

UNCP *Today*

Fall 2008

For alumni and friends of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke



Grace P. Johnson
Football Stadium
dedicated at UNCP
pg. 3

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UNCP Today

Fall 2008

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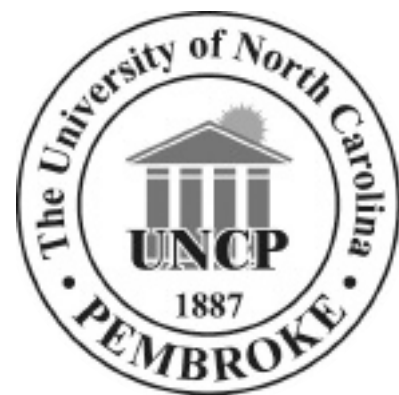
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UNCP scores well in national ratings

The University ranked high in several important national surveys of the nation's institutions of higher education.

- *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges and Universities 2009," which is popular for comparing colleges and universities, was released on August 22. For the percentage of classes under 20 students, the University finished 1st among North Carolina master's granting public universities and 4th among all state public universities. For ethnic diversity, the University finished 1st in the South and in North Carolina for master's granting universities.
- *The Princeton Review's* "2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region" is out, and the University again joined the list of best southeastern colleges and universities. UNCP was one of 139 schools in the region to receive "Best in the Southeast" designation. *Princeton Review* produces several popular guides for prospective college students including *America's Best Value Colleges*, which also includes UNCP. The one important feature is that it selects institutions based on student surveys.
- The MPA program was rated a "Best Buy" by the national editorial review team of GetEducated.com. To meet GetEducated.com's standards, its researchers search nationwide for the highest quality, most affordable online degree programs. The MPA program ranked number one in GetEducated.com's 2008 survey. The degree is available completely online or in the classroom and is UNCP's largest and one of its most popular master's degree programs.



As I begin my 10th year at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, I see a campus that carries its history forward with pride and the energy of new traditions. Please allow me a moment to reflect on the many events that have transpired recently at your University.

For the ninth consecutive year, we gained in enrollment. Total enrollment is 6,303, up more than 100 percent in 10 years.

There is also a record number of transfer, graduate and international students. Out-of-state enrollment is the highest since 1971.

Residence halls are nearly full again this fall. Another 1,100 students are in private housing just off campus.

The Fall 2008 edition of *UNCP Today* contains a great deal of news, and I invite you to read about the successes at your University. There is progress in every corner of the campus.

UNCP continues to shine in the college ratings. *Princeton Review* again named us a "Best Southeastern University," and Get Educated.com rated our Master of Public Administration program the "Best Buy" in the U.S.

Giving to the University reached all-time record levels in 2007-08 thanks to our many friends and alumni. Look for more good news in this area in the near future.

Faculty and student scholarship is on the rise with more books, papers, research and other scholarly work than ever. All our students benefit from the outstanding scholars on our campus.

UNCP is home to three academic journals, including *Pembroke Magazine*, the *Journal of Social Work Ethics* and the *International Journal of Sustainable Management*. We inaugurated a new magazine, *Scholarship in Review*, this year, which is dedicated to faculty and student scholarship.

There are many new faces on campus and many familiar faces are in new places. Among others, we welcomed Dr. Martin Slann, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Leah Fiorentino, dean of the School of Education.

Finally, a word about football. On September 6, we dedicated the stadium to the late Grace P. Johnson, the matriarch of one of North Carolina's greatest families. Her husband, E. Marvin Johnson, owner of House of Raeford, and many members of the family were on hand for this proud moment in the history of UNCP athletics.

Let me say – with pride and humility – that I have never been prouder to be a Brave! Come see us!

Allen C. Meadors

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

Grace P. Johnson Football Stadium dedicated at UNCP

On a sunny and warm September 6 afternoon, the Grace P. Johnson Football Stadium was dedicated during a private ceremony at the University.

With Davidson College in the house and tropical storm Hanna blown away, University officials thanked the E. Marvin Johnson family from Rose Hill, N.C. for the largest gift in the history of its athletic programs.

The second-year Braves football team did not disappoint on the day their stadium was dedicated, coming back to defeat Davidson 21-9, the biggest win in its two-year history. (See page 5.)

“Everybody loved Grace,” Johnson said. “When we were married on New Year’s Eve in 1949, I borrowed a car from my sister for our honeymoon. We lived in a tenant house.”

The stadium is named after the late wife of the man who owns one of the nation’s largest turkey processing operations and is one of the greatest business success stories in America. Johnson owns eight turkey processing plants and supporting operations.

Marvin Johnson’s story is the stuff of legend, and his marriage to the former Grace Powell is woven into that legend.

“Everybody loved Grace,” Johnson said. “When we were married on New Year’s Eve in 1949, I borrowed a car from my sister for our honeymoon. We lived in a tenant house.”

Grace raised their four children, and Marvin carved out his success in agribusiness.

“My mother was very active in her church and community,” said Robert Johnson, Marvin’s son. “She loved athletics.

“She was a sports fan who loved attending football and golf tournaments,” Robert Johnson said. “Football is a great game and important to our family.”



Marvin Johnson stands alongside a portrait of his late wife, Grace P. Johnson, which will be located in the Chancellors’ Box.

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The Johnson Family. E.Marvin Johnson, back row 3rd from right; Bob Johnson, back row - 3rd from left.

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Grace P. Johnson Stadium

The Johnsons pledged \$1 million to the First and Ten Campaign for Football and Athletic Excellence at the University. The family has generously supported education in North Carolina at all levels.

On Saturday afternoon, the University unveiled a portrait and bronze plaque at a ceremony in the Dobbs Enterprise Lobby of the Jones Athletic Center. Before the kick-off, the scoreboard was unveiled bearing the new stadium name – Grace P. Johnson Stadium.

Twelve members of the Johnson family, representing four generations, were in attendance for the dedication service. As teenagers, Marvin Johnson and his brother sold turkeys on the streets of Rose Hill that were raised by their mother on the family property.

“People only wanted turkey during the holidays,” Marvin has said many times. “I needed to figure out a way to sell turkeys in January.”

He did. Under Johnson’s leadership, House of Raeford became the first processor to run turkey operations year-round, extending sales beyond holiday dinner tables. He remains chairman of the board.

From the hatchery to the dinner table, Johnson expanded the company’s product line to include more than 2,500 fresh and cooked items, helping turn House of Raeford into one of North Carolina’s largest privately held companies.

Last year, Johnson was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the National Poultry & Food Distributors Association, joining other industry giants, including Frank Perdue and Colonel Harland Sanders.

Grace Powell Johnson was born on August 26, 1929 and passed away in 1996. She and Marvin Johnson had four children: Edgar Johnson, who preceded her in death, Diane Beasley, Robert Johnson, and Mary Anna Johnson. They have 14 grandchildren, two of whom are deceased, and five great-grandchildren with the sixth on the way.

After cheering the scoreboard unveiling, Braves fans found a lot to cheer for in a 21-9 victory over the Wildcats of Davidson College. UNCP spotted its opponent a 9-0 lead and used an outstanding defense and a balanced offense to dominate the second half.

In his comments Marvin Johnson advised Coach Pete Shinnick to “win some games.” Shinnick thanked Johnson for supporting Braves football.

“It is an honor to recognize this wonderful gift and to give our stadium the name of Grace P. Johnson,” Chancellor Meadors said. “We are a University of opportunity, and, Mr. Johnson, you are a symbol of what we strive for.”

“One of the things we try to do with our players is instill a sense of tradition,” he said. “I will be very proud to tell our team the story of Grace P. Johnson and her family.”

In his remarks, Robert Johnson said he was not fully aware of the impact UNCP has had in the region and across the U.S.

“When the press release announcing our gift came out, I got calls from employees, people I didn’t know were UNCP graduates and people from all over the nation to thank me,” he said.

“My mother was always full of enthusiasm for sports,” Robert Johnson said. “That was one of the reasons we called her ‘Amazing Grace.’” He added, “Each time the Braves take the field for a game, they will have an angel watching over them – my mother.

“Our family feels truly blessed to be able to give back to the community,” he said. “This football program is a new beginning for UNCP, and we know you will uphold the dignity and honor of the name we are giving to your stadium.”

Chancellor Meadors offered thanks to “an incredible family.”

“It is an honor to recognize this wonderful gift and to give our stadium the name of Grace P. Johnson,” Chancellor Meadors said. “We are a University of opportunity, and, Mr. Johnson, you are a symbol of what we strive for.

“We will always make sure this stadium represents your name with dignity and honor,” he said.

The stadium, which seats more than 4,000, is located in the Irwin Belk Athletic Complex. ■

UNCP upsets Davidson College for 'biggest win ever'

UNCP held visiting Davidson to 47 yards rushing on 23 carries and scored 21 unanswered points to celebrate the first night football game in history.

The Braves won 21-9 over the Division I Wildcats Saturday evening in Grace P. Johnson Stadium, which was dedicated before the game. Coach Pete Shinnick called it the "biggest game in our history."

Rashon Kennedy rushed 18 times for 105 yards to register his fifth career 100-yard rushing game, and quarterback Garrett Sutphen came off the bench and connected on 10-of-12 passes for 75 yards and a key second quarter scoring drive. Running backs Brandon McLaurin and Keith Gore and wide receiver Jamal Williams provided the scoring for the Braves.

"I am very proud of our guys to be down and then fight back the way they did," said head coach Pete Shinnick. "Our defense could have easily felt sorry for themselves after that first touchdown, but they didn't and they came back and fought hard. The two turnovers in the second half were just crucial.

"Davidson is one of the better-coached teams that we play," he said. "It always seems like whatever we do, they have an answer. So, we were trying to do everything we could to stay one step ahead of them."

The Braves got a pair of sacks from Spencer Littlejohn and one each from both Morris McLaughlin and Dewayne James en route to seven tackles for losses. Laurinburg native Adam Deese, Caylon Hann and Pembroke native Justin Bullard had interceptions for the Black and Gold.

The Wildcats were held to just 125 total yards in the second half after a productive first half that saw the visitors score all nine of their points. Davidson quarterback Ryan Alexander completed 28-of-38 passes for 237 yards but threw three costly interceptions.

"They (UNCP) have come a long way in just one year," said Davidson head coach Tripp Merritt following the game.

"They are as athletic as anyone in our conference. Their staff has done a tremendous job and have taken this program to the next step already."



Alexander completed 10-of-11 passes for 93 yards in the first quarter alone, and Davidson took advantage of an interception at their own one-yard line to give the visitors their first points of the game.

Kennedy fumbled on the first play of the next possession for the Braves and the Wildcats, again, took advantage of the outstanding field position, culminating a 9-play, 40-yard drive with a 47-yard field goal by Ben Behrendt that pushed the lead out to 9-0 with 4:12 left to play before the break.

Davidson drove deep into UNCP territory on its next possession, but Bullard intercepted Alexander at the 8-yard line and the Braves responded with a 17-play, 92-yard drive that was capped by Sutphen's 3-yard pass to Gore. Williams' touchdown run in the third quarter, and Smith's 10-yard pass to McLaurin in the final period finished the night's scoring. ■



Football wins 43-8

Homecoming 2008 launched several new traditions

On Saturday, October 19, the University's football team won its fifth straight game of the season and second Homecoming contest in two tries.

A record crowd of 4,334 jammed into Grace P. Johnson Stadium to see the Braves run its record to 7-1 with a 43-8 thrashing of Edward Waters. In the University's second year of football, there were many new traditions established during Homecoming weekend 2008.

The huge crowd staged its first-ever "Back in Black" with virtually the entire stadium in black attire or body paint.

The Class of 1958 became the first to hold its 50th reunion during a football game. A close-knit group, the class contributed \$2,800 to the University's growing Golden Scholarship Endowment Fund.

The Homecoming Parade, the largest ever, was staged on Saturday morning and ended at the Irwin Belk Athletic Complex



HOMECOMING ROYALTY - Trevor Kimball and Yasmine Diaz, both juniors, were crowned at halftime.

In what is becoming a popular Homecoming tradition, The Commodores rocked a crowd of 1,500 during a Friday night blow-out concert.

All UNCP athletic teams were on display, including the Braves basketball team in its annual Black and Gold game with new coach Ben Miller at the helm.

On Friday, the nationally-ranked women's soccer team defeated North Georgia 1-0 in an overtime thriller, and the men lost 2-1. The volleyball team lost 3-1 to Lander University at English E. Jones Athletic Center.

The athletic Homecoming 2008 motto was Legends Never Die, and baseball and soccer alumni and the reunion of the 1978 national champion cross country team solidified the theme. David Lewis of St. Pauls, N.C., did the cooking for the cross country legends.

"I got here at 8:30 this morning to start cooking," Lewis said. "This is our 30th reunion, and I'm expecting a great turnout from that team."

FOOTBALL GOES 7-1

The Braves guaranteed their first winning season in modern football history last week, and the talk this week was about a bid to the NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament. The win against Edward Waters avenged last season's 31-28 loss.

UNCP allowed the visiting Tigers just 75 yards in the first half and took a 30-0 lead into intermission.

The Braves got their fifth-straight victory in explosive style, racking up a record-breaking 488 yards of total offense, including 308 through the air. Edward Waters (2-5) managed just 124 yards on the day and were hampered by an ineffective running game that lost 26 yards on 26 carries in the game.

Five-foot six, freshman sensation Jamal Williams hauled in eight passes for a school record 153 yards and a touchdown, while rushing twice for 23 yards and a touchdown.

Cory Smith threw for 169 yards on 11-of-16 passing and Rashon Kennedy inched closer to the 1,000 career rushing yard mark with 78 yards on 11 carries.

The Braves defense had 12 tackles for loss, including five sacks. Caylon Hann led the team with six tackles, including five solo stops and two tackles for loss. Morris McLaughlin had 1 1/2 sacks, and Adam Deese had three tackles and an interception.

"We are very excited to be 7-1 right now, and we are very excited to be 3-0 at home," said head coach Pete Shinnick. "I thought that was as good a first half I have seen us play since we started this program.

"(Edward Waters) averaged six yards a carry against us last year and to hold them to minus 26 yards is outstanding for our defense," Shinnick said. "We're not done yet."

UNCP scored on five of seven first-half possessions and needed less than three minutes to score on each one of them. The Braves drove six plays and 50 yards in two minutes and 57 seconds on the opening drive of the game. A six-yard pass from Smith to Keith Gore started the rout.

Jamal Williams scored the fourth touchdown of the half for the Braves with 81 seconds left to play, and Rangel Moore snagged two more points for the host when he blocked a punt attempt inside the 10 and the ball rolled out of the back of the end zone.

Edward Waters drove 60 yards in 12 plays at the end of the third quarter and the first part of the fourth period to put its only points on the board, but the Braves answered with a seven-play, 71-yard drive on the ensuing possession to quell any momentum and cap the scoring for the day.

COOKIN' GOOD TIME

Large gatherings of tailgaters flooded the parking lots with the smell of cooking ribs, chicken, hot dogs and barbecue. The resurgent PIKE alumni chapter was there for the second year with more than 100 participants and 15 potential pledges.

"We're excited about getting our charter back on campus," said Gerry Domenick '74, who was the first PIKE president in



GLORIOUS FOOD - Pam Sanders, mother of football player Jake Sanders, shows off the winning entry in the Anything Goes Cook-off.

campus history.

Domenick, who traveled from Pennsylvania, toured campus on Friday with brothers Terry Reavis '73, who traveled from Florida, and Fulton Smith '72 from Red Springs, N.C.

"We're pretty excited about this weekend," Smith said. "We are proud of this football team."

Many other fraternities and sororities, including Sigma Sigma Sigma, tailgated with alumni and

current Greeks. Liza Babirak '91 of Fayetteville, N.C., ran from the parking lot to invite current "Tri-Sigs," who were in the parade.

"We are doing a 20-year sorority reunion with 60-70 of our best friends," Babirak said. "Football is what brought us together."

Some Greeks like Carlos Berdecia came a long way for their first Homecoming football experience.

"I live in Oklahoma where I am a pilot evaluator with the Air Force," Berdecia said. "I've been following the football team, but this is my first chance to see them. It's exciting."

Judges in the Native Angels Braves Club Room weighed the tailgate menu carefully. Alumni President Jason Bentzler '96 of Wilmington, N.C., was one of six judges.

"This is a tough assignment, but I am taking one for the team," Bentzler said. "My best advice for next year's cooks is more spice!"

Pembroke Pointe apartments donated three stainless steel grills as prizes to winners.

50th REUNION

Members of the Class of 1958 occupy a pivotal place in the University's 121-year history.

Maitland Woodell Grove, who came from Florida to attend, said her mother graduated from Pembroke State College in 1954 as part of the last all-Indian class, and she started school in 1955 as part of the newly integrated school.

Grove's family owned property where Varsity Field is presently located. Mary Alice Teets was born on campus and her family owned the land that is now occupied by Grace Stadium. She spoke for the class.

"We are excited to be the first class to take part in a football Homecoming," Teets said. "We are so proud of this University."

Dr. Gilbert Sampson, who retired in 2002 as chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, said 1958 was a significant moment in local history.

"The year the Lumbees ran the Klan out of the county was part of our senior year," Dr. Sampson said. "I've seen five chancellors here, but I am enjoying retirement the best of all." ■



PIKES - Pi Kappa Alpha Alumni Chapter was out in force with potential pledges. About 100 attended their tailgate reunion.

Native American Resource Center Re-Opens



1800's Lumbee Cabin

The Native American Resource Center is pleased to announce its grand re-opening! A celebration of the re-opening took place on June 19 in the Center.

During most of the spring semester, the center was closed for remodeling and reconstruction. The re-opened center

boasts a new and much nicer ceiling, a new and improved track lighting system, several new exhibit cases, and two new interactive computer displays where visitors may view video productions.

The center re-opened with three new exhibits. The first is a photographic exhibit entitled "Recollections: Lumbee Heritage," which features a pre-1945 photographic overview of Lumbee family and community life combined with pictures of the same subjects made in 1994 by Lumbee photographer Dr. David Oxendine. Separated by at least 50 years, these two groups of photographs illustrate the rich and continuous traditions that are the legacy of the Lumbee people.

The second is a permanent exhibit about the history of the University titled "A Tradition of Learning." This exhibit features photographs, documents and artifacts from the 121-year history of the institution, from Indian Normal School to regional University.

The third is another permanent exhibit, "History of the Lumbee Community." This exhibit allows visitors to walk through time from the earliest documented prehistoric artifacts through the 19th century. Both these permanent exhibits include descriptive text panels that provide an overview of the exhibit material.

Plan to visit the Museum of the Native American Resource Center in Old Main when you next visit campus! The museum is



Exhibit area with 1000-year-old canoe



Museum Gift Shop

open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (910)521-6282 or go online to www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum. ■



OBITUARY

Patricia Lankford died on Saturday, June 14. "Ms. Pat," as she was affectionately known throughout the University community, worked in Housing and Residence Life for 23 years as the resident administrator for Belk Hall before she retired in December 2004. In her 23 years as the Resident Manager for Belk Hall, Ms. Pat provided daily supervision, support and guidance to thousands of young women transitioning into college. ■

UNCP tests response against ‘active shooter’ in exercise

The University conducted a drill on October 10 to test its response to an “active shooter” on campus.

The simulation was staged during Fall Break to minimize confusion and involved state and local law enforcement, and fire and rescue personnel. UNCP Police Chief McDuffie Cummings served as the incident commander for the simulation that was conducted under the watchful eye of UNCP’s consulting company, EnviroSafe.

After an actor posing as a gunman entered O.R. Sampson Academic Building at 9:25 a.m. and shot three student-actors, Chief Cummings summoned first responders and Chancellor Meadors called his executive staff together to serve as a crisis management team in Lumbee Hall.

As a team of UNCP police swept the building, test emergency messages, including text, email, phone and Internet, bombarded campus. A hostage situation ensued, the campus was sealed and an incident command post and law enforcement staging areas were established.

EnviroSafe’s Chip Ferguson, who played the role of the shooter, said “live” drills like this one are the best way to prepare for an actual incident.

“First of all, it went real well today,” Ferguson said at a meeting afterwards. “I put them through a lot today, and I think everybody learned a lot.

“Doing this in real time is the best way,” he said.

The staged event followed Homeland Security and University goals, said EnviroSafe’s Kevin Dull, who led the post-event evaluation.

“It was evident that a lot of planning went into this,” Dull said. “I thought you had an excellent exercise. It was conducted professionally.”

David Holder, another EnviroSafe evaluator, said University police had a good day.

“Chief Cummings is to be commended for the way his department performed,” Holder said. “He conducted himself calmly and in a relaxed and natural manner.”

Speed in responding is paramount, Dull said, and “I understand you responded very quickly.” He also praised University administration, including psychologist Dr. Monica Osburn and counselor Mark Schwarz of the Counseling and Testing Center, for providing timely information about the shooter and hostages.

Responding to the call were Pembroke Police and Fire Departments, the Robeson County Sheriff’s Department and its SWAT team, North Carolina Highway Patrol and the State Bureau of Investigation, Pembroke Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Robeson County Rescue Squad.

University and Community Relations, led by Vice Chancellor Dr. Glen Burnette, Jr., coordinated the exercise.

“UNCP’s first-ever Active Shooter Exercise was a great success,” Dr. Burnette said. “Campus safety is a top priority at UNC Pembroke and exercises like this one help the University community prepare itself in the unlikely event of a similar crisis on its campus.”



Campus Police Chief McDuffie Cummings was incident commander for the exercise. Derrick Locklear and Ed Strickland look on.

Besides Dr. Burnette and Chancellor Meadors, the crisis management team consisted of Provost Dr. Charles Harrington, Neil Hawk, vice chancellor for Business Affairs, Dr. Diane Jones, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, Jackie Clark, vice chancellor for Enrollment Management, Joshua Malcolm, University attorney, and Bob Orr, associate vice chancellor for Information Technology.

Observers came from UNC General Administration, Fayetteville State University, UNC Wilmington and UNC Greensboro.

Emergency communications functioned smoothly including the “blue light” emergency telephone that alerted Campus Police of a shooter. Also employed was the CityWatch emergency campus telephone notification system and PIER (Public Information Emergency Response System), which posts messages to the Web, sends mass text, email and media alerts and powers a chat room for the response team.

The staged hostage stand-off, with student-actors portraying themselves and a faculty member, ended through negotiations after approximately four hours. ■



The SWAT team of the Robeson County Sheriff’s Department was on hand.

Faculty/Staff Mentions



Dr. Irene Aiken '93 was appointed associate dean for the School of Graduate Studies. A professor in the School of Education, she served as the chair of the Professional Studies, Middle Grades and Master of Arts in Teaching programs and served as the director for the Master of Arts in Education for Elementary Education. She joined the Education Department faculty in 1994 and served as director of the University's Teaching Fellows Program. Dr. Aiken earned a Bachelor of Arts in intermediate education with a mathematics concentration from UNC-Chapel Hill, a M.Ed. in elementary education from UNCP, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with a minor in sociology from UNC-Chapel Hill. She was the recipient of UNCP's Outstanding Teaching Award in 2002.

Patricia Bradley is UNCP's new assistant University counsel. She received an Army ROTC commission and graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. She also earned a law degree from Howard University while on active duty. She rose to the rank of Major while working with the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) and retired from the U.S. Army in 2007. Bradley received an LLM (Master's in Law) from the Judge Advocate General's School, specializing in contracts and fiscal law, and is pending certification from the Defense Acquisition University in level one contracts.



Dr. William "Rick" Crandall is co-author of the newly published book "New Methods of Competing in the Global Marketplace: Critical Success Factors from Service and Manufacturing" (2008, CRC Press). Co-written with his father, Dr. Richard E. Crandall, the book offers guideposts for success in the 21st century world of business and is aimed at practicing managers. At the School of Business, Dr. Crandall teaches courses in organizational leadership, human resources management and business policy. He earned a Ph.D. in business from the University of Memphis.



Dr. Angela Hausman joined the School of Business in late June as director of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. She also serves as assistant dean and associate professor of marketing. Dr. Hausman came to the University from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in international and electronic marketing, marketing strategy, entrepreneurship and industrial and service sector marketing. She earned a Bachelor of Science and MBA degrees at the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. from the University of South Florida.



Dr. Kathleen Hilton, who served as dean of the School of Graduate Studies for seven years, was named associate vice chancellor for academic planning and special projects on July 1. She works with academic deans and faculty on the development of new undergraduate and graduate programs and on accreditation of existing programs with international universities. Dr. Hilton is a member of the History Department faculty and was director of the Social Studies Education program. She won the University Teaching Award in 1998.



Sharon Kissick became UNCP's registrar in May. Her last appointment was a four-year stint as registrar for the University of Maryland University College in Heidelberg, Germany. While in Europe, Kissick earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from University of Maryland University College and a Master of Education in instructional leadership and Academic Curriculum from the University of Oklahoma.



Cammie Hunt-Oxendine '90, '97 was named acting dean of UNCP's School of Business. She joined the faculty in 1998 and is a senior lecturer teaching small business management and communications. She has served as assistant dean since 2004. She is working toward a Ph.D. in organization and management in the School of Business and Technology of Capella University. As faculty advisor for Students in Free Enterprise, Hunt-Oxendine led UNCP teams to national competition in seven of the last nine years. In 2005, she won a University Academic Advising Award.



Former University assistant counsel, **Joshua D. Malcolm** '92, was promoted to chief of staff/University attorney. An Air Force veteran and a graduate of North Carolina Central University School of Law, Malcolm is a licensed member of the North Carolina Bar. At NC Central, Malcolm was the first person to receive the Julian Pierce Scholarship, named for the late Robeson County civil rights leader.



William Price joined UNCP in April as director of student conduct in the Office of Student Affairs. A 12-year veteran of student life in higher education, he earned undergraduate degrees in English and mass communications at Frostburg State University. Also earning a Master of Education, Price is a member of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs, the American College Personnel Association and the Association of College and University Housing Officers - International.



Michael Severy is the new director of the Office of Student Life. He directs programs for students including Student Government Association, Association for Campus Entertainment and other clubs and organizations. His office plans Homecoming, Parents Weekend and the Distinguished Speaker Series among other events. Severy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing with a minor in psychology from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Arts degree in student development at Appalachian State University.



Dr. Sara Simmons was appointed acting dean for the School of Graduate Studies on July 1. She had been serving as the associate dean for accountability and outreach for the School of Education. Joining the University faculty in 1996, Dr. Simmons has taught over 20 different undergraduate and graduate courses. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education, a M.Ed. in guidance and counseling from UNC Greensboro, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Texas at Austin. She was the recipient of the UNCP Outstanding Teaching Award in 2005.



Dr. Shelby Stephenson's "Family Matters: Homage to July, the Slave Girl," a 60-page, poetic documentary on the slave trade, won the 2008 Bellday Poetry Prize. Dr. Stephenson is a professor in the English and Theatre Department, editor of *Pembroke Magazine*, a poet and musician.



Dr. Leah H. Fiorentino, new School of Education dean



Dr. Leah H. Fiorentino

Dr. Leah H. Fiorentino, a veteran educator and administrator, joined the University as dean of the School of Education. She comes to UNCP from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Ga., where she served as assistant and interim dean of the College of Education. She taught for 10 years in a K-12 setting and was a member of the faculty at Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y., for 17 years.

Dr. Fiorentino notes that the School of Education has an outstanding reputation in the state.

"I talked with a lot of people," she said. "Most impressive is the response I received from the local community, which makes our School of Education sound almost too good to be true. They are very impressed with UNCP and the high quality of the teachers we develop."

Before beginning her ascent up the ladder of higher education, Dr. Fiorentino was a certified K-12 physical education teacher.

She earned a Master of Arts degree from Adelphi University and Master and Doctor of Education degrees from Columbia University. Dr. Fiorentino joined the faculty at Adelphi University as supervisor

of student teaching and later served as director of clinical services, coordinator of teacher preparation and interim department chair.

"At UNCP, I have the opportunity to lead a well established and well regarded teacher education program," she said. "This has been a long-term career goal, and it is a great opportunity for me."

Dr. Fiorentino brings lengthy and varied experience to the School of Education. Besides administrative and teaching experiences, she has conducted research and is widely published on issues of integrating technology in the classroom and physical education curriculum and instruction.

Dr. Fiorentino worked on national and state accreditation matters, edited several professional journals, consulted on school technology issues and was awarded several grants, including almost \$1 million in AACTE-Microsoft Innovative Teachers Technology grants.

She won several awards for teaching and service to her university, community and professional associations.

Dr. Fiorentino is president-elect of the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education and a member of the Association Internationale Ecole Superieure de Education Physique, the American Education Research Association, Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Education Society, and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

Dr. Martin Slann named dean of Arts and Sciences



Dr. Martin Slann

Dr. Martin Slann joined the University in July as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. His most recent post was at Macon State University in Georgia, where he was associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

An expert on terrorism, Dr. Slann has authored and co-authored several textbooks and books, including five editions of "Violence and Terrorism" and four editions of "Introduction to Politics: Governments

and Nations in the New Millenium."

A department chair for many years who participated in university governance on many levels, Dr. Slann has directed a large federal program, co-directed the J. Strom Thurmond Institute Seminar for Social Studies Teachers and participated in the Model United Nations program for many years.

"First, I am a teacher and I will continue to teach as a member of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration," Dr. Slann said. "I enjoy teaching, research and administration. I've been very fortunate to have enjoyed every university where I've been."

Facilitating scholarship is a natural for Dr. Slann, who has experienced a full career that includes outstanding scholarship.

"I became interested in terrorism about 25 years ago because I could not believe people could do this," he said. "I am convinced there is genuine evil in the world and people who are committed to acting on evil."

His research led to five books and numerous other publications including an "Encyclopedia of Terrorism," co-authored with long-time collaborator, Dr. Cindy Combs, a faculty member at UNC-Charlotte.

Dr. Slann is a strong supporter of international education and his work with the Model United Nations underlines that ideal. He would facilitate the development of varied study abroad programs and campus international programs. He was director of Clemson University's Model United Nations and a faculty representative to the board of directors of the Southern Regional Model United Nations, which he co-founded.

"I'd like to develop a Model United Nations program here as a spin-off of the already successful Model Arab League," he said. "It exposes students to the mind set of other nations that they represent."

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Miami, Dr. Slann earned a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of Connecticut and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Georgia.

During his career, he earned awards for faculty advising and three awards for faculty excellence from Clemson. Dr. Slann participated in faculty governance as well as participating in university programs including accreditation, scholarship, grants, development, teacher education, international affairs and planning.

Dr. Slann has taught courses in international relations, comparative politics, political thought, U.S. and Russian politics, the Middle East and terrorism. He developed undergraduate and graduate courses on public policy, comparative politics and developing nations among others. ■

Academic journals bring prestige; UNCP is host to three

Consider the academic journal. These icons of scholarly endeavor do not see much light in public arenas, but remain an important measure of faculty scholarship and the institutions that claim them. The University is home to three journals.

With celebrated poet Dr. Shelby Stephenson as its long-running editor, *Pembroke Magazine* is a legend in the international literary world. It celebrated its 40th edition in 2008.

Pembroke Magazine No. 40 is a virtual celebration of its own vitality as it celebrated Hispanic and Latino (a) literature in a special section. While the magazine is known for publishing some of North Carolina's greatest writers – Robert Morgan, Jill McCorkle and Clyde Edgerton among them – it has devoted sections to American Indian and African American writers too.



Dr. Steve Marson

Dr. Steve Marson is something of an icon in the Social Work Department. An innovative teacher and thinker, he saw the need for a new journal in his profession and found the appropriate technology to produce it.

The first edition of the online *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics* was published in 2004. Readers say it fills a void in a gray area of their professional practice.

The first edition of the *International Journal of Sustainable Strategic Management* was published in 2008, simultaneously in the U.S. and China. It is the result of Dr. John Parnell's long association with the China University of Geosciences and its Humanity and Economic Management School.



Dr. John Parnell

Dr. Parnell, the William H. Belk Distinguished Professor of Management, said the journal has a unique, dual focus on the enhancement of strategic performance and the promotion of a sustainable environment. He and many of his colleagues here and around the globe are breaking new ground in the world's most dynamic national economy.

Pembroke Magazine editor Shelby Stephenson is an award winning poet and a fine front porch



Dr. Shelby Stephenson

musician. The Johnston County native edited his 29th "little book," as he calls literary journals. "It's a labor of love," he said. "I used to carry the manuscripts around in an A&P grocery bag."

Dr. Stephenson said the special section, more than 300 pages in length, fits nicely into the publication's history.

"Not long ago, you wouldn't read something like this, but *Pembroke Magazine* was doing this from the start," he said. "We are still going and still trying to give a show."

Look for Stephenson's "Family Matters: Homage to July, the Slave Girl" in book stores in late 2008. It has already won the Bellday Poetry Prize.

On the faculty since 1977, Dr. Marson has consistently forged beachheads in emerging areas of social work from geriatrics to pedagogy. The journal is a career highlight.

"Nothing makes me feel better than hearing people say the journal is important to their practice and teaching," he said.

"You can't believe how great I felt when it was published," he said. "Giving birth to this took three years and a lot of complex discussions with attorneys and publishers."

"Yes, it is important for a university to publish journals, but for me it has more to do with service to my profession," Dr. Marson said.

Dr. Marson said the journal is important to the University's mission and an important personal career milestone.

The Belk chair was established for an outstanding teacher and researcher. Dr. Parnell is extraordinarily widely published in business journals and his Curricula Vitae includes two books (one in Chinese).

"Teaching in China from 1997 – 2002, I formed personal relationships with scholars at this university that continued when I joined the faculty at UNCP," Dr. Parnell said. "In the fall of 2006, (IJSE Associate Editor) Dr. Rick Crandall and I taught a seminar on crisis management at China University of Geoscience; that's when we talked formally about a journal."

China's explosive economy has raised social and environmental issues, making the journal's mission timely.

"China presents a real challenge on these issues," he said.

"Their scientists and academics are becoming much more aware of the larger environmental issues." ■

UNCP's Journals:

- *Pembroke Magazine* • *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*
- *International Journal of Sustainable Strategic Management*

UNCP set high water mark for giving in 2007-08

For the first time in history, the University received more than \$5 million in gifts and pledges in a year, according to an announcement from the Office for Advancement.

The gifts came in all sizes from approximately 2,500 alumni and friends of the University during the 2007-08 fiscal year, including several substantial contributions that endowed scholarships and professorships and others, which improved the quality of academic, athletic and other campus programs.

Donors gave more than \$5.05 million in gifts and pledges, setting a fundraising record for the University. The previous high was \$4.2 million in 2005-06.

Programs that supported students, faculty and community outreach stood out during the year, said Sandy Waterkotte, vice chancellor for Advancement.

"First, let me say that everything we accomplish is thanks to the support of our alumni and friends," Waterkotte said.

"Our endowment, which supports student scholarships, is at an all-time high and is nearly three times what it was at the start of the decade.

"In the past few years, five endowed professorships have been created that will forever enhance scholarship and instruction at the University," she continued. "Athletic programs have also benefited."

In three years, UNCP has taken in more than \$13 million in gifts. Chancellor Meadors thanked donors large and small.

"The rising support of our University is sincerely appreciated," Chancellor Meadors said. "We celebrate our contributors who make large or small gifts. We value them all!"

"The mark of a strong university may be measured by the support of its various constituencies, including alumni, friends, and the community," he continued. "We will do everything we can to earn their continued support." ■

Giving highlights over three years include:

- The Esther G. Maynor estate contributed the largest gift in University history. The gift supports the Maynor Honors College, which nurtures some of UNCP's top undergraduate scholars.
- Jim Thomas, a Los Angeles based real estate developer and Pembroke native, established the Thomas Family Entrepreneurial Center and the Thomas Family Distinguished Professorship of Entrepreneurship. The center's mission is to stimulate economic development through support of entrepreneurship.
- The family of E. Marvin Johnson, a large agribusiness enterprise headquartered in Rose Hill, N.C., pledged \$1 million. UNCP's football stadium was dedicated this fall to honor Johnson's wife, the late Grace P. Johnson.
- A \$500,000 pledge from BB&T established an Endowed Professorship in the Philosophical Foundations of Free Enterprise in the School of Business.
- A \$250,000 gift from the C.D. Spangler Foundation was matched by a North Carolina General Assembly fund to establish the Joseph B. Oxendine Distinguished Professorship in the School of Education. The gift is part of a larger giving program from UNC President Emeritus Spangler and honors UNCP Chancellor Emeritus Dr. Oxendine.
- Robert L. and Anne S. Zucker of Raleigh, N.C., established a \$250,000 endowment as part of a charitable trust to perpetually fund a faculty position in the Nursing Department.
- Healthkeeperz, a Pembroke comprehensive home health care company owned by the Howard Brooks family, pledged \$250,000 to establish the Brenda B. Brooks Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Nursing.
- The total combined UNCP Endowment exceeded the \$10M mark for the first time in history.

To learn more about supporting your University, please call the Office for Advancement at (910) 521-6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu.

Foundation Board hears from UNC President Erskine Bowles

The UNCP Foundation Inc. Board of Directors held its first retreat on October 5 - 6 at the William Friday Center in Chapel Hill.

It was attended by 11 members including Chair Dr. Robin Cummings and Vice Chair Bobbie Ghaffar '93. Also attending were Chancellor Meadors, Neil Hawk, vice chancellor for Business Affairs, Sandy Waterkotte, vice chancellor for Advancement, and her staff.

Erskine Bowles, president of the 17-member UNC system, was the keynote speaker.

The impetus for this retreat came from Dr. Cummings who believes that a session such as this will "encourage our board members to be more effective University advocates and leaders."

"The board has been effective in guiding UNCP's investments for some time, and our goal is to sharpen our focus on fundraising," he said. "Coming together like this was our first step."

The retreat agenda included four parts:

- The role of Foundation board members presented by Cathy Hanby-Sikora, associate vice president for Advancement for UNC General Administration, with remarks the following day from President Bowles;
- An overview of planned giving and the possibilities it presents for major gifts presented by Wendell Staton, associate vice chancellor for major and planned gifts;

- A review of UNCP's Strategic Plan and response to UNC Tomorrow, presented by Dr. Beverly King, assistant vice chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness;

- Business meeting regarding projects and priorities for this Board in the coming year.

"Our hope is that this board left the retreat being able to articulate where the system and our University are headed, and gain an understanding of the goals that are outlined in UNC Tomorrow and reiterated in our Strategic Plan," Chancellor Meadors said. "Understanding the University's philosophy on the importance of this effort, as well as the importance of the fundraising process, will go a long way towards empowering this board."

Attending the retreat were: Dr. Cummings of Pinehurst, Ghaffar of Pembroke, Treasurer Dallas "Mac" Campbell '68 of Elizabethtown, Sammy Cox '76 of Lumberton, Mike Hardin '79 of Lumberton, Alvin Ivey of Lumberton, Darrell Johnson '69 of Wilmington, Jim Lowry of High Point, Cammie Hunt-Oxendine '90 (interim dean of the School of Business and faculty representative to the board) of Lumberton, and Richard "Dick" Taylor of Lumberton, who is a member of the UNCP Board of Trustees. ■

UNCP Faculty Development Fund

The Faculty Development Fund is a UNCP endowment established to support the professional development of faculty members. It provides financial support directed toward strengthening and broadening teaching, scholarship, and service; expanding disciplinary expertise; expanding academic horizons; stimulating exploration for new areas; and increasing faculty visibility in the academic community.

The UNCP Faculty Development Fund will be awarded to full or part-time faculty members of UNCP beginning fall 2009. A panel consisting of the full complement of sitting Academic Deans will award the Faculty Development Fund.

• Scholarship • Professional Development • Faculty Travel • Grant Programs

"The Faculty Development Fund was established specifically to provide additional resources to support faculty teaching, research, and engagement activities. The faculty is the University's single greatest resource, and I believe that it is imperative that we build an endowment that will ensure ongoing support for faculty development in the years to come."

Dr. Charles Harrington, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

UNCP faculty have donated an impressive \$24,218.

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the Faculty Development Fund may contact Alison DeCinti in the Advancement Office at 910-521-6515 or by email alison.decinti@uncp.edu.

Caring Touch Home Health Care announces two gifts

When it came to thanking the people who helped make Caring Touch Home Health Care one of the region's fastest growing and most successful businesses, CEO and President Donna Lowry listed family, staff, bankers, community and UNC Pembroke.

Lowry was at the University on August 18 to announce a \$65,000 gift to the First and Ten Campaign for Football and Athletic Excellence and \$10,000 for an endowed nursing scholarship.

Caring Touch Home Health Care, which has grown to more than 600 employees in a little more than three years, is the namesake of the reserved parking section next to the Grace P. Johnson Football Stadium.

"Many people have stood in the shadows and helped make our business successful," Lowry said. "UNCP also played an important role in our success."

When it was a start-up health care company, a team of Master of Business Administration (MBA) students consulted on marketing, technology and other critical elements of the business. The University's Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC) helped with a business plan.

"I'd like to thank Dr. Carmen Calabrese for his assistance," Lowry said of then MBA director and the current director of the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship. "His team enabled us to expand from about 100 employees in three counties to more than 600 employees in eight counties."

Lowry's husband, Charles, who said he gave up a "wonderful" federal job to help his wife's new business said, "I've got an awesome wife, and it's a beautiful day at UNCP!"

It is Caring Touch's second endowed scholarship at the University. In 2007, the Lowrys established their first \$10,000 endowed scholarship in the MBA program.

Chancellor Meadors said there are two important reasons to celebrate the gift.

"This gift is special because it comes from people who live in our community, our family," Chancellor Meadors said. "Second, we celebrate this gift because it supports our academic mission, and we are first and foremost an academic institution."

With the new football stadium looming in the distance, the announcement took place in the Dobbs Enterprises Lobby of the English E. Jones Athletic Center. Football Coach Pete Shinnick and Athletic Director Dan Kenney thanked Donna and Charles Lowry for supporting athletics here.

"As a start-up business, Caring Touch and our football program have a lot in common because it took a leap of faith for both to get here today," Kenney said. "On behalf of 400 student-athletes in 16 sports, thank you."

An old neighbor, Alicia Oxendine, lauded the Lowrys. "I've known Donna and Charles nearly all my life," said Oxendine, director of Collegiate Development. "These are outstanding people, outstanding for their business and their generosity."

For more information about giving at UNCP, please contact the Office for Advancement at (910)521-6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu. ■



Dedicated – From left: Pembroke Mayor and UNCP Trustee Milton Hunt, Chancellor Meadors, Donna and Charles Lowry of Caring Touch and Larry Chavis and Brian Maynor of Lumbee Guaranty Bank.

Mazda Foundation continues business scholarship program

The Mazda Foundation (USA), Inc., has reaffirmed its financial support of students in the School of Business.

On August 18, the automaker’s charitable arm announced the renewal of two four-year scholarships in the School of Business. As part of the Mazda Foundation’s ongoing diversity initiative, these scholarships mark Mazda’s third four-year commitment to UNCP’s American Indian students and are valued at \$50,000.

Ricky Usher, a graduate of Scotland High School in Scotland County, and Latoshua Oxendine, a graduate of Purnell Swett High School in Robeson County, were named the 2008-12 Mazda Scholars. Both will major in business.

Usher will be the first person in his family to attend college, and Oxendine has set her goal to become an accountant.

Barbara Nocera, director of government and public affairs for Mazda USA and program director for the Mazda Foundation, has welcomed all three groups of Mazda Scholars. She offered words of advice for the recipients.

“Remember, we didn’t give these scholarships to you, you earned them,” the Mazda executive said. “This is an exciting time for you, and I encourage you to take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities at this excellent University. I will look forward to hearing about your progress,” Nocera said.

Mazda Scholars have proved to be outstanding students, said Cammie Hunt-Oxendine, acting dean of the School of Business.

“Each of our Mazda Scholars has graduated and is working in an outstanding career in their chosen profession,” Hunt-Oxendine said. “This has been a rewarding relationship with the Mazda Foundation, and we thank them for continuing to believe in our students.”



From left: Barbara Nocera, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Mazda North American Operations; Ricky Usher, Mazda Scholar Recipient; Latoshua Oxendine, Mazda Scholar Recipient; and Tamara Mlynarczyk, Public Affairs Specialist, Mazda North American Operations.

Lumberton Mazda officials – General Manager Wayne Boyette and owner Carolyn Gaskins - were on hand. Also attending the meeting was former dealer Rick Williamson, a Lumberton native who helped usher in the first scholarships eight years ago.

“It is so gratifying to see this scholarship continue,” Williamson said. “It enables kids to go to college who might not otherwise get the opportunity.

“It makes me feel good to be a part of this ongoing success story,” he said.

Chancellor Meadors thanked the Mazda Foundation for its support of the local community and its young men and women.

“This is a great occasion, and we are truly, truly grateful to Mazda USA for eight years of support,” Chancellor Meadors said. “This is a valuable scholarship, and I know this year’s recipients will make us proud,” he continued. “Ricky and Latoshua are ready to make their mark, and I assure them that they will get a great education in our School of Business.”

Usher, who was accompanied by his parents, Ricky and Samantha, was a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the 2006 state championship baseball team at Scotland High School. The recipient of the Curtis Britt Award for Attitude, Character and Discipline, Usher worked two jobs this summer in preparation for college.

Oxendine was accompanied by her grandmother, Christine Jones, and her father, Bobby. At Purnell Swett High School, she was a member of the Native American Student Association and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

The Mazda Foundation is committed to giving back in the communities where it does business. In addition to its support of UNCP, other recipients of Mazda Foundation grants include Children’s Community School, Clemson University’s International Center for Automotive Research, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Orange County, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, The New Detroit Science Center, Reading is Fundamental, Second Harvest Food Bank, Shoes That Fit, Start the Adventure in Reading, Student Conservation Association and Youth For Understanding. ■

Add Your Name

to the First and Ten Donor Wall
at the UNCP Football Stadium,
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Al Parnell is memorialized with a scholarship at UNCP

Friends and colleagues of Al Parnell Jr. met with family members on July 17 at the University to work out details establishing the Al Parnell Endowed Memorial Scholarship.

Parnell, who was a teacher in Robeson and Dillon county schools for 33 years, died on July 2, 2008. His family and friends believe that a scholarship to benefit young men and women is a fitting tribute to a man who devoted his life to teaching.

Glenna Hicks, a fellow social studies teacher at Purnell Swett High School, said Parnell was an exemplary teacher and human being. She is helping to organize fund raising activities for the scholarship.

"It is difficult to describe the positive feelings people had for Al and what a good person he was," Hicks said. "Ray Oxendine asked me to join him in establishing an endowed memorial scholarship in Al's name at UNC Pembroke.

"I knew immediately that would be Al's preference," she continued. "It is a way to perpetuate the good that Al did in his 56 years. Al's goodness, his way of life and legacy, will be continued in this scholarship."

Oxendine was principal of West Robeson/Purnell Swett High School during a portion of Parnell's 29-year tenure there. He said Parnell's death is an "unbelievable loss."

"He touched so many people," Oxendine said. "I didn't know Al Parnell when I came to West Robeson, but I quickly learned he was the teacher everybody looked up to, both students and faculty.

"Al Parnell was a leader of the faculty, in student government, athletics, cadet teaching corps, Project Graduation and school concessions too," Oxendine said. "He was involved in everything."

Chancellor Meadors said the University is proud to have Al Parnell Jr. as an alumnus.

"This is a great loss for his family and the community," Chancellor Meadors said. "He was an outstanding educator and individual. It is an honor to play even a small part in memorializing his life."

Numerous contributions toward the scholarship were received during a memorial service in Pembroke on July 10. A golf tournament, a bike run and a special offering at area churches on August 24 were planned.

A booth at the Robeson County Fair served as a collection point for the scholarship. "The fair was special to Al," his wife, Becky, said.

"He was a past president, and he loved the fair," Becky Parnell said. "He was also very involved with his church, Beulah Baptist Church, as a deacon, Sunday school superintendent and teacher."

Parnell started the tennis program at Pembroke Senior High School and continued as boys and girls coach as the school merged to become West Robeson and later Purnell Swett High School. He also advised the student government at the large school and continued in that role at Dillon (S.C.) High School, where he taught for four years.

This May, Parnell continued a long association as a volunteer with Project Graduation, an event that hosts county high school graduates on UNCP's campus.



From left: Glenna Hicks, Stephanie Parnell, Becky Parnell, Chancellor Meadors and Ray Oxendine

Parnell was a Lumberton Senior High School graduate and a 1974 UNCP graduate. Becky Parnell is also from Lumberton and a 1976 UNCP graduate. Al Parnell is also survived by a daughter, Stephanie.

Hicks summed up: "Al Parnell was a giver of himself. He never sought honors, credit or recognition. Al just worked, taught and smiled." ■

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The late Anne Reynolds Belk honored with endowment

The late Anne Reynolds Belk of Charlotte will be remembered with an endowed professorship in the Nursing Department at the University, creating a \$1 million endowment.

The announcement was made on August 4 by the Office for Advancement. Belk passed away on August 2, 2008, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

The gift of the Anne Reynolds Belk Endowed Professorship in Nursing was made through Irwin Belk, one of North Carolina's foremost business leaders and philanthropists. Anne Reynolds Belk was married to Carl Grotnes Belk, Irwin Belk's son.

The gift is for \$250,000, and UNCP will apply for matching funds from the C. D. Spangler Foundation and the North Carolina General Assembly's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. Ultimately, the gift will result in a \$1 million endowment to assist in funding a faculty position in the Nursing Department.

"We are saddened to hear of the loss of Anne Reynolds Belk," said Chancellor Meadors. "We extend our condolences to the family who have deep connections to our community."



Irwin Belk

"Irwin Belk and the Belk family are truly great friends of North Carolina and our University, and we thank them," he said.

At UNCP, the Belk name is on the Mary Irwin Belk Residence Hall, the William H. Belk Endowed Chair of Business Management and the Irwin Belk Track and Field Complex.

Anne Reynolds Belk grew up in Lumberton and is survived by her mother, Patricia Reynolds Sharpe, and two children, Patricia and David. She was preceded in death by her stepfather, Albert M. Sharpe, who was a member of the family who owned *The Robesonian* newspaper in Lumberton.

Anne Reynolds Belk attended UNC-Chapel Hill and worked as a Certified Public Accountant for a major accounting firm in Charlotte.

Belk was actively involved in the Charlotte community. She served as vice president of finance and treasurer of the Junior League of Charlotte. She was a member of the Board of Directors for the Charlotte Latin School.

The Anne R. Belk Theater in the Performing Arts Center at UNC-Charlotte was named in her honor. In May 2008, she was honored for her strength and faith when she received the Sarcoma Foundation of America Courage Award. ■

Training facility dedicated to Collins and Lowery families

With some of the University's most distinguished graduates, the Collins and Lowery families have left their mark on campus.

Recently, the families, who are joined by marriage and more, dedicated the Collins-Lowery Family Hydrotherapy Room in the English E. Jones Athletic Center. The facility is a key part of a state-of-the-art Athletic Training Program.

A gift to the First and Ten Campaign for Football and Athletic Excellence earned perpetual naming rights. Dr. Jeff Collins '72, long-time community dentist, said the choice of a treatment facility is a good one.

"We thought long and hard about what would be a good thing to put our names on, and a therapy room sounded appropriate for what we do," Dr. Collins said. "God has been good to our family and so has UNCP."

The families are literally immersed in the University's history. Dr. Collins wife, Sybil, is a 1976 graduate, their three children – Jessica '02, Tyler and Ben '08 – all attended UNCP and later went to UNC-Chapel Hill School of Dentistry. Jessica joined the family practice recently, Tyler finished dental school in May and Ben began this fall.

Dr. Collins' partner, Dr. Ronnie Lowery, is a 1988 graduate and is Sybil Collins' brother. Dr. Lowery said things have changed at his University.

"When I came here, it was a much smaller school," Dr. Lowery said. "I'm very proud to be affiliated with this University."

Sybil Collins served two terms on UNCP's Board of Trustees. Dr. Collins is one of five children to attend the University. He attended Howard University College of Dentistry.

"This is our way of saying thank you," he said. "We consider it a privilege to give back."



From left: Dr. Tyler Collins, Sybil Collins '76, Dr. Ronnie Lowery '88, Dr. Jeff Collins '72, and Dr. Jessica Collins Sampson '02.

Athletic Director Dan Kenney thanked the family and praised the University's athletic training facility.

"We're very proud of this family," Kenney said. "When Jessica played basketball here, she went to a very different training room."

"This facility makes a difference in the lives of our student-athletes as well as facilitates the study in our Athletic Training Program," Kenney said. "It compares favorably to the facilities that serve professional sports teams."

Football coach Pete Shinnick joked that his team uses the facility more than he would like.

"This room is very important to us for treating injuries," Shinnick said. "It's also a great recruiting tool. Everyone we bring in here is amazed."

"This community has rallied around our athletic program," the second year coach continued. "We're very thankful for the support of people like them." ■

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CLASS NOTES and CHAPTER NEWS

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Office of Alumni Relations
P.O. Box 1510

Pembroke, N.C. 28372-1510

tel: 1-800-949-UNCP or

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email: alumni@uncp.edu

web: www.uncp.edu/alumni

alumni

Greetings, Alumni



Throughout the past two years, I have been impressed with the amazing growth and outstanding accomplishments of UNCP, and that is why I have emphasized the importance of your support, both personally and financially. Here are some of the things that have been made possible through your help.

First, the University raised over \$5 million in FY08, the most ever in a single year. While this includes a lot of support from local business, it is also a direct reflection of your willingness as alumni to support the University, and we hope you'll continue that support.

Second, enrollment is more than 6,000. This is a great indicator that the University continues to grow in popularity throughout the region, and that students want to be a part of the UNCP personal touch. Finally, *Princeton Review* named UNCP one of its "2009 Best Colleges: Region by Region" in the southeastern region. Thank you for your show of pride and for helping UNCP to achieve its goals by expanding its leadership in education, the workplace, and in the community.

Homecoming this year was amazing. Pre-game festivities were fantastic, from the food and tailgating, to all of you who took the time to stop by the alumni tent and say hello. It was great to see lots of familiar faces. We had record attendance. The standing room only crowd showed amazing enthusiasm and provided an electric atmosphere all game long. On behalf of all alumni, I would like to extend congratulations to the Braves football team on a memorable season. We are proud of their success and the effort they put forth both on and off the field.

In closing, I want to remind all of you that our Alumni Awards Banquet will once again be held in the spring. We encourage you to nominate any alumnus(ae) you feel are deserving of an award. For more information regarding alumni awards or to nominate someone, go to www.uncp.edu/alumni/awards/.

In Black and Gold,

Jason S. Bentzler

Coach Ron Miller, UNCP Grad and Hall of Famer, dies



Hall of Famer Ron Miller

The UNCP community lost a loyal friend and supporter on July 27 when Ron Miller '63 passed away at his Hope Mills home. He was 68. The family has asked that donations be made to the newly created Ron Miller Scholarship at the UNCP Foundation, Inc.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Miller played basketball at UNCP and over his 37 years of coaching high school basketball became one of North Carolina's most successful prep coaches.

When coach Miller retired, he was recognized as the winningest active coach in the history of the state. He won more than 640 games during his more than three decades of high school coaching, including 613 wins at South View High School in Hope Mills. In 1993, he led the South View Tigers to a state championship. The school later named its gym after him.

UNCP Hall Of Famer

A member of the Fayetteville Sports Club Hall of Fame, Miller was inducted into the UNCP Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. On the evening of his induction ceremony, Miller charmed and entertained the audience with stories about his undergraduate days in Pembroke. Miller revealed that he came to school virtually without a nickel in his pocket and slept in his car.

Offered an interview for his first teaching job after graduation, Miller told the HOF audience he had to borrow \$5 for gas from University President English E. Jones.

"Where else but Pembroke could you go to the president of the school and borrow \$5?" he said. "When I think about it, it blows my mind. I'm so proud of this place. In my mind, I will always be a Brave."

Throughout the years, Miller continued his support of UNCP initiatives such as the First and Ten Campaign for Football and Athletic Excellence. Athletic Director Dan Kenney called Miller an "icon" and offered this tribute:

"At UNCP, we promise new students they will come to a place 'Where Learning Gets Personal,' but to measure if that promise is working, you have to look to your graduates. If you looked at Ron Miller you knew the promise was working."

Coaching and much more

"Ron was quick with an opinion on a variety of subjects. He enjoyed engaging in conversation with everyone he encountered each day. He was the same whether it was about learning, how to play basketball or just the topic of the day. Ron Miller took his Pembroke experience and applied it to every aspect of his life. He greatly valued his family, his players and students he taught. He was obsessive about the game of basketball and earned respect from his peers as a great coach. He loved everything about Pembroke — the university, the people and the community. Ron Miller loved the way the Pembroke people, especially the Lumbees, treated him.

"He held those Pembroke friendships in high regard. If you were around coach Miller, he was going to make you feel special. UNCP is proud to call him a graduate, proud to call him a former athlete, proud to have him in our Hall of Fame. But most importantly, we are proud to have witnessed how he lived his life: helping people learn while being personally involved in their lives. Ron Miller cared and he left us all better people for knowing him." ■

The Legacy Bench Campaign

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

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

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



'Don't hold back,' Jimmy Autry advises students

Jimmy Autry '77 came home to his alma mater to tour the campus and for several speaking engagements.

"I have not been to campus in 15 years," he said.

Autry has been busy since graduation with a succession of successful jobs, at *The Robesonian*, Southern National Bank, Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative, Electricities, the North Carolina EMC, Carroll EMC and more. Today, he is senior vice president for member services at Flint Energies in Macon, Ga.

Jimmy and wife Judy became grandparents this spring when Lillie was born to daughter, Shelley, in Charlotte, N.C.

After speaking to two public relations classes in Old Main, Autry delivered the keynote address for the Department of Mass Communications Annual Awards Luncheon. With about 200 majors, the audience was large and listening.

"I grew up about 10 miles up the road," Autry said. "It turned out fine."

Autry was student sports information director and editor of the *Pine Needle* at UNCP. Before that, he was a sports stringer at the *Red Springs Citizen* in his hometown.

Autry is still writing and recently helped his father, Samuel Jackson Autry, publish "Echoes of Mill Prong," a collection of stories about growing up in rural North Carolina.

A lifetime fellow of the Public Relations Society of America, Autry had some words of advice for students.

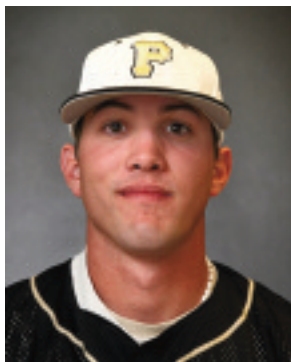
"Never allow limitations to stand in your way," he said. "If the world can open up to me, you can be whatever you want.

"You're at a great place," Autry continued. "Don't hold back." ■



From left: Alumni Relations Director James Bass and Jimmy Autry

Jason Morales caps a great career by being drafted into pro baseball



Four-year standout Jason Morales was selected in the 24th round of the annual draft by the Kansas City Royals. The infielder finished his career with nearly every career batting record.

Besides being a first team all-Peach Belt selection, Morales was named an honorable mention all-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and an all-region Daktronics pick.

A Fayetteville, N.C., native who finished his collegiate career in May, Morales was named a Rawlings second team all-American by the American Baseball Coaches Association and followed it up by being named to the all-state team by the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association.

"He was a four-year starter for us," head baseball Coach Paul O'Neil said. "He was an outstanding player and, more importantly, an outstanding person."

Morales was a Braves iron man who started all 56 games in the 2008 season. In his senior season, he led the team in nine offensive statistical categories, including establishing new single-season records for at-bats (230), hits (85), home runs (15), runs batted in (78) and total bases (150).

Morales twice had 11-game hitting streaks and tallied his third, fourth and fifth career multi-home run games in 2008, including registering a trio of three-run homers against St. Andrews College.

"He rewrote the record book here," O'Neil said. "Combine outstanding talent with extremely high character and you get a lot of records."

A .354 hitter over four seasons in Pembroke, Morales holds career records for hits, doubles, triples, home runs, runs batted in, intentional walks, slugging percentage, runs scored and total bases. He compiled 92 multiple-hit games and 57 multiple-RBI games during his career.

In his first professional year, Morales played third base for the Burlington (N.C.) Royals in the Appalachian League, an advanced rookie-class minor league. ■

Class Notes

alumni notes

'08 ■ **Emily Howden** is a veterinary student in the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine. She resides in Angier. ■ **Jason J. King** is a compliance examiner with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. He resides in Lumberton. ■ **Terry Maness** is a teacher with Montgomery County Schools. He resides in Mount Gilead.

'07 ■ **Misty Clark** is a second grade teacher with Moore County Schools. She resides in Robbins. ■ **Patrick Gleason** is a flight attendant for Mesa Airlines, working inter-island connection flights. He resides in Kauai, Hawaii. ■ **Charlotte Fairley Lloyd** is in her second year as an 8th grade language arts and social studies teacher at Spring Hill Middle School in Laurinburg, with plans to work on a graduate degree. She resides in Laurinburg. ■ **Rachel Loflin Maguire** married Chris Maguire on July 12. The couple resides in Ayden. ■ **Philip Oxendine** and Whitney Beth Locklear are engaged. Whitney works at UNCP and is taking classes at the University. Philip works with the Public Schools of Robeson County. ■ **Matt Swift** is the athletic director for the City of Lexington.

'06 ■ **Amanda Arial** was accepted to the University of Oklahoma, where she will work on dual master's degrees in international relations and human relations. ■ **Carrie Pierce Brock** is a seventh grade social studies teacher with Harnett County Schools. She resides in Lillington. ■ **Denise Busbin** began attending Methodist University's Physician Assistant Program this fall. ■ **Candace M. Deese Dial** was married in January. She is employed by the Robeson County Department of Social Services as a social worker III. ■ **Ron Emanuel** passed the Certified Public Accountant exam for North Carolina and is working on a Master of Business Administration degree at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is employed as an auditor of public accounts for the State of Virginia. He resides in Richmond, Va. ■ **Ashley Grier** married Tray Martin on September 13. They reside in Fairmont. ■ **Daniel Henry** began work on a MBA degree in advertising at the University of Texas at Austin this fall. ■ **Beth Florita Lowery** and Vernanda "Vee" Oxendine were married March 1. Beth is employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County. The couple resides in Pembroke. ■ **Lee Nejberger** works for Michelin North America, Inc., as an area sales manager. He is engaged to be married on April 18, 2009. He resides in Arlington Heights, Ill. ■ **Alex Prevatte** and his wife, Erin, announced the birth of their daughter, Shea Marie, on March 29.

■ **Tanya Brooks Velazquez** is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton. ■ **Tiffany Wright** is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Pembroke.

'05 ■ **Tonya Carter Chavis** is a career technical education teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton. ■ **LaCinda Ellison** is a case manager with Enriched Living, LLC. She is also a motor transportation operator in the U.S. Army Reserves. She is working on a master's degree in human services and executive leadership. LaCinda resides in Greenville. ■ **Shalynn Evans** is a clerk with the U.S. Army. She resides in Ft. Richardson, Alaska. ■ **Abigail Hoffmann** is a teacher at South Davidson High in Davidson County. She resides in Lexington. ■ **Tiffany Locklear** is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County and resides in Lumberton. ■ **Jennifer Smith Lund** announced the birth of her daughter, Addyson Mackenzie, on March 5. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 inches. ■ **Rhonda Merritt Quador** is the eastern field coordinator for Larry Kissell, U.S. Congressional candidate in the N.C. 8th District. She is married to U.S. Army Sgt. Jeremy Quador, and they have two daughters, Katelyn, six, and Peyton, one. The family resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Ciji Brooks Sampson** is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She and her husband, Larry Roderick, reside in Rowland. ■ **Neely Sullivan** is a teacher with Richmond County Schools and resides in Rockingham.

'04 ■ **Lodie R. Ammons** is a probation/parole officer with the Division of Community Corrections in Duplin County. He resides in Warsaw. ■ **Deanna Ruth Bullard** married Jerry Bridges on April 26. She is employed with Falcon Children's Home, and the couple resides in Falcon. ■ **Anna Lucas Dill** started her own business, Step by Step Wellness, which helps clients create a healthy lifestyle through nutrition and exercise. She also works at AstraZeneca's corporate fitness center as a fitness specialist. She resides in Delaware with her husband and stepson. ■ **Steven Hendrix** graduated from North Central University in Prescott Valley, Ariz., in May with a Ph.D. in psychology and specialization in behavioral medicine/health psychology. He holds private counseling licenses and is a professor of psychology at James Sprunt Community College. He resides in Castle Hayne. ■ **Brent Martin** is the first head soccer coach at St. Pauls High School, where he teaches biology. ■ **Chris Nicolini** is an

executive producer with WNCN NBC-17. He resides in Cary. ■ **Anthony John Staples** married Anna Kristyn McMillan on April 12. He is employed with Frito-Lay. The couple resides in Hope Mills.

'03 ■ **Kimberly Ann Bullock** and Christopher Ray Lupo were married on April 12. She is employed with Metrics, Inc. The couple resides in Greenville. ■ **Charles Chavis** is a dispatcher with UNCP's Campus Police and Public Safety Department. He resides in Lumberton. ■ **Mary Ann Evans** resigned from UNCP as a residential administrator in Student Housing and Residence Life in May to care for her parents. She has enrolled in a local carpentry class to learn skills for repairing her parents' home. She resides in Hamlet. ■ **Carlton Gainey** is a seed dealer and operations manager with Gainey Grain. He resides in Wagram. ■ **Rennie Harrington-Jones** is a social studies teacher at Perquimans County High School. ■ **Stephen Hester** and his wife, Alexia, announced the birth of their daughter, Brenna Nichole, on February 14. ■ **Ashleigh Tennille Johnson** and Eric Glenn Freeman Jr. were married May 24. She is employed with McLeod Regional Medical Center. The couple resides in Florence, S.C. ■ **Chad Melton** is an intern with Genesis Marketing Partners, Inc. He resides in Raleigh. ■ **Rebecca Rice** resides in Millington, Md. She holds a master's degree in science education with a concentration in biology, and began teaching middle school this fall. ■ **Areda Rogers** is a teacher with Bladen County Schools. She resides in Clarkton. ■ **Jamie Parker Talton** announced the birth of her daughter, Calleigh Grace, on July 2, 2007. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in December 2007.

'02 ■ **Jason Corey Deese** and Autumn Faith Lowery are engaged. He is employed with Tailors Pharmaceutical Company in Clayton. ■ **Charlotte Mitchell** is a teacher at Magnolia School in Lumberton. She is also working on a master's degree in technology through Lesley University. Charlotte has three sons, Jaron, Chandler and Keaton. She and her family reside at Lake Waccamaw. ■ **Tonya Tenile Oxendine** married Dustin Carter Hunt on June 14. She is employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County and resides in Lumberton. ■ **Sabrina Renee Pickens** and Darren Cole Deese are engaged. She is employed with the Social Security Administration and resides in Pembroke. ■ **Jamie Prevatte** was promoted to manager of BB&T's Centralized Collections Department. She resides in Lumberton.

Class Notes

■ **Jody Lee Thomas** graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Master's in Social Work.

■ **Amie Marie Ward** and Randall Fleming Graham were married on May 17. She is employed with UNCP in the Office of Admissions. The couple resides in Raleigh.

'01 ■ **Daniel Lee Britt '01, '07** received his Master of Public Administration degree in May 2007. He is a teacher at Shallotte Middle School and resides in Ocean Isle Beach. ■ **SunSarae Locklear Harrell** is an educational talent search counselor with the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program, counseling potential first generation college students in grades 6-12. She resides in Greensboro with her husband Steven.

'00 ■ **Luciana Hammonds** received a degree in chemistry from UNCP in December 2007. She has been accepted into graduate school at Saint Joseph College to work toward a Master's of Science degree in biology. Luciana works in the Office of Residence Life at UNCP.

■ **Tabitha (Stooksbury) Kidd** gave birth to a son, Brandon Gordon, July 3. He weighed 8 lbs., 8 oz. and was 21 inches. She has a second son named Austin. She and her family reside in Fort Benning, Ga. ■ **Lee Edward Sampson Jr.** is an eight-year member of the N.C. Highway Patrol. He is stationed in Richmond County. ■ **Nicole Strickland** is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton. ■ **Rob Tew** is a regional manager with Pate Dawson Company, serving Hoke, Cumberland, Robeson, Richmond and Scotland counties.

'99 ■ **Debbie Locklear** is an 18-year employee at Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation. She opened her own Native American sterling silver and costume jewelry company, Unique Expressions, in April 2007. Debbie has three children, Joshuan, who attends UNCP, Ariel, and Kearston. Her husband, Jeff, works with the Fayetteville Police Department as a homicide detective. ■ **Jennifer Metzger** is a social worker with Anne Grady Center. She resides in Waterville, Ohio. ■ **Connie McBryde Roper** graduated from Averitt University in May with her Master's in Education in curriculum and instruction. She teaches at Woodside High School. She resides in Newport News, Va., with her son, Kelly. She is the mother of three children: Rodney, 28, Mia, 26, and Kelly, 16,

and is a grandmother of two, Ajaycia, five, and Ariana, three. ■ **Traci Williams**

gave birth to a daughter, Emily Marie (Emma), on February 12. She was 9 lbs., 4 oz. and was 22 inches. Traci teaches English at Richmond County Schools' Ninth Grade Academy in Rockingham. Her husband, **Greg Williams '90**, is the football team's offensive coordinator and a history teacher at Richmond Senior High School. The couple also have another daughter, Abigail, three. They reside in Laurinburg.



'98 ■ **T. Kevin Crawford** was promoted to habitat restoration manager within the Endangered Species Branch on Fort Bragg.

■ **Stephanie Faulk McLaurin** and Joe LeGrande Collins were married May 3. She is employed by the Public Schools of Robeson County and Southeastern Regional Medical Center. The couple resides in Lumberton. ■ **Elarce Oxendine** has completed 10 years of service with the Public Schools of Robeson County. He teaches social studies (U.S. History) at Fairmont High School. ■ **Jennifer Posey Powell** is a clinical business office manager with Southern Regional Area Health Education Center. She resides in Autryville.

'97 ■ **Paul Bright** is a federal civilian employee, working as a security analyst at Travis Air Force Base in California. He and his family reside in Fairfield, Calif. ■ **Pamela Lowery** and Tracy Hunt were married on May 10. She is employed with the Robeson County Department of Social Services. The couple resides in Lumberton.

'96 ■ **Johnny Woodrow Ikner** is a child protective services investigator with the Pasquotank County Department of Social Services. He received his master's in divinity degree from Campbell University in chaplain/counseling and worked as a hospice chaplain for several years before taking on his duties as an investigator. He and his family reside in Hertford. ■ **Brett A. Locklear** is the director of the Office of Graduate Recruiting and Admissions at NC State University. He resides in Morrisville. ■ **Cara Tew Parnell** and her husband welcomed the birth of a son, Lachlan James, on March 5. He weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. They have another son, Will, who is six.

'95 ■ **Clayton Scot Alexander** is associate director of admissions at Greensboro College. He resides in Colfax. ■ **Clara Lassiter Bolton** and her husband, Msgt. Brian Bolton, welcomed their daughter, Catherine Anne, on February 20. Clara is an instructor at Fayetteville Technical Community College. She and her family reside in Fayetteville. ■ **Shari Parker Couturier** is a sixth grade reading teacher with Cumberland County Schools. She resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Larry L. Webb** received his doctorate from Nova Southeastern in February 2007. He was named principal of Eaton Johnson Middle School in Henderson, where he resides with his wife, Elaine, and daughter, Annabelle.

'94 ■ **Dr. Leah Jenkins McCallum '94, '97** received a doctorate in counselor education and supervision from the University of South Carolina on May 10. While pursuing doctoral studies, she earned several



honors, including Outstanding Doctoral Student in the Department of Educational Studies and the Cecil Scott Fellowship, which is given to graduate students who exhibit excellence in the areas of counseling, psychology and guidance. In addition, Leah presented at several regional and national conferences on issues related to counseling. Prior to doctoral studies, she was employed as a school counselor with Scotland County Schools, where she earned National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards in early childhood through young adulthood/school counseling. In addition to earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from UNCP, she also earned a master's degree from UNC Greensboro in 2004. The daughter of Franklin and Pattie Jenkins of Fairmont, she resides in Rowland with her husband, Stuart McCallum. ■ **Greg Kealey** and his wife, Annette, celebrated the birth of their third child, Will Colin, on July 9.

'93 ■ **Lisa McCoy** is an environmental health specialist team leader with Wake County Environmental Services. She resides in Willow Spring.

alumni notes

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alumni notes

Class Notes

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'92 ■ **Charlton Eric Pearson** is a 10-color pressman for Harperprints. He resides in Franklinton.

'90 ■ **David A Bracey Jr.** is a division planner with WestPoint Home. He resides in Laurinburg. ■ **Kelvin D. Oxendine** was promoted to human resources manager at Campbell Soup Supply Company in Maxton. He and his wife, Dinah Hunt, reside in Lumberton. ■ **Michael Polk** married Sandra M. Spears and moved to Texas from New Orleans, La., after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. ■ **Carrie Pridgen** works in the media department at Prince Georges County Public Schools. She resides in Hyattsville, Md.

'86 ■ **Angela Oxendine Locklear** is the wellness director for Robeson County.

'85 ■ **Dr. Polly Allen Elkins** earned her doctorate of educational leadership in July 2008 from South Carolina State University. She is assistant superintendent for administration at Dillon County Schools in Dillon, S.C.

'84 ■ **Kathryn Lynn Greene** is the chief financial officer at the Southern Regional Area Health Education Center. She resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Cassandra Lee Townsend** is the owner of Focus Resources LLC, a firm offering vocational assessment and rehabilitation planning, as well as counseling services. The company provides services in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee. She resides in Summerville, S.C. ■ **Delois Hines Williams** is a senior library assistant at James Sprunt Community College. Her married daughter, Anya D. Roberts, is serving in the U.S. Air Force. Her son, Andre, graduated from high school in 2008, and plans to attend UNCP.

'83 ■ **Col. Allen Jamerson** '83, '86 was named 72nd Air base Wing commander at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. He made the move from Maxwell Air Force Base, where he served as the vice commander of the 42nd Air Base Wing. ■ **Steve Terry** is a partner with Haigh, Byrd & Lambert, LLP. He resides in Fayetteville.



'82 ■ **Angeline Demery** is a validation specialist with QualPak. She resides in Maxton. ■ **Tamara Jacobs** is athletic director at Flora MacDonald Academy in Red Springs, where she resides.

'81 ■ **Joy D. Jones** is a social worker with the Robeson County Department of Social Services. She resides in Lumberton.

'80 ■ **Jim Blasingame** is a civilian employee of the U.S. Air Force, serving as chief of the plans and programs Branch. His daughter, Alison, was the Virginia AA State Player of the Year and a high school all-American, and is a freshman recruit for Virginia Tech's volleyball team. Jim and his family reside in Yorktown, Va. ■ **Brian Fitts** is a media technician at Elon University in the Campus Technology Support Department. He is music coordinator for the contemporary service and the men's choir director at his church. He resides in Greensboro. ■ **Daryle Nobles**, coordinator of career and technical education for Cumberland County Schools, was selected as a 2008 N.C. Career and Technical Education Administrator of the Year from among 135 administrators representing 115 school districts across the state. He resides in Fayetteville.

'78 ■ **Alan Lineberger** is self-employed and resides in Cypress, Texas.

'76 ■ **John Carter** retired from state government and started a wedding service company (www.perfectdaydj.com) providing music, photography, and videography. He became a first time grandfather in November. ■ **Nancy McBryde** '76, '87, AIG coordinator with the Public Schools of Robeson County, received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented at their March conference. She has worked with public schools for 32 years.



'75 ■ **Gail Cole** is a special education teacher in Spartanburg, S.C. She is the mother of three children and a grandmother.

'74 ■ **John Max George** is a retired district commander with the Gastonia Police Department. He resides in Gastonia.

■ **Alphonzo McRae** was appointed to the Southeastern Regional Medical Center's Board of Trustees. He is vice president for Institutional Services at Robeson Community College. He resides in Proctorville with his wife, Patricia, and son, Christian.

'73 ■ **Kathryn L. Person** retired from the N.C. Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections in May 2002 after 28 years. She has six grandchildren: Davis, six, Ashley, five, Joshua, four, Emily, two, and twins, Katelyn and Justin, born January 9. They are also the grandchildren of **Steven L. Burriss** '73.

'72 ■ **Randall Jones** was appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of The Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation by its Board of Directors. He will assume his new responsibilities on January 2, 2009. Randall is a lifetime resident of Robeson County, and is a 27-year employee of the cooperative, joining in February 1981. Most recently he served as the manager of key accounts.



'71 ■ **Vicki Graham** is National Board Certified in media and library science. She retired from Wake County Schools in 2007.

'69 ■ **Steve Clark** climbed two mountains in a six-day period in July including Mount Baker at 10,400 feet and Mount Rainier at 14,441 feet. He has been backpacking, and more recently climbing, for 35 years. He resides in the San Juan Islands and is a teacher just north of Seattle, Wash.



'65 ■ **Dr. Louise Cummings Maynor** retired on June 30 from North Carolina Central University where she worked for 37 years. Dr. Maynor was chair of the Department of English and Mass Communications, chair of the State Advisory Council on Indian Education and a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. Dr. Maynor will spend much of her time in retirement volunteering for civic, church and educational activities.

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Sweeney Todd

February 6, 2009

The Russian National Ballet Theatre presents "Sleeping Beauty"

March 10, 2009

To Kill a Mockingbird

March 27, 2009

Movin' Out

April 27, 2009



Nostalgia:

Mac Davis September 19, 2008

The Commodores October 17, 2008

The Lettermen December 9, 2008

The Catalinas and March 13, 2009

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Lou Gossett, Jr. February 24, 2009

Hugh Johnson January 22, 2009

Patch Adams November 4, 2008

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