



UNCP
Today
Winter 2000

**Miss North Carolina
Lorna McNeill
makes a difference**

Page 6

From Chancellor Allen C. Meadors

Bond referendum mandate comes with heavy responsibility

Thank you! Thank you alumni, students, parents, friends and voters!

Your support for the Higher Education Bond Issue Nov. 7 was very gratifying.

It says we are on the right course at North Carolina's community colleges and public universities.

It says this is a state that believes in the value of higher education.

The wisdom of the electorate should never be underestimated. Our voters cast their ballots to invest in the future, and they have said higher education is inextricably tied to the continuing prosperity of this state.

Higher education leaders have every right to be pleased after receiving landslide support from North Carolina voters. It is a vote of approval for what we have been doing and for what we have promised to do in the future.

At The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, we believe that the voters sincerely want to see us grow as a university — in enrollment, in reputation and in the quality of our programs.

We made promises in return for the voter's support. This is a contract with the voters of the state, and we must not take it lightly.

We cannot afford to become intoxicated by our apparent popularity, rather we

should become invigorated to fulfill the commitment that we have made to the voters of North Carolina. With the legislature's help, we can move the University of North Carolina system beyond any other system in America. The stage is primed. Our support could evaporate literally overnight if we fail to make good on our promises, or if we falter in our duty to be good stewards of the state's resources.

Specifically, we have said we will develop state-of-the-art facilities for training in science and technology.

We promised to renovate and modernize our oldest buildings for the next generation of students to enjoy.

And, UNC has promised to accommodate approximately 48,000 new students in the next decade. We said we will provide a place in one of our public universities for every qualified student.

We said we will keep the doors of educational opportunity wide open in North Carolina.

This is our mandate going forward. At UNC Pembroke, we began work on our plan to double enrollment over a year ago, and it appears to be paying off already with record enrollment and a record freshman class.

With the passage of the bond issue, we can make our dream of becoming the

best small, residential regional university in the nation a reality.

We have our work cut out for us, but with your continued support, we can do it!

We have a great track record to build upon. In an annual survey, our faculty is rated by our students to be the best in the UNC system. They say we have the safest campus, the best food, and we annually score highest overall among UNC universities.

Lately, we have gained national acclaim from a *U.S. News and World Report* survey as one of the most affordable campuses in the nation to get an education. This follows on the heels of being rated one of the most diverse universities in the nation.

We must never rest on our laurels, and we must continue to get the word out about the high quality of education at UNC Pembroke.

Our alumni are one of the most powerful allies we have in this mission. Your support will be invaluable as we build a brighter future for the university.

I am excited about the upcoming Homecoming celebration. Plans are being made for a memorable weekend.

See you there.



From Alumni President Darrell Johnson

Alumni Association Sets Busy Schedule

There is a lot of activity and excitement on campus this year. Your Alumni Association hosted a Soccer Tailgate Party for students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff. We had a wonderful time getting to know the students and visiting with each other.

We currently have the largest freshman class in history and more than 1,000 students living on campus. One can feel the energy and vibrancy when visiting the campus. Our alumni can take some credit for the increased enrollment. Through your efforts, word is getting out about our high quality education at an affordable cost. I urge you to continue to tell prospective students about UNCP.

Our new Alumni Relations Director Teresa Cummings has been working hard to get chapters around the state. There have been a number of well attended meetings. If you are interested in learning about a chapter meeting near you, call Teresa at (910) 521-6213. You will not be disappointed.

The Alumni Association is busy planning your Homecoming. We have some fun activities planned beginning with "The Temptations Review" on Friday night, February 9. I can't wait to hear them! I also look forward to sharing that experience with you.

On Saturday, there will be other activities for returning alumni and friends,

including basketball. The Awards Banquet is becoming more popular each year. Come on out and join the fun.

You'll have a wonderful time.

Now, I want to thank all of our alumni and friends who supported the bond referendum. Without the bond issue, it would be very difficult for UNCP to meet its growth objectives.

I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming.



UNCP Today

UNCP Today magazine is published three times a year — December, April and August — for alumni and friends of the University. 15,000 copies were printed on recycled paper at a cost of 80 cents each.

UNCP is a member institution of The University of North Carolina.

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Ph.D., FACHE

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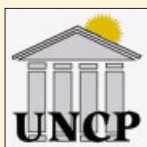
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Students walk to classes under fall colors.

The low cost of an outstanding education

U.S. News and World Report listed The University of North Carolina at Pembroke as one of the most affordable universities in the nation to earn an undergraduate degree.

In 1999, only 40 percent of UNC Pembroke graduates owed money on their college education. The amount UNCP graduates owed was third lowest among Southern regional universities, according to a *U.S. News & World Report* survey released in its September 18 issue.

U.S. News, a leader in college rankings, also places UNCP second in the South for the cultural diversity of its student body.

"We have known for some time that we offer an affordable education," said Chancellor Meadors. "Thanks to *U.S. News*, the world knows that we are one of the most affordable universities in the nation.

"This is a significant accomplishment in this age of excessively high-cost education. Everyone at the university should be proud of this achievement, especially our Financial Aid office," Chancellor Meadors said. "This is also something prospective students and their parents should be aware of."

Forty percent of UNC Pembroke's 1999 grads had outstanding student loans, and the average amount of that debt was \$6,849.

Fifty-eight percent of UNC Greensboro's graduates owed an average of \$10,026.

Sixty percent of UNC Chapel Hill grads had loans averaging \$12,900.

"We do everything possible to make sure that the cost of an education is as affordable as possible for our students and their families," Chancellor Meadors said. "At the

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Students stream out of class into the full sunshine.

BOOM! *Enrollment sets new records*

The university has surpassed an impressive list of enrollment milestones at the start of the 2000-2001 academic year, including the record for total enrollment and freshman class size.

Milestones include:

- Largest total enrollment — 3,444, up 12 percent
- Largest freshman class — 578, up 20 percent
- Largest on-campus residency — 1,000, up 18 percent
- Highest average GPA for a freshman class
- Largest full-time faculty — 157 vs. 148 last year

"We also have the most diverse freshman class in UNCP history in terms of the nations, states and counties of their origin," Chancellor Meadors said. "It is not just the number and diversity of students that is so important; it is the quality of students we have attracted that makes this an outstanding recruiting year."

The high school grade point average for incoming freshman is 2.99, compared with 2.84 last year. Freshman SAT scores and class rank are also the highest ever.

UNCP's student body comes from 24 states and 15 foreign nations. Out-of-state students are up 30 percent and international students are up 50 percent.

Chancellor Meadors said the university has taken great strides in fulfilling its mission.

"The past year has been a time of critical action for the university," he said. "Our quest is to be the best Comprehensive I public university in the nation."

The past year was full of accomplishments, including construction of a new residence hall, a successful Southern Association of Colleges and Schools review, four new graduate programs and the creation of a new administrative team, he said.

For the coming year, Chancellor Meadors said he would bolster graduate programs and double its enrollment in the near future. He cited the creation of new community and economic development initiatives into surrounding communities.

Improved marketing and sharper promotional materials were part of the reason for the recruitment success, said Admissions Director Jackie Clark, but it's not the whole story.

"We really got an outstanding effort from the entire Office of Admissions," Clark said. "In UNCP, we have a great story to tell, and we're communicating it to target audiences more effectively."

One of the consequences of the enrollment boom is that on-campus residency is

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Becky Bullard appointed to UNCP trustee board

Rebecca B. Bullard, human resources director for Converse Inc. in Lumberton, has been appointed by Gov. James B. Hunt to the Board of Trustees.

Bullard will complete Fred George's term on the 13-member board. The term expires in 2003.

Chancellor Allen C. Meadors welcomed Bullard to the board.

"We are delighted to have Ms. Bullard join the Board of Trustees," Chancellor Meadors said. "We look forward to the abundance of talent and energy that she will bring to this board."

Bullard said she is excited about the future of UNC Pembroke and pleased to be a part of it.

"The people of North Carolina are seeing UNC Pembroke evolve as an outstanding resource," Bullard said. "The university serves not only the students, but businesses, governmental and civic agencies.

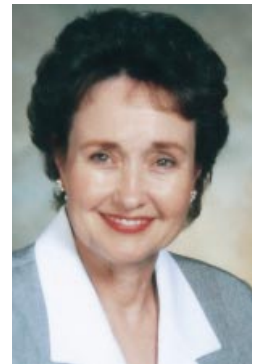
"As students graduate and establish their careers in a global economy, UNCP is represented across the United States and internationally," she said. "I look forward to working with this outstanding institution, staff and board."

Bullard is active in the business and civic life of the community, including terms as president of the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce and vice chair of the Tourist Development Authority. She is married to Cliff Bullard Sr., a businessman and former mayor of Lumberton.

A 1981 cum laude graduate of Wingate University, Bullard majored in business administration. She is professionally certified by the Society of Human Resource Management, and is a career human resources manager, including management positions with Gerber Childrenswear and International Jensen in Lumberton. Bullard is also president of the Wingate University

Alumni Association, and is president of Lumberton Rotary and has volunteered with the Robeson County United Way. Other UNCP trustees:

Chair Roger Oxendine of Rowland, Sybil Jones Bullard of Pembroke, Mac Campbell of Elizabethtown, Bob Caton of Lumberton, Sybil Collins of Pembroke, McDuffie Cummings of Pembroke, Thomas Jones II of Whiteville, Henry Lewis of Lumberton, Cheryl Locklear of Red Springs, Gary Oxendine of Southern Pines, Sherry Prince of Tabor City and Student Government President Veronica Hatten of Cary.



Teresa Cummings named UNCP's alumni director

Pembroke native and UNC Pembroke graduate Teresa Cummings has been named director for the Office of Alumni Relations, according to an announcement by Dr. Glen Burnette Jr., vice chancellor for Advancement.

Cummings served as interim director since August 1999. She graduated from UNCP in 1997 after returning to the university as a non-traditional student. She was Miss UNCP in 1974.

Her responsibilities include planning student and alumni events on campus and at chapter sites throughout North Carolina. Cummings directs the annual alumni giving campaign and manages the alumni endowment, which is one of UNCP's largest.

She reports to Dr. Burnette, the vice chancellor for Advancement.

"We are excited about Ms. Cummings joining the Advancement team," Dr. Burnette said. "She takes on challenges as opportunities to bring alumni closer to the university. This is important, because the

mission of the Alumni Relations office is to offer opportunities for alumni and friends to get involved in the life of the university."

Cummings said she has several important goals for the office.

"I would like to see our major alumni chapters revitalized in order for them to participate in all of the exciting things happening at UNCP, and, eventually, claim ownership for some of them," she said. "Next, I would like to establish a travel program which would allow our alumni to reconnect with the university and with each other.

"I would also like to implement several new programs and activities that will bring alumni and friends back to campus more often."

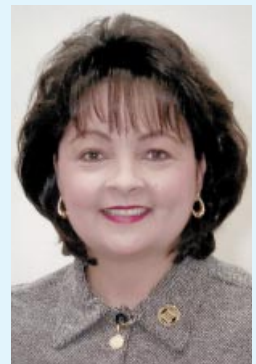
Cummings received her B.A. in English from UNCP. She worked in education and health care before returning to the university.

Active in the community, Cummings serves on the Pembroke Advisory Board of

the State Employees Credit Union and is Advisory Committee for First Health of the Carolinas Medical and Fitness Center in Pembroke. She was chair of the Town of Pembroke's Bicentennial Celebration Committee.

An original cast member of "Strike at the Wind!", she was featured soloist on the original soundtrack for the outdoor drama. Cummings also played a lead role in the recent movie version of the drama "Through Native Eyes: The Henry Berry Lowrie Story."

Cummings' husband, Jerry, is a 1958 UNCP graduate and a businessman. She has one son, Joel.



Honors College to encourage scholarship at UNCP

In order to nurture its top scholars, the university of has created a new Honors College.

“We want to create a small community of scholars who will not only excel as individuals, but will improve the intellectual life for the entire university,” said Dr. Carolyn Thompson, director of the new program.



The program will be launched in the fall 2001 semester and is recruiting members both on campus and off. It replaces the Chancellor’s Scholar program.

The program is an initiative of Chancellor Meadors.

“We are excited about this opportunity to offer an additional special group of students an enhanced experience,” Chancellor Meadors said. “Just as we have varsity sports for students who are exceptional athletes, we want equally challenging and rewarding academic experience for those students who qualify.”

Dr. Thompson said recruitment began in the fall semester.

“We are looking for scholars with the desire to excel and who want to get more out of their college experience,” she said. “We are looking for leaders who want to make a difference on campus and in their communities.

“As a society, we expect something more from the gifted, and this program is a way for them to get more out of their college experience and to give more back in terms of real community service to the university and the region it serves,” Dr. Thompson said.

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Chancellors Emeritus Joseph B. Oxendine and Paul R. Givens with Chancellor Meadors at the portrait unveiling.

Oxendine portrait unveiled in new gallery

The portrait of Chancellor Emeritus Joseph B. Oxendine was unveiled Monday, Sept. 18 during the Alltel Champagne Gala kicking off the Broadway and More performing arts series.

UNC Pembroke’s portrait collection of five former chancellors was debuted in its new location in the Chancellor’s Dining Room of the James B. Chavis University Center.

“We felt this is a more appropriate home for the portraits because every visitor to the university comes through here,” Chancellor Meadors said. “This is a truly special moment to have with us Chancellor (Paul R.) Givens, who served the university from 1979-89, and Chancellor Oxendine, who served from 1989-99.”

Chancellor Meadors welcomed a large crowd to the ceremony honoring Dr. Oxendine that included Dr. Givens, who traveled from his home in Florida for the evening’s event.

The five portraits in the gallery represent all past leaders of the university since 1942, when the school conferred its first four-year degree. Ralph D. Wellons served as president from 1942-56, Walter J. Gale from

1956-62 and English E. Jones from 1962-79.

The portraits have had three homes: first, in the rotunda of Sampson Hall; second, in the Chancellor’s office in Lumbee Hall and now in the Chancellor’s Dining Room.

“THE CHANCELLORS PORTRAIT GALLERY HAS FOUND A NEW HOME IN THE CHANCELLOR’S DINING ROOM”

Chancellor Emeritus Oxendine, who continues at UNCP as a professor in the Physical Education and American Indian Studies Departments, said he enjoyed his time at the helm of the university.

“This is a great institution and getting greater,” Dr. Oxendine said. “I enjoyed every bit of the time I was here, and I continue to be proud to be associated with this university.”

Following the Alltel Champagne Gala, the “Broadway and More Series” kicked off at the Paul R. Givens Performing Art Center with “Steel Pier.”

New CD promotes Music Department

The Music Department has been hard at work in the recording studio and has just released a new compact disc.

Titled "The Promise of Living," the newly released CD is a mix of tunes from gospel to Broadway that showcases the talents of UNCP students and professors. It is the department's second recording in two years, following on the heels of a successful 1998 Christmas CD.

Produced for less than \$7,000 in a local studio, it will be used as a promotional tool to attract new music students to UNCP. The CD will be distributed to high school music departments and students.

"This is probably the first recording we have ever made just for promotional purposes," said Dr. Gary Wright, UNCP's choral director. "As a promotional piece, it is a sample of all our choral and instrumental groups with solos."

There are many memorable recordings on the CD, according to Tim Altman, director of UNCP ensembles. Altman, Dr. Wright and Dr. Larry Arnold collaborated on the project.

"The recording shows only a small portion of what we are doing with the ensembles and choral groups here," Altman said. "This department has experienced tremendous growth in programs and quality of the product. My favorite recordings are the solos and the two recordings by our brass quintet." One is a piece by Bach arranged by a student, Steven Kelly, for a brass quintet, Altman said.

The new release also features talent produced by the region's high schools, including Scotland, Purnell Swett, Lumberton and Pinecrest high schools, Dr. Wright said.

Alford from Pinecrest, according to Dr. Wright.

It also features a solo by Miss North Carolina, Lorna McNeill. She recorded "Someone Like You" from the Broadway version of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

"It is a great number for her, and she did it beautifully," Dr. Wright said. "No, it is not the song that helped her win the Miss North Carolina title, but it is a song that will break your heart."

The recording project came together quickly late last year, Dr. Wright said.

"We didn't have the money, and this is not an inexpensive process. The Chancellor said he had seen this marketing idea at other schools, and he said we should have it here. We thank him for his wisdom and generosity."

Will they do it again?

Yes, Dr. Wright says emphatically. "And, like all projects, we will do it even better next time with this experience behind us."

Altman agrees.

"The future is wide open," he said. "We are building our programs, and we hope to continue to produce more projects like this."

For student-artists, there are other benefits.

"This is an attractive addition to the curriculum," Altman added. "It is different from rehearsal or live performances."

"The students were very excited," Dr. Wright said. "It was not required, and there was no grade, but we had 100-percent participation. It was a very gratifying experience and a great team effort," he said.



Left to right: Wright, Altman and Arnold

"There is a strong local flavor because we want to give high school students an opportunity to see where they could be in a few years," Dr. Wright said. Featured performers include Steven Church and Kendall McDougald from Scotland High, Meaghan Miller from Lumberton, Ocavius Locklear from Purnell Swett and Michael Woodard and Bradley

LORNA McNEILL:

Making a difference as Miss North Carolina



Singing 'Natural Woman' at Miss UNCP Pageant

Lorna McNeill is not a typical UNCP student, and she insists that she is not a typical beauty queen.

If she was not a typical student before winning the Miss North Carolina title, she certainly will never be a typical student again.

She has used her time as Miss North Carolina to crusade tirelessly against substance abuse. Her conviction that she can make a difference make her a remarkable young lady on a mission.

"I am not a beauty queen," the Robeson County native said in an interview just days after competing in the Miss America pageant. "My emphasis for the year is drug and alcohol awareness and prevention.

"This is not something I made up for the pageant," she said. "I have worked and volunteered with substance abuse programs

for a number of years."

McNeill had just covered 3,000 miles of North Carolina roads in 10 days since returning from Atlantic City to promote safe and drug-free schools and "Red Ribbon Week." Her legacy as Miss North Carolina will be as a proud Native American who is a powerful advocate for her cause.

"This is a lot of work, a full-time job," she said.

TRUE TO HER ROOTS

Catching up to McNeill is like catching up to a speeding bullet. But however fast she is moving, and however far her talents take her, she remains true to her roots.

She has made numerous appearances in her home Robeson County and several at

UNCP. She recently appeared as mistress of ceremonies at the Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant.

Her feelings for the university go deeper than school spirit.

"For me, attending UNCP is more than just an education — it's a cultural statement because of the history of the university as the first state-supported college for Native Americans," she said. "This is an important part of who I am."

McNeill needs just nine more hours to complete her music degree. She plans to return in the fall.

"My skills and focus were sharpened at the Music Department, although my roots in music did not begin at UNCP," she said.

"I've recorded a solo contemporary Christian CD and two ensemble CDs with UNCP."

She was trained in classical voice and sings Broadway, pop and R & B. Her musical choice for the Miss North Carolina came right from the heart.

NATURAL WOMAN

"I had just finished reading Aretha Franklin's biography, *From These Roots*, and 'Natural Woman' was something I wanted to do," Miss McNeill said.

Her decision to enter one last pageant before aging out of the Miss America organization happened very suddenly.

"It just happened," she said. "In January, I had returned from Hawaii, where I was performing as a featured entertainer on a cruise line. I had not planned to enter any more pageants.

"Twenty-four is the age limit, so I had one last shot at the title," Miss McNeill said. "I didn't spend a lot of time or money before the Miss Topsail Pageant, but I won the title, and I won the physical fitness competition too."

From there, things got very serious for the future Miss North Carolina.

"Coming home from Hawaii, I was struck by the struggles of our youth and adults with substance abuse," she said. "I knew that attaining the Miss North Carolina title would give me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many."

But winning a state pageant required considerably more planning and mental preparation.

She weighed this commitment against her desire to finish work on her degree at UNCP. If she won the title, it would mean a year away from school, and winning was a strong possibility because she was a Miss North Carolina semi-finalist in 1998 as Miss Fayetteville.

Taking the cue from her personal philosophy, "carpe diem," or "seize the day," she plunged headlong into the competition.

"I went in strong and focused," she said, "but winning was a shock."

From all accounts, her rendition of "Natural Woman" blew away the competition.

"It hit me when they announced the first runner-up, then I was in shock," Miss McNeill said. "It was like slow motion. From

Miss McNeill's legacy as Miss North Carolina will be as a proud Native American who is a powerful advocate for drug and alcohol prevention and awareness.

the video, I had a blank look on my face."

Although she admits to some disappointment about the outcome of the Miss America Pageant, it does not show in her conversation. She said it was a great experience, and she did not return to Robeson County empty-handed: She was one of ten non-finalists awarded the Bert Parks Talent Award. She also received considerable scholarship awards.

"Being there was **THE** event," she said. "I gave it 150 percent."

As the non-traditional student and atypical pageant winner, McNeill said she never wants to say "what if" about her life. Any disappointments will be short-lived as she moves on to complete her reign as Miss North Carolina, and later, her degree. She credits a stable foundation for her willingness to take on seemingly impossible challenges. Her parents, Hazel and L.H., who own two successful businesses in Lumberton, gave her that foundation.

"You can't believe how supportive my family has been," she said.

THE FUTURE

After graduation, McNeill plans to continue as a professional entertainer.

"From now on, I'll let my students do the pageants," she said. "I hope to continue in professional entertainment and to build a performing arts studio that includes drama and dance lessons in addition to my existing voice studio."

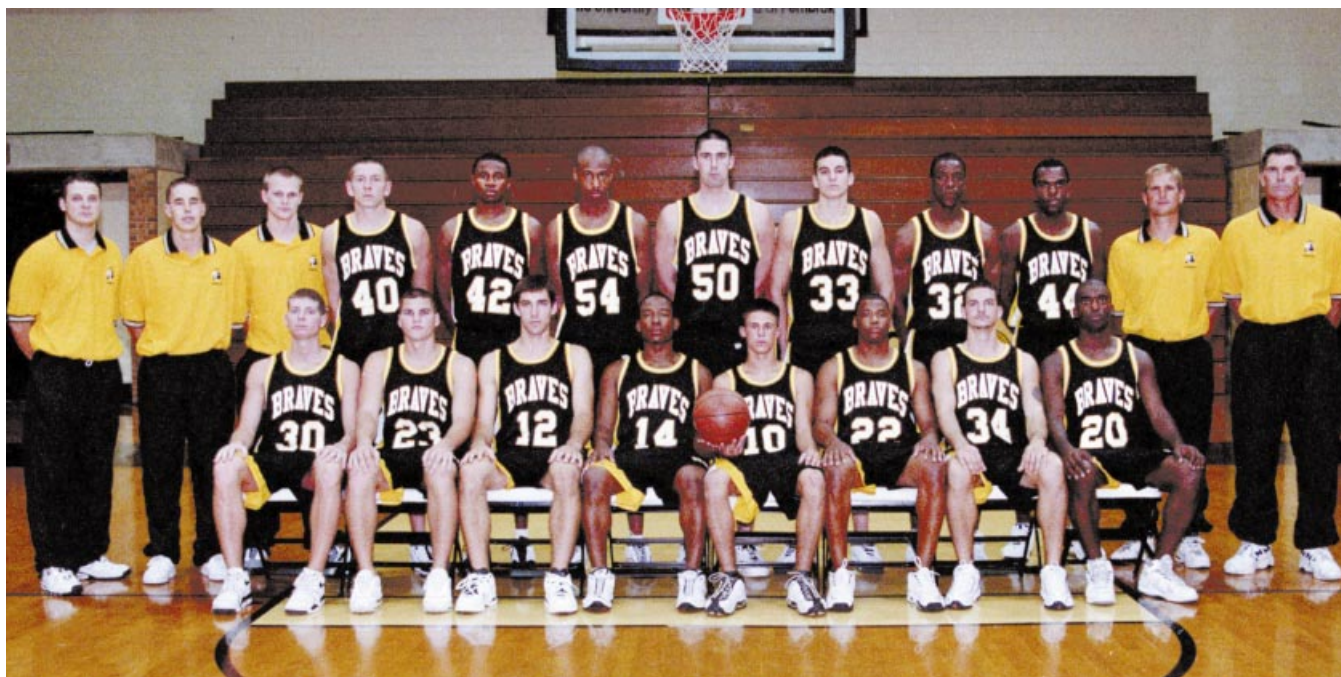
Although she admits to not having a boyfriend at the moment, her long-range plan includes marriage and family.

"I have an active social life, and I like to have fun," she said. "A relationship requires a lot of time and energy, something I'm short on right now."

Whatever the future holds for Lorna McNeill, it is certain that she will remain her own person: committed, intelligent, talented — and beautiful, too.



Mistress of Ceremonies Lorna with New Miss UNCP Jessica Reed



2000–2001 Braves

Chemistry is concern for Braves

A solid finish in Peach Belt is expected.

—John Haskins

Braves' Home Schedule

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Jan. 10 | Augusta* |
| 13 | Aiken* |
| 20 | Lander* |
| 24 | Armstrong* |
| 27 | Georgia* |
| 31 | Fran. Marion |
| Feb. 10 | Columbus* 3 p.m. |
| 14 | Spartanburg (Homecoming) |

*all games at 7:30 pm.
* indicates a double header
with the women's team*

Team chemistry and getting his players all on the same page is the major concern for coach John Haskins as he enters his ninth season with the Braves.

“Getting the new players to understand what we are trying to do and adjusting to our philosophy is the main thing,” said Haskins. “We feel like we had a good recruiting year, and we’ve brought in some good talent, but with four to six new guys getting playing time, it will take time for them to blend in.”

Three of those players who could make an impact are junior college transfers Teapatondeli Lynx, Cyrus Bunch and Sean Davis. Haskins believes that all three can be positive contributors, along with returning junior Jay Bruer.

“We will count on Jay to do a lot of things this season,” said Haskins. “We’ll need him to handle the ball, to score and to lead the team.”

Haskins said he would like to run more than last year, but this year’s team has to control the tempo. “We need our games to be in the 60s instead of the 80s,

so we’ll be playing a lot of half-court,” he said.

According to Haskins, the class of the UNCP’s North Division of the Peach Belt Conference will be Lander College and Augusta State University. In the Southern Division, he believes that Armstrong Atlantic State University and USC Spartanburg will set the standard this year.

A preseason injury to senior post-player Mark Schmitz will make the backcourt even more important for the undersized Braves this season. “Our question mark is on the inside, and without Mark, it’s an even bigger question mark. Our strength is definitely on the perimeter with our point guard and wing-positions,” said Haskins, whose team was picked 10th in the Peach Belt preseason coach’s poll. But he would like to finish in the top three in the North Division.

“There are some strong teams on our side of the conference,” said Haskins. “But we finished third last year, and that’s our goal again this year.”



2000–2001 Braves

Mitchell predicts outstanding Lady Braves season

Lady Braves' Home Schedule

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Jan. 9 | G-W (7 p.m.) |
| 10 | Augusta* |
| 13 | Aiken* |
| 20 | Lander* |
| 24 | Armstrong* |
| 27 | Georgia* |
| 31 | Fran. Marion |
| Feb. 10 | Columbus* (1 p.m.) |
| 14 | Spartanburg (Homecoming) |

* indicates a 5:30 p.m. double header with the men's team

Second-year coach Sandi Mitchell believes she has the tools to have a breakthrough season in the tough Peach Belt Conference. She said the conference did her team a favor by selecting them to finish no better than tenth place.

"We're better than that," Coach Mitchell said. "We can be very competitive in the Peach Belt."

With seven juniors and one senior, the Lady Braves field a veteran squad.

"I feel we are a little more mature this season," she continued. "I expect us to win more games this year."

They will be led again this year by two-time all-Peach Belt point guard Ginnell Curtis.

"Ginnell Curtis is a great leader," Coach Mitchell said. "This year we will have a stronger supporting cast. We're stronger offensively."

Curtis, who led the nation in steals last year, averaged 17.5 points per game. With Lauren Thigpen on the court, the Lady Braves have one of the quickest and best defensive guard combinations in the league.

Rebounding leader and second leading scorer Jennifer Lance (9 points and 8.0 rebounds) returns for her third campaign. The Braves will need more rebounding and point production from Candice Combs (4.3 points, 3.7 rebounds) and Kolletta Harris.

Senior Ricki Cockerell also figures to be a major factor at the small forward position.

"Ricki is a real smart player with a great pure shot with range," Coach Mitchell said.

Newcomer Nakia Miller, a junior college transfer from the Bahamas, should provide some inside help. "She is our best athlete by far and will help with rebounding," Coach Mitchell added.

The coach and her team has been working hard on the physical side of the game with 6 a.m. workouts this fall. She is also pleased with the team chemistry.

"It's the best team attitude I've ever coached," Coach Mitchell said. "We have very hard workers. This is the best conference in the nation in Division II basketball. We'll be ready this year."

UNCP adds women's soccer to Fall 2001 slate

The university will sponsor a women's intercollegiate soccer team beginning with the fall 2001 season.

"It is always an exciting time when we can respond to the needs and requests of our student-athletes," Chancellor Meadors said. "I can say from my 15 months here women's soccer has been our number-one request made to me by various members of our campus community."

"UNCP is excited to add a 14th sport, women's soccer, to our intercollegiate athletic program," Athletic Director Dan Kenney said. "With a new soccer/track complex and the tremendous growth in women's soccer both locally and nationally, this decision is a natural for us. When talented female student-athletes who play soccer examine what we can offer them,

they will be pleased."

The team will compete in the Peach Belt Conference, which is sponsoring women's soccer as a championship sport for the first time this fall.

The addition of women's soccer as a championship sport in both the conference and at UNCP reflects a national trend. During the past year, 66 colleges have added women's soccer teams.

The addition of the team was also made possible by the planned improvements to UNCP's soccer facilities. A new soccer and track and field complex is scheduled to open with the 2001 season. The complex will include a state-of-the-art playing surface with drainage and watering



caption needed

capabilities, lights, an eight-lane track, two practice fields and an additional field for the track and field program.

Until a women's coach is hired, current men's head coach Mike Schaeffer will handle some of the early duties, including establishing a schedule for the team next year.

"I think the two programs can work together to enhance the soccer atmosphere here on the UNCP campus," Schaeffer said.

O'Neil tapped as new baseball coach

The university Athletic Department announced Paul O'Neil as the 11th head baseball coach in the program's history.

O'Neil comes to UNCP from Shenandoah University in Virginia. In the past four years, he compiled an 84-77 record.

"I've got very high expectations for our baseball program for the future," O'Neill said. "It's going to take a lot of hard work to rebuild the program and get it to where I want it to be and where the student-athletes want it to be."

The 2000 Shenandoah team was the most successful in the school history. The team set school marks with 31 wins, seven Dixie Conference victories and second

place finishes in both the regular season and conference tournament. Following the season, O'Neil was named the Dixie Conference Coach of the Year.

Prior to coaching at Shenandoah, the Virginia Beach native was an assistant coach at Virginia Commonwealth University from 1995-96.

Prior to introducing his new coach to the media, UNCP Director of Athletics Dan Kenney noted that Shenandoah's ranking in the Dixie Conference when O'Neil took over is similar to UNCP's ranking in the Peach Belt Conference today.

"Paul O'Neil best fits the criteria we were looking at," Kenney said.



Paul O'Neil

O'Neil, a 1992 graduate of Appalachian State University, and his wife, Jackie, have a daughter, Katie, who will celebrate her second birthday in August.

The Low Cost— Continued from page 2

same time, we offer a high quality education for the money as seen in our top ranking in UNC's annual survey of students and recent graduates satisfaction."

UNCP ranked first in the UNC survey including satisfaction with overall instruction, advisement and career counseling.

"This is further proof that a UNCP student can receive a quality education at an affordable price," said Financial Aid Director Bruce Blackmon. "We try to exhaust every grant option possible before we offer a student loan.

"We make every effort to make sure a student keeps their loan debt as low as possible, and we advise students about the dangers of borrowing more than they need," Blackmon said. "It doesn't make sense for a student to graduate from a four-year college or university and be \$30,000 in debt before they get their first job."

As he often does, Blackmon offered this advice about paying for a college education.

"Loans are an economical way for a student to attend college," he said. "For most students, there is no interest charged on these loans while they are in school. However, there is potential for abuse."

Admissions Director Jackie Clark said the *U.S. News* report is just one more reason for high school students to choose UNC Pembroke.

"This news has invigorated our admissions office," Clark said. "We're taking the wraps off one of the best kept secrets in higher education.

"This is one more tool in a growing arsenal of reasons for high school students to take a look at us," she said.

BOOM!—Continued from page 2

on the rise. There are 1,000 students in dorms this semester, an increase of 25 percent.

By mid-September, 19 rooms in Wellons Residence Hall had three occupants to a room, despite the opening Pine Hall, a new, 300-bed residence hall, she said. A new 350-space parking lot was completed November 1.

"The good news is that all of this happened before the boom in high school graduates expected in 2002," Chancellor Meadors said.

Of the 16 UNC institutions, UNC Pembroke had the largest enrollment gains in all key categories, according to preliminary figures.

UNC freshman enrollment was up 2.8 percent and ranged from a gain of 15.8 percent at Appalachian State University to a loss of 32.3 percent at Fayetteville State University.

Total enrollment at UNC was up 1 percentage point and ranged from a gain of 3.6 percent at North Carolina State University to a loss of 4.9 percent at FSU.

Honors College—Continued from page 3

"Opportunities created for the Honors College will increase the opportunities for all students. This is about the whole school."

The Honors College program will embrace challenging academic course work and offer its members an enriched college experience in a variety of ways. There will be special opportunities, including courses, cultural arts, international study, speakers, field trips, community service and a thesis or research project.

The senior project will be directed by a faculty mentor, and the program will offer interaction with faculty members of the college.

"The purpose of the project or thesis and interaction with scholars is to train students for post-graduate study," Dr. Thompson said.

Attractive Honors College candidates will have good SAT scores, strong grades and high class ranks, according to Dr. Thompson. They will have demonstrated leadership in high school.

As part of the admissions process, applicants will submit references and be asked to write an essay about why they want to be part of the Honors College. Admission for high school seniors, transfer students and students already enrolled at the university will be made with the approval of the director upon recommendation of the Honors Council.

Admissions Director Jackie Clark said the program is an asset.

"The Honors College will be an attractive feature for the university in its quest to recruit top high school seniors," Clark said. "We have always had a strong core of schol-

ars on campus, and now we have a program that puts it all in focus for our best and brightest students."

Substantial scholarships will be provided to as many Honors College members as possible. To remain a member, students will keep a high grade point average during their four years at UNCP, perform work-study and complete a senior research project.

It is not a requirement to have an academic scholarship to join the Honors program, Dr. Thompson said.

"A genuine desire and ability to excel in the academic life of the university are the only real requirements," she said.

Although there is no plan for an Honors College residence on campus at this time, there will be a center to serve as a gathering place for members. Offices on the second floor of Old Main will house offices of the director and the center.

"Having outstanding undergraduates at a university raises all the boats," Dr. Thompson said. "A strong Honors College strengthens the entire university community along with those directly involved in the College."

Dr. Thompson is a professor in the Political Science Department. She came to UNC Pembroke from UNC Charlotte, where she was the founding director of the graduate program in Health Administration. She holds a master's in social work from St. Louis University and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Thompson has lived in North Carolina for 20 years and taught at Mars Hill College and UNC Charlotte prior to joining the UNCP faculty.

Class Notes

SEND CLASS NOTES TO:

Alumni Relations
P.O. Box 1510
Pembroke, N.C. 28372-1510
910-521-6213
1-800-949-UNCP
alumni@uncp.edu

1960s

Maxine L. Chavis '61 was selected as Teacher Assistant of the Year at Pembroke Elementary School for the 2000-01 school year. Maxine, a kindergarten assistant for the past 19 years, previously worked with the Title I Reading Program. She was married to the late Leslie Chavis and has one daughter and three grandchildren.

Noah Woods '62 was elected third vice president of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners during the association's annual conference, held at the Research Triangle Park August 10-13. Noah will serve a one-year term on the board. He has previously served as chairman of the personnel committee on the Board of Commissioners, the county Board of Adjustment, Robeson County Board of Health, and has won numerous awards from many organizations, including a presidential appointment to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

NEW ALUMNI DIRECTORY

Alumni were notified of our new Alumni Directory. Please return your questionnaires. The verification phase will soon begin. You will receive a telephone call from Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company Inc. This is the only opportunity you will have to order a copy of the official UNCP Alumni Directory, so please advise the Harris representative during this conversation. The directory is scheduled for release July-August 2001.

1970s

Fred H. Chance '70, who retired after spending 22 years in the U.S. Air Force, is teaching high school in South Charleston, S.C. Fred attained the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Cathy McCorquodale-Norton '71, a licensed professional and national certified counselor, along with her husband, William, are debuting the 1-800-Therapist Network in the 910 and 336 area codes. Since 1971, Cathy has completed two additional degrees: a master's in reading from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; and, a master's in counseling from Webster University in St. Louis, along with national certification and licensure. Check them out at www.1-800-therapist.com.

Ruby Hammonds '71, teacher at Pembroke Elementary School, has been selected as the 2000-2001 Teacher of the Year. Of 29 years in the classroom, she has had the delightful experience of teaching one of those in Anchorage, Alaska. Ruby has two sons and two grandsons.

Douglas D. Goodwin '74 has served as Waste Management Inc.'s coastal region manager since 1990. He attended the North Carolina School of Banking and the Graduate School of Retail Banking at the University of Virginia.

Katie (Locklear) Brewer '75 began her duties July 31 as the new assistant principal at Red Springs High School. Brewer says, "Getting an education is serious business. The foundation must be laid in elementary but carried through middle and high school."

Jimmy Autry '77 has been elected chairman of the board for the Georgia Youth Science Technology Center (GYSTC) at the Robins Air Force Base Museum of Aviation for 2000-2001. He has also been elected secretary/treasurer of the International City Optimist Club in Warner Robins, Ga., for 2000-01. Jimmy works for Flint Energies, the 33rd largest rural electric cooperative in the country. He has been featured twice in



Rural Electrification magazine for his work with an Internet technology billing program, and for his work with the deployment of the new fuel cell power generation technology for residential homes.

Lorene T. (Fitzgerald) Hill '78 has been in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years. Lorene is currently stationed in Seoul, Korea, where she has been for 15 months. She hopes to be reassigned to Washington, D.C., with her husband in June 2001.

1980s

Thomas C. "Tom" Gaddis '80 received a promotion with BB&T and was transferred to Virginia.

Robert Poole '81 and his marketing guru, Pezzano, are looking to craft a major nationwide promotion of his game

Fall-Winter 2000-2001

Feb. 9 **Registration/Social**
Lunbee Hall Lobby 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
TEMPTATIONS Concert
8 p.m. *GPAC*

After Hours Social
Quality Inn and Suites,
Lumberton,
10:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Feb. 10 **Barbecue Luncheon 11:30**
Basketball 1 p.m.
Reunions 5 p.m.
Awards Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Alumni Dance 9 p.m.

"Rules of the Game," a board game using sports rules. Robert's game was test marketed in the Midwest, and sales were so good that the distributor wanted games in all its Kmart stores. When should we expect the next big sales surge? Father's Day, of course!

Cathy L. Hall '83 has accepted a new job as director of human resources for Virtus Entertainment in Cary, N.C. Virtus manufactures software for computer games, as well as other high-tech software.

Benjamin Deese, son of **Norma (Lori Thompson) Good '83**, was an honors graduate from Garner Senior High School, class of 2000. On May 13, David E. Kelly, secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, presented Benjamin and 20 other young North Carolinians with a North Carolina Police Corps Scholarship award. This is a four-year scholarship and the recipients will be expected to serve their sponsoring agency with four years of service. Benjamin was sponsored by the Garner Police Department.

1990s

Melissa (Rogers) Reid '92 has been named the new customer service executive at the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. She will be responsible for new member recruitment and customer service.

Christopher Locklear '92 has accepted a position with Kirkegaard and Perry Laboratories in Gaithersburg, Md., as a manufacturing associate. KPL produces monoclonal antibodies, standardized reagents and molecular biological detection assays for scientific labs throughout the world. Chris and his partner have purchased a home in Washington, D.C., and are participating in the city's home reclamation program. They hope to have renovations completed by Christmas.

Three former UNCP wrestlers won gold medals at the International Law Enforcement Games held in Coco Beach, Fla., Aug. 4-5. **Jeff Cashion '92**, competing in the 191-lb. class, **Rod Howard '92**, competing in the 216-lb. class and **Antonio Kilpatrick '90**, competing in the 275-lb. class, won their

respective weight classes in a field that featured law enforcement officers from all over the world competing in various sports.

Christopher Brian Jones '92 has been promoted to Intensive Probation/Parole Officer for the Carteret County Division of Community Corrections. He has been employed with the Department of Corrections for eight years. Chris and his wife, **Sarah '92**, reside in Morehead City, N.C.

Billenna (Locklear) Richardson '94 is a care manager for the Lumberton Children's Clinic. She and her husband, Christopher, employed with United Insurance Company, married August 17, 1996, and have two sons: Mark Hunt, 2 1/2; and Christopher Cameron, 10 months.

Tangula Diggs '97 has a new job as an academically intellectually gifted (AIG) facilitator at Sycamore Lane Middle School in Laurinburg, where she was selected as Teacher of the Year for the 1999-2000 school year.

Ursulla H. Kerns '97, daughter of Bobby Ray and **Frances Kerns '65**, received the Gates Millennium Scholarship for the 2000-01 academic year. The scholarship provides support in the form of a gift for students pursuing a college education. Ursulla is currently enrolled in the graduate program in speech-language pathology at North Carolina Central University in Durham, pursuing her master's degree. She is an intern at Communication Consultants & Associates in Raleigh.

Joel Beachum '97 has joined the staff of *The Red Springs Citizen* and *The St. Pauls Review* as a sports editor. He has worked in general reporting, school and sports news, and has done some photography, writing and preparation of feature sections for publication. He has been involved with Relay for Life (walk for cancer), Encore! Theatre and has tutoring kids and coaching soccer. In civic organizations, he has worked with the Boy Scouts of America (he is an Eagle Scout) and the American Red Cross.

Dina M. (Dibiovanni) '97 and **Mell C. Bishop III '97** live in Charlotte, N.C. Dina is a loss control manager with the Kmart Corporation. Mell is a research

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Tom Martin '67, President

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Robeson Chapter

Sandra McCormick '95, President

CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter News is a new addition to the Class Notes section of UNCP Today. Each issue will bring you news and developments from within the chapters to keep you informed of its activities. A listing of our active chapters, along with a list of officers and board members and meeting dates, can be found at www.uncp.edu/alumni.

If you are interested in chapter development in your area, or if you would like to join an existing chapter, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations by calling 1-800-949-UNCP, ext. 6213 or e-mail us at alumni@uncp.edu.

Continued on next page

Chapter News continued

Charlotte Chapter

The chapter is seeking Charlotte area volunteers to host an event. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

Fayetteville Chapter

The UNCP Fayetteville Alumni Chapter reorganized and held its first official meeting July 2. President for this chapter is Claude (Tom) Martin, past president of the UNCP Alumni Association. This chapter consists of alumni who live in Cumberland, Scotland, Hoke and Moore counties.

Triangle Chapter

The chapter is looking for volunteers to host alumni events. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

Robeson Chapter

The third chapter to reorganize was the Robeson County chapter. Its organizational meeting was held July 24 on the UNCP campus in the Chavis University Center. Voted in as president was Sandra McCormick '95, of the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Wilmington/Jacksonville Chapter

The chapter is seeking Wilmington/Jacksonville area volunteers to host alumni events. Alumni who would like to help develop programs and events in the Onslow, Pender and New Hanover county areas are asked to please contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

Greensboro Chapter

The Greensboro Chapter was the first to reorganize when they held their organizational meeting July 10 at Percheron Trail, in Sommerfield. Elected as chapter president was Barry Hopkins '71. A board of directors was also elected.



Alumni traveling– Pictured are alumni touring Yellowstone. From left: Carey Collins, Sara Allen, Mary Lou Brady, Ken Prevatt, Vera C. Sealey and Marty Locklear. Visit the Alumni Web site (www.uncp.edu/alumni) for travel and other social opportunities.

and development chemist for Wikoff Color Corporation in Fort Mill, S.C.

Kimberly Haywood Locklear '98, an accounting clerk III at UNCP since Feb. 1999, has accepted a job as the new departmental purchasing agent I in the UNCP Business Services.

Dewayne Hunt '98 was one of 50 new state troopers who graduated from the 102nd Basic Academy of the N.C. State Highway Patrol. Dewayne has been assigned to work in Rockingham.

Connie Roper '99 accepted a teaching position at Hoke High School in Raeford immediately after graduation, and is in her second year teaching 11th- and 12th-grade English. A mother of three, who decided to go back to school 16 years after graduating from King's College in Charlotte, she now has a 20-year-old son at UNCP, an 18-year-old daughter at King's College and a third grader, Kelly, at South Hoke Elementary.

J. Carlton Cole '99 was promoted to chief appraiser for the Moore County Tax Department.

2000s

Sewanhaka Cornish '00, who had been working with a law firm in Lumberton for eight years prior to graduation, was sworn in by the Social Security Administration June 19 as a claims representative. She relocated to Rock Hill, S.C., to work in the district office.

Marriages & Anniversaries

Ann (Terry) '72 and Charles Wheeler celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary August 8. Ann teaches third grade at Fairview Heights Elementary School in Hamlet, N.C. The couple have two daughters and are the proud grandparents of a new grandson, Carter Roberson of Fuquay Varina, N.C.

Bonnie Locklear '72 and Chris Hickman, head chef for Sodehexo-Marriott at UNCP, were married in November.

Theresa M. Gray '91 was married August 5. She is the daughter of **Ila Gray '83**, of the UNCP Controller's Office.

Melissa K. Lovin '93 and **Jason T. Hill '98** were united in marriage July 22 at White Point Gardens in Charleston, S.C. The bride and groom work for the Public Schools of Robeson County.

David Chad Hodgin '95 and Elizabeth Faye McNeill were married June 16 at Antioch Presbyterian Church in Red Springs.

Brian Heath Jernigan '96 and Candice Curd were married June 10 in Westwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

Dina M. (Dibiovanni) '97 and **Mell C. Bishop III '97** were married July 4, 1998, and live in Charlotte.

Kimberly (Haywood) Locklear

'98 and her husband, James T. (J.T.), celebrated their first anniversary October 2.

Cyndie Rose Cooper '98

and Bradley Milton Coker, both formerly of Lumberton, were married July 8 at Hyde Park Baptist Church in Lumberton. The couple now resides in Raleigh, where Cyndie works for the School of Communication Arts and Bradley works for ADT Alarm Company.

Melodi Renee Locklear '98

and Ashley Reed Lowery were married at 4 p.m. August 5 at Bear Swamp Baptist Church, Pembroke.

Connie Roper '99

and her husband Rodney, celebrated 21 years of marriage October 12, 2000. They have three children: Rodney, Mia and Kelly.

John Harold Phillips Jr, '99

and Kendra Michelle Ward were married at Cerro Gordo (N.C.) Baptist Church July 1 at 6 p.m.

Shannon Marshall '00

and Christopher Lowry were married at 6 p.m. July 8 in Faith Baptist Church.

Retirement

After working the past 38 years as a teacher and school administrator for the public schools of Robeson County, **Noah Woods '62** has retired. He and his wife, **Ruth D. Woods '80**, plan to travel. Ruth is a member of the UNC Board of Governors.

Carol Jean Locklear Young '64

retired in 1999 after teaching 35 years in Alexandria City Public Schools in Virginia. She attended Pembroke High School's 40th reunion in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in October.

John Weber '71

retired in 1999 after 20 years as a firefighter with the New York City Fire Department. He is now an attorney who owns his own law firm in Melville, N.Y., on Long Island. He recently completed his 32nd consecutive summer as a weekend life-guard on the ocean at Jones Beach State Park in N.Y. He, his wife Sharon, and three daughters — Meghan, Bailey, and Brogan — live in Amityville, N.Y.

Births

Michael S. Dunavan '80, and his wife, Christina, announced the birth of their daughter, Sarah Marie. Sarah was born June 26.

Barry E. '90 and Whitney

(VanZandt) Jones '91 announced the birth of their son, Bryce Edward, May 18. Bryce weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 inches long. The couple and their new son currently live in Angier, N.C.

Susan (Neal) Herndon '92

and her husband Mark announced the birth of their daughter, Beth Hannah, July 8. Beth weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 inches long. Beth's big brother, John, turned 2 in June.

John (Robey) '95 and Shanda

(Wheeler) '98 Roberson, announced the birth of a son, John Carter, July 23, 2000, at Rex Birth Center in Raleigh. Carter, weighing 6 lbs. 4 oz. and 19 inches long, is the grandson of Ann **(Terry) Wheeler '72**, and the nephew of **Sharyl Wheeler '95**. The Robersons live in Fuquay Varina, N.C.

Dina M. (Dibiovanni) '97

and **Mell C. Bishop III '97** announce the birth of their daughter, Summer Reagan, July 29. Summer and her older sister, Brianna, born May 7, 1999, both weighed in at 8 lbs. 2 oz. and were 21 inches long.

Deaths

Our condolences to the family of **Mr. Gerald C. Borland**, retired associate professor in the Physical Science Department from 1974-79, who passed away in July 1999.

Gertrude L. Locklear '35

died Friday, September 1. She was a retired teacher who taught for more than 40 years. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, **Marshall W. Locklear '34**. Gertrude is survived by two sons, **Marshall R. '68** and **Gary L. Locklear '70**.

Daphne L. Jones '52

died in July after an extended illness. She was a retired music teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County and is survived by three children: Ricky, Tina and Ann.

We would like to express our sympathy to **Patsy B. Baker '59**, **Joy B. Locklear '60** and **Hampton Brayboy '64**, on the passing of their mother, Attelia Brayboy, August 21.

Douglas

Hunt '61 in the passing of his wife, **Olivia D. Hunt '62**, September 7.

We would like to extend our condolences to **Tim Brayboy '64**, **Ray Brayboy '69** and **Barbara Braveboy-Locklear '90**, in the death of their sister, Helen Brayboy Sampson, Friday, September 29.



A large crowd in line for lunch at the combined Alumni Soccer Tailgate and Parents Weekend in October.

The Connecting Page

FREE REFERRAL

Cathy McCorquodale-Norton '71 and her husband, William, are debuting the 1-800-Therapist Network in the 910 and 336 area codes of North Carolina. It is a mental health referral service that provides callers with referrals to licensed mental health professionals. It is free. For more information, contact the local director at 1-800-Therapist.

SGA HOMECOMING REUNION

Don't forget the alumni SGA Class Officers' Reunion during Homecoming 2001, February 9-10. Mark your calendar, call your fellow SGA alumni and make plans to attend this year's event.

ALUMNI CHAPTER SOCIALS

There will be a combined social of the Fayetteville, Greensboro and Robeson Alumni Chapters during Homecoming February 10. Look for further details in your Homecoming registration brochure to be mailed mid to late December.

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Columbus/Bladen Chapter: Organizational meeting, October 26 6:30 p.m., at the Columbus County Board of Education, on Washington Street in Whiteville.

Pitt County Chapter: Organizational meeting, November 13, 7 p.m., at the Shepard Memorial Library on Evans Street in Greenville. This chapter meeting will include alumni from Pitt, Edgecombe, Martin, Greene, Lenoir, Beaufort, Wayne and Wilson counties.



Breeze Band highlights Homecoming Dance

One of the Southeast's most requested groups, The Breeze Band, is the featured entertainment for this year's alumni Homecoming Dance. The Breeze Band is also one of the most versatile dance bands in the business. They will entertain you

with music styles that include rock, country, pop and beach, with just enough blues mixed in to balance your taste.

So, come dance the night away at the alumni Homecoming Dance, Saturday, February 10 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Temptations to play Friday of Homecoming

The world famous Temptations, featuring original member Dennis Edwards, take the GPAC stage for an evening performance at 8 p.m. Friday, February 9. Featured are classic hits like "Can't Get Next to You," "Papa Was A Rolling Stone," and the classic "My Girl."

The Temptations will take you on a musical journey that has made them one of the most celebrated groups in pop music.

Tickets are \$26, \$24 and \$22, \$8 for students. Call the box office at 910-521-6361 or 1-800-367-0778.

Comedian to perform Homecoming evening

Come join us for an evening of humor at Homecoming 2001 as UNC Pembroke presents comedian Dave Chappelle, Saturday, February 10 at 8 p.m. in the Givens Performing Arts Center. Chappelle has appeared in more than 11 major film roles since beginning a career in comedy at the age of 14. He has appeared on The Late Show with Conan O'Brien, Late Night with David Letterman and ABET-Tonight. He has performed on the same bill with Aretha Franklin, Richard Pryor and Whoopi Goldberg. His act is for mature audiences.



Bob Denham: From UNCP to senior vice president at BB&T



Bob Denham

It has been 11 years since Bob Denham '76 sat across from James F. Byrne in his posh executive suite. Byrne was a member of Southern National Bank's senior executive management team.

"Everyone liked Mr. Byrne," Bob recalls. "I hoped he'd like me. This was the most important job interview of my life."

Byrne and Southern National were preparing to offer the young Mr. Denham a position in public relations, when Bob stopped the interview and did what no person in their right mind would do: admit ignorance. "Mr. Byrne," he said, obviously coaxed into a weak moment of honesty by Byrne's easygoing manner. "I don't know anything about banking."

Not a problem, Byrne said. "You don't worry about the banking part of it. We'll teach you that. We want someone who can write and handle the news media."

Byrne had good reason to believe Bob. "We talked about my five years of experience as a newspaper reporter, my five years spent in public relations and my education at UNC Pembroke, where I majored in journalism and served one year as editor of the student newspaper," Bob says.

Southern National would later merge with BB&T, and Bob would continue in the role of public relations manager for the new, larger corporation.

"I've been privileged and blessed in my professional career," he says. "I've interviewed pro sports athletes, witnessed the inner workings of high finance on Wall Street and walked the floor of the most powerful and prestigious stock exchange in the world, the New York Stock Exchange."

Today, Bob directs a team of nine public relations professionals who are graduates of some of the finest universities

in the country. They provide counsel and communications strategies for a \$52 billion corporation, the 19th largest bank holding company in the nation and a member of the Fortune 500.

"UNC Pembroke set the stage for my career, equipping me with the fundamentals and tools that I depend on today," Bob said. "Grace Gibson, then professor in the Communicative Arts Department, was a personal favorite of mine. She generously gave of herself, providing guidance in a difficult curriculum that required discipline and commitment."

"What I appreciate most about UNC Pembroke is that it allowed me the freedom to be whoever I wanted to be and to go as far as I cared to go."

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Retired Faculty

Dr. Gibson Gray's influence continues past his retirement

Although retired from UNCP's Political Science Department for 10 years now, Dr. Gibson Gray continues to educate successive generations of students.

The latest edition of the Gibson and Anna Gray Lecture Series was held October 26, featuring Dr. Wallace Thies, an expert on foreign relations. In the tradition of the seven-year-old series, Dr. Thies lectured on an international topic to students and faculty.

In his 30 years as a professor at UNCP, Dr. Gray kept a keen eye on political affairs at home and abroad. He remains active in all areas of his life including party politics and Common Cause.

"We have a meeting next month to work on the campaign finance reform issue," he says. "I am active in Democratic politics, with the American Heart Association and with my church."

Active is the word for Dr. Gray. He

also goes to the fitness center several times a week.

The Gray Lecture Series, more than anything, represents his desire to improve the lives of students through excellent instruction. A true educator, Dr. Gray believes that opening young minds is the best way to change the world.

He continues to suggest speakers for the series to his colleagues.

"I am looking for unusually gifted individuals in the area of international issues," he says. "The United States is the number one nation in the world, and that carries rewards, responsibilities and sorrows," Dr. Gray says. He's still teaching.

Dr. Gray, a Lumberton resident, came to UNC Pembroke in 1971. He married the former Anna Wells of Wallace, N.C., in 1973. She was director of Christian Education for the First Presbyterian Church of Lumberton for many years.



Gibson Gray

*A true educator,
Dr. Gray believes
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UNCP School Of Education Rated “Exemplary”

The School of Education at UNC Pembroke was rated “exemplary” in the second Performance Report issued December 7 by the State Board of Education.

Overall, UNCP ranked second out of 47 colleges and universities which train teachers in North Carolina, and first among universities with enrollment under 10,000. Only four schools were ranked exemplary, while five were rated low performing.

UNCP outscored all but UNC Greensboro, earning 136 out of 150 points. In the first report, the School of Education scored 120 for a rating that “meets expectations” of the State Board of Education.

Each institution was rated in three overall categories — student’s performance on national tests, involvement with public schools and compliance with accreditation standards.

This is truly outstanding news, and we are extremely proud of this achievement,” said Chancellor Allen C. Meadors. “Our School of Education and Dean Zoe Locklear should be especially pleased with the results of their hard work. They have proved once again that you can get an exceptionally high-quality degree at a small university that puts students first.

This is another example of the outstanding programs offered at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Our sincere hope is that our reputation as a truly outstanding School of Education will help us attract and graduate more public school teachers for our region.”

Locklear, dean of the School of Education, said her faculty took the performance standards in the report very seriously and made serious efforts to improve their scores. The good news, she said, is that their hard work paid off.

“We’re just so excited about this news,” she said. “We do a lot with a very small faculty and staff, and we do a lot that is not measured in that report.”

The School of Education took several steps to improve its performance, Locklear said. They include:

Education professors took the national teacher examinations and adjusted curriculum to focus on improving test scores. Review sessions and other steps were taken to improve student performance on national tests

Increased minority student recruitment in undergraduate and graduate programs

Created new initiatives with the public schools to recruit new teachers and retain new teachers

Used grant money to engage in collaborative efforts with classroom teachers and administrators

Placed more emphasis on training lateral entry (uncertified) classroom teachers by moving education classes to evenings and Saturdays

Produced additional staff development programs for career teachers

“We are able to do a lot with limited resources,” Locklear said, noting that UNC Greensboro has 81 full-time faculty members, compared to 13 for UNC Pembroke. “We have a great faculty and staff who are very committed to teacher education.

We have outstanding students who are committed to their university, the public schools and the region.”

The performance report for colleges and universities that train teachers was mandated by the Excellent Schools Act of 1997, and measures a wide variety of areas. The State Board of Education administers the program.

“North Carolina must have not only a qualified, but also a high-quality teacher in every public school classroom in this state, and this report allows us to determine how well our colleges and universities are preparing teachers to enter the profession,” said Phillip J. Kirk Jr., chairman of the State Board of Education. “The most important element of this report may be the requirement that institutions identify ways to overcome deficiencies in their programs. The Board is very interested in finding ways to encourage each program to improve.”

The performance report notes a 14-percent statewide increase in enrollment in teacher education programs, and a 30-percent increase in enrollment in lateral entry programs.

The other schools rated exemplary were UNC Asheville and Greensboro College.

This is another example of the outstanding programs offered at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

New Chancellor's Club Chairman: Gene Hall

Milton Gene Hall, a 1971 graduate and Lumberton resident, has agreed to lead the Chancellor's Club through the 2000-2001 academic year as chairman.

Hall's commitment to the Chancellor's Club began in 1983 with the gift of a life insurance policy. He said he wanted to give back to the university because his education was responsible for enabling him to become a professional, and gave him the opportunity to have a much greater standard of living.

Though Hall was far from wealthy in 1983, the method of planned giving through life insurance allowed him to create a much larger gift for the university than he could otherwise afford. He also knew that this was a relatively untapped resource for giving through his work as a representative for Jefferson-



Gene Hall '71

Pilot Financial Services.

Hall is an active Shriner, Mason and

a member of the Sudan Tomcats parade unit. When he's not working, he enjoys playing golf and supports a number of local fund-raiser tournaments.

Hall's goal for the Chancellor's Club is to help others throughout the region understand how important the University is in making our communities a better place for future generations.

He has served with Jefferson-Pilot full-time since 1971, earning Hall of Fame honors as well as numerous industry awards along the way, and is currently a qualifying member of the Million Dollar Roundtable and one of only five Chartered Financial Consultants in the region. Hall provides complete financial planning, estate planning and retirement planning services at his office in Lumberton.

St. Albans Masons Establish Scholarship

St. Albans Masonic Lodge in Lumberton has signed a gift agreement with the university to establish an endowed scholarship.

The Lodge's immediate goal is build an endowment that would support two \$500 scholarships annually. The scholarship recipients will be from Robeson County and must have demonstrated high academic achievement in high school.

The St. Albans Masonic Endowed Scholarship was spearheaded on behalf of the Lodge by Henry Lewis, a UNCP trustee and 1972 graduate; Durham Lewis Jr., a 1987 graduate; and Tony Prevatte, a longtime friend of the university. Prevatte is owner of Prevatte's Home Sales Inc. of Lumberton, and the Lewis brothers are partners in Lewis and Lewis CPAs PLLC in Lumberton.

"This is the first of many planned contributions to this endowment," Henry Lewis said. "We do not intend to stop at the \$5,000 level. We are already planning additional fund-raising projects. There is a great need in our county for financial aid



Durham Lewis Jr. presents a check to Chancellor Allen C. Meadors as Tony Prevatte (left) and Henry Lewis look on.

for deserving students. We believe that educating Robeson County's young people is a great investment, and that UNCP is a great institution of higher learning."

Chancellor Meadors praised the civic-minded spirit of the Lumberton Masons.

"The establishment of this endowment will not only be a wonderful source of funding for students in Robeson County, but speaks volumes to the tremendously positive contribution that St. Albans Masonic Lodge makes to their community," he said.

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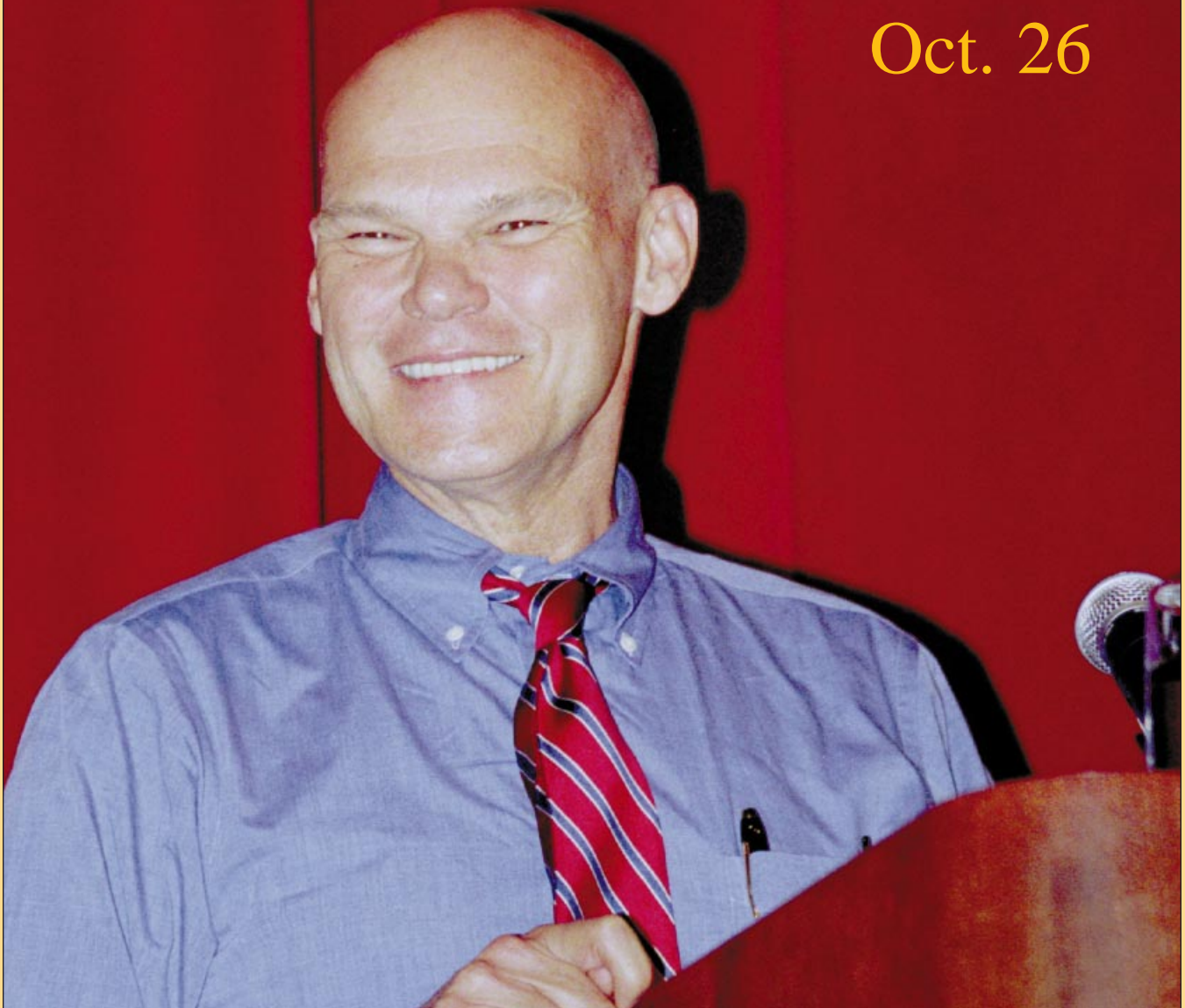
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