

SPRING
2018

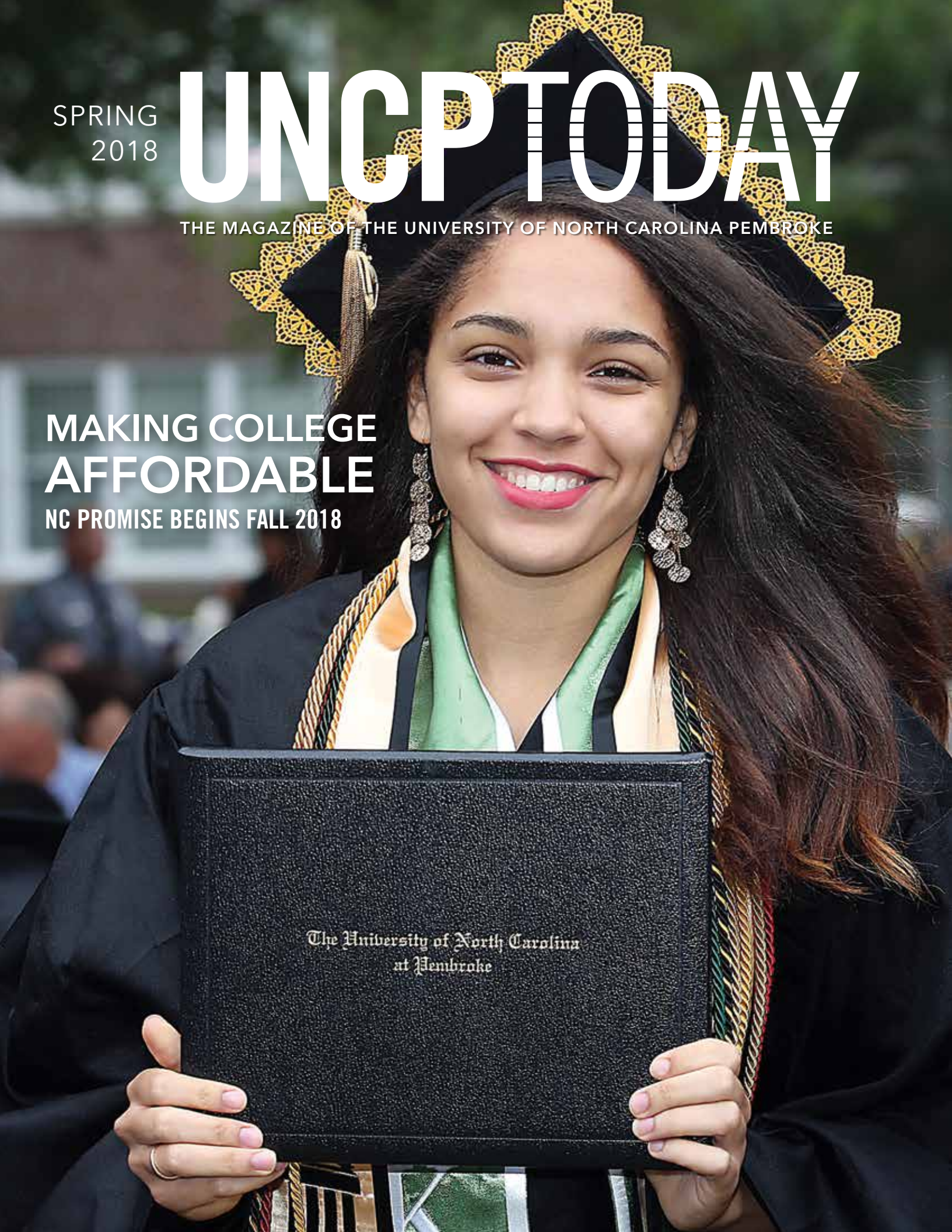
UNCP TODAY

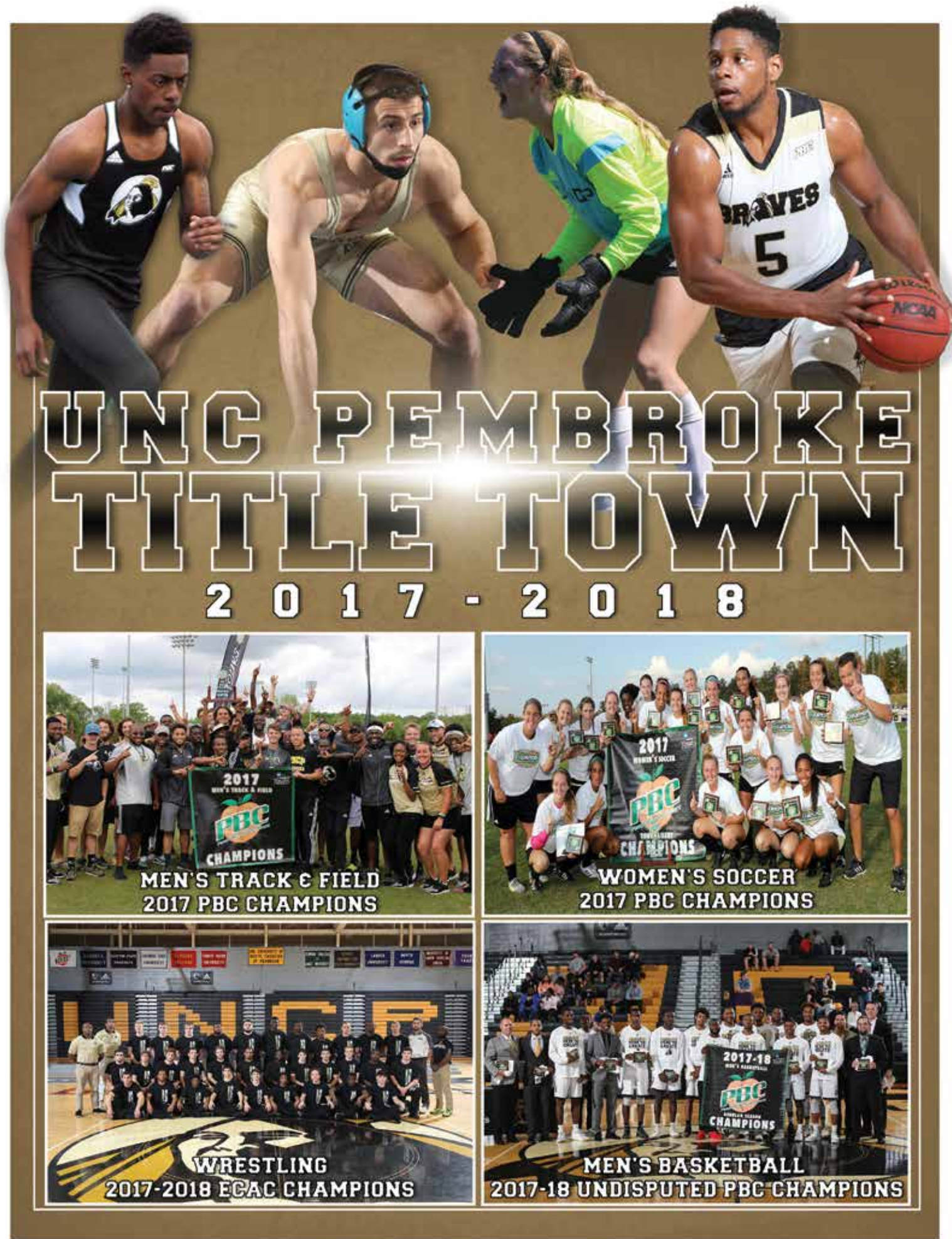
THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PEMBROKE

MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

NC PROMISE BEGINS FALL 2018

The University of North Carolina
at Pembroke





UNCP TODAY

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE | SPRING 2018 |

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UNCP Today magazine is published annually for alumni and friends of the university by the Office of University Communications and Marketing. UNCP is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina system. There were 23,500 copies of this document printed at a cost of \$0.61 each.

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Together, We Are BraveNation Strong

Categorizing ourselves is a natural activity, even if we rebel against the pigeonhole concept. For the reader of this publication, there are likely a few categories that we have shared or do share, regardless of where you may call home, and two specifically: "the next alum" and "the now alum." Collectively, these two categories, along with others, unite under the BraveNation brand. That brand is a point of pride for all of us, both young and experienced.

To "the next alum" (aka the student), you likely have weekly reminders of your ambition as you plow through that assignment or prepare for the next measurement the professor has planned. Accompanying that grind are an abundance of opportunities to leverage all the university has to offer and better equip you for the professional future you are chasing. One of those underutilized opportunities, I would argue, is right at your fingertips and taps into a deep and wide-reaching reservoir of alumni in professions who likely have walked a similar path from student to professional as you are pursuing. Ordinarily, undergraduates wait for mentors to present themselves but with today's digital footprint, a student can reach out to leverage an alum who likely would be honored to share what they have learned along the way. To "the next alum," I offer encouragement to seek out mentors from BraveNation because we are indeed everywhere and likely doing anything you may be considering for your future.

To "the now alum" (aka the graduate), you likely gaze up at your wall with pride

and/or periodically don that cap or shirt with the red-tailed hawk and smile a bit as the memories flash in your mind of your college days. As a student, you probably had a mentor who inspired you to take an extra class or join a student organization as a way to expand your educational career outside of the classroom. Now you have the opportunity to be that inspiration for a younger version of yourself. That digital footprint applies to our ability as alumni to engage students beyond just in person. I challenge all of us to reach back to our major's department, sport, club, organization or the catchalls – Career Services and Alumni Relations – and make our willingness to mentor known.

At the end of the day, being an alumnus is like being a player on a team, and all the players each have an important role in the success of that team. Whether you are a "next alum" or a "now alum," it is critical to recognize the extraordinary players we can be for the BraveNation team. There are three basic positions: giver of time, giver of treasure or giver of talent. The evolution from freshman to a 25-year alum will afford opportunities to play one, two or all three positions at one time, but the key is to get on the field! BraveNation is strong because of the strength of "next alum," "now alum," the faculty/staff and the many friends of the university. That continued strength will be dependent on you playing your position.

CALEB MALCOLM '97
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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Comment on our stories or send us your UNCP experiences by emailing Mark Locklear at mark.locklear@uncp.edu. Mail us at UNCP Today, P.O. Box 1510, Pembroke, NC 28372-1510. We'll select a few to share with your fellow readers.

Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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One of the themes running throughout this issue of UNCP Today is the strong spirit of pride and generosity that abounds in BraveNation. This is exemplified by the landmark \$7 million gift from UNCP Board of Trustees member Jim Thomas and his wife, Sally, to benefit our new School of Business. (See next page.)

Other recent examples include Chemistry Professor Len Holmes' endowment of four scholarships for local American Indian students (pg. 22) as well as the private support for our new, state-of-the-art Brave Health Center (pg. 9).

At UNCP, we believe in honoring those who advance our mission through their generosity. Earlier this year, the university recognized decades of giving and advocacy by naming the Health Sciences Building in honor of former State Senator David Weinstein (pg. 10). And as we celebrate three teams bringing home PBC championships (pg. 16), we give thanks for the many alumni and boosters who support our athletic programs. In so many ways, the generosity exhibited by our campus community is simply remarkable.

No issue of this magazine would be complete without inspiring stories of UNCP alumni making a difference in the world. Victoria Huggins '15 has literally become royalty in the Old North State as Miss North Carolina 2017 (pg. 27). Another alumnus highlighted is Jerry Lanier '74, whose impressive résumé includes U.S. Ambassador to Sudan and Uganda and head of the U.S. State Department's Counterterrorism Bureau (pg. 31). Their stories serve as a testament to UNCP's slogan: "You can get there from here."

In these pages, you'll also learn about a program that will significantly increase the affordability of college for UNCP students (pg. 11).

Beginning in fall 2018, NC Promise will dramatically reduce the cost of undergraduate tuition to \$500 for in-state and \$2,500 for out-of-state tuition per semester. The difference will be covered by the state of North Carolina's increased investment in our campus.

While NC Promise is an unprecedented opportunity for us to increase access to higher education, UNCP remains solidly committed to serving Robeson County and all of southeastern North Carolina.

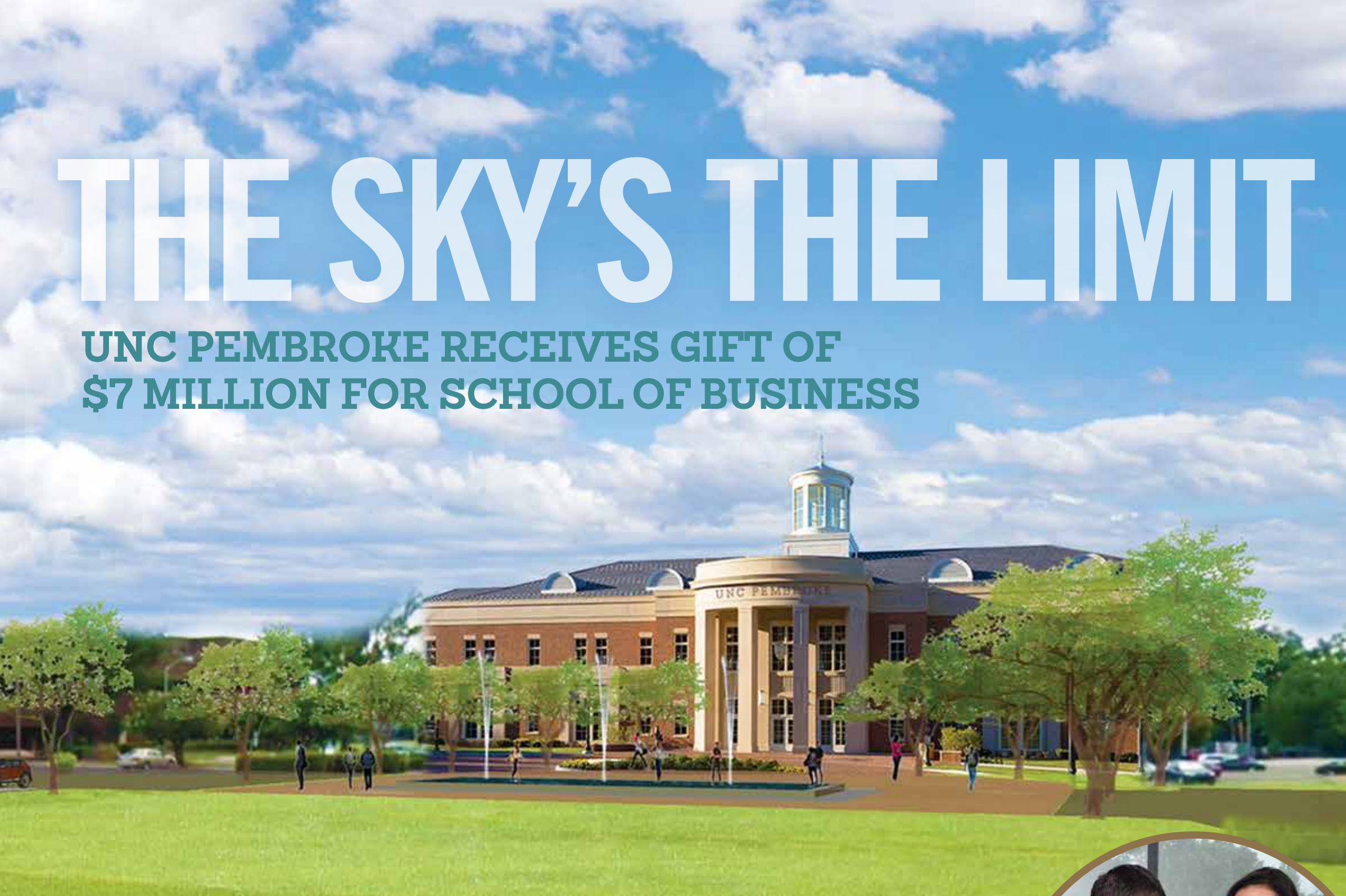
Please enjoy the magazine, and visit campus soon. We enjoy seeing our alumni and friends. Whether you live just down the road or halfway around the world, you are always welcome at UNCP. With your help, UNC Pembroke will continue changing lives through education!



ROBIN GARY CUMMINGS, M.D.

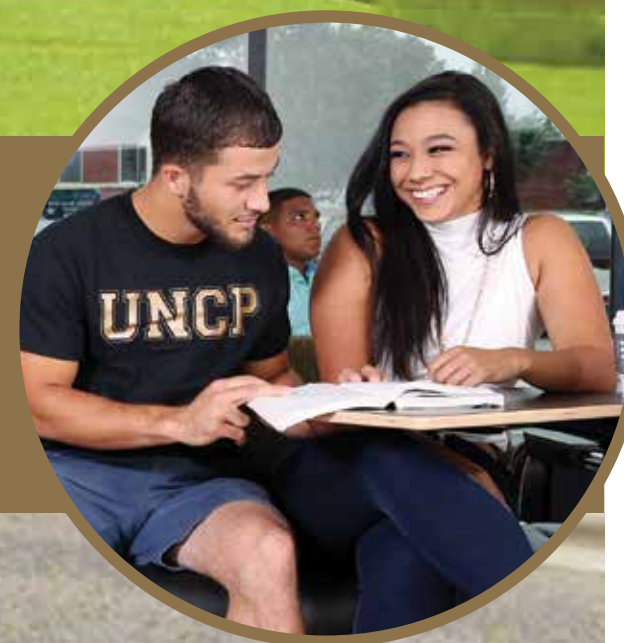
THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

UNC PEMBROKE RECEIVES GIFT OF \$7 MILLION FOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



“ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT UNCP, ESPECIALLY OUR STUDENTS, I EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION TO THIS REMARKABLE COUPLE FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THIS VITAL PROJECT.”

— CHANCELLOR CUMMINGS



Artist rendering subject to change.

The largest gift in the history of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke will propel the university closer to breaking ground on a state-of-the-art facility to house its School of Business.

A landmark \$7 million gift from UNCP Board of Trustee member Jim Thomas and his wife, Sally, will transform the campus and have a lasting impact on generations of executives and entrepreneurs.

Sally Thomas has simultaneously gifted \$110,000 to the university's CARE Resource Center – an on-campus resource for students in need of food, clothing and housing assistance.

Pembroke native Jim Thomas is a prominent Los Angeles real estate developer and founder of the Thomas Family Foundation. A one-time owner of the NBA's Sacramento Kings, he was chairman of the board of Parkway Properties, which merged with Thomas Properties Group, until its recent sale.

The gift will go toward the construction of a \$36 million facility that will feature a number of innovative spaces designed to foster 21st century problem-solving.

Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings was elated to announce the historic gift.

“Jim Thomas is credited with transforming the skyline of downtown Los Angeles as a world-renowned real estate developer,” Cummings said. “Now, his and Sally's historic gift to the UNCP School of Business sets the stage for a transformation of his hometown of Pembroke and the surrounding region.

“On behalf of everyone at UNCP, especially our students, I express our heartfelt appreciation to this remarkable couple for their leadership in this vital project.”

The pledge agreement comprises both current and deferred gifts totaling \$7 million. A deferred gift of \$3 million for the establishment of a fund to support the maintenance of the building and promote the work of the School of Business will come from the Thomases' estate. The balance of \$4 million is a challenge gift. To receive the latter gift, the university is required to raise an additional \$4 million in funding to match the gift.

“We will be asking foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals to help us make this project a reality for our students. I can think of no better way to invest in our region than by making an impact on education and training available to generations of students,” said Cummings.

This gift, and the required match, will be added to the \$23 million UNCP received from the Connect NC Bond, and the \$2 million in Golden LEAF funds, and several major gifts from individuals and businesses, moving UNCP closer to the \$36 million needed for construction.

The ultimate goal of the \$7 million gift, according to Thomas, is to improve the lives of the citizens of Robeson County.

"This gift is a continuation of what I have tried to do with the entrepreneurship center and the endowed professorship, which is to help the people in the community, to give them a better life by becoming entrepreneurs, and increasing their wealth and well-being," Thomas said.

"The new business school is also a continuation, in a sense, with the plan to build a modern business center that will be very

attractive to students – encouraging them to go into business and learn about business," he said.

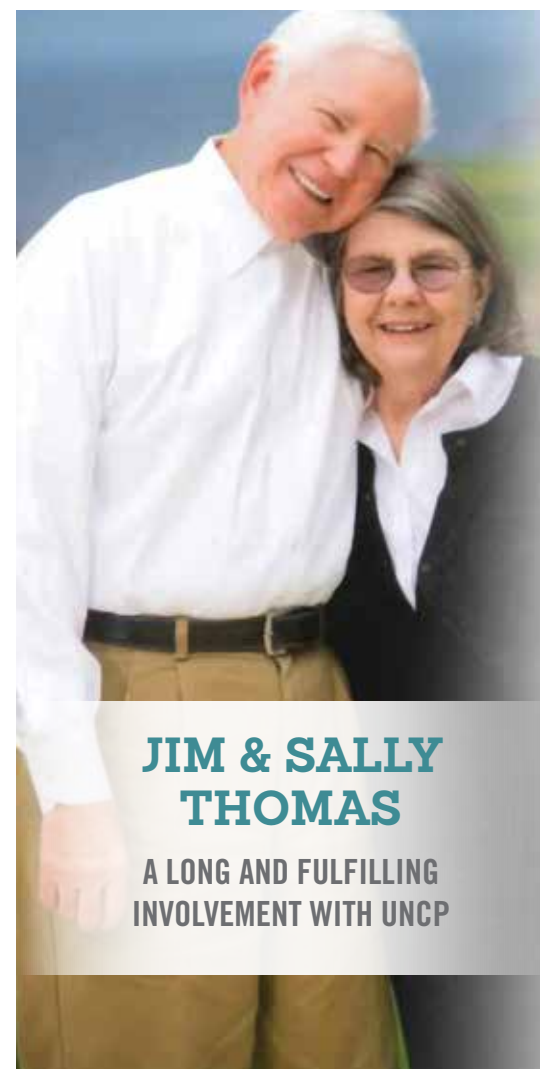
"Resources will be available, as well, to non-business majors who want to understand more about business and finance, and how to manage their money or work toward a career.

"It is my hope that these combined efforts will help the community continue to grow, changing the economic makeup of the region."

The new facility will include a career center, a fully equipped auditorium, a video conference room, computer lab, trading room, collaborative lounges and study spaces, and a multi-media resource room.

"THIS GIFT WILL FURTHER ADVANCE THE SCHOOL'S MISSION OF PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A COMPETITIVE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT, ENHANCE THEIR LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND PREPARE THEM TO SERVE AS BUSINESS LEADERS."

– DR. BARRY O'BRIEN, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



JIM & SALLY THOMAS

A LONG AND FULFILLING INVOLVEMENT WITH UNCP

The Thomas family has supported UNCP's growth through generous donations spanning three decades. The couple has given substantial gifts to establish the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship and the Thomas Family Endowed Professorship in Entrepreneurship, among others.

Thomas was raised in a home directly across the street from the university. His parents, Earl and Ophelia, both graduated from what was then Pembroke State College, before moving to Ohio in 1952. He received a degree in economics from Baldwin-Wallace University with honors.

He graduated magna cum laude from Cleveland Marshall Law School, where he was editor of the law review. He was a partner in two prominent Los Angeles law firms and served in the Chief Counsel's Office of the Internal Revenue Service in Seattle and Los Angeles.

His expertise in real estate law, federal income taxes and development issues helped him become one of the nation's largest mixed-use, commercial and residential developers. His vision was credited by the *Los Angeles Times* with shaping the city's skyline and its urban spaces.

Though he moved away when he was young, Pembroke had a lasting influence on Thomas. He is a frequent visitor to campus and a strong supporter of the annual Entrepreneurship Summit. He chairs the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship's advisory board. This summer he was appointed to the university's Board of Trustees by Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger.

To date, the Thomases have given nearly \$1 million to the university. Their extensive record of giving includes an endowed scholarship in his parents' name. The Thomas Assembly Room in the Museum of the Southeast American Indian also honors his parents. The Thomas Family Foundation also made a sizeable donation for upgrades to the Entrepreneurship Incubator.

Jim was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree from UNCP after his commencement speech in 1990.

POWER OF THE MIND

UNC PEMBROKE'S DR. BEN BAHR HONORED WITH O. MAX GARDNER AWARD FOR WORK IN NEUROLOGICAL RESEARCH

Ben Bahr comes from a family with lofty goals. After all, his father was part of the space program that helped mankind reach the moon. So it should come as little surprise that Bahr wants to achieve something equally ambitious: find a way to eliminate neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Bahr, the William C. Friday Chair and Distinguished Professor of Microbiology and Biochemistry at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, has been recognized as the 2017 Oliver Max Gardner Award winner by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. The award – the highest honor given by the University and established by the will of former Governor O. Max Gardner – recognizes faculty who have "made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race."

Bahr was presented with the award during the UNC Board of Governors meeting in May 2017.

Bahr's work is critical if researchers are going to stem neurological diseases. In America, there are more than 5 million people living with Alzheimer's – a number that could rise to as high as 16 million by 2050. Despite his international reputation as one of the world's leading experts on neurodegenerative diseases, Bahr knows that it's going to take the work of many researchers across the globe to overcome conditions such as Alzheimer's.

"I'm always like a little kid when it comes to brain research, and I tell students in the lab to fire up your creativity because it's going to take everybody's ideas of chipping away to solve this problem," Bahr said. "Just like my dad was part of the huge group of engineers and mechanics that was part of the space program that got people walking on the moon, it's going to take just as many, if not more, scientists to continue working to solve this terrible disease of Alzheimer's, because the brain is just as complicated, if not more, than the universe."

Bahr's research led him to identify a unique class of cathepsin B-enhancing compounds that could slow down or even reverse the course of Alzheimer's disease by speeding up the removal

of abnormally accumulating proteins. Elevation of the cathepsin B enzyme was recently shown by other groups to occur after exercise in monkeys and humans, correlating with improved memory. In addition, Bahr's work on blast-induced brain injury found subtle neuronal changes that may explain behavioral alterations in the absence of obvious brain damage.

"I've been very interested in helping people with dementia," Bahr said. "There are many types of dementia; Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, but there's Parkinson's, Huntington's, ALS. The list is too long, affecting too many people, so we'd like to know exactly how the brain works so we can know more about how memory disorders can occur."

The work from his lab has been presented in 16 countries, has led to more than 140 scientific publications and has resulted in patents for first-in-class drugs to treat neurodegenerative

diseases.

Most recently his lab's research contributions include:

- Dementia science and related risk factors (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, frontotemporal dementia);
- Early treatment avenue for pre-Alzheimer's (mild cognitive impairment);
- Synaptic vulnerability in military blast-induced traumatic brain injury and potential influence on the risk of Alzheimer's;
- New collaboration to study how a diabetes pathway may influence risk factors and synaptic vulnerability; and
- Drug discovery efforts to treat different types of dementia.



Dr. Ben Bahr receives O. Max Gardner Award from Chairman Bissette and Pearl Floyd during a Board of Governors' meeting in May 2017.

NEW UNIVERSITY MACE TELLS THE STORY OF UNC PEMBROKE

The unveiling of the new University Mace at UNC Pembroke evoked feelings of pride for many who attended a dedication ceremony in November.

"It was very moving and humbling," said UNCP alumnus Anthony Dial, who attended with his wife, Rhonda, and extended family. "It was very emotional."

Hundreds of people turned out for the unveiling inside the University Center Annex. The event was momentous as more than two dozen attendees, including Dial, were descendants of the university.

Atop the 4-foot-tall mace is a 13-inch red-tailed hawk, UNCP's mascot. The hawk's dual position – taking flight or landing – symbolizes UNC Pembroke students taking flight to soar into the future and alumni who return home to reconnect with their alma mater.

The hawk is plated in 24-karat gold. The gold-plated pinecone footer pays tribute to the longleaf pine tree.

The staff, which was crafted of wood sourced from the Lumber River basin, is adorned with the university seal, tobacco leaves, pine needle basket weave and pinecone patchwork designs.

The mace pays homage to the university's founders whose names are detailed on the head.

The mace was designed by a committee led by chair of UNCP art department, Carla Rokes. Each component was developed by local artisans.



The University Mace was carried by Dr. Cherry Maynor Beasley, the 2017 UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award winner.

outgrew its former facility.

Through new technology, advanced medical equipment and an increase in space, the Brave Health Center will better serve students. Lisa Schaeffer, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, said the vision for the \$4 million center has been 10 years in the making.

"The vision was to create a facility that is welcoming and that supports collaboration between these two essential departments, as well as the Pembroke community," Schaeffer said. "We are thrilled to finally get to this day."

Student Health Services occupies the first floor, and CAPS is on the second floor. The new building offers a confidential and professional setting for students who receive counseling services.

During the ceremony, two local donors were recognized for their support of the Brave Health Center. The Student Health Director's Office has been named in honor of Cora Bullard.

At the front of the Health Center, lies a 1,500-square-foot serenity garden, which lends itself to solitude and reflection. The serenity garden was made possible thanks to the generosity of Dr. Kenneth and Michelle Locklear. Kenneth, a UNCP graduate, has served the Red Springs community as a family physician for 35 years.



(Left to right) Lisa Schaeffer, vice chancellor for Student Affairs; LynnDee Horne, director of Counseling and Psychological Services; Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings; Cora Bullard, director of Student Health Services; Tony Bullard; Michelle and Dr. Kenneth Locklear; and Logan John, UNCP graduate and former student body president.

BRAVE HEALTH CENTER OPENS

\$4M CENTER REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO STUDENT HEALTH

With a snip from the giant ceremonial scissors, UNC Pembroke reaffirmed its commitment to provide students with quality health care.

A grand opening ceremony was held April 2017 for the Brave Health Center. The 11,532-square-foot building houses Student Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings said buildings on a university campus serve

more than a functional purpose. A university's facilities represent institutional priorities and obligations.

"With the Brave Health Center, UNC Pembroke has a facility that proudly and properly represents our long-standing commitment to the health and well-being of our students," Cummings said.

The university has provided health services to its students for more than 60 years. However, Student Health Services



TALEY STRICKLAND CROWNED MISS UNCP

Taley Strickland has served as ambassador since her freshman year at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The senior mass communication major from Pembroke recently accepted a more visible role on campus when she was crowned Miss UNCP 2018 in front of more than 1,100 people at Givens Performing Arts Center on February 1.

"I am really excited to serve as the new Miss UNCP. This is something that I have been working so hard toward. I feel like I have been representing UNCP with my involvement on campus for the past three years. However, I am excited to take on a more official role."

She received a \$2,000 scholarship, free

student housing and a meal plan for one year. She also took home the Bessie Barnes Overcoming the Odds Scholarship.

Bryana Carrington was first runner-up. Jamelynn Johnson was second runner-up. Jasmine Carrion won Miss Congeniality. Chenoa Emanuel took home both the Kelsey Cummings Spirit Award and the Community Choice Award.

Strickland's passion for UNCP is evident in the hours she spends volunteering and serving as an ambassador with the Office for Community and Civic Engagement. She is president of Hok Nosai Native American Greek Life Council and active with Alpha Phi Omega Sorority. She is the daughter of Gary and Hope Strickland of Pembroke.

FIRST ROBOTICS DISTRICT COMPETITION



Spectators got a glimpse of the future as UNC Pembroke hosted the 2018 FIRST Robotics district competition March 17-18.

The competition drew 37 teams from high schools across North Carolina, including teams from Lumberton, Laurinburg and Southern Pines. Students spent six weeks to conceptualize, design, build, program, modify and test a robot to participate in a competition that changes each year. The teams then take their creation to regional or district competitions prior to the FIRST Championship.

The Pitt Pirates from Greenville were the overall winner. The RobCoBots from the Robeson Early College placed fifth and took home the Imagery Award.

UNCP UNVEILS DAVID F. WEINSTEIN HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

Former State Sen. David Weinstein was joined by more than 100 friends and family to celebrate the naming of the Health Sciences Building in his honor.

A ceremony to reveal the David F. Weinstein Health Sciences Building, now permanently etched across the glass front, was held May 2017.

The building is home to the undergraduate and graduate nursing and social work departments. During his 13 years as a senator, Weinstein guided some \$92 million to UNC Pembroke for building projects, including \$29 million for the Health Sciences Building.

He was instrumental in a \$6.9 million special appropriation to build the first new residence hall in 25 years. From a successful \$2 billion bond referendum, Weinstein carved out \$57 million that transformed the university.

Weinstein joined the university's Board of Trustees in 1992 and served two years as chairman. He served until his selection to the General Assembly in 1997. The former Lumberton mayor was instrumental in changing the name of the university, which helped boost enrollment.

Weinstein has repeatedly proclaimed, and again during the ceremony, that the funding of the Health Sciences Building was his greatest accomplishment as a legislator.

"I continue to believe that UNCP is the jewel in the crown of southeastern North Carolina," he said. "This is an honor I will never forget."

Weinstein was joined by his wife, Bobbie; his son, Aaron; daughter, Melinda; and nephew, David Gordon.

"Senator Weinstein has been a monumental game changer for this university," said Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings. "David Weinstein recognized the need for trained health care professionals in this region.



The Health Sciences Building was named in honor of former State Sen. David Weinstein (Right). During the ceremony Senator Weinstein was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Sen. Danny Britt.

"When he went to Raleigh, he went to work for us," he said. "The result is this building, which is the largest construction project in university history."

Sen. Weinstein was awarded the first Alumni Association Special Award of Distinction in 2010. He established a \$25,000 endowed nursing scholarship in 2013. He also established the Max Weinstein Endowed Scholarship in History, in honor of his father.

UNC PEMBROKE AND ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAUNCH CO-ADMISSION

BRAVESTEP PROGRAM



Chancellor Robin Cummings signs the official BraveStep agreement with RCC President Kimberly Gold.

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke offers pathways for its students to further their training in engineering, medicine and veterinary science.

But equally important are the pathways from community college. The BraveStep program is the latest example of the collaboration between UNCP and Robeson Community College.

BraveStep creates a pathway for prospective UNCP students to begin their college career at RCC and transfer to UNCP after completing 30 credit hours. Qualified applicants who are selected will be co-admitted to UNCP and RCC.

Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings touted the program as he and RCC President Kimberly Gold signed the official agreement.

"Robeson County is in the unique position of being home to a high-quality community college and UNC System institution," Dr. Cummings said.

"We are one of only a few rural counties in the state to have such a powerful combination of resources. It is vitally important that Robesonians fully leverage the power and potential of RCC and UNCP to improve their lives, the lives around them and, in turn, move our county forward."

NC PROMISE

LOWERS TUITION TO \$500 PER SEMESTER

AT UNCP FALL 2018



Beginning in fall 2018, North Carolina residents can earn a degree at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke for \$500 in tuition per semester, thanks to NC Promise.

Out-of-state students will pay \$2,500 in tuition per semester. The new tuition plan is one component of the state legislature's college affordability program.

Coupled with some of the lowest fees and associated costs in the UNC system, the new plan will make a UNC Pembroke education one of the most affordable in North Carolina.

Western Carolina University and Elizabeth City State University have also been identified as NC Promise campuses.

This is all part of the General Assembly's goal to make higher education more affordable and accessible.

"NC Promise will allow UNCP to offer the same rigorous, high-quality educational experience at much lower costs to our students," said Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings.

"Lower tuition reduces the financial burden on working families. And with less student debt, graduates will have more freedom to pursue their dreams.

"NC Promise is a transformative opportunity for our students, our university and our region," Cummings said.



Coupled with some of the lowest fees in the UNC system, the new plan will make a UNC Pembroke education one of the most affordable in North Carolina.

The aim of the tuition plan is threefold – increase access to higher education, support economic development by helping North Carolina meet demands for a well-educated workforce, and decrease student loan indebtedness.

The result at UNCP will be the shifting of a greater portion of the cost from the students to the state, strengthening North Carolina's investment in UNCP.

NC Promise adheres to the state's constitutional obligation of keeping tuition as free as practicable.

With the rising cost of higher education nationwide, coupled with an increase in student debt, UNC Pembroke students stand to benefit significantly from NC Promise.

National statistics show there are more than 44 million borrowers with \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt in the U.S. alone. The average student nationwide in the Class of 2016 has \$37,172 in student loan debt.

The average student loan debt at UNCP is \$23,424.

About 80 percent of UNCP students receive some form of financial aid. Approximately 57 percent of the full-time

undergraduates receive the Pell Grant, a subsidy the U.S. federal government provides for students based on need.

Under NC Promise, in-state students would save approximately \$10,400 in tuition over four years with out-of-state students saving approximately \$40,772.

As with all institutions, the total cost of attendance includes fees and other associated costs, in addition to tuition.

All undergraduate students at UNCP are eligible for the new tuition plan, including part-time, online, distance education, transfer and international students.

NC Promise tuition does not apply to students in graduate programs.

Dajer Fernandez, student body president, says NC Promise is more than an opportunity for UNCP to provide an even more affordable education. It provides a basis and push for the university to renew and revamp existing programs to better serve its population.

"NC Promise is about providing opportunities and allowing students to focus on the main reasons they came to college."

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT UNC PEMBROKE

James "Jim" Thomas and Jack Lowery were appointed by the state General Assembly to the UNCP Board of Trustees. Thomas and Lowery are both Pembroke natives and loyal supporters of the university. Lowery is a 1958 graduate, while Thomas holds an honorary doctorate degree from his hometown university.

Allen Jamerson, a two-time UNCP graduate, and Mary Ann Elliott, who was raised in Lumberton, were also appointed to the Board of Trustees last summer. Jamerson is a retired Air Force brigadier general. After his retirement in 2016, he served as director of Security Forces, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection for the U.S. Air Force.

Elliott, an expert in military satellite communications, has been instrumental in the founding and funding of six firms, including Arrowhead Global Solutions, Inc.

Dr. James "Jim" Jones is serving as board chair for the 2017-2018 academic year. A Pembroke native, Jones was honored as the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient at Wake Forest University. He founded the family medicine program at East Carolina University and was the first American Indian to graduate from Wake Forest and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.



JAMES THOMAS B.F. "JACK" LOWERY ALLEN JAMERSON



MARY ANN ELLIOTT JAMES JONES

REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN BROOKS:

RESPECTED COMMUNITY LEADER AND UNCP SUPPORTER

.....
During the spring commencement in 2017, Brooks (Center) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the university.

Dr. Martin Brooks was considered one of the most influential physicians and respected community leaders in Robeson County. He was the longest practicing Lumbee doctor, opening his practice in Pembroke in 1958.

After earning degrees from the University of Michigan, Brooks returned home to embark on a remarkable career of caring for others, regardless of ethnicity, religion or disability. He was a loyal supporter of UNC Pembroke and its mission, serving as its medical director of Student Health Services from 1976 to 1985. He later served on the Board of Trustees.

Brooks passed away on January 4. He was 88.

He opened Brooks Medical Clinic, directly beside his home. From 1961 to 1973, he was the only doctor in Pembroke.

A trusted leader and a community activist, Brooks gave his time to several professional memberships and elected offices. He



fought against racial discrimination and played a major role in breaking the practice of double-voting, a political tool used during the Robeson County Board of Education elections in the 1960s. He was the first American Indian on the medical staff at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. A doctor's lounge is named in his honor.

He was a charter member of Lumbee Guaranty Bank and dedicated 20 years to the Robeson County branches of NAACP. He was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Gov. Michael Easley in 2006. He was also the recipient of the Henry Berry Lowry Award, the highest honor bestowed on a member of the Lumbee Tribe.

GETTING AHEAD IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

UNCP TRUSTEE MARY ANN ELLIOTT DONATES \$500,000 TO SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UNCP Trustee Mary Ann Elliott is an internationally renowned satellite communications entrepreneur. As one of the nation's top female satellite communications executives, Elliott understands that a qualified workforce is needed to grow the economy of southeastern North Carolina. That was among the factors motivating the donation of \$500,000 toward the new multimillion-dollar facility to house the School of Business at UNCP. A career center in the new facility will be named The Mary Ann Elliott Business Career Center in her honor.

Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings commended Elliott for her generosity and firm belief in the mission of the university.

"Given Mary Ann Elliott's leadership and remarkable accomplishments in her field, she knows how to get ahead in the business world," said Cummings.

"She understands the importance of interpersonal and team dynamic skills that UNC Pembroke's Business Career Center will develop in our students. Mary Ann's generous gift distinguishes our School of Business and enhances its impact by providing vital, value-added resources outside of the classroom to help our students excel."

The Career Center will provide opportunities for business students to develop their professional skills, learn soft skills necessary for success, build and review their résumés, and provide appropriate resources to turn their practical education into careers.

Elliott envisions the future School of Business enhancing UNCP's reputation for producing qualified graduates who are ready to embark on careers with the right skills and background.

"The Career Center is vital in taking the education background of our students and turning it into a job and a way forward. Far too often, when young people graduate from college, they don't have a clear path on how to apply for jobs. They lack an



understanding of how hard it is to apply for multiple jobs and everything from needing their résumé tweaked to writing thank-you letters, etc. Each of these aspects is vital to getting a job," Elliott said. "Minor things can become major when applying

for a job. I anticipate the Career Center's influence will prepare these students for long and successful futures.

"The new school will mean the difference between obtaining a job versus still out there looking. For many of the students, especially international students or young people coming from underprivileged backgrounds, it is the difference between them succeeding and failing," Elliott added.

The announcement of a new facility is welcome for current business students like senior Michelle Kasperski.

"We have a lovely faculty, hardworking students, but need a space in which we can optimize both. I believe the new building will provide our students the much-needed space, technologies and resources necessary to succeed academically and professionally. It will enhance and multiply the abilities of our already-talented faculty to develop and prepare students for the ever-changing, increasingly complex and technologically dependent business world," said Kasperski.

"I ANTICIPATE THE CAREER CENTER'S INFLUENCE WILL PREPARE UNCP STUDENTS FOR LONG AND SUCCESSFUL FUTURES."

— MARY ANN ELLIOTT

UNCP EXPERIENCE INSPIRES HARRISON PEGRAM TO SERVE OTHERS

Harrison Pegram has always been business-minded.

At 14, he was selling refurbished golf balls on eBay. His weekends were spent bargain hunting at flea markets and yard sales. Anything to turn a profit.

By the time he graduated high school, the number of eBay transactions swelled to 2,600. A pretty lucrative gig that allowed the budding entrepreneur to save enough money to buy a car.

Today, Pegram is focused on broadening his knowledge of trade and enterprise as a junior in the School of Business at UNC Pembroke. During his college career, the Greensboro native has discovered a new passion.

"I've always had a business mind, but since I've been at UNCP I have developed a service heart," he said. "When I was accepted here, I told myself that I wasn't going to school just to be a student – I want to be a student leader."

For his outstanding leadership, Pegram was presented the Community Impact Award from North Carolina Campus Compact.

Since his freshman year, Pegram has thrust himself into campus and community-wide causes. As a student leader in the Office for Community and Civic Engagement, he has expanded UNCP's number of community partnerships, managed the online UNCP Serve volunteer system and led a group of students on an alternative fall break experience in Black Mountain, where they addressed issues such as homelessness and adoption.

He has also found time to create UNCP Votes!, a nonpartisan project designed to engage his fellow students in voting. In 2016, he and a team of students registered 200 students, garnered 600 voting pledges and held 11 voter engagement events.

"I have come to recognize that a lot of people have a voice and opinions," he said. "If these people are voting, then their voices are being heard. So I am trying to organize individuals to ensure they are being heard."



UNCP'S MODEL UN TEAM SHAPING FUTURE DIPLOMATS

What began as a small group of political science students in 2009 has grown into a powerhouse: UNC Pembroke's Model United Nations team. The 50-member team has become one of the most competitive teams in the southeastern United States, collecting 63 awards at regional conferences in the last four years.

UNCP brought home a record nine awards during the Southern Regional Conference in Atlanta in November – more than any other school. The UNCP team will represent Germany, Belarus and Egypt at the southern Regional Spring Conference in Charlotte in April.

Model UN is an educational simulation and academic competition in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations and the United Nations. They gain research, public speaking, debating and writing skills, in addition to critical thinking, teamwork and leadership abilities.



Model UN gained so much popularity that, in 2010, UNCP began offering it as a course. During the semester, students research countries in preparation for regional competitions attended by dozens of other schools, consisting of hundreds of students. At the end of the conference, outstanding teams and individuals are presented with awards for their performance, including prestigious position paper awards.

Participants in Model UN conferences, referred to as delegates, are placed in committees and assigned countries, or occasionally other organizations or political figures, to represent. Model UN offers regional, national and international opportunities to compete.

UNC PEMBROKE GRADUATE STUDENT HONORED AS

2017 NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW

"Natural approaches her service with a level of professionalism, compassion and maturity that inspires her peers and has earned her the distinction as one of UNC Pembroke's most impactful student leaders."

– CHANCELLOR CUMMINGS

Natural Breeden, a graduate student at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, has been named a member of Campus Compact's 2017 class of Newman Civic Fellows.

Campus Compact, a Boston-based nonprofit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, recently announced the 273 students who made up the 2017 cohort.

At UNC Pembroke, Breeden is a leader in the university's efforts to address hunger and homelessness. The Master of Social Work student manages the university's CARE Resource Center, which provides food and clothing assistance to students, faculty and staff in need.

Breeden recently worked with the Office for Community and Civic Engagement to establish an off-campus emergency housing program for homeless students. As the manager of this initiative, she was tasked with developing the policies and procedures for the program and housing facility, and works with a community-based organization to provide day-to-day oversight of the facility.

"Natural approaches her service with a level of professionalism, compassion and maturity that inspires her peers and has earned her the distinction as one of UNC Pembroke's most impactful student leaders," said UNCP Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings.

As a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow, Breeden is part of the first cohort to benefit from a completely redesigned fellowship. The Newman Civic Fellowship, named for Campus Compact co-founder Frank Newman, is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U. S. Senate. The fellowship also provides fellows with access to exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.



"As a student at UNC Pembroke, I have had the opportunity to identify and address issues facing our community and develop initiatives that promote civic engagement competency among my peers," Breeden said.

"As the manager of UNC Pembroke's on-campus food pantry, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles related to food insecurity many students and community members face," she said.

"Though I did not start the pantry, I have had a hand in developing a robust program that addresses a serious need on our campus and in our community."

Breeden assisted with establishing the emergency housing program for students. Since opening, they have provided housing for 11 students who would have otherwise been homeless.

"The cultivation of community-committed leaders has never been more crucial," said Campus Compact President Andrew Seligsohn. "We rebuilt the Newman Civic Fellowship experience because our country needs more people who know how to bring communities together for positive change."

The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation.



Synergy is defined as the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately. In essence, it means that you can have all of the star power in the world, but it does not equate to success if each player is not working together for the ultimate goals of the team they represent.

Synergy was a common theme for UNC Pembroke's athletic teams during the 2016-17 athletic season as two teams – men's basketball and men's track & field – combined their efforts to bring home each program's first-ever Peach Belt Conference championships. Three other teams – baseball, women's soccer and women's track & field – recorded runner-up showings during the regular season or at their respective PBC Championship events.

The men's basketball team used a late run to secure its first conference title in 27 years. The Braves won the last seven

Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons. It was the first conference title for the program since it won 11-straight Conference Carolinas titles from 1977-87.

Coming off a runner-up finish in the league standings in 2016, the women's soccer team rallied behind a nearly unbreakable defense to log 15 victories, including a trio of 1-0 shutouts that highlighted an unblemished run through the PBC Tournament. In the tournament championship game against then-No. 10 Columbus State, the Braves went out in front for good on a 20-minute penalty kick by Christine Rolfe and fought off eight shots on goal by the Cougars to secure the 17-year-old program's first PBC title. Sophomore Gina Ryan claimed tournament most valuable player accolades, and was joined on the all-tournament team by Shannon O'Neill and Alexis Pittman. Head coach Lars Andersson and assistant Brittany Padilla would later be named as the United Soccer Coaches Association's region coaching staff of the year.



2016-17 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

WOMEN'S SOCCER

MEN'S BASKETBALL



games of the regular season and eventually clinched a share of the league's regular season and East Division titles with a dominant 24-point victory over Francis Marion in front of a sold-out crowd at Lumbee Guaranty Bank Court. Three days later, the Braves began an unblemished run through the PBC Tournament by toughing out an 87-83 win over North Georgia, and then cemented greatness just more than a week after that with a convincing win over Columbus State in the championship game.

The men's track & field team all but dominated the weekend at the 2017 track & field championships. The Braves collected six individual titles over the three-day event and, despite sitting in second place following opening-day action, used a valiant effort on the second and third day of the event to top the rest of the seven-team field by 34 points. Newcomer Silus Kipkoech picked up both track athlete and freshman track athlete of the year notoriety, while head coach Peter Ormsby was named PBC

The conference championships were just a small taste of the success that the athletics department enjoyed during the 2016-17 season – a run that eventually translated into a third-place finish in the final PBC Commissioner's Cup standings. That was the best finish for the Black & Gold in the 24 years it has been a member of the league. UNCP made the transition to NCAA Division II and the then-Peach Belt Athletic Conference prior to the 1992-93 athletic season after a very prominent history in the ranks of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Seven UNCP squads finished in fourth or better in the final PBC standings, including two squads that registered or matched their highest league finish in program history. The men's basketball team, which won a share of the PBC's East Division title in 2014-15, finished in a tie for first with Augusta in the final regular season standings, while the women's soccer team shared second place with North Georgia after recording a 9-1-2



UNCP Athletic Championship trophies, along with athletic coaching and staff members.

clip inside league play – the best PBC record for the program in school history. The women’s basketball team tacked up 11 conference victories over the course of the campaign – the most for that club in 15 years, while the second-place showing for the women’s track team at the PBC Championships was also their highest finish in program history.

The bevy of success inside league play led to an astronomical amount of individual postseason awards. The Braves led the league with 43 all-PBC honors, including 26 by the track & field teams alone. The baseball team, which closed out the regular season with 16 victories in its last 18 outings (includes school record 14-game win streak), were one of just three teams to send six or more student-athletes to all-PBC honors. In addition, the wrestling squad sent a league-best five student-athletes to All-Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) recognition,

while the football team had five of its players named to the ECAC All-Star team.

UNCP was no stranger to academic success during the 2016-17 athletic season either. The department sent 154 student-athletes to PBC Presidential Honor Roll recognition. It was the eighth straight year that the Black & Gold sent 100 or more student-athletes to the distinguished listing – the longest such stretch of any of the 14 league institutions. The academic success, which also included an academic all-American and a pair of PBC Elite 15 Award winners, was further evidenced by a second-place finish in the running for

the PBC President’s Academic Award – an annual honor which is presented to the school’s student-athletes who are performing most ahead of the curve compared to the overall student body.

The Braves made their presence felt on the national stage during the 2016-17 season as well. Six teams made NCAA postseason appearances, including three squads that were represented by individuals at their respective sport’s NCAA Championships. The men’s basketball team earned an NCAA Tournament berth for the fourth time in the last seven seasons, while the baseball team grabbed its first NCAA Tournament berth since 2011 after topping the 40-win plateau for the second time in the last seven years as well. The football team became just the second team in NCAA Division II history to boast three NCAA Playoff appearances in their first 10 years of existence, while Blaze Shade made his second straight appearance in the national championship match at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships to give the program its fourth national finalist in the last six seasons.



TRANSFORMING LIVES

MEL '84 AND TERESA GARDNER COMMIT \$1 MILLION TO ESTABLISH ACCOUNTING PROFESSORSHIP

Mel Gardner '84 made an important observation during his first weeks in the U.S. Marine Corps, fresh out of high school. "I noticed the officers seemed to live a whole lot better than I did. They lived better and dressed better." When he asked a lieutenant the requirements for becoming an officer, the answer would literally change the course of Gardner's life. "He said, 'the only difference between you and me is a college degree.' Right then, I decided I was going to get one."

That decision would eventually lead Gardner to Pembroke State University, where he would earn an accounting degree that has been the foundation of a successful career. His experiences as a student at Pembroke, and the opportunities his degree has afforded him over 30-plus years in the accounting field, are the primary reasons Gardner and his wife, Teresa, have made a deferred commitment of \$1 million to UNCP to establish the university's first endowed professorship in accounting. Mel Gardner says he wants to ensure future UNCP students have the very best teachers the accounting field can offer. "If you put

educators in the classroom who have reached the highest level of training, and they can impart that knowledge to the students, why wouldn't you?"

"With growing enrollment, increased regional engagement and a new state-of-the-art facility planned, the UNCP School of Business is poised to play an even greater role in the economic development of southeastern North Carolina," said Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings. "Mel and Teresa Gardner's significant gift will accelerate the school's momentum, and amplify its impact on students and employers across our area and beyond."

The endowed professorship will give UNCP an edge in attracting faculty members, says Barry O'Brien '75, dean of the School of Business. "Recruiting qualified faculty in accounting can be challenging for a dean because they're in short supply." Making it even more special for O'Brien is the fact that Mel Gardner was one of his students. "I am so proud of his incredible success and very thankful for his generosity to our alma mater."

JOIN THE
BRAVES
CLUB TODAY!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR UNCP'S
MORE THAN 400 STUDENT-ATHLETES.

For more information on the Braves Club, please contact the Office of Advancement at 910.775.4339 or at braves.club@uncp.edu.

At UNC Pembroke, more than 400 student-athletes are excelling on and off the field. As an alumnus, fan or both, you are a critical part of providing our students with a Championship Experience.

Through your support of the Braves Club General Scholarship Fund, current and future student-athletes will have the opportunity to represent the Braves across the country through our academic and athletic achievement. A thriving and active Braves Club is the foundation of our Athletics Department and ensures we provide a

Championship Experience for our student-athletes.

Braves Club members receive unique benefits at a variety of giving levels. We look forward to having you as part of the Championship Experience at UNCP.

For more information on the Braves Club and how to make an impact on the lives of UNCP student-athletes, please contact the Office of Advancement at 910.775.4339 or at braves.club@uncp.edu.

Thank you for your generous support of Braves Athletics! Go Braves!

WYATT & MARY UPCHURCH GIFT \$1 MILLION

TO UNCP SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IN HONOR OF LATE SON

Wyatt Upchurch has reaped the rewards from running one of the region's largest turkey hatchery operations.

Since retired, this business leader and turkey farmer-turned-philanthropist has chosen to invest in southeastern North Carolina's future through UNCP's vision for a new School of Business building.

Upchurch and his wife, Mary, are donating \$1 million toward the construction of a \$36 million building that will house the School of Business.

"This gift will be an asset to the university and an asset for us to give to the university."

The Upchurch Auditorium in the new building will be named in honor of their late son Wyatt Jeffrey Upchurch, who died in 1976 after battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia. He was 16.

The state-of-the-art School of Business building will be built near the main entrance of campus. Included in the plans are a career center, auditorium, a video conference room, computer lab, trading room and a multimedia resource room.

"We are overjoyed to be a part of this project," Wyatt said. "I know it will be successful because of the support it has received from the chancellor and others."

Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings said the university cannot thank the Raeford couple enough for their investment in the lives of our students.

"As pillars of agribusiness, Wyatt and Mary Upchurch made massive contributions to our region's economy and laid the groundwork for a thriving food-production industry that provides so many livelihoods today.

"Through their generous gift to the UNCP School of Business, the Upchurches will continue to drive job creation and investment in southeastern North Carolina for generations to come."

"We wanted to do something in memory of our son," he said. "We did some research and felt like this would be the best opportunity for him to be remembered for a long time."



The future multi-million dollar home of the School of Business at UNC Pembroke is part of the university's vision to serve as an economic engine for southeastern North Carolina. UNCP Trustee Don Metzger and his wife, Linda, share that vision, one they say will play a major role in the economic transformation of our county and the region.

The Metzgers are contributing \$150,000 to the School of Business. As part of the gift agreement, an administrative suite in the future building will be named in the Lumberton couple's honor.

"Linda and I have both been blessed, and over the years we have tried to share the gifts that we have received with others," said Don Metzger, a retired business owner and former Lumberton city councilman.

"We have a passion for higher education, and we wanted to do something for the new business school because we believe it will have a dramatic impact on the future of the institution and the community as a whole.

"We consider it to be a privilege to be a part of the vision being shaped by this administration, the chancellor, as well as the Board of Trustees," he said.

"This incredibly generous gift is the latest demonstration of Don and Linda's unwavering commitment to UNC Pembroke," said UNCP Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings.

"We truly believe in the mission and the purpose of the university, and we want to continue to do whatever we can to support it."

— DON AND LINDA METZGER

"We would be hard-pressed to find stronger champions of the university's mission. Their investment demonstrates a passion to help others, to see our region grow and to assist in the education of untold business students for generations to come."

The Metzgers have been strong advocates of UNCP for many years. Trustee Metzger has served on the Board of Trustees since 2013 and is presently the vice chair.

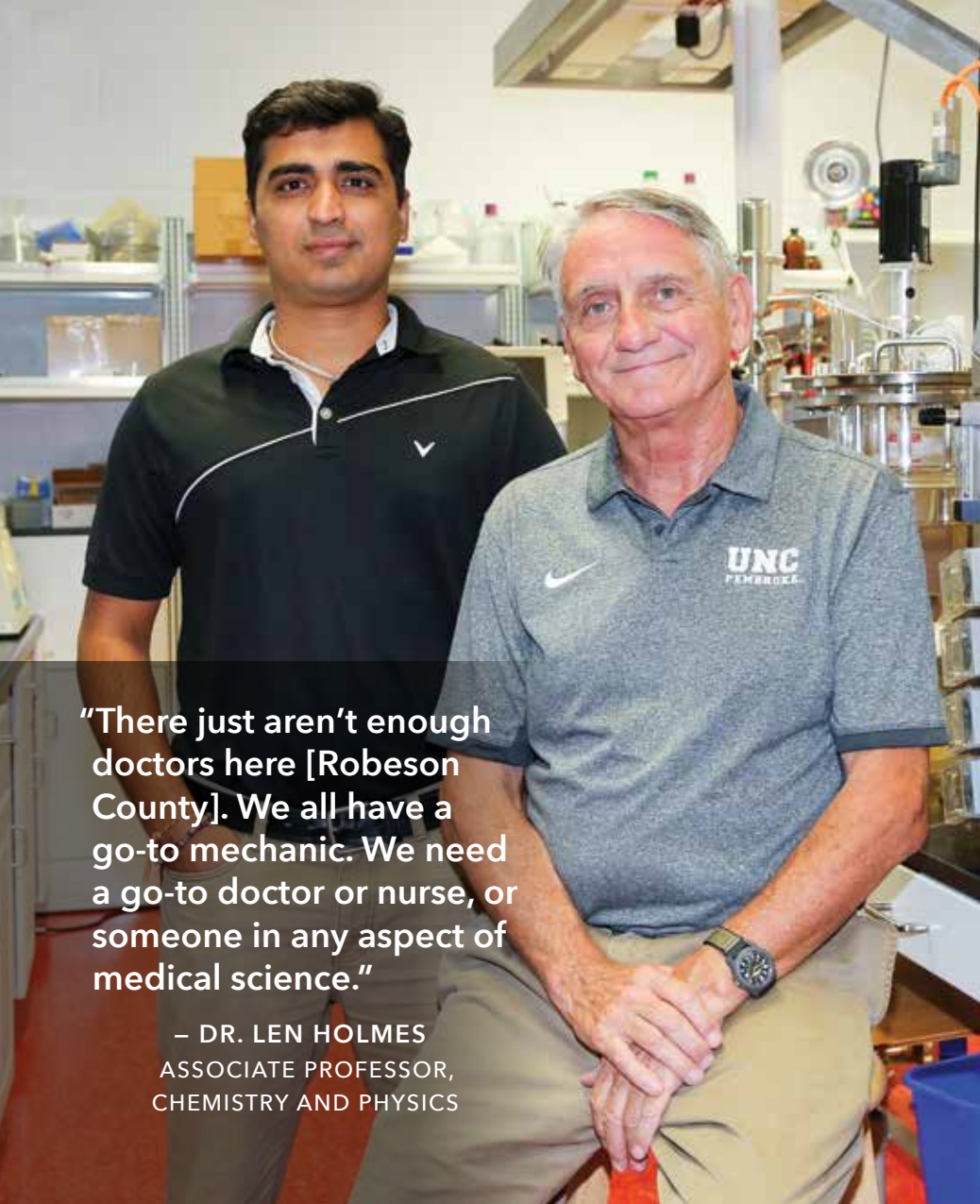
Linda, a successful longtime real estate broker and former Robeson Community College trustee, has watched the university grow since moving to Lumberton in 1971.

The couple are loyal supporters of UNCP athletics and the Given Performing Arts Center. Two of their granddaughters – Lauren and Molly – are UNCP alumni.

FUELING A FUTURE ECONOMIC ENGINE

UNCP Trustee
Don Metzger and
wife, Linda, contribute
\$150K to UNCP's
School of Business





“There just aren’t enough doctors here [Robeson County]. We all have a go-to mechanic. We need a go-to doctor or nurse, or someone in any aspect of medical science.”

– DR. LEN HOLMES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

Len Holmes cringed as he recalled being engulfed in a thick blanket of humidity after he stepped off the airplane at the Fayetteville Regional Airport in the summer of 1990.

“I was coming from the cold, dry Wasatch Mountains of Logan, Utah,” Holmes said. “As soon as they opened the door to the plane, I said, ‘holy cow!’ It was hot and humid. It was a different world.”

Holmes moved to North Carolina to teach chemistry at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He fell in love with the university and the local

community, particularly the American Indian community.

“The Lumbee people have been good to me,” he said. “I love them. After 26 years, I can relate to their culture.”

Living in Robeson County for more than two decades, Holmes also recognized the need for medical professionals in this area.

Dr. Len Holmes, right, with Devang Upadhyay.

“There just aren’t enough doctors here,” he said. “We all have a go-to mechanic. We need a go-to doctor or nurse, or someone in any aspect of medical science.”

To help fill this void, he established the Leonard and Hickory Holmes Medical Career Endowed Scholarship at UNC Pembroke.

The \$425,000 scholarship will fund four scholarships per academic year for American Indian students studying either chemistry, physics or nursing. To be eligible, the student must maintain a 3.7 QPA, be a graduate of a Robeson County high school and reside in North Carolina. The scholarship honors Holmes’ son, Hickory, an Oregon farmer.

“For me, it makes common sense,” Holmes said. “I love UNC Pembroke. I love the community. I’m not from this state, but this state accepted me and took me in and gave me a chance to make a living, so I feel indebted to North Carolina, in general, and UNCP, in particular.

“I’ve been working at a Native American school for 26 years ... it’s time to give something back.”

Dr. Holmes said he foresees scholarship recipients opening or joining local practices, thus advancing the medical profession sector in the county and throughout the region.

“We need more of our local students to enter into the sciences, math and nursing,” said Pembroke physician Dr. Chamaine Brooks-Locklear. “So anything we can get to help our students financially is vital. College tuition and fees are a barrier for so many students. To have a scholarship designed specifically for science majors is wonderful.”

Aside from teaching and researching, Holmes serves as an ambassador for UNC Pembroke. He has traveled overseas many times, including trips to India and multiple visits to Siberia and China. In October, he traveled to Tbilisi, the capital of the Republic of Georgia, and presented research conducted at UNCP.



INVESTING IN EDUCATION

AT&T CONTRIBUTES \$30,000 TO UNC PEMBERKE TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS, CARE CENTER

Education has been a priority of AT&T for more than a century. The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is on the receiving end of AT&T’s latest philanthropic support of higher education. AT&T – the world’s largest telecommunications company – is contributing \$30,000 to provide scholarships for UNCP students beginning in fall 2018.

A portion of the gift – \$5,000 – will be used to support the university’s CARE Resource Center, an on-campus resource for students in need of food, clothing and housing assistance.

“At AT&T, we see supporting education as investing in the future, for a well-educated workforce may be the single most important thing businesses can do to help North Carolina succeed in a digital, global economy,” said John Lyon, regional director of external affairs for AT&T North Carolina.

“UNC Pembroke is not only helping students pursue their dreams and prepare for the future, but it is making a difference in lives today through the CARE Resource Center. We appreciate the opportunity to support those efforts.”

Lyon took part in a check presentation ceremony on campus on December 9.

“UNC Pembroke is grateful for AT&T’s investment in our mission of changing lives through education,” said Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings.

“Their generosity – a model for corporate philanthropy – will advance our shared commitment of driving economic development and positive change in southeastern North Carolina.”

The funds will provide up to 25 need and/or merit-based scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, AT&T Inc. is a multi-national conglomerate holding company and is one of the nation’s leading investors in networks, communities, people and jobs.

Cummings and members of his senior staff recently visited the AT&T Forum for Technology, Entertainment and Policy in Washington, D.C. The center, which opened in January 2017, brings together technology experts, policymakers and organizations to collaborate on ways to continue to promote investment and innovation.

The UNCP delegation also toured the AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy on the campus of George Washington University. The center’s purpose is to research issues, assist and provide support to tribal leaders, and promote public awareness on issues of national political significance to

Indigenous communities, including public health, adequate housing, economic security and education.

Cummings and his staff were joined on the trip by Venessa Harrison, president of AT&T North Carolina, and Tom Brooks, vice president of external affairs at AT&T North Carolina.

AT&T is also partnering with the university in its efforts to end hunger and homelessness for UNCP students.

The CARE Resource Center includes a campus pantry and a professional clothing closet, which is available to students twice per month.

“This funding will be used to support our efforts to alleviate hunger and address homelessness on campus. The CARE Resource Center is supported solely by donations and contributions from partners like AT&T,” said Christie Poteet, director of the Office for Community and Civic Engagement.

“Without their support, it would be difficult for us to address the needs of students in this way. We are very thankful for the continued investment in our program, students and campus, as it makes it a little easier for students to be successful.”

The center – which is primarily managed by student workers and volunteers – prepares boxes of food, toys, hygiene products and clothing during Thanksgiving and Christmas to support community agencies.



John Lyon, regional director of external affairs for AT&T North Carolina presents Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings with a check on December 9.

NEWLY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS BENEFIT STUDENTS

THE BOLLINGER FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Curt Bennett to honor the life and memory of Sue Bollinger Bennett, Elon Tyson Bollinger, Herman Paul Bollinger Sr., and Donald Bruce Bollinger, Sue Bollinger Bennett earned her degree in elementary education from UNCP.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY ALUMNI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by alumni from the Men's Track and Field and Cross Country teams to provide continued support for student-athletes in those sports.

J.T. AND VERA DORIS LOCKLEAR MALCOLM '67 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION

Established by L. David Malcolm '92, Joseph E. Malcolm '87, Joshua D. Malcolm '92 and Caleb A. Malcolm '97 to recognize the years of service of their parents, J.T. and Vera Doris Locklear Malcolm '67 to our nation, the state of North Carolina and the public schools of Robeson County.

THE RAMS ALUMNI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Caleb A. Malcolm '97 to make a difference in the lives of students from the local high school community by providing an opportunity to pursue their college degree.

THE LEONARD AND HICKORY HOLMES MEDICAL CAREER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Dr. Leonard D. Holmes, professor of Chemistry and Physics at UNCP, to provide four scholarships per year in chemistry/physics and nursing.

JOHN L. CARTER STUDENT-ATHLETE ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established by family and friends of John L. Carter, an esteemed member of the Pembroke community, 1926 graduate of the Indian Normal School, former Registrar at Pembroke State College, and a proponent of the values of sportsmanship and healthy athletic competition. The scholarship will be awarded to a UNCP student-athlete from Robeson County.

JAMES F. "BUDDY" BELL '58 MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the family of Buddy Bell '58 to honor their husband and father. Buddy Bell lettered in baseball and basketball while attending Pembroke State College. He was a lifelong supporter of UNCP, served on the Board of Trustees, and was a charter member and past president of the Braves Club.

DRS. WALTZ '59 AND LOUISE MAYNOR '65 FAMILY ENDOWED FUND SUPPORTING AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

Established by Drs. Waltz '59 and Louise Maynor '65 to provide support for the Department of American Indian Studies. It supports student learning, faculty support and development, guest speakers, graduating seniors recognition and the Southeast American Indian Studies Conference.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION HONORING THE SADDLETREE COMMUNITY

Established by an anonymous donor to honor the Saddletree Community. The scholarship will be awarded to two elementary education students.

AGGIE GOINS DEESE '63 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Aggie Goins Deese '63 to continue helping students achieve their educational goals. Deese retired from Purnell Swett High School after 14 years of service as a guidance counselor.

THE MARY AND WYATT UPCHURCH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Mary and Wyatt Upchurch to support students of outstanding character in their pursuit of a high-quality education. It will be awarded to students who are pursuing a degree in STEM (science, technology, engineering or mathematics), education or business.

THE LUCY S. MAYNOR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Jeff and Susan Maynor '92 to honor the memory of their beloved mother, Lucy S. Maynor, for her devotion to family and community. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student pursuing a degree in nursing.

THE MARGARET S. CONNELL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Jeff and Susan Maynor '92 to honor the memory of their beloved mother, Margaret S. Connell for her devotion to family and community. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving student pursuing a degree in nursing.

THE AYARS FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by James '86 and Jennifer Ayars to assist the university in attracting top-level academic students and continue helping students achieve their educational goals. The scholarship will be awarded to a freshman student pursuing a degree in chemistry, physics, math or psychology.

THE FREDERICK (FREDDIE) PAUL DEESE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Paulette Deese '69 to honor the memory of her beloved son, Fredrick (Freddie) Paul Deese '93, '08. Freddie graduated from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He continued his educational pursuits and received a Master of Art in Teaching from UNC Pembroke in 2008. He was a probation officer and later taught history at Purnell Swett High School. The scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing a degree in history, science, technology, education or math.

THE M.I.K.E. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by former congressman Mike McIntyre II to support youth of southeastern North Carolina in their endeavors toward higher education. Mike McIntyre served as the United States Congressman for southeastern North Carolina from 1997 to 2015. The scholarship is designed to honor graduating high school seniors who have excelled in four distinct areas: moral force of character, inspired leadership, knowledge and superior academic performance, and exemplary citizenship.

THE LARRY MARSHAL TOWNSEND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Larry Townsend and Dr. Rose Marie Lowry Townsend '75 to assist a member of a state or federally recognized tribe from Robeson County, North Carolina. The deserving student will be pursuing a degree in political science, criminal justice, American Indian studies or education.

THE ARTHUR C. & DOVIE L. JONES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

Established by Drs. Jim and Michelle Jones to support the university and its impact on the education of American Indians. The deserving student will be well-rounded and involved in university and community service activities.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY DEAN ELINOR FOSTER NEWBERRY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the Friends of the Library Board and Dr. Elinor Foster Newberry to assist a deserving student pursuing a degree in English or education.

MALCOLM CHILDREN HONOR PARENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIP

Service to the local community, state and nation, as well as a steadfast belief in education, have been central themes in the lives of J.T. and Vera Doris Locklear Malcolm '67. They raised seven children together in Robeson County, displaying the values of dedication and hard work.

The J.T. and Vera Doris Locklear Malcolm Endowed Scholarship in Education has been established by David Malcolm '92, Joseph E. Malcolm '87, Joshua D. Malcolm '92 and Caleb A. Malcolm '97 to honor their parents. Education majors in music or reading or cadets in any major who are in the U.S. Army or Air Force R.O.T.C. programs will be eligible for the scholarship.

J.T. Malcolm served 27 years as an enlisted soldier in the Tennessee Army National Guard and the U. S. Army with tours in Korea and Vietnam. He was also stationed in several other foreign countries and military posts in the United States. He attended Robeson Community College (RCC) after retirement from the Army, obtaining his General Education Diploma. He later worked for RCC for 10 years, retiring as a state employee.

Vera Malcolm was raised in Robeson County. A first generation college student, she graduated from then-Pembroke State College and later earned a master's degree in reading education from Appalachian State University. She was a music educator in public schools in Robeson and Hoke counties for 25 years, including 23 years in eight different Robeson County schools. She was active in a variety of community groups, including the Robeson Civic Chorale, Pembroke Men's Chorus and Pembroke Women's Chorus. She spent more than 40 years as the pianist at Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church in Pembroke.



Caleb Malcolm '97, David Malcolm '92, Vera Malcolm '67, Joshua Malcolm '92, and Joseph Malcolm '87

AGGIE GOINS DEESE '63 ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP

Aggie Deese '63 was devoted to helping her students make the right choices during her 14-year career as a guidance counselor at Purnell Swett High School. And although retired from that role, Deese has found another way to keep helping students.

The Aggie Goins Deese Endowed Scholarship will assist a junior or senior majoring in teaching education at UNCP who is a graduate of a high school in the North Carolina counties of Bladen, Cumberland, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, Robeson or Scotland. In addition, the recipient will be a member in a state or federally recognized tribe.

A resident of nearby Maxton, Deese earned a degree in business education from Pembroke State College and later completed a master's degree in visual arts with a minor in guidance counseling.

ALUMNUS, LONGTIME EDUCATOR HONORED WITH SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship to honor the memory of James F. "Buddy" Bell '58 will provide assistance to varsity sport athletes at UNC Pembroke who are graduates of one of Robeson County's seven high schools. The James F. "Buddy" Bell Memorial Endowed Scholarship was established by Bell's wife, Sarah, and their three sons, James Gregory Bell '79, Joseph Bell and Ronny Bell.

Buddy Bell, who died in 2014, was a lifelong resident of Robeson County who grew up in the Saddletree community. A graduate of Magnolia High School, Bell did a tour of duty in the U.S. Army in Korea before enrolling at then-Pembroke State College, where he was a letter winner in baseball and basketball.

After graduation, Bell was an educator for more than 30 years in the Robeson County public schools. A proud UNCP supporter, Bell served on the Board of Trustees, was a charter member and past president of the Braves Club, and was an integral part of the First and Ten Campaign for UNCP football.

IT'S EASY TO SUPPORT UNCP!

You can impact the lives of UNCP students with your gift to support scholarships, academic programs and so much more!

- Visit uncp.edu/give to make a gift online.
- Mail your check, payable to UNC Pembroke, to: UNCP Office of Advancement, P.O. Box 1510, Pembroke, NC 28372-1510.
- Call the Office of Advancement at 910.521.6252 to learn more about the different ways you can support UNCP students!



MY FELLOW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

On behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, it is a pleasure to serve as your president. With your help, I am ready to build and strengthen our beloved University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

As alumni, one of the most important things we can do is remain active in the life of the university. If you live close by, I encourage you to visit campus often, attend some of the wonderful cultural events at GPAC or support our Braves at an athletic contest. If your life after your UNCP student days has taken you away from the local area, you can still stay involved! Make it a point to come back to campus for special events, such as Homecoming, and encourage other alumni to do the same. Ask the Office of Alumni Engagement about opportunities to host a UNCP event in your area. Near or far, there are plenty of ways to stay connected to UNCP if you're willing to take advantage of them.

I also ask you to consider the ways we all can support our alma mater. Whenever you have the chance, talk about your experience as a UNCP student with friends and co-workers. Encourage a young person considering college to visit UNCP and learn more about everything it has to offer. Consider service on a UNCP board or committee. Give back to the university each year, in whatever amount you are able. Every gift counts, and every gift matters. We have an obligation to pave the way for future

generations of UNCP students with our support.

Make sure the Office of Alumni Engagement has your contact information, and update them each time you move. If you've started a new job, gotten married or welcomed a new member to your family, submit a class note for the next edition of UNCP Today to alumni@uncp.edu.

Finally, stay connected with us on social media! "Like" our UNC Pembroke Alumni Association Facebook page at [facebook.com/uncpalumni](https://www.facebook.com/uncpalumni), or find us on Twitter at twitter.com/UNCP_Alumni.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomes your involvement. I hope you'll contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at alumni@uncp.edu or 910.521.6252, if you have ideas or suggestions on ways to involve your fellow alumni. With our UNCP pride behind us, we can ensure this place we love will remain strong well into the future.

Best wishes,

OWEN THOMAS '11, '13
PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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CLASS NOTES

Alumni Engagement
P.O. Box 1510
Pembroke, NC
28372-1510
alumni@uncp.edu

More information:
uncp.edu/alumni
910.521.6252

**UNCP ALUMNA
VICTORIA HUGGINS PURSUING**

**THE
ULTIMATE
CROWN**

PHOTOS BY MATT BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY



UNC Pembroke history professor Bruce Dehart knew Victoria Huggins was special when he met her as a freshman on the first day of a World Civilizations Since 1500 class six years ago.

"She asked a question that I had never encountered in my previous nearly 30 years of instructing undergraduates: She asked how I preferred to be addressed? Talk about a strong first impression," Dehart thought.

"Typically, undergraduates never think about these things ... that Victoria would raise this question on the first day of class suggested to me that she was a different type of undergraduate, one who was cognizant of things which, while they may seem inconsequential, are, in fact, quite consequential," Dehart said.

Dehart wasn't the only UNCP professor blown away by Huggins' bubbly and infectious personality, drive, charisma and self-motivation. During her studies at UNCP – 2011 to 2015 – she left an indelible mark on many across campus, and especially in the Mass Communication department.

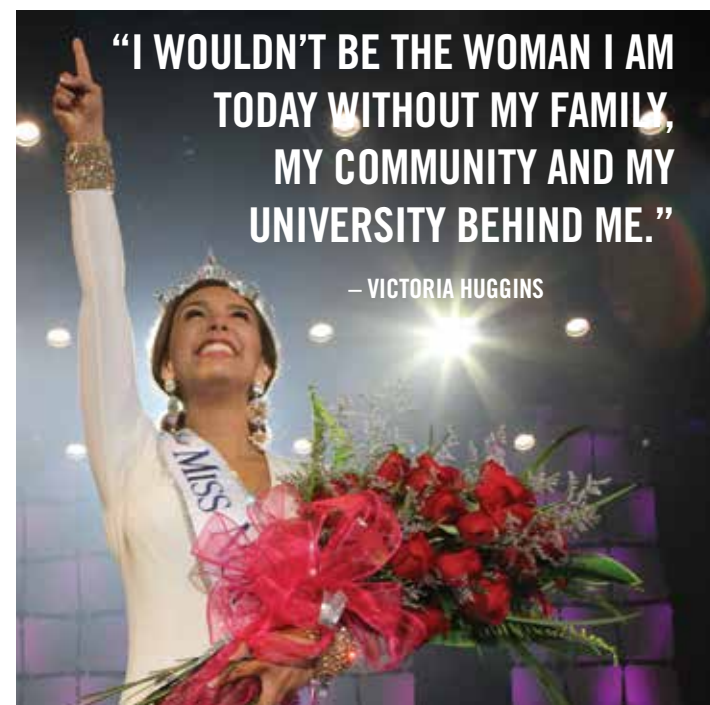
The 23-year-old UNCP alumna graced the brightest of the pageant stages in September as she competed for the 2018 Miss America title in Atlantic City. Though she didn't come home with the crown, Huggins said it was one of the best experiences of her life.

(Above) Victoria is adorned with the university colors in her official headshot, which appears on Miss America's official website. "I requested to wear black and gold for that particular headshot," she said.

"It was wonderful just stepping on that stage for the first time," she said. "Just knowing how I have been trying and trying for five years and it finally happens; I was in tears."

Huggins said she was thrilled to represent BraveNation on a national stage. "I take such pride in being a UNCP graduate," Huggins said. "Through volunteering in various student organizations, studying in our beautiful library and interacting with my professors on a personal level, I grew as an individual, student and a leader."

Two of her first congratulatory letters after winning Miss North Carolina were from Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings and former Chancellor Kyle Carter. "That meant the world to me," she said.



Huggins was crowned Miss North Carolina in June. Two of her first congratulatory letters were from Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings and former Chancellor Kyle Carter.

As Miss North Carolina, Huggins has been promoting her Alzheimer's disease awareness platform and spotlighting the Alzheimer's research being conducted at her alma mater, led by Dr. Ben Bahr.

"My heart bleeds black and gold," Huggins said.

She has made several trips back to campus as Miss North Carolina, riding in the homecoming parade and performing at the 2018 Miss UNCP Pageant.

She adorns the university colors in her official headshot which appears on Miss America's official website.

"I requested to wear black and gold for that particular headshot," she said.

As a young girl growing up in St. Pauls, Huggins knew she wanted to attend UNCP. The Pembroke campus was among the many places she would perform. And she has remained involved in activities on campus over the years.

The fact that her grandmother, Sybil Huggins, earned a master's degree from UNCP made her decision that much easier. "It was very special to continue her legacy," she said.

At UNCP, Huggins studied broadcast journalism. She was very active on campus, serving as president of the Lambda Sigma Honor Society and a member of Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society of Religious Studies and Theology.

Her proudest accomplishment, however, was being a part of the inaugural group of Chancellor's Ambassadors, an honor organization comprised of exemplary graduate and undergraduate students. "That was one of my greatest honors while at UNCP," she said.

Her professors recall her as ambitious, always prepared, engaged and enthusiastic. "I cannot say enough good things about Victoria Huggins – the person and the student," Dehart said. "I feel so honored to have had the opportunity to teach her. Furthermore, I am so happy for all that she has accomplished since her graduation from UNCP. Victoria is an outstanding representative of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke."

As a broadcast major, Huggins spent most of her days in Old Main – home of the campus newspaper and WNCP-TV, a student-led television station.

At WNCP, she worked her way from news anchor to reporter to producer, where she was responsible for creating a weekly show from scratch, managing a team of student reporters and coaching the studio crew.

"She's the only student to win all three broadcasting awards from the Mass Communication department, and she racked those up three years in a row," said Dr. Jamie Litty, department chair. Huggins received the James A. Comstock Memorial Scholarship awarded to broadcast majors working at the university TV station.

She graduated with cum laude honors and earned a double minor in musical theatre and religion. She landed a job as a Morning News producer with WECT in Wilmington.

She is currently enrolled at Johns Hopkins University, studying government with an emphasis in political communication. She would love to work as a political analyst with a national news network.

Reflecting on her UNCP experience, Huggins said she gained a new family. "The element I love and appreciate the most about UNCP is that my professors mean more to me than just educators," she said. "I consider them my UNCP family. It is so humbling for them to still be invested in my life and continuing to mentor me as I begin my career as a broadcast journalist.

"I wouldn't be the woman I am today without my family, my community and my university behind me."

JUDGE JAMES LOCKEMY '71 DELIVERS 2017 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Judge James Lockemy, UNCP alumnus, delivered the keynote address to more than 692 new alumni for The University of North Carolina at Pembroke spring 2017 Commencement. Lockemy, class of 1971, urged the graduates to seek a career that represents their passion, not just the need for a job.

"As you go forth, go forth with passion," Lockemy said. "Whatever you choose to do, keep passion in your life. It does not matter what profession you choose or what road you take, passion is the important ingredient in happiness and a productive life."



Lockemy serves as chief judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals, the second highest court in the state. He served 18 years as a Circuit Court judge before he was elected to the Court of Appeals in 2008. He was elected as chief judge in May 2016. He is only the fifth chief judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals.

A native of Dillon, S.C., Lockemy has had an exceptional career in the military, law, politics and civic life.

During a recent interview, Lockemy reflected on his experience at what was then known as Pembroke State University. "It taught me human nature, and it made me realize we're all human beings who can make mistakes," he said.

Lockemy would go on to receive a law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He served 30 years in the military, including a tour of duty in Kosovo, before retiring as a full colonel in the National Guard. He began his professional career as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond. He later served as legal counsel to a subcommittee on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In 1979, Lockemy returned to Dillon and entered private practice with the law firm of Greene, Lockemy and Bailey. He served two terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives and, in 1989, began an 18-year stint as a state Circuit Court judge.

He is a former president of the National Guard Association of South Carolina and the Circuit Court Judges Association. He is also a member of the executive committees of the National Conference of State Trial Judges and the National Conference of Appellate Court Judges. In 1989, he was named Dillon County Citizen of the Year.

In 2012, the UNCP Alumni Association presented Lockemy with the Distinguished Service Award. That same year, he earned a master's degree in history from The Citadel.



CLASSNOTES

UNCP ALUMNI OFFER ADVICE DURING CAREER PANEL

Reflecting on their own experiences, seven UNC Pembroke graduates passed along some of their top career tips to current students during an Alumni Career Panel, hosted on campus August 2017 by the Office of Alumni Engagement. The UNCP alums, who are successful in a variety of career fields such as sales, information technology, manufacturing and more, encouraged students to get started on their post-college careers right now.

"Take advantage of all the activities and opportunities that are here," said Crystal Moore, who works on campus as a nurse practitioner in UNCP's Student Health Services office. Hand in hand with that, said Dr. Shelli Brewington, a podiatrist at Cape Fear Podiatry, is making contacts with people both on- and off-campus who can be helpful in pursuing a future career. "Don't miss the chance to connect with others around you. No man is an island, so don't try to do it all on your own."

Brewington also pointed to UNCP's student-centered learning environment as an important resource, one that is distinctive. "The faculty here are incredible, and they will do everything they can to help you if you'll take advantage of that opportunity."

While it's important to have a career plan, the panelists encouraged students to try different things. "Always have a growth mindset and take risks," said Rob Phillips, a public school teacher who also produces documentary films. "Be willing to get involved in something outside your comfort zone."

And once students discover their passion, they should "go for it," said Natural Breeden, who manages the CARE

Resource Center in UNCP's Office of Community and Civic Engagement. "I never knew I could follow my passion to help people who are homeless through social work," said Breeden. "Figure out what excites you, what drives you, and then work hard for it."

The alumni panelists represented some of the top academic majors chosen by current and recent UNCP students, including business administration, biology, criminal justice, exercise/sport science, and pre-nursing. The panelists were:

- Dr. Chelsea Thomas '09 - Physical Therapist
- Crystal Moore '06 - Nurse Practitioner at UNCP; pursuing a doctorate in nursing at Duke University
- Natural Breeden '18 - UNCP graduate student; manages the CARE Resource Center in the Office of Community and Civic Engagement
- Dr. Shelli Brewington '99 - Podiatrist at Cape Fear Podiatry
- Chase Johnson '15 - Sales/Account Manager, Contempora Fabrics, Inc.
- Robert Phillips '97 - Teacher and Filmmaker; recently produced "Teacher of the Year," a documentary film from At Large Productions
- Caleb A. Malcolm '97 - LREMC Vice President of Information Technologies and Retired, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

CLASS OF 2016

UNCP grad **Laura Bird** is among 2016 MedServe Fellows participating in a training program in Chapel Hill MedServe, a first-of-its-kind program created by medical school and business school students from UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke. It will pair 13 outstanding recent college graduates with primary care clinics in rural or underserved parts of North Carolina for two years of immersive service beginning in the summer of 2016.

CLASS OF 2015



UNCP Family Legacy! L-R: **Walter S. Crowe '79** retired from the U.S. Army and recently retired as a real estate broker. **Triagee L. Crowe '15** and **Edith J. Crowe '96** formerly worked as a mental health/behavioral therapist.

After graduating from UNCP in May 2015, **Monica Espitia** moved to New York City to start a master's in international reporting at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. As part of the school's curriculum, Espitia has been covering a wide array of news ranging from hyperlocal to international. She graduated in December 2016.

CLASS OF 2014

James P. Locklear graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. James is now working as a probation and parole officer for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

CLASS OF 2013

The Connections Board of Directors has named **Crystal Bennett** executive director for the day resource center for homeless women and children. Bennett was previously the program supervisor for Cumberland County's Guardian ad Litem program. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's in public administration from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

CLASS OF 2011

Shakera Williams, '11, '15 is a self-published author of a memoir, collected works and one poetry book: a collection of Poetic Pieces: Poems that Heal the Soul (Poetry Book); The Dealt Hand: The Story of My Battle with Mental Illness (Memoir); A Spiritual Journey of Collected Pieces of My Life: Inspiration, Resilience, Testimony, and Empowerment (collected blog entries over a four-year span). She spent eight years at UNCP earning two degrees.

CLASS OF 2010

Wade Allen works as a lifestyles reporter for two daily newspapers in the Charlotte area, *The Gaston Gazette* and *The Shelby Star*. In March 2016, he won an award from the North Carolina Press Association for his profile feature story on a woman who turned her family history into a cookbook. He attended the "Night of 100 Stars" Oscars party on Feb. 28 in Los Angeles, walked the red carpet and dined with celebrities. He wrote a published column about the experience.

CLASS OF 2008

Gregory Orme works as the chief of media production for the U.S. Army. Orme was honored with the Secretary of the Army Award for Publications Improvements. He was publicly recognized with other employees from around the globe in a ceremony at the Pentagon on May 25, 2016.

CLASS OF 2007

Valerie Jacobs Pedro, graduate and a member of the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, was named PI of the Year, which is presented to the sorority's most outstanding member nationwide. Pedro was selected by a committee after reviewing a portfolio outlining her involvement in both the sorority and her community.

CLASS OF 2006



UNCP Women's Basketball Alumni working for CNN! **Melina "Bean" Savage '06** is on camera, and **Shatonya "Avae" Hardy '15** is standing with the mic.



Denise Busbin Locklear (pictured in black dress above) currently works for the RPK Center as a physician assistant. She was recently named a "Physician Assistant of the Year for 2017" by the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants.

CLASS OF 2005

Cris Harrelson has been hired by Brunswick County Health and Human Services as its health director. Formerly, Harrelson was the Health and Human Services director and health director for Bladen County. Harrelson is originally from Bladen County and has more than 21 years of local and state public health experience. He holds a B.S. in biological sciences from N.C. State University and received a Master of Public Administration degree from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke in 2005.

CLASS OF 2005 (CONT'D)

Chris Simpson has been named head wrestling coach at South Davidson. A graduate of South Davidson, Simpson won the 1-A state championship as a heavyweight in 2001. He then went to UNC Pembroke on an athletic scholarship and graduated in 2005.

CLASS OF 2004

Carla Carter Jacobs, graduate and member of the Coharie Tribe, was named Honeycomb of the Year, which is presented to the top new member of Alpha Pi Omega Sorority. A resident of Wake Forest, North Carolina, Jacobs joined the sorority in December as part of Alpha Pi Omega's professional chapter in the Triangle area.

Andy McCormick was chosen to lead one of three public high schools in Moore county. McCormick, now at Union Pines, comes from nearby Robeson County. McCormick was named the 2012-13 District Nine North Carolina Educational Office Professionals Administrator of the Year; the 2011-12 Public Schools of Robeson County Educational Office Professionals Administrator of the Year; and the 2010-2011 Public Schools of Robeson County Principal of the Year. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education and a master's degree in school administration from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

CLASS OF 2003

Richmond County's **Lois Hood** has been named Director of the Year by the School Nutrition Association of North Carolina. The association also awarded Hood the Mary Long Beasley Distinguished Service Award in 2008. She, too, received the Lifetime Star Member Award in 2014 for recruiting more than 50 new SNA-NC members throughout her career.



| ALUMNI PROFILE |

RETIRED U.S. AMBASSADOR **JERRY LANIER**

The many stops along Jerry Lanier's illustrious career path read like an international travel guide. Lanier, who recently retired as a career diplomat after 33 years of service with the Department of State, held high-ranking positions in a dozen countries.

A former U.S. Ambassador to Sudan and the Republic of Uganda, Jerry Lanier is recognized as one of the most distinguished alumni at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

In 2012, Lanier served as head of the State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism as Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism. He held that position for more than a year.

Within his role at the Department of State, Lanier landed posts in Germany, Africa,

the Philippines, Kenya, Thailand, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Ghana.

Lanier recently paid a visit to his alma mater. During his stay, he was a guest lecturer in Dr. Kirill Bumin's political science class. Lanier toured the campus and dined with Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings, faculty and staff.

Raised in nearby Chadbourn, Lanier was a three-sport athlete at West Columbus High School. He came to what was then known as Pembroke State University on a baseball

scholarship in 1970. He was a relief pitcher under Hall of Fame coach Harold Ellen.

Off the field, Lanier had plans to go to law school. Those plans changed after his professor, Dr. John Chay, introduced him to diplomatic history.

"That diplomatic history class I took at UNC Pembroke got me interested in what I am doing today," Lanier said. "Dr. Chay was an inspiration."

During that semester in 1972, Chay brought Lanier to a foreign affairs conference at the University of Maryland.

"Dr. Chay saw something in me," Lanier said. "I became more interested in diplomatic history because of him and his passion for the subject he taught. It was his willingness to help a student like me. I still have the textbook from that course."

Lanier earned a history degree in 1974 and went on to obtain a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He taught history for three years at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte before joining the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service officer specializing in African affairs.

From 1983 to 2001, Lanier carried out several assignments in Washington, D.C., and overseas. He served as special assistant to the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, country officer for the Republic of Korea, Legislative Management Officer for Africa and deputy director for the Office of West African Affairs.

In 2001, he was appointed Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander of U.S. forces during peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and worked with the military to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Shortly after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Lanier was assigned as deputy director for the Office of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Affairs. He worked out of Washington, D.C., and managed and edited the drafting of briefing and policy documents for the State Department as well as the White House leadership.

From 2003 to 2006, he was the deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Ghana. There he oversaw a staff of 300 U.S. and local employees and a budget of \$350 million.

Lanier returned to Washington, D.C., in 2006 and served as director of the Africa Bureau Office of Regional and Security Affairs. In 2007, he was the first Foreign Policy Advisor for U.S. Africa Command headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany. He held that position until 2009.

In 2009, President Obama appointed Lanier as U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, where he led an embassy that included nine agencies and 400 U.S. and local staff. He served as ambassador for three years and later served in the same role in Sudan from 2014 to 2016.

As an ambassador and head of the U.S. Embassy, Lanier was responsible for implementing the president's foreign policy, protecting American citizens and visitors living in that country, and being an advocate for American businesses.

Lanier also served on the faculty at the Dwight Eisenhower School at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He taught courses on national security issues to military and civilian leaders.

Being raised in a rural area where he learned "how to deal with ordinary people" would pay dividends for Lanier later in life.

"For people in this region, we should be proud to have UNC Pembroke as an asset. The leaders at this university should be commended for making the adjustments to make it easier for people in these small towns and rural areas to have access to education."

**– JERRY LANIER
RETIRED U.S. AMBASSADOR**

"For people in this region, we should be proud to have UNC Pembroke as an asset. The leaders at this university should be commended for making the adjustments to make it easier for people in these small towns and rural areas to have access to education. I don't know what I would have done if UNCP would not have been here," Lanier said.

His advice to current and future UNC Pembroke students: "Cultivate work habits and personal relationships that helped you at UNC Pembroke, and when you find something that you like, really study it hard."

Lanier is married to Dr. Catherine Kannenberg, and they live in Charleston, SC. He has four children, Peter, Claire, Jordan and Julianne Hollingsworth.

"You learned to get along with people in these small towns," he said. "In Chadbourn, there's only one guy who could fix your furnace if it went out in the middle of winter. You don't burn your bridges with people. This is what diplomats do. You learn to get along and find ways to work together."

Recalling his days as a student, Lanier said UNC Pembroke was a friendly environment. "I always tell people ... what you learn here ... use it as an asset," he said. "Use the personal relationships that you build here. That's what is really important."

"You can learn a lot of things online and in books, but cultivate the people and maintain your friendships," Lanier said.

CLASS OF 2001

S&A Communications, a full-service integrated communications firm, has promoted **Jennifer Casey** to senior graphic designer. In this new position, she will primarily be in charge of the design workflow for S&A Communications as well as Cherokee Media Group. She will also collaborate with her team to ensure all content meets design standards before presenting work to clients. Casey came to S&A Communications over two years ago and brought with her a slew of experience. With over 15 years under her belt, Casey has previously worked for *The News & Observer*, *Cary Living Magazine* and *Chapel Hill News*, while focusing her talents in the advertising field. "Jennifer's creative and innovative ability, combined with her work ethic and motivation to succeed, make her a key component for the success of our company," said S&A Communications Owner/Principal Chuck Norman, APR. In her downtime, she enjoys photography, antiquing and spending time with her husband, Chad, and son, Carter.

CLASS OF 2000

Katherine Allred Cox was the recipient of the "Outstanding Health Educator Award" in "Recognition of Outstanding, Long-lasting Career Contributions and Demonstrated Commitment to the Practice of Health Education in North Carolina" through NC SOPHE (NC Society of Public Health Education). She has also earned and maintained a National Certification as a Health Education Specialist since 1999. She is also working to complete a National Certification as a Chronic Care Professional (CCP).

CLASS OF 1999



Kris Williams recently completed his first season as Head Varsity Football Coach at West Bladen High School in Bladenboro, N.C. Coach Williams has taught visual art at West Bladen since 2011. He previously served as an Assistant Varsity Football Coach and Head JV Football Coach at West Bladen. Coach Williams is the proud father of three children: Brayden, Bryce and Kaylee.

CLASS OF 1997

Dr. Vincent Castano was recently promoted to Dean of Institutional Effectiveness at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

CLASS OF 1996

Albemarle County, Virginia, announced the hiring of a new Economic Development director, **Roger Johnson**. He formerly served as the Special Assistant for Development for the City of Wilmington. Johnson earned a master's in organizational leadership and management from UNC Pembroke, a bachelor's in personnel management from Appalachian State University, Certification from UNC Chapel Hill's School of Government in City and County Administration, and pursued postbaccalaureate Studies at NC State University.

Hal Sargent accepted the position of Director of Pep Band and Percussion at Louisburg College in Louisburg, N.C. He also presented at the National Association for Music Educators National In-Service Conference in Nashville, T.N. Oct. 27, 2015.

**AN UPDATE FROM
PARDON NDHLOVU**



Pardon Ndhlovu hasn't slowed down since competing against the world's greatest athletes at the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics.

The former UNC Pembroke All-American shined for his home country of Zimbabwe in the marathon. Ndhlovu finished 41st, registering a time of 2:17:48, ahead of 114 competitors.

He finished the grueling 26.2-mile road race with a pace of 5:16 per mile.

Ndhlovu also shone as a member of the Braves cross country and track and field teams from 2009 to 2013. He was twice named an NCAA All-American and twice the Peach Belt Conference's Runner of the Year.

He holds 15 of the 17 best times recorded in the 8k run, including the top seven times in school history. His school record of 24:15.0 was set in 2012, as the only Division II runner at the NCAA Division I Pre-Nationals Invitational in Louisville, Ky. He is heralded as one of the most decorated student-athletes in the history of UNCP cross country.

He earned a degree in international business from UNCP and went on to complete his master's degree from Augusta University, while serving as an assistant coach for the university's cross country team.

Five years removed from his time at UNCP, Ndhlovu remains connected to the Braves family.

"It's been a fulfilling journey," he said. "I am still involved in coaching, volunteering and making appearances here and there. But, honestly, I don't think I would be where I am today without the support from UNCP."

Today, the 30-year-old is training for his next major event - the Chicago Marathon. Afterward, he will have his sights set on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Ndhlovu relocated to Boone, N.C., to be closer to his trainer and nationally renowned distance coach Pete Rea.

As he continues to thrive in the sport he began when he was 13, Ndhlovu said he is grateful for the individuals and experiences while at UNC Pembroke.

"I will never forget my business professors at UNCP," he said. "They challenged me to think differently, to open my mind and look at things differently. They taught me to not only be the best student I can be, but to be the best person I can be."

Catching up with

ETHAN SANFORD

Enrolling at 14 years old, alumnus Ethan Sanford has the distinction of having been one of the university's youngest and most accomplished students. He received the Biology Department's 2016 Faculty Award and the university's Outstanding Senior Award. He was active in the Esther G. Maynor Honors College and in Tri-Beta, while conducting research with the RISE (Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement) Program.

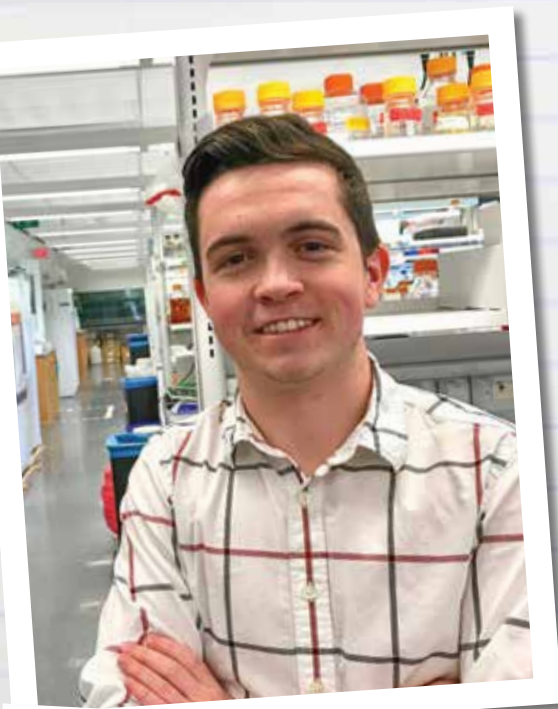
Shortly after graduation in May 2016, he joined the department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at Cornell University as a Ph.D. student. Cornell is one of the foremost research institutions in the world, possessing state-of-the-art life sciences research facilities, including Weill Hall, a \$163 million biomedical research facility.

Have you chosen a laboratory for your graduate research?

Yes. I joined Marcus Smolka's lab in Weill Hall. Our lab is broadly interested in the mechanisms of genome maintenance with a focus on DNA lesion detection and signaling. Our lab uses a technique known as quantitative mass spectrometry (in combination with genetic and biochemical approaches) to elucidate the dynamics and regulation of complex DNA damage signaling pathways in yeast and mammals. My thesis project, in its current form, seeks to understand how a very important yeast signaling protein, Mec1, prevents mutagenic events known as gross chromosomal rearrangements (GCRs). This may all sound quite esoteric, but in reality, GCRs are a hallmark of a number of human pathologies, including cancer. By studying these events in yeast, we can make informed decisions about what lines of inquiry to pursue in mammalian cells, which tend to be more arduous to work with than budding yeast. Indeed, our lab has a number of people doing cell culture, and we even have a person working with mice. This means we have a robust pipeline to make interesting discoveries in the field of genome stability.

Which courses have you taken? Have you met any famous scientists on campus?

Graduate courses tend to be niche but interesting. In addition to full-semester courses, our department also offers short, intensive courses on things like microscopy and R (a programming language popular among biologists; I took the R minicourse last year). The full-semester courses that I have taken include one about protein biology titled "Protein Structure and Function," a course about replication and transcription titled "The Nucleus" and a basic cell biology course titled "Functional Organization of Eukaryotic Cells." Our curriculum does not



(Top) Ethan in Marcus Smolka's Lab. (Above) Ethan with some of his fellow graduate students.

UNCP's motto is absolutely true. **Education changes lives** – it certainly changed mine.

competitive, at least not in the sense that there is much competition between students. We try to cultivate a collaborative, supportive atmosphere, because graduate school is itself stressful enough without the added pressure of competition between graduate students. Becoming a scientist isn't easy. I think that's the key to building a career in science, though – you've got to feel constantly overwhelmed, constantly under pressure to learn new things and to challenge your thinking. And, of course, you've got to be constantly fascinated by and curious about your topic of study.

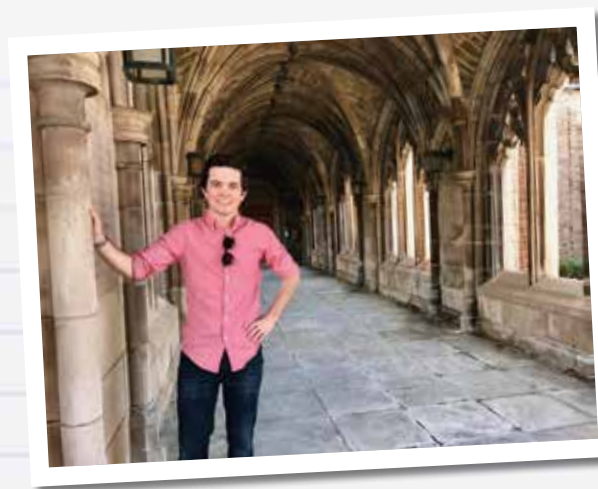
It goes without saying that Cornell is much different than UNCP; no two college campuses are the same. For one, it's much colder! The environment at Cornell is quite rigorous, and I rarely feel caught up with all of my academic responsibilities. Every day presents a new challenge, be it in the lab or in the library. I try to engage myself in activities outside of my line of work to keep me on my toes, so to speak. For example, I edit a newsletter on campus, and I recently participated in an intensive four-day leadership program through the College of Engineering.

I often reflect on my time at UNCP and on the excellent mentorship I received. I have no doubt that I would never have made it to Cornell without the support of such amazing mentors as Dr. Scott Hicks and Dr. Conner Sandefur, both of whom coached me to achieve my graduate school aspirations.

What advice can you offer UNCP students who wish to pursue graduate school?

I'll start by saying that I do enjoy graduate school. This statement is important because not all people share this view. I was determined to get here, and once I got here, I quickly realized that I had made the right choice. I know there are quite a few people like me at UNCP who share my interest in research, and I've met some of them. To those people, I would say, yes, go to graduate school. To the people who are more or less unsure of what they want to do, I would say, consider other options. Graduate school should not be the method of choice for delaying career decisions by an additional five to six years. The hours are long, the work is hard, and validation can be scarce unless you are truly passionate about research.

UNCP's motto is absolutely true. Education changes lives – it certainly changed mine.



include a lot of mandatory coursework – the primary focus is conducting research and defending a thesis within five or six years. I am presently preparing to take what is called the A Exam over the summer. The A Exam is an oral exam in which we must defend an original research proposal in front of our committee. I must admit, I'm a little nervous!

As for famous scientists, Cornell does a good job of bringing renowned researchers to campus. I have been fortunate to attend three talks given by Nobel laureates in my field. There was William Campbell, who discovered Ivermectin, a very widely used antiparasitic drug; Michael Brown, who uncovered cholesterol regulation and, subsequently, receptor-mediated endocytosis; and Martin Chalfie, one of the discoverers of Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP), a staple of molecular biology research. A couple of years ago, the department hosted the illustrious Jennifer Doudna. She is a pioneer in the field of genome editing and discovered CRISPR-Cas9, a genome-editing technology that is sure to revolutionize medicine in the very near future. All this is to say that it isn't difficult to find good seminars to attend at Cornell.

How is life at Cornell?

In short, life at Cornell is everything I had hoped it would be, and graduate school is about as stressful as I expected it to be. Ithaca is a fun and quirky place, and there is no shortage of things to do. For people who enjoy the outdoors, for example, we have hundreds of trails to explore. There is a reason for the expression "Ithaca is Gorges." Cornell possesses a wealth of resources for its students, and as an example of this, there are over 1,000 student organizations, most of which are available to graduate students. All that being said, I tend to spend the majority of my time in Weill Hall. I don't resent this – it's simply the nature of the work I chose.

While I can't speak for the undergrads or for other departments, I will say that my department is not

CLASS OF 1995

Dr. Paul Nelson Locklear of Pembroke, N.C., graduated with a Doctorate of Educational Leadership degree at Wingate University's commencement ceremony held on May 20, 2017. He is married to Mrs. Sharon Joy Locklear '94 and they have two children, Michaela and Jydor. Dr. Locklear currently works for the Public Schools of Robeson County, serving as the school administrator/principal at Oxendine Elementary School in Wakulla, N.C.

CLASS OF 1993

Danny Cook, Owner of Cook Insurance Services in Lumberton, was recently elected to the board of directors for Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina. The 22-year insurance industry veteran received his bachelor's degree in business administration from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, followed by his master's degree in risk management and Insurance from Florida State University.

Ted White will be the "voice for the southeast" as the newest member of the North Carolina Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. White, who lives in Lumberton, also serves as president of the Lumber River Chapter.

CLASS OF 1992

Angela Revels-Bullard graduated from the BRIDGES Academy. BRIDGES Academy is an academic leadership program and is a curriculum of the UNC William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education, Professional Development and Enrichment Program. Angela joined an elite group of women in higher education and represented UNCP. She was selected from over 80 applicants from all North Carolina private and public institutions.

The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice has named **Chandra Ransom '92** as the new superintendent at Randolph Correctional Center in Asheboro. Ransom is a 22-year corrections veteran who most recently served as assistant superintendent at Forsyth Correctional Center in Winston-Salem. She started her career as a correctional officer at Sandhills Youth Center.

CLASS OF 1991

Jeff Fipps, athletics director and assistant football coach at St. Pauls High School, was named Robeson County's new athletics director. A 1991 graduate of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Fipps has 25 years of teaching experience and 26 years under his belt coaching football, softball, basketball and track in Robeson County. For Fipps, the chance to be the head man for county athletics was something he couldn't turn down.

CLASS OF 1988

Alfredo DiPinto and wife, **Samanta M. DiPinto '89**, own Southern Style Barbeque in Clinton, N.C. Alfredo recently opened an Italian restaurant called Alfredo's in Clinton. After graduating from PSU, Alfredo embarked on a career as a financial analyst. He still makes the daily 45-minute commute from Clinton to Fayetteville, where he works for Wells Fargo. But he never forgot those extended Italian meals growing up in a family that believed in sharing love and big platters of food. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, he's the one at the restaurant greeting customers, most of whom he and his servers know by name.

CLASS OF 1985

Damon Tobin graduated from Pembroke State University. Tobin recently retired from the city of High Point, N.C. with 32.22 total years of service. He began his career with the City Water Filtration Plant for two years as a Chemical Analyst. Tobin transferred to the Fire Department in 1987, where he moved up the ranks from Firefighter, Fire Equipment Operator, Captain, then to my current position as Battalion Chief of Training. Tobin has fond memories of living in Jacobs Hall, working as a lifeguard and wrestling under P.J. Smith. He was also the president of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity. Tobin had the opportunity to teach in the fire service across the country with Fire Engineering Magazine® as a "Hands On Training" Instructor (H.O.T.), in Sacramento, Calif., Indianapolis, Ind. and Atlantic City, N.J. He has also been published through Pennwell/Fire Engineering® with an article "Back to Basics: Uses for Irons" on March 1, 2008.

CLASS OF 1983

Robert Beale, MD. currently serves as Chief of Surgery at Marshall County Hospital in Benton, Ky. Dr. Beale obtained his B.S. degree from UNCP, master's degree in physiology from NC State University, and M.D. with honors from UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Beale completed his internship and surgery residency at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, serving as Chief Resident in General Surgery in 1993-1994. Dr. Beale is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is Board Certified in General Surgery. He has served as Chief of Surgery at Marshall County Hospital since 2007 and is also a staff surgeon at Jackson-Purchase Medical Center. Dr. Beale credits Dr. Harold Maxwell (former Head of Biological Science at UNCP) as his mentor in pursuing a career in science and medicine. Dr. Beale is President and CEO of Benton Medical and Surgical Associates.

IN MEMORIAM

Bruce Barton '86
Walter Clarence Bell Jr. '65
Stephen M. Clark '69
Russell P. Guenther '62
Dr. Carol Higy
Maitland Hunt '49
Dr. Chester "Chet" Jordan
Illya Chavis Lindsey '99
Dalton Ray Locklear '54
Ethel O. Locklear '51
Rosette O. Locklear '62
James Cleo Maynor '50
Dr. Walt Maynor '59
Cynthia Locklear Oxendine '03
Gervais Oxendine '64
Michael Braxton Perry '13
Annie Ruth Locklear Revels '58
Ellen Lucille Revels '69
Glenn Edward Sampson '00
Dr. Patricia Sellars
Watson Benjamin "Ben" Thomas Jr. '05
Rudolph Turbeville '64
Rosa Revels Winfree '59

Any omission is unintentional. If you would like to submit an item for *in memoriam* in a future edition, please email alumni@uncp.edu.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Submit your Class Notes and alumni updates at uncp.edu/alumni.

CLASS OF 1977



Jimmy Autry was honored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators for a career of distinguished leadership and mentoring with a first-ever award that will be known as the Autry Leadership Award for Always On Communications.

CLASS OF 1975

David B. Goodyear was recently named Senior Vice President and Regional Executive for Select Bank & Trust in Fayetteville, N.C.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT UNC PEMBROKE

Dr. David Ward assumed the role of provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs in June. Ward comes to UNCP from Armstrong State University, where he served as dean of the College of Health Professions.

Dr. William "Stewart" Thomas was promoted to vice chancellor for Finance and Administration in August. Thomas has spent the majority of his 17-year career at UNCP in the School of Business as a lecturer, associate professor and associate dean.



DR. DAVID WARD



DR. WILLIAM THOMAS

BE AN ACTIVE ALUM

Stay connected after graduation.

As a graduate of UNC Pembroke, you are among a community of alumni that's 26,000+ strong. Here are 10 ways to stay connected and an active member of #BraveNation.



INTERACT WITH UNCP ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Become a UNCP ambassador by showing your pride and sharing milestones and memories or share your story with family, friends, and co-workers. Don't forget to tell UNCP your story too, so we can brag about our outstanding alumni.

Email alumni@uncp.edu or connect on social media



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SUBSCRIBE TO THE "SPIRIT OF THE BRAVES" ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

Get info about alumni events and volunteer opportunities right to your inbox.

Sign up at uncp.edu/alumni

WEAR IT WITH PRIDE

The bookstore carries a wide selection of UNCP apparel and accessories.

Shop online at uncp.edu/bookstore



MEET ALUMNI AT EVENTS

Attend a mixer or networking event for alumni, cheer on the Braves during Homecoming, celebrate alumni achievements at the Alumni Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet, and much more.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Land a new job? Change your name? Move? Keep your records up-to-date so we can stay in touch.

UNCP.EDU/ALUMNI

RECRUIT FROM UNCP TALENT POOL

Post your employer's jobs and internships through the Career Center and take advantage of job postings, career fairs, and career development webinars.

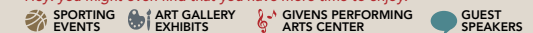
Email career@uncp.edu



COME BACK TO CAMPUS

Who says the college experience has to stop once you graduate? Stay connected with your favorite faculty, mentors, and classmates. Ask what you can do as alumni for your academic department or organization such as volunteering, student mentoring, or allowing current students to job shadow you.

Hey! you might even find that you have more time to enjoy:



GIVE BACK

UNCP owes so much of its growth and excellence to generous donations made by alumni and friends. Support capital improvements, academics, student scholarships, and much more by making an unrestricted gift or designate a gift for a specific department.

uncp.edu/give

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

Be a voice for UNCP in Raleigh and Washington, D.C., by communicating to elected officials the importance of issues that impact higher education.



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**ALUMNI
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GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR UNCP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO BECOME ACTIVE IN THE LIFE OF YOUR ALMA MATER.

- Attend a UNCP Alumni Association event in your area, and bring a fellow Brave with you.
- Update your contact information, and learn more at uncp.edu/alumni.
- Join us on social media.
- Support UNCP athletics. Cheer loudly.
- Nominate someone you know to serve on the Alumni Assoc. Board.
- Nominate a worthy candidate for one of our many alumni awards.



To learn more about getting involved, visit us online at uncp.edu/alumni or email us at alumni@uncp.edu.