaron Thomas' homecoming pig pickin'. "You get to see a lot of people that you have not seen in quite some time."

Newer alumni, like Lonnie Cox '12, also look forward to homecoming. "It's already an annual tradition for me," he said. "It's nice to come back to see that everything keeps getting better every year."

Jimmy Smith '75 and June Martin '80 came early to network with the newest generation of Greeks. "We spearheaded Greeks on campus in our day," said Martin, who was also student government president.

Nostalgia dissolved quickly when BraveHawk led in the Spirit of the Carolinas Marching Band to Grace P. Johnson Stadium. It was time for Braves football.



FOOTBALL

The football team scored on 10 of 11 drives in posting a record-breaking 60-20 victory. The win put an exclamation point on homecoming week in Pembroke.

The Braves shattered a two-year-old school record for points. Record-setting quarterback Luke Charles registered his 10th career 300-yard passing game, throwing for 384 yards and four touchdowns on 30-of-46 passing. Rantonio Stanley turned in his second 100-yard rushing game of the season with 114 yards on 15 carries, while B.J. Bunn hauled in eight catches for 105 yards. Michael Isbell caught one touchdown and ran for another.

The defense, which was stout all season, had seven tackles for losses and a pair of interceptions, including a 91-yard "pick-six" by Brandon Fulton in the fourth quarter. L.J. Stroman recorded a team-high nine tackles.

"Except for two defensive lapses in the third quarter, we really got what we wanted today," said head coach Pete Shinnick, who has coached every game in modern Braves football history. "I am very excited with the way we came out and played offensively. I am very excited for our guys."

The win was as sweet as the weather, which topped out at 72 degrees under partly cloudy skies and a light breeze. As the sun set on another homecoming, several individuals left with special honors. Dick and Lenore Taylor, namesakes of the newly resurfaced track, were introduced to the crowd. At halftime, Jamal Quick, a junior business major from Fayetteville, N.C., and Ronelle Hoff, a senior biology major from Charlotte, N.C., were named homecoming king and queen.

For Braves fans, homecoming couldn't get any better than this.

Southeast American Indian Studies



Alfred Bryant
named
founding
director

Dr. Alfred Bryant '90, a faculty member and associate dean of the School of Education, has been named founding director of the new Southeast American Indian Studies (SAIS) program.

The Southeast American Indian Studies program was launched by Chancellor Carter in 2012. He promised it would become a signature academic program that would capitalize on existing university resources and its location in Pembroke. SAIS will eventually become a stand-alone school with a dean at its head, he said.

Dr. Bryant, who has been a member of the faculty since 2001, will build a foundation for the program.

"It's a unique opportunity that I feel I am well prepared for," he said. "The program began as an idea, and I think it's a good idea. My job will be to define SAIS with the help of the implementation committee."

One of Dr. Bryant's first tasks is to pull together the university's existing academic and other American Indian programs.

"Combining academics and other resources into a coherent program is an initial priority for the founding director," he said. "Finding funding sources is also high on the list."

Dr. Bryant will establish a national advisory board. Other priorities include creating a digital archive and an elder-in-residence program.

A Pembroke native, Dr. Bryant's career has been marked by success in every endeavor. He has risen through the tenure process to the rank of full professor and is chair of the School of Education's Department of School Administration and Counseling. He was recently promoted to associate dean.



Metzger



Jones

NAMED TO BOARD



Holmes '72

Michael L. Holmes '72, Don Metzger and Dr. Jim Jones joined the Board of Trustees in the second half of 2013.

Holmes joined the board in July and was appointed by the UNC Board of Governors. A Robeson County native, he grew up in the Saddletree community near Lumberton.

A career naval officer and pilot, Rear Admiral Holmes began his military career in August 1973 and retired in 2005 with more than 32 years of service. He had five command tours. As a flag officer he commanded the Navy's eight Pacific-based patrol and reconnaissance squadrons. Holmes' final tour was as commander of the Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Group.

"I have been away from Robeson County for most of my adult life," Holmes said. "This is a way to give back to the community and get involved with my alma mater."

A Pembroke native, Dr. James G. "Jim" Jones lists among his career highlights an honorary doctorate from UNCP in 1998. A family physician and professor of medicine with a distinguished record of service to eastern North Carolina, Dr. Jones was appointed to a four-year term on the board by Gov. Pat McCrory.

As president of the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Jones was instrumental in establishing the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. He joined the faculty and administration of the medical school with the mission to improve rural medicine in eastern N.C.

Dr. Jones was also instrumental in establishing a productive relationship between UNCP and the Brody School of Medicine that has resulted in training many family physicians who have returned to the region to practice.

Don Metzger, a Lumberton city councilman and former building contractor, attended his first meeting of the trustees in September. He was appointed by Gov. McCrory.

Metzger was president and owner of Lumberton-based Construction Systems, Inc. for 19 years, and since leaving the construction business, has compiled a remarkable record of public service.

"Because of my business and educational background, I hope to contribute to the positive direction of the university and its service to our community," Metzger said. "I appreciate what the university is doing for our region, and I'd like to see its great work continue into the future."

FACULTY BOOKS

Dr. Mark Canada publishes second book

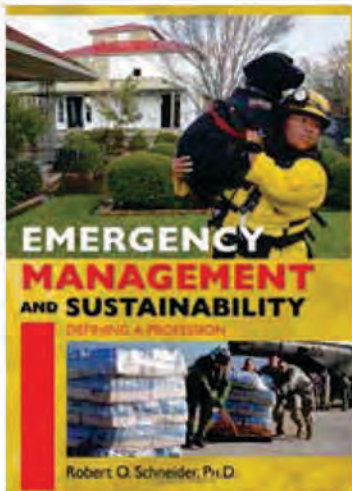
One of Dr. Mark Canada's recent projects was to build a library of books written by faculty members of the College of Arts and Sciences. A recent addition to the library is his own recently published book, "Literature and Journalism: Inspirations, Intersections, and Inventions from Ben Franklin to Stephen Colbert."

An English professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Canada's newest book was published in April 2013 by academic publisher Palgrave Macmillan.

The book is a collection of essays on the relationship between literature and journalism spanning the past three centuries. It exploits a rich vein of newspapering, literature, and history, surveying a long list of America's best journalist-authors, including Franklin, Whitman, and Hemingway.

The essays are ordered chronologically with a heavy dose of work on the late 19th century, when some newspapers provided more literature than modern newspapers. Canada said he was very fortunate to sign on some outstanding scholars for the project.

As Canada looked over the books in his new office library, he discussed the importance of scholarship at a regional university that is focused on teaching. "We are a teaching institution, but scholarship informs teaching," he said. When professors can involve students, he explains, there is an extra benefit.



Dr. Schneider redefining emergency management

For all the public attention that emergency managers receive after every disaster, the profession remains undefined and under-appreciated, according to Dr. Robert O. Schneider, a professor of public administration and an emergency planning expert.

In his new book, "Emergency Management and Sustainability: Defining a Profession" (Charles C. Thomas Publisher LTD; October 2013), Dr. Schneider calls for planning that builds resilient communities.

"The time has come to define emergency management as a sustainability profession,"

he said. "I hope the book expands the public dialogue about emergency management beyond the response stage. I believe this book will advance the field."

Dr. Schneider has devoted 20 years to the study and teaching of emergency management, and he said it took many years of research and many peer-reviewed articles to arrive at the inevitability of this book.

"'Emergency Management and Sustainability' is the product of a line of my research going back many years," he said in an interview shortly before the book was released. "My own perspective, my take, stems from all the work I had done and was doing that ultimately came together in this book."

As climate change increases the risk and severity of natural disasters, Dr. Schneider's call to redefine emergency management may find sympathetic ears. "I'd like to think that anybody could benefit from reading it," the author said.

U.S. News ranks UNCP among 'Best Colleges for Veterans'



U.S. News & World Report issued a "Best Colleges for Veterans" publication on November 20, and the university has a spot at number 20 among

regional universities in the South. UNCP is the only regional public university in North Carolina to make the list, which ranked 234 schools across all the U.S.

U.S. News, which annually ranks colleges and universities, publishes popular guides to higher education. This is its first list of veteran friendly schools.

This is the third accolade UNCP has earned in 2013 from publications for veterans. Earlier, GI Jobs and Advanced Military Education placed the university on their "GI friendly" lists.

Dr. Cammie Hunt, associate vice chancellor for Engaged Outreach, said the recognition from U.S. News is welcome.

"U.S. News publishes rankings of higher education institutions that more people look at than any other, so we are pleased to be recognized in this way," Dr. Hunt said. "I believe that veterans and their families are well served by choosing UNC Pembroke as their school."

Col. Mike Clawson (ret.), who is pictured here, coordinates UNCP's veterans programs at the Office of Military and Veteran Services.

"I am really excited every time UNCP is recognized nationally for its service to our nation's veterans," Clawson said. "Hats off to this university for recognizing many years ago and making a priority of going the extra mile for vets. UNCP is rewarded by enrolling many very high quality students."

UNCP has 857 military-related students - service men and women, veterans and their family members - enrolled. Clawson sees room to improve service to vets.

"We work with vets in many, many ways that are not visible too," he said.

UNCP has a staffed office and classrooms on Fort Bragg offering undergraduate programs in nursing, social work, criminal justice and business administration and graduate programs in physical education, public administration and social work.



LUMBER RIVER CONSERVANCY

Community outreach takes many forms and can be very productive as demonstrated by the university's ties to the Lumber River Conservancy.

Ancient Cypress – UNCP students take a break along the river near Pembroke. The university makes extensive use of the Lumber River for teaching and learning.

LUMBER RIVER: University reaches out to preserve a natural wonder

As a result of the university's relationship with the Conservancy, land has been preserved, and some of it was transformed into the Lumber River State Park's two sites in Robeson and Scotland counties. UNCP's scientific research gives the public a better understanding of the diversity of the environment here, and students benefit from their studies of the river.

The Lumber River is a meandering black water river that runs for 115 miles through five counties before becoming part of the Little Pee Dee River. The Lumber River is one of five in North Carolina to be designated Wild and Scenic by the National River System. There are 194 river miles in the state that meet this designation and almost half (81 miles) belong to the Lumber River.

As a land trust, the Lumber River Conservancy (LRC) acquires land and conservation easements along the river as a means of protecting it. The Conservancy was

established in 1991 by two former Lumberton residents: Carr Gibson, a land owner and forester, and Dickson McLean, an attorney. The 15-member board of directors includes Chancellor Carter. Chancellor Emeritus Joe Oxendine is a trustee emeritus, and biology professor Dr. Andy Ash, who researched plant and animal life on the river, is an ex-officio member of the board.

The university's relationship with the Conservancy goes back to its origins and continues today. Dr. Patricia Sellers, a member of the faculty of the Biology Department, is LRC's director. A freshwater scientist with 15 years of experience working with non-profit environmental organizations, she is well suited to the job.

Last fall, Dr. Sellers discussed the Lumber River Conservancy and her work.

* * *

Question: First of all, what is so special about the Lumber River?

Dr. Sellers: Many things. One is it's the only river in eastern North Carolina that doesn't have any dams or structures impeding flow. That alone makes it worth preserving. In rivers, natural flow patterns are important in preserving their natural state. Second, it is closely tied to the identity, culture and history of the Lumbee people. I don't know of any other river in the region for which that claim can be made. Third, it is a fantastic river to paddle. Fourth, it's beautiful and peaceful – most of the river is buffered by

swamp, so when you are on the water, the roads and their traffic tend to fade away, replaced by sounds of the water and wildlife.

Question: How did you become involved with the conservancy?

Dr. Sellers: I came to UNCP during the year that the LRC received several land acquisition grants, the management of which was going to require a lot of work. They needed help (LRC is volunteer-driven), and this opportunity for community service appealed to me.

Question: What kind of things do you do as the executive director?

Dr. Sellers: A variety of things over the course of a semester. I meet with land owners, manage acquisitions or other projects, serve on committees, communicate among board members, draft and review documents, give presentations, organize meetings, manage interns, etc.

Question: How is the Conservancy preserving the river?

Dr. Sellers: We do this by acquiring land or conservation easements along it or its tributaries. Most of the land is swamp, which doesn't have a lot of commercial value but has extraordinary ecological value. It is because of the swamp that the water quality in the river is quite good for most of its length.

Question: Why would people want to donate land to the Conservancy?

Dr. Sellers: Two main reasons: They see the long-term value in preserving and protecting the river, and they want to help with that. They also want to reduce their tax burden. There are attractive state tax credits and federal tax deductions attached to land or easement donations.

Question: The conservancy has protected about 4,000 acres. Is all of that along the River?

Dr. Sellers: Most of it is. We have some tracts inland, the largest being the Singleton's Bay tract in Hoke County. This is a forested Carolina bay that was acquired through grants and a donation by Z.V. Pate. We are proud to be able to put a Carolina bay into permanent protection.

Question: How does the Lumber River Conservancy protect the properties from unwanted activities, such as illegal logging or dumping?

Dr. Sellers: That's a bit of a challenge. We do monitoring on our tracts and post LRC signs. If we see anything that is a violation of stewardship, we go from there – sometimes that means removing deer stands or signs saying that we intend to. Our president has an airplane and pilot's license and we can do some surveying by air.

Question: Can the public use the land?

Sellers: Access is limited and only on request. We don't have the resources to open up our land to the general public. However, several parcels, once owned by LRC, were donated to the Lumber River State Park for public use. The Conservancy's partnership with the state has been an important one for everyone

Question: Does the university and its students use conservancy land for education and research?

Dr. Sellers: Most definitely. The two tracts that are used most for both teaching field labs and ecological research by several faculty are the Singleton's Bay tract and a tract on the river near UNCP that we call Sampson's Landing.

Question: Tell us about your research in general and your research in the Lumber River?

Dr. Sellers: My research deals mostly with water quality and ecosystem health. Recently, I started a project to measure the color of the water in the River and how it changes with water level or river mile. Color affects light, and that affects a whole bunch of other things. During field labs our students have found a Brook Silverside (a small green fish) and freshwater shrimp in the river and both of those were surprises. One student followed up with the shrimp in a research project and found that there are at least two species.

Question: In the long view, what are the goals of the Lumber River Conservancy?

Dr. Sellers: The vision is to have the entire Lumber River corridor permanently protected, either under the banner of the Lumber River Conservancy or the Lumber River State Park. We have donated some tracts to the Lumber River State Park to help them with their mission.

Question: How can I get involved or donate land or money to the Lumber River Conservancy?

Dr. Sellers: Just give me a call at 910-522-5751, and we can go from there.



Conservancy Leadership – In Pembroke for a meeting with Dr. Sellers, middle, Lumber River Conservancy leaders, on the right, Assistant Secretary Bob Gordon of Southern Pines and President Julian Johnson of Raeford.

**RECORDS
FELL AS
THE
FOOTBALL
TEAM
CLIMBED
TO NEW
HIGHS IN
2013**



Through tears, seniors Luke Charles and Fred Williams could not come to grips that their time in Pembroke had come to an end. The curtain closed on a magical season just 15 minutes prior with a 37-13 loss to North Alabama in the second round of the NCAA Division II Football Playoffs.

"We prided ourselves on doing the little things right all season," Charles said. "Things happened today that were just so uncharacteristic of our team. I'm sorry that it had to happen that way."

The final hurrah for a class that boasted the lion's share of the program's all-time greats. The fanfare surrounding the program's first-ever home playoff game was not diminished by an early exit from the playoffs.

The magical journey started the thrill of beating a top 5-ranked team in state nemesis Winston-Salem State on a national stage supplied by CBS Sports Network. The Braves used a third quarter pick-six from Mike Lawrence to fuel a dramatic 25-21 comeback victory in front of a Grace P. Johnson Stadium record 7,948 fans.

"That was probably one of the best defensive games that we have ever played," said head coach Pete Shinnick. His team scored the final 13 points before sealing the outcome with an acrobatic interception from Dominique Bridges. "A lot of people saw that game and are still talking about it to this day."

That victory sparked a run of superlatives. The Black & Gold made its debut in the national rankings at No. 23, and six-straight wins opened the season. The sixth win, a 34-31 comeback victory at Catawba, vaulted the program among the nation's top 10. The Braves got as high as No. 3 while "Chasing Perfection," the team's 2013 motto.

"We wanted to set the bar high, and we wanted to come up with something that is extremely difficult to do," Shinnick said. "We believed we had that opportunity. It helped keep us dialed in on the task at hand daily."

In the win streak was a dominating 45-22 over UNC Charlotte, a first-year NCAA Division I FCS program. A regional television audience watched the Braves lead by as much as 30 points.

"We played near-perfect football against them on both sides of the ball with the exception of a couple of plays," Shinnick said. "That game was one of the three games that we played on television this year too, so it was seen by a lot of people in the area and the state."

The bid for perfection ended in week eight with a 24-21 heartbreaker at Newberry, who won in the game's final series. But the resilient Braves responded by throwing up 94 points over the next two weeks in a Homecoming win against Tusculum, and another nationally-televised victory at defending national Valdosta State.

A 63-0 victory over Virginia-Lynchburg in the regular season matched a school record for regular season wins for the Braves.

"I just think about how quickly this group bonded in fall camp and the way they played every week," Shinnick said. "Nothing will ever be able to take away from what our team accomplished this year, and that was the reason for our success."

Coach Shinnick leaves a winner

The team will miss 26 seniors, and their coach who is moving on to start a program at West Florida. He is leaving many great memories behind. Shinnick arrived in 2005 and launched the modern era of UNCP football in 2007. He finished with a 50-24 record and two playoff appearances.

"It has been a privilege to work with Pete Shinnick," said UNCP Director of Athletics Dick Christy. "He built the brand of Braves football and has positioned us in an outstanding way for the future." – Todd Anderson

Three great seasons for quarterback Luke Charles



Luke Charles is going to be a tough act to follow. A phenomenal senior season – one that saw him throw for more than 3,500 yards and 33 touchdowns with a 68.4 percent completion rate – was the icing on the cake of a storied career for the Murphy, N.C., native who did not take over as a starter until his sophomore year in Pembroke. The end result is this – Charles will exit Pembroke with 31 single-game, season and career passing records.

His career was accentuated in 2013 when he was named all-American for the second time. He was also one of eight national finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which is the NCAA Division II Heisman.

"He's the best quarterback I have ever coached when it comes to working hard and studying opponents. He's also had the most prolific career of any quarterback that has played for me as well," said UNCP head coach Pete Shinnick. "Luke is leaving here with every passing record at UNCP, and he is well-deserving of that."

Sporting a 22-9 (.710) record as a starter for the Braves, Charles threw for 8,954 yards and 73 touchdowns on 751-of-1183 passing (.634) with 37 interceptions. His career featured eleven 300-yard passing games, including four outings in which he threw for more than 400 yards. He also threw three or more touchdown passes in 11 games.

Charles saved the best for his final year. He threw for nearly 325 yards per game and tossed at least one touchdown pass in 10 of his 11 starts. He also earned a pair of national quarterback of the week honors, while ranking 17th, nationally, with 317.8 yards of total offense per game and 30th with a 146.6 passing efficiency rating.

ATHLETICS

Football

The football team concluded the 2013 campaign with a 9-2 record that culminated with its second trip to the NCAA Division II Playoffs. The Braves returned 26 seniors and it paid dividends. The team began the season with six-straight wins, including a 25-21 comeback victory over then-No. 5 Winston-Salem State that was televised by CBS Sports Network. The Braves also manhandled UNC Charlotte on regional television, and later defeated defending national champion Valdosta State on ESPN3. Players were awarded a slew of honors, including Capital One Academic All-American honorees Ben DeCelle and Wes Carter. Quarterback Luke Charles earned all-American honors for the second time in his career, and offensive linemen Wes Carter and Marquell Rozier became the 11th and 12th players to earn all-American honors in the seven-year history of the program.

Men's Soccer

The men's team finished its fourth season under head coach Phil Hindson with an 8-8-1 record, including a 4-4-1 mark in the Peach Belt (6th place). The Braves climbed as high as No. 15 in the national rankings in late September after a clutch road victory against Montevallo. Pre-season all-conference selection Sam Miles led the club in scoring with 22 points on nine goals and four assists and was named first team all-conference, All-PBC Tournament and Capital One Academic All-American Team. Five players were named to the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) All-State team, and seven players were named to the PBC All-Academic Team.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team completed its 13th season under head coach Lars Andersson with a 7-10-2 record, including a 4-5-2 clip in the Peach Belt Conference (7th place). Decimated by injuries to starters throughout the season, the Lady Braves won four of their first six outings and posted strong results against perennial region power Tusculum even without the services of all-conference goalkeeper Britney Bennett. Reigning PBC Freshman of the Year Rae-Shawna Campbell led the team in scoring with 14 points on five goals and four assists, while Jasmine Jordan earned All-PBC Tournament accolades. Four players earned PBC All-Academic Team honors, and the team was awarded academic team honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).



FALL SPORTS DEMONSTRATE VIGOR OF BRAVES' ATHLETICS



Volleyball

In its second season under head coach Angie Byrd, the volleyball team finished with a 16-21 record, including a 4-14 mark in the Peach Belt Conference, good for 8th place. Byrd guided the Braves to an eight-game improvement from last year. The team tallied a 12-7 mark against non-conference foes, while registering consecutive PBC wins against Georgia College and Augusta in early October. A slew of first-year players played big parts in the success of the program, including Danielle Brown who ranked fourth in the league with 4.76 digs per set and Shekinah-Joy Toloumu who ranked third in the PBC with 10.10 assists per set. Senior Marissa Baker, a four-year starter, earned PBC All-Academic honors.

Men's Cross Country

The men's cross country team registered a pair of meet championships under head coach Gary Aycock, placing first at both the UNC Wilmington Seahawk Invitational, as well as Wingate's Bulldog Stampede. The Braves finished third out of 10 teams at the annual Peach Belt Conference Championships, and finished in seventh place at the NCAA Division II Southeast Region Championships. Individually, newcomer Joel Johnston tallied a trio of top-5 finishes on the season, including medalist honors at the Bulldog Stampede. Johnston earned first team all-PBC honors after finishing seventh at the PBC Championships, while Will Pearson grabbed PBC Freshman of the Year and second team all-PBC honors with an eighth-place finish.

Women's Cross Country

The women's cross country team grabbed team title honors at the season-opening UNC Wilmington Seahawk Invitational, while finishing runner-up at two other events under head coach Gary Aycock. The Lady Braves finished fourth out of 12 teams at the annual Peach Belt Conference Championships, while finishing fifth at the NCAA Division II Southeast Region Championships. Individually, Kyndal Boykin established new program marks in both the 5K and 6K runs, and freshman Abby Culp later broke Boykin's mark in the 6K at the PBC Championships. Culp and Boykin both earned first team all-PBC honors after finishing third and sixth, respectively, at the PBC Championships. Kendra Dorn took home PBC All-Academic Team laurels.



ONE
TEAM FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

STUDENT SUCCESS

No one thing makes students successful. In reality, students facilitate their own success in many, many ways. The university offers pathways to engage students with learning, with each other and with the community. Importantly, the university allows students to engage in the self-reflection that builds values, citizenship and lifelong learning.

Chancellor Carter has focused on student success as a pillar of his tenure at this university. He has raised expectations with higher academic requirements and higher admissions requirements. The most recent freshman class had the highest high school GPA and SAT scores in history. Chancellor Carter has also bolstered safety net programs in tutoring, mentoring and advising. His plan is working as retention numbers are showing.

Besides planning and implementing programs, Chancellor Carter has been the head cheerleader for students. He has emphatically called for a more "robust student experience." The chancellor's byword for faculty, staff, alumni and donors is "ONE Team for Student Success." He carries a pocketful of buttons with the motto emblazoned on them.

On the next pages, some of the ingredients of success will be profiled through the stories of our students. These are stories of engagement, research, internships, Greek life, the benefits of receiving scholarships and more.

When successful students are asked what is the most important single thing the university does that they attribute their success to, they most often cite the faculty. Success involves faculty advisement and mentorship as well as outstanding faculty scholarship that infuses passion into the classroom. Technology also has a role. And, the history of the university itself plays a unique role in the success of the university's American Indian students.

Did we forget to mention that successful students become successful alumni? Continue on to read about some great alumni in the Class Notes section of this magazine.

BUILDING ONLINE
COURSES HAS
TRANSFORMED
SUMMER SCHOOL
FOR STUDENT
AND FACULTY
SUCCESS.

Technology That Works

F quick glance at summer school 2013 lends insight into how technology is changing the student experience in ways that facilitate success. With a robust summer school enrollment last summer, campus parking lots were conspicuously empty.

Nearly half of the 241 courses offered were online, and 58 percent of summer school hours were delivered online. For a service region as large as UNCP's, and an increasingly dispersed enrollment that includes active duty members of the armed forces, this is good news for students.

The Office of Distance Education is responsible for online courses. Its director Charles Tita said the trend is clearly shifting toward online classes. Some classrooms that did not fill up were converted to online classes.

"Online, they filled up quickly," Dr. Tita said. "This summer, we are crunching numbers for online classes to plan for the future."

Many faculty agree with social work professor Cindy Edwards, who said: "In our department, online classes definitely fill up faster. Most students in our department like to take required classes in the summer." Edwards also enjoyed the flexibility of online teaching.

About 20 percent of all UNCP's year-round enrollment is online. In fact, UNCP leads all 16 UNC institutions for the percent of online classes vs. face-to-face. The university ranks fourth for the raw number of online classes.

For a university whose service region extends from the sandhills to the coast, online teaching is especially important. Online enrollment has been gaining steadily since it was introduced in 1999, said Terry Locklear, who crunches numbers for the Office of Distance Education.

According to Locklear, the number of online summer hours delivered surpassed courses held in brick and mortar classrooms in 2011. Online credit hours taken by students in summer school passed hours taken in classrooms in 2010, and the gap is widening. By 2012, total online summer school credit hours grew by 50 percent.

While science courses with labs will always be held on campus, online, the sky is the limit. Prof. Edwards said students can pick up important classes needed for graduation.

Students are also saving money by living at home, and they can have summer jobs that pay college costs, said Dr. Tony Curtis, a faculty member in the Mass Communication Department. Dr. Curtis had one online student who spent the summer caring for a grandparent who was ill.

"Students are able to get on with their lives away from school by doing things like earning money from summer jobs, seeing old friends and traveling to the beach. Students need every penny they can earn in the summertime."

Dr. Jamie Litty, also a faculty member in the Department of Mass Communication, offered some words of caution. Students can get into trouble in intensive summer school classes, she said.

"Some students underestimate the time required for an online class, or underestimate their need for sleep," she said. "They'll have a full-time job and another class going at the same time; or a full-time job and an internship plus my class. Those students certainly fall behind when there's course content or tests that expire by a certain date."

Dr. Curtis said teaching online is demanding of faculty time. "Each student receives individual attention more consistently than in a face-to-face classroom," he said. "Online classes are more writing-centered, which reinforces the university's goal to increase writing across the curriculum."

But Prof. Edwards said the freedom of teaching online is worth the work. "I am enjoying an extended maternity leave of sorts," she said. "I think supply and demand will keep this trend going."

With for-profit colleges battling with traditional brick and mortar institutions for enrollment dollars, UNCP has not been asleep at the wheel. Pembroke jumped on the distance education bandwagon early and is providing convenient and high quality academic experiences.

U.S. News and World Report, the nation's most watched college rating service, got into the act in early 2014 ranking online programs. Harvard and Duke are not on their list, but UNCP is.



From left: Jeff Frederick, Rose Stremiau, Charles Beem, Jeff Lucas, Bruce Dehart, Ryan Anderson, Robert Brown, Jaime Martinez, Scott Billingsley and Mark Thompson

Scholarship inspires teaching in History Department

The History Department has set the standard high for scholarship. Seven members of the department have had books published on a wide range of topics. At an institution that prizes teaching, there is also great pride in UNCP's growing scholarship.

Chancellor Carter recently noted a surge in scholarship from the sciences to the humanities. "Faculty members are conducting research that is attracting national and international attention," he said. The History Department's scholarship adds to the sum of what makes UNCP an "institution of choice."

Inspired scholarship produces inspired teaching and student success. In the classroom, these scholars make subject matter come alive. Their passion for the written word rubs off on students like Lonnie Cox '12, a social studies teacher at Lumberton High School.

"I was a poor writer when I started college," said Cox, who majored in history. "Just being around great writers like Dr. (Jeffrey) Lucas helped me. I ended up tutoring in the Writing Center and publishing my own research."

"The department has been fortunate to recruit and retain a distinguished faculty of scholars and teachers," said department chair Dr. Robert Brown. "One factor is our culture of collegiality and mutual support."

"I might add that, in addition to the publication record, each member of the history faculty has received at least one Outstanding Teaching Award," Dr. Brown continued. "We truly believe that scholarship and good teaching are intimately related, and they reinforce each other."

Dr. Ryan Anderson, who teaches U.S. history, said the department's record raises the profile of the entire university. Students also see the value of a distinguished faculty, he said.

"Our members are dedicated teacher-scholars," Dr. Anderson said. "One of the things I hear from our students and graduates is that they recognize and appreciate the department's scholarly expertise and teaching ability."

Dr. Jeff Frederick calls research the "lifeblood" of teaching. "The historian's work in the field and in the archives are both critical to bringing history into the minds of students," he said.

Dr. Jaime Martinez said humanities faculty could do more to explain the all-important relationship between scholarship and effective teaching.

"Being an active scholar makes me a better teacher," said Dr. Martinez. "When I demonstrate how much I enjoy both the process and the content of my discipline, I come that much closer to bringing history to life in my classroom."

RECENT BOOKS

Ryan Anderson, Ph.D. - "Merry's Flock and the Creation of All-American Boyhood" (University of Arkansas Press; 2015)

Charles Beem, Ph.D. - "The Name of a Queen: William Fleetwood's Itinerarium ad Windsor" (Palgrave Macmillan; 2013)

Scott Billingsley, Ph.D. - "Recovering the Margins of American Religious History: The Legacy of David Edwin Harrell Jr." (co-edited with B. Dwain Waldrep; University of Alabama Press; 2012).

Weston Cook, Ph.D. - "The Hundred Years War for Morocco: Gunpowder and the Military Revolution in the Early Modern Muslim World History" (Westview Press; 1994)

Jeff Frederick, Ph.D. - "Stand Up for Alabama: Governor George Wallace" (University of Alabama Press; 2007)

Jeff Lucas, Ph.D. - "The Rightward Drift of Mexico's Former Revolutionaries: The Case of Antonio Díaz Soto y Gama" (Edwin Mellen Press, 2010)

Jaime Martinez, Ph.D. - "Confederate Slave Impressment in the Upper South" (UNC Press, December 2013)

Rose Stremiau, Ph.D. - "Sustaining the Cherokee Family: Kinship and Allotment of an Indigenous Nation" (UNC Chapel Hill Press; 2011) The book won the 2012 Willie Lee Rose prize, which is awarded annually by the Southern Association for Women's Historians to the best book on any topic in Southern history.

BUILDING ON AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT SUCCESS



The university's American Indian students represent a special legacy of this institution. Their success is closely watched, inside the university and out. Recent research shows that this student group is the most successful group of students by several important measures.

Drawn largely from Robeson and nearby counties, there are approximately 1,000 American Indian students enrolled here. To be even more successful in the future, this group faces financial and educational challenges. University leaders are looking at ways to increase college attendance and success among Indian students.

Faculty and administrators have accumulated considerable experience and research on the success of Indian students, at UNCP and in the public schools. Contributing to this story are Steven Hunt '93, '02, director of the Center for Academic Excellence; Dr. Olivia Oxendine '70, a faculty member in the School of Education and a member of the State Board of Education; and Dr. Alfred Bryant '90, associate dean of the School of Education and founding director of the new Southeast American Indian Studies program.

Steven Hunt, whose tutoring and mentoring programs are important to the success of all students, recently completed a comparative study of student success at UNCP by race and gender, with funding from the Lumina Foundation for Education. His study shows that:

- American Indian males have the highest retention rates from their 2nd to 3rd year when compared to white and African American males.
- Four-year graduation rates for Indian males are nearly double African American and white males.
- Six-year graduation rates for Indian males lead all other groups.
- Six-year graduation rates of American Indian females are surpassed only by African American women.

In focus groups American Indian students say they have a high comfort level with UNCP's heritage and history. They are more likely than other groups to identify family, faculty and

campus resources as reasons for success. Many American Indian Women cited specific programs, scholarships and organizations that promote academic success among Indian students.

Hunt said paying for college may be the largest obstacle to student success for Indian students. "This is a culture that does not like debt, so students will stop school to work, then return," he said.

Indian student engagement in the university community is not perceived as high, a finding seems to contradict conventional wisdom about the relationship between engagement and success, said Dr. Alfred Bryant. "Indian students are engaged - with their family, churches, jobs and friends - outside the university."

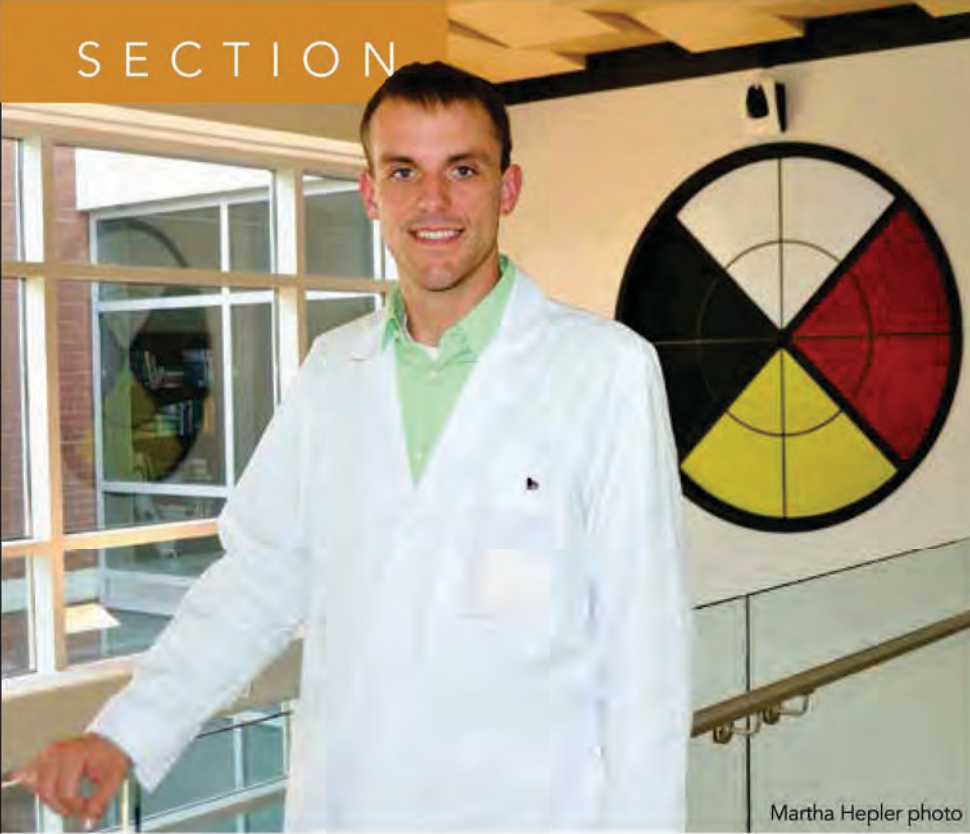
Hunt said African American students are the most engaged on campus, and "American Indians' level of student engagement should doom them, but they thrive," he said. "Indian students have a built-in support system - parents and community."

Dr. Olivia Oxendine cited her own student experience. "I went from school to home to work," she said. "Indian students are very deliberate; they have an end game."

Still, there is room to improve retention and graduation and college attendance rates, said Dr. Oxendine, a member of the State Board of Education, who is the former liaison between the State Advisory Council on Indian Education and the Board.

For Robeson County's K-12 Indian students (2011-12), retention and drop-out rates are in-line with state averages, but scores on state end-of-course tests trail state averages significantly (70.7 percent vs. the state average of 82.9). "Bottom line, Indian students are behind their white peers," Dr. Oxendine said.

Dr. Bryant and others at the university are currently in discussions with Robeson school leaders to improve college attendance of Lumbee students. "Right now, we are talking about a collaborative effort between UNCP and the Public Schools of Robeson County," Dr. Bryant said. "We need to grow the number who want to attend college."



Martha Hepler photo

Living-learning Communities Build Opportunities for Engagement

By Dena Evans, Ph.D.

Justin Smith always knew he wanted to work in a profession dedicated to helping others. How this blueberry farmer from Cypress Creek arrived in Pembroke is a tale of unlikely encounters that helped one young man return to his roots and find his passion.

In 2007, Justin graduated from East Bladen High School with his mind set on earning a nursing degree at East Carolina University. The nursing pre-requisites included two courses in psychology. An internship with mental health providers in a crisis center in Colorado, and he was hooked.

Justin conducted research in cardiac psychology. Smith notes: "I worked with patients who had implantable cardioverter defibrillators, some of whom had experienced sudden cardiac arrest. I wanted to be able to quantify the sense of security among patients who had the device and who had experienced a life-saving shock." Justin completed his undergraduate degree in 2012, but this story does not end there.

Justin enrolled in a Ph.D. program. "I did well, but I just could not see myself researching cardiac psychology for the rest of my academic life." He returned to the Master of Social Work, which he felt would be more "practitioner" oriented.

Justin found himself in an online gerontology course that was required of both social work and nursing majors. "During that summer, I realized that I wanted to work in a profession that cared for people on each of these levels, holistically. Also reading the discussion boards and interacting with the nursing professor made me stop and realize how passionate the nursing students were about the profession. It was then that I realized that I truly did want to be a nurse."

Justin returned home, to the blueberry farm and a father in declining health. He decided to investigate the nursing program at UNC Pembroke. "The major factor in choosing Pembroke was its proximity to home," he said.

In 2013, he became a member of nursing's new Discover Nursing Living-Learning Leading (DNL3C) community. The community, established in 2012, provides pre-nursing students with opportunities to engage

with other pre-nursing students, promote early interaction with nursing faculty and aid students in exploring nursing as a career.

As a member, Justin received emails pertaining to upcoming "community" events. It was during the summer of 2013, when he received an email from the DNL3C and Clinical Learning Center (CLC) coordinator, Martha Hepler, inviting him to attend the year's first event, an ice cream social in Cypress Hall. Justin attended, and as is his nature, he quickly began offering support to the other students, giving them advice on how to ensure they remained focused, the importance of good grades and forming supportive relationships.

Justin notes: "I am older than most of my classmates, and I already have a degree. Based on my educational experiences, I know I have some good advice to offer."

It was at the ice cream social that Justin also had his first encounters with nursing faculty. An outgoing young man, Justin introduced himself to the nursing faculty, and asked about research opportunities. Given his background, Justin believed this would provide an opportunity for early engagement with faculty and let him know if UNCP was the right choice. Hepler hired Justin to assist in the lab. By the time fall semester began, he was playing a very integral role in the education of both junior and senior pre-licensure students.

Justin has participated in many CLC and DNL3C events. Recently, the DNL3C held a dance party for students in the community. "I was pulled to be the DJ for the dance party, and it was certainly a lot of fun watching the students and nursing faculty members perform the Cupid Shuffle and the Wobble."

Clearly, Justin is excited about his emerging roles within the department. He has assisted with the high-tech simulator known as SimMan. "I played the voice of the mannequin, and it was awesome! I have also attended the department's expert panel discussions where I spoke with Dr. Theresa Campbell, a faculty member. She was very open to discussing her specialty with me, and I learned that I may be interested in nephrology nursing!"

So, why did Justin Smith, the blueberry farmer, come to Pembroke? If you ask him now, he will say proximity. But it has been his ability to engage with nursing faculty and students that will keep him here. Smith says:

"They are so easy to talk to and fun to work with. This openness and approachability is not something you find in every university, but I have found it here, in the Department of Nursing, at UNC Pembroke."

* * *

An associate professor in nursing,
Dr. Dena Evans is a member of the
UNCP Today Editorial Board.

Mutual interests result in student-faculty collaboration

*F*aculty-guided, undergraduate research gives students valuable experience that can propel them to graduate school and career success. In the sciences, arts and humanities, research is a priority at UNCP.

As a student-faculty team, Victor Cole and Dr. Meredith Storms are a great match. Cole's career goal is to become a pharmacist, and Dr. Storms' doctorate is in pharmaceutical analysis.

Cole was born in Sierra Leone before immigrating to the U.S. at age 13. Dr. Storms, who is a member of Chemists Without Borders, was looking to infuse an international theme into her courses. She had recently struck up a relationship with AIDS Free AFRICA in Cameroon.

"I would like to work for a large drug company in Africa," Cole said.



Summer internship gave Elizabeth White career insights

*M*any students find opportunities to advance their professional careers during the summer. Elizabeth White completed a six-week, intensive summer internship in 2013 with the University of North Carolina General Administration which governs the state's 16 public higher education institutions.

The Marian Drane Graham Scholars Program was in its first year and is available to only six rising juniors among 16 UNC institutions. An elementary education major from Elkin, N.C., White did not think she had a chance despite having an outstanding resume and a member in the Esther Maynor Honors College.

An engaged student, White is is a Chancellor's Ambassador, a senator with the Student Government Association a member of Kappa Delta sorority and on the Panhellenic Council.

"When I got the phone call that I was accepted, I screamed," White said. "I thought because I was at one of the smaller UNC schools, I would not get the internship. It's a real honor."

During the internship, White toured much of North Carolina and traveled to Washington D.C., where she met with UNC's staff and visited elected officials. "I got to meet Sen. Kay Hagen (D-N.C.) and several other members of Congress," she said. "In Chapel Hill, I met with UNC President Tom Ross."

White said it was "an immersion" in the policy and issues of higher education. "It was very interesting, and I would recommend it to other students," she said. "If you are going into education like me, it was especially interesting."



"I wanted my students to look at opportunities in science globally," Dr. Storms said. "I became interested in the issue of drug stability in Africa, and it all came together when I met Victor."

Dr. Storms, who is also an associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, met Cole in a general chemistry class that had a service-learning component.

Cole jumped at the opportunity to study drugs that fight diseases that ravage Africa, such as AIDS and malaria.

In November, Cole's research went on display in Charlotte at the North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. The pair's work also resulted in a drive to collect light-blocking, amber pill bottles and send them to Cameroon, where pharmaceuticals are manufactured.

"I've learned a lot; it's a broad field, and I'm adding knowledge," Cole said. "I want to get in the lab next semester and learn more."

Dr. Storms has also learned from the research experience. By taking students out of the classroom for a service-learning project, she learned a lot about students like Cole.

"In class, Victor was quiet, but taking students out of the classroom, you see their leadership abilities and what they bring to a group," Dr. Storms said.

Cole and Dr. Storms agree there is a lot to be learned outside the classroom.

Service to fellow students inspires this SGA President



Was UNCP the right choice? As many freshmen do, Emily Ashley asked herself that question. The answer came early and emphatically when she got involved with student government and the dance team.

Ashley had misgivings during her freshman year. "I think a lot of freshmen come to that moment, because college is such a culture change," she said. "When I devoted myself to the SGA, I found motivated people like me. The solution for me is to try to help motivate other students to get more involved. I think the SGA can help."

A junior from Chapel Hill, Ashley was elected president of the Student Government Association (SGA) last spring. Student engagement - for all students - is at the heart of her plans. High on her list of priorities is raising school spirit. She led the cheers from the student section during football season and continued an SGA initiative creating a student cheering section at basketball games.

"I'd like to see roped-off student seating," she said. "We will develop special cheers, songs and movements unique to UNCP. If students are part of the game, they are more likely to come out and have fun."

Ashley is also a realist. "I was raised to make sure other people benefit, but I am representing 6,000 students, and I know I can't make them all happy," she said. "Improving the school is what I'm about, and it will be a growing experience for me."

Judging from the noise coming from the student section and the number of social media shout-outs, Ashley is succeeding in raising school spirit.

Esther G. Maynor Scholar is a perfect fit in many ways



Scholarships can make the difference, and, for the 2013-14 Esther G. Maynor Scholar, it is making all the difference.

From Fair Bluff, N.C., May Grace Curiale is the fifth Maynor Scholar. It is the university's most prestigious scholarship and one of the most generous. An outstanding student with many extracurricular interests, Curiale will major in psychology and plans to go to medical school.

"Everything is going well," she said last fall. "I'm in the Honors College living-learning community, so I take classes with students on my hall."

Curiale describes herself as a "focused" student who studies between classes. Both her parents are college graduates. Her mother is a UNCP graduate and encouraged her daughter to look at UNCP.

"We looked at other colleges, but this was the place for me," Curiale said. "This is a tight-knit campus, and I won't be sitting in a class with three or four hundred people."

Curiale is already involved on campus and off. Through a service-learning class, she joined UNCP's Literacy Commons, a project in the local schools. She also served as stage manager for University Theatre's production of "Romeo and Juliet."

She has had numerous surgeries related to a chronic illness since childhood. "We've had some worrisome times," she said. "Because of our healthcare debt, I might not have been able to pay for college."

The Maynor Scholarship proved the ticket, and Curiale is just the type of student that the Honors College is looking for.

SORORITY MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN COLLEGE LIFE



Philanthropy moves from classroom to fight breast cancer



Ernest Bethel, center, with TV 14 News reporter Amanda Weber and Kyle Alcalá who provided technical assistance to the project.

Joining a sorority was important to Francine Cummings' personal development and engagement with campus life.

Putting her heart and soul into the good works of her chapter earned Cummings Alpha Pi Omega's national Pi of the Year award.

"Just being nominated by my sisters was a big deal to me," said Cummings, who is a senior from Pembroke. It is the highest honor of the sorority, which has more than 500 members.

Alpha Pi Omega, Inc., is a national American Indian sorority with 13 chapters representing 70 tribes. UNCP launched the beta chapter in 1996.

Cummings, who is double majoring in biology and American Indian Studies, is the first UNCP undergraduate to win the national award. She is an outstanding student with a strong portfolio of campus and community engagement. She gives credit to her sorority.

"I 'crossed' my freshman year," she said. "There is a sense of family; these are my sisters. In Arizona, I realized it is a national family."

"I'm shy basically, but I have found my voice," Cummings said. "Alpha Pi Omega brought me out of my shell."

As a local commuter student, she said joining a sorority also helped her become more engaged with the campus.

"I wouldn't have been nearly as active on campus if I had not joined the sorority," Cummings said. "The sorority has gotten me more involved on campus, but for me, it's about school, church and family."

With her sorority sisters, Cummings has engaged with community service projects ranging from Adopt-A-Highway to a coat drive for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

An outstanding student, Cummings hopes to attend to Campbell University's new School of Osteopathic Medicine. Cummings' undergraduate studies reflect a balance of science and the humanities.

"I love the American Indian Studies program here," she said. "I started out taking one history class for my general education requirement. I liked it and took more classes, until I decided to make it my second major."

Cummings is serving as vice president of UNCP's Alpha Pi Omega chapter in 2013-14. She is also a member of AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society), the Native American Student Organizations (NASO) and participated in UNCP's Health Careers Access Program (HCAP).

Taking learning from the classroom to the real world is the definition of teaching and learning. Budding philanthropist/entrepreneur Ernest Bethel did just that and made a statement that was heard across North Carolina.

During the fall semester, the senior mass communication major started a charitable project by partnering with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and its Director Robert Canida. Using a social media plan called "dollar-per-follower," he raised a tidy sum for the Pretty in Pink Foundation.

Bethel said he wanted to create a good news story that would draw attention to breast cancer and to help a community that needed a good news story.

"My family has a history of breast cancer," he said. "And after the news article about Lumberton being the poorest city in the nation, we needed something positive," he said. Bethel wanted to prove an even larger philosophical point - that "just because you are not rich, doesn't mean you can't give," he said.

The final piece of Bethel's plan is to spread the word through the mass media. He hit the front page of *The Robesonian*, the evening news on TV 14 News and the Pine Needle student newspaper too.

"I used what I learned in Jason Hutchens' public relations class to write a press release," Bethel said. "Because of his class, I learned how to write a press release that I sent to the media. Writing it was the hardest part of the project."

A Durham native, Bethel took one class and worked three jobs last summer, literally 24/7. Because his jobs were in Lumberton, he felt like he needed to return a favor to that community. The dollar-per-follower contributions to his Twitter campaign came from Bethel's earnings from last summer.

With the help of fellow student, Kyle Alcalá, Bethel built a following of 700 and contributed \$1,055 to the Pretty in Pink Foundation on December 4. The foundation will give financial help to an 82-year-old Robeson County cancer victim.

Just before Thanksgiving, Bethel completed his two-week Twitter blitz. As an exercise in applied learning and giving back, Bethel's project is a remarkable achievement.

Graduate Students

"It's fascinating how much I'm learning that I take back to my work immediately. It's relevant."

-Mary Peterman

Scholarship gave room for Bullard to flourish



There are not many scholarships for graduate students, but for these students, financial aid and internships can create opportunities for career development.

As a candidate for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree, Jarrod Bullard was notified last summer that he received the Foster G. McGaw Scholarship for 2013 from the Foundation of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Bullard, who graduated in December, received a one-time, \$5,000 award.

He is an outstanding graduate student with a 4.0 grade point average. Dr. Nicholas Giannatasio, a faculty member in the MPA program and coordinator of the Healthcare Management Track, wrote a letter of recommendation for Bullard.

"Jarrod is an exceptional student, and his work really stood out as quality graduate work," Dr. Giannatasio said. "I predict great things for him in the future, and he will continue to bring honor to UNCP."

Good things have become routine for Bullard, who is a 2011 UNCP graduate from the Prospect community. He worked as a paid graduate assistant during the 2013-14 academic year. An internship at the Hoke County Health Department last spring turned into a summer job.

"I worked in grant writing, policy development, marketing and accreditation," Bullard said. "It started as an unpaid internship as a requirement of the MPA program, and the Health Department asked me to work as a paid intern this summer."

In the healthcare administration track of UNCP's MPA program and a student member of the American College of Healthcare Administrators (ACHE), he wants to continue his education and work in hospital administration.

"I was a biology major as an undergraduate with a plan to become a doctor," Bullard said. "I did several internships, and I felt it wasn't for me. I am still committed to healthcare and helping people, but in a different way."

Bullard has impressed everyone thus far. The future of healthcare will be in good hands with this UNCP graduate.

Graduate study builds on a successful career



A master's degree from UNCP can leverage up a career, even if the student is already a very, very successful professional.

Mary E. Peterman is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Certified Government Financial Planner (CGFP) and vice president of Savantage Solutions, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting company. A Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from UNCP will "greatly compliment

everything I'm doing and my career goals," she says.

Peterman started her accounting career with one of the top U.S. firms. She has 20 years of experience in local, state and federal government accounting, financial management and information technology.

To expand her professional network, she joined the local chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Peterman is so well respected by her peers that she advanced to the national presidency of the international professional association which boasts more than 15,000 members.

So why an MPA from UNCP? "It's doable," she said of the online program. Peterman, who lives in the northeast corner of North Carolina, travels often to Washington to work. The tuition is affordable too, but she has many more good things to say about UNCP's MPA program.

"It's fascinating how much I'm learning that I take back to my work immediately," she said. "It's relevant."

"When I was looking for a master's program, I looked into the faculty and was impressed by their publications," Peterman said. "It seemed like a program that I wanted to be involved with."

She has not been disappointed, and the MPA faculty say Peterman is an exceptional student who brings a lot to the program from her professional and other activities.

"To illustrate," said Dr. William Albrecht, a faculty member in the MPA program, "the theme for her inaugural year as AGA's national president is 'connect;' one she employed in my class. Then she asked me to join the editorial board for the Journal of Government Financial Management."

Peterman's next career stop may be back in the classroom, sharing her professional experience as a faculty member.



ADVANCEMENT

The 2013 fall semester was a success for UNCP, and you will see evidence of that throughout this edition of the *UNCP Today* magazine. I can't begin to imagine the impressions made upon the lives of our student-athletes this year as they experienced new levels of success, national media exposure, and an outpouring of support from thousands of fans across the country. I share similar sentiment for those students who participated in the creation of the documentary video, "Voices of the Lumbee." These students, representative of a mixture of ethnicities, were able to not only interview but become a part of the lives of Lumbee elders in the surrounding community. As a result of this experience, they have a newfound respect for the tribe and its traditions that our institution was founded upon. They will always cherish their relationships with this dignified population of individuals who represent the fiber of the Lumbee culture. The impact made upon our students on and off our campus on a daily basis will follow them forever.

This university continues to make strides in the areas of academics, athletics and enhancement of the student experience. And, it's not always just about the students – it's about the people who work here. You'll find that for many of us at UNCP, this isn't just a place where we clock in and out each day; it's our source for fostering our inner spirit, hope for the future and creativity. It's where we work among others who share our passion, and where we see the fruits of our labor unfold before us every day. It's our mission to ensure that alumni, donors and friends see the passion we put in our work, in our collaborative efforts with surrounding communities, and in making UNCP the very best it can be. We hope that as you read this magazine and share it with others, that you will Catch the Spirit of UNC Pembroke.

We are in the midst of another semester and the beginning of a new year, and I feel confident in the successes that this year will bring. With a new and updated university website, refreshed banners throughout campus waving in the breeze, and the buzz of machinery prepping newly purchased land to expand our footprint; it's a great time to be a Brave. Your support of UNC Pembroke makes these things all possible. Don't miss out on a good ole' baseball game this season or an amazing show at Givens Performing Arts Center. Regardless of the way you choose to support UNCP, we hope you continue to do so for years to come.

Go Braves,

Wendy Lowery

Wendy A. Lowery '99, '07
Vice Chancellor
Office of Advancement

University announces additional support for Southeast American Indian Studies

Since the 2013 summer edition of the *UNCP Today Magazine*, the university's efforts to raise support for the Southeast American Indian Studies Endowment have continued. The featured donors in this edition have contributed a total of \$40,000 toward the university's fundraising efforts. The endowment remains a priority for the Office of Advancement.



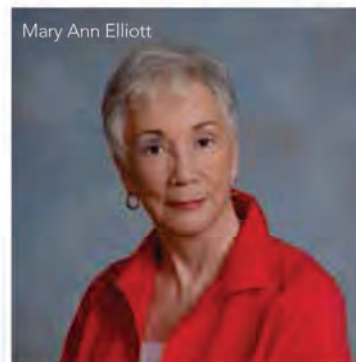
Walt & Louise Maynor



Dr. Ken Locklear & Family



Ken & Dr. Ruth Strickland



Mary Ann Elliott

The Southeast American Indian Studies program itself also continues to move forward. Dr. Alfred Bryant '90 has been named the founding director (see page 8). Dr. Bryant, who has risen through the faculty tenure system to the rank of full professor, is an associate dean in the School of Education. Experience in grants, community outreach, research and teaching make him a great choice. What makes him the ideal choice is his connection to the local community. Dr. Bryant is busy hiring a grant writer and forming a national board of directors for the program. The support of the following donors demonstrates the depth of support in the community for the Southeast American Indian Studies program.

The university is delighted to announce the most recent contributors:

Mary Ann Elliott

Mary Ann is no stranger to UNCP. As one of the institution's major donors, she has supported several initiatives and continues to contribute to her two endowed scholarships. During a recent visit with Mary Ann, Vice Chancellor of Advancement Wendy Lowery noted: "The wisdom from both her personal and professional life experiences radiates in Mary Ann's expressions, thoughts, and demeanor. She is truly a remarkable woman." The support provided to the SAIS initiative fulfills Mary Ann's passion for giving back and supporting a program that will pay tribute to the American Indians of the Southeast.

Dr. Ken Locklear & Family

The Locklear family truly exemplifies the sense of legacy that is so profound at UNCP. All of his children attended UNCP, with three of them following in the footsteps of their father, pursuing careers in medicine. Dr. Ken Locklear '75 and his family decided to honor his mother, Mrs. Rosette O. Locklear, with their gift to the SAIS. Dr. Locklear has stated numerous times the emphasis placed on education and the success he has experienced along with his children underscore the impact it made upon the entire family.

Drs. Walt & Louise Maynor

Drs. Walt '59 and Louise Maynor '65 are loyal to UNC Pembroke and speak passionately about the institution regardless of the circle they are traveling in. As educators, leaders in their community, and amongst their family, they were excited to learn about our efforts with SAIS and spoke highly of the impact it will make upon our region. "Walt and Louise are charismatic people, and when they have an opportunity to participate in an endeavor that benefits what they believe in, they're eager to participate," Lowery stated

Ken & Ruth Strickland

Ken Strickland was adamant to ensure that an educator who made a difference in his life - Mrs. Pauline Bullard Locklear '55 - was honored by his gift. Educators truly have an opportunity to shape lives and make an impact on the paths that their students take. Ken speaks highly of Mrs. Locklear, who hopefully understands just how important she was in shaping the life that Ken enjoys. His travels abroad and appreciation of culture, history and landscape inspires Ken to give back to UNCP as often as he can. His most recent gift to SAIS is one of many major investments he has made to the university.

A warm, sultry summer afternoon gave way to a breezy, candlelit evening under the trees around the campus water feature for the annual SOS Beach Party.

SCHOLARSHIPS SOS

SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS



Annual SOS Beach Party sets new records

Beach music drifted through the air as more than 300 guests danced, sipped tropical spirits and dined on beach-inspired food. Games, giveaways and a photo booth enlivened the crowd.

In the end, the university's annual party to raise money for scholarships was the most successful one-night fundraising event in UNCP history. A total of \$75,000 was raised.

"It was truly a lovely evening," said Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor for the Office of Advancement.

Paul Willoughby, chair of the SOS Beach Patrol planning committee, is already looking forward to next year's event, which has been set for August 8. "I have been very excited about the SOS program because it is such an important part of helping the students get as much financial aid as is possible," Willoughby said.

This fall, the new Arrowhead 1887 Scholarship got an infusion of \$23,500 from last year's SOS proceeds. When combined with other donations, it resulted in 22 merit scholarships of \$1,887 each.

With more than 80 percent of UNCP's students receiving financial aid, the need for scholarships is high.



Recognition

Scholarship Dinner continues to grow



Robin Hunt, recipient of the Pembroke Business and Professional Women Scholarship with Sarah Bell, left, and Lillian Locklear, who represented the scholarship

In its ninth year, the Scholarship Recognition Dinner has become one of the most popular events of the year. In 2013, it set a new attendance record with more than 325 donors and scholarship recipients.

"This is the annual event where donors meet the recipients of their scholarships," said Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor of the Office of Advancement. "This is the return on investment, and these students are great investments, as we have learned tonight. We're so proud of these students."

Having personally benefitted from a scholarship that made the difference in his undergraduate education, Chancellor Carter is big fan of this event.

"This fall, I've been saying that faculty and staff are 'one team for student success,'" Chancellor Carter said. "I'm going to revise that to say faculty, staff and donors are 'one team for student success.'"

There are 350 scholarships at UNCP, Chancellor Carter noted. "You've made a lasting impact on the lives of students forever," he said, thanking the donors.

Student Government Association President Emily Ashley delivered the response for the students: "Speaking for students, we can't say thanks enough or mean it enough. Right in front of us are the students who will be changing the world. To those of us who receive much, much is asked."

For more information about giving at UNCP, please contact the Office of Advancement at (910) 521-6252, email advancement@uncp.edu or go online to www.uncp.edu/advancement/.

FARM BUREAU AUDITORIUM DEDICATION



Farm Bureau Directors from left: Everette Moore, Lycurous Lowry, Larry Sampson '97, Miles Mercer, Charles Roberts '88 and Anthony Locklear at the ribbon cutting in the Farm Bureau Auditorium of UNCP's Regional Center.

The university dedicated its Regional Center Auditorium to the Robeson County Farm Bureau in December.

The auditorium is the site of numerous conferences each year, including the annual Farm Bureau BioAg Symposium. The Farm Bureau Board of Directors recently renewed a five-year, \$50,000 pledge to support UNCP's Biotechnology Research and Training Center, a research scholarship and the symposium.

It is the second space in the Regional Center with the Farm Bureau's name on it. Matt Adams '89, agency manager, said the Farm Bureau is known for its insurance products, but it supports many programs in rural communities including biotechnology research at UNCP.

"This is special for me having been here five years ago at the start of this partnership," Adams said. "These programs are making a difference."

Some of UNCP's biotech projects were on display at the dedication. Three international scientists, who are doing agricultural research at the Regional Center, attended along with 2013-14 Farm Bureau Scholar, Walter Patterson.

"The Farm Bureau's gifts have supported lab programs for dozens of students and allowed them to make presentations at scientific conferences," said Dr. Len Holmes, director of UNCP's Biotech Center.

Lycurous Lowry '57, president of the local Board of Directors and a UNCP graduate, said the Farm Bureau is more than an insurance company with 7-8,000 members in the county.

"We have a legislative branch as well as youth programs with 4-H and Future Farmers," Lowry said. "We support farmers and farm communities. We just want to thank UNCP for letting us be part of their research and training programs at the Regional Center."

The Farm Bureau name will be seen by thousands of visitors to the Regional Center each year as they attend many conferences and training programs, Chancellor Carter said.

"This is an important gift for UNCP, and we thank the Farm Bureau," Chancellor Carter said. "Support like this allow us to do things that we could otherwise not accomplish."

LREMC ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



Top row from left: Steven Hunt, president and CEO, Ronald Hammonds, William Hollingsworth, Wyatt Upchurch, Eric Locklear, Rory Eddings and James Hardin; Middle row from left: Herbert Clark, Jarette Sampson and Ilene Oxendine; Bottom row from left: Maggie Hunt, Chancellor Kyle Carter, Wendy Lowery vice chancellor of Advancement, Elaine Chavis and Madie Locklear

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (LREMC) has reached out to the university to establish a Scholars Program.

In October, LREMC's Board of Directors ratified an agreement to establish an endowed scholarship at UNCP that will total \$25,000 by 2018. Named the Lumbee River EMC Scholars Program, it was initiated with a \$5,000 gift.

Earnings from the endowment will fund a scholarship for an outstanding student majoring in biology or environmental science with preference for a student interested in a career in agriculture. The scholarship is renewable, and the student or his parents must be LREMC members.

Serving Robeson, Hoke, Scotland and Cumberland counties, LREMC has a long and distinguished history of community outreach, including to UNCP. With five existing scholarship programs, education is a priority in a region where agriculture drives the economy.

"Lumbee River EMC and UNCP have had a partnership for many years, and we are always looking for opportunities to enhance this relationship," said Steven Hunt, president and chief executive officer of Lumbee River EMC. "We at Lumbee River EMC understand the importance of agriculture and education to the economy of our area. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to expand our partnership with this outstanding university that shares in our values and commitment to our local community."

The Lumbee River Scholars program at UNCP is LREMC's second major educational endowment. Robeson Community College is the first. Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor of Advancement thanked the board for its gift.

"We are grateful that LREMC understands the importance of higher education and the opportunities it provides to our region, state, and beyond," Lowery said. "Their gift will have a direct impact on the lives of others for generations to come."

OUR VALUED DONORS



A. Linda & Don Metzger establish a scholarship

Don and Linda Metzger of Lumberton have established a \$25,000 endowed scholarship in the School of Business.

The scholarship will provide assistance to a student with demonstrated financial need. It is renewable and available to an incoming freshman or current student.

Don is a member of UNCP's Board of Trustees and a Lumberton city councilman. Linda is a realtor with Century 21 in Lumberton.

B. Robert & Anne Zucker's gift benefits nursing education

A gift and pledge totaling \$95,000 from Robert and Anne Zucker of Raleigh will purchase a SimMan@3G patient simulator for the Nursing Department.

The computer operated "patient" is a wireless, state-of-the-art mannequin used for training students by simulating multiple symptoms and giving verbal feedback.

In 2007, the Zuckers established a \$250,000 endowment through a charitable trust for a distinguished professorship in nursing. A dedication is planned for April.

C. Kyle & Sarah Carter's gift to boost theatre, dance programs

When Chancellor Kyle and Sarah Carter decided to establish an endowment at UNCP, they could have chosen any number of worthy programs. They chose to direct their endowment earnings to the Theatre and Dance programs, because of a lifelong interest in the arts, and their admiration for what the university's faculty and students accomplish in these programs.

"We've come to understand how important theatre, musical theatre and dance are to bringing out the best in individual students," said Kyle Carter.

The endowment was established with a \$20,000 gift to be used to purchase sets, costumes, food, rights to plays and guest directors-in-residence.

D. Sen. David Weinstein establishes endowed nursing scholarship

As a state senator from Lumberton, David Weinstein earmarked \$29 million to build the Health Sciences Building. Last summer, his generosity struck again when he established an endowed scholarship for a nursing student. He wanted the scholarship to be awarded immediately, so he added \$750 to his \$25,000 gift.

"I see nothing but a bright future for the university, and I believe the nursing program will play a big role," said Sen. Weinstein said.

E. Art auction netted \$18,000 for the Julian Pierce Endowed Scholarship

The Julian T. Pierce Endowed Scholarship got an \$18,500 contribution from the proceeds of the art auction held on campus during Lumbee Homecoming.

Harvey Godwin '91, owner of Two Hawk Employment Services, established the scholarship to honor the slain Lumbee civil rights leader. Godwin's wife, Shelia '89, created the artwork that raised \$55,000 for three scholarships and a memorial to Pierce in Pembroke.

The scholarship will go to a Robeson student with demonstrated financial need. The art auction committee plans to make it an annual event. Members of the committee are pictured from left: Dr. Stan Knick, Godwin, Chancellor Carter, Cody Godwin, Lowery and Dale Deese. Not pictured are Mac Legerton and Rebekah Lowry '01, '11 of Robeson Community College, which also received funds from the auction.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aaron Thomas '99
President

Sylvia Pate '99
Immediate Past President

Rudy Locklear '06, '11
1st Vice President

Yolanda Sinclair, '98
2nd Vice President

Morgan Hunt '06, '13
Executive Director

Jarette Sampson '01
Adam Hardin '06
Patrick Strickland '01, '07
Mickey Gregory '88
Floyd Locklear '86
Sheila Swift '03
Owen Thomas '11, '13

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Laurinburg/
Scotland County
Alumni & Friends
Reception
Spring 2014

Triad
Alumni & Friends
Reception
Summer 2014

UNCP vs. Shaw
Cape Fear Classic
Pre-game alumni tailgate
Saturday, September 20

HOMECOMING WEEK!

October 20-25
details coming soon.

CLASS NOTES

Alumni Relations
P.O. Box 1510
Pembroke, N.C.
28372-1510
alumni@uncp.edu

More Information
www.uncp.edu/alumni
(910) 521-6252

ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumni,

One of the most important things that alumni can do for UNCP is to show pride in their alma mater. They can recommend to prospective students to consider attending the university; spread the word about UNCP's accomplishments. While our university was once called "the best-kept secret in North Carolina" during the 1980s and 1990s, it is time to let the world know that UNCP is "an institution of choice."

It truly takes a strong effort by all of our alumni, faculty and staff to grow alumni programming and support, and I look forward to building on the momentum we have generated. As alumni, stay in contact with your alma mater and assume an active role in the life of our university. Fortunately for us, in this digital age, doing this can be as easy as visiting the alumni web page at www.uncp.edu/alumni. You can update your contact information, get the latest news from campus and share your own news here in *UNCP Today*. Connect with us on social media: on Facebook: UNC Pembroke Alumni Association; Twitter: UNCP Alumni; Instagram: UNCP_Alumni.

The Office of Alumni Relations is seeking interested persons to serve on the Board of Directors. Volunteers for alumni outreach programs are also needed. The duties and responsibilities of a board member are all fun. For more information on volunteer opportunities and to obtain an application for the Board of Directors, contact Morgan Hunt, director of Alumni Relations at (910) 521-6333 or morgan.hunt@uncp.edu.

We hope that you will also consider making a financial contribution to UNCP...WE are counting on YOU! To make this convenient for you, we have enclosed an envelope for the Annual Fund. Easier yet, give online. For a list of scholarships or other giving ideas, you may contact the Office of Advancement at (910) 521-6252. It is the hard work and unwavering support of our alumni that made UNCP what it is today. I look forward to working with all of our alumni to continue to build a strong Alumni Association, which will become the backbone of making UNC Pembroke an institution of choice. I always welcome your suggestions on how the association can better meet the needs of the alumni and the university as a whole. Please contact me at athomas@metconn.com.

Remember, when you invest in the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, it increases the value of your own degree. Be proud of UNCP. It will always be proud of you!

Thanks, and GO BRAVES!



Aaron Thomas

ALUMNI HONORED

annual awards celebration

Alumni Awards

From left: Hall of Fame inductees Sascha Goerres, Melanie Cobb, Nicole McCorkle Headdings and Joe Robisch. Ashley Berdeau, Young Alumnus; Dorothy Blue, Distinguished Service; and for Dr. Jeff Collins, his children, Jessica Sampson, Tyler and Benjamin Collins



"I continue to be impressed with the accomplishments of the entire university community. In this room are more reasons to take pride in UNCP. It's a great time to be a Brave."

Chancellor Carter

During homecoming celebrations, some of the university's most distinguished alumni were honored by their university at a special evening. They set the bar on the university's playing fields and for service to their communities and the university.

Dr. Jeff Collins '75, Dorothy Blue '55 and Ashley Berdeau '08 were awarded the university's most prestigious alumni honors during the 45th annual Alumni Awards and Hall of Fame Ceremony.

The Athletic Hall of Fame added soccer players, Sascha Goerres '05 and Melanie Cobb '07, softball player Nicole McCorkle Headdings '06 and basketball player Joe Robisch.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

A native of the Prospect community, Dr. Jeff Collins was a chemistry major who went on to graduate from Howard University's College of Dentistry. He returned to Robeson County and opened a private practice in 1980 that now includes six dentists, three of them his children: Benjamin '08, Jessica '02 and Tyler. Dr. Collins is a lifetime member of the Chancellor's Club, UNCP's elite society of contributors. The hydrotherapy room in Jones Athletic Complex is named for the Collins-Lowry Dentistry.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Dorothy Blue is one of the university's most involved graduates. Recently, she served on the university's 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee. With her family, she established the Dorothy L. and Adolph Blue Endowed Scholarship. She was instrumental in initiating three other scholarships: the Pembroke Business and Professional Women's Club, the Class of 1955 fund and the Robeson County Retired School Personnel Scholarship.

YOUNG ALUMNUS

An art teacher, St. Pauls native Ashley Berdeau was described by one of her students as one of the hardest working teachers at Fairmont High School. "It didn't matter to her if you are the best artist, but how hard you worked. I was lucky to sit in her classroom."

HALL OF FAME

Melanie Cobb was a 2008 National Soccer Coaches Association All-American third team selection. In her senior season, the team advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time and had the best record in the history of the program at 19-3-1. Cobb holds 12 school records.

Sascha Goerres, a 2004 NSCAA first team All-American and an Academic All-American, anchored the 2003 and 2004 squads that made consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, including a trip to the NCAA Final Four. The Braves were 33-4-2 (.872) during Goerres' tenure, including a 16-3-0 record in 2004 that resulted in Peach Belt Conference regular season and tournament championships.

A two-time all-conference selection, Nicole McCorkle Headdings led the Peach Belt in strikeouts in 2005 with 364 and holds the PBC single-season record in strikeouts with 159. She currently holds the UNCP single game record for strikeouts with 22.

An NAIA honorable mention All-American in the 1989-90 and 1990-91 seasons, Joe Robisch helped the Braves to a 74-41 (.643) record from 1987-91. The Fayetteville, N.C., native earned two NAIA All-District selections, back-to-back All-Carolinas Conference honors and led the 1989-90 squad to a Carolinas Conference Championship. He currently ranks second all-time in UNCP history with 1,773 career points.

Class NOTES

George Blakeney '13 inked a contract with the Buenos Aires professional basketball team Wuber Estudiantes de Bahía Blanca. In his final season with UNCP, he averaged 14.7 points, 9.9 rebounds and 1.1 blocks per game. He was the first UNCP player to earn first team all-Peach Belt Conference in 17 years. Blakeney joined the 1,000-Point Club with a total of 1,263 points, while finishing with 947 rebounds and 117 blocks.

Allyson Burrill '13 was posthumously awarded a Bachelor of Science degree on December 7, 2013, during a ceremony before Winter Commencement. Remarks were given by Dr. Siva Mandjiny, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, Dr. Tim Ritter, a physics professor and Dr. Ben Bahr, the William C. Friday Distinguished Professor. Special presentations were made by Lt. Col. Allen Gradnigo, commander of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 607 of which Allyson was a member, and 1st Lt. Samantha Burrill. Allyson Burrill died on June 2, 2013, following a brief illness. She had been selected AFROTC Cadet of the Year and picked for pilot training following graduation. A Hinesville, Ga. native, she was preceded in death by her twin sister, Danielle.

Ariana Billingsley '12 was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Small Business Administration (SBA) during the Small Business and Technology Development's Professional Development Conference in Asheville in October. She is a relative newcomer to UNC's SBTDC at East Carolina University. According to the citation, Billingsley has a "can-do, customer-first attitude." She is a procurement counselor for clients seeking federal contracts.

Jayne Latrice Ford '12 of Fairmont and Akaieem Lamont Nixon of Clayton, N.C., were married on February 23 at Mill Branch Baptist Church in Fairmont, N.C.

Ford works as a licensed clinical therapist for Sunrise Associates in Durham, N.C. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon at Disney World.

Brittany Mauldin and **Ethan Freeman** '12 were married on June 22 at Godwin Heights Baptist Church in Lumberton. He works for the Public Schools of Robeson County. The couple resides in Lumberton.

"As alumni, we must stand up for the continuing success of our university."



Morgan Hunt '06, '13 has been named director of the Office of Alumni Relations. She will be responsible for programming for the university's 22,000 alumni.

Hunt, who received her Master of Public Administration in December, previously served as assistant director of Admissions and assistant director of the Annual Fund and Donor Relations.

The announcement was made by Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor of Advancement.

"Morgan's charisma and excitement about UNCP are exceptional," Lowery said. "Her experiences at UNCP have prepared her for her new role."

Veronica Elkins '13 and Phillip Smith were united in marriage on June 29 at the Pine Crest Country Club in Lumberton. She works for We Care For You Home Care Agency. The couple honeymooned in Savannah, Ga.

Amie Ward Graham '13, who formerly worked as the senior assistant director of undergraduate admissions at UNCP, graduated with her M.Ed. in Professional School Counseling in May 2013. She is now working in the Wake County Schools as a high school counselor.

Brittany Ann Oxendine '13 and Donald Phillip Tubbs were married on October 27. She is employed by the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Christopher Spain '13 has been named director of the Highland County Department of Social Services. Spain was formerly a family services specialist for the Mecklenburg County DSS. A native of South Hill, Va., he earned a Master of Public Administration degree at UNCP.

Amber Jolly '12 resides in Alliance, Ohio, and works for the University of Mount Union as a graduate assistant for fraternity and sorority life.

Stephen Love '12 headlined his own show on November 9 at the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton. Love won the "My Time to Shine" talent competition earlier last year. He has been performing professionally for 10 years. At his show, Love performed a variety of music, ranging from the 1960s tunes to the latest hits in popular music. He earned a degree in music with a concentration in voice.

Jarrold Marshall Lowery '12 started working as an outreach liaison in the Office of the Governor for the State of North Carolina in April 2013.

Airman 1st Class **Jacinda K. Jackson** '12 graduated from Air Force basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

In May 2013, **Crystal Cavalier '11** received a promotion and a new job at the Department of Homeland Security as an analyst in the Intelligence and Analysis Division. Crystal was the 2011 Army Spouse of the Year.

Donna D. McCombs '11, '13 currently resides in Knightdale, N.C., and works for Duke University Health System. She recently released her first book: "Through the Eyes of Pain," which is available at JourniProductions.com or on Kindle through Amazon.

Crystal Dawn Harper and **Archie Anderson Mudd III '10** were married on June 29 at Springfield Church of God in Laurel Hill, N.C. Harper works for BB&T Centralized Operations and Mudd is employed by Fastenal Corporation.

Kristin Brady and **Lewis Cox '09** were united in marriage on June 15 at the Dunes Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The bride is a speech-language pathologist with Speech Solutions Inc. He received his

Laura L. Davies '09 attended Newman University in Colorado Springs, Co., and graduated with a Master of Social Work degree with honors in May 2013. She has worked as a clinical psychotherapist intern with Penrose-St. Frances Hospital at the Center for Behavioral Health EAP. After two years out West, she and her husband recently moved back to North Carolina to be closer to family.

Laury Rose McGhee '09 is employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County as an 8th grade language arts teacher at Red Springs Middle School.

Jacqueline Elizabeth McIntosh '09 graduated in December 2013 from Michigan State University School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree.



William Peace University in Raleigh, N.C., announced that **Marquita Brazier '08** has been hired to serve as the institution's telecounselor and event coordinator. In her position, Brazier will be responsible for supporting campus efforts for student recruitment, retention and alumni development. She will also oversee the telemarketing and call center.

Maria Parker's '11 incredible journey came to a successful end after pedaling a recumbent bicycle 3,000 miles from coast-to-coast to raise money to fight cancer.



Entering the Race Across America (RAAM) was a quest motivated by her sister's diagnosis with brain cancer. Parker '11 raised more than \$57,500 during the 11-day, 21-hour, 35-minute race -- and she won!

Parker and her support crew worked the social media to raise \$57,500. (To contribute: www.3000milestoacure.org, or text "Race" 20222 to make a \$10 donation.

"It's been overwhelming," Parker said at the finish line, "So many have written, and they've all been so kind. I hoped that doing something like this inspires people.

bachelor's and master's degrees from UNCP. He is currently working on a doctorate at Fayetteville State University in educational leadership. Cox is a school counselor at Long Branch Elementary School. The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica and will reside in Fairmont.



Chelsea Leigh Collins '09 and Tyler Wellington Thomas were united in marriage in December. Collins earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. Collins received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy at Lebanon Valley College. She works at Carolina Complete Rehab as a physical therapist.

Tina McCreery Creech '09 currently resides in Southern Pines, N.C., and finished a Master of Science in Nursing degree at UNC Charlotte in August and will graduate in December 2013. She works as a clinical director for First Health of Pinehurst, N.C.

In addition, Brazier will manage university event planning, including scheduling, planning, coordinating and budgeting for all admissions open houses and prospective student and group visits and tours. She earned a Bachelor of Science in mass communication and broadcasting.

Darcel Walker '08 currently resides in Winston-Salem, N.C., and works for Salem Academy as director of student activities.

Rachel Elizabeth Harbert '06 graduated from Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law of Campbell University in May 2013. Prior to attending law school, she worked four years as a mortgage consultant in Charlotte, N.C.

Carolyn Floyd-Robinson '05 of Lumberton received the Youth Council Member of the Year Award from the Lumber River Workforce Development Board for her work with the Workforce Investment Act Program. Floyd-Robinson is the CEO of New Life Services Inc. in Lumberton. After earning a bachelor's degree in social work from UNCP, she earned a Master's in Social Work in 2007. Floyd-Robinson is a member of the North Carolina Mental Health Policy Committee.

Kimberlee S. Leach '04 married Chris T. McCallum in November at the Southeastern Farmers Market in Lumberton.

Johnnie Marshburn '04 was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Small Business Administration (SBA) at the October Small Business Technology Development Center Professional Development Conference in Asheville, N.C. Marshburn, who works at the Fayetteville State SBTDC, was instrumental in helping SBA execute its Boots-2-Business, a program to assist transitioning veterans seeking to start their own small business. He provided key technical assistance and counseling to Fort Bragg soldiers enrolled in the program. His leadership and management skills have been a key resource in the success of this program at Fort Bragg.



LaShauna R. Deese, M.D., has joined Southeastern Women's Healthcare and the medical staff of Southeastern Health. Dr. Deese completed bachelor degrees in chemistry and computer science from UNCP in 2003. She earned a medical degree from UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine in 2009 and completed residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at New Hanover

Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, N.C., in July 2013. Her areas of special interest include preventative care and minimally invasive gynecological surgery. Dr. Deese is from Pembroke and lives in Lumberton. She joins Drs. Brandon Locklear '98 and Meredith Watson-Locklear at the clinic located in Lumberton.

Camille Locklear Goins '03, '08 was promoted to director of Career and Technical Education for Scotland County Schools in August 2013. She is also currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Liberty University.



Bobby Locklear '02 was awarded honors for his work with Veteran Integrated Service Network Contractors for small businesses. He also received national honors for exceeding sales in his region and exceeding procurement to small businesses by achieving the largest number of transactions nationwide. He is a Vietnam era veteran and has been employed with Veterans Administration

for five years. During this short period, he has swept in enough small business contracts to earn him the top spot in the nation among VAs. Locklear has extensive training in contract negotiation and contract analysis. He is married to Phyllis Locklear, and they have two sons, Chad and Brandon and one grandson, Laettner.

Kelvin Hunt '01 was promoted to director of Student Outreach and Recruitment at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, N.C.

Lekisha Hammonds '00, a health promotion major, has been named director of Community Health Services for Southeastern Health in Lumberton. In this role, she will lead the organization's efforts to improve the health of the community through programs such as Project HEALTH and Healthy Robeson, as well as offering free community health screenings for diseases such as diabetes and prostate cancer. She will also be responsible for the Diabetes Community Center and the Community Health Education Center located in Biggs Park Mall. She also leads the Healthy Robeson Task Force, which is a collaboration of various health agencies throughout Robeson County. Hammonds earned a master's degree in health services with a concentration in community health from California College for Health Sciences in 2005. She is credentialed as a master certified health education specialist as well as a registered health educator.

Kesha Branch Hood '00, '07 married Jason Hood in 2011. They have two sons, Daetyn Williams, 12, and Nichalus Williams, 18, who is a freshman at UNCP. She currently works as the assistant principal at Sycamore Lane Middle School in Laurinburg, N.C.

Janelle Miller Patterson '00 currently resides in Hope Mills, N.C., and works as a teacher with Cumberland County Schools.

1990s

Hattie Hammonds '98, a Lumberton native, was recently awarded the Southern Regional Education Board State Doctoral Scholars Fellowship at Clemson University. The award offers three years of direct program support and two years of institutional support from the scholar's college, university and/or department, with an annual stipend. Hammonds is enrolled in Clemson's Educational Leadership doctoral program and is a research assistant in its School of Education. She is also an adjunct English instructor at Greenville Technical College's Greer campus.

Hammonds received a master's degree from East Carolina University and a master's of education from North Carolina State University.



Brandon Locklear '98 joined Southeastern Health in Lumberton, providing care for female patients as an obstetrician/gynecologist with Southeastern Women's Healthcare. He earned a medical degree from the Brody School of Medicine of East Carolina University in 2004. He completed his residency at Arnold and Winnie Palmer Hospitals in Orlando, Fla., in 2008. He spent five years in private practice in Hickory, N.C., before returning home. He is board certified by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. His wife, Meredith, is also a physician working at Southeastern Women's Healthcare. They reside in Lumberton with their daughter, Brooklyn.

Jonathan Locklear '98 recently was hired as assistant principal at Magnolia Middle School. His former position was a teacher at Prospect Middle School.

Evonne Moore '98, a school social worker for Richmond County Schools, has been appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to his Task Force on Safe Schools. She has been a social worker for 27 years and worked within the school system for 24 years. She received a social work degree from UNCP. She has returned to school to become a clinical social worker.



Allison Harrington '95 is the owner of Speech Solutions Inc. With offices in Laurinburg, Lumberton, and Whiteville, she opened her fourth office in Shallotte, N.C., in June 2013.

Dr. James Bass '94, '03 was conferred the Doctor of Education degree in educational leadership from Fayetteville State University in May 2013. His dissertation, "Examining the Academic Persistence Behaviors of American Indian Transfer Students and the Implications of These on the Pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree," received the Dissertation of the Year Award from FSU. James is married to Paula Levay Bass '03. The couple have three daughters, Layna, Annika and Quinlyn, who resides in Lumberton.

Alaric Bryant, a freshman at Duke University, has been awarded the 2013-14 American Physical Society Scholarship for Minority Undergraduate Physics Majors. He is the son of Dr. Alfred Bryant '90, associate dean of the School of Education and director of the Southeast American Indian Studies program. The scholarship helps increase the number of underrepresented minorities obtaining degrees in physics. Forty scholarships were awarded to high school seniors, and college freshmen and sophomores.

1980s

Col. Morris Goins '87 and his wife Yolanda are featured in a television series, "Married to the Army: Alaska," which debuted in November on the OWN Network. "We decided to do the show because we noticed that our spouses really give a tremendous sacrifice to our nation," Col. Goins said on Good Morning America. Yolanda was born into the Army life as the daughter of two career soldiers. Her husband just completed his fourth deployment. Their son, Cameron, is a junior at West Point.

Ruth Revels '58 has been working to improve the lot of American Indians in North Carolina all her adult life.



On July 1, 2013, **Ruth Revels** was appointed chair of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs by Gov. Pat McCrory.

A career educator, Revels knows North Carolina's eight tribes and 122,110 American Indians. She was the first executive director of the Guilford Native American Association in Greensboro. She served for 22 years.

As chairwoman, she will promote the American Indians educationally, politically, economically and culturally just as she has done for many years, something she is well qualified to do.

1970s

Dr. Randy Bridges '77, '87 was named interim superintendent of Scotland County Schools beginning in March 2014. Dr. Bridges started his career as a classroom teacher in Scotland High School. A veteran administrator, he was named Superintendent of the Year in 2010 by the North Carolina Association of Educators and the North Carolina School Boards Association's Superintendent of the Year in 2002 and the North Carolina Association of Education Office of Personnel District 8 Administrator of the Year. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Educational Administration from UNCP and a doctorate in education from East Carolina University.



Jan Lowery '76 was recently elected to represent District 7 on the Lumbee Tribal Council. Lowery, who works at UNCP as a program coordinator, has 20 years of experience working with state government and 10 years working with nonprofits serving low-income and uninsured residents. Lowery is a certified health educator and is trained in emergency management. She graduated from UNCP in 1976

and from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1983. Lowery is the chair of the Association of American Indian Faculty and Staff at UNCP and chair of the Town of Pembroke Zoning Board.

Former admissions director and dean of the School of Education are just two of the hats **Dr. Warren Baker** '75 has worn at UNCP. His newest title is interim assistant vice chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness. Dr. Baker started work in admissions in 1976. He was the first director of UNCP's Teaching Fellows Program and led the Office University-Schools before being named associate dean of the School of Education and later dean.



After serving Greene County Schools for 39 years, Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Patricia MacNeill** '74 retired in December 2013. Dr. MacNeill's career in education spans four decades, starting when she was a teaching assistant at R.B. Dean Elementary School in Maxton. After graduating from UNCP in 1974, she taught sixth grade at West Greene Elementary School, a position she held for 10 years.

In Greene County, MacNeill has held various positions, including school community relations director, assistant principal of Greene Central High School and principal of West Greene Elementary. She earned two master's degrees and a doctorate from ECU in 2006.

Eva Sampson '74 passed away on January 12, 2014. She was a registered nurse and director of Student Health Services at UNCP for 25 years beginning in 1970. A 1968 graduate of Southeastern Community College, she was the first Lumbee registered nurse. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and sociology from UNCP in 1974. Sampson is survived by her husband, Ned '53 and four children, Ursula Freeman '75, Kelvin '78, Karen '77 and Suzanne Ems.

Ronnie Chavis '72, retired athletic director of the Public Schools of Robeson County, has been named a "100 to Remember" by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association during its centennial celebration. The list highlights 100 of the top administrators in NCHSAA history. Chavis was an outstanding pitcher for UNCP and posted an impressive coaching career. He is member of the UNCP Athletic Hall of Fame and NCHSAA Hall and served a four-year term on the NCHSAA Board of Directors. He is the former president of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association and was named National Athletic Director of the Year in 2009.

1960s

Awards rolled in for **Mac Campbell** '69 in 2013. In December, he was featured in the January edition of Golf Digest for his work with Bladen We Care, which has raised \$1.2 million over the years with its golf tournament. Campbell was also awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Elizabethtown-White Lake Chamber of Commerce at the 61st Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in June 2013. He is a former UNCP trustee and Braves Club president. Sylvia Campbell, Mac's wife, is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and mayor of Elizabethtown, N.C.

As part of the celebration of the centennial of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the NCHSAA has named **Tim Brayboy** '64 to its list of "100 to Remember." The list highlights 100 of the top administrators in NCHSAA history. Brayboy coached at Canton Junior High before joining the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction where he served as director of middle school and junior high athletics and worked closely with the NCHSAA during a 24-year stint. Additionally, he was a football and basketball game official for 40 years. He worked 14 state championship contests and several major all-star games. He is a member of both the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association and the NCHSAA Hall of Fame and co-author of "Playing Before An Overflow Crowd," a book about the history of Indian high school basketball.

CLASS OF 1963 CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

CLASS OF 1963 From left: Myrtis Oxendine Gildea, Robert Smith, Elaine Fedor, Mary B. Hunt, Thomas Wynn, Aggie Deese, Conrad Jenkins (seated), Sally Bullard, W.J. Strickland, Woodrow Dial, Palmer Midgette and Walter Taylor.



Memories flowed on November 1 during the reunion of the Pembroke State College class of 1963. Much has changed over 50 years, including the name of the school.

"We were the first to live in the new dorm on campus," Palmer Midgette said of Jacobs Hall. "We lived eight to a suite."

"They were so strict, we couldn't do anything," said Leroy Taylor. "No handholding, no alcohol and absolutely no kissing."

Things have changed, a lot, they said, but some things have not. Robert Smith got lost looking for Old Main, something that happens often during class reunion time.

"I met a groundskeeper, who gave me a tour of campus in his golf cart," Smith said. "People are still so nice here."

Dr. Woodrow Dial '63, who gave the invocation at the reunion luncheon held in the Chancellor's Dining Room, noted that "for 126 years, this university has stood as a beacon of training for young men and women to go out into a changing world."

During a video about the modern university, W.L. Strickland let out a "wow!" at a photo of the 1,000-member freshmen class. "Just the freshmen! It's amazing." The entire college in 1963 was approximately 775 students. "You have to remember that we were an important part of their success," he said.

In welcoming the class, Chancellor Carter also spoke of the new freshman class. "In 50 years, we want them to return to campus like you.

"As different as the university is today, we continue to give students personal attention and to prepare them for good careers," he said. "We give them the values that shape their abilities and character."

Leroy Taylor said he was proud to be a member of this class. "Several of us get together every couple of years, but this is the first time the class has gotten together," he said. "Looking around, the class of '63 made out really well."

In her address to the class, Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor of Advancement, noted: "It's a great time to be a Brave, and 1963 was too."

In 1963, Pembroke State College was on the edge of sweeping changes in Pembroke and nationally. The college was busy celebrating its diamond jubilee (75th) year and had just named Dr. English Jones its interim president.

Dr. Jones was the college's first American Indian president. He served for 17 years and led another "amazing" enrollment and building boom that would more than double the size of the school.

The class of 1963 was part of the foundation to build success upon. The growth, success and vigor of the class would help the little college become a regional university and a member of the new University of North Carolina system.

Those are the memories that build class loyalty to this university, Lowery said. "You have come together as a family, and the university family needs your support," she said. "It's not just about giving; it's about staying in contact with your university."

The class made a contribution to the 50th Class Reunion Gold Endowed Scholarship. On Saturday, they were guests of honor at the homecoming football game.

For more information about alumni at UNCP, please contact the Office of Advancement at (910) 521-6252, email alumni@UNCP.edu or go online to www.uncp.edu/alumni/.

In Memoriam

Former wrestling head coach **Mike Olson**, a 2008 inductee into the Athletic Hall of Fame, passed away at on July 12, 2013, in Monmouth, Ill., after a long battle with cancer. The Minneapolis, Minn., native was 76. He led the wrestling program for 11 seasons between 1971 and 1982 and had a 143-32 career record while coaching 16 all-Americans, 29 all-conference and 69 all-district performers. The Braves won nine district championships and five consecutive (1977-81) Carolinas Conference titles. The school's all-time winningest coach for winning percentage (.817), Olsen recorded 14 or more dual meet victories in seven of his 10 seasons in Pembroke, including an 18-2 mark in 1972-73. He is the only coach in the history of the wrestling program to record a perfect season, leading the Black and Gold to a 12-0 record during the 1979-80 season.

Jason B. Lowry '48 died September 11, 2013. A career educator, he was the university's first full-time director of admissions beginning in 1965. It was a critical period of growing enrollment and growing diversity for the university, and he played an important role. His service in World War II interrupted his undergraduate years at Pembroke State College. Like many first generation college students, he left college for a time to work. Lowry joined the wave of post-war veterans who were able to pay for college with the G.I. Bill. He was also in the first wave of Lumbees who obtained graduate degrees. Lowry got a master's degree in counseling from Appalachian State University at the time when Indians were not officially permitted to attend historically white North Carolina public colleges and universities. To the end, Mr. Lowry remained an outspoken supporter of the university.



Leona J. Givens, wife of the late Chancellor Emeritus Paul R. Givens, died on January 6, 2014, at age 89. A native of Gidden, Iowa, she was a World War II veteran, serving in the Navy. The Givens lived in the Chancellor's Residence from 1979-89. She was buried in Temple Trace, Fla. The family asks that memorials be made to the Givens Performing Arts Center at UNCP.

Three with ties to UNCP step up for public service

Public service is not dead as this distinguished group of high-level state appointments demonstrates. Dr. Robin Cummings, Joshua Malcolm '92 and Dr. Olivia Oxendine '70 were picked for key state posts. All three are Robeson County natives.



March 2013, Gov. Pat McCrory announced the appointment of Dr. Oxendine to represent District 4 on the State Board of Education. Currently a faculty member in the School of Education, she brings more than 40 years of educational expertise to the position. Dr. Oxendine joined the School of Education in 2005. Her husband, Gervais '65 served two terms on UNCP's Board of Trustees, and her brother, Rear Admiral Michael Holmes (USN-retired), joined the Board of Trustees in July 2013.



In March 2013, Board of Trustees chairman Dr. Robin Cummings was appointed director of the Rural Health and Community Care Division of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. In September, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Secretary of Health Services. A retired cardio-vascular surgeon, Dr. Cummings is no stranger to public service. He was the founding chair of the N.C. American Indian Health Board and chair of the Health Committee of the Commission of Indian Affairs.



In April 2013, Malcolm was appointed by the governor, as one of two Democratic members to the five-member State Board of Elections. The university's general counsel since 2008 and a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet, he also served on the Robeson County Board of Elections and Pembroke's ABC board.

Mass Comm grads finding career success

The Department of Mass Communication reported new media assignments for its alumni. If you are working in the media, please email your job and contact information to tony.curtis@uncp.edu.

Dr. Curtis said this is a group of young people who are "enjoying really-solid professional media careers in journalism, public relations and broadcasting. I think they highlight the good work of the mass communication faculty as teachers and producers of accomplished people who are gainfully employed in our immediate fields."

They are:

Brian Sasser '03 is a television producer in Washington, D.C.

Nathan Walls '05 works in the public relations office of the city of Fayetteville, N.C.

Mark Schulman '06 has started work as web editor at WSOC-TV, channel 9, Charlotte. He worked four years on the Pine Needle. Before moving to Charlotte, he was online editor at the Hendersonville (N.C.) Times-News.

Jackie Bower '06, who won an Emmy while working with ESPN for her work on the World Cup, is now with NBC Sports.

Dan Henry '06, founder of Shadow Boxer Productions, is an instructor at the Art Institute of Austin, Texas.

Kyle Orozovich '06 is a director, writer, editor, television producer, cinematographer, producer and blogger in the New York City area.

Mark Schulman '06 is an editor at the Times-News in Asheville, N.C.

Lisa Tyndall '07 is a web producer for ABC-11 WTVD, which serves Raleigh, Durham and Fayetteville.

Adam Fenwick '07 is an associate editor at Turn 3 Media in Charlotte, N.C.

Terri Rorke '08, a former military photojournalist who served in Afghanistan, is now a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University. She edited a magazine for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Amanda Hickey '08 is a government reporter for @JDNews, the online edition of the Jacksonville (N.C.) Daily News.

Christian Felkl '09 is an assignment editor for News 14 Carolina in Raleigh, N.C.

Wade Allen '10, a Gaston (N.C.) Gazette reporter, won an award from the North Carolina Press Association.

Stephanie French '10 is a news producer in Augusta, Ga.

Abbi Overfelt '10 was named editor of the Laurinburg Exchange. At UNCP, Overfelt was news editor for the Pine Needle and held other senior editor positions. She had managed content for the Red Springs Citizen and the St. Pauls Review. Earlier, she worked as a photographer, page designer and staff writer at The Robesonian.

Ed Ricker '10, who was working as a freelance videographer out of Southern Pines, N.C., has joined the staff of UNCP's Office of University Communications and Marketing as a broadcast and emerging media specialist.

Kristina Smith '11 is the producer and communities reporter for WECT and WSFX in Wilmington, N.C.

Kayloni Wyatt '11 was hired last fall as a program assistant by FOCUS, the regional planning initiative for Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties. Working half-time with FOCUS, Wyatt will be responsible for social media, including the FOCUS webpage, as well as providing support for regional communication.

Nick Phillips '12 is the sports information director at Louisiana State University at Eunice.

Rachel McAuley '13 joined the staff of the Laurinburg Exchange. McAuley completed an internship with Civitas Media at the Mount Airy News, and at WXII-12 News in Winston Salem. Civitas owns the Exchange. For the Pine Needle, she was a photographer, reporter and business manager.

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