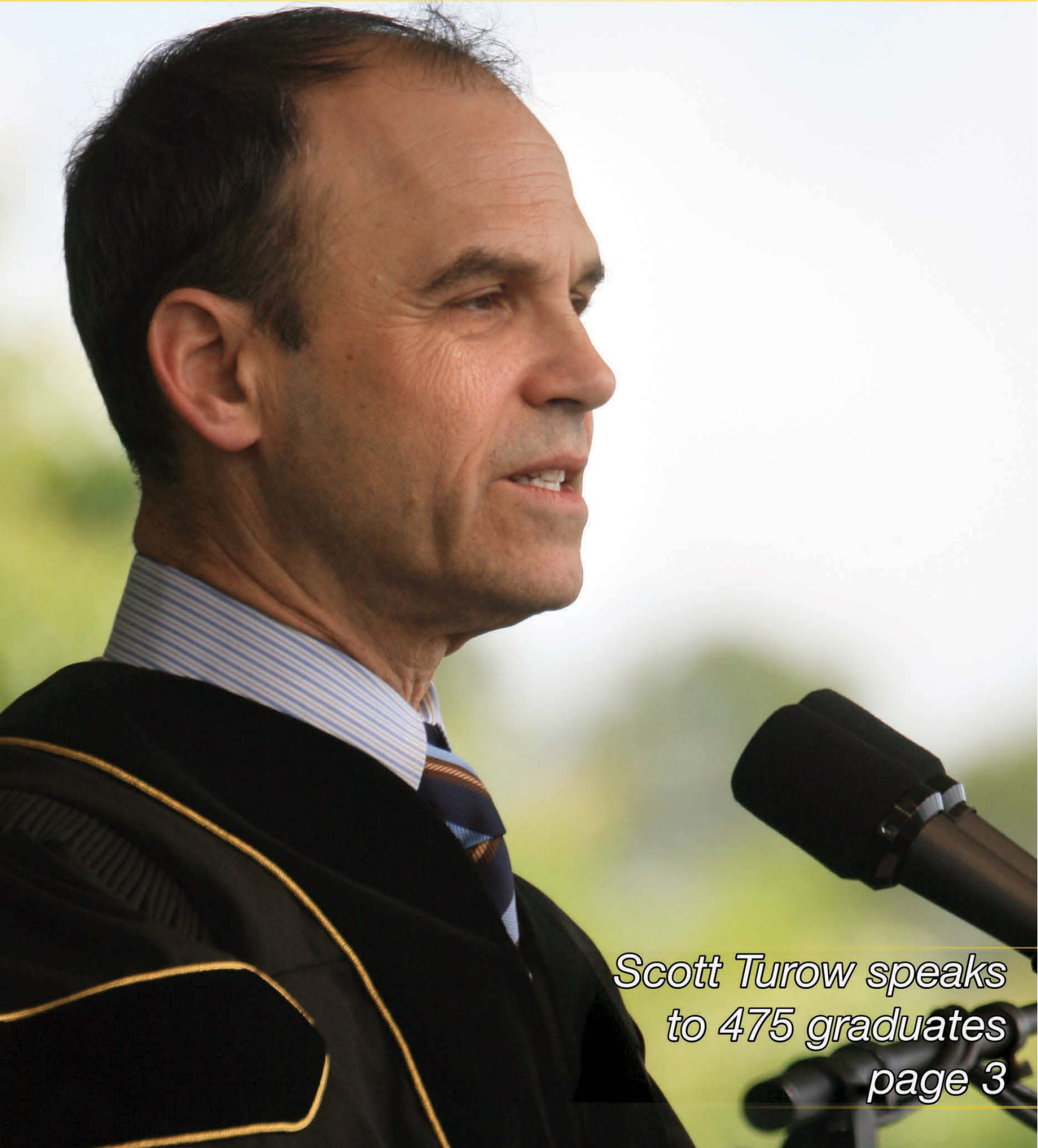


UNCP *Today*

SUMMER 2008

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



*Scott Turow speaks
to 475 graduates
page 3*

So you've graduated from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke...



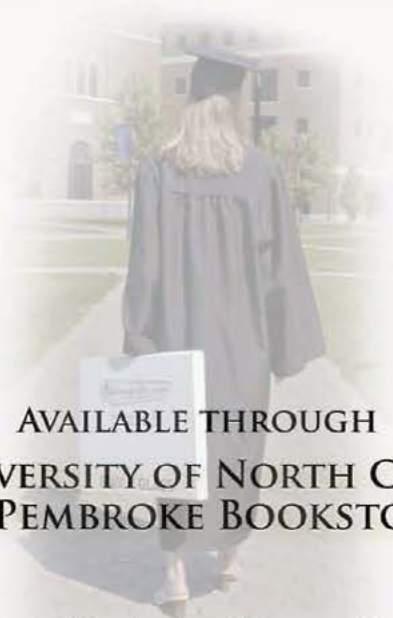
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UNCP Today

Summer 2008

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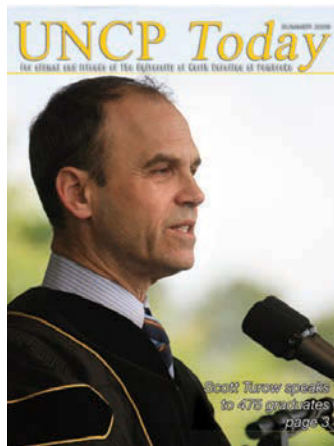
Freda Porter '78

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inside



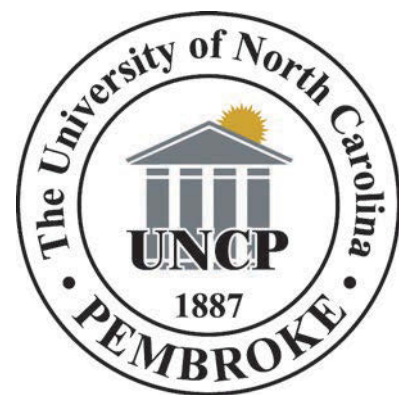
On the cover

Author Scott Turow shares advice with 475 graduates.

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TIMEOUT



2008 UNCP FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
August 30	at Brevard	6 p.m.
September 6	DAVIDSON	6 p.m.
September 13	at Wingate	1 p.m.
September 20	JACKSONVILLE (Parents' Weekend)	1 p.m.
September 27	at Lane	7 p.m.
October 4	at Webber International	1 p.m.
October 11	at West Virginia Wesleyan	1 p.m.
October 18	EDWARD WATERS (Homecoming)	1 p.m.
October 25	OPEN	
November 1	CONCORD	1 p.m.
November 8	NORTH GREENVILLE	1 p.m.

Home events are in bold.

HOME GAMES played at Lumbee Guaranty Bank Field. All times local to game site and subject to change. To purchase tickets, contact Craig Shaffer, Athletics Director of Marketing and Promotion, at 910-521-4241 or craig.shaffer@uncp.edu.

Chancellor's Message

Alumni, Donors and Friends



As your University continues to grow, many of our newest programs have taken root and are bearing fruit.

The Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship is one of many new programs that are thriving. The center is a two-pronged initiative to lift up the economy of the region by its bootstraps: 1) by training the next generation of entrepreneurs and 2) by reaching out to new and expanding small businesses to offer planning and technical assistance.

This spring, the School of Business earned approval to offer a certificate program and a minor in entrepreneurship. The Thomas Center owes its existence to the generosity of Jim Thomas, a Pembroke native, successful real estate developer and great friend of our University and community.

The new Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies will help UNCP reach out to more students in our region. It is designed for students who have earned their A.S. or A.A.S. at community colleges and complete their degree with us in a variety of appealing tracks.

Also, in the area of outreach, we were pleased to learn recently that UNCP was ranked by a national publication in the top 30 nationally as a "military friendly university." With Fort Bragg about to expand through base alignment, we are well positioned to serve our military men and women.

Research is another important part of our mission. This spring our annual Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Forum attracted more than 50 research presentations, signaling a growing trend for our students and their faculty advisors.

Our \$27 million Health Professions Building is about to break ground, and the Biotechnology Research and Training Center is near completion.

Congratulations are in order for Coach Steve Johnson, Coach Theresa Walker and our Women's Softball Team, which won the Peach Belt Conference regular season and were ranked as high as 5th nationally. This is an outstanding accomplishment for these young women.

I know you'll enjoy the articles on Commencement 2008; Ben Miller, our new men's head basketball coach; Joshua Malcolm, our new addition to the University's legal staff; and others in this issue of *UNCP Today*.

There are so many great things happening at your University there isn't space to tell you about all of them. In the next issue, you'll learn more about the people behind our newly named Grace P. Johnson Stadium. You can also learn more about your campus by visiting. Hope to see you at Homecoming on October 18 or sooner!

Allen C. Meadors

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

UNCP Today Fall Issue:

The Grace P. Johnson Stadium
Meet the Men and the Woman behind the Stadium's New Name

475 Graduated on May 3



In his welcoming remarks at Spring Commencement on May 3, Student Government Association President Barry Burch Jr. summed up the moment for 475 graduates of the University.

“We all took diverse routes to get here and we will all go different ways, but commencement is the one moment we all come together,” the student leader said.

On cue, commencement speaker Scott Turow, who is an attorney and author of seven best-selling novels, advised the graduates to reject the famous words of poet Robert Frost, that there is “one road or the other.”

As a youthful idealist of the 1960s, Turow set out to become a great novelist but went to law school instead.

“It turned out to be the best decision I ever made,” he said. “Going to law school gave me what I needed to become an author; the law gave me a subject about which I am passionate.”

Looking back, Turow said he “met more great human beings in the law than I would have anywhere else.” Two roads separated and came together for the lawyer turned writer.

“I regard my life as a charmed one, and I cannot give anybody guidance on being as lucky as I have been,” Turow continued. “I recognize how large a factor chance has played in my own success.”

Despite the fact that “fortune cannot be tamed,” he said “remember who you are today; write your stories; and be loyal to yourselves.

“Values matter,” Turow said. “If there is such a thing as happiness in this life, then one of its measures seems to be being able to



tell yourself that you tried hard to do what mattered to you; that you refused to lay down before the remarkably random forces that govern our lives; and instead, controlled what you could, which is your own beliefs and the meaning they provide to your own actions.”

ROADS TO GRADUATION

Looking over a sea of graduates of one of America’s most diverse universities, the black regalia was the same, but the stories were not. Two outstanding graduates offered their stories.

A double major in English and biology, Emily Howden attended three colleges in three states on her way to this graduation day.

“I loved all three colleges,” Howden said. “They were all different, all good.”

continued on next page

continued from page 3

Along the way, Howden conducted research on Lowland Gorillas and atmospheric carbon dioxide and co-authored a book with her father which was published in 2007.

Titled "Silent Wounds: The Hidden Cost of War," the book addresses war and its human costs. It is about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or as Howden calls it "post-traumatic soul disorder."

"The book is about healing of the soul that can be a life-saving event," she said.

Howden's family attended commencement, but her husband had an engagement in Iraq. Next week, she will move on to Raleigh where she will attend NC State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Biology major and Pembroke native Bryan Howington stood directly behind Howden to receive his diploma, although the two had never met. Early in his college career, he stood at a crossroads, and he believes he took the right road.

"I went to another college to play football and came home," Howington said. "Coming here was the best decision I ever made."

Howington, who was tempted several times to join UNCP's new football team, concentrated on his studies, excelled and earned a full scholarship to East Carolina University's Bowman School of Medicine.

Chancellor Meadors, who presided over his 9th spring commencement at UNCP, gave this charge to the graduates: "During your years here at UNCP, we have often spoken to you about leadership. We want each of you to take your place as leaders in your community; in your profession; and in society.

"You do not have to be born with characteristics or traits of a leader," Chancellor Meadors said. "You do not have to wait for a tap on the shoulder; you do not have to be at the top of the organizational chart; you can step up and lead at any point in your life."

Offering greetings to the graduates were Dr. Cheryl Ransom Locklear, a former UNCP trustee and current member of the UNC Board of Governors; Dr. Breeden Blackwell, chair of the UNCP Board of Trustees; Dr. David Zeigler, chair of the Faculty Senate; and Jason Bentzler '96, president of the Alumni Association.

WNCP-TV INTERVIEW

Dr. Mark Canada, English professor and winner of the 2008 UNC Board of Governors Teaching Excellence Award, was grand marshal. Later in the day, Dr. Canada was host of "UNCP Conversations" for an interview of Turow on UNCP's WNCP-TV.

Turow is a practicing attorney in Chicago, Ill., and author of seven top-selling legal mystery novels, including "Presumed Innocent" (1987), "The Burden of Proof" (1990), "Reversible Errors" (2002) and his most recent book "Ultimate Punishment" (2005). He discussed his life and both of his professions.

After attending Stanford University's creative writing program and teaching, Turow said he found that he was a failed writer with little passion for teaching.



Author Scott Turow and Dr. Mark Canada

"I've enjoyed being a lawyer; it's almost a superstition," he said. "I've been a part-time lawyer since 1989."

Asked about his practice of turning out a novel every three years, Turow said "it just works out that way.

"I don't really know where I am on this schedule," he continued. "The three-year schedule reflects a year to gestate, a year to write and a year to promote."

Recently, Turow participated on a high-profile Illinois commission investigating the death penalty. That work led to several non-fiction pieces that appeared in publications like *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. His latest book, "Ultimate Punishment," is also on the death penalty.

"Being on the commission gave me a lot of stuff that I did not feel was appropriate to say in the novel," Turow said. "The two years I spent on the capital punishment commission gave me insight.

"My own view of the death penalty is that the legal system will never give the American public what it wants, which is the swift sure moral clarion call; it's just a mess," he said. "I think that capital punishment will not last out this century."

Sounding like the story line to the next Turow thriller, the writer predicted that powerful "chemical alternatives" will replace the death penalty.

In his commencement address, Dr. Canada noted a strong defense of the legal profession. Turow said there are good reasons to criticize attorneys, but they are "an instrument to democracy."

"Everybody hates lawyers, except their own," he said. "Attorneys facilitate the pursuit of justice in this country, and they are needed."

The conversation turned to Hollywood versions of four of his books: "I was under no illusion that a novelist is important to making the movie."

On his writing habits, Turow said "I write in an atmosphere of almost complete chaos. I write, write, write in no particular order. In about a year, I put things in order. For me it's a messy process."

On advice to aspiring writers, Turow said "just do it. You have to log a lot of pages." ■

Presidential Primary 2008

In the weeks leading up to the May 6 North Carolina Primary Election, the University became a crossroads for the campaigns of Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Former President Bill Clinton led off on April 4, then Obama countered with some star power with actress Tatyana Ali ("Fresh Prince of Bel Air") on April 11 and on April 21 Rep. John Conyers, the number two ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives.



Chancellor and Mrs. Meadors meet Bill Clinton

Underscoring the sudden importance of the state's primary to the Democrats, Clinton's visit was the first official visit by either a president or former president to Pembroke. The former president delivered a high-octane 45-minute speech in support of his wife. "Why Hillary?" he asked, "because she's good at it. She's the best candidate I've ever supported. Hillary is the best change-maker I've ever known," Clinton said. "She's better prepared, and she will make the best commander in chief."

The significance of the event was not lost on the audience. "This is big for Pembroke," said James Locklear, editor of the local *Pembroke Eagle* newspaper. About 50 members of the media joined Locklear in the Main Gym of the English E. Jones Health and Physical Education Center.

Some in attendance arrived early to be the first in the doors. "We've been here since four, but we've been up all night," said

Vincent Stephens, a freshman from Durham, N.C. "I want to see him up close."

Dressed in an Obama T-shirt and jeans, Tatyana Ali encouraged a packed house in Moore Hall Auditorium to vote and join the campaign as she did. "In the past few months, I decided to try something new and work for Senator Barack Obama," Ali said.



Tatyana Ali

"Knocking on doors in the early going, we were truly, truly underdogs; six months later, so much has happened."

In part with strong support from young voters, Obama won the North Carolina Democratic Primary.

"This has been a grass roots campaign," Ali said. "I think a leader has emerged. Now is our time," she continued. "North Carolina is so important; you have to vote and bring two or three friends with you."

Rep. John Conyers said he is on the campaign trail for Obama because the nation needs "a new fresh face. I'm here because of my close relationship with Barack Obama," Conyers told a small gathering. "Senator Obama is articulate, persuasive and brilliant."



Rep. John Conyers

With Sen. Obama bringing out record numbers of new and young voters, Conyers called the election "an historic moment in our lives." ■

UNCP Faculty Development Fund

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

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

• Scholarship • Professional Development • Faculty Travel • Grant Programs

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

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

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

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

Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship gaining momentum

With a management team in place and an infusion of new capital, the entrepreneurial heart of the University is realizing its mission.

The Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship (TFCE), with a two-pronged mission to stimulate business enterprise in the region and at the University, achieved several milestones over the winter including a second gift from its founder Jim Thomas.

A Pembroke native and commercial real estate developer headquartered in Los Angeles, Thomas contributed an additional \$300,000 in 2008 for administrative costs at the center. His gift of \$500,000 in 2005 was matched by the state to fund a distinguished professor in entrepreneurship that was filled in late 2007 by Dr. Mike Menefee.

Following the recent meeting of the center's advisory panel, Thomas said he is pleased with the center's progress and optimistic about its future. "We are still in the early stages, and I'm very optimistic for the future of the center," Thomas said. "I'm pleased where we're at; it's come a long way. What I see now is potential waiting to be tapped."

With a new Web site (www.uncp.edu/tfce/) and outreach efforts underway, the TFCE is also reaching inside UNCP to build academic programs in entrepreneurship.

Three new programs are coming to life in the School of Business: (1) a certificate program in entrepreneurship will be available for students in any discipline next fall, (2) a "minor" available to any non-business undergraduate in the fall and (3) an undergraduate "major" for business majors is slated for 2009.

In February, UNCP's Faculty Senate approved the certificate program and the minor course of study. The certificate program and the 18-credit minor course of study seek to stimulate entrepreneurial spirit across campus, said Dr. Carmen Calabrese, who moved to the TFCE from a successful tenure as director of UNCP's MBA program. "This will set the stage for individuals who are looking at the business side of any academic discipline," he said. "These programs provide the tools of business and entrepreneurship.

"The TFCE is a great marriage between academics and the real world," Dr. Calabrese said. "As we tap the resources of the University and collaborate with other public and private entities, the economy of our local community will be the ultimate winner."

Located in COMtech, a business incubator near campus, the TFCE is brokering partnerships, working with clients and telling its story. One hundred people attended its recent "E" Summit at UNCP's Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development next door. "We're marshalling all our resources, the Small Business and Technology Development Center, the Regional Center and our faculty and students," Dr. Calabrese said. "Coordinating all applicable outreach areas of the University is critical to the efficient and effective use of our resources."

The newly formed advisory panel has eight members: Thomas, Dr. Calabrese, Dr. Menefee, Dr. Eric Dent, dean of the School of

Business, Larry Chavis, CEO of Lumbee Guaranty Bank, headquartered in Pembroke, Robert Locklear, CEO of TWL Trucking Company of Pembroke, Samuel Locklear, owner of Locklear and Sons Funeral Home and Richard Rink, an entrepreneur from Phoenix, Ariz. "It was an interesting and informative meeting of the advisory group," Thomas said. "They explained the tools available to assist businesses, and we provided direction and additional resources.

"The TFCE's management team consisting of Drs. Menefee and Calabrese is a good one," Thomas said. "The two of them are a very nice fit, and it looks like they are hitting full stride. It's not something that will happen overnight. I am very optimistic for making an impact. This is a long-term program."

The involvement of Thomas in the project's funding and advising is critical, Dr. Dent said. "Sally and Jim's first gift has already had a tremendous impact on UNCP and the surrounding community, as the reports at the first advisory panel meeting of the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship testify," he said. "This second generous gift will allow us to expand our reach and impact as we foster the entrepreneurial spirit and efforts in Pembroke and the region."

Thomas said that stimulating and nurturing entrepreneurship is more critical to the economy than ever. "The economy has changed; now, entrepreneurs are creating the employment," he said. "It would be interesting to know how much quicker I could have started my business if I could have gotten the kind of assistance we are offering. Helping people help themselves is the best way."

The TFCE may be contacted at (910) 775-4209 or by email at carmen.calabrese@uncp.edu. ■



Jim Thomas



Dr. Mike Menefee



Dr. Carmen Calabrese

UNCP earns President's Community Service Award

The University was named to the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, according to an announcement from the University's Center for Leadership and Service.

The second consecutive award for UNCP from the American Council on Education celebrates and honors civic engagement by institutions of higher education. It honors universities for their students' volunteering and community service work and faculty involvement in service learning.

More than 500 UNCP students logged more than 10,000 volunteer hours in 2007. "It is good news worth celebrating," said Dr. Tom Corti, associate vice chancellor for Student Development.

"The data shows our students are reaching out and giving back to the community," Dr. Corti said. "The UNCP student of today has a keen sense of community service and a belief that they have a

responsibility to contribute beyond the boundaries of the campus. We are so very proud of our students. They exemplify a strong sense of civic responsibility and duty that we value as an institution."

The Honor Roll is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service through its Learn and Serve America program, the Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, USA Freedom Corps and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

"The award is a tribute to UNCP's students and faculty," said Aubrey Swett, director of the Center for Leadership and Service.

"I am very impressed with the response of our students and their willingness to volunteer for community service," Swett said. "A culture of volunteerism and service is gaining momentum across campus." ■

Faculty/Staff Mentions



Abstract painter **James Biederman**, the Martha Beach Distinguished Professor of Painting, organized "Shape Shifters: New York Painters," an exhibition of 24 abstract works that were on display this spring in the Art Department Gallery in Locklear Hall. The exhibit was the result of Biederman's living and working among one of the most celebrated group of abstract artists in the world.

In his new book, "It's a New Day: Race and Gender in the Modern Charismatic Movement" (University of Alabama Press, April 2008), history professor **Dr. Scott Billingsley** chronicles the development of the strong leadership among women and African Americans in the 1970's charismatic religious movement in America and offers some interesting explanations.



Biology professor **Dr. Wm. Bruce Ezell Jr.** was appointed in January to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Highlands Biological Station. Erskine Bowles, president of the University of North Carolina, made the appointment. The Highlands Biological Station is a multi-institutional research and education facility for the study of the ecology of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.



A little known and not well understood human migration is the subject of sociologist **Dr. Roger Guy's** new book "From Diversity to Unity: Southern and Appalachian Migrants to Uptown Chicago, 1950-1970" (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007). Following World War II, thousands of Southerners took the "Hillbilly Highway" north for jobs in the nation's factories. This group left a small footprint on the urban landscape in terms of schools, churches, restaurants or other institutions, but the migration left its mark, north and south.



Larry D. McNeill, assistant police chief and a familiar face on campus for 35 years, retired in December. A Lowes community native, he worked for four chancellors during his University career. He recalled his early years here: "The school was small enough that I used to know almost every student on a first-name basis." He pledged to remain active with local government, Berea Baptist Church and UNCP. "I will keep my certification, and if needed, I'll be around," he said.



Dr. Olivia Oxendine, assistant professor in the School of Education, received a \$9,100 grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council to explore the context of Lumbee education during the period of segregation in Robeson County. Titled the "Elder Teachers Project," she wrote the proposal for the purpose of collecting, recording and preserving the stories and experiences of six retired Lumbee teachers who spent most of their teaching years in "all-Indian" public schools.

Biblical scholar **Dr. Robert Seesengood's** new book examines the language of early Christianity looking for clues to a wider cultural context. "Competing Identities: The Athlete and The Gladiator in Early Christian Literature" (Continuum; T & T Publishers; May 2008) looks at "how the metaphor of the athlete contributes to the technologies of the self." He found that early writers, including Paul, employed the language of the athlete—endurance, training and preparation—to bolster the struggling Christian movement.



Former Registrar **Sara Brackin** is now director of the Office of International Programs, responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office, including directing International student services, the English Language Institute, and the Asian and Study Abroad Programs. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and computer science from Fayetteville State University and a Master of Arts in Service Agency Counseling from UNCP.

Dr. James E. Callaghan is the new associate vice chancellor for International Programs. Proficient in Italian, French, German, Spanish and Latin, he has established programs around the globe for study abroad and international student and faculty exchanges. He earned a Bachelor and a Master of Arts in the history of art, and a Ph.D. in art history from Temple University.



Friends of UNCP bequeath an endowed scholarship

A family with a long history with the University has guaranteed it will have a very long future with the institution and its students.

Mac and Maxine Amos have bequeathed an endowed scholarship at UNCP that will produce a generous annual scholarship award. The Lumberton, N.C., couple took steps recently to distribute part of an insurance policy for a scholarship upon their passing. The Louie M. and Maxine Locklear Amos Memorial Scholarship will go to an outstanding teacher education major who has demonstrated financial need and is from either Robeson or Burke counties.

Maxine Amos' grandfather, Anderson N. Locklear, is the namesake of UNCP's Locklear Hall. Amos said their decision made financial and family sense.

"Some people can give right now, but we couldn't make a large gift," Amos said. "But we have an insurance policy and the desire to help the University and its students. We really believe in the University, and we believe in giving," Amos said. "Even though neither Mac nor I have ever attended UNCP, we believe in giving back to institutions that have given a lot to us."

Maxine was a school teacher and the first elementary school counselor in Cumberland County and later in Robeson County. Mac was a local mental health administrator who finished his career with Southeastern Regional Mental Health Center in Lumberton, N.C. She graduated from Coker College and earned a Master's in Counseling from East Carolina University. A Morganton, N.C., native, Mac graduated from Lenoir Rhyne College and earned a master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Chancellor Meadors thanked the Amoses on behalf of the University. "I would like to personally thank Mac and Maxine Amos for their dedication to this University, its historic mission and its students," said Chancellor Meadors. "Planned giving is an excellent method of giving that others should look into; it was an excellent fit for this family's estate planning."

UNCP is rooted in Maxine Amos' family history. She grew up near the Red Banks community, a short distance from campus.

Amos' grandfather was in the first class at Croatan Normal School shortly after its founding in 1887. Anderson Locklear became a teacher and principal, serving for 42 years at several schools near



Maxine and Mac Amos

Pembroke. He was also a community leader who served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1923 until his death in 1934.

"We grew up being told to get as much education as we could," Maxine Amos said. "Home, church and school, those were the three big institutions in our lives." Amos' parents were Roscoe and Winnie Catherine Locklear. Roscoe Locklear was a 1925 graduate and also a career educator.

"I have a brother, Delton Ray, and sister, Dorothy L. Blue, nieces, nephews and other relatives and so many relatives who graduated from this school," she said. "You have to ask the question: 'What would this community look like without this University?'"

My grandfather's mission was to see his people educated," Amos said. "That is the purpose of our scholarship. I am very proud to support my alma mater, Coker College, and I also am proud to support this University," she said.

The Amoses have contributed through the years to UNCP including memorials to the Robeson County Retired School Personnel Endowed Scholarship. As an endowment, placed with the UNCP Foundation, Inc., the scholarship will continue to serve UNCP students perpetually.

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

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



UNCP hosted exhibition for retiring art professor



Ralph L. Steeds

A celebration of artist Ralph L. Steeds' 33 years at the University was on view February 25 through March 21 in the Art Department Gallery in Locklear Hall. Educator and printmaker Ralph Steeds served the University from 1985 - 2005 and was honored to present an exhibition of his work.

"The exhibition featured prints, drawings and paintings spanning 30 years of production and demonstrated the creative ingenuity of the artist," said Dr. Richard Gay, director of the Gallery. "Known for its

multilayered and sometimes chaotic pictorial space, the artist's work is filled with veiled messages presented through decidedly personal imagery.

"Swimmers, circus performers, monkeys and other savage beasts are often metaphors for primal survival and keeping a balance in life and head above water," Dr. Gay continued.

"Realistic elements coexist harmoniously yet in distinct opposition with childlike stick figures, establishing a duality of emotional and pictorial realms," Dr. Gay said. "The dynamic figures energize the space and reappear juxtaposed and recreated in other works. Often autobiographical, the works invite the viewer to explore their polyvalent imagery and to question the artist's message."

A native of Oklahoma City, Okla., Steeds earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1973. Committed to lifelong learning, he has participated in workshops



Steeds 'the prisoner, juggler'

designed to enhance professional development, such as those offered by the prestigious Tamarind Institute at the University of New Mexico and the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine.

Steeds' work has been featured in more than 100 exhibitions, including shows at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C.; the Sungkok Museum of Art in Seoul, South Korea; the Museo del Barrio, New York; as well as traveling exhibitions in Poland, West Germany and Japan.

While at UNCP he received the Adolph Dial Faculty Award for Creative Work in 1992, and a Special Recognition Award for Service to the University and region in 2003. In 2004, he was awarded the status of Professor Emeritus for his years of distinguished service. ■

Distinguished Executive in Residence at UNCP Dies March 14



Joseph E. Sandlin, a well-known Lumberton, N.C., banker and civic leader, died on March 14, 2008.

Sandlin, 88, joined Southern National Bank in 1963 and served as president of the growing regional bank from 1975 - 86. Sandlin was dedicated to many good causes including the University.

Born in Franklin, Va., Sandlin was a World War II veteran, a graduate of the College of William and Mary and a Certified Public Accountant. He served on the boards of Duke University Heart Center, COMtech, Glen Flora, the Boys and Girls Club, Robeson House and the UNCP Foundation.

At UNCP, he worked with three chancellors, and in 1986 he co-chaired the Centennial Giving Campaign. Sandlin was awarded an honorary doctorate at the Centennial Convocation on September 3, 1986, and the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1985.

Sandlin was named Distinguished Executive in Residence and was a member of the faculty in the School of Business.

Southern National thrived under Sandlin's leadership, merging with 21 smaller banks and growing to \$2 billion in assets. A widely recognized expert in banking, he served as an instructor for 20 years and dean of the North Carolina School of Banking at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Chancellor Meadors offered these words of condolence: "The University community is saddened by the loss of Joe Sandlin. He contributed to the University over many, many years in multiple capacities - as a teacher, advisor and, most of all, as a friend. To have a business leader of his experience and reputation on our faculty and on our campus enriched our education and our lives. We extend our condolences to his wife, Evelyn, his daughter, Joan, and his family."

Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine, Chancellor Emeritus, appointed Sandlin to the post of Distinguished Executive in Residence: "Joe Sandlin's contributions to the University were great. I was saddened to hear of his passing. He was extraordinarily knowledgeable in the areas of banking, finance, accounting and investing. It was a delight to have him on campus. I believed Joe enjoyed teaching; his students enjoyed him; and I enjoyed having him as an advisor in matters of fundraising and investing." ■

Dr. Alfred Bryant named ACE Fellow

Dr. Alfred Bryant, a faculty member in the School of Education, has been named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow for 2008-09.

Founded in 1965, the ACE Fellows program was established to strengthen institutions and leadership in higher education by identifying promising senior faculty and administrators and preparing them for key positions in university administration. Former UNC President Molly Broad is president of ACE.

Dr. Bryant was nominated by Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Charles Harrington. During his fellowship year, Dr. Bryant will work directly with senior level cabinet administrators on an extensive array of higher education issues.

"This is a great program, and it's a real honor and an opportunity for me," Dr. Bryant said. "My goal is to learn things that I can bring back to UNCP."

The application process is rigorous and selective. There are three interviews pertaining to national issues in higher education, local campus issues and personal goals.

Dr. Bryant said there are several subjects that he will focus on during the fellowship including fundraising, student recruitment and retention, budgeting and finance and student affairs.

Dr. Harrington said it is a great opportunity for Dr. Bryant and an honor for UNCP to place a faculty member in such a prestigious program.

"Acceptance into the ACE Fellows program is a great honor for Dr. Bryant," Dr. Harrington said. "Participation in this program represents a major commitment on behalf of the faculty member. I am certain that he will gain a much greater understanding of and appreciation for the most pressing issues facing higher education.

"He will undoubtedly return to campus filled with great experiences and very good ideas," he said.

A Pembroke native, Dr. Bryant began his career in education as a high school counselor and worked with UNCP's Freshman Seminar program and NC State University's First Year Experience.

He earned a Ph.D. in counselor education from NC State. He is a tenured associate professor at UNCP and teaches educational psychology and research.

Dr. Bryant has authored several articles for publication and received grants for work in developmental psychology. He successfully wrote a large grant for UNCP's Youth Opportunity Program and smaller grants on health issues in the local community.



Besides teaching duties, Dr. Bryant serves the School of Education on several committees and as director of assessment. He is a member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee and the Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee.

Thirty-six ACE Fellows were selected this year in a national competition. Fellows attend three, week-long seminars on higher education issues organized by ACE, read extensively in the field and engage in other activities to enhance their knowledge about the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education today.

Founded in 1918, ACE is the leading coordinating body for the nation's higher education institutions, representing more than

1,600 college and university presidents nationwide. It seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues and influence public policy through advocacy, research, and program initiatives. ■

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Dr. Mark Canada wins 2008 UNC Teaching Excellence Award



Dr. Mark Canada, an associate professor of English, was named a recipient of the 2008 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence.

The award goes annually to a faculty member at each of UNC's 17 campuses and underscores the importance of teaching in higher education.

Winners were honored in Chapel Hill, N.C., on May 9 with a commemorative bronze medalion and a \$7,500 cash prize.

Dr. Canada serves as 2008-09

University Marshal, and will deliver the commencement address at the 2008 Winter Commencement.

"Dr. Canada is a remarkable teacher," said Dr. Charles Harrington, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

"During his time at Pembroke, Mark Canada has proven consistently that his innovative and effective teaching, his prolific scholarship, and his incomparable service to his department, the University and our region are exemplary," Dr. Harrington said. "This award is fitting recognition for him. He exemplifies all that is good about academia, and I am delighted for him."

Now in his 12th year at UNCP, Dr. Canada was recently named assistant chair of the Department of English, Theatre and Languages. Dr. Canada, who specializes in American literature, has taught more than a dozen different courses.

"The award is the highlight of my professional career because it is for teaching," he said. "To be honored for what I believe is my calling is a real thrill.

"I did not start out to be a teacher, but I have come to love it. I use a lot of individual instruction, and a lot of my teaching comes down to one-on-one conferences."

"The award is the highlight of my professional career because it is for teaching," Dr. Canada said. "To be honored for what I believe is my calling is a real thrill."

Dr. Canada may be the first UNCP winner of the teaching award who teaches online courses as well as in the classroom. Along with his online course in literature he regularly teaches for UNCP, he also teaches an online grammar course for UNC-Chapel Hill that he created from scratch in 2001.

"It is a popular course that I teach year round," he said. "I have mixed feelings about distance education because it lacks the classroom interaction, but it fills a niche."

In his traditional and online classes, Dr. Canada employs a range of strategies, including online lessons and tutorials, multimedia lectures, group exercises and individual conferences and progress reports.

Although the award is for teaching, Dr. Canada is an outstanding scholar. His interests lately have turned to the interaction between journalism and 19th century American literature.

"Scholarship is important," Dr. Canada said. "During a recent semester-long academic leave, I learned a great deal that I took back to the classroom."

Dr. Canada has distinguished himself by writing numerous articles for journals and books and making presentations on literature, technology, teaching and learning. His book manuscript, "The Story and the Truth: American Journalism and Literature in Nineteenth Century," is under review for publication.

Another distinguishing aspect of his career at UNCP is service to the faculty and academy. He has served on countless tenure reviews and reviews for tenured faculty. For the University, he has served on committees for Quality Enhancement, Assessment, Instructional Resources, Teaching Excellence, Honors, Awards, Continuing Education, Strategic Planning, Technology and more.

"I believe in this University and its mission, and I want to see it succeed," Dr. Canada said. "I am particularly interested in the area of recruitment."

"Scholarship is important," Dr. Canada said. "During a recent semester-long academic leave, I learned a great deal that I took back to the classroom."

Dr. Canada played key roles in University recruiting videos and image advertising. The classroom, however, is his first love, and in just his third year on the faculty, he won one of the University's Outstanding Teaching Awards.

An Indiana native and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Indiana University, Dr. Canada earned master's and doctoral degrees in English from UNC-Chapel Hill.

The 17 recipients, representing an array of academic disciplines, were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Personnel and Tenure. The awards were presented by UNC President Erskine Bowles and Board of Governors Chairman Jim Phillips of Greensboro.

Established by the Board of Governors in 1994 to reward good teaching across the University, the awards are given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus. Winners must have taught at their present institutions at least seven years. No one may receive the award more than once. ■

UNCP softball clinches first Peach Belt title

The women's softball team captured its first Peach Belt Conference (PBC) title on April 7 when the Braves swept a double-header from the University of North Georgia. The record-breaking season ended with an invitation to the NCAA tournament.



The championship marks the first outright title that a UNCP women's program has won in the PBC. In 1993, the volleyball team was co-champion.

A preseason coach's poll picked the Braves to finish in 8th place, but they ended with a five-game lead over the second place team.

The team ended the regular season as the number five ranked NCAA Division II team in the nation and number one in the region. The Lady Braves' record was 42-12 overall and 17-1 in conference play, both school records for a season. They finished with a 26-2 record at home.

Awards rolled in: All Conference selections were Jelena Shaw at third base, Courtney Hill at shortstop and Brittney Berrier at center-field. Later, Shaw and Berrier were named all-Americans. Freshman Martika Elmore, who won a school record 22 games, was named Pitcher of the Year, and Steve Johnson was Coach of the Year.

Berrier set a school record for doubles and tied the record for hits in a season. Team records were eclipsed for doubles, team earned run average and longest win streak (14).

The remarkable season was due to a combination of talent, depth at every position, team chemistry, leadership from seniors and captains, a great freshman class and a little bit of luck.

"It was a fantastic year," Johnson said. "We set our goals high and worked hard to attain them. We had 15 freshmen, and we are losing only three seniors, so the future looks bright." ■

Go Braves!

UNCP Hires New Men's Basketball Coach

Following a national search, Ben Miller was named the new men's head basketball coach on April 23.



From left: Athletic Director Dan Kenney, Coach Miller and Chancellor Meadors

Miller comes to the University after working at one of the top programs in the nation. He was an assistant at Kansas under current UNC-Chapel Hill coach Roy Williams and under Bill Self, who led the Jayhawks to the national championship in 2008. This will be Miller's first head coaching job.

"There was just something different about this University," said Miller. "I went to a smaller university, and I know there's a different level of interaction at a smaller college. I looked around and saw everything that was going on here and thought, 'That university needs and deserves a great basketball program.'"

Athletic Director Dan Kenney welcomed Miller to campus. "Our goal was to find somebody with high competency as a basketball coach. We have found that in Ben Miller," Kenney said. "We are pleased to welcome him, his wife, Heather, and his two children, Betsie and Charlie, to the UNCP family."

Miller comes to UNCP after spending the last four seasons at Missouri State, where he served as associate head coach.

Kenney said Miller has had basketball in his blood since birth. His father, Eldon Miller, was a 36-year head coach who spent 10 seasons at Ohio State.

"We did our due diligence and found out more about Ben," Kenney said. "The more we found out about him, the more we liked him."

Miller said his father was his biggest influence. "I grew up in a gym," Miller said. "At age two, I was in the gym. By age five, I was going on recruiting trips with dad."

Miller earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1991 from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and a master's degree in physical education from Northern Iowa. He began doctoral work in sport psychology at Kansas State in 1992. ■

Cargill gift benefits library and community

A Global Partnership Fund grant from agri-business giant Cargill will purchase additional resources for the Mary Livermore Library at the University.

The \$5,000 gift to the Friends of the Library will purchase books and audio-visual materials for students, faculty and community use as well as assist the public programs of the Friends. Cargill representatives met March 26 with University officials to discuss the gift and other issues.

Gary Long '71, a senior Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) manager for Cargill, represented the company.

"When I was a student here, the library was about a quarter its current size, and I had classes upstairs," Long said. "I am pleased to be here on behalf of Cargill, a company that is a good corporate citizen in the communities where we work and live."

Chancellor Meadors thanked the company for its support.

"Public universities continue to need private support like this," Chancellor Meadors said. "A university like ours utilizes its gifts very carefully."

The Minneapolis, Minn., based company that operates in 65 countries around the globe, supports causes in education, nutrition and the environment, Long said.

"At Cargill, we believe that sustainability and environmental responsibility are critical global issues," he said. "It can also help promote your school, whether it is students recycling paper or the University recycling used computers."

Dr. Charles Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, thanked Cargill and updated Long on UNCP's biotechnology programs, one of which is a biodiesel reactor.

"This gift is a boost for the intellectual center of our campus," Dr. Harrington said. "Our library's collections and its resources are assets for students, faculty and the entire community."



Friends thanking friends - The Friends of the Library thank Cargill representatives for their gift. From left: Dr. Elinor Foster, library dean; Dr. Liliana Wendorff, president of the Friends; Chancellor Meadors; Scott Schuelke and Gary Long, Cargill; and Dr. Charles Harrington, provost.

"Recently, an idea from one of our faculty members resulted in the purchase of a small-scale biodiesel reactor that allows us to recycle used oil from local restaurants into diesel for the University's vehicles," Dr. Harrington said. "We had 12 students and several faculty members involved in manufacturing fuel and researching the use of byproducts and related issues."

With 160,000 employees in 1,200 locations, Cargill operates diverse agribusinesses including a biodiesel operation in Iowa, Long said.

In North Carolina, Cargill operates soy bean oil processing plants and purchases up to half of the state's production of soy. Cargill employees, volunteers and the company contribute to their local communities in a variety of ways, said Scott Schuelke, a Cargill EHS coordinator.

"We support programs in 11 local elementary schools, and we work with the Chamber of Commerce in economic development," said Schuelke, who chairs the local Community Involvement Team for Cargill. "We support and volunteer with a local food bank, Habitat for Humanity, and other volunteer projects involving our employees."

Founded in 1865 to store grain in the Midwest, Cargill's business activities include purchasing, processing and distributing grain and other agricultural commodities, and the manufacture and sale of livestock feed and ingredients for processed foods and pharmaceuticals. It also operates a large financial services arm which manages financial risks in the commodity markets for the company.

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

For questions about the library's programs or the Friends of the Library, please call (910) 521-6212. ■

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

Senator David Weinstein endows scholarship

In the North Carolina General Assembly, Senator David Weinstein does a lot for the University. On April 9, he personally established a scholarship.

The Max Weinstein Endowed Scholarship is named for Sen. Weinstein's late father and will benefit students majoring in history. As an endowed scholarship, it will be awarded perpetually.

"I have a great interest in history and so did my father," Sen. Weinstein said. "I have been making a scholarship gift each year, and it is my pleasure to endow the scholarship in my father's name."

At a presentation in the History Department, Sen. Weinstein said he is pleased with UNCP's growth. "When I was a University trustee, we were able to do some construction to Lumbee Hall and the Livermore Library," he said. "I see great things happening at this University. Chancellor Meadors has accomplished a great deal.

"As the representative from this district, it is my job to make sure UNCP gets a fair share of financial resources. We've been fortunate to make a lot of progress."

Chancellor Meadors thanked Sen. Weinstein for the gift and for his support of the University.

"Since Sen. Weinstein has been in the legislature, we have netted \$100 million in capital projects, and we have a \$29 million project in the works," Chancellor Meadors said. "He is a great friend to the University and to our entire region."

"The study of history is so important to our society," Sen. Weinstein said. "If we don't study our history, we are condemned to repeat our mistakes."

The scholarship gift is for \$10,000. A committee of the History Department will select a recipient for the annual scholarship.

The first scholarship from the endowment will be awarded next fall, but History Department Chair Dr. Robert Brown noted a \$500 scholarship was awarded this spring thanks to an additional gift from Sen. Weinstein.

"On behalf of the department and the University, I would like to thank Sen. David Weinstein for his support," Dr. Brown said. "Our students need this, and they appreciate it."

Dr. Brown and the state senator share an interest in World War II history, and they discussed a separate contribution of resourced materials, including a video series that Sen. Weinstein has collected.

"The study of history is so important to our society," Sen. Weinstein said. "If we don't study our history, we are condemned to repeat our mistakes."

For more information about giving at UNCP, please contact the Office for Advancement at 910.521.6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu. ■



From left: History Department Chair Dr. Robert Brown, Chancellor Meadors and Sen. David Weinstein

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Owner of Canal Industries and University Friend Dies

M. Carr Gibson, owner of Canal Industries and one of the most successful foresters in America, died March 19. He was 92.

Gibson's life was a post-war success story. While his company accumulated considerable



land and related businesses, he served in a wide variety of government, civic, healthcare, business and education boards and was one of the greatest

philanthropists in the region.

The Lumberton, N.C., resident served on the boards and in the other capacities for Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Southern National Bank, County Board of

Commissioners, the Lumberton Board of Education, Lumberton Jaycees, North Carolina Forestry Committee, Lumber River Conservancy, Methodist and Wesley Pines Retirement Centers and Gibson Cancer Center, which is named in his honor.

Gibson faithfully served his church and was a veteran of World War II, retiring as a Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Army Reserves. He also found time to serve the University through the administrations of three chancellors.

Serving two terms on UNCP's Board of Trustees, he was a charter member of the Chancellor's Club, the elite donor society of the University. In 1990, he was awarded the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Chancellor Meadors called Gibson one of America's great success stories. "He is a great American success story," Chancellor Meadors

said. "But what was truly special about him was that he gave of his time and resources throughout his life. UNCP was one of many institutions that Mr. Gibson was involved with and we are a better place because of him."

Chancellor Emeritus Joseph B. Oxendine called Gibson a great individual and personal friend. "I was saddened at the news of his passing," he said. "Carr Gibson was an asset to this community, a public spirited individual. He was the epitome of a gentleman," Dr. Oxendine continued. "He supported many community institutions, and I appreciated his support of this University."

He was a native of Sumatra, Fla., and a graduate of the University of Florida. Gibson's wife of 61 years, Alice Rose, and a son preceded him in death. He leaves four children, Thomas, Alice, Lilli and Gwen. ■

Wrestling scholarship dedicated on February 8

The C.A. 'Whitey' Smith Endowed Wrestling Scholarship was dedicated on February 8 and added to the Wall of Honor in the English E. Jones Athletic Center.

The scholarship was established by former UNCP wrestling coach P.J. Smith to honor his father. Smith coached UNCP wrestling for 26 years producing 33 all-Americans.

Chancellor Meadors praised coach Smith for his vision.

"P.J. Smith has a feel for the whole University," Chancellor Meadors said. "Through his work with the Red Cross and youth programs, he is a wonderful member of the UNCP family."

The ceremony was attended by members of the Smith family and UNCP's wrestling family, including current coach Jamie Gibbs.

"I believe this scholarship will help us carry on the strong tradition that P.J. Smith helped start at this University," Gibbs said. "It will impact our wrestling program forever."

Wendell Staton, associate vice chancellor for Advancement, said the scholarship will promote the character qualities Smith's father



UNCP wrestlers and coach Jamie Gibbs (yellow visor) congratulate the Smith family for their scholarship. Family members from left are Marsha, Florence, Sandy and P.J. Smith.

believed in—"hard work, self-discipline, pride, mental toughness and competitiveness."

"This scholarship honors my dad who was a great influence in my life," Smith said. "Wrestling had a great impact on our lives, and this scholarship will help wrestlers achieve their goals in wrestling and in life."

Smith, who continues to direct UNCP's Aquatics Program, won numerous state and

national honors during his career. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, the NCAA Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame and was named Man of the Year in North Carolina wrestling. ■

Grant available to UNCP student from NC Beautiful Nonprofit's executive director says gift is an organizational 'milestone'

NC Beautiful, a provider of environmental education and beautification opportunities that elevate the quality of life of North Carolinians, has announced the addition of the University to its Environmental Scholars Program.

The Environmental Scholars Program awards funding to four of the best and brightest college students in North Carolina. The \$3,000 undergraduate grants enable students to pursue research projects that let them explore creative solutions to environmental challenges. Including UNCP in this program marks NC Beautiful's first expansion into the eastern part of North Carolina, a move that complements the organization's goals.

"The mission of NC Beautiful is to educate all of our young people about the importance of good environmental stewardship," says NC Beautiful Executive Director Steve Vacendak. "Our goal is to expand our Environmental Scholars Program to every four-year college and university in the State of North Carolina with an Environmental Science program. This expansion into Pembroke, our first ever into eastern North Carolina, is truly an organizational milestone. We're excited and proud to welcome UNC Pembroke into the NC Beautiful family."

The Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Center (PURC) will forward three NC Beautiful grant applicants who must be rising juniors.

Dr. Jesse Peters, PURC director and dean of the Esther Maynor Honors College, said the partnership with NC Beautiful marks an exciting moment for Pembroke students and will encourage further awareness of the state of the environment and the importance of environmental science among members of the University and local community.

"This expansion into Pembroke, our first ever into eastern North Carolina, is truly an organizational milestone. We're excited and proud to welcome UNC Pembroke into the NC Beautiful family."

"The support this grant provides will allow a student to spend significant time and energy researching an area of environmental science, and that experience will help prepare the student for



From left: NC Beautiful Executive Director Steve Vacendak and Honors College Dean Jesse Peters.

graduate school and a career," Dean Peters explained. "It will not only make a significant difference in the life and education of one student, but it also will help us demonstrate to other donors how important supporting undergraduate research can be."

Dr. Peters also adds that he's appreciative of NC Beautiful's vision to extend its undergraduate scholars program to include a rural university like UNC Pembroke.

"I applaud their vision, especially their willingness to support a regional university like UNCP," said Peters. "Undergraduate research makes a difference in the lives of students and will ultimately have a positive impact on the world itself."

About NC Beautiful

NC Beautiful has been part of the state's environmental preservation community for 40 years, supporting awareness, education and beautification efforts that affect quality of life. Today, the organization concentrates on hands-on and merit-based programs designed to empower citizens to preserve the natural beauty of the State of North Carolina. Whether it is school children building outdoor classrooms, graduate students developing cutting-edge research, or a Boy Scout troop planting azaleas at an elder care facility, NC Beautiful makes it possible for North Carolinians to keep NC beautiful. For more information, visit www.ncbeautiful.org.

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alumni

Greetings, Alumni



Congratulations to the nearly 500 new members of the UNCP Alumni Association. Our May Commencement was a very nice event and the weather could not have been more beautiful. We commend the Class of 2008 for their accomplishments and wish them the very best in all future endeavors.

As new alumni, one of the most important things for you to do is stay in contact with your alma mater. Fortunately for us, in this digital age, doing this can be as easy as visiting the UNCP Alumni Web page at www.uncp.edu/alumni, where you can update your contact information, get the latest news from campus, and share your own news here in *UNCP Today*.

For veteran alumni, I pose a challenge to each of you. In the past decade the campus has changed dramatically. Every few months there are new buildings being opened, older buildings being renovated and student attendance is at an all time high. While many of you have had opportunities to return to campus, there are still those of you who have not. My challenge to you is this: Make time to return to campus this year. Not only will you be amazed at the changes that have taken place on campus, but you will be inspired by those changes. Many of you have supported the University over the years with financial gifts. What better way to see the results of your support.

Although it seems like just yesterday that football season ended, next season is just around the corner and that means Homecoming is fast approaching. Start making your plans now for the weekend of October 18, and we hope to see you at our Alumni Association tent. Come out to support the Braves and spend time with old friends.

In Black and Gold,

Jason S. Bentzler

Ray Oxendine '78 named assistant controller for UNCP

Ray Oxendine joined the University as assistant controller. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Oxendine brings more than 20 years of accounting experience to the job. He is responsible for payroll, accounts payable and the Bursar's Office, which includes student accounts and the Cashier's Office. He reports to Controller



George Guthrie.

Oxendine majored in business administration at UNCP. After earning a Master of Business Administration from East Carolina University, he earned a CPA license.

"I'm enjoying being home and working at the University," Oxendine said. "I lived in Raleigh for 24 years, and it is great to be back. The Uni-

versity has grown in size since I was here."

Oxendine worked as a systems accountant in the Office of the State Controller and most recently at UNC Hospitals as a business analyst. He has more than two decades of experience as a

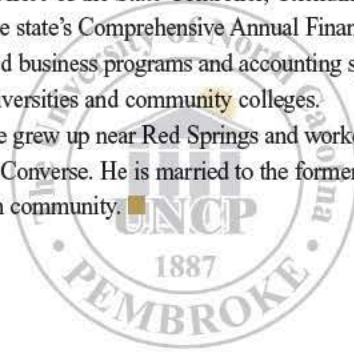
professional accountant with experience in financial reporting, auditing, accounting, fiscal management and payroll operations.

At UNC Hospitals, his responsibilities included cash receipts, state and financial reporting and payroll operations among other responsibilities.

"I'm enjoying being home and working at the University," Oxendine said.

For the Office of the State Controller, Oxendine assisted in compiling the state's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He also evaluated business programs and accounting systems for state agencies, universities and community colleges.

Oxendine grew up near Red Springs and worked summers while in college at Converse. He is married to the former Paula Hunt of the Deep Branch community.



UNCP Travel Program



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Departure Date:
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For reservations, pricing and information, call 800-274-3115 ext. 6461.

Travel offered through Collette Vacations. For more information, visit www.collettevacations.com or www.uncp.edu/alumni/travel.

Courtney Kilgore '05 goes out on a limb to discover new life

Courtney Kilgore would have been a great elementary school teacher. While she served as a lifeguard at a local pool during high school, kids often came early to check out her bug collection from cleaning out the filters.

"I love the sense of discovery kids get from science," she said. "I hope I never lose my own childlike enthusiasm."

Kilgore caught the science bug early, and it's taking her to new heights, literally. In May, she graduated from University of Central Missouri with a Master of Science in biology degree.

While doing research for her master's thesis, Kilgore may have discovered a new species of Myxomycete, commonly known as slime mold. She found it near the top of a shortleaf pine tree. "I literally go out on a limb for my research," Kilgore said. "It's 75-feet up and 20-feet out; it's the scariest thing I've ever done in my life.

"The specimen won't get a name until it is verified. It resembles an *Arcyria cinerea*," she said. "We have to be careful to make sure it is a true species and not a variant of another species. We've joked about naming it; I like *Arcyria princesscourtney*."

On April 16, Kilgore delivered a seminar for UNCP's Biology Department about her research on Myxomycetes. She was on her way to make a presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) in Spartanburg, S.C.

A Fayetteville, N.C., native, Kilgore said she plans to apply to a Ph.D. program in the future. For now, Kilgore is content to admire the slimy subjects of her research. She's grown fond of growing specimens in her lab and climbing into tree canopies.

"I literally go out on a limb for my research," Kilgore said. "It's 75-feet up and 20-feet out; it's the scariest thing I've ever done in my life."

"Those little slime molds grew on me," she laughed. "I can't grow a houseplant, but give me a week in the lab, and I can create a miniature world. When you're looking at Myxomycetes through a microscope, it's a little like flying over an alien planet," she said. "They're very colorful and beautiful."

National Geographic was charmed by the high flying antics of the Central Missouri scientists and filmed a short PBS documentary titled

"Smoky Mountain Treetop Exploration" for its Wild Chronicles series. It focused on the work of Kilgore's advisor Dr. Harold W. Keller, but she and other students did the climbing.



"We use a sling shot and a new double-rope climbing technique that does not harm the trees," she said. "The views can be spectacular."

That project yielded another new slime mold species. As the film notes, "tree canopies are one of the last frontiers of bio-diversity."

"Slime molds are everywhere and valuable to the environment and for medical research," Kilgore said. "They are microbial predators that eat bacteria and are themselves food for insects."

Kilgore's research focused on Myxomycetes collected from the bark/stems and reproductive structures growing on five types of trees and plants. She tested for distribution characteristics, effects of pH and new species. The results were shared with ASB, and Kilgore hopes to publish her findings this summer.

Kilgore hopes to broaden her treetop research and leave slime molds behind. She would like to climb some of the largest trees in North America. "I want to study Redwoods," she said. "I would love to get out there and climb some majestically large trees.

"My hypothesis is that Redwoods are so old that their limbs resemble ground habitat," she said.

Starting her college career as an elementary education major, Kilgore was drawn to the study of science in UNCP's Biology Department. Dr. Leon Jernigan, coordinator of the Environmental Science program, said Kilgore contributed in many ways.

"Courtney is one of the best students our department has had in the six years I have been here," Dr. Jernigan said. "Not only did she excel in her studies, but she also was instrumental in the growth and success of the Biology Club while serving as its president.

"Courtney's enthusiasm and insatiable curiosity make her a pleasure to have in one of your courses," he continued. "Her success in graduate school makes me feel very proud of my role in her undergraduate development."

Kilgore praised the environment of the Biology Department. "When I came to UNCP, I did not know what to expect," she said. "What I found is a good school and a great Biology Department that was good to me. This is a department that rejoices in the achievements of its students and colleagues. It's a positive, nurturing place." ■

Joshua Malcolm '92 new Assistant Counsel at UNCP



Joshua D. Malcolm joined UNCP as assistant University counsel.

Malcolm is not new to higher education law. He comes here from Fayetteville State University, where he held a similar position for three and one-half years. He also served as an instructor in UNCP's Master of Public Administration program.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University School of Law

and a licensed member of the North Carolina Bar, Malcolm is handling a wide variety of legal issues for UNCP including some public safety, civil, contract and employment matters. He reports to Donna Gooden Payne, University counsel and chief of staff for the Office of the Chancellor.

"Joshua has developed a broad knowledge of legal issues that institutions within the UNC system must face," Payne said. "His experience and expertise will be a terrific resource for our campus."

Malcolm said he enjoys the practice of higher education law. "This is an absolutely fascinating area of law," he said. "A university attorney has to be a generalist, one day dealing with a contractual issue and the next day dealing with campus safety. I enjoy this environment, and I believe I can make a contribution to the University based on my legal experience and my knowledge of this community."

Malcolm, who saw the world while serving seven years on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, said there is no place like home.

"Besides having four brothers who graduated from UNCP, my mother, Vera Locklear Malcolm, is a 1967 graduate and my grandfather, the late Rev. C.E. Locklear, attended the University when it was known as the Cherokee Indian Normal School of Robeson County," he said. "I remember coming here for summer camps and to play on campus as a child.

"Perhaps the thing that is most remarkable about my family's relationship with the University is that four of the five brothers – Joseph '87, David '92, myself and Caleb '97 – were all

commissioned military officers in the Armed Forces in the ROTC programs here at UNCP; two in the Army and two in the Air Force," he said. "In addition, James '98, '07 obtained his bachelor and graduate degrees here.

"It was Air Force ROTC and the opportunity to serve that became the focus of my attention while in college, and I excelled in the program and while on active duty," Malcolm continued. "One of the things I am proudest of is being a distinguished ROTC graduate of UNCP."

Malcolm rose to the rank of captain and was stationed at numerous bases across the U.S. He was deployed overseas to Bosnia, Saudi Arabia and Kenya as a C-130 evaluator navigator. He described it as "an awesome experience for a kid from Pembroke."

With a wife, Meloria Revels, and two children, Forrest, 11, and Alaina, 9, Capt. Malcolm's professional life took a turn when he was grounded for medical reasons. A brief stint in industry was followed by a decision to go to law school at North Carolina Central University.

"I spoke with many local attorneys, including Mr. Arnold Locklear, Mr. Henry Ward Oxendine and Mr. Rodney Oxendine, and they said N.C. Central was an exceptional law school," Malcolm said. "During law school, I had some outstanding internship experiences working with Johnson Britt at the Robeson County District Attorney's Office, the law firm of Locklear, Jacobs, Hunt and Brooks and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Raleigh, N.C."

At N.C. Central, Malcolm was the first person to receive the Julian Pierce Scholarship, named for the slain Robeson County civil rights leader. He is pleased to join UNCP.

"This is a growing University that remains vital to the community and the families who live and work here," he said. "I believe UNCP is in a position, and holds the potential, to help the entire region, and I understand that this University is here because of the students." ■

Dr. Meredith Storms '97 accepts state, national ACS awards



On January 5 in Raleigh, Dr. Meredith Storms, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, accepted a 2007 North Carolina American Chemistry Society (ACS) Chair's Salute to Excellence Award.

The award, presented on behalf of the North Carolina Local Section of the ACS, recognizes Dr. Storms' contribution to the implementation of Chemistry Day as part of the National Chemistry Week celebration at the North Carolina Museum of

Natural Sciences. For the past four years, she has coordinated this event, which typically attracts about 3,000 museum visitors. Because of her efforts, young people can experience the application and excitement of chemistry in action.

In addition to this award, Dr. Storms also accepted a plaque on behalf of the ACS in Washington, D.C. The award honored her continued contributions to the National Chemistry Week Program while demonstrating her commitment, inspiring others to volunteer, promoting the importance of science literacy, and making a positive difference in the community. ■

alumni notes

Class Notes

'57 ■ **Purnell "Purn" Swett** is a retired educator. He resides in Pembroke.

'60 ■ **Betty Mangum** filed as a Democratic candidate for the North Carolina House in District 52. She spent 20 years with the N.C.



Department of Education in Raleigh as an administrator, and after retiring, was elected to the Wake County School Board of Commissioners in 1998, where she served a four-year term. In 1977, she became the first director of Indian Education for North Carolina. She has also participated in the North Carolina Education Fellows program, sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation. In 2006, she received the "Woman of Achievement Award" from the N.C. Federation of Women's Clubs for her service as an educator and community leader. She has won numerous other awards, including the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" and UNCP's Distinguished Service Award. She and her husband, Al, have two adult children and five grandchildren. She resides in Pinehurst.

■ **Rosa Revels Winfree** retired from teaching and spends her time participating in state organizations as well as chairing the annual North Carolina Indian Women's Conference.

'67 ■ **William Donahoe** retired from Connecticut's Weights and Measures Division after 34 years of service. He and his wife reside in Rocky Hill, Conn.

'69 ■ **Milford Oxendine Jr.** received his Doctorate in Ministry in May 2007 from Hood Theological Seminary. He resides in Cordova, and ministers for the United Methodist Church.

'72 ■ **Robin Richardson Simmons** earned her Ph.D. in special education administration. She is director of special services for Lexington School District One. She resides in Columbia, S.C.

'73 ■ **Tom Reed** is a senior project manager for Apple Inc. He resides in Stratford, Va.

'75 ■ **Kathy Dae Cummings Locklear** is the dropout prevention coordinator for the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Pembroke.

'76 ■ **Deb Carlson** is a program director for Laura Baker Services. She resides in Northfield, Minn. ■ **Ronald R. Thompson** is a lieutenant for the Richland County Sheriff's Department. He is pursuing publication of his first novel, "Murrells Inlet." He resides in Columbia, S.C.

'81 ■ **Carmen Taylor Martin** is a support specialist for North Carolina State University. Martin resides in Raleigh.

'82 ■ **Rebecca Coleman** completed a graduate degree in reading and a doctorate in educational administration during the last three years. She resides in Cerro Gordo and is the curriculum specialist for Horry County Schools in South Carolina.

'83 ■ **Schotsi Creech** is a staffing nurse with Bayada Nurses. She resides in Elon. ■ **Cecil Mock** is an English teacher for Randolph County Schools. He resides in Liberty.

'84 ■ **Valerie Fackler-Blake** is an intensive behavioral support specialist for the New Hanover County Schools at Alderman Elementary. She celebrated her one-year wedding anniversary with her

husband, Theodore Franklin, on January 13. The couple resides in Wilmington.

'85 ■ **Tina Denson** is an exceptional children's teacher and a department chairperson for Harnett County Schools. She has a seven-year-old daughter, Hannah Grace, and resides in Sanford.

'88 ■ **Major Songi R. Drakes**, a founding member of Alpha Kappa Alpha at UNCP and an Air Force telecommunications services chief, is preparing for retirement after 20 years of service. She plans to reside in Laurel, Md. ■ **Steven Glenn** is the division manager for PBS&J, a Tampa, Fla.-based engineering firm. He resides in Raleigh.

■ **Ardeen Hunt Jr.** of Red Springs was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant for the N.C. State Highway Patrol in the Special Operations Department. He will serve as the unit commander for the Collision Reconstruction Unit. ■ **Manfred Pellingerriley** moved from Europe to Australia, where he is the managing director for Wardrobe One Pty Ltd.

'89 ■ **Angie Hodges** passed away on February 20 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, **Paul '89**, and daughter, Morgan. Angie was a music major, former Miss UNCP and supporter of the UNCP baseball team. Angie and Paul married after graduation, and Paul became the baseball coach at Lumberton Senior High School. The Angela B. Hodges Endowed Scholarship was established in her honor. To donate to the scholarship, please contact UNCP's Office for Advancement at (910) 521-6515. ■ **Rudy Paul** is director of Parks and Recreation for Robeson County. He resides in Pembroke.



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alumni notes

Class Notes

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■ **Steve Riggins** is the regional sales manager for Tri State Foam Products. He resides in Burlington. ■ **Susan Rozier** is a mortgage loan officer with Carolina Mortgage Company. She resides in Lumberton.

'90 ■ **Beth Wilkerson** is assistant director of the Small Business and Technology Development Center, located at UNCP's Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development at COMtech.



'91 ■ **Tijana Locklear** is a radiological technologist with WakeMed Health and Hospitals. ■ **Robin Parker Meekins** relocated to Preston, Md., where she is an administration coordinator for Eastern Shore Psychological Services.

'92 ■ **Susan M. Blackmon** is the program director for YO: Durham, where she resides. ■ **Travis Bryant** is associate vice chancellor for Police & Public Safety at Fayetteville State University. He is the husband of Teresa Bryant, who works in UNCP's Student Life office. Bryant started his law enforcement career with the City of Fayetteville and joined UNCP's Police and Public Safety Department in 1994 where he rose to the rank of sergeant. In 1999, he became chief of police for the Town of Pembroke. Bryant began teaching criminal justice and other classes in law enforcement at Robeson Community College (RCC) in 1997 and lectured at UNCP in the criminal justice program. In 2006, he became director of RCC's BLET/Criminal Justice program. Bryant is working towards a Master of Science degree in criminal justice at NC State University. ■ **Donna M. Hill** is a probation officer for the U.S. Probation Center. She resides in Ellenwood, Ga.

■ **Sonya Denise Locklear** is the office manager and scheduler for Healthkeeperz. She resides in Vass. ■ **Kristy Woods Mann** is the technology facilitator at Pembroke Middle School. She resides in Maxton. ■ **Karen Kern Pedersen** is an instructor for Randolph Community College. She resides in Star.

'93 ■ **Yolanda Freeman** is a teacher with Bladen County Schools. She resides in Bladenboro. ■ **Rebecca Hurt** earned National Board Certification and a master's degree in elementary education. She teaches fifth grade in Lincoln County and resides in Vale.

'94 ■ **Brenda Goss** is a third grade teacher for the Columbus County Schools. She resides in Whiteville. ■ **Mike McKinney** is an administrator for IBM. He resides in Greensboro.

'95 ■ **Norrine LaBranche** is a media specialist for Virtual Community Schools. She resides in Columbus, Ohio. ■ **Virginia Parsons** is a coach and teacher at Sinton Independent School District. She resides in Sinton, Texas. ■ **Allison Harrington Strong** is a speech-language pathologist and owner of Speech Solutions Inc. She resides in Lumberton.

'96 ■ **Christie Kent** gave birth to her first child, Brayden Grant, on Dec. 10, 2007. Christie is a teacher with St. John's County Schools.



■ **Justin Sisco** is a military-contracted police advisor with Dyncorp and will work in Iraq for one year. He worked in law enforcement in Robeson County for 10 years.

'97 ■ **Donald Franklin Andrews** is mayor of Broadway and vice president of Lee-Moore Insurance. ■ **Reginald J. McClam** was promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Marine Corps. ■ **Stephanie McGirt** announced the birth of her second son, James Tanner, born on June 14, 2007. She is a medical lab technician with the Robeson Health Care Corp. She resides in Maxton with her husband and two children.

■ **April L. Oxendine** joined UNCP's Counseling and Testing Center to coordinate alcohol, tobacco and other student wellness programs.



Earning a master of health education degree from East Carolina University, she worked for Operation Sickle Cell's HIV outreach and education program in Fayetteville and for the Robeson County Health Department's SMART program, a Center for Disease Control-funded initiative to combat syphilis. Oxendine also worked for Native Angels Home Health Care's HIV program. ■ **Barbara Scott** is the production control manager at Graphic Packaging International in Richmond, Va., where she resides. ■ **Amy Smith** is a clinical research associate with PPD, Inc., a pharmaceutical product development company. She resides in Durham. ■ **Amanda "Amy" Woolston** is stationed in Japan, where she is a cryptological technician technical for the U.S. Navy onboard the missile cruiser the USS Cowpens CG-63. Woolston was named Sailor of the Year.

'98 ■ **Jackie Cummings-Hunt** was named Teacher of the Year at Piney Grove School. She teaches first grade for the Public Schools of Robeson County and resides in Pembroke. ■ **W. Keith Dodson II** and his wife, Monica, announced the birth of their third daughter, Kinley Abigail. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves and completed boot

Class Notes

camp. ■ **James Latowski** is an intensive care unit registered nurse in Temple, Texas.

■ **Neal Royce Locklear** was promoted to agency manager of Scotland County Farm Bureau Insurance in Laurinburg.

■ **Marcus A. Monroe** is a deputy sheriff with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department. He resides in Charlotte.

■ **R.J. Perry** is a senior sales representative with Premiere Sports Travel. He lives in Raleigh with his wife, Elizabeth.

'99 ■ **Natalie Brayboy** is a child protective services social worker with the Nash County Department of Social Services. She resides in Warrenton. ■ **Stacey and Brian Davis** welcomed their fourth child, Canaan Timothy, on Dec. 12, 2007. Brian is an operations manager with Lowe's. The couple resides in Richmond, Va. ■ **John Thomas Jones** was promoted to assistant district manager for the Social Security Administration. He resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Laura Lawyer** is an adjunct instructor in UNCP's Department of Social Work. She is a licensed clinical social worker and works in the Fayetteville area, providing therapy services to private individuals, as well as working with public institutions, including the Cumberland County Schools.

'00 ■ **Shannon Flournoy** married Alonzo Avera Sr. on Dec. 22, 2007. The couple resides in Augusta, Ga., where Shannon is a lead school counselor while working on her doctorate in counselor education and supervision. ■ **Thomas Delane Garner** is a park ranger with North Carolina State Parks. He and his wife reside in Bladenboro.

■ **Rebecca Niedfeldt** earned her doctorate in veterinary medicine. She is a veterinarian for Sheeler Road Animal Hospital and resides in Apopka, Fla. ■ **Mary Ann Turner** is a nursing instructor for Southeastern Community College. She resides in Clarkton.

■ **David Wallenborn and Alison Parker '02** were married on Sept. 29, 2007.

■ **Andrea Winter** is a biology teacher for Putnam County High School in Granville, Ill.

'01 ■ **Lorreen Bixby** is assistant director for Stratford Outreach Inc. She earned her master's degree in human service with a concentration in social work, and is starting a residential treatment program. She resides in Wilmington. ■ **Karen Carlisle** is a nursing supervisor at Scotland Memorial Hospital. She resides in Red Springs. ■ **Ericka Howland** is a community development specialist in Erie, Pa., where she resides. ■ **Andrea Flowers Locklear** was awarded the U.S. Public Health Service's Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award. She earned a master's degree in pharmaceutical science and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. ■ **Brian Locklear** works in sales for Kraft Foods. He resides in Rowland. ■ **David Nunnery** is a family preservation specialist with the Methodist Home for Children. He resides in Raleigh. ■ **Susan Phy** is an oncology pharmacist for Scotland County Memorial Hospital. She resides in Laurinburg. ■ **Delila Sagas** gave birth to a baby girl on Oct. 6, 2007. She resides in Fort Knox, Ky. ■ **Emily Evans Sorrell** is a social worker for the Department of Social Services of Johnston County. She resides in Clayton.

'02 ■ **Ginnell Curtis Birch** is a training tech for Cummins Turbo Technologies. She was inducted into the UNCP Athletic Hall of Fame in February. She resides in Ladson, S.C. ■ **Stephanie Porter Johnson** and her husband, **David Joel '01**, announced the birth of their first child, Kensley Brooke, on Oct. 14, 2007. ■ **Christiane Nicole Martin** is a seventh grade social studies teacher with Bladen County Schools. She resides in Bladenboro with her husband, Thomas.

■ **Terri Maynor-Guevara** and her husband, Johnny, had their first child, Trinity Xiomara, in May. Terri is a youth development specialist with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Teshayla Oxendine** is employed with NASA in the Human Resources Department, where she creates awards for the NASA centers across the country.

'03 ■ **Dana Byrd** is a paralegal for Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog LLP. She resides in Fuquay-Varina. ■ **Victor Shane Freeman** is a level two park ranger with the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. ■ **Abdullah Johnson** is an inventory purchasing coordinator with Time Life. He resides in Woodbridge, Va.

■ **Stacie Dawn Lewis** and Timothy Adam Bryan were married January 11 in Gatlinburg, Tenn.



■ **Leslie Nunnery** of Raleigh is an art teacher for the Granville School District. ■ **Shelia Swift** is a middle school art teacher for Scotland County. She is enrolled in a master's program for education technology through Lesley University. She resides in Laurinburg. ■ **Winifred A. Winston** is a job development coordinator with The University of Baltimore. ■ **Rachel Lyndon Zamorski** is a real estate agent with Centex Homes. She resides in Mebane with her husband, Edward.

'04 ■ **Sarah Alexander** is a senior field liability claims representative with Farmer's Insurance. She resides in Lacey, Wash. ■ **Anne Britt** is an office manager with Trinity Home Care of Robeson County. She resides in Maxton. ■ **April Michelle Nunery Caudill** and her husband welcomed a baby boy, Jonathan Alexander, on Sept. 24, 2007. She is an exceptional children's teacher at Montclair Elementary School in Cumberland County. She and her husband

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reside in Hope Mills. ■ **Hope Carter Freeman** is a child protective services investigator with the Bladen County Department of Social Services. ■ **Melissa Moore-Hall** of Lumberton is a first grade teacher at Magnolia School in Robeson County. ■ **Calvin Webster** is a Web applications developer and systems analyst for Illumicom in Charleston, S.C. ■ **Ryan Young** works for the Graham Police Department and is a member of the SWAT team. He and his wife, Sheri, reside in Graham.

'05 ■ **Nicole Locklear Brooks** is the assistant director of customer services for the Robeson County Water Department. She resides in Lumberton. ■ **George Marcell Coates** and **Keita Nicole Turner '06** are engaged to be married on August 16. ■ **LaCinda E. Ellison** is a motor transportation operator with the U.S. Army Reserves. ■ **Terry Abigail Hall Hoffmann** is a teacher at South Davidson High School. She resides in Lexington. ■ **Brandy Jones** is a training specialist with Citi Cards. She resides in Greensboro. ■ **Christina Theodorou** is program manager for the N.C. Indian Economic Development Initiative. She resides in Raleigh. ■ **Elizabeth Butler Walls** and her husband, **Nathan**, announced the birth of their son, Joseph Lee, on April 9. Elizabeth operates her own business, Butler's Second Time Around, and Nathan is a public information specialist for the City of Fayetteville, where the couple resides.



'06 ■ **Amanda Arial** and her husband Logan Scott. The couple is stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. ■ **Jessica Carter** is an associate professional at Peterkin and Associates. She resides in Lumberton. ■ **Candace M. Deese** works with the Robeson County Department of Social Services in the Department of Child Protective Services. She resides in Maxton. ■ **Jennifer Lee McNeil** is assistant director of UNCP's Office of Admissions, where she recruits high school students from the Triad area. She resides in Pembroke. ■ **Jessica Renee Polmann** is an infant lead teacher for the Goddard School. She resides in Mooresville. ■ **Douglas S. Thompson** and **Sarah Parker** are engaged to be married on October 10. The couple will reside in Willow Spring. ■ **Scott M. Vetter** was promoted to district executive with the Cape Fear Council Boy Scouts of America. He and his family reside in Lumberton. ■ **Heather D. Walters** is an administrative assistant at UNCP. She resides in Lumberton. ■

'07 **Rachel Carnegie** is a physical education and health teacher in Wake County. ■ **Earl Jordan Jr.** is the traffic manager for Beasley Broadcasting Group. He resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Stephen Mantzouris** is a nurse for the U.S. Navy. He resides in Bethesda, Md. ■ **Antonio L. Montgomery** is a junior asset manager for United Mortgage LLC. He resides in Charlotte. ■ **Mary Ann Prevatte** is a reading consultant with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. She resides in Red Springs. ■ **Krystal Sease** is a teacher at Douglas Byrd High School. She resides in Fayetteville. ■ **Matt Swift** is athletic director for the City of Lexington, where he resides. ■ **Megan Brooke Todd** is an exceptional children's teacher with the Stanly County Schools. She is working on a master's in education at East Carolina University with a focus in low incidence disabilities. She resides in Albemarle.



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alumni notes

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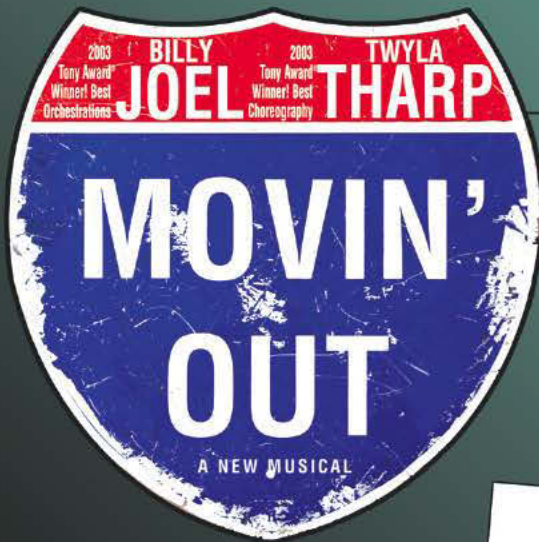
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Walter J. Gale remembered

Pembroke State College President Walter J. Gale (July 14, 1914 - September 9, 1976) loved to drive the town fire truck, and he didn't believe in such frills as telephones. He was in the thick of things when Lumbee Indians routed the Klu Klux Klan in 1958, and he liked to think of himself as "one of the boys."

Hardly the portrait of a college president, yet Gale, who led the University from 1956-62 probably did more to turn things around than any single administrator in the institution's 75-year history.

Dr. Gale arrived on the Pembroke campus in 1956 on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court's historic desegregation decision. He found a tiny college with a handful of American Indian students that had languished in the shadows from the day it was founded as an Indian Normal School.

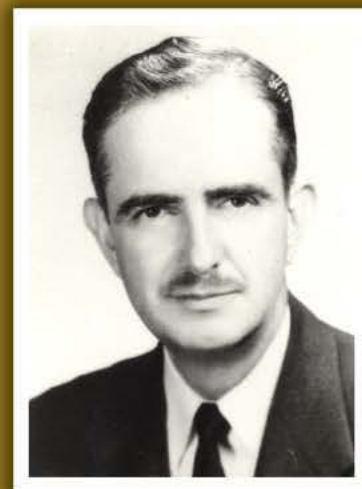
In seven years, the New Jersey native sparked controversy and got things done. His philosophy was "Get on the ball and get the job done," and his slogan for the college was "Quality Education at a Minimum Cost," a slogan that is still applicable.

He particularly began to promote the school's teacher education, music, and athletic programs, all of which were high visibility programs and attracted attention to the institution. At the same time, however, he worked diligently to raise academic standards and to develop a solid program of financial aid.

During the 1958-59 academic year, Pembroke State College was recognized as the fastest growing college in North Carolina. At the beginning of the fall semester in 1956, the college enrolled 151 students; by the fall semester of 1962, that figure increased to 758.

White students suddenly outnumbered American Indians and the first whites joined the Board of Trustees. Dr. Gale left Pembroke in a swirl of controversy with some local citizens unhappy over the changes in the character and size of the college, but Pembroke State University alumni honored him in 1973 with a Distinguished Service Award.

In retrospect, University historians wonder what might have happened to the Institution without Walter J. Gale's tenure as president.



Walter J. Gale



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