

# UNCP *Today*

Summer 2009

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



## Alumni Award Recipients

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Rep. Mike McIntyre  
Speaks to more than 600  
graduates  
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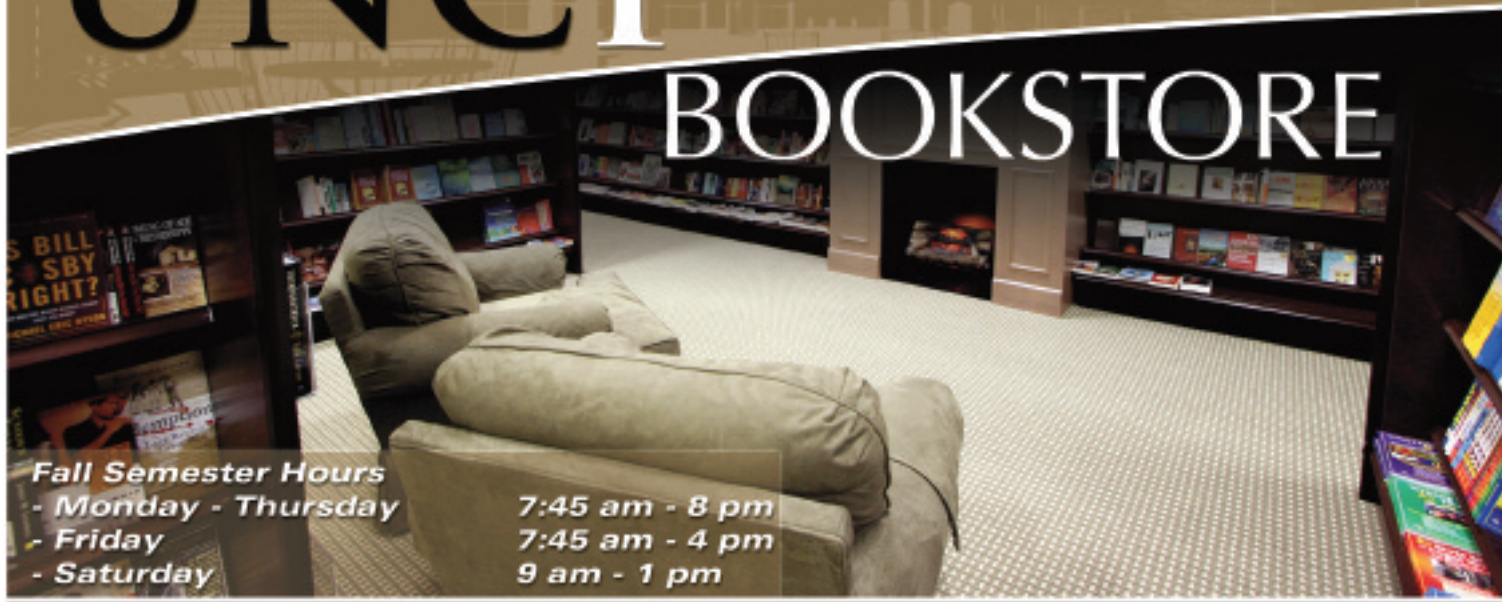
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# UNCP Today

Summer 2009

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UNCP *Today* magazine is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the University by the Division for University and Community Relations. 16,000 copies were printed on recycled paper at a cost of \$.90 each. UNCP is a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.

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# TIMEOUT



## 2009 UNCP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

(Tentative)

Date	Opponent	Time
August 27	@ Fayetteville State	7 p.m.
<b>September 5</b>	<b>St. Pauls</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>September 12*</b>	<b>Wingate</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
September 19	@ Carson Newman	1 p.m.
<b>September 26</b>	<b>Lane</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>October 3**</b>	<b>Webber International</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b>
October 10	@ Fairmont State	3 p.m.
October 17	Open	
October 24	@ Concord	1 p.m.
October 31	@ Frostburg State	1 p.m.
November 7	@ North Greenville	1 p.m.

\* Parents Weekend

\*\* Homecoming

Home events are in bold.

## Chancellor's Message



On May 2 a record number of graduates – approximately 615 – received their diplomas. Combined with the December 2008 graduating class, over 1,000 UNCP students graduated this academic year. That is truly remarkable, and it is the kind of news that keeps our spirits high!

At numerous events during the academic year, our students demonstrated that the nation's future – challenging as it may be – is bright.

The creativity and scholarship of students and faculty went on display in poster presentations at two events this spring. Undergraduate research is an important and growing phenomenon at UNCP, and our faculty is doing a great job. For one research project, a student and a faculty member investigated shrimp in the Lumber River. What they learned is important to understanding the ecology and health of this important waterway.

Congratulations go to *The Pine Needle* staff and faculty adviser Dr. Judy Curtis for taking first place in the American Scholastic Press Association's national competition. Competing against more than 2,000 universities with enrollments of more than 2,500, our student newspaper also won for best sports section. This is an outstanding achievement for our students and our University.

Bravo also for UNCP accountants and their faculty adviser Dr. Stephen Bukowy! A trio of outstanding accounting students made us very proud recently when they captured the national championship in the Government Finance Case Challenge of the Association of Government Accountants.

An economic downturn presents many opportunities. This is a good time to earn an advanced degree that may open doors for graduates. This is also a good time to learn a new skill or volunteer for community service.

Volunteering and community service continue to grow at our University. I wish our alumni and friends could witness the annual 24-hours of Relay for Life. This project raises an astonishing amount of money for cancer research, and it is a jubilant expression of a collegiate community.

Our community grows stronger with each year. This year the first international student – Arjay Quizon from the Philippines – was elected president of the Student Government Association. Arjay is the second member of the Esther Maynor Honors College to earn this distinction.

While we continue to sift through budgets and financial news, our chief concern at UNCP is that we maintain the quality of our academic experience for students. One of the cuts we may need to make in the next year is taking *UNCP Today* totally online versus a paper copy. To ensure you continue to receive your alumni magazine, please be certain to update your contact information at [www.uncp.edu/alumni/update](http://www.uncp.edu/alumni/update).

If we remain optimistic, several good things will happen. We will see the opportunities that exist in all situations. And, we will see weather change, as it surely will.

In higher education, it is easy to be an optimist. We are surrounded by so much energy and so many success stories.

Finally, I would like to congratulate English professor Dr. Susan Cannata, UNCP's winner of the 2009 Board of Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence. This award is an annual reminder of the importance of teaching for our University community.

As always, I would encourage alumni and friends to visit and communicate with your University. Whether it is at the Givens Performing Arts Center or at football games, please avail yourselves of the wonderful opportunities we have to offer.

*Allen C. Meadors*

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

# UNCP honors four standouts at Alumni Awards Banquet

Two All-Americans and two individuals who made a huge economic impact on the local community were honored in February at the 40th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet.

Aaron K. Thomas '99, president of a local construction company, was named Outstanding Alumnus.

Donna R. Lowry, president and CEO of a local home health agency with 600 employees, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

Russ Bryden '96, the only Division II basketball All-American in University history, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. He ranks 3rd on UNCP's all-time scoring list.

Former wrestler Freddie Richardson '83, with a career record of 126-14, was also inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. He was named All-American after finishing 4th at the national tournament his senior year.



**Aaron Thomas, Outstanding Alumnus**

business have grown together."

Thomas noted that the local community built the first campus building in 1887, and a local construction company is continuing that history. In her introduction, Dr. Cheryl Locklear '75, a member of the UNC



**Donna Lowry, Distinguished Service Award**

achieve whatever she set out to do."

Lowry thanked her family, employees and the University for helping her build Caring Touch Home Health Care into a \$13 million business.

"If you told me six years ago that I would have a payroll today of \$6 million, I would have said you had me confused with some other CEO,"



Not long after graduation, Thomas co-founded Metcon Construction Company, which is a thriving business with 75 employees. The company is responsible for millions of dollars of landmark construction on campus, including the James B. Chavis University Center Annex where the banquet was held.

"I am truly honored, and I am proud of the business success of Metcon," Thomas said. "UNCP is an economic engine for the local community. The University and our



Robeson County Commissioner Noah Woods '62, who was Donna Lowry's school principal, introduced the Distinguished Service Award winner.

"I am pleased to help honor an outstanding individual who I had the pleasure of meeting when she was in the middle grades," Woods said. "I knew then that she would

Lowry said. "I'd like to thank my family and especially my husband, Charles, who works with me, and Dr. (Carmen) Calabrese and Chancellor Meadors for sending an MBA team to help us out when we were a much smaller company."

Five years ago, Caring Touch had fewer than 100 employees when a team of graduate business students, led by Dr. Calabrese, then MBA program director, consulted with the company on technology, marketing and management. To mark that turning point, Lowry established an endowed scholarship in the School of Business.



Bryden's former coach John Haskins said his development as a basketball player was remarkable.

"He could flat out score, but he became a playmaker while he was here," said Haskins, who is now UNCP's women's basketball coach. "He made the people around him better players."

Bryden, who is married with three daughters, enjoyed the evening.

"I enjoyed coming back here to see how the University has grown," he said. "It's a real honor for me to receive this award. Thank you."



**Russ Bryden, Athletic Hall of Fame**

real honor for me to receive this award. Thank you."



Former wrestling coach P.J. Smith introduced Richardson.

"Freddie has physical attributes that stand out," Smith said. "Freddie had arms that were scary, but his heart was even bigger than his arms."

"My mother and father insisted I go to college instead of work," Richardson said. "I'm glad I did; I met my wife, Deana, here."



**Freddie Richardson, Athletic Hall of Fame**



It was an all-star audience, including several former award recipients, noted Sandy Waterkotte, vice chancellor for Advancement. On hand were former recipients Dick Taylor, Mac Campbell '68, Purnell Swett '57, Noah Woods '62, Dr. Cheryl Locklear '75, Breeden Blackwell '68 and Curt Locklear Sr. '49.

Besides Dr. Locklear, former UNC Board of Governors member Dr. Ruth Dial Woods also attended.

Chancellor Meadors said it was a special night for four special people.

"We have 50 years of graduates here tonight from 1949 to 1999," he said. "We hope you all enjoy the University as much as we do."

New Alumni Association President Floyd Locklear '86 presided over the event. Locklear recognized outgoing president Jason Bentzler '96, who could not attend. ■



# UNCP held a record-setting Commencement May 2

*“The challenge is to do what we ought to do and to go out and make a difference in the life of our communities. You are better equipped to do this today with your new degree than ever before.”*

Seventh District U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre encouraged graduates to temper freedom with responsibility.

Rep. McIntyre delivered the May 2 Commencement address on Lumbee Guaranty Field under partly cloudy skies. For Chancellor Meadors, it was his 10th spring commencement and his largest with more than 600 graduates.

Before a crowd of more than 5,000, the 7th term Congressman from Lumberton discussed a fundamental challenge of living in a democratic society.

“The paradox of true freedom is the more freedom you enjoy, the more responsibility binds us,” Rep. McIntyre said. “Freedom has been a sacred possession we have enjoyed as a nation for more than 200 years.

“The challenge is to do what we ought to do and to go out and make a difference in the life of our communities,” he said. “You are better equipped to do this today with your new degree than ever before.”



**7th District U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre and Chancellor Meadors**

Rep. McIntyre asked the graduates to remember three words: “reject, inject and project.”

Reject, he said, means that individuals “sometimes have to say no to senseless selfishness.”

Inject, he said, means individuals must “thrust themselves into the discussion.”

And project, he told the graduates, “is to know where they are headed as they move into the future.”

Mary Ann Elliott, a pioneering entrepreneur in the satellite communications industry, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during commencement ceremonies. From Lumberton, Elliott started an aerospace company in her basement that she turned into a \$100 million a year operation.

Elliott also asked graduates to remember three things as they go forward with their lives.

“My success in life was made possible through the three ‘Fs,’” Elliott said. “Faith, family and friends gave me the courage to stand fast when needed and then to move forward with the strength that was needed when the road ahead brought many detours and disasters.”

As UNCP’s graduates launched into the future, their plans for the summer revealed that they are headed in many directions.

Cum Laude graduate Sean DeRuntz, an accounting graduate from Southern Pines, isn’t looking for a job.

“I’m going to take a shot at a section of the CPA (Certified Public Accounting) exam,” DeRuntz said. “Looking for a job is not my top priority.”

DeRuntz teamed with Brenda Eldridge of Fayetteville to win the national championship in the annual Government Finance Case Challenge of the Association of Government Accountants.

Eldridge, who graduated Summa Cum Laude, said she will move to Kansas this summer.

“My husband is in the military, and we’ll be there for a year while he takes graduate courses,” Eldridge said. “I plan to prepare for the CPA test.”

Ryan Regan of Lumberton said his future is in the nation’s capital. “I have a one-year student internship with the Bureau of Legislative Affairs in the State Department,” said Regan, who received a four-year Mazda scholarship to attend UNCP.

Lisa Walters from Polkton, N.C., said she will take some time off this summer.

“First, I will work for a month at UNCP,” Walters said. “Then, I’m going to take a mental break.”

Walters graduated Summa Cum Laude and will attend medical school at East Carolina University in the fall.

Hannah Woriak of Pembroke also graduated Summa Cum Laude and said she will attend medical school, but not yet.



**Mary Ann Elliott hooded with an Honorary Doctorate.**



## University News

"I'm 19, so I will wait a year to apply," Worix said. "I want to be a general practitioner and teach."

Charlie Noble of Lumberton will continue a part-time job delivering building supplies and interview for employment in law enforcement.

"I interned with the U.S. Marshals last semester, and I am interviewing with them for a job in the next few weeks," Noble said.

Christian Felkl, outgoing editor of UNCP's award-winning student newspaper, will look for a job in television.

"I am hoping to get a job with TV News 14," Felkl said. "It's been a great four years."

Felkl finished his undergraduate career in style when *The Pine Needle* was named a top school newspaper for schools with enrollment of more than 2,500 by the American Scholastic Press Association.

Clinton Haywood of Pembroke served with the Navy and the Marines, but he will remain at UNCP for now.

"I am happy to be here today, and I am not leaving yet," Haywood said. "I've been accepted into the Master of Business Administration program. I hope to start classes this summer."

Among the more than 600 graduates, 123 received graduate degrees. It was the first time that the Irwin Belk Sports Complex was home to commencement.

In another first for commencement, Dr. Susan Cannata, an English professor, received the 2009 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. She served as grand marshal.



Offering remarks to graduates were Dr. Breeden Blackwell '68, chair of the Board of Trustees; Floyd Locklear '86, president of the Alumni Association; Clarice Cato Goodyear, a member of the UNC Board of Governors; Dr. Tony Curtis, chair of the Faculty Senate and Hannah Simpson, outgoing president of the Student Government Association.

Cherry Beasley, a nursing faculty member, introduced Elliott and Dr. Leah Fiorentino, dean of the School of Education, introduced Rep. McIntyre.

Chancellor Meadors presided and Dr. Charles Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for the Office of Academic Affairs, presented the candidates for their degrees. ■





## University dedicates Biotechnology Research and Training Center

A biotechnology research center and laboratory, located at UNCP's Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development at COMtech, were dedicated in March.

The University dedicated the center on March 13 and the lab on March 10 to Sartorius Stedim Biotech. The Goettingen, Germany-based company contributed a BIOSTAT CultiBag RM 2 valued at more than \$50,000.

"We're proud to be a part of this new biotechnology facility at the University," said Rich Malfa, who represented Sartorius Stedim. "I hope to be part of a continuing partnership. We are happy to see science and scientific training moving forward here."

The Cultibag allows cells or bacteria to grow in a controlled environment that is monitored continuously. It uses a disposable, sterile bag, which is oscillated and monitored digitally.

"UNCP will be able to develop and manufacture many products with this piece of equipment," Malfa said.

The Cultibag is one piece of a product line manufactured and sold by the company, which has annual sales of nearly \$600 million in bio processing lab equipment and filters, and nearly \$1 billion in mechatronics sales worldwide.

The Biotechnology Center is 5,200 square feet and cost \$2.2 million.

Chancellor Meadors said the equipment and the new laboratory would help UNCP train the scientists of the future.

"First, I want to thank our entire science faculty for the work they put into this facility," Chancellor Meadors said. "I want to



University dedicates Biotechnology Research and Training Center

thank Sartorius Stedim for their gift to get this biotechnology program started.

"This will encourage our students to do research and get them excited about science," he said. "This will benefit our faculty also."

Dr. Len Holmes, lead scientist at the Biotechnology Center, said the lab represents a new vision and raises the science profile of the region.

"This equipment allows us to put theory into practice, to transcend classroom teaching," Dr. Holmes said. "I want to thank Rich Malfa and Sartorius Stedim for their contribution to our project." ■

## University leaders begin quest for a PT program

The University is seeking permission from the state, the University of North Carolina system and accrediting agencies to establish a Doctorate in Physical Therapy program.

"The University is well positioned to offer a doctorate or a Master's in Physical Therapy program with a transition in the future to the DPT," said Chancellor Meadors. The program would have a positive impact on the University and on the region's health and economy.

"The health of the region lags behind the state and nation, in part, because we lag behind in training health care professionals," Chancellor Meadors said. "UNCP has the facilities and other tools necessary to launch a high quality physical therapy program."

The region's health care planners, recruiters, educators and managers agree unanimously that there is a severe shortage of physical therapists (PTs) in the underserved southeast region of the state where no physical therapy program is located. And training of PTs could result in the establishment of other allied health education programs, they said.

UNCP has experience with start-ups in professional health care programs. In 2005, the University launched its 4-year, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program to complement its RN to BSN program.

The nursing program, with an enrollment of approximately 200, benefitted from its partnership with SRMC, a leading health care provider in the region. UNCP enjoys broad support in its proposal from a coalition of hospitals in the region.

"We recently met with 13 hospitals in our region to discuss physical therapy," Chancellor Meadors said. "There is broad support in the health care community for the idea that a Doctorate of Physical Therapy program that would positively impact health care delivery and training in our region."

Having a program at UNCP would also provide the region's students an opportunity to stay in the area and attend an affordable, state-supported program, he said.

"It's an opportunity to improve the human capital of our region's people," Chancellor Meadors said. ■



## UNCP accounting team wins national competition

A team of senior accounting students won the national championship in the annual Government Finance Case Challenge of the Association of Government Accountants.

Sean DeRuntz, Brenda Eldridge and Jeremy Wyler qualified against 17 competitors from across the nation by submitting a winning case study in municipal accounting. They won an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., and the right to challenge the University of Nebraska at Omaha for the national championship.

UNCP's team of advanced accounting majors was advised by accounting professor Dr. Stephen Bukowy.

"This is a great honor for our University and our students, who worked very hard," Dr. Bukowy said. "It was great publicity for our program, and it was a great networking opportunity with employers for the students."

"It was a learning experience, and it was good to hobnob with the leaders of government and business accounting and finance," Wyler said.

"Two of the top four national accounting firms were there and many of the top 20 companies were represented," Eldridge said. "The biggest benefit of the event was getting to meet these people."

The best undergraduate accounting and finance students in the country were invited to compete in the challenge. UNCP sent an experienced and mature team.

DeRuntz, the oldest at 41, was a chef before enrolling at UNCP. His goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and work in corporate accounting.

Eldridge served in the military and worked as a technician for a major wireless communications company. She also wants to become a CPA.

Wyler, the youngest at 32, graduated in December and is working for Lewis and Lewis CPAs of Lumberton, N.C.

"We felt like if they chose a winner on substance that we would win," Wyler said.

"I think our presentation was very substantive," DeRuntz said. "We worked hard, and we worked well together as a team."

When it came to the question and answer period, UNCP's team really stood out.

"The audience and judges felt we addressed the issues better," Eldridge said.



Pictured are Brenda Eldridge, Sean DeRuntz, and Jeremy Wyler.

Student teams collaboratively analyzed and constructed a four-page "citizen-centric report" over a grueling 10-day period.

"We worked the entire 10 days on the project," DeRuntz said. "Because we work and have families, a lot of emails went back and forth."

Eldridge said they were a good team that was not afraid to offer constructive criticism if it meant improving the project.

"We all jumped on it and came at the job with the same mindset," she said. "We divided the project up and bounced ideas back and forth."

One of the most difficult aspects of the competition was addressing the "citizen-centric" issue.

"This required a report that was transparent, condensed and readable," DeRuntz said. "This is where our experience really mattered."

Dr. Bukowy said the project challenged the students in many ways.

"The experience challenged students' moral reasoning, raised their awareness of the importance of government accountability and may have opened their minds to a future career in government," he said. ■

*"This is a great honor for our University and our students, who worked very hard," Dr. Stephen Bukowy said. "It was great publicity for our program, and it was a great networking opportunity with employers for the students."*

## The Pine Needle is rated among the best in the U.S.

The American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) awarded *The Pine Needle*, the University's student newspaper, a first place award in their annual newspaper competition among 2,000 entries nationwide. ASPA judges gave an additional award to the newspaper for Outstanding Sports Section, making the paper a double award-winner for 2009.

*The Pine Needle* competed with colleges and universities with enrollments of more than 2,500. The judges gave the newspaper 925 points out of a possible 1,000.

"You have an excellent school newspaper, which shows the talent of your editors, reporters, writers, photographers, layout designers and adviser," the judges wrote. "Congratulations to all on your first place award. Also, congratulations for Best Sports Section."

ASPA provided the judge's breakdown of the points. Page design received 175 out of 175 points. Editing received 125 out of 125 points. The paper's point scores were similarly extraordinary in all other categories as well.

In its 61st year, *The Pine Needle* is published every two weeks and has an online edition at [www.uncp.edu/pineneedle/](http://www.uncp.edu/pineneedle/). In the past three years, the newspaper has added color, a sports section and many pages.

A staff of approximately 40 work on the newspaper, led by Editor Christian Felkl, a senior who has worked three years on the staff in progressively more responsible roles.



Pine Needle staff

The sports section, which broke out into a separate section a year ago, upped its page count to eight this year, said Sports Editor Matt Smith. He said a newspaper is a team effort and the best is yet to come.

"I joined the staff late without much experience," Smith said. "The staff and editors helped me a lot."

"I feel like we put out a high quality product," he continued. "Looking ahead, with the staff and editors returning to the sports section, I believe we can only get better."

*"You have an excellent school newspaper, which shows the talent of your editors, reporters, writers, photographers, layout designers and adviser," the judges wrote. "Congratulations to all on your first place award. Also, congratulations for Best Sports Section."*

"It's a true honor for me, the staff and our advisers to be recognized in this way for our hard work and dedication," Felkl said. "All that hard work paid off."

Felkl said the thrill has worn off some as he and the staff prepared for the final edition of the year and his very last edition.

"As I bid farewell to UNCP and *The Pine Needle*, I do so knowing that we have exceeded our greatest expectations," he said.

The University is overjoyed, said Chancellor Meadors at the April 17 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

"I have just been notified that our school newspaper has won an award as the best in the nation," Chancellor Meadors said. "There were more than 2,000 universities in this competition, so it is a truly remarkable achievement."

"It speaks to the quality of our programs," he said.

Dr. Judy Curtis, a professor in the Mass Communication Department, has been the faculty adviser for seven years.

"I've always been very proud of the students' work on *The Pine Needle* as they've grown the paper from an eight-page black and white tabloid seven years ago to the 28-page two-section four-color broadsheet that they've produced this year," Dr. Curtis said. "I always knew we had a top-notch, professional newspaper."

"I'm very gratified that the paper, the students and the University have received this national recognition," she said. "Perhaps the most gratifying, however, is the outpouring of congratulations and support from our readers - the campus community and the Town of Pembroke." ■





## UNCP scientists peer into the black waters of the Lumber River

Over the years, odes to the Lumber River have been sung by poets, outdoorsmen and Native Americans before them.

But it took a pair of scientists at UNCP to get a close look at one of the little known creatures lurking beneath the black water.

“Shrimp in the Lumber River?” said Andrew McMillan, a senior environmental science major. “I’d never heard of it before.”

“I’ve never seen one until we started this project,” said Dr. Patricia Sellers, an environmental science professor in the Biology Department.

Two years ago, McMillan was taking the course “Freshwater Ecosystems and Watershed Management” from Dr. Sellers, when they hauled in their first freshwater shrimp, he said.

“Later, when she said she wanted to look into it a little further, I volunteered,” he said. “We didn’t know a lot about freshwater shrimp and wanted to learn more.”

Collecting trips on the river sounded like fun to an avid hunter and Eagle Scout from the Wakulla community of Robeson County.

When a scientific inquiry is launched, investigators never know what they’ll find until they start down the road, or river in this case. Finding the first shrimp was a start.

The first hauls produced not one shrimp but two separate species – *Palaemonetes paludosus* and *Palaemonetes kadiakensis*, both commonly known as grass shrimp (and sometimes referred to as glass shrimp). More secrets began to unfold.

McMillan sent lab photos to Dr. Horton Hobbs, a noted expert on freshwater shrimp at Wittenberg University.

“Dr. Hobbs noted that it was ‘certainly unusual’ to find the co-existence of two separate species,” Dr. Sellers said.

With little prior research to guide them, the project launched an inquiry into the frequency of this cohabitation of species.

“We did have access to surveys from the 1980s by the (state) Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Division of Water Quality that found one of these species,” Dr. Sellers said. “We have the state’s unpublished data on shrimp from their periodic benthic invertebrate monitoring.”

There were more surprises in store as the investigation moved forward, she said.



UNCP scientists peer into the black waters of the Lumber River.



Andrew McMillan and Dr. Patricia Sellers sort through their catch.

“This morning, we thought we found a new species, but we won’t know until it is verified,” Dr. Sellers said on March 16.

“It is unlikely.”

Using a seine and sweep nets, McMillan and Dr. Sellers set out last winter to learn more about shrimp stocks, distribution and habitat at different locations on the river.

“We didn’t know where we would find them,” McMillan said. “We considered factors like salinity, water depth and current.”

Back in the lab, McMillan photographed and examined the shrimp, which appear very similar to their much larger saltwater cousins. Dr. Sellers said there is more to learn.

“When the state sweeps, they say that 10 or more shrimp is an abundant supply,” she said. “We’ve had difficulty at some sites and the water has been very high at times.”

Dr. Sellers and McMillan have been collecting all semester, and they often find themselves up to their necks in the work.

On a warm afternoon on March 17, the search took them to a location off the Deep Branch Road. The poets are right about the Lumber River; even in winter, its beauty is magical.

In waders, McMillan and Dr. Sellers began their search in a grassy area along the bank with no luck at first. The tan grass teems with life – fish, crayfish, spiders, dragonfly larvae and tiny crustaceans wiggle and squirm in their catch.

“These beds are interesting,” Dr. Sellers notes. “You get something from every group of organisms.”

The total haul at the first site is five tiny shrimp that will go back to the lab in the Oxendine Science Building for further examination under a microscope.

The project was part of an independent study course. McMillan ‘09 aspires to continue his studies.

“I am applying to ecology grad schools in New Mexico and Arkansas,” he said. “If that doesn’t work out, I’d like to work with the forestry service.”

Until graduation, McMillan continued collecting and making poster presentations.

“I think I’ll title the project, ‘Shrimp in the Lumber River,’” he said. “I think that’s enough to surprise people.” ■

## Physics professor Dr. Tim Ritter finally follows his dream



Dr. Tim Ritter at zero gravity.

Dr. Tim Ritter has worked diligently to facilitate science opportunities for students since he arrived on campus 13 years ago. As the faculty adviser to the “Weightless Lumbees,” he has organized six groups of undergraduates to do research with NASA.

There was one thing he had always wanted to do, and in January 2009, Dr. Ritter’s ambition met zero gravity.

Flying on Zero-G out of Houston, Texas, Dr. Ritter experienced zero gravity three dozen times. While several of his students experienced motion sickness aboard the legendary “Weightless Wonder,” the intrepid physics professor stepped in and assisted with their science experiments.

“Completely amazing, indescribable,” Dr. Ritter said. “That’s what my students always told me and that’s what it was.

“All of a sudden, your feet aren’t on the ground anymore,” he said. “It’s a strange sensation.”

Part of the experience is simulating the different gravitational fields present on Mars and the Moon as well as gravity up to twice that on Earth.

“I managed one push up at twice the Earth’s gravity,” said the fit-looking Naval Reserves Lt. Commander.

For years, advisers were not allowed to fly because student research is the primary mission of the long-running NASA program. Six times, UNCP sent diverse teams of science, engineering, nursing and mass communication majors into zero gravity.

In 2008, NASA contracted out the zero gravity flights to a private company and invited some of its most experienced groups to fly on the inaugural flight of “Zero-G” in January. It pushed up the Weightless Lumbee’s timetable by five months.

“It was a great honor that they had that kind of confidence in us,” Dr. Ritter said. “It was a short turnaround, but based on our past performance, they believed we could do in three months what we normally do in 10.”

On board for the first flight were: Lisa Walters of Polkton, Lane Guyton of Bladenboro, Lindsay Willis of Long Valley, N.J., Branyun Bullard of St. Pauls, Tamra Henderson of Shannon and Michelle Godwin of Rowland.

“This is a great program that I bill as UNCP’s complete undergraduate research experience,” Dr. Ritter said. “With NASA’s help, this is a world-class experience for our students.”

The students design their own projects and submit a lengthy proposal for NASA’s review. UNCP’s proposal competition included schools such as MIT and Johns Hopkins.

For some, it’s a life-changing experience.

“This year, we took a nursing student who told me she had never flown before,” Dr. Ritter said. “Part of the strength of our program is that we take diverse students and allow them to use their own academic strengths as part of the team.” ■

## Dr. Susan Cannata wins UNC Teaching Excellence Award



Dr. Susan Cannata

Dr. Susan Cannata, a literature and composition professor, was awarded the 2009 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence.

The award is given annually to a faculty member on each of UNC’s 17 campuses and underscores the importance of teaching in higher education.

The winners will be honored with a commemorative bronze medallion and a \$7,500 cash prize. Dr. Cannata will serve as University Marshal and deliver

the commencement address at the 2009 Winter Commencement.

A 10-year faculty member in the Department of English and Theatre, Dr. Cannata is a self-described idealist, believing that all students have the ability and the responsibility to participate in and influence the world in which they live.

“I see the classroom as a place that facilitates intellectual conversation,” she said. “Students are capable, but they need to be assisted into the conversation.”

In her classes, “Students learn that information does not constitute knowledge, that only critical thinking can turn information into knowledge,” she said.

Although the classroom has physical walls, Dr. Cannata reminds students that ideas permeate physical boundaries, and she also works to break down barriers between herself and her students.

“I don’t want to tell them how to read a poem or write a composition,” she said. “I believe the classroom is a place for students to enter into a dialogue with each other, with me and the world around them.

“I rarely lecture, so there is always interaction in my classes, which is not just good for students, it’s good for me,” Dr. Cannata said. “It is important for students to understand that I do not know everything and that they can teach me too.”

*continued on page 11*



## Large retired faculty contingent turned out on March 10

The club celebrated its 10th anniversary, said chair Dr. Raymond Rundus. Dr. Rundus, Professor Emeritus, introduced new directions for the club and a new board of directors.

"We've been paying particularly close attention to our legacy as retired faculty members," Dr. Rundus said. "Our three priorities are faculty development, retired faculty welfare and international programs."

The board includes Dr. James Ebert (biology), Dr. Gibson Gray (political science), Dr. Jesse Lamm (education), Dr. Robert Romine (music), Dr. Tom Ross (geography), Dr. Gilbert Sampson (mathematics), Dr. Peggy Opitz (nursing), Dr. Wright Killian (psychology) and Dr. Jose D'Arruda (physics).

The gathering of approximately 50 heard an institutional update from Dr. Charles Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, who discussed highlights including the "dramatic increase in faculty scholarship."

"Annually, we publish 10 major publications and 150 peer-reviewed journal articles," Dr. Harrington said. "On top of a very heavy teaching load, faculty annually make 125 conference presentations and write 100 proposals in support of sponsored research and programs."

Chancellor Meadors also addressed the gathering.

"Thank you for caring about your University," he said. "I want to update you on the progress in the Town of Pembroke since 1999."

Chancellor Meadors reported that 100 new businesses have been established and 3,000 new jobs have been created by them in and around the town.

"The University is not the only reason for this growth, but we play a big part in it," he said. "We're not done yet."

In attendance were: Dr. Ben and Ruth Dryman, Dr. Gibson and Mary Ann Gray, Dr. Linda Oxendine and Al Connor, Magnolia



The largest group in its history turned out for the annual Retired Faculty Club Dinner on March 10.

Lowry, Dr. Gilbert Sampson, Drs. Pat and Peter Valenti, Dr. Tom and Cheryl Ross, Dr. Jose and Dottie D'Arruda, Dr. James and Eleanor Ebert, Dr. Paul and Ila Killian, Dr. Jesse Lamm, Dr. Ray and Billie Rundus, Annie Ruth Maynor (wife of the late Gerald Maynor), Helen Gustafson (wife of the late Robert Gustafson), Edith Deese, Paul and Karen Van Zandt and Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine.

Membership in the Retired Faculty Club is available to retired faculty, spouses of deceased faculty and faculty with more than 25 years of service. Its mission is fellowship and continuing service to the University and the faculty.

Entertainment was provided by Dr. Larry Arnold of the Music Department. ■

### *continued from page 10*

Student evaluations rate Dr. Cannata consistently very high, and students say her classes are rigorous.

Dr. Charles Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said Dr. Cannata is a worthy choice for the award.

"Professor Cannata has consistently demonstrated a very high level of innovation, application and engagement in her teaching," Dr. Harrington said. "Students and colleagues have long recognized her exemplary commitment to student learning.

"This BOG award is fitting recognition of that commitment and demonstrated excellence. The University is very proud to have Dr. Cannata as a member of its faculty," he said.

At the recent Undergraduate Research and Creativity Forum, Dr. Cannata mentored five student poster projects on children's literature. "I was unsure at first how research in literature would translate onto a poster, but the experience showed me that it forces students to think about their ideas in different ways."

Dr. Cannata also enjoyed serving as an adviser for several Honors College senior theses and one English master's thesis. "I enjoy having in-depth conversations with students on subjects that interest me too," she said.

Winning the annual teaching excellence award is pleasing too, but the English professor also finds it sobering.

"It is extraordinarily pleasing and surprising, but humbling too," she said. "Because the award is bestowed by the Board of Governors at the recommendation of my peers, it is quite an honor.

"We don't teach to win awards," she said. "And this is not just an award; it's something to live up to."

In 2004, Dr. Cannata won a UNCP Outstanding Teaching Award.

She earned her doctorate from the University of New Mexico. Dr. Cannata earned a Master of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Liberal Studies from Boston University.

Besides teaching a wide range of literature courses, Dr. Cannata teaches composition. She served as faculty editor of *ReVisions*, the annual collection of best student essays. She also serves as a faculty adviser for Alpha Chi honor society, is a member of the Faculty Senate and holds numerous other positions in the service of the University. ■

## Faculty/Staff Mentions



**Chris Blackburn** joined the University as director of the Office of Greek Life. A Lewisburg, W.Va. native, he earned a Bachelor of Arts at West Virginia Wesleyan and a Master of Arts in corporate and organizational communication from West Virginia University.

**Rick Boyd** was named to the newly created position of assistant vice chancellor for public safety at the University. The Department of Public Safety encompasses the areas of safety, threat assessment, business continuity planning and campus police. The position was necessitated by the amount and sophistication of public safety planning in higher education.



Boyd earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in criminal justice at Michigan State University. He did post graduate work at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and taught courses in criminal justice and public administration at all levels of higher education. Boyd's first law enforcement experience came with the Army's Police Corps. He served the past 10 years as an instructor at the National White Collar Crime Center in Fairmont, W.Va. Boyd served as station commander in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina and was awarded a United Nations Peace Medal. He also served as second-in-command in the Ingham County Sheriff's Department and as the executive director of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association.



**Dr. Jose D'Arruda** received the Outstanding Educator Award from the North Carolina Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Center. Dr. D'Arruda joined UNCP's faculty in 1974 and teaches physics and astronomy. In 2007, he won the UNC Board of Governors Award for

Teaching Excellence. Dr. D'Arruda vigorously promotes science education in the region, and while chairing the Department of Chemistry and Physics for 23 years, launched UNCP's major in physics. He founded the Region IV Science Fair in 1980 and remains a co-chair. He was also instrumental in the construction of the University's new observatory.



**Larry D. Jacobs** joined the University as the internal auditor. Jacobs conducts reviews for management to assess effectiveness of controls, accuracy of financial records, compliance with policies and procedures, efficiency of operations and compliance with state auditing standards. A CPA with 30 years of experience in accounting, finance and management, Jacobs earned an associate's degree at Robeson Community College, a bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Campbell University, later qualifying as a CPA.



**Dr. Howard G. Ling** was named director of the MBA program during the Spring Semester. To meet the needs of its region, the MBA program offers classes at three locations – in Southern Pines at Sandhills Community College, in Fayetteville on Ft. Bragg and on the main campus. Students may enroll at any time and may graduate in as little as 18 months. Dr. Ling earned his Ph.D. from Old Dominion University, a Master of Business Administration degree from UNC Charlotte and Bachelor of Arts degree from Davidson College. In his eighth year at UNCP, Dr. Ling teaches international business and marketing strategy. He is a member of the American Marketing Association, the Society for Marketing Advances, the Academy of International Business and the National Association of Purchasing Management. ■

## In Memoriam



**John McMillan '96**, director of New Student and Family Orientation, died in an automobile collision on February 14.

After working in the Office of Admissions for five years, McMillan assumed the directorship of the newly created Office of New Student and Family Orientation in late 2003. He reported to Jackie Clark, vice chancellor for Enrollment

Management, who called him a “cornerstone” of her department.

“John was tremendously valuable to this University,” she said. “He helped get students off to the best start possible with their college experience.”

A dedicated employee and a well-liked campus figure, McMillan was a Red Springs native.



A popular figure on campus, **Angelyn Poole** passed away on March 30. She was named Employee of the Year by a vote of her peers for 2005-06.

Poole joined the University in 2002 in the School of Education and was promoted twice.

She was executive assistant to Dr. Leah Fiorentino, dean of the School of Education.

A Bladen County native, Poole will be fondly remembered by colleagues and hundreds of students.

“She always had a kind and compassionate word and time to talk,” Provost Harrington said. “I will miss her smile the most. We were blessed to know her.”

A scholarship was established in her honor. For information, please contact the Office for Advancement at (910) 521-6252.



**Timothy Van Hooser**, 51, died on April 20. He was a library technician with the Mary Livermore Library since 2002 and resided in Maxton, N.C.

Before working as a library technician, he was a professional actor and musician on cruise ships and with traveling musical companies. He played and sang at many University events as well as area festivals, restaurants, dinner theaters and churches.

“Tim was very talented with a great sense of humor and was extraordinarily well liked,” said colleague Michael Alewine.

He is survived by his long-time partner, Tom Waage; a step-mother, Toulia, two brothers, Pete and Hans; and one sister, Marilyn Jo. ■



## 2009 a record-breaking year for Braves baseball



At the April 17 quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor Meadors announced that the baseball team had tied a school record for wins in a former season.

At that time, the Braves were on a school record 12-game winning streak and later established a new school record of 36 wins. It is the team's fifth consecutive season with 30 or more wins.

"Does anybody remember who coached the earlier team?"

Chancellor Meadors asked. Dr. Raymond Pennington, a trustee, knew the answer.

"That man is here with us today," the chancellor continued. "He is Ray Pennington."

That earned a round of applause for both the 2009 Braves and Dr. Pennington.

The Braves finished the regular season with a record of 36-16 with the conference tournament still to come. There were many highlights during the season, said coach Paul O'Neil.

"The program has been very consistent and very successful," O'Neil said. "However, I don't think coach Pennington's record for the highest career winning percentage will ever be broken. He was the man!"

Outfielder Kevin Dietrich was named male athlete of the year at UNCP. He finished the regular season with a .431 (90-for-209) batting average to go along with school records in hits, home runs (16) and total bases (165).



Dietrich and the team set season records for hits and home runs. Demonstrating the Braves' consistency of late, those records were only a year old.

Following a series sweep over nationally-ranked No. 8 Georgia College in late April – including a 16-4 rout of the Bobcats in the series finale – the baseball team catapulted into the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper national poll at number 24.

In the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Southeast Region poll, the Braves were ranked seventh. The Black and Gold shared the No. 7 spot with Erskine and were joined in the listing by fellow Peach Belt Conference members USC Aiken (1st), Georgia College (3rd) and Francis Marion (4th).

The national ranking was the first for the Braves since the 2005 club started the season with a perfect 11-0 record, checking in to the national ratings for the first time under head coach O'Neil.

"We've had a great season, and it's great for the school and our program to be ranked," the coach said. ■



# Chancellor's Club Recognition Dinner

**New Chancellor's Club Members in attendance from 2007-8 and 2008-9 who were recognized:**

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Kellie Blue</i>                  | <i>John &amp; Betsy McNeill</i>     |
| <i>Steve Bourquin</i>               | <i>Barbara &amp; Peter Synowiez</i> |
| <i>Jeff &amp; Sybil Collins</i>     | <i>Mary Alice &amp; Ed Teets</i>    |
| <i>Cynthia Herndon</i>              | <i>Donna R. Tramel</i>              |
| <i>Wayland &amp; Melissa Lennon</i> |                                     |
| <i>Charles B. Lowry</i>             |                                     |



Chancellor and Mrs. Meadors with Annie Ruth Maynor, Lifetime Chancellor's Club Member



Mrs. Meadors and Miss UNCP, Katy Locklear, were present to help Chancellor Meadors greet guests as they arrived at this year's Chancellor's Club Dinner on March 13. Members and their guests were treated to a GPAC performance of The Catalinas and The Fantastic Shakers following dinner.



Melvin E. Gardner, Jr. addresses the membership as the incoming Chair for 2009-11. Jayne Maynor is the incoming vice-chair for 2009-11.



Teresa Oxendine, executive director of the Chancellor's Club, presents Melvin E. Gardner, Jr. with a plaque for distinguished service as the outgoing vice-chair of the Advisory Board for 2006-2008.



Chancellor Meadors addresses the Club membership prior to dinner.



First Bank Representative Mike Hardin, Special Recognition



Dobbs Oxendine, Special Recognition



Lumbee Bank CEO Larry Chavis, Special Recognition



Sylvia & Mac Campbell, Special Recognition

**To learn more about the Chancellor's Club, please contact Teresa Oxendine at (910) 521-6213 or email [teresa.oxendine@uncp.edu](mailto:teresa.oxendine@uncp.edu).**



## Virginia businessman establishes two scholarships at UNCP



Ken and Ruth Strickland with Chancellor Meadors.

the St. Annah community and moved to the Philadelphius community where he graduated from Prospect High School in 1959.

One of the scholarship programs, the Jepty Patrick Strickland Endowed Scholarship, will be awarded annually to a deserving Robeson County student. This scholarship is named for his father and honors his parents, Jepty Patrick and Mattie Bell Strickland.

Strickland said his father was a successful farmer who owned his own land. He was a lifelong member of the St. Annah Church,

Ken Strickland, a Robeson County native, has funded two scholarship programs at the University to honor his parents and his high school.

A business owner and real estate investor of McLean, Va., Ken Strickland grew up in

and he believed strongly in the importance of religion in everyday life and in the service to his community and fellow man. Jepty Strickland was committed to education for his children and worked diligently to provide guidance to his family toward that end.

The second scholarship program is the International Travel Fund and was established by Strickland in honor of the Prospect High School Class of 1959 and the teachers who inspired and encouraged him.

The goal of the International Travel Fund is to assist aspiring young educators from Robeson County who intend to teach in the Robeson County schools when they graduate. International travel exposes them to foreign cultures and societies as a means of enriching their educational experience, Strickland said.

By creating this fund, Strickland wishes to honor his teachers: James A. Jones, Con Oxendine, Ab Locklear, Joe McGirt, Coolidge Cummings and the former school principal, Danford Dial. He especially wishes to honor Eyrle Ransom and Pauline Bullard Locklear for the confidence and wisdom they imparted to him, which helped him attain success in life. ■

## Friends of Braves football establish scholarships this spring



Mac and Sylvia Campbell

Mac and Sylvia Campbell of Elizabethtown and Michael Clark of Pembroke established scholarships this spring for the football program. Both are sports fans with long ties to the University.

Clark is an architect and UNCP's director of Facilities Planning and Construction whose family is rooted in the University's earliest history. Mac Campbell is an oil distributor, a 1968

graduate and a former University trustee.

For the Campbells, this is their second scholarship at the University, and in 2006, the Wellness Center was named for them. Their second endowed scholarship will provide financial aid to a football player during summer school sessions.

Clark pledged to contribute annually to a scholarship, and he established a planned gift, via an insurance policy, to establish the Native American Design Services Endowed Football Scholarship. The scholarship is proposed for a Purnell Swett High School graduate or another American Indian in the county or state.

Campbell is putting his gift to a much needed program for the football team.

"In talking with Coach (Pete) Shinnick and Dan Kenney (Athletic Director), they said they could use some help in keeping kids at the

University during the summer," Campbell said. "In summer school, players are able to get ahead in their studies."

Clark would pave the way for a local student to attend the University and play football.

"I'd like to make sure the local talent has the opportunity to come play here," he said. "This is an area rich with athletic talent, and I'd like to see these kids here."

Clark said the scholarship is not a handout.

"The scholarship is intended for someone with ability," he said. "I am sure there are many athletes that qualify."

Campbell and his wife Sylvia, who is mayor of Elizabethtown, have been helping students and UNCP athletics for many years. Mac was recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Alumnus Award, and in 2001, he was named Volunteer of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Director's of Athletics.

Clark's gift is a pay back in two ways.

"I thought this was a good way to give back to a University that has been very important to my family and to my community," he said. "A lot of people helped me along the way; now it's my turn."

Clark, who grew up in Pembroke, is the first Lumbee Indian architect to graduate from NC State. His father is a UNCP graduate, and his great uncle is D.F. Lowry, the first graduate of the University in 1905. ■



Michael Clark

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

## Heritage Society

### Planned gift agreement received from Walter and Barbara Bell, class of 1965

Walter and Barbara Bell, 1965 graduates, recently signed a planned gift agreement that will establish an endowed scholarship.

The scholarship will benefit students from North Carolina or Virginia majoring in mathematics, computer science, biology or physical science.

The Salem, Va., couple, who met as undergraduates, joined a growing number of donors in the University's Heritage Society for planned giving. For this group, UNCP becomes a beneficiary of their estate.

Barbara Penninger Bell described the University in the early 1960s as a caring community.

"When we enrolled in 1961, Pembroke was predominately an American Indian school," Barbara said. "There were a few foreign students enrolled then, and the base was in place for the University to become the diversified university that it is today.

"It was a school where one could get an excellent education at an affordable price," Walter said. "I think that this is still true today."

Walter Bell, who is from Fayetteville, N.C., majored in history and mathematics and Barbara, who is from Charlotte, N.C., in home economics. Both Walter and Barbara received financial aid when they were in school.

Walter had a grant-in-aid, which consisted of a scholarship, a job on campus and a student loan. Barbara lived off-campus with friends and cleaned houses.

"Pembroke was the most affordable school in North Carolina then, and it still is," Barbara said.

Although the Bells took classes together and Barbara describes Walter as a "good classmate," they did not date until they enrolled in graduate programs at the University of Alabama. They went to Alabama with three Pembroke classmates: Mike Flanagan, and Fred and Fran Berry.

"When I got there Walter showed up and helped me move in," Barbara said. "Then, we started dating."

After completing work on master's degrees, the couple moved to Virginia where Barbara taught for 25 years and Walter for 28, mostly mathematics and later advanced computer science. Like many teachers, they found that they needed more money and supplemented their income with various endeavors.

Barbara taught adult education classes, and Walter tutored. Their interest in cooking later led to a catering business that featured specialty cakes that Barbara baked

and Walter decorated. Later, they added an azalea nursery.

"When we built our 'dream-house' in 1972, we couldn't afford landscaping," Barbara said. "The parents of a friend of Walter's had an azalea nursery in Eastover, and they showed us how to propagate azaleas."

They were so successful their horticultural interest became a 20-year business. They propagated as many as 30,000 azaleas per year. They also expanded to include rhododendrons. Health problems caused both of them to retire from teaching as well as their supplementary jobs.

They remember Pembroke fondly and their recent visit was eye-opening.

"The school was very, very good to both of us," Barbara said. "The classes were small, and if you needed help, the professors were there for you.

"We were well prepared for graduate school at the University of Alabama," she said. "With the scholarships, we wanted to do something at Pembroke to benefit other students."

"Anyone who was a student at that time who has not been back to campus in recent years should make it a point to visit soon," Barbara said. "We visited the campus in 1997 and were amazed at the change at that time. When we were there recently, the change was even more amazing." ■



Walter and Barbara Bell with Eleanor and Dr. James Ebert.

### Two students selected for Campbell Soup's IT internship Program



From left to right: Dr. Charles Lillie, faculty, interns Elizabeth Monroe and Quan Cohen, and Keith Rea, Campbell Soup's IT manager. On April 8, Rea visited the Computer Science and Mathematics Department to select two of the program's outstanding students to participate in Campbell Soup's prestigious IT internship program. The paid internships afford Cohen and Monroe an opportunity to utilize their computer science and information technology skills and provide them with hands-on experience working in a job directly related to their academic courses. Dr. Lillie is excited that students have an opportunity to supplement their academic credits with actual work experience, especially partnering with Campbell Soup, one of the region's largest employers.

**For more information regarding Corporate Giving & Partnership Opportunities, please contact Alisia Oxendine in the Office of Advancement at (910) 522-5711 or email [alisia.oxendine@uncp.edu](mailto:alisia.oxendine@uncp.edu).**



## Robeson Farm Bureau contributes to Biotechnology Center

The Robeson County Farm Bureau has joined in support of the University's new Biotechnology Research and Training Center.

The Farm Bureau will contribute \$50,000 to the center over five years to aid agriculture related research and education initiatives. The Biotechnology Center's mission includes building partnerships and planting seeds in bio-agriculture research and training.

The University dedicated the lobby of the center to the Robeson County Farm Bureau on June 11. It is located in COMtech, a business incubator near campus.

A mutual insurance and financial services company founded in 1936, the Farm Bureau supports farm families, issues and education. The county agency has 14 agents in its Lumberton and Pembroke offices, said Matthew Adams '89, agency manager.

"We worked on this project for almost a year, and when we saw what was going on at the Biotechnology Center, we thought it was the best fit for us," Adams said. "We think there is great potential there, and Dr. Len Holmes (lead scientist) has great passion for what is going on there."

UNCP's partnerships with bio-agriculture programs at community colleges are impressive, Adams said. Training students for jobs in the biotechnology industry was also important to the Farm Bureau's decision to make the investment.

The Biotechnology Center has forged partnerships for bio-agriculture research with:

- Robeson Community College on a project studying the symbiotic relationship between bioluminescent bacteria and nematodes useful for insect pest control;
- Brunswick Community College and the National Institute of Health on an aquaculture and bio-fuels projects; and
- Bladen Community College to collaborate with Sartorius Stedim Biotechnology Laboratory in the development of a clean room facility and undergraduate research programs.

Lycurous Lowry '57, an agri-businessman and long-time member of the local Farm Bureau's Board of Directors, is excited by the potential at the center.

"I thought it was outstanding that we could be a part of something at the University that is farm-related," Lowry said. "We promote education, and I think this will work out well."

Dr. Holmes said the gift provides a financial foundation from which other funding sources can build upon to accelerate the building of the bio-agriculture curriculum. The gift provides funding for faculty/student research, laboratory equipment and supplies and operational costs, which may not be covered through the normal funding channels.

"I sincerely appreciate the Farm Bureau's support of our mission," Dr. Holmes said. "The gift will uplift the theoretical and practical aspects of bio-agricultural technology transfer from UNCP to the agricultural community."



From left to right: Dr. Len Holmes, chemistry professor; Matt Adams, agency manager for Lumberton Farm Bureau; W.C. Willorford, Farm Bureau board member; Chancellor Meadors; Lycurous Lowry, president of the Farm Bureau county board; Ken Powell, director of field services; Pedro "Tito" Massol, Farm Bureau agency manager in Pembroke; and Graham Smith, Farm Bureau board member.

It is the second corporate gift to the new Biotechnology Center. In April, the University announced that Sartorius Stedim Biotech, a German-based company, contributed a BIOSSTAT CultiBag RM 2 valued at more than \$50,000.

Dr. Charles Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said the support is an "important investment in biotechnology, and education is an investment in the future of southeastern North Carolina."

"The Farm Bureau gift is a testament to the commitment that the organization has to the University," Dr. Harrington said. "This gift will allow us to further strengthen our bio-agriculture research and training capacities."

"The University is indeed grateful in the trust that Farm Bureau has placed on it," he continued. "We may continue to build on the foundation of excellence that has become associated with our outreach and engagement in biotechnology and bio-agriculture."

Alisia Oxendine, director of Collegiate Development, said partnerships like this one will help improve the quality of life in the rural community.

"Partnering with regional stakeholders such as Farm Bureau affords the center an opportunity to fulfill its mission of extending its outreach efforts to the community and, in this case, educational and training opportunities in the newest science related to agriculture and economic development," Oxendine said.

"The Farm Bureau Board of Directors demonstrated its visionary understanding of new developments in agriculture and how education plays a vital role in adapting and applying new technologies," she continued. "I am so appreciative of their support and confidence in our institution, and I am looking forward to developing a long and lasting mutual partnership."

For more information about the Biotechnology Research and Training Center, please contact Dr. Holmes at (910) 521-6650. ■

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Fayetteville Chapter

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### CLASS NOTES and CHAPTER NEWS

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: 1-800-949-UNCP or

(910) 521-6533

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

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

# alumni

## Greetings, Alumni



I hope you are all enjoying your summer vacations and spending time with friends and loved ones!

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I'd like to congratulate our newest members – more than 600 of them! This is our largest graduating class ever. Commencement was a great success, and it was nice to see our football stadium filled with graduates, parents and guests.

We encourage you, as new members of the Alumni Association, to stay in contact with your alma mater. Be sure to visit [www.uncp.edu/alumni](http://www.uncp.edu/alumni) where you can update your contact information, as well as share your news in *UNCP Today*. Whether you get a new job or promotion, get married, receive an award – whatever your news is, share it with your fellow alumni right here in these pages.

Many of you have been able to return to campus, but there are still some who have not. Whether it's for Homecoming, to attend a show at the Givens Performing Arts Center or an athletic event, or to visit one of your former professors, I hope you will make time to return to campus this year. I know you'll be glad you did.

Homecoming is October 2-3 this year, and I hope that all alumni will be able to return to UNCP to see old friends, enjoy all the activities, and rekindle old memories. It's a special time, so join us for the celebration.

In keeping the tradition,

*Floyd H. Locklear*

Floyd H. Locklear '86

## Homecoming is October 2-3



## Alumni dentist encourages students in talk at UNCP



Dr. Bobbi Stanley

Dr. Bobbi Stanley '88 returned to her alma mater on March 26 to talk about dentistry to a gathering of UNCP students.

Dr. Stanley spoke with a large group of biology majors about her career. She shared before-and-after “smile makeovers” of her patients and explained how a new smile can make people mentally and psychologically healthier.

“The best thing about dentistry is that you get to change lives!” Dr. Stanley said. “Every day, I am able to make my patients healthier by giving them, not only a healthy mouth, but also a beautiful smile.”

Dr. Stanley also discussed the challenges and path of becoming a professional. She encouraged students to make goals and write them down.

“I have my goals written and placed on my bathroom mirror so I can see them each day,” she said. “This helps me to focus on my goals daily.”

Alison DeCinti, assistant director in the Office for Advancement, invited Dr. Stanley to campus.

“It is obvious that Dr. Stanley is passionate about dentistry,” DeCinti said. “She had the students hanging on every word. Many

of them stayed after Dr. Stanley’s presentation to ask personal questions and get more information from her.”

After her presentation, Dr. Stanley received a campus tour as well as lunch in the University Cafeteria. In the afternoon, Dr. Stanley was interviewed by Wendell Staton, associate vice chancellor for Advancement. The segment called “UNCP Conversations” was taped in the WNCN-TV studio and will be aired on Time Warner Cable.

Dr. Stanley was surprised about how the campus has grown since her graduation in 1988.

“The University has changed so much,” she said. “Not only has the campus changed, but so have opportunities for students.

“No matter how much it changes, UNC Pembroke will always be home for me,” she concluded.

At Stanley Dentistry, located in Cary, N.C., Drs. Robert and Bobbi Stanley provide patients with healthy and beautiful smiles. Using state of the art equipment and utilizing the latest in dental trends, they provide the most advanced dental services available. From general and family dentistry to TMD/neuromuscular, sedation and cosmetic dentistry – Stanley Dentistry provides services to patients from all surrounding areas including Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Durham, Apex, Fayetteville and more. ■

## Graduate Brunch held on April 15, sponsored by Alumni Relations

The Alumni Relations Office held its best-attended Graduate Brunch on April 15 in the University Center Annex. About 150 undergraduate and graduate students gathered to hear North Carolina Representative Ronnie Sutton speak.

The Graduate Brunch is sponsored by the Alumni Association and is held each semester for students planning to graduate that semester. The event features a buffet breakfast prepared by Sodexo Food Service, and alumni return to their alma mater to speak to graduates and offer words of encouragement.

“Our graduates hear from the Career Center and the Office of Graduate Studies about the services that they offer for alumni,” said James Bass, director of Alumni Relations. “They also hear parting messages from our SGA president and Chancellor Meadors.”

Bass said the students also hear from the Alumni Association.

“A member of our association’s board of directors also gives a message,” he said. “We want to welcome them into our alumni association, and we encourage them to be active. The Graduate Brunch is a great opportunity for us to give them this message.” ■



N.C. Representative Ronnie Sutton addresses spring graduates.

**CORRECTION:** The correct title of the 20-minute film discussed in last edition’s article titled “Lumbee Elders speak on school desegregation: What was lost and what was gained” is “Elder Teachers Project: A Time When We Were One.”

'09 **Patricia Brayboy** is a teacher assistant with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Rowland, N.C.

'08 **Tonya Nichole Baker** and Darin Locklear were married on January 31. She works for Corevantage Technologies. They reside in Pembroke.

**Marquita Brazier** is an undergraduate admissions counselor for Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C.

**Renae Hester** was promoted to director of Critical Care Services at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, N.C. She is responsible for the ICU, IMU and telemetry units. Previously the unit manager of ICU/IMU, she also worked as an ICU staff nurse for 11 years before joining Duke Life Flight in 2002. She resides in Bladenboro, N.C., with her husband, Rodney, and two children, Cory, 24, and Jordan, 19.

**Emily Kuhlbars Howden** is a veterinary student at NC State University in Raleigh. She resides in Angier, N.C.

**Earlicia McBryde** is a case manager for Robeson County Health Care Corp. She resides in Red Springs, N.C.

**Valentina Marie Oxendine** and Christopher Giles Oxendine were married on April 4. She works for Healthkeeperz Pharmacy, and he is a UNCP student. The couple resides in Red Springs, N.C.

**Chasity Sessoms** is the wellness coordinator for Cumberland County. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Sarah Subaran** is a Post-Baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Fellow with National Institutes of Health. She resides in Baltimore, Md.

'07 **Mary Beth Butler** and **Stephen Garrett Adams** were married on Oct. 4, 2008. She is a graduate student at UNC-Wilmington, and he is employed by BB&T. The couple resides in Wilmington, N.C.

**Ashley Engels** is a teacher with the Guilford County Schools. She resides in Greensboro, N.C.

**Shannon McCall** is working on a master's degree in political science, with a concentration in American government, at Appalachian State University.

**Jeffrey Meunier** is a camera/jib operator for ESPN. He resides in Atlanta, Ga.

**Ciara Nicole Patterson** and Jeremy Branch were married on April 18. She works for Fayetteville Gastroenterology Associates. The couple resides in Hope Mills, N.C.

**Jessica Lynn Scott** is a deputy clerk for the state of North Carolina. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.

'06 **Amanda Arial** is a private organizations coordinator for the U.S. Department of Defense's Army Garrison-Stuttgart Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Financial Management Division in Stuttgart, Germany.

**Kelly Stein** and **Joe Cerro** were married on March 29, 2008. They both work for AT&T and reside in Raeford, N.C.

**Stephanie Hope Chavis** and Alex Matthew Thomas were married on Aug. 16, 2008. She is employed by the Public Schools of Robeson County. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Keita Coates** received an associate degree from the International Academy of Design and Technology on March 21. She is married to **George Coates '05**, and the couple resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Bryan Graham** is recreation director for the Town of Pembroke. He resides in Pembroke.

**Elizabeth Larsen Hensley** welcomed a son, Ronald James, on Oct. 28, 2008. She works for Wal-Mart and resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

**Stephanie Jacobs** is employed by Robeson County Department of Social Services' Child Protective Services Department. She resides in Pembroke.

**Crystal Moore** joined the staff of Johnson Medical Clinic in Red Springs, N.C. She received certificates to serve as a family nurse practitioner in May 2008 from UNC-Chapel Hill. Her areas of special interest are women's health and diabetes.

**Heidie Norris** and her husband, John, welcomed a son, Nathaniel Andrew, on July 1, 2008. He weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. and was 22.5 inches long. She works for Mucci's Italian Bistro and resides in Monroe, N.C., with her family.

**Mark Schulman** won a second place North Carolina Press Association award for interactive features. He is the online editor for the *Times-News* in Hendersonville, N.C., where he resides.

**Douglas Thompson** and **Sarah Parker** were married on Oct. 4, 2008. He is a field claims adjuster for N.C. Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, and she is the security administration coordinator with the N.C. State Employees Credit Union. The couple resides in Willow Spring, N.C.

**Anthony Michael Zimmerman** is enrolled in a doctoral program in counseling at the University of Georgia, with plans to graduate in 2012. He resides in Athens, Ga.

'05 **Crystal Burnette** is an income maintenance caseworker with Cumberland County Department of Social Services.

**Andrea Patawaran-Hickman** is an assistant director of admissions at UNCP. She is married to **William V. Hickman '08**, and the couple resides in Hope Mills, N.C.

**Abby Pierce** is the business development manager for Adcorp. She resides in Edgecliff, Australia.

**Jessica Leigh Riesbeck** is a library technical assistant in the Mary Livermore Library at UNCP. She resides in Pembroke.

'04 **Barbara Collins** is director of WoodHaven Nursing and Alzheimer's Care Center in Lumberton, N.C.

**Stephanie Oxendine Hester** is a science teacher with the Bladen County Schools. She resides in Dublin, N.C.

**Jason Lowery** is a physician at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, S.C. He resides in Effingham, S.C.

**Belinda Hammonds-Rose** is a faculty member for University of Phoenix. She taught her first online



## Class Notes

managerial accounting class in September 2008. She is also the owner of KBR Construction in Lumberton, N.C., where she resides.

**Elliott Garrard Palmer** welcomed a son, Justice Nevier, on May 7, 2008. Elliott is a firefighter with the Raleigh Fire Department, and he resides in Garner, N.C.

**'03 Josh Beard** is a company commander with the U.S. Army. He resides in Phoenix City, Ala.

**Stacie Lewis Bryan** and her husband, Adam, welcomed their son, Brayden Raine, on Oct. 15, 2008. He weighed 7 lbs., 3.5 oz. and was 20 inches long.

**Maureen Burkart-Penn** is a fourth grade teacher with Harnett County Schools. She resides in Maxton, N.C.

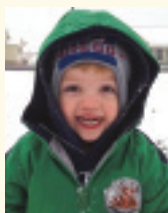
**LaShauna Deese** graduated from the UNC School of Medicine on May 9. She is a resident physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, N.C.

**Kenneth Dwayne Jacobs II** was promoted to assistant vice president and branch manager of Lumbee Guaranty Bank in Red Springs, N.C. He resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

**Rachel Lyndon Zamorski** is a broker for Centex Homes in Raleigh, N.C. She resides in Mebane, N.C.

**'02 Natalie Eve Bell** is a school counselor with the Public Schools of Robeson County.

**Kenneth Lance Bowen '02, '07** is principal at Marlboro County High School in Bennettsville, S.C. He resides in Laurinburg, N.C.



**Joanna Kinlaw Cole** received her M.A.Ed. in elementary education from UNCP. She is a National Board Certified teacher for Scotland County Schools. She is married to **Derek Miles Cole '03**, vice president of Simmons Heating and Air Conditioning. The couple has a son, Brody Miles, born in 2006.

**Timothy Dean** is a case manager for RHA Health Services. He is married to Renata Cobb, and the couple resides in Beaufort, N.C.

**April Marie Floyd** and Michael Brandon Ventura were married on March 7. She works for Fayetteville Technical Community College and Southeastern Regional Medical Center.

**Amie Ward Graham** is the senior assistant director of admissions at UNCP. She and her husband, Randall, reside in Raleigh, N.C.

**Rebecca Jones LaClaire**, and her husband, Scott, welcomed their second child, Molly Nicole, on June 9, 2008. She weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. The family resides in Asheboro, N.C.

**Meghan Elizabeth Miller** graduated from the University of Phoenix with a master's degree in education with specialized instruction in early childhood development. She is a birth through kindergarten teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**TeShayla Horne-Oxendine** received an exemplary performance award from MEI Technologies, Inc. She is married to **Lt. Joseph Oxendine '03**. The couple resides in Slidell, La.

**'01 Daniel Britt** is a teacher/technology facilitator with Brunswick County Schools. He resides in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

**Paula Pridgen Caudle** was nominated for Teacher of the Year for the second time. The first was at St. Pauls High School (2005-06) and the second is at Early College High School (2008-09). She is married to **Kevin Caudle '91**, a juvenile court counselor with the Department of Juvenile Justice. He joined the National Guard and shipped out on February 18 for basic training. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C., with their two sons, Zach and Riley.

**Eric Gossett** is employed by Bank of America. He resides in Columbia, Mo.

**Cynthia Herndon** received the National League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator credential in December 2008 for recognition in the advanced specialty role for the academic nurse educator. She is employed by the Robeson County Health Department. She resides in Parkton, N.C.

**Belinda Jacobs** is a youth development specialist for the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Pembroke.



**SunSarae Locklear Harrell** and her husband, Steven Wayne, welcomed Pyper CoraRose into the world on March 4. They reside in Greensboro, N.C.

**Jessica Phillips** is the general manager at Lofts at Lakeview in Durham, N.C. She has a six-year-old daughter named Annika.

**Rex Wilson** is a pension specialist with Fidelity Investments in Chapel Hill, N.C.

**'00 Whitney Hammonds Bell** is the administrator-in-training for the N.C. State Veterans Home. She has been employed with the organization for nine years. She is married to Windell, and the couple has two children, Lucas James, 6, and Julianna Eden, 3. They reside in Lumberton, N.C.



**Errol Bert Daniels Jr.** and his wife, Corrie Hines-Daniels, welcomed their first son, Caleb Eli, on February 14. He weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. His godfather is **Calstain Ghanda '01**. Errol is a financial services representative for SunTrust Bank. The family resides in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Meredith Terry Huffman** is a teacher with Hoke County Schools. She and her husband, **John '93**, have two children, Keely, 7, and Kaleb, 4, and are expecting a baby boy this month. John works for Scotland County Schools. The family resides in Laurinburg, N.C.

**Brian Oxendine** is the new owner of Heritage Realty in Lumberton, N.C. He is married to **Alisia '08**, UNCP's Director of Collegiate Development. The couple resides in Lumberton with their two children, Alston, 11, and Isabella, 7.

**'99 Shelli Brewington** is a podiatric surgeon with Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, N.C. She provides care at Cape Fear Podiatry Associates and works out of the Lumberton and Fayetteville offices. She received her medical degree from Dr. William Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago, Ill., and completed her surgical residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in

*continued on page 22*

'99 continued from page 21

San Antonio, Texas. She is board certified by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery, and her area of specialization is in traumatic foot and ankle injuries.

**Ron Critelli** welcomed his second child, Nicholas Valentino, on February 18. He weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz. Ron is a financial adviser with Wells Fargo. He resides in Oakhurst, N.J.

**Robert Crumel** is a lead analyst for BB&T. He resides in Rocky Mount, N.C.

**Wendy Lowery Jones** was promoted to associate vice chancellor of development and university relations at Fayetteville State University. She resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

**Jason Matthew Odum** and Elizabeth Alene Turner were married on March 21. He works for BB&T.

**Susan Patterson** welcomed her third child, Cayde Noelan, on May 8, 2008. She also has a daughter, Lillyan Noelle, and a son, Joel Chrystian. After graduation from UNCP, she taught fifth grade for three years in Scotland County before earning a master's degree in Library Science from East Carolina University in 2005. She is now a school media specialist in Moore County. The family resides in Pinebluff, N.C.

**Joey Reaves** is a technical specialist for system analysis at R.H. Donnelly in Cary, N.C.



**Captain Frank Rodriguez** of Cameron, N.C., commander of Troop A, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in Rasheed, Iraq,

looks at the top of a stairway while clearing a house during Operation Sway Sway in the Rusafa district of eastern Baghdad. The combined clearance operation partnered U.S. paratroopers with Iraq Army soldiers in search of weapons caches and signs of insurgent activity.

**Aaron K. Thomas** is enrolled in the Master of Construction Management program at East Carolina University and expects to graduate this year. Aaron and his wife, Azalea, have three daughters, Ayanna, Alena and Ashtyn. The family resides in Pembroke.

**Jessica Locklear Worriax** is an early childhood consultant with Smart Start of New Hanover County. She is married to **Dr. James Worriax '98**, who is employed with Black River Health Associates in Pender County. The couple has two children, Jayden Mikaela, 6, and Jacob Benjamin, 3.

**'98 James Lastowski** is a traveling nurse. He resides in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

**Melissa Jones Schlee** is a stability program coordinator and chemist at Synthon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. She is married to **Joseph Schlee '99**, and they have two daughters, Elizabeth, 3, and Katelyn, 7 months. The family resides in Apex, N.C.

**'97 Teresa Tubbs** is assistant director of financial aid at NC State University. She resides in Cary, N.C.

**'96 Clarence L. Garrett Jr.** is a teacher with Alamance/Burlington Schools. He resides in Burlington, N.C.

**Christie Hinkle Kent** is a kindergarten teacher with St. John's County Schools. She resides in St. Augustine, Fla.

**Nichole Oxendine** and **Steven Con Hunt '88** were married on January 17. Nichole is a Licensed Professional Counselor with the Public Schools of Robeson County. Steven is plant manager at Tredegar Film Products in Red Springs, N.C. The couple resides in Pembroke.

**Bryan Winters** is the director of University School Programs at UNCP, and is a doctoral candidate in the educational leadership program at Fayetteville State University. He resides in Red Springs, N.C.

**'95 Clayton Alexander** is associate director of admissions at Greensboro College. He resides in Colfax, N.C.

**Joyce Latino Anderson** is a middle school language arts teacher at Busbee Creative Arts Academy in Cayce, S.C. She resides in Elgin, S.C.



**Bryan M. Carter** and his wife, Stacy, welcomed their first child, a son, Tyler Michael, on March 31. Bryan is a senior mortgage consultant for National City Mortgage. The family resides in Pineville, N.C.

**Cassonia Dimery** is a producer with CNN in Atlanta, Ga.

**Janna Smith Osman** is married to **Joe Osman '93**, and they have two sons, Will, 9, and Drew, 7. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C.



**Annedda Ward Patrie** and her husband, Dave, announced the birth of their son, Gideon, on Feb. 16, 2008. He weighed 7 lbs., 6.5 oz. The family resides in Spindale, N.C.

**Meredith Dulaski Scheopner** welcomed her daughter, Paige, in 2008. She resides in Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

**'94 James Bass** and **Paula Bass '03** welcomed their

second daughter, Annika Levay, on February 3. She weighed 7 lbs., 5.5 oz. and was 21 inches long. Annika joins her sister, Layna Levay, who was born in December 2006. James is the director of the Office of Alumni Relations at UNCP, and Paula is a supervisor of targeted mental health case management for Family Alternatives in Lumberton, N.C. The family resides in Lumberton.



**Rodney LaBelle** is the product sales manager for Kewaunee Scientific Corp. He is responsible for the company's line of biological safety cabinets. In addition, he is the LEED accredited professional. LEED accreditation distinguishes building professionals with the knowledge and skills to successfully steward the LEED certification process. Rodney resides in Statesville, N.C.

**Michael Pittman** is the pastor of worship and education at Hyde Park Baptist Church. He and his wife, **Keyna '91**, reside in Lumberton, N.C.



## Class Notes

**Leslie Carver Roseboro** is the member services manager for the N.C. Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging. She resides in Durham, N.C.

**Nathan Monroe** is a broadcast production specialist for Henry County in Georgia. He resides in Hampton, Ga.

'93 **Lee Snead** is the entitlement escalation manager for Cisco Systems. He resides in Morrisville, N.C.

'92 **Melinda Cook-Brayboy** is a Doctor of Chiropractic and owner of Advanced Family Chiropractic. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.



**Brian Freeman**, a Disney Teacher Award honoree known as "The School Daddy," was a contributing author in the book titled "Today I Made a Difference."

The book is a collection of triumphant stories of overcoming obstacles in the classroom written by Disney Teacher Award honorees. Proceeds from book sales will be used to award scholarships to teachers seeking advanced degrees.

'91 **Tanja Patterson** is a terminal agency coordinator with the Georgia Crime Information Center, Hiram Police Department. She resides in Dallas, Ga.

**Clarence B. Averitt Jr.** is the Webmaster for Florence-Darlington Technical College. He resides in Florence, S.C.

**Kent Chavis** was appointed by Gov. Bev Perdue to the board of directors of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center. He was also promoted to city executive and vice president of Lumbee Guaranty Bank. The Rural Economic Development Center board works to improve the economic opportunities of rural North Carolinians, with a special focus on the welfare of low and moderate income individuals. The governor appoints three of the 48 seats on the board. Kent resides in Maxton, N.C.

'90 **Angel Hord Lee** was accepted into the doctoral program in special education at UNC Charlotte. She is a research associate with UNCC and resides in Matthews, N.C.

'89 **Judy Oxendine-Bunce** is a rehabilitation specialist at Stars Youth Academy. She resides in Pembroke.

**Wendy Rackley** is the office manager for Skyline Enterprises. She resides in Winnabow, N.C.

'88 **Michael Frame** is a pilot with Presidential Airways. He and his wife, **Tonya Nichols Frame '87**, reside in Raeford, N.C.

'87 **William M. Davis** was appointed district public defender for Anne Arundel County, Md. Along with the representation of indigent criminal defendants, he is responsible for overall supervision of three offices in Anne Arundel County, which employ 24 attorneys and 12 support staff. He resides in Crofton, Md., with his wife, Mary Katharine, and their two children, Brianna, who is a freshman at the University of South Carolina, and Ryan, a high school sophomore.

'85 **Tony Brown** is the county manager of Halifax County. He resides in Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

**Polly Allen Elkins** received a Doctorate of Education degree from South Carolina State University in December 2008. She is the assistant superintendent for administration with the Dillon School District Two. She resides in Dillon, S.C.

**Harriette Floyd Lovin** is a choral director with Cumberland County Schools. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Sally Wilkerson Rice** is a program technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She resides in Raleigh, N.C.

'83 **Warren S. Boger** is the corporate sales manager for NYCE Trucking Company. He resides in Statesville, N.C.

**J. Roger Richardson** is a senior material analyst with Northrop Grumman. He resides in York, Pa.

'82 **Gwen Freeman** is a social worker. She resides in Macon, N.C.

**Amy Acosta Johnson** is a substitute teacher with the Tullahoma City Schools in Tennessee. She is married to **Allen '88**, and they have four children. Allen is an HVAC engineer at Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma. The couple is active in church choir and orchestra as well as their local high school booster club. They reside in Tullahoma.

'81 **Timothy Harper** is the county manager in Marion County. He resides in Marion, S.C.

**Howard Hughes** established the Officer Davina Buff Jones Memorial Awards in UNCP's Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. The purpose of the awards is to remember Officer Dee Jones of the Bald Head Island (N.C.) Police Dept., who died of a gunshot wound while on duty serving the citizens of the island on Oct. 22, 1999. Jones graduated with a Basic Law Enforcement Training degree from Cape Fear Community College in 1998. The awards will be given to the top two rising seniors in criminal justice based on their respective GPAs.



**Mike Nelson Leonard** is a senior supervisor with Abbott/Hospira, where he has been employed for 28 years. He has coached softball for Faith Christian High School for 11 years and has produced three state championships, one runner-up and five third-place finishes. He was selected as Rocky Mount Coach of the Year in 2005. He and his wife of 29 years have one daughter, Melissa, a son-in-law, Caleb Eller, and a new granddaughter, Haley Reese, who was born on March 7. The family resides in Rocky Mount, N.C.



**Reba McMillan** was named the 2009 winner of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) Teaching Excellence Award. She received an engraved plaque and a cash prize of \$250, which was

sponsored by the N.C. Foundation for Public School Children. She is a kindergarten teacher at Peterson Elementary School in Red Springs, N.C., and a long-time member of Robeson Association of Educators (RAE). She will compete on the national level, where five finalists will receive additional awards. McMillan was first-runner up in the Public Schools of Robeson County's Teacher of the Year competition. She has

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# alumni notes

## Class Notes

'81 continued from page 23

been a past president for Delta Kappa Gamma. She founded a food pantry at her church, which donates several hundred items a month. She has served on the IEA Parent Advisory Committee for many years and is a former RAE secretary as well. She has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and has traveled on a mission trip to teach English in the Ukraine. McMillan and her husband, Harry, have four children and reside in Maxton, N.C.

'80 **June Martin** retired from the Wake County Sheriff's Department on Dec. 31, 2008, as a master investigator with 28 ½ years of service. He resides in Raleigh, N.C., with his wife, **Carmen '81**, and children, Christa and Gordon.

'79 **James Gregory Bell** was appointed a Superior Court Judge for District 16-B by then-Gov. Mike Easley on January 9. He replaced retiring Superior Court Judge Gary Locklear. He resides in Lumberton, N.C.

**Walter Crowe** was named 2008 Realtor of the Year by the Pinehurst-Southern Pines Area Association of Realtors. He works for Coldwell Banker United Realty. Walter and his wife, Edith, reside in Hoke County. They have three children, Tiagee, 18, Kimberly, 28, and Michelle, 37.

**Johnny Strickland** is an environmental health specialist for the Robeson County Health Department. He is married to the former Christy Sawyer, and they have two daughters. Their oldest, Amanda, is a May 2009 UNCP graduate, and Alli is graduating from Lumberton High School in June. The family resides in Lumberton, N.C.

'78 **John Lowe** is a hatchery manager for Goldsboro Milling Co. He resides in Goldsboro, N.C.

'74 **Ed Donaldson** is a retired North Carolina judge. He resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

'69 **Ray Goldberg** and **Barbara Tsirintanis Cranfield** were married on Dec. 31, 2008. He is the dean of health sciences at Vance-Granville Community College. The couple resides in Youngsville, N.C.

**Arthur Ravander** retired from the headquarters of the New York City Department of Education, where he served as a system-wide administrator for many years.

'68 **John B. Mangum** is director of Cannon Athletic Complex at Wingate University. Prior to taking his current position in 1999, he was director of business services. He serves as the secretary/treasurer for the Wingate Volunteer Fire Department, where he has volunteered for 40 years. He has served as a Wingate town commissioner for 11 years. He also serves as deacon for Wingate Baptist Church, and is a member of the Lions Club and the American Heart Association. He and his wife, Linda, have a daughter, Carrie. The family resides in Wingate, N.C.

UNCP is collecting contact information (telephone and email addresses) for all former Miss UNCPs. If you are a former Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant Winner and wish to receive invitations and information about UNCP events, please email University Center Director Cynthia Oxendine at [cynthia.oxendine@uncp.edu](mailto:cynthia.oxendine@uncp.edu).

UNCP Today  
is going online!

Update your contact information at  
[www.uncp.edu/alumni/update](http://www.uncp.edu/alumni/update)

## The Legacy Bench Campaign

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

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

(910) 521-6515 • [alison.decinti@uncp.edu](mailto:alison.decinti@uncp.edu)





# Givens

## Performing Arts Center

The University of North Carolina  
at Pembroke

One University Drive  
Pembroke, NC 28372

800.367.0778  
www.uncp.edu/gpac

### Broadway and More Series

Irving Berlin's  
*I Love a Piano*  
Champagne Gala  
September 18

Virsky National Ukrainian  
Dance Co.  
November 3

Camelot  
December 5

Christmas with Emile Pandolfi  
December 11

Band of the Irish Guards  
January 19

The Wedding Singer  
January 28

Moscow State Radio  
Symphony Orchestra  
February 9

The Moscow Festival Ballet  
"Cinderella"  
March 30

### Nostalgia Concert Series

Chubby Checker  
Parents Weekend  
September 11

The Stylistics  
Homecoming  
October 2

"Let's Get Down Tonight"  
featuring  
The Boogie Wonder Band  
January 23

Davey Jones  
March 26

### Distinguished Speaker Series

Please save the following dates:

September 8  
September 29  
November 5  
January 21  
March 23

### Professional 2009 Artist 2010 Series



**Avenue Q**  
The Broadway Musical

### Special Events

Avenue Q  
November 14

Letters Home  
November 16





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