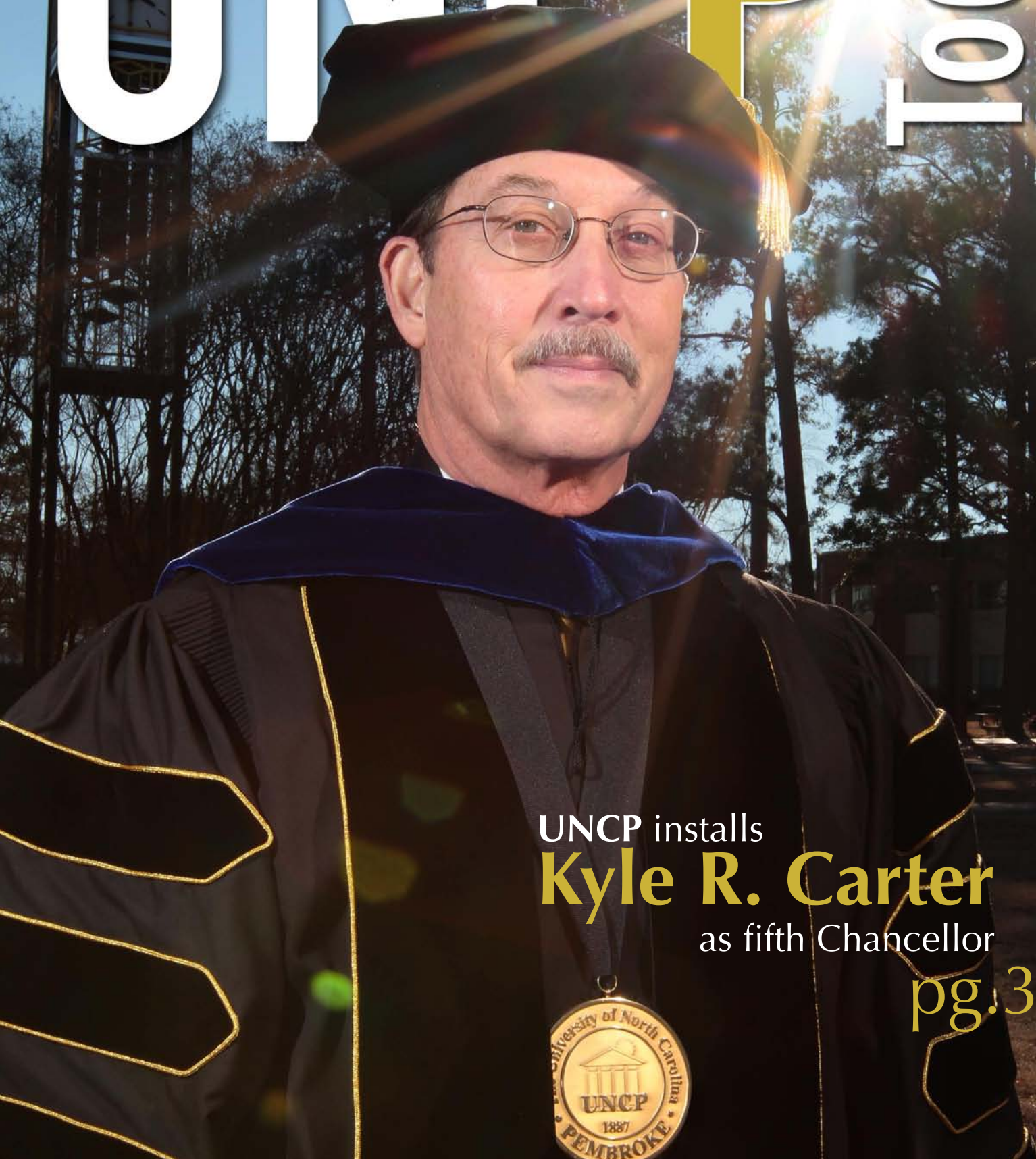


For alumni and friends of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Spring  
2011

# UNCP Today

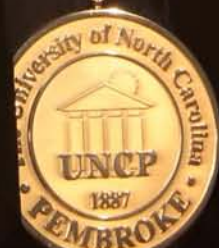


UNCP installs

**Kyle R. Carter**

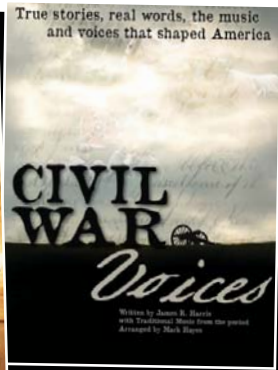
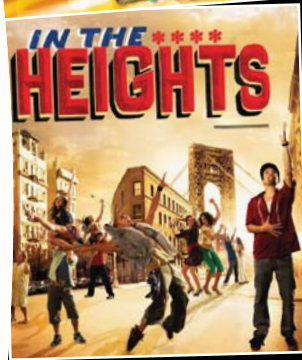
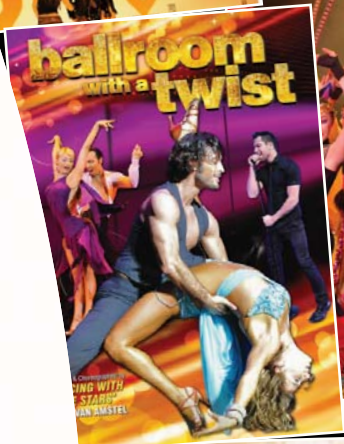
as fifth Chancellor

pg. 3





ALUMNI  
DISCOUNT  
AVAILABLE



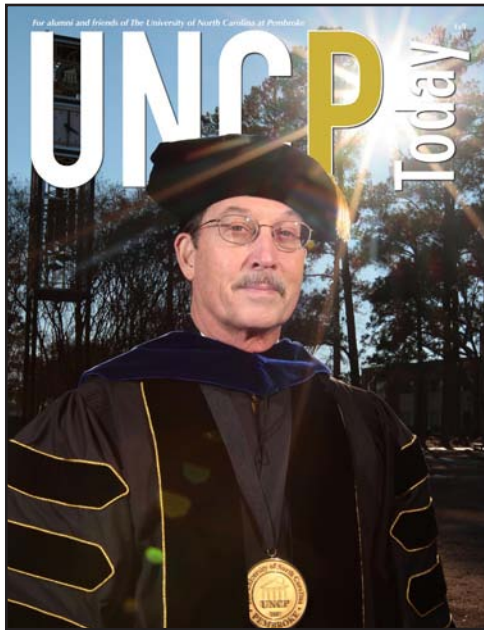
**Season 2011-12**

- Kool and the Gang
- Civil War Voices, the musical
- The National Acrobats of China
- Rock of Ages
- In The Heights
- Tchaikovsky St. Petersburg Orchestra
- The Sing-Along Sound of Music
- The Royal Winnipeg Ballet:  
Moulin Rouge
- Ballroom With A Twist

**GIVENS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
UNC Pembroke • [www.uncp.edu/gpac](http://www.uncp.edu/gpac) • 910.521.6361  
*All shows and artist subject to change*

# Inside

UNCP Today  
Spring 2011



## ON THE COVER

**UNCP installs  
Kyle R. Carter as  
fifth Chancellor**  
*page 3*

*Cover photo Raul Rubiera Jr.*

### Editor

Scott Bigelow

### Art Director

R. Jerrod Hatfield '06

### Contributing Writer

Todd Anderson

### Web Publisher

Lawrence Locklear '05

### Photographers

Bobby Ayers

Raul Rubiera Jr.

### Class Notes

Renée Steele '93

*UNCP Today* magazine is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the University by the Office for University and Community Relations. UNCP is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina. 18,355 copies of this document were printed at a cost of \$0.90 each.

### Editorial Offices

*UNCP Today*

University and Community Relations

P.O. Box 1510

Pembroke, NC 28372-1510

tel: (910) 521-6252

email: [scott.bigelow@uncp.edu](mailto:scott.bigelow@uncp.edu)

web: [www.uncp.edu/relations](http://www.uncp.edu/relations)

### Class Notes

Office of Alumni Relations

P.O. Box 1510

Pembroke, NC 28372-1510

tel: (910) 521-6533

email: [alumni@uncp.edu](mailto:alumni@uncp.edu)

web: [www.uncp.edu/alumni](http://www.uncp.edu/alumni)

### UNCP Web Site

[www.uncp.edu](http://www.uncp.edu)

### Chancellor

Kyle R. Carter, Ph. D.

### Board of Trustees

Dr. Freda Porter '78

Chair

Dr. Breeden Blackwell  
'68

Dr. Robin Cummings

Arlinda Locklear

Donna Lowry

Thomas Nance '69

Dr. Raymond Pennington

Lorna Ricotta '01, '08

Newy Scruggs '94

Dick Taylor

Alan Thompson '85

Paul Willoughby '74

Arjay Quizon Jr. '11

**3 UNIVERSITY NEWS**

**18 ATHLETICS**

**22 FACULTY & STAFF**

**24 ALUMNI NEWS**

**29 CLASS NOTES**





As I contemplate the completion of my first academic year, please allow me to offer some thoughts on our university. In short, the more I learn about UNC Pembroke's past and imagine all the possibilities in its future, the more inspired I become.

Our university's past is extraordinary. Armed with foresight and the belief that education would improve the lives of their people, UNCP's founders launched one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of American education. There were many opportunities for failure along the way, too, but this community stood by its school.

This is a story we must never forget, and it is a story that deserves celebration. It will be our anchor as we stride into the 21st century. The recent celebration of Founders' Day and Chancellors Installation Week were designed to celebrate and retell this institution's story, just as holding commencement exercises on the

Quad—the most historic spot on campus—also serves to commemorate UNCP's history. And the celebration will continue with the 125th Founders' Day next March.

During the year, I spoke at several events and met with many people throughout the region and elsewhere as part of a nine-stop Listening Tour. Their input helped shape my vision for our future. First and foremost, UNC Pembroke will distinguish itself as a great university, a "school of choice." It will be the first choice for graduating students in our region and a competitive choice for all students of North Carolina.

We will promote student success with single-minded vigor. We have already begun a conversation about the excellent scholarship of our faculty, which goes hand-in-hand with their mentorship of students. The recent symposium of student research that was directed by faculty mentors is a great example of this "teacher-scholar" model. Many years ago, UNCP established itself as a university "where learning gets personal." That vision is more relevant than ever.

We will raise expectations for student success and standards, and we will do it without closing the door to any student who desires a college education. Working with our community college partners, we will establish pathways to higher education for all. By combining these efforts with finely tuned student support and advisement, very soon we will no longer need to talk about retention and graduation rates.

Diversity has been a hallmark of this university since it opened its doors to all people. In 1954, UNCP was breaking new ground in higher education for a nation, and we will continue to do so. This is a diverse world, and we live in a diverse country; as a diverse institution, we have a great advantage for the future. Our diversity will continue to make us a university of choice.

We will reach out to our region not only to build partnerships with the public schools and community colleges, but also to promote health and economic development. UNCP will take on a larger role in improving the quality of life for people in our service area. This was asked of us time and time again on the Listening Tour and at every other stop in the region.

Now for the difficult part: We will accomplish these goals in a very difficult environment, a "new normal." As I write this, the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Perdue are debating damaging cuts to our budget. We must protect our core academic experience and the need-based financial aid that is so critical to our students.

I am an optimist, first and last. With the help of dedicated faculty and staff, we will stay the course. Your continued involvement is essential to our future success. Alumni and friends are a tremendous asset for a regional university. We will endeavor to engage you with your alma mater in new and exciting ways in the years to come. That is my promise to you.

Respectfully,

*Kyle R. Carter*





## UNIVERSITY

*Installs**its Fifth Chancellor*

Three generations of the Carter family stood together on April 15 at the swearing-in of UNC Pembroke's fifth Chancellor, Kyle R. Carter.

The installation ceremony took place in the Givens Performing Arts Center amid a weeklong flurry of activities involving students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community, that celebrated the university and its new leader. Delegates from universities across North Carolina and beyond attended the event.

UNC President Thomas Ross presided over the installation saying, "there is no doubt in my mind that Kyle Carter is the right person to lead this university today and in the years ahead."

In his remarks, Student Government President Arjay Quizon said Chancellor Carter, who took office on July 1, 2010, is working hard for UNCP's students. "Chancellor Carter calls me frequently to discuss issues at length," Quizon said. "He made sure to single me out, not because I'm his favorite, although I think I am, but because I am a student."

Guest speaker Robert C. Dickeson, an educator, consultant and president of Northern Colorado University when Dr. Carter joined the faculty there, offered an insight to his character.

"Thirty years ago I was a new university president when Kyle Carter and a group of faculty members came to my office," Dickeson said. "Dr. Carter and the group, who became known as the 'Young Turks,' insisted we raise academic standards. They said our programs 'lacked rigor.' It took genuine courage for an assistant professor without tenure to stand up for high standards."

The ceremony was marked by music from UNCP's Concert Band and Choir and Native flute. Chancellor Carter was joined on stage by his wife, Sarah; son, Dr. Travis Carter; daughter, Dr. Heather Hamner; her husband, Daks; and new grandson, Ryland. Robeson County Superior Court Judge Gregory Bell administered the oath. President Ross and Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Freda Porter presented the Chancellor's Medallion.

Then, it was Chancellor Carter's turn. He demonstrated an in-depth understanding of a university in its 125th year and a powerful vision for its future success. He affirmed that he would carry the torch of the institution's remarkable history into a bold new future that will be loaded with challenges and possibilities.

**A UNIQUE PAST**

"I am pleased to be the fifth chancellor of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke," he began. "It is an honor to be



*Judge Bell gives oath of office*

chosen to lead this university at this special time in its history. Over the last nine months, I've had the opportunity to learn just how much this university means to all of you, especially this community."

"My remarks expand upon our installation theme: 'Honoring Traditions; Securing our Future,'" he said. "UNCP's heritage marks its character and shapes its future. UNCP is unique in this regard. Many institutions leave their past behind as they mature and change. Understanding UNCP's past matters as we move into the future."

"Our institution grew out of a local idea," Dr. Carter said. "Leaders within the American Indian community of Robeson County viewed education as a means to improve the quality of life for their people. There is a great deal of ownership in this school by this community. The history of this institution is inextricably entwined with the Lumbee Tribe."

Chancellor Carter described UNCP as a youthful institution that has experienced great changes in its past and in the past decade when enrollment doubled. A commuter school has grown into a modern regional university, he said. What began as school for American Indians has grown into one of the most diverse institutions in the nation. Student education has been transformed and is now characterized by student research, experiential learning and distance education.

*Continued on p. 4*



Continued from p. 3

"We are now one of the most important economic engines in the region," Dr. Carter said. "Our faculty are resources who can apply their talents to regional issues. As we plan for the future, we must make sure our systems, practices and culture are aligned to meet new expectations."

## CHALLENGING FUTURE

From his first university address at the start of the 2010-11 academic year, Chancellor Carter has consistently driven home three themes for the future: becoming a "university of choice," enhancing student success and growing regional engagement – all to be accomplished in an environment he describes as the "new normal."

"We are challenged to do more with less, to be more efficient and effective in the way we use resources," Dr. Carter said. "We must engage this region. We must assist the Town of Pembroke in the revitalization of its downtown; to work with the county to bring businesses to the area and to collaborate with the Tribe in areas of mutual benefit. UNCP must be an engaged partner with regional leaders to improve the quality of life. And we will."

Chancellor Carter promised to restructure and reorganize administrative policies and functions to respond to the challenges of the future. He pledged to improve student success. He noted year-over-year retention of freshmen reached an all-time high this year. He said he would increase standards for student admission– without closing the door of opportunity – to ensure that incoming students are capable of success. He pledged to improve student services that support academic success.

Chancellor Carter heralded the "teacher-scholar" model of faculty instruction and said diversity will enhance it. "Our institutional trademark must continue to be 'Where Learning Gets Personal,'" he said. "We must foster increased interaction between students and faculty in as many ways as possible. And we will."

"Historically our expectations for students have been too low," Chancellor Carter said. "We have ample evidence that our students are capable of outstanding achievements. We must continue to raise expectations. We must help them to do as Chancellor (Joseph) Oxendine said more than 10 years ago: 'Seek the Hawk Within

Yourself.' And we will."

UNCP's diversity will help make UNCP an institution of choice, he continued. "We must take advantage of our diversity. We must incorporate it into our instruction, making it a UNCP trademark."

Chancellor Carter said UNCP should use its "locational advantage" and history to become the leading research institution on American Indians of the Southeast for history, literature, culture, art and social issues. And he pledged to increase minority faculty by growing new faculty from within.

In concluding, Chancellor Carter identified four core values derived from the past that remain relevant, regardless how large the university becomes:

- "provide educational pathways to a better life regardless of one's station in life;
- "address the needs of the region through academic programs, cultural opportunities and our intellectual capital;
- "be a safe haven for racial minorities where racial and cultural diversity is celebrated; and
- "retain our sense of place by embracing our American Indian heritage."



Honors College Banquet



Graduate Thesis Exhibition



Chancellor with Lumbee Ambassadors

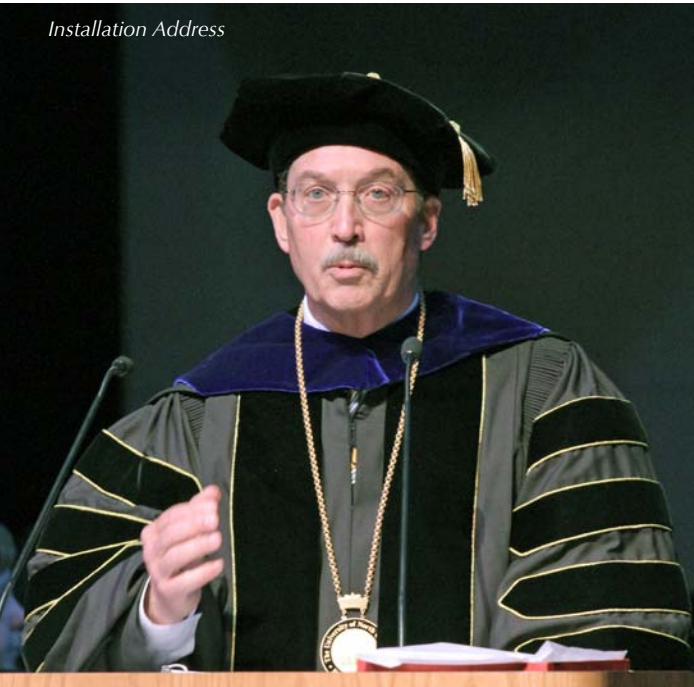




Family Day



Undergraduate Research Symposium



Installation Address



Brass Quintet

“Each of these core principles is as important today as it was 124 years ago when this institution was founded,” he said. “They allow us to ‘Honor Traditions and Secure our Future.’”

“Although we face substantial financial challenges today and in the near future, I am confident we will continue our upward trajectory,” Dr. Carter said. “We will do so openly and collaboratively. We will do so using our students’ educational experience as our compass. Working together, we will create an even better future.”

Joining the processional were representatives of 23 universities. Also represented were the Office of the Governor, the North Carolina General Assembly, UNC Board of Governors and local governments, public schools and community colleges. Offering greetings

during the ceremony were Hannah Gage, chair of the Board of Governors; Dr. Ramin Maysami, chair of the Faculty Senate; Howard Lee, Office of the Governor; David Burns, chair of the Staff Council; and Sylvia Pate, president of the Alumni Association.

Special events were held throughout the week for the university and community. There were art exhibits, concerts, the spring football game, a research symposium and an ice cream social. Patricia Fields, coordinator of Chancellor Installation Week estimated more than 5,000 people attended the events.

“April 11-16, 2011, will certainly go down as being one of the most exiting weeks in the history of UNCP,” Fields said. “Not only was our 5th Chancellor, Dr. Kyle R. Carter, officially installed

on Friday, April 15, there were over 30 other events focusing on our campus, our faculty, staff, students and our community. Delegates from other institutions attended the installation ceremony on Friday, and each of them walked away in awe of our campus and our UNCP family.”

“However, none of this would have been possible without the countless hours of time and endless energy and enthusiasm that the Installation Committee members and various subcommittee members put into planning this week,” she continued. “I am so proud to have been a part of this wonderful team and will forever be indebted to them for everything they did to make Installation Week a success.” ■





## Commencement 2011 made its mark in history

The university awarded 673 degrees in two graduation ceremonies on May 6-7.

Combined, more than 5,500 friends and family watched as degrees were awarded to 163 graduate students and 510 undergraduate students. It was the first time UNCP held separate ceremonies.

In another first, the Undergraduate Commencement on Saturday morning was held on the Quad, the university's most historic place. Graduate Commencement was held on Friday evening in the Givens Performing Arts Center.

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

Chancellor Carter presided over his first Spring Commencement. "This is truly a glorious day," he said. "This is the first time we have held commencement here adjacent to our most historic building, Old Main. This is a place worthy of commencement because it reminds us of our glorious history."

In delivering his charge to the

graduates, he reminded them of the founding of UNCP by American Indians who believed that education would improve the lives of their people.

"It is my charge to you to carry on UNCP's tradition as an institution founded to improve lives," Chancellor Carter said.

Dr. Kenneth Kitts, UNCP's new provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, revealed that his wife's family boasts many UNCP graduates. He admitted to feeling some pressure in offering remarks at his family's alma mater.

In demonstrating his familiarity with UNCP's history, Dr. Kitts noted that some universities use diversity as a slogan for their websites. "UNCP wrote the book on inclusiveness and so should you," Kitts said. "Remember this special legacy. UNCP is a unique institution and so are you."

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

"I am still proud to be part of this university," said Jenkins. Like a veteran educator, Dr. Jenkins continued to teach to final bell.

"As a graduate, you have the responsibility to be a leader in your field

and in your community," he said. "Always maintain high ethical standards," Jenkins continued. "The ethical crisis our nation is facing at this time is even greater than the economic crisis. Have high expectations for yourself and for others."

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

Few graduation stories were more remarkable than that of Cassie and Tamra Henderson, who live in nearby Shannon. Mother and daughter graduated together Saturday with degrees in nursing. They took many general education classes together.

"She's the better student," Cassie Henderson said of her daughter.

"She was working full time with a family," Tamra Henderson said of her mother, who is a registered nurse at the Robeson County Health Department.

"We did not know if we would finish together, but this is great," Cassie Henderson said. "I am really proud of my daughter, who I have been able to watch blossom into a professional nurse."

With the weather perfect and the trains in front of Old Main holding off, UNCP put to rest two historic commencements. ■



# 124 Years of University History



## University celebrates Founders' Day

Friends, family and alumni gathered on March 15 to celebrate Founders' Day at UNC Pembroke.

Approximately 350 attended the celebration of 124 years of university history. Special guests were graduates from 1951 to 2010 and family members of campus buildings' namesakes.

The event was held in the Paul R. Givens Performing Arts Center. Gregg and Aaron Givens, son and grandson of UNCP's second chancellor, attended.

"We have a lot of great memories about this place," Gregg Givens said. "Every Thanksgiving we played football on the lawn."



Gregg and Aaron Givens

"My father loved Pembroke," he said. "The family had a great time here."

Mary Alice Teets, a 1958 graduate and daughter of the late Walter J. Pinchbeck, also attended. UNCP's maintenance complex is named for Pinchbeck, who was a long-time employee.

"It's wonderful to hear our new chancellor and the other speakers remind us of our unique heritage," Teets said. "We are all looking forward to another great 125 years of growth that is grounded in our history."

Teets and Dr. Harry Mathis were catching up on old times and exchanging addresses. Mathis, a 1959 graduate, was one of the first white students to attend the university, and Teets befriended him.

"Mary Alice and I were lunch buddies; it was very kind of her," Dr. Mathis said. "I have not been back in 20 years, so I was glad to get an invitation to Founders' Day."

Dr. Mathis was a non-traditional student who worked his way through college as an accountant. Like many on this Founders' Day, he had a story.

"While I was here, I thought I was one of the white students," he said. "I found out later my grandmother was a Waccamaw Siouan Indian."

The university's history as the only state-supported American Indian college in the nation as well as its pioneering role in desegregation of higher education were recalled during a reading by Anne Coleman, assistant dean of the Mary Livermore Library.

"Before 1964, UNCP was the only desegregated university in the South," Coleman said. "The G.I. Bill and the decision to open the doors of the college were important factors in the rapid growth of the university after World War II."

Lumbee Tribal Chair Purnell Swett '57 brought greetings from the tribe. He recalled the mission of the university's founders.

"I am doubly blessed to be here today because I am a proud graduate," Swett said. "We can only imagine what our founding fathers would say about the modern university."

"This is a university dedicated to service and the life-changing value of education," he continued. "This university has transformed our tribe."

The individuals whose names appear on campus buildings were honored in a special program. Many of them were founders; all were extraordinary people.



Dr. Harry Mathis '59 and Mary Alice Teets '58

"Many of our buildings' namesakes were founding fathers like W.L. Moore, and others continued and enriched the university's legacy," said Lawrence Locklear, who works in the Office of University and Community Relations.

"Besides their contributions to this university, they founded churches, started businesses and promoted education generally in the region and beyond."

"Their legacy continues here today and in the spirit in this hall," Locklear said.

On Founders' Day, Chancellor Carter had been at UNCP for eight months, but he has become a student of its history.

"Knowing about our history is important as we chart the future," Chancellor Carter said. "Founders' Day is a way to make sure we remember why the university was founded in the first place."

"That reason was to make education available so that people can improve their lives," he continued. "I invite you to come back to help us celebrate our 125th year and begin the next chapter, the next 125 years." ■



## Dr. Kenneth Kitts approved as UNCP's next provost

Dr. Kenneth D. Kitts joined the university on April 1 as provost and vice chancellor of the Office of Academic Affairs. He will be the university's chief academic officer.

The Board of Trustees gave its unanimous endorsement. In Dr. Kitts, UNCP has an administrator and faculty member with far-reaching experience in higher education in a regional setting.

A Waynesville, N.C., native, Dr. Kitts earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees at Appalachian State University. He earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of South Carolina. He served as the associate provost for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management at Francis Marion University (FMU) in Florence, S.C.

Chancellor Carter said he is pleased that Dr. Kitts has joined the UNCP community. "The search committee and the administration spent over seven months looking for the right person to help UNCP transition to greater expectations and successes," Chancellor Carter said. "I am confident that he shares the values, experiences and qualities that will help UNCP accomplish its goals.

"First, Dr. Kitts is a teacher/scholar who understands the faculty role and can serve as a role model for our faculty," he

continued. "He will be a strong leader for faculty. Second, students will learn that Dr. Kitts has high expectations for them, but that he will work with them to assure their success. Finally, he has gained tremendous experience in his eight years as associate provost at Francis Marion.

"He will work effectively on

faculty governance issues, enrollment management challenges and external engagement," Chancellor Carter said. "We are fortunate to have attracted Dr. Kitts to UNCP. I look forward to working with him and welcoming him to our team."

Dr. Kitts said he is pleased to join "a great university with many exciting programs."

"Chancellor Carter is a terrific leader, and the university is poised for great things under his guidance," he said. "At Pembroke, I see a faculty and staff who are deeply committed to the success of the university."

Dr. Kitts has worked for nearly his entire professional career at Francis Marion University, beginning as an instructor in 1987. He earned tenure in 1999 and became a full professor in 2005. After serving as chair of the Department of Political Science, History and Geography, Dr. Kitts took the position of associate provost and director of graduate programs in 2002.

In 2007, Dr. Kitts took the post of associate provost for Enrollment Management, including the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Orientation, Continuing Education and Registrar.

Francis Marion is an institution that is very much like UNCP. With a diverse enrollment of 4,000, FMU is also a regional comprehensive university.

"Pembroke's mission as a regional university is a big part of what attracted me," Dr. Kitts said. "This is a mission I understand and celebrate.

"The role of regional universities is an important one," he said. "They are extremely valuable to their local communities and the students they serve.

"I am moving from the most diverse university in South Carolina to the most diverse university in North Carolina," he said. "UNCP is a university that embraces its mission and understands that diversity is a strength. In the future, reaching out to all groups will be far more important, and UNCP is ahead of the curve in meeting the needs of the people of its region," Dr. Kitts said.

Dr. Kitts, whose academic interests include the American presidency and national security, is an active scholar. His book, "Presidential Commissions and National Security: The Politics of Damage Control," was a Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Title for 2006.

Dr. Kitts believes administrators should teach. "I hope to teach while I'm at UNCP because I believe it is important for administrators to stay in touch with students," Dr. Kitts said. "They are the reason we are here."

Dr. Kitts was also active in university and community work. He served on many committees, including faculty life, accreditation and faculty recruitment. As a member of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Development Team, he helped implement service-learning programs. Service-learning incorporates community engagement into the academic curriculum.

"Service-learning was a big part of our QEP," Dr. Kitts said. "Service-learning expands students' horizons and provides real world connections for experiential learning."

Dr. Kitts' community outreach includes being an appointed member of the Board of Trustees for Dillon County School District 3.

In 2003, Dr. Kitts was named recipient of FMU's Distinguished Professor Award, and in 2000, he won the Citizen Diplomat Award from the World Affairs Council.

Approximately 60 miles separate Francis Marion and UNC Pembroke. The schools compete in the same athletic conference.

"I enjoy attending all collegiate sporting events, especially football," Dr. Kitts said. "I look forward to Saturdays at UNCP." ■



## University's Science Fair celebrated 30 years in 2011

The 30th Annual Progress Energy Region IV Science Fair was held in late February.

In its 30th year, the Science Fair remains a valuable tool for nurturing science among school children, according to participants, their teachers and parents.

Tara Ivey's daughter, 11-year-old Brooke Smith from Lumberton was attending her first science fair. Her research asked if plants could grow successfully on grey water that she recycled from the family's clothes washer.

Brooke said she was nervous when the judges, who were UNCP scientists, interviewed her. Her mother said she was even more nervous.

"Brooke has really enjoyed this, and we are already working on next year," Ivey said. "It's good to see the university is doing things like this for kids."

Dr. Tom Ross, a UNCP geographer, was a judge for the 1981 Science Fair with founder Dr. Jose D'Arruda, a physicist and astronomer.

"I've judged all 30 of them," Dr. Ross said. "I learn something every year."

"Oh yes, the science fair is well worth it," he said. "This is the trigger of invention; this is the future of science."

The green shoots of scientific discovery were evident everywhere. Kaylen Cutler's grandfather passed away recently from complications related to Alzheimer's disease.

"I am studying how copper affects the blood and may be a co-factor in Alzheimer's," said Cutler, who is home schooled.

Joshua Harris of SandHoke Early College, won the top prize with his project "The Docking and Design of Ligands of HIV-1 Protease Using Virtual Screening."

Kayla Robinson, who is home schooled in Harnett County, won the McDonald's



Brooke Smith

Award and \$500 for her crime scene investigation using blood and luminol, "a chemo-luminescent compound," she said.

"Whether I win or not, I think it's been a good experience," she said before the awards ceremony. "I'll be back next year."

Her mother, Leslie, put in a good word for the event.

"I just wanted to thank the university for doing this and allowing home school students to participate," Robinson said. "We love science at our house - my husband and I are engineers - so this is a natural for us."

UNCP's *Newswire* also interviewed several teachers who prepared students for the science fair. They had different strategies.

Steve Schrock of Overhills Middle School in Harnett County had three students in the competition.

"We held science fairs at each grade level, then the school level," Schrock said. "The ones who are here today are the students who are really interested in science, and they get a lot out of this."

Sharon Luellen and Matt Howington of Carroll Middle School in Lumberton got their school excited about science.

"Our kids put in the extra effort, and from what I saw, it is definitely worth doing," Howington said. "We started a science club too."

The Region IV Science Fair was sponsored by Progress Energy, McDonald's/Rust Enterprises, Lumber River Electric Membership Cooperative, COMtech, Metcon Construction of Pembroke and the U.S. Navy. ■

## A letter from Science Fair founder Dr. Jose D'Arruda

**Editor's note:** UNCP physicist and astronomer Dr. Jose D'Arruda is the founder of the Region IV Science Fair and was its coordinator for 30 years.

Winning first prize in my school's science fair changed my life. It was the moment that steered me to a career in science.

I will always remember the feeling, and I will never forget how excited the judges were to see my project. I still have my Wilson cloud chamber. It is in our display cabinet on the third floor of the Oxendine Science Building.

As a teacher, I wanted other young people to share that feeling and to become scientists. So in 1981, I set out to start a science fair here. The nearest science fair was at East Carolina University, and it was considered to be the state science fair. I felt it was too far away. There were doubters. But people like Tom Ross, Charles Jenkins, Wright Killian, Harold Teague and the late John Reissner encouraged me and helped make it a reality.

The first year, we had 25 projects. The Regional IV Science Fair grew to over 500 projects in the early 1990s. The number of projects has declined in recent years, and this year, we had fewer than 200 projects. It's a big commitment to do serious scientific research like this.

I believe in the scientific method. It is the cornerstone of the science fair and is the best way to train young scientists. I also believe that it is the best way to excite youngsters about science. Finally, I believe our Science Fair will continue to be a successful enterprise. With co-directors Tim Ritter and Brian Postek, the Science Fair remains relevant and vital. ■

- Jose D'Arruda, Ph.D.





## Popular professor returns from Iraq deployment

Physics professor Dr. Tim Ritter returned in late 2010 from his second tour of duty since 9/11.

A Lt. Commander in the Navy Reserves, he resumed teaching during the spring 2011 semester after spending the better part of a year on a naval base in Umm Qasr, Basra, Iraq's southernmost province. Dr. Ritter has served his country for more than 18 years.

"I'm proud of my service," Dr. Ritter said. "I think it was an important mission."

Dr. Ritter looks exactly the same, but he said the experience was profound.

"Military and academia are miles apart," he said. The instant, "reactionary environment" is not the carefully scripted life of a college professor.

"You live for a year in a bubble, while the rest of the world is not frozen," Dr. Ritter said. "Things change."

In the time surrounding his deployment, Dr. Ritter's 18-year-old son graduated from high school and joined the Army.

Dr. Ritter reported for duty on October 30, 2009, and returned to U.S. soil on November 2, 2010. He served at Iraq's only naval base in its small U.S. compound.

"When I reported in Norfolk, my first mission was cancelled, then I thought I was headed to Bahrain, but I got Iraq," he said. "My title was intelligence advisor, and our job is to train Iraq's navy."

Basra is relatively quiet today due to its Shiite dominated population. Of strategic importance, Umm Qasr is home to Iraq's only deepwater port, and the horizon is thick with oil tankers, Dr. Ritter said.

"Inside the compound, we lived in containerized housing units, or CHUs," he said. "It was 130 degrees, and when the wind changed and blew in from the ocean, it was humid and 130 degrees."

"The sand is not what we think of as sand," Dr. Ritter said. "It's more like powder."

They worked a grinding schedule of 14-hour days, six days a week.

"You sat in the same dining room, eating the same food, talking to the same people about the same things," he laughed. "For the Super Bowl, we got two beers, but the game was played at 2 a.m. Iraq time."

"One of the most interesting things I did was to go to the Iraqi headquarters to watch their election returns," he said.

Sitting in his office on the third floor of Oxendine Science Building, Dr. Ritter contemplates a more ordinary life. For several years, he co-directed the Region IV Science Fair and ran a NASA-sponsored program for undergraduates to conduct



experiments in zero gravity.

From wearing an M9 pistol daily, Dr. Ritter will teach two sections of Physics II, one of basic physical science and an advanced class in thermodynamics. As he looked through hundreds of photos, impressions flow.

"I have a newfound respect for people who do this for a living," Dr. Ritter said. "And yes, I am proud to serve my country, and I'm proud of my service."

"I think this is an important mission," he continued. "The Iraqis I spoke with appreciate our help, and they are optimistic about the future."

"They showed us pictures of their children," he said.

Dr. Ritter's first tour of duty came immediately after 9/11. For eight months, he worked stateside with NCIS on homeland security issues.

The deployments were somewhat easier with an understanding wife who is retired from the military. He said he would do it over again.

"I don't do it for the money," he said. "I am eligible to retire at 20 years, but if I'm still enjoying it, I would like to make full commander."

It may not be his last deployment. ■





## Public Administration provides expertise in Haitian relief efforts

With Haiti's recovery continuing, a consortium of non-profits concerned with animal welfare needed to collect information about how the island's animal population is faring and potential public health problems related to companion animals in the region.

This led to UNC Pembroke Public Administration Professor Dr. Warren Eller to Port-au-Prince last fall to train locals on conducting an animal population survey.

Dr. Eller worked for Animal Relief Coalition Haiti (ARCH), an organization formed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA). In turn, ARCH worked with Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) in addressing animal relief issues.

"It was a huge challenge," Dr. Eller said. "Inside a very tight timeframe, my colleague Melanie Gall from the University of South Carolina, and I aided in developing a survey and data collection plan with very strict guidelines."

In addition to the survey development, Dr. Eller traveled with a research team including Dr. Gall to Port-au-Prince to

train the local canvassers on survey deployment and data collection techniques. In the country, the team of researchers spent several days in the classroom teaching Ministry of Agriculture employees how to take surveys to ensure valid responses and limit non-response.

"They provided us with veterinary students and vet techs who understood the language, people and the survey subject," Dr. Eller said. "A survey is not just reading questions. It's about helping people understand and answer the questions without influencing their answers."

The classroom training was followed by field observation of the data collection process to ensure that the surveyors would be safe as they moved through all areas of the devastated city.

When they understood the team's mission, Dr. Eller found Haitians to be very warm, friendly and generous people even in the most devastated areas of the city.

"People with nothing would offer you a chair and something to eat," he said. "They are very proud of their pets and showed us how well they were taking care of them."

Data collection for this project was temporarily suspended during the elections, but resumed shortly afterwards. Dr. Eller, who has returned to teaching in UNCP's Public Administration program, has remained in contact with the project and may participate in data evaluation.

Locally, the department's Project on Crisis and Emergency Leadership (PCEL) is

working with their students in emergency training and research projects. Recently PCEL conducted a tabletop exercise for the Moore County Animal Response Team. Dr. Eller believes PCEL is a good training vehicle with benefits for UNCP and the region, and his work in Haiti was invaluable to the mission of the department.

"The value of doing this kind of applied research is immense for students, faculty, UNCP and the region," Dr. Eller said. "It brings back so much to the classroom, and this is exactly why my colleagues and I are so dedicated to regional service."

"Work like this has a direct impact on our program," Dr. Eller said. "This type of hands-on experience gives our students skill in the tasks they will face on the job."

"It gives our students a competitive edge as they go out into the region to work," he continued. "It also has a positive impact on the region's emergency preparedness and, ultimately, on community safety."

UNCP offers an Emergency Management concentration in its Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. ■



Warren Eller, left, teaching



## UNCP's 'Last Lecture' got to the core of things

**D**r. Joseph Lakatos debated whether he would use the word cancer in his Last Lecture on April 13.

Approximately 500 people attended Dr. Lakatos' 60-minute lecture. Dr. Lakatos was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma in 2004. He acknowledged the disease and the challenges it has brought him, describing in detail the horrendous regime of radiation and chemotherapy that saved his life, but left him shaken to the core.

Then, with that unpleasantness out of the way, he got to the point and the word.

"This is not about cancer," Dr. Lakatos said. "This is about inspiring you."

And he did inspire. His lecture, titled "Getting to the Core," included elements of theatre, music, video and even costume changes as he stripped down to his core—from business suit to shorts, flip-flops and a Superman t-shirt.

"In your life time," he said, "you will have challenges, things will come at you. One day you will stand up and say 'this is what I'm passionate about.'"

Dr. Lakatos explained that finding his core took some time. His father wanted him to be successful financially, so he worked as an attorney and auditor for major corporations in Boston and New York.

"For 10 years, I did what he wanted me to and was successful," Dr. Lakatos said. "It ate at me; I had this anger built up in me."

Several adjunct teaching jobs helped him find his core. "I may not be the best teacher, but it's something I wanted to do and something I want to get better at," he said.

Dr. Lakatos' passion has been inspiring colleagues and students since his arrival. Besides winning a student poll to deliver UNCP's first Last Lecture, he was named the 2011 recipient of UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence, the state's top teaching award. He will be heard from again soon as the featured speaker and marshal for Winter Commencement.

Ever the teacher, Dr. Lakatos asked difficult questions of his audience: "How do we keep our core intact when we are

attacked?" "Why does it take a tragedy to examine our core?" and "What will it take for you?"

Many of Dr. Lakatos' past and current students were in the audience. For most of them, the event was the first time they had ever seen him in person. Via interactive video, he is teaching three classes during the spring semester in business law.

Victoria Bullard met Dr. Lakatos in person for the first time at the Last Lecture.

"He's an excellent teacher," Bullard said. "You never have a dull moment - even on video."

Former student and UNCP employee Susan Evans was in his class during a death in the family. "Dr. Lakatos was so good to me when my brother was dying," she said. "I am so glad he won the teaching award."

The lecture took place amidst a flurry of activities during the week of Chancellor Carter's installation as the university's fifth chancellor. In introducing the speaker, Chancellor Carter explained the reason he called for a Last Lecture.

"The Last Lecture recognizes both our students, who selected the speaker today, and our faculty," he said. "The last lecture is an idea that's been around a long time and was made popular by the late Randy Pausch in his well known lecture and book. The idea is 'what would you say in your last lecture to a group of people that you hold in very high esteem?'"

"Joe Lakatos is a very interesting individual," Dr. Carter continued. "He came to UNCP in 2003. He's a lawyer and an auditor. His condition does not allow him to be in daily contact with people, so he teaches via video. I was able to sit in one of his classes and got to meet him."

Dr. Lakatos wrapped up his presentation by encouraging students to retain their integrity and work at their faith. "Integrity is not just about telling the truth when it's difficult. It's about being real and keeping the essence of you."

"There is no cure for my disease, but there is faith," he continued. "Faith has been the cornerstone of my life.... Faith helps you accept and forgive. You must forgive to heal. And faith keeps you humble...."

"Build your relationship with God," he advised. "Take care of yourself. Make your life extraordinary. No one can take that away." ■





# PEMBROKE MAGAZINE



## 42

### Shelby Stephenson retires from the 'Little Magazine'

By Scott Bigelow

**P**embroke Magazine No. 42 came out in early March. It is Shelby Stephenson's 30th and last as editor of the venerable "little magazine."

He explained: "I woke up one Wednesday morning in June and decided it was time." The magazine was at the printer, and it was time to stay closer to the Johnston County home where he was born.

Stephenson's retirement gives pause to consider *Pembroke Magazine*. With a remarkable beginning, its survival was a singular act of inspiration and devotion. New editor Jennifer Key is prepared to continue its legacy.

Stephenson inherited the editorship from renowned poet Norman MacLeod and turned the journal into one of the most celebrated publishers of North Carolina writers. While winning a dedicated following near and far, the magazine continued to reflect the spirit of its home in Pembroke.

Key, a new faculty member of the English and Theatre Department, was named interim editor. Like her predecessors, she is a poet, and like them, she is smitten with literary journals and their place in the world of letters. Key's knowledge of academic journals is thorough, and she brings considerable enthusiasm to the project.

"The little magazine is the life blood of creative writers and essayists in America," she said. "*Pembroke Magazine* is a gem for North Carolina; it's one of the state's treasures. Shelby published some of the best contemporary writers in

the state.

"Shelby has an enviable relationship with North Carolina's writers. He has been marvelously generous, and they trust him completely. Everywhere I go, I meet his friends," she continued.

To understand where the new editor will take the magazine requires a look into its past, and Key is keenly aware of its history. Norman MacLeod, a poet with a national reputation, was recruited to the university in 1969 to start *Pembroke Magazine* and to elevate the University's intellectual profile.

#### THE FOUNDING

"Norman MacLeod was quite a character," Key said. "He was a westerner and a fascinating literary figure. He was quite famous and one of the most published poets of the 1930s. He was friends with all the famous writers - William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Langston Hughes, Upton Sinclair, D.H. Lawrence - all of them.

"MacLeod came here at the end of his career to start the journal," Key said. "In fact, *Pembroke Magazine* is the only one of the many journals he founded that is still standing."

*Pembroke Magazine* No. 1 was 48 pages. Subsequent editions published collections of writing and tributes to southern authors. There was a lot of MacLeod's work in the journal. He retired in 1978, and No. 12 was dedicated to

*Continued on p. 14*

Continued from p. 13

him.

After a year with an interim editor, a faculty committee handed Stephenson the editorship in 1979. Dr. Raymond Rundus, who was department chair at the time, said it was a perfect match.

"Shelby has left an immeasurable - and perhaps unmatched - legacy to what is now The University of North Carolina at Pembroke," Dr. Rundus said. "Among the greatest strengths that Shelby brought to the department was his interest in the 'little magazine,' both as a reader and as a frequent contributor.

"He brought a struggling *Pembroke Magazine*, with limited circulation and readership, and by the year 2000, it was a nationally known and internationally recognized annual of 450 pages; five pages alone devoted to 'Notes on Contributors.' Shelby also brought brightness and a propensity for lively discourse to his colleagues and to the university. He brought to us perhaps the most respected, easily the most authentic, personality to our department."

"Daunting" is how Key described replacing a legend. She also recognizes that the aspects of the magazine that were important to its past are still important. And, the new editor is southern.

"Growing up in southwest Virginia, parts of North Carolina felt very much like home, and I've long read and admired North Carolina writers," Key said. "I want *Pembroke Magazine* to reflect this

university and this region while retaining a broad appeal. Number 43, which is in production, will be a lot like Number 42, drawing from a selection of strong submissions and authors we solicited. At its best, this magazine should connect to the region and serve this community."

The new editor would relate the publication to the rural roots of the university, its "people, culture, landscape and its economic realities too," Key said. "I hope it will connect to Robeson County because this county is *Pembroke Magazine's* home."

## STEPHENSON'S INFLUENCE

Besides producing a journal every year that was full of great writing, Key said Stephenson broke new ground for academic journals. "As its editor, the special issues are Shelby's great contribution to North Carolina letters. These were outstanding issues. Not only did Shelby publish editions that highlighted specific North Carolina writers, he also edited issues that featured African American, Native American, and Hispanic or Latino(a) writers," Key continued.

Stephenson's other important legacy is publishing early work of some of the next generation of great Tar Heel authors. Clyde Edgerton, author of "Raney" and numerous other novels, penned this note about him for UNCP Today:

"When I wrote my first short story in the

late 70s (that's 1970s), I knew two writers - a distant cousin who lived in California and Shelby Stephenson, recent (at that time) editor of *The Lyricist* at Campbell University," Edgerton said. "I asked Shelby to read the story. He said okay. I was nervous, worried about what he would say. He came back to me - enthusiastic; and he encouraged me to send it out and write another story. This initial encouragement was a tremendous boost, and he's given such a boost to writer after writer. Besides all that, he writes poems that skin raccoons, sweeten the pot-likker, shine through the window, and sing like a gold and silver bird. I'm lucky to know the boy."

Among the successful authors who were celebrated in special editions were Robeson County native Jill McCorkle, Tim McLaurin, Lee Smith and Robert Morgan. Morgan, who is author of "Gap Creek," "Boone" and other works of fiction and poetry, offered this tribute:

"Shelby Stephenson is a North Carolina treasure," he said. "His poems are music, and his singing is poetry. No one else evokes the rural world as memorably. *Pembroke Magazine* has been an inspiration, a home and a place of delight for all of us over the years. It is hard to think of a literary journal with more satisfying surprises, more diversity, more generosity toward writers and readers alike. Its single-author features of essays and tributes have been a wonderful boost

## Tributes

New Editor Jennifer Key



**Author Clyde Edgerton:** "He's given such a boost to writer after writer after writer. Besides all that, he writes poems that skin raccoons, sweeten the pot-likker, shine through the window, and sing like a gold and silver bird. I'm lucky to know the boy."

**UNC-TV 'Bookwatch' host D.G. Martin:** "Not content with his personal achievements, Shelby Stephenson has always sought to encourage other talented people to share their gifts with others. *Pembroke Magazine* gave him the platform to share good writing. Unselfishly he poured his heart into this project and made this literary journal an important part of the American literary scene."

**Author Robert Morgan:** "Shelby Stephenson is a North Carolina treasure. His poems are music, and his singing is poetry. No one else evokes the rural world as memorably. *Pembroke Magazine* has been an inspiration, a home and a place of delight for all of us over the years."

**Former Provost and Interim Chancellor Dr. Charles Jenkins:** "Shelby Stephenson made significant literary and



for many writers, including myself.”

New Editor Jennifer Key sees her mission clearly. “The magazine itself is over 40 years old, and so I feel very honored to be the third editor it has ever had. My goal as the steward of this North Carolina institution is to carry on its tradition – and especially its attention to literature of North Carolina. You want to continue the great work the magazine has done in representing some really fine writers both local and national, including Jill McCorkle, whose work belongs to both categories. “

#### DATELINE JOHNSTON COUNTY

A giant oak stands in the yard behind Shelby’s house near Benson. He was born under that tree in the historic family home that he has renovated and relocated behind his newer house.

Outbuildings and the original outhouse are nearby. The old well’s pulley is hanging off the porch. Shelby explained that a chain was attached to a bucket to draw water from the well, which was not far from the hog lot. The weathered wooden house has three rooms and many memories for the poet.

“I was writing on the porch this morning,” Shelby said. “Restoring this house is the best thing I ever did. This is the past, and this is where ‘July’ came from,” he said referring to his 2008 book-length poem “Family Matters: Homage to July, the Slave Girl.”

Linda and Shelby are in good health and good spirits on this day. He is writing every day and recently bought a truck to haul musical instruments to their performances. He is working on a second chapbook of poetry about possums, an animal he identifies with. “They are survivors,” Shelby says. “I didn’t grow up with books; we grew up with possums.”

As he talks, his passion for *Pembroke Magazine* is evident. “It’s a cliché, but it is a labor of love,” he says. Stories still circulate of Shelby carrying manuscripts in A&P shopping bags. Linda confirmed the story. “He carried it everywhere, even to the doctor’s office. It was always personal.”

“I backed into all this,” Shelby said of the magazine. “I really enjoyed it. We had no staff except Tina (Emanuel), and it just got bigger and bigger. I still have feeling for all those poets. They believe that they will be published. They have good stories, worth telling.”

Like Jennifer Key, Shelby’s love of academic journals began early. “I had fallen in love with little magazines in Wisconsin. There were all these writers who got published in them. That’s when I first read *Pembroke Magazine*.” He also confessed to being homesick for North Carolina.

He had sent an essay to MacLeod for the Paul Green edition (Number 10). Guy Owen asked him to contribute a piece to Number 11, which was the Erskine

Caldwell edition. From Wisconsin, he sent a poem, which MacLeod published.

In Pembroke, Shelby helped distribute Number 12, the Norman MacLeod edition. “I corresponded with MacLeod but never met him. Looking back, it’s like a dream,” he said. “These little magazines are worth doing, and Norman did it.”

MacLeod founded *Pembroke Magazine*, and Stephenson breathed new life and energy into it. As the journal grew in volume and influence, Shelby’s own poetry and music gained an audience. He and Linda produced CDs of Hank Williams music and their own. His poetry was published in several collections and feature-length chapbooks. He won the Bellday Poetry Prize for “July.” None of his poetry appeared in *Pembroke Magazine*.

Shelby’s personality is magic and charismatic. His style of teaching and playing music are like his editorial style. Long-time UNCP colleague Chet Jordan distilled it in a few words: “He didn’t teach writing; he inspired it.”

From his porch in Johnston County, Shelby is cheering the magazine on. He has met the new editor and has read her work. “Jennifer is really, really a fine poet. I know she’s going to do good things. I wish her the best.”

It was “always personal” - the restored homeplace, the poetry and music, UNCP and *Pembroke Magazine*. ■

cultural contributions to UNC Pembroke, the region, the state and beyond our borders. In particular he contributed markedly to a literary and folkmusic appreciation of rural North Carolina and the South. He literally kept the *Pembroke Magazine* alive and well.”

**N.C. Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer:** “Anyone familiar with *Pembroke Magazine* knows that it pushes the boundaries of the possible, giving us special issues devoted, for example, to African American literature, American Indian literature, and now Hispanic/Latino(a) literature - all the while including many of our own North Carolina writers, along with reviews, commentaries and scholarship. The wizard behind this magazine is none other than Shelby Stephenson, award-winning poet and down-home N.C. picker and singer.”

**Poet Anthony Abbott:** “Shelby Stephenson has the earth, the sky, and the people of his land in his poems. I can hear Shelby’s voice, and I can close my eyes and hear Shelby and his lovely wife, Linda, singing and playing their instruments. Shelby’s not just a poet; he’s a presence.”



Shelby Stephenson at home

# Miss UNCP Pembroke Scholarship Pageant

Fifty-Ninth Annual

## Chasity Chavis: Miss UNCP 2011 is crowned



Chasity Chavis was crowned Miss UNCP 2011 before a large and appreciative audience of more than 1,200 people in the Givens Performing Arts Center.

Chavis gave a two-fisted salute upon hearing the outcome. Earlier in the talent portion of the Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant, she delivered a powerful rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing."

In fact, the freshman biology major from Pembroke is a little richer for her efforts, taking home a \$1,000 scholarship and free

room and board for 2011-12. She also earned a \$1,000 costume allowance when she competes for the Miss North Carolina crown in June.

First Runner-up was Courtney Lewis and Second Runner-up was Ashton Young. Lewis was named Miss Congeniality; Amanda Hooker won the Jessica Reed Award for Community Service, and Rihjanique Hunt won the Cheryl A. Walters Pageant Spirit Award.

The Walters Award is named for the late mother of Miss UNCP 2010 Jenna Walters. The outgoing queen bid a tearful farewell to a crowd who soaked up her performance and her tears.

"I lost my mom and best friend two weeks before the Miss North Carolina Pageant," Walters said. "She gave me the heart to compete."

After taking a tissue from the audience, Walters sang her farewell, "The Best Day," and got a standing ovation. The large crowd was excited and boisterous all night, a phenomenon not lost on Miss North Carolina Pageant Executive Director Alan Klaus.

"I always love coming to this pageant," Klaus told the crowd. "There is a college spirit here that we have at no other pageant."

Klaus thanked pageant Executive Director Dr. Diane Jones, vice chancellor for Student Affairs. The evening marked the 59th Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant.

"The Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant is always one of our most popular programs on campus, as evidenced by the large crowd that attended our 2011 pageant," Dr. Jones said. "It is a personal development program, and the title is highly coveted."

"Chasity Chavis did a wonderful job and we look forward to working with her during the next year as she serves as a role model and ambassador for the university and later competes in the Miss North Carolina Pageant," she continued. "It is a wonderful scholarship program, and we encourage student participation."

Master of Ceremonies Lane Ragsdale also commented on the successful pageant.

"This is the largest local pageant audience I have ever seen and the best technical crew," Ragsdale said.

Zavery McDougald is the pageant director and choreographer.

Mistress of Ceremonies was 2010 Miss North Carolina Adrienne Leigh Core. Miss North Carolina performed her clogging routine that won the talent competition at the Miss America Pageant. ■



## 60th Celebration: Looking for former Miss UNCPs

Alumni Director Renee Steele '91 is looking for former Miss UNCPs to join in the 60th year celebration of the pageant.

She has all but six accounted for. "If you or someone you know has information about Dessie Deloris Oxendine Lowery, Ellen Grace Lambreth, Jean Burch Stovall, Mary Robin Covington Lepore, Cynthia Gentry, Catherine Prevatte, Martha Frances Blalock Will, Melissa Emily Gates and Lori Barlett Koenig, please contact me," Steele said.

"This pageant has a long and distinguished history, and the 60th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate," said Steele,

who was Miss UNCP 1991. "We want to get all the former Miss UNCPs back to campus for fun, fellowship and to give the pageant a boost into its next 60 years."

A committee is planning events surrounding the event. They are Flora Jane Locklear Scott (Miss UNCP 1957), Judy Locklear Lowery (1962), Teresa Oxendine (1974), Kristy Woods Billings (1989), Steele, Dana Lowry Ramseur (1993) and Morgan Hunt Worriax (2005). Pageant coordinators Teresa Bryant and Cynthia Oxendine of Student Affairs are also on the committee.

"This is a unique and talented group of women and alumnae," Steele said. "I am honored to be a part of the pageant and very excited about the reunion."

For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (910) 521-6533 or email [alumni@uncp.edu](mailto:alumni@uncp.edu). ■

## Miss UNCP 2011: A performer but not a 'girlie girl'

For Chasity Chavis, being Miss UNCP will be a year on the big stage.

In an interview with UNCP's *Newswire* after winning the title, Chasity said being Miss UNCP means "a lot more responsibility." But she appears relaxed and ready.

If a crown is comfortable for Chasity, it may be because she's been there before, as Little Miss Lumbee and Junior Miss Lumbee. She's a natural on the big stage.

"I like performing a lot," she said. "I did several musicals with Studio One, and I've taken voice lessons since I was in the 6th grade."

When all was said and done at the Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant, it was her powerful voice that carried the day. Her song was "I Have Nothing" recorded by Whitney Houston.

"I really like that song a lot and I admire Whitney Houston as an artist," Chavis said. "The song shows what I can do; it gives me a chance to perform and tell a story."

Miss UNCP 2011 will be singing her song again in the Miss North Carolina Pageant. "I'm very excited about this summer," she said. "I am going to work my hardest and try my best."

Chasity is already a regular in the Campbell Fitness Center at UNCP. She played three sports at Purnell Swett High School. Besides soccer, tennis and track, she was a member of an award-winning cheerleading squad.

She smiles when she says, "I'm not what you'd call a girlie girl."

Chasity is a freshman biology major who will take the biomedical course of study. "I am thinking of a career in optometry or neonatal nursing," she said.

There is one special young man who inspires her to help others. Chasity's brother, Jared, is in the Army's Special Forces and has been to Iraq and Afghanistan. "My platform is Supporting Our Troops," she said. "I'd like to organize a care package program for the troops and become involved with their families. I like the idea of a letter-writing campaign to say thank you

and that we appreciate what you and your families are going through."

Jared's deployments, like all deployments, affected her entire family. "It's not easy," she said. "You try not to worry all the time and to put your faith in the Lord that He will take care of Jared."

Chasity has an easygoing personality and answers every question with the same ease. But on that special night, she was nervous as the judges called out the winners. When the moment came, Chasity gave a two-handed fist pump.

"Everybody told me I did that, but I don't remember it," she said. "I was surprised and it was a great feeling to see your hard work paid off. I was pretty confident, but all the girls were talented and any of them could have won it."

An experience like this lasts a lifetime, and Chasity is grateful. She praised the large audience in GPAC that night. The 2011 pageant set an attendance record with more than 1,200 seats filled with enthusiastic supporters.

"All the girls were very relaxed; we were like family and just had fun," Chavis said. "It was a great audience because all the contestants had support, which made it real fun."

On to Raleigh...Good luck Chasity! ■



## Men's basketball has breakout season; Wrestling has two All-Americans

### Men's Basketball

The Braves put the cap on an outstanding 18-12 (9-9 Peach Belt Conference) campaign by earning the school's first-ever trip to the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Tournament. The Braves, who finished the season with a No. 8 ranking in the final NCAA Division II Southeast Region poll, finished the 2010-11 campaign with their most wins since joining the NCAA Division II ranks in 1992-93. The campaign included a scattering of highlights as UNCP captured victories in eight of its first 10 contests, including a 15-point victory over eventual Southeast Region champion and NCAA Elite Eight participant Anderson at home. Sophomore guard Shahmel Brackett, right, followed up his PBC Freshman of the Year season in 2009-10 by being selected third team all-conference in 2010-11 and joined teammate George Blakeney on the all-PBC Tournament team after the duo led the Braves to a championship game appearance. Brackett, Blakeney and Chris Hargrove were all named to the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association's (NCCSIA) all-state squad as well. UNCP finished out the regular season in a tie for third place in the PBC's Eastern Division and will return four starters – Brackett, Blakeney, Mike Robinson and Marcus Heath – for the 2011-12 season. ■



### Women's Basketball

The Lady Braves completed a 12-15 season (8-10 Peach Belt Conference) that saw them earn their 11th-straight appearance in the season-ending conference tournament. Senior JaToya Kemp, left, became the third player in program history to land a spot on the all-conference squad three or more times, earning second team honors for the third-straight season. The Elizabethtown, N.C., native became the 19th member of the UNCP women's basketball team's 1,000-point club, with a 22-point performance against Wingate University on November 17, and joined teammate Briana Stanton on the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association's (NCCSIA) all-state squad. Kemp closed out her career in Black and Gold with 1,310 points, good enough for 12th place on the program's all-time scoring list. UNCP finished out the regular season with a fourth place finish in the PBC's Eastern Division and will return one starter – guard Domonique Washington – for the 2011-12 season. ■

### Wrestling

The Braves continued a tradition of outstanding wrestling by placing in the top 20 at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships after finishing off an impressive dual meet season with a record of 13-5. UNCP wrestlers took home 40 top-eight finishes across nine different tournaments in 2010-11, including six place winners at the NCAA Super Region I Tournament. For the second time in head coach Jamie Gibbs' five-year tenure, the Black and Gold qualified four individuals for the national tournament in Omaha, Neb., with Russell Weakley, right, (125 pounds) and Mike Williams (165 pounds) capturing seventh place finishes to secure the 45th and 46th All-American honors for UNCP since the 1978-79 campaign. The most distinguished finish of the season for the Braves came in the form of a third place laurel at the prestigious NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals in Cedar Falls, Iowa, with the Black and Gold also posting a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Super Region I Tournament and finishing in a tie for 17th at the NCAA Division II National Championships. Amidst the long list of honors for the Braves this season, Williams was also selected as the most outstanding wrestler at the NWCA National Duals tournament – a tournament in which UNCP knocked off a pair of top-10 ranked teams, including 15-time national champion Central Oklahoma. ■





## Pioneers of UNCP football discuss the first five years

They came to the university to play football, and they did. They also graduated. Some are in graduate school or preparing for it. They are a remarkable group for many reasons:

- They won their first home game.
- They won their first homecoming game.
- They were the fastest team in NCAA history to earn a tournament berth, after just three years.
- They produced the university's first football All-American.



By Todd Anderson  
Sports Information Director

### Morris McLaughlin

**Hometown:** Siler City, N.C.

**Position(s) Played:**  
Defensive Tackle

**Highlights:** Played in 41 games, 105 tackles (58 solo), including 42 tackles for loss and a program-best 18.5 sacks. School record for career and single-game sacks.

**Major:** Criminal Justice

**Graduation Date:** December 2011

#### You could have played at other schools, why a start-up program?

Once I met the coaching staff, it just felt like home. I thought I had a great opportunity to help start the football program here.

### Adam Deese

**Hometown:** Laurinburg, N.C.

**Position(s):** Defensive End (2007), Linebacker (2007-10)

**Highlights:** Played in all 42 games and earned All-American honors. Holds seven school records, including total tackles (245) and solo tackles (125).

**Undergraduate Major:** Exercise and Sports Science

**Graduation Date:** December 2009

**Graduate Major:** Sports Administration

**Graduation Date:** May 2012

#### What was the first meeting like in August 2006 with 140 other players?

It was finally crunch time. It was just exciting to hear coach Shinnick's outline of what was going to be expected of us.

#### You could have played elsewhere. Why a start-up program?

I originally signed with Presbyterian, but I am more of a home guy. It helped a little bit that I knew my brother, Jammie, was

going to come here and help out as well. You won't find a better football setting in Division II than what we have here.

New football programs traditionally are slow to develop. This one won three games in the first season and eight in the second season.

Coaches Pete Shinnick and Shane Richardson deserve credit for their recruiting ability. They successfully recruited talent who would not even play football in their first year. The promise of success was elusive and the schedule daunting.

The names of players on the Braves first football teams are etched in the memory of fans: Delton Ray Locklear, Jesse Oxendine, Ned Sampson, 'Big Mo' Strickland and many more.

The names of the pioneers of the modern era of football will likewise be celebrated. On the following pages are their story, in their words.

#### What was it like that first year when there were no games?

It was the worst. You had to be mentally tough. It was tough to go out there knowing you weren't going to play the entire fall.

#### What was your reaction to making the NCAA playoffs in 2009 and setting a record for getting there in just three years?

I was just so proud of the program. The whole week was just awesome.

#### What is your best memory as a football player at UNCP?

I would have to say my favorite moment is the game at Concord my freshman year when I got (school record) 3.5 sacks.

#### What will you take from your experience at UNCP?

Coach Shinnick and the entire coaching staff taught us all how to be men and to take care of all of our responsibilities. He taught us to fight through any obstacles thrown our way.

#### If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

I had a blast. Maybe not getting hurt last year, but other than that, my whole experience at UNCP was great.

We learned the system the whole year, and we figured out what the coaches expected of us. It was a little bit frustrating watching other teams play on Saturday. I think it helped us out a lot.

#### What was it like going through that first year with no games?

Big games – Describe the first game vs. Davidson, and the first win vs. Greensboro at home a week later.



Continued on p.20

Continued from p. 19

I was just a ball of excitement. It was our first chance to put on a uniform. It was even more exciting the following week against Greensboro because we were playing in front of our home crowd for the first time.

### What was your reaction to making the NCAA playoffs?

That is something that we can always say that we did during our time here. We are "that" team that made the playoffs in only three years.

### What is your best memory as a football player at UNCP?

I will always remember that double-overtime victory over Fayetteville State as a junior. And the other memory is playing Carson-Newman at home last year. They are a powerhouse program and to beat them was a phenomenal experience.



### Owen Thomas

**Hometown:** Cary, N.C.

**Position:** Defensive End

**Highlights:** Played in 33 games, 39 tackles (10 solo), 6.5 sacks.

**Major:** Business

**Graduation:** May 2011

### You could have played at any other school, why UNCP?

It had a lot to do with the fact that it was a public school and there were scholarships and other

sources of money available. I wanted to stay close to home.

### What was it like that first year with no games?

It was different. We trained really hard, and we were really serious in practice because we knew we were all fighting for starting positions. It was also nice to be able to transition into the school side of things.

### St. Anthony Lloyd

**Hometown:** Wilmington, N.C.

**Position:** Wide Receiver

**Highlights:** Played in 26 games. Caught 69 passes for 731 yards and four touchdowns.

**Undergraduate Major:** Criminal Justice

**Graduation:** May 2010

**Graduate Major:** Sports Administration

**Graduation Date:** May 2012

### You could have played at any other school, why did you choose a start-up program?

I saw it as a great opportunity for me to help start a football program. I wanted to stay close to home, and I was looking for a small school, so UNCP just fit what I wanted.

### What will you take from your experience at UNCP?

I just have a lot of good feelings about UNCP because I learned so much while I was here. I became a better man while I was here. I helped build a great foundation here, but I know that UNCP will always be a part of my family.

### You will leave with a bunch of records as well as an All-America honor. What do those things mean to you?

The All-American award was a goal I had set for myself, and it was a testament to the fact that hard work can pay off.

### If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

I am a person that is never satisfied. I could have watched more film; I could have put in that extra workout, and we could have done more things as a defensive unit while I was here.

### Talk about that first game at Davidson and the first win against Greensboro at home a week later.

We were all really nervous. We were just a bunch of freshmen out there, and Davidson had a lot of seniors, so we were just trying to be competitive. We ended up playing a lot closer game than any of us probably expected. The win against Greensboro was definitely an eye opener for us. We knew we had the talent to win some games, but that victory just proved that to everybody. We had a great time.

### What was your reaction to making the NCAA playoffs in 2009 and setting a record for getting there in just three years?

It was a direct reflection of how hard we had worked from the beginning of this program. We never really had that senior leadership because we all came in as freshmen and had to discipline ourselves.

### What is your best memory as a football player at UNCP?

My best memory is working hard and then coming out and getting the shutout against Fayetteville State last year.

### What will you take from your experience at UNCP?

I felt that I have grown as a person because of this whole experience of starting up a program.

### What was it like that first year with no games?

It was weird and very different. I was used to playing football during every fall since I was a little kid, and now all we were doing is practicing. We all still wanted to play so bad that we would organize sandlot football games.

### What was your reaction to making the NCAA





**playoffs in 2009 and setting a record for getting there in just three years?**

The best thing about it was that people didn't think we could do it, and we proved everybody wrong.

**What is your best memory as a football player at UNCP?**

My best memory personally is our game against Wingate in 2009. I scored my first touchdown in that game, but the best part is that we scored three fourth-quarter touchdowns, and I got it

going with my touchdown early in the quarter.

**What will you take from your experience at UNCP?**

Coach Shinnick has taught me a lot, even from little things such as sleeping habits and treating your body right. I will take the friendships with me when I leave - that is very important. I think the best thing he taught me is to stay resilient and never give up in anything I do.

**Kenneth Ngwu**

**Hometown:** Raleigh, N.C.

**Position(s):** Offensive Line

**Highlights:** Played in 39 games.

**Major:** Biology

**Graduation Date:**

December 2010

**Graduate School:**

Doctoral program in physical therapy at UNC-Chapel Hill in August 2011.

**You could have played at any other school, why did you choose UNCP, as well as a start-up program?**

I am very close to my mother, and I wasn't really looking for a football school to go to. I wasn't even going to go to college originally, but my mom convinced me to go. After we came on our visit here, my mom loved it and wouldn't leave me alone about it.

**Talk about that first game at Davidson in 2007, and then your first win against Greensboro at home a week later.**

It was probably one of the top three nervous moments in my life. I got a huge adrenaline rush after the first snap. It made it more special for me that one of my high school teammates was playing nose guard for Davidson. I think I pancaked him once or twice during that game. The Greensboro game was pretty overwhelming.

**What was your reaction to making the NCAA playoffs in 2009?**

I think you question things during your career, but you just sort of go with the flow of what the coaches tell you to do. I always had faith in what we were doing, but making the playoffs just solidified everything we had learned and done up to that point.

**What will you take from your experience at UNCP?**

What I will take from the experience is to play every snap like it's your last. You aren't promised the next day, so you need to give 100 percent every time. I wasn't consistent during my senior year, so I try to treat every day like it's my last.

**Adrian Williams**

**Hometown:** Wilmington, N.C.

**Position:** Defensive Tackle

**Highlights:** Played in 39 games.

**Major:** Exercise & Sports Science

**Graduation Date:** May 2011

**Graduate School:** Applied to graduate school at UNCP

**You could have played at any other school; why did you choose a start-up program?**

Coach Shinnick got me really excited about coming here when I came on my visit. He sort of reeled me in.

**What was your reaction to making the NCAA playoffs in 2009?**

It was a big sense of accomplishment for us. We knew it would be good for recruiting and sort of give a foundation for the program to build on. The coaches pushed us hard and we succeeded. We just wanted to build on that.

**What is your best memory as a football player at UNCP?**

I would say my favorite memory is beating Jacksonville at home in 2008. The game had a lot of ups and downs, but it was all about redemption for us because they beat us by 45 the year before at their place.

**What will you take from your experience at UNCP?**

I went from being a boy to being a man because of my experience here. Our coaches showed respect to us, but they also demanded respect from us as well. We are all better after leaving here because of the discipline they instilled in us. ■



## Historian's book studies a powerful, British female monarch

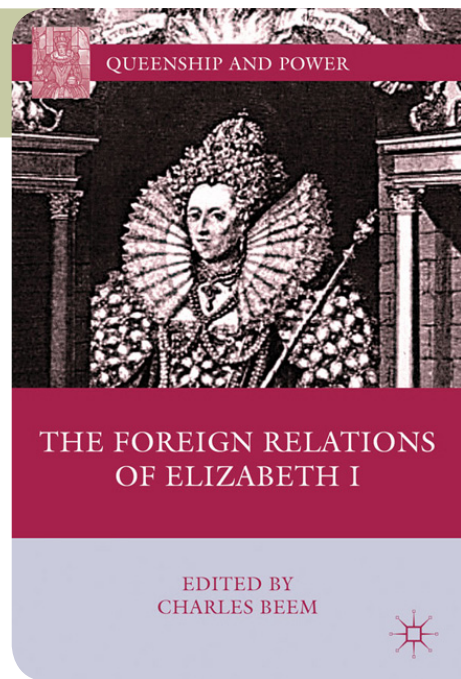
Dr. Charles Beem's third book on English monarchs brings together provocative essays examining various facets of Queen Elizabeth's reign and the extent of Elizabethan foreign affairs.

Dr. Beem edited "The Foreign Relations of Elizabeth I" (March 2011, Palgrave Mcmillan), a collection of essays that shed light on a woman whose influence shaped world affairs. Collectively, the essays reveal a ruler and a kingdom more connected to the wider world than is usually acknowledged. In addition to editing the collection, Dr. Beem wrote the introduction and co-wrote the essay: "Why Elizabeth Never Left England" with

Carole Levin.

Dr. Beem is an associate professor of history and coordinator of the British Studies minor. His first book concerned the queens of England: "The Lioness Roared: The Problems of Female Rule in English History" (2006). For his second book, he edited a collection of essays about youthful rulers, titled "The Royal Minorities of Medieval and Early Modern England" (2008).

Queen Elizabeth I has intrigued scholars, and interest continues to grow as scholars have come to look at her as a woman, Dr. Beem said. His collection is part of Palgrave's Queenship and Power series. ■



## Dr. Canada's book examines intersections of literature and journalism

Dr. Mark Canada's new book "Literature and Journalism in Antebellum America" (April 2011, Palgrave Macmillan) was published in April.

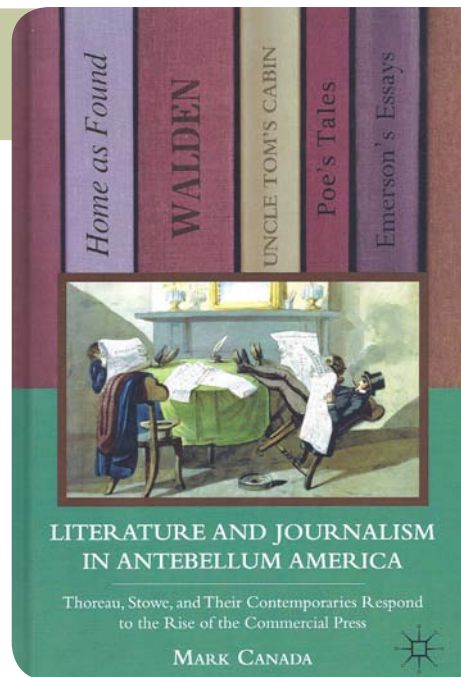
A journalist-turned-scholar, Dr. Canada examines the influence of journalism on American writers in the period between 1833 and 1861. It was a golden age for American letters, and his book considers its greatest writers, including Henry David Thoreau, Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson and Harriet Beecher Stowe, as well as the lesser-known Rebecca Harding Davis.

The period is a decisive moment in history for both journalism and literature,

he asserts. Beginning in 1833, the availability of "penny" papers for mass readership was a revolution in media, similar to the rise of the Internet, Dr. Canada said. "This was the period of American writers' response to the first truly mass media."

"There were writers not succeeding like they expected in this environment," Dr. Canada said. Examining the writers in this context is revealing, and early reviews of his book say it is both accessible and insightful.

"The once peaceful, almost monolithic world of American letters was undergoing a revolution," he concluded. ■



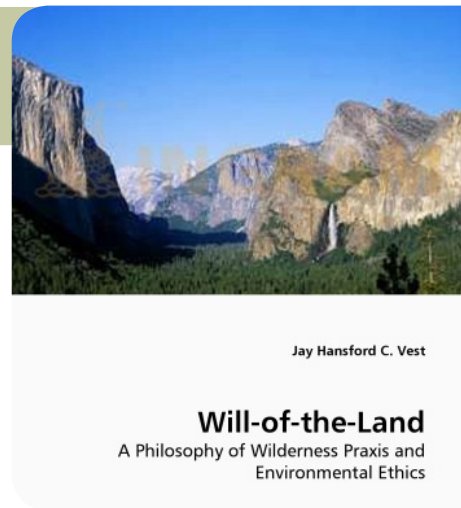
## American Indian Studies professor has new book on the environment

The wilderness has long been the subject of popular imagination, and a new book by American Indian Studies scholar Dr. Jay H.C. Vest re-examines this fascination.

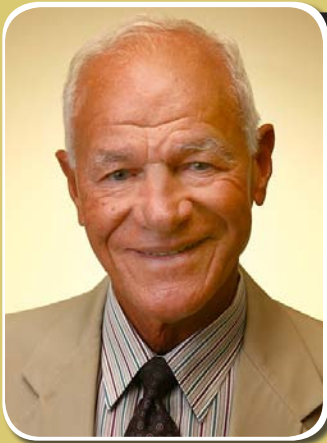
"Will-of-the-Land: A Philosophy of Wilderness Praxis and Environmental Ethics" (2010, VDM Verlag) tracks Western civilization's perception of "wilderness" from the Book of Genesis to the modern environmental movement.

Because the land once belonged to Native Americans, Dr. Vest, who is a member of the Monacan Indian Nation and an adopted member of the Pikuni-Blackfeet Tribe, wraps the evolving concept of wilderness in a Native spiritual and philosophical context.

Dr. Vest's views on the relationship between American Indians and wilderness will revise some popular and wrong-headed notions. ■







## Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine named Catawba's interim president

Chancellor Emeritus Joseph B. Oxendine has been named interim president of his alma mater Catawba

College.

Dr. Oxendine assumed duties at the Salisbury, N.C., campus on March 15. A 1952 Catawba graduate, he was a member of the board of trustees when appointed.

"It came as quite a surprise," Dr. Oxendine said in a February interview. "I did not campaign for the job."

After consulting with his wife, Adrienne, and son, James, who is a Salisbury resident, UNCP's former chancellor agreed to take the job.

"The more I thought about it, the more excited I became," said Dr. Oxendine,

who is 80. "The support I have felt from the board, faculty and staff has been tremendous."

He has remained close to his college. Dr. Oxendine is a member of Catawba's Sports Hall of Fame and was a three-sport star there. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science along with the Alumni Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Dr. Oxendine said he will remain at Catawba until a new president is named.

"I don't know how long it will be, but it could be as early as September," he said. "They will be searching for the right person, and that will take some time."

A private liberal arts college, Catawba has an enrollment of approximately 1,000.

"The college's goal is to achieve an enrollment of 2,000 within five years," said Dr. Oxendine. "We will begin that process immediately."

Dr. Oxendine said he plans to be visible

on campus.

"I enjoy the interactions with old friends and new ones," he said. "It feels very good."

Board Chairman Paul E. Fisher praised Dr. Oxendine as a team player with the personality that makes him the right man at the right time in the office of the president.

"His (manner) will be soothing to the campus and his wisdom will be a great part of the value that he brings," Fisher said. "He will be encouraged to make changes even before a new president gets here."

Dr. Oxendine is a native of Pembroke. He earned a Master of Education degree from Boston University in 1953 and a Doctorate of Education from Boston University in 1959.

One question remained. When the Catawba Indians host the Braves of UNCP on the football field October 1, who will Dr. Oxendine be cheering for?

"Possibly, I could sit in the end zone," he laughed. "I'm going to be a Catawba supporter." ■



## Dick Taylor named to UNC Board of Governors

Trustee Richard "Dick" Taylor of Lumberton, N.C. has been voted to serve a four-year term on the 32-member

University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Taylor was nominated by state Rep. G.L. Pridgen, a Republican from Lumberton, and, the House of Representatives approved his nomination along with seven others. The longtime Lumberton businessman is completing his second four-year term on UNCP's board as an appointee of the Board of Governors.

Taylor will be Robeson County's lone representative on the Board of Governors. Dr. Cheryl Locklear of Pembroke, whose term was expiring on June 30, resigned

earlier in March. Chancellor Carter thanked both for their service to UNCP and the state.

"Dick Taylor is an outstanding choice for the Board of Governors," Chancellor Carter said. "His service to our university and his dedication to higher education in North Carolina are exemplary."

"I want to convey my deepest thanks to Dr. Cheryl Locklear for her work on the board," he said. "The dedicated support of great individuals like Dr. Locklear is what makes UNC and all its constituent institutions the greatest state-supported university system in the U.S."

Taylor is a well-known businessman in the Lumberton community with an insurance business and real estate interests. He is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and a member of its Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Taylor, who will take office after July 1, said he is looking forward to serving on

the Board of Governors. "I will do the best I can at whatever they ask me to do. I just want to get in there and do a good job."

"I want to represent UNCP if I can," he continued. "It was a great honor to serve on UNCP's Board of Trustees, and I am very proud of the university."

Taylor was known as a dedicated trustee who attended countless university functions.

"That was very important to me," Taylor said. "I feel very strongly that if you are asked to serve, you should do your best to be there to serve."

Taylor was elected in 2011 to the Robeson County Sports Hall of Fame, and in the nomination, his philanthropy was highlighted. The Dick and Lenore Taylor Track at UNCP is named in his honor and for his support of the university.

A 1950 UNC graduate, Taylor was an All-American in track and was recently inducted into the Penn Relays Hall of Fame. ■

# Alumni



Greetings Alumni!

Spring is indeed here with a renewed sense of beginnings and new traditions: from celebrating Chancellor Carter as the fifth chancellor, a new provost, Dr. Kenneth Kitts, to a new Alumni Relations Director, Renee Steele. Please join me in welcoming Renee as we look forward to fresh new ideas from her for alumni activities.

At May commencement, we welcomed approximately 673 new alumni to our growing association. For the first time, we had separate graduations for undergraduate and graduate students. We need all of our former graduates and our new graduates to notify the Alumni Relations office of your contact information ([www.uncp.edu/alumni](http://www.uncp.edu/alumni)) because we want to keep you informed about your alma mater.

As always, your support of UNCP is vitally important for us to continue with our success and the success of our students. Start making plans to join us for Homecoming this year. Also, I would like to hear from you, so submit them to me via email: [alumni@uncp.edu](mailto:alumni@uncp.edu) or call (910) 521-6533. In the BRAVES Spirit,

*Sylvia Pate '99*



## Renée Steele joins UNCP as director of Alumni Relations

Renée Steele, a 1993 graduate and former Miss UNCP, served as first vice president of the Alumni Association before joining the Office of Advancement as director of Alumni Relations.

Vice Chancellor for Advancement Sandy Waterkotte said Steele's long time relationship with the university would help others make connections.

"We are so fortunate that Renée expressed an interest in this position," Waterkotte said. "After conducting a national search, we were convinced that Renée's connection to UNCP as a student,

her active participation with the Alumni Association Board and the credentials and skills she brings with her made her the perfect choice.

"She cares about UNCP so much, and that will show in her dealings with our alumni!" she concluded.

Steele has considerable experience in higher education as an administrator with Bladen Community College and adjunct instructor for the University of Phoenix. She is also enrolled in a doctoral program at Fayetteville State University.

A first-generation college student, Steele said UNCP helped her realize her dream of a college education and more. Steele was president of UNCP's Student Government Association, a Homecoming Queen and Miss UNCP, too.

"I built strong relationships with this institution through several student organizations," she said. "As alumni director, I will reach out across campus to current students to build those kinds of relationships."

The new alumni director will develop programs and relationships with future alumni. She will plan a wide range of alumni events, including Homecoming and the Phone-a-thon. ■

## Alumni Association

### Board of Directors 2009-11

#### Officers President

Sylvia Pate '99

#### 1st Vice President

Aaron Thomas '99

#### 2nd Vice President

Rudy Locklear '06, '11

#### Immediate Past President

Floyd Locklear '86

#### Board Members

Willie D. Christian '96

Mickey Gregory '88

Adam Hardin '06

Patricia Locklear '98

Yolanda Sinclair '98

Sheila Swift '03

### Class Notes

Alumni may submit new information about retirements, births, marriages and job changes by submitting information via:

Office of Alumni Relations  
P.O. Box 1510  
Pembroke, N.C. 28372-1510  
tel: (910) 521-6533  
email: [alumni@uncp.edu](mailto:alumni@uncp.edu)  
web: [www.uncp.edu/alumni](http://www.uncp.edu/alumni)



## Sylvia Pate begins two-year term as president of the Alumni Association

When Sylvia Pate '99 was elected president of the Alumni Association, the university got a bonus, her husband George '86, '99.

Together, they are unapologetic cheerleaders for their university. At home football games, the Pates cheer non-stop with their grandchildren.

"I'm a big football fan, and there is no place I'd rather be on a Saturday afternoon than watching a college football game at UNCP," George explained.

Sylvia and George enjoy university and alumni events throughout the year. Sylvia is the face of the Alumni Association at ceremonial events, including commencement. The Pates' connections to the university run very, very deep.

UNCP played a critical role in two careers. Working for the Lumber River Council of Governments, Sylvia earned a Master's degree in Public Administration in 1999, which gave her career a leg up.

After getting his undergraduate degree in business, George worked in management for two large local manufacturing companies, Converse and International Jensen. Even before U.S. manufacturing jobs went south, George had returned to UNCP to pursue an MBA degree.

"It's a huge opportunity to have an institution of higher learning in your backyard," George said. "I have graduate hours at NC State and East Carolina, but the quality of education I received at UNCP is just as good. I had wonderful professors who provided me with the foundation for my career."

Sylvia, who is a Western Carolina graduate, agreed and added: "We talk a lot about the 'personal touch,' but it's real here at UNCP. I liked that one-on-one with my professors."

George also made his degree pay off. MBA in hand, he got a job teaching business at Robeson Community College. He has also served as an adjunct instructor at the university.

UNCP's influence is strong in George's family with two siblings and a nephew also earning degrees. Their daughter, Lisa Mitchell, was Miss UNCP 1996.

Sylvia will retire on July 1 after 31 years of state employment and 10 years as director of UNCP's Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development.

"I was a UNCP supporter before I came to work here," Sylvia said. "Coming to work here gave me an even greater opportunity to participate in the life of the university."

But Sylvia will not become a stranger. After six years with the Alumni Association, she will serve a two-year term as president. She sees many new opportunities for the Alumni Association to make connections with alumni, old and new.

"Our tent at football games has put us in touch with many alumni who have not been back in many years," Sylvia said. "We would also like to form legacy chapters that focus on shared degrees or interests. A chapter for nursing alumni is the first."

Sylvia would bring alumni into the association before they graduate. "Renée (Steele), our new alumni director, has some good ideas about building loyalty with students," she said. "I

sense a new energy for alumni relations, and I think Renee will do a great job."

George added, "Looking at this from the outside, I think more alumni involvement in planning events is always a good thing."

With that in mind, the board of directors will sit down soon to work on a strategic plan. There is plenty of work to do, but Sylvia believes it is worth the effort to "give back" to her alma mater. ■

Sylvia and George with Eli, Mikayla and Tatum







## Lumbee Artist Jessica Clark is home

Jessica Clark '05 is back in Robeson County after three years at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), where she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree (MFA) in painting.

Clark's work has been on display across campus. During Native American Heritage Month, she was in the Multicultural Center in Old Main. In January, she exhibited in Givens Performing Arts Center for the River People Festival, and in February, she had a one-woman show in the Museum of the Native American Resource Center titled "A Native Perspective."

Clark is the first Lumbee artist to earn an MFA degree, which requires an intense course of study and a thesis exhibit. In the process, she matured as a post-modern artist. "I am painting and drawing every day," Clark said in a recent interview. "I prefer oil on canvas, large canvases."

From her artist statement: "My work documents and preserves the everyday life of the Lumbee people of North Carolina. We are a version of the Postmodern Native, a combination of European, African and Indigenous ancestry."

"The act of painting and printmaking allows meditation on the narrative and process, escaping to the moment the photograph was shot, becoming overcome by the emotions, sounds, and stories

associated with each subject. The large format and vibrant colors of my paintings reflect the vitality of contemporary Native culture and identity, creating monuments to a people who have persevered in the face of oppression and the appeal of assimilation."

While at SCAD, Clark spread her wings to study in France and tour many of the museums on the continent. She believes it was a valuable experience.

"I learned to work hard, and I learned the importance of having a community of artists around you," Clark said. "I had good teachers in Pembroke, too."

Clark's artwork has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Southeast and abroad, including the Savannah College of Art and Design, the Blue Gallery and Galerie Pfriend in Lacoste, France.

In addition, her work is in public and private collections, including those of Purnell Swett High School and the Savannah College of Art and Design in Lacoste, France. She has also been the recipient of numerous fellowships at UNCP and SCAD. Clark was born in Rowland, N.C., and is the daughter of Kenneth and Elaine Clark. ■



'Unity Powwow'

'Margaret Cummings Fuller'







## Basketball legend to be inducted into N.C. Sports Hall of Fame

Larry Lindsey '65 has been inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. He is the first UNCP graduate to be elected to the hall.

Lindsey is one of the most successful high school coaches in North Carolina history. His teams won eight state championships, and he had a career winning percentage of .800, stretching over 28 seasons.

He was also an outstanding high school and college player. Lindsey was inducted into UNCP's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984 and is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Lindsey's championships came in three different classifications, including two at Youngsville High School (1969-70) and six at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School (1971-73, 1977-79).

In a January interview from his home in Wake Forest, N.C., he credited his players for his success.

"I am just accepting this award for all the fantastic kids who played for me," Lindsey said. "They were good kids and dedicated basketball players."

Athletic Director Dan Kenney was quick to congratulate Lindsey on behalf of

UNCP athletics.

"Larry Lindsey epitomized the word 'coach,'" Kenney said. "He inspired young people to achieve, and he instilled in them loyalty that caused them to become teammates for life."

"UNC Pembroke has always been proud for him to be part of our family," he continued. "We are excited he is being recognized as one of North Carolina's all-time best coaches."

Lindsey's Hall of Fame class was inducted on May 12 in Raleigh. The other members of the 2011 class are Dale Jarrett of Conover, N.C.; Ricky Proehl of Greensboro, N.C.; Tom Parham of Emerald Isle, N.C.; Jerry Tolley of Elon University; the late Gene Overby and Al Proctor of Raleigh.

For Lindsey, winning started with his own playing career. He played on Youngsville High School's 1-A state championship team in 1956.

As a senior at UNCP, Lindsey teamed up with UNCP Hall of Fame member Joe Gallagher and coach Howard Dean to lead the Braves to a 19-8 record that ended with a first round playoff loss to Wofford College. They had wins over UNC-Charlotte and Campbell University.

Gallagher, who later coached at UNCP and in the NBA, said Lindsey is very deserving of the award.

"His teams were very, very sound," Gallagher said. "When I got into coaching, we talked a lot about defense and he was very helpful."

"When I was a freshman, he was a senior," Gallagher said. "He was very patient with me; he brought a lot of perspective to the floor and he had size and strength."

Coach Dean said Lindsey was "the coach on the floor" and an "enthusiastic and dedicated" practice player.

"He was our point guard and was an outstanding player on an outstanding team," Dr. Dean said. "When he came to Pembroke, he already had a vast knowledge of basketball."

"I knew him during his high school playing days," Dr. Dean said. "He was one of the best players in the state his senior year, and we were able to bring him to Pembroke after he served in the military."

Coach Dean said he remained in contact with Coach Lindsey over the years and his many state basketball

championships.

"This is a great honor for him, for the university and his players," said Dr. Dean, who wrote a letter of recommendation to the Hall of Fame.

Lindsey said he made "lifetime friends" at Pembroke.

"Those were the best years of my life," he said. "They took us in with open arms and made us part of the family; I can't say enough good things about Pembroke."

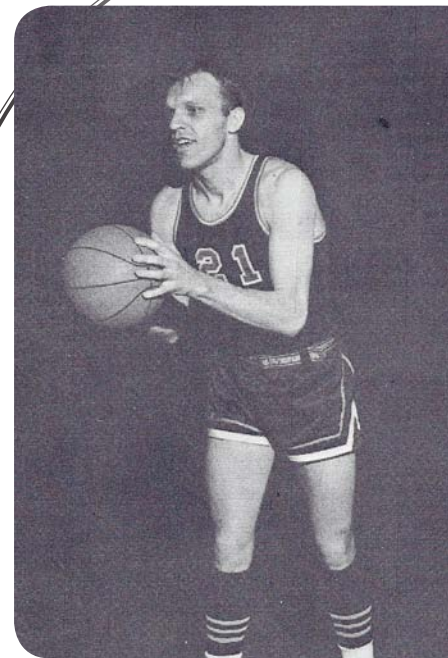
After college, Lindsey took over the basketball program at Youngsville High School and later Wake Forest, where he was also athletic director. Lindsey's teams were known for defense.

"Our players were small, and we played man-to-man defense," he said. "Most importantly, they bought into what we were doing."

Perhaps his most astonishing title came in 1973 when Wake Forest trailed Tabor City by 10 points with four minutes left. They didn't allow another basket and won 65-55.

Coach Lindsey returned regularly to coach at UNCP's summer basketball camp. He remains in touch with many teammates and coaches.

He retired in 1993 and lives in Wake Forest. With wife, Cherie, he has travelled extensively to China, New Zealand, Europe, South America and "everywhere in between." ■



## Farewell Mr. Curt: Pembroke loses business pioneer and friend

**T**he *Robesonian* called him “a pioneer of Pembroke’s business community who left a legacy of goodwill.” The *Raleigh News & Observer* called him one of the state’s most noteworthy individuals in an article following his death. The university called him one of its greatest graduates, friends and benefactors.

The rest of us called him “Mr. Curt.” The community will fondly remember him sitting in his favorite chair in the hardware store. If he were with us today, Mr. Curt would say: “It’s been a whole lot of fun!”

That was a trademark expression of Curt Locklear Sr. ‘49, founder of Pembroke Hardware, who died March 5 at the age of 87. He was a family man, entrepreneur and philanthropist. He supported many civic and community activities. His life was interwoven into the fabric of the community’s post-World War history.

Locklear’s family speaks volumes about his legacy. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Catherine; 10 children, Janice Sheffield, Cathy Thomas, Nancy Smith, Dr. Curt Locklear Jr., Marcia Locklear-Jacobs, Milton, Stephen, Lindsey, Anthony, and Christine Moore; 25 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by his brother, Monroe Lowry, co-founder of the hardware store.

The business is all about family. Lindsey is the store manager; Stevie is merchandising manager; Milton is lumber manager; and Anthony is repair shop and lawn and garden manager. Catherine, better known as “Cat,” is deeply involved merchandising, such as home furnishings, clothing and Christmas decorations.

Curt Locklear Sr. graduated from Pembroke State College after serving in Europe during World War II. “Ever the unassuming and humble man, he was

part of the ‘greatest generation’ of men who were proud of their service to their country in WWII,” daughter, Marcia Locklear-Jacobs, told *The Robesonian*.

Locklear played football on the university’s post-war teams. A generation later, he participated in the return of football to the university. The Curt and Catherine Courtyard in the Mildred Johnson Stadium resulted from his support for the First and Ten Campaign for Football.



*Curt and Catherine Locklear*

The university bestowed nearly every honor in its arsenal on him: Outstanding Alumnus and Business of the Year. The university cannot thank him enough, said Teresa Oxendine, assistant vice chancellor for advancement. “As kids growing up in Pembroke, he was one of those people we all looked up to. He combined success and humility in a way few are able. The university and many others benefitted from his quiet philanthropy. We are grateful to have known him.”

It is true that nice guys finish first. It was Locklear’s humility and personal relationships with people that earned him respect, Locklear-Jacobs said. “Customers

were much more than that ... he would say, ‘They’re not customers they’re my friends.’

“The relationships he had with people - that’s what made him so successful. That’s why people traded with him,” Locklear-Jacobs said. “He loved the people and they loved him right back ... he stood for all that was good and right in the world. This is the end of an era for the community.”

Locklear opened the hardware store in downtown Pembroke in 1963. The business grew and the store expanded to 9,000 square feet. In 1992, the family opened a lumber and building materials business a few blocks away.

The business has received numerous awards over the years, including in 2010 winning the “Best Hardware in Town” award from True Value in a competition for the Southeastern United States.

Folks in the community relied on Locklear and his hardware store, said daughter Janice Sheffield, who started working at the store when she was 16 and is its chief financial officer.

“People will always remember Daddy because he was always here for them to cash their checks, to sell them a heater or a refrigerator, and he’d let them pay monthly on it,” she said. “If they needed help they could come to the store ... Daddy was a

kind, loving person to all of his customers. He had the best personality, charisma and patience — with customers and the employees. They always knew where he stood, and they respected him for that.”

“You can hear story after story from customers. It’s really gone from generation to generation ... maybe three generations now, if they needed anything, they knew to come to Curt’s,” she said. “He treated people the way he wanted to be treated ... and I feel like he’s instilled in his children — all nine of us — that he and momma have instilled in us how to treat people. I know we can carry on the business the way he would want us to.” ■



# Class

# Notes

## Class of 2010

**Jessica L. Painter** is a research assistant at Premier Integrity Solutions, Inc. She resides in Wilmington, N.C.

**Cortney King** is a receptionist with First Health Family Medicine. She resides in Rockingham, N.C.

**Kristy F. Spauling** is a vice president and city officer with State Employees Credit Union. She completed her Master of Public Administration degree in December 2010. Kristy resides in Lumberton, N.C. with her two daughters, Olivia and Raleigh.

**Kristein Usrey** is a fourth-grade teacher with Anson County Schools. She resides in Wadesboro, N.C.

**Andra Hale** starred in Gilbert Theater's showing of "Dateline: Greensboro," a fictionalized account of the historic Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, told from the point of view of the staff of the local newspaper who covered the event. The show was performed in February in the well-known Fayetteville, N.C., theatre.

Hale was a Mass Communication major and station manager of WNCP Radio, "The Hawk," during his senior year.

**Veronica Kay Freeman '93, '10** is employed with UNCP. She was recently promoted to project director of Healthy Start CORPS. On Dec. 11, 2010, Kay completed her Master of Arts in Service Agency Counseling degree. She is a member of Chi Sigma Iota National Honor Society.

**Lindsey Arch** resides in Raeford, N.C.

**Christopher J. Moore** is employed with the Weather Channel as a mobile application developer. He resides in Atlanta, Ga.

**Uche' McClennahan** is employed with Richmond County government as the public health educator and program coordinator. He is responsible for coordinating a dropout and teen pregnancy prevention program. He resides in Laurinburg, N.C.

**Steven Robbins** is a high school teacher

with Orange County Public Schools. He resides in Winter Garden, Fla.

**Kristopher Meacham** is an officer in the Air Force. He plans to continue his education by taking a series of courses in air and space as well as air education and training command. He plans to complete his training for logistics readiness officer at Air University. He resides in McGuire AFB, N.J.

**LaCarrol Thurman** is employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County as a job coach assistant. She has been accepted into the Master of Education program at Grand Canyon University.

**Ciera Dial Locklear** is married to **Eric T. Locklear '06**. She is an agent with McGirt & Associates Insurance Agency.

**Wade Allen** is a crime reporter for *The Gaston Gazette*. He writes articles concerning crime in Gaston, Mecklenburg, Lincoln counties and surrounding areas, as well as other stories about people in the news. Wade recently spent the day with former President Jimmy

*Continued on p. 30*

## Scholarship honoring Laura Faye Lowry Locklear established

Surrounded by family members, Harold B. Locklear '72, endowed a scholarship to honor his late wife, Laura Faye '66. Locklear, who started life working dawn to dusk in tobacco and cotton fields in the nearby Prospect community, said "I never dreamed I could help the school this way. I've come from the bottom up. As a student here, I couldn't even afford to eat."

While still a Marine in 1967, he married his sweetheart, Laura Faye Lowry who was beginning a teaching career.

"If it hadn't been for this University, I wouldn't be where I am," he said. "I have to thank James B. Chavis for helping me graduate."

Art, Avery and Una attended the check presentation with their father in support of his establishing the scholarship in their mother's name. Another daughter, Antonia Maria Clark, could not attend.

"I think Laura Faye would approve of this," Locklear said of his wife who died in 2004. "It's something I always dreamed about doing for her."



**Locklear family** -- Pictured from left: Una, Harold, Avery, Chancellor Carter and Art.

The scholarship will go to an art student who needs help just as Locklear did. ■

# Class

# Notes

Continued from p. 29

Carter and his wife in Plains, Ga., which resulted in a column for *The Gazette*.

**Beth Locklear** is a school nurse for Hoke County Schools. She resides in Maxton, N.C.

## Class of 2009

**Rebecca Cash** is a registered nurse with Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. She resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

**Jeanna Allen** is employed with Horry County Schools as a reading interventionist. She resides in Shallotte, N.C.

**Billy Blackmon** is a graduate student at Drew University. He is pursuing a master's degree in religious studies. He resides in Madison, N.J.

**Meghann Goddard** is the assistant director

of class reunions at Norwich University.

**Kayla McMillan Locklear** is the homeless coordinator for the Public Schools of Robeson County. She is married to **Cecil Brandon Locklear '05**. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C., with their three-year-old daughter, Kynnady.

**Ryan Regan** was recently promoted from the regional constituent service representative in the Greenville, N.C., regional office of the Grants and Economic Development in the state headquarters for U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan. He resides in Greensboro, N.C.

## Class of 2008

**James Sibbett** is a medical student at Michigan State University. He and his wife, **Siiri '07**, reside in Grand Ledge, Mich.

## Ronnie Chavis set to retire as county AD



**R**onnie Chavis '72 was a fixture at school sporting events in Robeson County. Robeson's long-time athletic director was in the stands for middle school girls' basketball games and state championship games alike.

After nearly 40 years of working with prep sports, the last 22 years as the county's AD, Chavis will retire on June 30.

He began shaping young people's lives when he was a biology and physical education teacher at Magnolia High School after graduating from UNCP, where he starred in baseball.

"I have been very fortunate to work with a lot of good people who have been able to help me through the years," Chavis said.

Chavis made his mark as an outstanding multi-sport athlete at Prospect High School and took his baseball glove to UNCP, where he remains one of the most outstanding pitchers in school history. In 1996, he was inducted into the Braves' Athletic Hall of Fame.

It won't be long before he joins Robeson's greatest sports heroes in the county Sports Hall of Fame, which he helped launch as a founding board member.

Chavis was a creative force in local athletics. His legacy includes founding the annual Robeson County Shootout basketball tournament and the baseball and softball Slugfests each spring.

Chavis will miss the job and the Friday night lights.

"Like a professional athlete, when the fall comes and it's football season, then I know it will hit me then." ■

**Amanda Roberts** is employed with Southeastern Regional Medical Center as the coordinator of employee health and wellness. She resides in Hope Mills, N.C.

**Matthew Heckel** is a news anchor and producer for WDTV. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va.

**Cindy Woodell Locklear** is a media assistant for the Public Schools of Robeson County. She is presently enrolled in UNCP's School Counseling program. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Ashley Russell-Berdeau** is a high school visual arts teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She was recognized by the North Carolina Art Education Association as the Rookie Teacher of the Year. She serves as the department chair for her division and has received Teacher of the Month in two consecutive years. Ashley is married to **Brandon Berdeau '05**. They reside in St. Pauls, N.C.

**Jennifer Dillion** and **Garrett Straughn** were married on May 15, 2010. The bride is employed with Advanced Dental Associates. The groom works with Duke University Medical Center. The couple resides in Raleigh, N.C.

## Class of 2007

**Tiffany Justices** is a technologist at LabCorp. She resides in Spring Lake, N.C.

**Kate Donovan** is employed with DreamWorks Animation. She resides in North Hollywood, Calif.

**Megan Brooke Todd** is an exceptional children's teacher with Stanly County Schools. She completed her Master of Education degree in low incidence disabilities from East Carolina University on Dec. 17, 2010.

**Michael McMillan** is a youth service behavioral specialist with the Department



# UNCP friends, alumni inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

Jim Thomas and six others were inducted on April 17 into the Robeson County Sports Hall of Fame. With UNCP connections were Pat Townsend Willoughby '76, Kelvin Sampson '78, Dick Taylor, Lenwood Graham '78 and Thomas, who comprised the third class of the hall.

Thomas is a successful Los Angeles real estate developer, whose philanthropy at UNCP includes the Thomas Family Center and a distinguished professorship in entrepreneurship, a scholarship that honors his parents and contributions to the basketball program. He also owned NBA's Sacramento Kings.

Sampson's father, Ned '58, was in the first class of the local Hall of Fame. Sampson's wife, Karen '77, accepted for him because he was wrapping up the season as assistant coach of the Milwaukee Bucks of the NBA. He was named NCAA Coach of the Year at Washington State and took the University of Oklahoma to the final four.

Willoughby was a two-time all-state selection in basketball at Littlefield High School. The Press Box in the Mildred Johnson Football Stadium is named for the Willoughbys (Paul '73 is also a trustee). UNCP's track is named for Taylor and his wife, Lenore. Earlier, he was known as one of America's premier runners and is in UNC's Track Hall of Fame. (See page 23 for more on Taylor.)

Graham played basketball, football and track on Maxton High School's legendary teams of the early 1970s and was a standout at UNCP in basketball and track. ■



First row from left: Karen Sampson, Chancellor Carter and Pat Willoughby, second row from left: Lenwood Graham, Jim Thomas and Dick Taylor

of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He resides in Rockingham, N.C.

**Aytoiya Thompson** is a case manager with Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Matthew Locklear** is an air defense artillery officer with the Army. He plans to obtain his master's degree in ministry at Crown College in Powell, Tenn.

**Alexandria Cogdill** received a grant to support her cancer research at Massachusetts General Hospital. She continues in her role as surgical oncology research fellow with Harvard Medical School. Cogdill recently published in a scientific journal *Nature*. The article describes efforts to better understand the emergence of resistance to targeted therapy in melanoma.

**Connie Metcalf Harris** is employed with Madison County Department of Social Services as its director.

**Kindra Locklear** married **Jordan Locklear** on Nov. 6, 2010, at the Lumbee Lodge. The bride is employed with UNCP as an executive assistant in the Office of the Chancellor. She is presently pursuing her

master's degree in Public Administration (MPA). The couple resides in the Prospect community.

**Latoya Yvette Williams** was married on Oct. 10, 2010, at Lu Mil Vineyard in Dublin, N.C.

## Class of 2006

**Leslie Liszcz** is a student at King's College London in the United Kingdom. She is studying for a post-graduate certification in education.

**Marko Gospojevic** is employed at Cargill as the west coast director for quality and assurance. He resides in Ontario, Calif.

**Joshua Matthew Thomas** is a manager at Fancy Home Products. He resides in Wilson, N.C.

**Iris Darlene Derrick** is a probation and parole officer with the Department of Corrections. She resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

**Erin L. Berry** is employed with Bowie State University as an adjunct professor in the Communications Department.

## Class of 2005

**Shannon Harrison** is a teacher with Johnston County Schools. She resides in Clayton, N.C.

**Bryan Carter** is an English instructor with Halifax Community College. He resides in Raleigh, N.C.



**Gautam Nayer** was married in December 2010 in India. On April 2, there was a reception in Jensen Beach, Fla. In the photo above, from left are: Dr. Nicolas Giannatasio (Public Administration faculty), Nayer, Chancellor Emeritus Allen Meadors and Dr. Eric Dent (School of Business faculty). Nayer earned his Ph.D. in public administration at Rutgers University and is now a faculty member at Texas Southern University.

Continued on p. 32

# Class

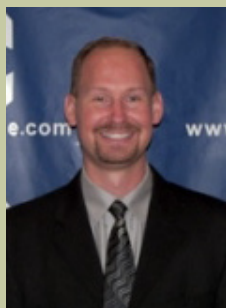
# Notes

Continued from p. 31

## Class of 2004

**Tiffany Lassiter** is a certified dental assistant with Dr. Harrison Keith III. She resides in Wilmington, N.C.

**Jerri Lynn Locklear** married **Bryan Bullard '98** on Dec. 11, 2010, at Porter Plaza in Pembroke. The bride and groom are both employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She is school counselor, and he is a physical education teacher.



**Brent Hager** was appointed as the associate commissioner for external affairs for the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He will handle communication

duties and assist with sports administration for the 15-member NCAA Division II conference.



**Charles Wentz** was the keynote speaker for the induction ceremony of UNCP's Phi Sigma chapter of the Chi Sigma Iota International Counseling Honor Society on Nov. 18, 2010. Wentz is a

licensed Professional Counselor currently in private practice with offices in Robeson and Scotland counties. UNCP's Mental Health Counseling and the Professional School Counseling programs hosted the event for 54 new inductees.

## Class of 2003

**Shana Gray** is a copy editor and page designer at the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*. The paper was awarded first place and "best of the best" for page one design portfolio by the South Carolina Press Association. She resides in Spartanburg, S.C.

**Jessica Reed** is practice consultant with South East Area Health Education Center. She resides in Wilmington, N.C.

## Class of 2002

**Robert Hall** is a retail buyer for Overton's Inc.

**Brian Bang** is a production superintendent with Perdue Farms. He resides in Rockingham, N.C.

**Stephen McRae Avant** married Laura Marie Hamilton on April 2 at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

**Jennifer Beard** was married to Henry Smith on Dec. 4, 2010, at Lebanon Baptist Church. She is employed with Ft. Bragg Schools, and he is employed with Cumberland County Schools. The couple resides in Eastover, N.C.

## Class of 2001

**SunSarae Locklear Harrell** is a social worker for the Public Schools of Robeson County.



**Rikki Cockrell Rich, '01, '03** was appointed as director of communications at North Carolina Wesleyan College. She and her husband, Marcus, are the proud parents of Addison and

MacKenzie.

**Carols E. Berdecia** is a pilot with the Air Force and resides in Charleston, S.C.

**Lorna McNeill Ricotta '01, '08** was named to *The Fayetteville Observer's* Top 40 Under Forty outstanding individuals in the Cape Fear region. The selected leaders are "known for their ambition, business success and service to others." Ricotta,

who is a member of the UNCP Board of Trustees, is owner of Ethos Creative Group in Fayetteville, N.C.

## Class of 2000

**Myra Jones Mills** is an operations supervisor for the Social Security Administration. She is married to **Otara K. Mills '96**. He is an agent for Farm Bureau in Lumberton, N.C. They are the proud parents of Macy Josephine. She was born on July 30, 2010. The family resides in Hope Mills, N.C.

**Kris Locklear McMillan** is a foreclosure agent/bankruptcy specialist with Robeson County's local government. She resides in Red Springs, N.C.

**Sarah Singletary Bruton** is a program coordinator for developmental studies with Fayetteville Technical Community College. She resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

## Class of 1999

**Wendy Lowry Jones '99, '07** was named to *The Fayetteville Observer's* Top 40 Under Forty outstanding individuals in the Cape Fear region. The selected leaders are "known for their ambition, business success and service to others." Jones is associate vice chancellor for advancement at Fayetteville State University.

**Marc Whisnant** is a mental health therapist for Advocate Health Care. He resides in Chicago, Ill.

## Class of 1998

**Tammy Prewitte** is employed with Highland House Rehabilitation and Healthcare as a social service director. She resides in Pembroke.

**Howard Mark Brown** is employed with Columbus County Schools as a principal. He resides in Evergreen, N.C.



## Class of 1996

**Eric Quigley** is a registered nurse and resides in Lexington, S.C.

## Class of 1995

**Martha Harmon Autry** and **Phillip Autry** were married on Sept. 12, 2009. They are the proud parents of Wyatt Carlisle Autry, who was born on March 25, 2010. The family resides in Stedman, N.C.

**Amy Bullock** is a self-employed certified public accountant and resides in Raeford, N.C.

## Class of 1994

**Jennie Rugg Smith** is a quality scientist with Unilever. She is married to Randell Smith, who is from Greenville, N.C. They have one son, Archie Smith. The family resides in Wagram, N.C.

**Micheal Strope** is a teacher with Bakersfield Christian High School and resides in Bakersfield, Calif.

## Class of 1992

**Angela Revels-Bullard** is employed with Lumbee River EMC as the human

resources manager. She resides in Pembroke.

**Sharon Vendrick** is school nurse with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.



**Brian and Sarah (Thomas) Jones'** son, Spencer Jones, shows his UNCP pride while enjoying the snow on the coast. The family resides in the community of Otway, N.C., east of Beaufort.



**Eric Walters**, content manager for WBTV News 13 and snow.com, has been elected president of the South Carolina Associated Press Broadcasters. He is married to Shannon, and they are the proud parents of three children, Madison, Lauren Ashley and Nick. The family resides in Murrells Inlet, S.C.

## Class of 1991

**Sharyn Stevens** is a teacher for Cumberland County Schools. She resides in St. Pauls, N.C.

## Class of 1990

**Lee Barnes** is an exercise planner for General Dynamics Corp. He resides in Mililani, Hawaii.

**Virgil Oxendine** is a library technician for reference in UNCP's Mary Livermore Library. He served as the 2010 president for the Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce. He is currently the chair for the Beautification Committee at UNCP.

**Jeannie Davis** is employed with UNCP as an analyst in the office of institutional effectiveness.

**Greg Williams** is employed with Richmond County Schools as a history teacher and varsity football offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach. He was named Teacher of the Year at Richmond Senior High School for 2010-11.

*Continued on p. 34*

## Five earn UNCP's highest awards for alumni

Five alumni were honored in February at the 42nd Annual Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet.

Dr. Johnny Hunt '77, '85, superintendent of the Public Schools of Robeson County, was named Outstanding Alumnus. Evan Davenport '86, an executive with corporate giant Unilever, received the Distinguished Service Award, and Matthew Staley '02, a district manager with the Social Security Administration, was named Young Alumnus of the Year.

Soccer player Timo Reinikainen '95 and wrestler Jay Stainback '82 were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Chancellor Carter noted in his welcoming remarks: "These are the graduates who make us proud."

"It makes me feel even better to be at this university when I meet our many successful graduates. These are people who went on to make the lives of others better."

Dr. Hunt's career is marked by public service. He rose through the ranks from classroom teacher to superintendent

while continuing his education. He also served as an elected county commissioner.

Evan Davenport has worked 14 years with Unilever, one of the world's largest consumer products companies. He serves as safety, health, environment and quality manager at its Raeford, N.C., facility. He volunteers in the public schools and is a motivational speaker for youth. Recently, he helped secure a grant from his company to support UNCP's Rural Health and Wellness Collaborative.

Staley is a Whiteville, N.C., native who served six years in the Navy before returning to UNCP to earn a degree in history. For the Social Security Administration, he has worked in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina and is currently a district manager in Conway, S.C.

Reinikainen was the University's



*From left: Dr. Johnny Hunt, Outstanding Alumnus, Matthew Staley, Young Alumnus of the Year, Jay Stainback, Athletic Hall of Fame, and Evan Davenport, Distinguished Service Award recipient.*

first soccer All-American and the first international player to play for retired coach Mike Schaeffer.

Stainback was a four-time All-American. "He is the toughest hombre you'll ever see," said retired wrestling coach P.J. Smith. "He put his heart out on the mat every time." Stainback is a special education teacher. ■

# Class

# Notes

Continued from p. 33

## Class of 1989

**Leon Crudup** is a senior aerospace science instructor with Northern Nash High School. He retired from the Air Force in December 2009 as a lieutenant colonel. Leon resides in Raleigh, N.C.

## Class of 1988

**Jeffrey Kahn** is a board operator with Cumulus Broadcasting. He resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Dr. Glenda Pope** was married to Bobby Edward Lambert on Oct. 9, 2010. She is employed with Cumberland County Schools as a consultant. The couple resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

## Class of 1987

**Cynthia McGirt Britt** resides in Lumberton, N.C.

## Class of 1982

**David R. Allen** is a commander in the Coast Guard. He is married to **Janet Lane Allen '89**. She is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserves. The couple resides in Doral, Fla.

## Class of 1981

**Bettie Jeanne Smith** is employed with Jones County Schools as a principal at Pollockville Elementary School. She resides in Swansboro, N.C.

## Class of 1978

**Jimmy Hunt** is employed by DZ Atlantic. He is the proud grandfather of Oconee Clark Chadwick, who was born on Sept. 18, 2010. He resides in Orrum, N.C.

## Class of 1977

**Terry Farrell Mueller** is a cash disbursement processor with United Guaranty Corp. She resides in Greensboro, N.C.

**Barbara Hickman Taylor** of Bladenboro, N.C., died Nov. 27, 2010. She was the manager of Robert C. Hickman Insurance

Agency for the past 25 years. She is survived by her husband, Warren Taylor; her parents, Robert and Marjorie Hester Hickman; a brother, Curtis Hickman; and two nephews.

## Class of 1974

**Ed K. Chavis** is a registered nurse with Southeastern Regional Medical Center. He resides in Pembroke.

## Class of 1971

**Kathy Jones Williams** is a wire transaction specialist with Crescent State Bank. She resides in Cary, N.C.

## Class of 1970

**Marilyn Alphon** retired from the Wake County Public Schools as a chemistry teacher after 20 years of service. She is currently providing private chemistry tutoring for high school and college students. Marilyn has two sons, Jason and Michael Cole, who live in Carrboro, N.C. She enjoys spending time with her

husband, Jim, at either their condo at Carolina Beach or farm in Duplin County. The couple resides in Raleigh, N.C.

## Class of 1969

**David Martin** is president of Martin Education Associates. He resides in Raleigh, N.C.

## Class of 1966

**Barbara Baxley Britt '66, '82** is a District 16 B child custody mediator for the Administrative Office of the Courts in Raleigh, N.C. She is married to **Jacob Vernon Britt, Jr. '71, '79**. Barbara and Jacob's daughter, Sherri is a 1994 UNCP graduate. The couple is semi-retired and enjoys spending time with their grandchildren, Britt and Chelsea Prevatte and Jacob and Abby Britt. Their granddaughter, Chelesa, plans to attend UNCP in the fall. ■



**Chancellor's Club Recognition** – From left: Lycurous Lowry, chair of the Robeson Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Chancellor Carter, Maxine Amos, Joann Anderson CEO of Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Lee Werner and Rose Marie Lowry Townsend. Amos and her husband, Mac, were recognized as lifetime members. Others received membership certificates and gifts.





ORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE

OLD MAIL









# UNCP BOOKSTORE

## Diploma Frame & Gift Collection

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE



### Embossed "Gallery" Edition

Features gold embossed black and gold museum-quality matting, framed in our high-gloss Gallery cherry moulding.

8.5" x 11" Diplomas, \* \$102.95 (#9721)  
11" x 14" Graduate Diplomas, \* \$123.95 (#18335)



### Tassel Edition

Display your graduation tassel in a shadowbox alongside your diploma. Your school seal and name are gold embossed on black and gold museum matting. It is presented in our Newport moulding, a deep-profile cherry frame with black accents and a gold lip. Diploma size 8.5" x 11" only. \$137.95 (#9723)



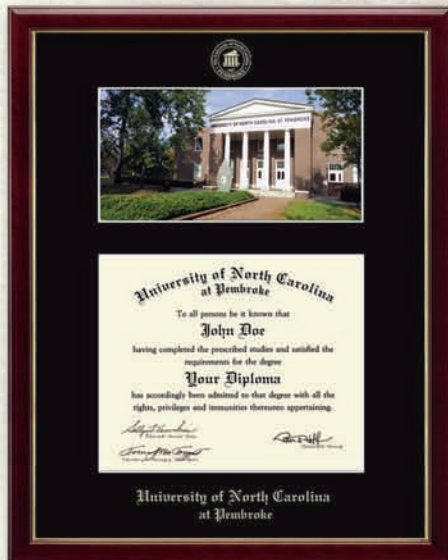
### 23 Karat Edition

Features a 23K jewelry-quality medallion of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke seal recessed into black and gold museum-quality matting, with the school name gold embossed below. Presented in our Gallery moulding with a high-gloss cherry lacquer finish and a gold lip.

8.5" x 11" Diplomas, \$126.95 (#9722)  
11" x 14" Graduate Diplomas, \* \$149.95 (#18336)

**Other items available!**

Visit [www.uncp.edu/bookstore](http://www.uncp.edu/bookstore)



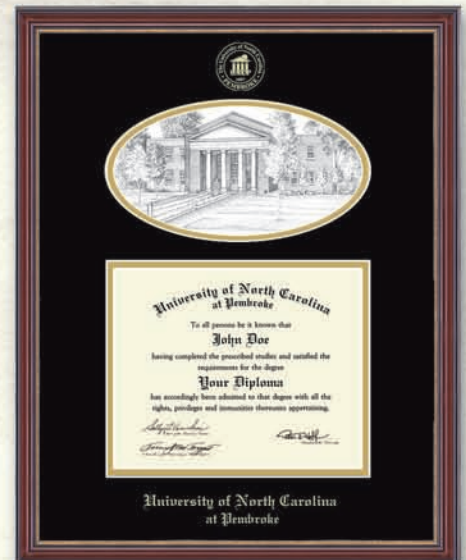
### Campus Scene Edition

Showcases a beautiful color photo of Old Main mounted above your diploma. It is presented with black museum matting in our high-gloss Galleria cherry moulding. \$144.95 (#9719)



### Eglomisé "Chateau" Edition

Features artwork of Old Main by renowned Eglomisé Designs Inc.® It is presented in double black and gold archival matting and framed in our Chateau moulding with a rich French walnut finish and coordinating inner lip accent. \$135.95 (#15454)



### Campus Scene Lithograph Edition

Showcases a black and white lithograph of Old Main mounted above your diploma. It is presented with black and gold museum matting in our cherry Kensit Gold moulding. \$158.95 (#9720)



**ORDER ONLINE AT [WWW.UNCP.EDU/BOOKSTORE](http://WWW.UNCP.EDU/BOOKSTORE)**  
**ONE UNIVERSITY DRIVE • PEMBROKE, NC 28372 • 910-521-6222**



## 2011 UNCP Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
September 3	at Fayetteville State (Two Rivers Classic)	6 p.m.
September 10	Chowan	6 p.m.
September 17	Wingate	2 p.m.
September 24	Glennville State	2 p.m.
October 1	at Catawba	7 p.m.
October 8	Tusculum (Homecoming)	2 p.m.
October 15	at Charleston	1 p.m.
October 22	at Carson-Newman	3 p.m.
October 29	at Newberry	4 p.m.
November 5	Winston-Salem State	2 p.m.
November 12	West Liberty	1 p.m.



[www.uncp.edu](http://www.uncp.edu)

*Homecoming*  
**2011**  
 October 8



Office of Alumni Relations  
 UNC Pembroke  
 P.O. Box 1510  
 Pembroke, NC 28372

NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 4  
 PEMBROKE, NC  
 28372