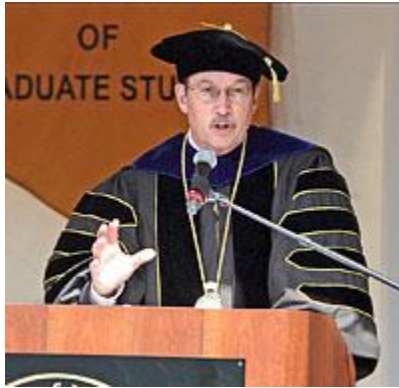


Commencement 2011 made its mark in history

The 1,600 seats in GPAC were nearly full for the graduate commencement. Turnout for the ceremony was high, with approximately 130 of the 150 graduates in attendance.



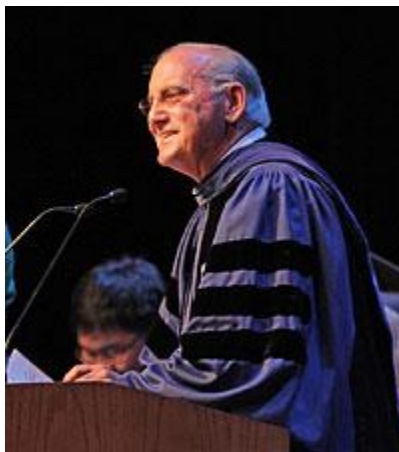
Chancellor Kyle R. Carter

Chancellor Kyle R. Carter presided over his first spring commencement.

"This is truly a glorious day," Chancellor Carter said.

Former Interim Chancellor Charles Jenkins was the keynote speaker for the evening program. He was "the right speaker for the right audience," Chancellor Carter said, because as provost, he played an important role in launching most of the 17 master's programs at UNCP.

"I am still proud to be part of this University, said Jenkins, who continues to teach in the graduate school administration program. Like a veteran educator, Dr. Jenkins continued to teach to final bell.



Charles Jenkins

"As a graduate, you have the responsibility to be a leader in your field and in your community," he said. "Leadership is about doing the right thing, at the right time, and in the right place."

"Always maintain high ethical standards," Jenkins continued. "The ethical crisis our nation is facing at this time is even greater than the economic crisis. Have high expectations for yourself and for others, and remember, that devoted leadership is what leads to happiness."

Graduate students, like Sheila Harris who received a Master of Business Administration degree, appreciated their special ceremony. "I've loved the idea of a graduate ceremony since it was first mentioned," she said. "This is special for us."

It was special for Wendy Mitchell, who came all the way from High Point to pick up a Master of Arts degree in art education. "This has been a great experience," she said. "A graduate degree is a more specialized education, and at UNCP, it's been a very individualized education."

Scott Lamm of Lumberton, who was recently named UNCP's outstanding MBA student, echoed those thoughts. "After being out of school for 20 years, nobody was more nervous than I," he said. "The University is awesome, and with the help of professors who care about students, I excelled in areas I only dreamed of."