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UNDERGRADUATE  
**COMMENCEMENT**  
SATURDAY, MAY 9 • SPRING 2026

# Board of Trustees

## University of North Carolina Pembroke

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Edward Brooks, Chair  
Pembroke, North Carolina

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John's Island, South Carolina

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Dillon, South Carolina

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Elizabethtown, North Carolina

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Lumberton, North Carolina

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Asheville, North Carolina

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North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



# Commencement

May 9, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings, presiding  
On the Quad between Livermore Library and Old Main

*(The audience is asked to rise for the Processional.)*

PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL..... UNCP Concert Band  
Dr. Tim Altman, *Director*

“THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” ..... Pembroke Singers  
Dr. Jaeyoon Kim, *Director*

*(The audience is asked to remain standing and join in the singing.)*

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed through the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming,  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

*-Francis Scott Key*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS..... Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings

GREETINGS ..... Dr. Reneè Lamphere  
*Professor*  
*Chair, Faculty Senate*

GREETINGS ..... Gordon Byrd  
*Chair, Staff Senate*

GREETINGS ..... John Squier  
*Student Body President*

GREETINGS & PRESENTATION OF THE  
UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ..... Sonja Nichols  
*Member, Board of Governors*  
*Representative, UNC System Office*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE  
FOR HONORARY DOCTORATE..... Dr. Diane Prusank  
*Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER..... Chancellor Cummings

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ..... John B. Herrington, PhD  
*Commander, USN (Ret), Former NASA Astronaut,*  
*and Chickasaw Nation Member*

AUTHORIZATION OF DEGREES..... Edward Brooks  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES ..... Provost Prusank  
College of Arts and Sciences..... Dr. Shreerekha Pillai, Dean  
College of Health Sciences..... Dr. Eva Skuka, Dean  
School of Education..... Dr. Tracy Mulvaney, Dean  
Thomas College of Business and Economics ..... Dr. W. Stewart Thomas, Dean

CONFERRING OF DEGREES ..... Chancellor Cummings

AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS..... Chancellor Cummings

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS..... Kendall Oxendine '03  
*President, Alumni Association*

CONCLUDING REMARKS..... Chancellor Cummings

“HAIL TO UNCP” ..... Pembroke Singers

*(The audience is asked to rise and join in the singing of the alma mater.)*

Where Carolina's lofty pine trees  
Pierce the southern blue,  
Proudly stands our Alma Mater  
Courageous, strong and true;  
Black and gold float on forever,  
Symbol of loyalty,  
Pembroke our Alma Mater,  
Hail to UNCP!

*-Ira Pate Lowry '29 and Reba M. Lowry*

RECESSIONAL ..... UNCP Concert Band

*(The audience is requested to remain standing until the Recessional ends.)*

GRAND MARSHAL..... Dr. Jamie Litty  
*Interim Associate Dean, Curriculum and Student Success*  
*2026 UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching Recipient*

## Marshals

Dr. Ashley Batts Allen  
Dr. Melanie Escue  
Dr. Sayo Fakayode  
Dr. Kelly Ficklin

Dr. Misti Harper  
Dr. Beverly Justice  
Dr. Benjamin Killian  
Dr. Lisa Mitchell  
Dr. Abigail Reiter

Dr. Miranda Reiter  
Dr. James Rogala  
Dr. Maria Santisteban  
Dr. Haitao Zhao



# Commencement Speaker John B. Herrington, PhD

**Commander, USN (Ret), Former  
NASA Astronaut, and Chickasaw  
Nation Member**

Cmdr. John B. Herrington is a retired naval aviator, test pilot, aquanaut and astronaut. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a PhD in education from the University of Idaho.

As an aviator, he has flown over 5,000 hours in more than 30 different types of aircraft. As an aquanaut, he commanded the sixth NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) mission, spending nearly 264 hours underwater. As an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, NASA considers Herrington to be the first citizen of a federally recognized tribe to fly in space. As an astronaut, Herrington flew aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on the 16th assembly mission to the International Space Station. During his mission, he traveled over 5.6 million miles, spent over 330 hours in space and performed three spacewalks totaling nearly 21 hours.

Following his retirement from the Navy and NASA, Cmdr. Herrington worked in the commercial space sector before embarking on a 4,300-mile bicycle ride across the United States, from Cape Flattery, WA, to Cape Canaveral, FL, stopping at American Indian reservations and NASA Explorer Schools to share his story of motivation and mentorship with Native American youth. At age 52, he entered the University of Idaho. He earned a Doctorate of Education, investigating the factors that motivate and engage Native American students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

He authored a children's book, Mission to Space, and is currently working on his personal memoir. He is married and the proud father of two daughters and grandfather to four grandchildren. He resides in the mountains of the Northwest Montana with his wife, Danielle, their sled dog Emme and their calico cat Ladybug.

# College of Arts and Sciences

## Bachelor of Arts

Tierra Adams .....	Sociology	Tokobe D. Hunt * .....	Criminal Justice
Joshua Shane Alcon * .....	Criminal Justice	Elissa Michau Hunter .....	Criminal Justice
Lashonda Renee Alford .....	Criminal Justice	Leah Atavela Jacobs .....	Criminal Justice
Mikayla Allen .....	Criminal Justice	Keely Renee Jacobs ***∞ .....	Art
Elias Dwayne Alston .....	Criminal Justice	Rayvone Damien Johnson .....	Philosophy & Religion
Pedro Avila Gomez * .....	History	Sabrina Gabrielle Johnson .....	Criminal Justice
Mia Alma Baca .....	Art	Yassana Alexia Johnson * .....	Sociology
Quashaliya Sharelle Baldwin .....	Sociology	Trinity Raine Jones .....	Criminal Justice
Amber Hudson Barfield ** .....	Sociology	Jaylen William Jones * .....	Philosophy & Religion
Jatique Lawrence Barnes .....	Criminal Justice	Ayanni Sequoia Jones Carter .....	Theatre Arts
Alisia Nichel Baskerville .....	Sociology	Yesica S. Juarez Zacarias .....	Sociology
Kelly Denise Batten .....	Sociology	Michaela Andrea Justice .....	Criminal Justice
Tyrinia Bellamy .....	Art	Ehren Brye Keener ** .....	Criminal Justice
Takiza Amillanyia Bethea .....	Sociology	Kyleigh Paige Keller .....	Criminal Justice
Crystal Bishop .....	Sociology	Thomas Andrew Keyes .....	History
Takya Adajah Bishop .....	Theatre Arts	Leticia Marie Kirk .....	Criminal Justice
Peter Vincent Bolebruch * .....	Criminal Justice	Ramiyah M. Lawrence .....	Political Science
Natalee J. Boronow ** .....	Sociology	Illisha Lear .....	Art
Sheri Bratcher .....	Sociology	Danielle Marie Lee .....	Criminal Justice
Crystal Nicole Brown * .....	Sociology	Jeffrey Leonard* .....	Criminal Justice
Tamara L. Bryant .....	Sociology	Jonathan Riley Lewis * .....	Criminal Justice
Mya M. Bryant .....	Theatre Arts	Anitra Locklear * .....	Sociology
Dustin Bullard .....	Music	Carla Sabrina Rose Locklear *** .....	American Indian Studies
Kayla Nicole Bullard .....	Criminal Justice	Catori Kaylee Locklear .....	Sociology
Edward Fitzgerald Cain Jr. ....	Criminal Justice	Cheyenne Elizabeth Locklear ** .....	Criminal Justice
Alexus Cannon .....	Criminal Justice	Kaitlyn Paige Locklear .....	Sociology
Christopher Capstaff .....	Sociology	Lauren Gabriella Locklear .....	Sociology
Travis Duane Chavis ** .....	Sociology	Madaleine Brooke Locklear .....	Criminal Justice
Jayden Odessa Leann Clark .....	Sociology	Skyler Jade Locklear * .....	Sociology
Emma Grace Colasacco .....	Criminal Justice	Torry Hope Loftin .....	Criminal Justice
Daniel Monter Contreras ** .....	Criminal Justice	Demetrice Long .....	Sociology
Kyra Renee Chasteen .....	Criminal Justice	Kala Longmire .....	Criminal Justice
Sierra Cooke .....	Sociology	Yurika Lorenzo Rosado .....	Criminal Justice
Marquis Crosland .....	Theatre Arts	Aaliyah Madison Lowery .....	Criminal Justice
Skyler Cummings *** .....	Sociology	Aslyn Lowry * .....	American Indian Studies
Aidan Anthony Dazzo * .....	Criminal Justice	Logan Shae Lucas .....	Sociology
Laurie Michelle DeCamp .....	Sociology	Sarah Thomas Mann *** .....	Sociology
Anna Lynne Decresie .....	Criminal Justice	Lydia Ruth Hardin Mansfield .....	American Indian Studies
Soleil E. Dekker * .....	Art	Angelina Kay Martinez .....	Art
Idalis Jacobs Dial ** .....	American Indian Studies	Jessica Sharon Matchett .....	Sociology
D'niya Dockery .....	Sociology	Tristan Desmond Mayers .....	Criminal Justice
Melanie Rose Duckstein .....	Criminal Justice	Gavin N. Mayes * .....	Criminal Justice
Vannessa Nicole Duncan .....	Criminal Justice	Jordan Faith Maynor * .....	Criminal Justice
Allyson Duranceau * .....	Sociology	Aura C. Mays .....	Sociology
Tyler Luke Eason * .....	Criminal Justice	Kenzie Daniala McKethan ** .....	Criminal Justice
Cassandra Elkins *** .....	Art	Nikia Julia Shanay Mcqueen .....	Criminal Justice
Megan Hope Ellis .....	Criminal Justice	Joseph Garrett Meola .....	Criminal Justice
Mahala Danelle Evans .....	Sociology	Kenneth Thomas Mercer .....	Criminal Justice
Havonna Larissa Finkley * .....	Criminal Justice	Montico Rashon Miller .....	Sociology
Torie André'a Gates .....	Criminal Justice	Rachel Loryn Mishue ** .....	Art
Karissa Green .....	Sociology	Tourè Moore .....	History
Makayla Green ***∞ .....	Criminal Justice	Sandra Moreno-Pittman .....	Criminal Justice
Jason Michael Grubb Jr. * .....	Criminal Justice	Imani N. Mott .....	Sociology
Taliah Brianca Hanna *** .....	English	Kaleigh Michelle Musulin .....	Criminal Justice
April Harley .....	Criminal Justice	Katie Mae Neel .....	Criminal Justice
Caroline Hart .....	Sociology	Jessica Oluchukwu Obi * .....	Political Science
Madison P. Hawkins .....	History	Nora K. Oxendine .....	Criminal Justice
Deandrea Dawn Hayes .....	Sociology	Joon Patricio Casillas * .....	Theatre Arts
Daniel Steven Henry * .....	Music	Tracy Peterson .....	Sociology
Daisy Liseth Hernandez Turney .....	Criminal Justice	Tierra Cheyenne Pevia ** .....	Criminal Justice
Penelope Herrera-Garcia .....	Spanish	William Jeremiah Pope .....	Sociology
Logan Robert Hoffman .....	Criminal Justice	Dillon Scott Price .....	English

## Bachelor of Arts *continued*

Eric Michael Priest \*\*\*..... Art  
 Ashlinn Przepioski ..... History  
 David Godinez Ramirez..... Criminal Justice  
 Damian Stephon Ransom \*..... Criminal Justice  
 Cynthia Reyes ..... Political Science  
 Tatyana Tiara Riggins ..... Criminal Justice  
 Bean Abigail Rivera-Lopez ..... Theatre Arts  
 Eduardo Gonzalo Roblero Diaz \*\*\*..... Sociology  
 Karimen Yumayla Rodriguez Jimenez ..... Sociology  
 Zachary Lachlan Russell..... Music: Music Industry  
 Ebony D. Sampy ..... Sociology  
 Shannon Sanders ..... Criminal Justice  
 Hannah I. Schmid \*∞£..... Music: Music Industry  
 Destiny Halona Scott..... Sociology  
 Nathan Sellers ..... History  
 Tyler Skolozynski ..... Art  
 Anaria Jamoni Smith ..... Criminal Justice  
 Jerry Nicholas Smith \*\*\*..... Criminal Justice  
 Willie Bryan Smith ..... Criminal Justice  
 Zachery Hunter Springer ..... Criminal Justice  
 Daniel Stephens ..... Criminal Justice  
 Porsha R. Swindell..... Sociology  
 Alicia A. Teague ..... Sociology

Dayanara Estefany Tellez \*..... Criminal Justice  
 Sonia Talitha Toussaint \* ..... Sociology  
 Dawn Marie Trombley ..... Sociology  
 Caila O'dowd Turbeville ..... Sociology  
 Josie Madison Ulloa ..... Sociology  
 Crystal Breann VanValkenburg ..... Criminal Justice  
 Jessica Lynn Villate \*\*\* ..... Sociology  
 Ambria Alycia Vines..... Sociology  
 Sean Michael Vislay \* ..... History  
 Shenita Wall ..... Criminal Justice  
 Cheyenne Taylor Ward..... Theatre Arts  
 Alisa Michelle Werbelow ..... Criminal Justice  
 Audra Fuse Wike..... Philosophy & Religion  
 Ronnie Williams ..... Sociology  
 Jared Croxton Williams ..... Criminal Justice  
 Carolina Wong-Rodriguez ..... Criminal Justice  
 Zoey Woodell \* ..... Political Science  
 Geterean D. Wright ..... Sociology  
 Sydney Jean Wright ..... Criminal Justice  
 Mackenzie Jean Wrightington ..... Criminal Justice  
 Jose Francisco Zambrano \* ..... Criminal Justice  
 Dalysa Dawne Zinsmaster ..... Sociology  
 Brigit Guadalupe Zuniga Labra \* ..... English

## Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Maria Jose Aceves ..... General Studies  
 Cyle Jemil Addison..... General Studies  
 Demar Terriece Anderson ..... General Studies  
 Michelle A. Andrade ..... General Studies  
 Penelope April Arvin-Arrighi ..... General Studies  
 Vernon Richard Ash III \*\*\* ..... General Studies  
 Tashenna Arlana Bailey ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Mahmoud Bangura ..... General Studies  
 Theresa Bartlett ..... General Studies  
 Amanda Brooke Bartley ..... General Studies  
 Michael Vernon Bednarz ..... General Studies  
 Farrah N. Blue ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Alanah Mikayla Bowden ..... General Studies  
 Cynthia Caroline Smith Bowen ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Justice Sincere Boykin ..... General Studies  
 Christopher Allen Brayboy ..... General Studies  
 Kierra Paige Bullard..... General Studies  
 Sierra Lindsey Bullard ..... General Studies  
 Tamira N. Byrd ..... General Studies  
 Ryan Oneal Carriker ..... General Studies  
 Brittany Safrit Chambers ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Vyankatesh Atul Chavan ..... General Studies  
 Cayla Nichole Clanton ..... General Studies  
 Brandy Amelia Cole ..... General Studies  
 Katie Collier..... General Studies  
 Mya G. Cruz ..... General Studies  
 Terri Shannon Davis ..... General Studies  
 Karen Kelly Diesfeld ..... Applied Professional Studies  
 Amy R. Dingevan ..... Applied Management Info. Systems  
 Racquel Dunlap ..... General Studies  
 Wendy Edel \* ..... Applied Professional Studies  
 Amyelita Esquibel ..... General Studies  
 Cameron Malik Ferguson \*\*^..... General Studies  
 Samantha Lynn Fernandez ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Sherri Rachelle Flowers..... Applied Education Studies  
 Maryiana Lcrease Freeman ..... General Studies  
 Anastasia Nichelle Galbreath ..... General Studies  
 Quaniqua Mone' Galbreath ..... General Studies  
 Janet Goolsby ..... General Studies  
 Kyndall Gordon ..... General Studies  
 Carolyn Elaine Gosnell \*\* ..... General Studies

Olivia Faith Hall ..... General Studies  
 Shamek Harmon-Sherod..... General Studies  
 Arabia Janesse Harris ..... Public & Non-Profit Administration  
 Jacob Michael Heaton ..... General Studies  
 Charlene Hicks ..... General Studies  
 Alexandra Ruby Holden \* ..... General Studies  
 Wesley Hsu ..... Applied Management Info. Systems  
 Jennifer Marie Hughes ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Pablo V. Jimenez Arreaga ..... General Studies  
 Cinnamon Simone Johnson ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Elicia Nina Johnson..... General Studies  
 Amber M. King ..... Public & Non-Profit Administration  
 Latisha Benea King ..... General Studies  
 Jasmin Agatha Kudakwashe ..... General Studies  
 Andrea Ladare Lambert \*\* ..... Applied Management Info. Systems  
 Jamie Nicole Lewis \*\*\*£..... General Studies  
 Victoria Lynn Lewis ..... General Studies  
 Jamaría Little \* ..... Applied Management Info. Systems  
 Kristin T. Little..... General Studies  
 Autumn Octavia Locklear ..... General Studies  
 Faith A. Locklear \* ..... General Studies  
 Katrina Nichole Locklear ..... General Studies  
 Khristona Locklear ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Sierra Rena Locklear ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Karsie Lowe \* ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Elizabeth Erin Lowry ..... Applied Education Studies  
 James Lucas ..... General Studies  
 Jeremy Adam Martin ..... General Studies  
 Autumn Leigh McClure ..... General Studies  
 Sean McCrae ..... General Studies  
 Belinda Krysiewski McGivern ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Brianna Miller ..... General Studies  
 Jasmin B. Moore ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Erika L. Moore-Newkirk ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Jeretha Marbury ..... General Studies  
 Laman McGill..... General Studies  
 Mylana Norfleet ..... General Studies  
 Desiree Dawn Nunnery..... General Studies  
 Christopher Michael Ochtyun ..... General Studies  
 Kevin L. Oxendine ..... General Studies  
 Marshall Jerod Parkhurst ..... General Studies

## Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies *continued*

Colleen Lynnett Pearo ..... Applied Professional Studies  
 Joel Jefferson Pettiford ..... General Studies  
 Mark H. Richardson ..... General Studies  
 John-Paul Ricks..... General Studies  
 Nancy Elaine Rider ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Devonte Raheem Robinson..... Applied Management Info. Systems  
 Jennifer Rodriguez-Ramos ..... General Studies  
 Krystal Michelle Rothwell-Cerna..... Applied Education Studies  
 Brianna Anaya Sanders..... General Studies  
 Claudette Latreeka Sanders..... Applied Education Studies  
 Lily Fay Sargent..... Applied Education Studies  
 Raheem J. Savannah..... Applied Management Info. Systems  
 Sarah Sill ..... Applied Management Info. Systems  
 Charles Edward Simpson ..... General Studies  
 Olivia Faith Skipper ..... Public & Non-Profit Administration  
 Miangel Smith ..... General Studies

Larrvetta J. Spann ..... General Studies  
 Treasure Amonie Springs ..... General Studies  
 Denice A. Terry ..... General Studies  
 Marchene Thomas ..... General Studies  
 Cassidy Lynn Vause ..... General Studies  
 Je'Leah Danielle Wade..... Applied Education Studies  
 Kassiedee Victoria Wallace..... General Studies  
 Brie-elle Monique Ward ..... General Studies  
 Saqiliva Ward ..... General Studies  
 Veronique Darlyn Washington ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Jamese Whittington Alston \* ..... General Studies  
 Jasmine Williams..... General Studies  
 Kirsten Paige Wilson ..... Applied Education Studies  
 Larry Joe Wood ..... General Studies  
 Donovan Woods ..... General Studies

## Bachelor of Music

Ephraim Rozelle Boyte \*..... Music Theatre  
 Eric Wayne Brown ..... Music Education

Ky'Aisa Nashay Roberts \* ∞ ..... Music Theatre  
 Hunter Chase Warren \*\*\* ..... Music Education

## Bachelor of Science

Auley Rafat Abudayya ..... Biology  
 Olivia Mary Michelle Aiken ..... Biology  
 Mario Akhnoukh \* ..... Information Technology  
 Dayana Alchoufi Abou Saleh \*\*\* ..... Psychology  
 Jeritza Alejandro \* ..... Biology  
 Sarah Alhobishi \*\*\*∞ ..... Biology  
 Jirhe Praise Amurun \* ..... Cybersecurity  
 Leah Danette Anderson..... Mass Communications  
 Samuel Orion Anderson ..... Biology  
 Ashley Michelle Andre ..... Psychology  
 Caleb Antwi \*..... Applied Physics  
 Kaiana Breeze Apollo ..... Mass Communications  
 Brenda Avellaneda-Gonzalez ..... Psychology  
 Demilade Oyindamola Babarinde \*∞..... Biology  
 Bobby Dale Barsh Jr.\* ..... Cybersecurity  
 Justin Bartle ..... Cybersecurity  
 Brody Clayton Baucom ..... Computer Science  
 Malik Beaumont \* ..... Psychology  
 Mercy Leanna Bell ..... Mass Communications  
 Genesis Marina Benavides ..... Mass Communications  
 Cameron Berry..... Cybersecurity  
 Marcus E. Bland Jr. .... Cybersecurity  
 Khalil Marquise Blue ..... Psychology  
 Maria Maria Bogan ..... Chemistry  
 David A. Bracey III \*\*\* ..... Information Technology  
 Travon Cole Brewington ..... Psychology  
 Benjamin Pernell Brewington ..... Information Technology  
 David Alan Briggs ..... Biology  
 Thad Curtis Brisson \*\* ..... Cybersecurity  
 NyKimbria Davona Brothers \* ..... Psychology  
 Wyatt Alexander Broughton \* ..... Computer Science  
 Baileigh Mackenna Bryant ..... Biology  
 Trent Garrett Bunce ..... Biology  
 Gidialya Ja'Liyah Burns ..... Biology  
 Mariana Cabrera ..... Psychology  
 Elizabeth Campos Pascacio ..... Biology  
 Ayden Levi Cecil ..... Information Technology  
 John French Chavis \* ..... Computer Science  
 Shelley Marie Chavis \*\*\* ..... Biology  
 Terry Chavez-Strait \*\* ..... Applied Physics  
 Alyssa Morgan Chavis-Wanson ..... Biology  
 Jade Olga Chen ..... Biology

Cameron E. Cleary ..... Psychology  
 China Iman Clemons ..... Biology  
 Tamyra Council ..... Psychology  
 Ava Cox \*\*\*∞£..... Biology  
 Eddie Humberto Cruz-Bonilla ..... Computer Science  
 Caroline Grace Cummings \* ..... Biology  
 Perseus Leigh Dailey ..... Biology  
 Sharon Tamunotonjo Daminabo \*\*..... Applied Physics  
 Dylan Dean ..... Information Technology  
 Ethan Lane Deese..... Psychology  
 Kaitlin Rose Depew ..... Psychology  
 Ariana Shieyenne Dickerson ..... Biology  
 Conner James Elliott ..... Biology  
 Eugenie Feitosa Amidou \*\*∞..... Biology  
 Kimberly Fernandez ..... Biology  
 Deanna Michelle Freshley ..... Biology  
 Caleb Gabel \*\*\*..... Psychology  
 Dylan Victoria Garcia \*\* ..... Psychology  
 Jose Eduardo Garcia Vergara..... Computer Science  
 Catherine Y. González ..... Psychology  
 Brooke Dalee Gore ..... Psychology  
 Brittany Alisha Graham ..... Psychology  
 Asya Mclaryn Graham-King ..... Biology  
 Caleb James Grau..... Mass Communications  
 William Bobby Greene \* ..... Information Technology  
 Michela Gritti \*\*\*∞..... Mass Communications  
 Amira D. Hammonds ..... Chemistry  
 Leah Grayce Hardin ..... Biology  
 Gavin Todd Hardison..... Applied Physics  
 Najmul Hasan ..... Computer Science  
 Julisa Hernandez Feria \*∞ ..... Biology  
 Phillip Clayton Hicks \* ..... Cybersecurity  
 Jaden Creed Hoffman ..... Cybersecurity  
 Antonio B. Hoggard Jr. .... Computer Science  
 Cameron Alexis Hunt ..... Psychology  
 Julius Ray Hunt ..... Computer Science  
 Leslie Paige Hunt ..... Biology  
 Alejandra J. Juarez Carpio ..... Computer Science  
 Mohammad Hossain Noor Kawsar \*\* ..... Computer Science  
 Jenna Kim \*\* ..... Applied Physics  
 Aidan A. Kuster \*\*\* ..... Computer Science  
 Gladyle Gesner Lamour ..... Biology

## Bachelor of Science *continued*

Robert Lattimer..... Psychology  
 Daydrian Dreshawn Zhakyah Leake ..... Information Technology  
 Alexis Ciab Lee \*∞..... Biology  
 Jaylyne Alexis Denise Lee ..... Psychology  
 Hannah L. Leviner \*\*\*€§ ..... Chemistry  
 Christian Dewitt Lillard ..... Mass Communications  
 Asa Jeremiah Locklear ..... Mass Communications  
 Carmen Lynn Locklear ..... Biology  
 Vincent Makenzie Locklear ..... Biology  
 Victoria Kayden Locklear \*..... Psychology  
 Lucas Nashobe Lynch ..... Biology  
 Caris Analeigh Lynch ..... Biology  
 James Jeremiah Madanji ..... Information Technology  
 Christian Madrid \*.....Computer Science  
 Jalaina Myiel Marbury ..... Psychology  
 Jacob Dane Mattison ..... Information Technology  
 Mackenzie Juliana Maynor ..... Information Technology  
 Madison Faith McNeill \*..... Psychology  
 Thaishawn Melay ..... Cybersecurity  
 Nicholas Joseph Melchiorre ..... Biology  
 Angellena Danyella Miceli ..... Biology  
 Donovan E. Miller ..... Psychology  
 Samuel Moore..... Cybersecurity  
 Morgan Grace Moose \* ..... Biology  
 Taona Namalima \*\*\* .....Math  
 Lainey Rose Nelson ..... Biology  
 Xavier M. Nixon .....Computer Science  
 Jesus Daniel Nocedal Velasquez \* ..... Biology  
 Colin Josef Oxendine ..... Cybersecurity  
 Natalie Lourdes Pacheco ..... Biology  
 Shruti Pallisserly \* .....Computer Science  
 Kayla I. Patrick \*∞§ ..... Biology  
 Alexis Machele Pegram \*\*\*£ ..... Biology  
 Alivia Pemberton \*\*^ ..... Psychology  
 Jianna Hortense Pereira-Ransom ..... Cybersecurity  
 Manuel Perez III \* ..... Biology  
 Shraya Rajkarnikar \*..... Information Technology  
 Philip Chad Revels \* ..... Chemistry  
 Kevin Reza Villa ..... Biology  
 Saige Victoria Richardson ..... Biology  
 Estefani Alejandra Rivera-Gonzalez \*\* ..... Information Technology

Jabari Casey Robinson .....Computer Science  
 JadyN Robinson ..... Biology  
 Shaveta Rogers ..... Psychology  
 Caitlyn Roldan \*\*..... Biology  
 Virginia Ann Saiz \*\*\* .....Science Education  
 Alejandro Tomas Sanchez ..... Mass Communications  
 Kristen G. Satterfield ..... Psychology  
 Daniel Mckenzie Savage ..... Information Technology  
 Daniel Jaden Seethaler \*\*..... Biology  
 Ethan Jackson Sellars ..... Information Technology  
 Olivia Paige Sellers ..... Biology  
 Daniel Keen Smith ..... Applied Physics  
 Emma Smith \* ..... Environmental Science  
 Darren Smith Jr.\*\*..... Psychology  
 Makayla Dannelle Smith ..... Biology  
 Eli Söderberg \*\*\* ..... Mass Communications  
 John Thomas Buck Ontiveros Squier \*\*\* .....Applied Physics  
 Aiden A. Stewart \*\*\* ..... Psychology  
 Lana Gabriella Stone \*..... Psychology  
 Kristin Lee Stowell \*\*\* ..... Mass Communications  
 Sydney A. Strickland ..... Biology  
 Allyson Izabela Taylor \*\*\* ..... Cybersecurity  
 Michael Stephen Terpstra ..... Geo-Environmental Studies  
 Julia Thomas ..... Psychology  
 Jason Alexander Thomas-Sherron ..... Biology  
 Md Ubayeid Ullah .....Computer Science  
 Dreena Diane Vanderburg \*\*∞..... Biology  
 Nancy Adriana Velarde ..... Geo-Environmental Studies  
 Kenia Hernandez Velasquez..... Biology  
 Kyle James Wakefield \*..... Cybersecurity  
 Deshon Watson .....Computer Science  
 Jessa Nicole Weigel \* ..... Biology  
 Faith Itai Minek White..... Mass Communications  
 Legacy Dizjon White..... Psychology  
 Cheyenne Sky Wilkins \* ..... Psychology  
 Madelyn Lakia Wilkins ..... Biology  
 Avery Williams ..... Psychology  
 Taylor Wilson ..... Psychology  
 Noemi Shaddaiyah Yisra’EL § ..... Environmental Science  
 Chloe Elizabeth Young ..... Psychology

# College of Health Sciences

## Bachelor of Science

Trasuant T. Bell ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Tyler Robert Beyer \* ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Kaitlyn Grace Branstetter ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Summer Bullard \*..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Morgan Elizabeth Capps ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Clavens Charitus ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 William Chancellor Cottingham \* ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Bethani Mckenna Cummings ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Devontre R. Daniels \* ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Spivey Evans \*\*..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 German Farelli-Zicarelli \*\*\*£ ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Ricardo Adaiyn Flores ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 William Randall Guion \* ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Devyn Simone Hart \*..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Syed Aliyaan Husain ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Faith Jacobs ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Emmanuel Lamont Joyner ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Mekaylind Janelle Kilpatrick ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Myla Grace Locklear \* ..... Exercise and Sport Science

Maya McDonald \* ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Eric Mendoza Sandoval ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Santiago Pimienta ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Blaine Harlon Pope ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Garrett Rodda \*..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Austin R. Schumacher \*\*\* ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Anastasia Schuster \*..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Britta Channah Schwengle ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Emma Nicole Shipman ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Caleb Wayne Spencer \*\*∞..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Ashleigh Brooke Stringham ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Emerie Tillmon ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Devin Tolbert..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Joseph Van Cleave ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Scott Payne Walker Jr. .... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Jolerion Lavon Webb ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Patrick Jeffrey Werve ..... Exercise and Sport Science  
 Katelynn Michelle Williams ..... Exercise and Sport Science

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Dusty Marie Adair ..... Nursing  
 Kandis Leigh Adams \*\* ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Hannah Grace Aphin ..... Nursing  
 Erika Renee Bell ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Anderil Dafne Bravo Saldivar ..... Nursing  
 Carissa N. Brost \* ..... Nursing  
 Chandler Taylor Bryant \* ..... Nursing  
 Emily Logan Cagle ..... Nursing  
 Rhiane Dawn Cannon \*..... Nursing  
 Kassidy Dianna Cartret \*..... Nursing  
 Miranda Hope Chance ..... Nursing  
 Anahi Ciriaco Sanchez \*\* ..... Nursing  
 Joan Eileen Conrad ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Rikia Mone’ Edwards ..... Nursing  
 Jordan T. Faulk ..... Nursing  
 Amanda Bowman Freeman \*\* ..... Nursing  
 Ty Kash Freeman ..... Nursing  
 Sophia Ruth Gibbs ..... Nursing  
 Rebekah Delaney Hammonds \*∞ ..... Nursing  
 Zoraida Hastings \* ..... Nursing  
 Alyssa Nicole Hester ..... Nursing  
 Kira Linzie Hoskins ..... Nursing  
 Katlyn Hunt ..... Nursing  
 Ute Jacobs \*\* ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Elvis Kariuki Kamau ..... Nursing

Trinity LeGrand ..... Nursing  
 Espadonsa Leann Locklear ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Brianna Jeanne Loehr \*\* ..... Nursing  
 Mbonisi Magonya ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Olivia L. Mellinger ..... Nursing  
 Gabriel Samonte Mistica \*..... Nursing  
 Sarah Grimes Moore \*\*\* ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Rebecca Irene Nash ..... Nursing  
 Nana-Kua Yaba Nyameazea ..... Nursing  
 Adwoa Kwartemaa Opoku Agyemang \*..... Nursing  
 Rebecca Adams Owensby ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Gabreille Nakota Oxendine ..... Nursing  
 Julia Giselle Pedroza Rojas \* ..... Nursing  
 Mina Janette Perry ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Ashley Brianna Petersen ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Dayanara Portela-Velazquez ..... Nursing  
 Andrea Pruitt ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Hunter Brock Riddle ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Donniqua Smallwood ..... Nursing  
 Jenna Haven Strickland ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Lisa Marie Vasquez ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)  
 Uche Sophia Williams \*£ ..... Nursing  
 Janai Williams ..... Nursing  
 Madison Paige Wilson \* ..... Nursing  
 Sta’Ce Worthy-Hill ..... Nursing (RN-BSN)

## Bachelor of Social Work

Jameson Michelle Allen \*\*\* ..... Social Work  
 Caitlyn C. Campbell ..... Social Work  
 Jared Russell Clanton ..... Social Work  
 Christopher Robert Diggs \*..... Social Work  
 Erin Jackson ..... Social Work  
 Emme L. Jolicoeur ..... Social Work  
 Mason Alan Locklear ..... Social Work

Breanna Latrice Marks \* ..... Social Work  
 Morgan Elizabeth Oxendine \*\*\*£ ..... Social Work  
 Adrian Taniel Oxendine \*\*\* ..... Social Work  
 Sheridan Nicole Rice \* ..... Social Work  
 Cierra Lynn Thompson \*..... Social Work  
 Faith Ann Williams ..... Social Work  
 Natalie Williams ..... Social Work

# School of Education

## Bachelor of Science

Anna Mae Armfield ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Lorena Fernanda Baker-Lloret \* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Ana Reese Blake \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Karina Bowen \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Olivia Mildred Brunson \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Maggie Elizabeth Butler ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Jamie Lynn Chadwick \*\* ..... Birth-Kindergarten  
 Ilse Chinos Carranza \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Emily Goins \*\*\*∞ ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Akira Lei Hensley ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Anna Hill ..... Birth-Kindergarten  
 Taylor Stocks Housand \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Amanda Marie Jacobs \*\*..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Kobe H. Kinlaw .....Health & Physical Education K-12  
 Haley Lauren Lassiter \* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Cassandra Nicole Lowery \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)

Madison Brooke McLean \*..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Marah D. McPhaul \*\*\* ..... Special Education  
 Jessica Jordan Morgan ..... Birth-Kindergarten  
 Riley Diane Neilson ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Arianna E. Paulhamus \*\*\* ..... Special Education  
 Abigail Grace Riddle \*\* .....Health & Physical Education K-12  
 Rebecca Noelle Sexton ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Kara Riley Simmons \* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Andrea Paige Smith \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Courtney Rose Smith ..... Birth-Kindergarten  
 Ethan Strickland .....Health & Physical Education K-12  
 Lacey Sykes ..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Jaiden Jaheim Tillman \* ..... Special Education  
 Ryan Danial Walker .....Health & Physical Education K-12  
 Aaliyah Yvonne Ward \*..... Elementary Education (K-6)  
 Melanie Paige Woodard \*\*\* ..... Elementary Education (K-6)

# Thomas College of Business and Economics

## Bachelor of Science

Veverlin Edit Aguilar Bautista.....	Business Administration	Freya Kay Lodge Whitham **.....	Business Administration
Talmadge Seth Armstrong .....	Business Administration	Irsa Lopez-Diaz .....	Business Administration
Christopher Baker * .....	Business Administration	Michael Scott Lowry Jr.....	Business Administration
Samuel Bradford Bartholomew *.....	Business Administration	Peyton Mann * .....	Business Administration
Darya Bauer .....	Business Administration	Sarah Marquez ** .....	Business Administration
Amelia Vongai Bere *.....	Business Administration	Randy Ismael Martinez .....	Business Administration
Timothy Roland Best Jr.....	Business Administration	Zvipo Mateura ** ∞ .....	Business Administration
Chassity Sontell Bethea .....	Business Administration	Aniya Lorna Mathurin .....	Business Administration
Keith Andrew Bishop ^.....	Business Administration	Dewey William Matsumoto .....	Business Administration
Angelica Andrade Blair * .....	Business Administration	James D. Maynard .....	Business Administration
Ashley Renee Blanks **.....	Business Administration	Corey V. McGee Jr. ....	Business Administration
Tristan Boone.....	Business Administration	Alicia Whitehurst Mejia .....	Accounting
Jerald Steven Brown .....	Accounting	Thomas D. Mullins .....	Business Administration
Joshua D. Bullard .....	Business Administration	Jordann Danielle Nelson .....	Business Administration
Carla Latasha Bullard ***.....	Business Administration	Russall Jae Gannon Noell ***£ .....	Accounting
Cirstin Olivia Calloway .....	Business Administration	Michael Anthony Norris .....	Business Administration
Madilyn Riley Chaulk **.....	Business Administration	Marilyn Ann-Marie Norris .....	Business Administration
Taylor Mechelle Chavis *.....	Business Administration	Samuel Novick *.....	Accounting
Chance Evan Collison *.....	Business Administration	Benjamin Seth Oxendine .....	Business Administration
Joshua Leander Cooke *.....	Business Administration	Jasmine Nicole Paschal .....	Accounting
Janisha Cooper .....	Business Administration	Jamond Jahleel Patterson .....	Business Administration
Austin Keith Damron *.....	Business Administration	Caleb Pierce .....	Business Administration
Mareta Kathleen Davidson * .....	Business Administration	Cynthia A. Popular.....	Business Administration
Christian Ryan DeFronzo .....	Business Administration	Ashley Faye Ransom .....	Business Administration
Mikuiza Diasivi .....	Accounting	Kristi Raven Richards .....	Business Administration
Parker Dixon .....	Business Administration	Rosicela J. Rodriguez .....	Business Administration
Brette Doile **.....	Accounting	Celeste Nicole Rodriguez Rosas *.....	Business Administration
Brandi Edge *.....	Business Administration	Lorenzo Castrucci Romani .....	Business Administration
Insasha Ciara Edwards .....	Business Administration	Nelysa Rosario .....	Business Administration
Eric Evans .....	Business Administration	Gena Baxley Russell .....	Business Administration
Israel Flores Segura .....	Accounting	Nicolas Salter *.....	Business Administration
Tasha Forrest *** .....	Business Administration	David T. Sampson .....	Business Administration
Quiana Sharee' Freston .....	Business Administration	Jaylen Xavier Scott .....	Business Administration
Tara Jayenne Gamble ***£.....	Business Administration	N'Khya Elizabeth Danielle Scurlock .....	Accounting
Abbygail Marie Gonzalez *.....	Business Administration	Kacey Marie Seifer ** .....	Accounting
Hanna Alexis Graham *** .....	Business Administration	Nyazia Mizani Senatus *.....	Business Administration
Rajon Isaiah Graham *.....	Business Administration	D'Andre Singletary.....	Business Administration
Mason Reese Hall ***.....	Business Administration	Cindy Singleton ** .....	Business Administration
Emma Elizabeth Herbert.....	Business Administration	Jacob Hollis Smith * .....	Business Administration
Ilyosbek Irismetov **.....	Business Administration	Tykasia Sturdivant .....	Business Administration
Christie Lynn Jackson .....	Business Administration	Desiree Chantel Swain .....	Business Administration
Shekinah Jacobs.....	Business Administration	Joshua I. Talavera *.....	Business Administration
Angie Renae Johnson *.....	Accounting	Hunter Aaron Turner .....	Business Administration
Brittany Nicole Johnson .....	Business Administration	Zhamari K. Walton .....	Business Administration
Brittany Jordan .....	Business Administration	Crissie Jane Watkins * .....	Accounting
Ronald T. King * .....	Business Administration	Christian Davis Ward*.....	Business Administration
Isaiah Mast Kirby **.....	Business Administration	Charles Terrell Welch .....	Business Administration
Asia Marie Knight .....	Business Administration	Trenton Zachary Welch .....	Business Administration
Charlene Lee .....	Business Administration	Aisha Eshe Williams .....	Business Administration
Justice Bradly Cage Locklear .....	Business Administration	Joshua Byron Williams.....	Business Administration
Matthew T. Locklear .....	Business Administration	William Aidan Winstead .....	Business Administration

The Commencement program must be printed before final grades for the semester are completely processed. Therefore, the names and recognitions listed in the program are subject to modification. UNCP has taken great care to ensure that no errors exist in this program.

*Any errors that may exist are unintentional, and we apologize for them.*

**A reception will immediately follow the ceremony in tents near the water feature.**



In addition to maintaining a high cumulative grade-point average, those who qualify for academic honors must:

- (1) have earned a minimum of 45 semester hours in residence at the beginning of the last semester, and
- (2) meet or exceed the stated grade-point average for the honor on all coursework attempted.

Students meeting these qualifications are recognized at commencement.

The final assessment is completed after graduation, and honors are pending for all students until it is completed. Undergraduates who meet these conditions and achieve a grade-point average of 3.40 will be graduated cum laude; those with a grade-point average of 3.70 will be graduated magna cum laude; and those with a grade-point average of 3.85 or higher will be graduated summa cum laude.

### Academic Honors recipients are indicated as follows:

Cum Laude \*  
Magna Cum Laude \*\*  
Summa Cum Laude \*\*\*

### Additional undergraduate recognitions are indicated as follows:

Alpha Chi National Honor Society £  
ASC Certification €  
Commissioned Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army ^  
Esther G. Maynor Honors College ∞  
NIH-funded Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program ~  
UNCP & NCSU Dual Degree +  
NSF-funded COMPASS2 Scholarship §

# Comments on Commencement

Welcome to Commencement exercises for University of North Carolina Pembroke.

- To ensure that our graduates have the best experience, please turn off or place on mute all cell phones and electronic devices.
- “Americana” Honor Cords are keepsake red, white and blue cords worn by students who have served or plan to serve in the military.
- Interpreters for today’s ceremony are provided by All American Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.
- Dr. Jonathan Drahos, professor and director of theatre, is announcing the names of the candidates for graduation.
- Lumbee Tribe flutist John Oxendine is leading the platform party, accompanied by Lumbee Ambassadors: Miss Lumbee Taylor Davis, Teen Miss Lumbee Keely Deal, Junior Miss Lumbee Kyndall Locklear, Little Miss Lumbee Jady Grace Herndon.
- To access the Commencement ceremony livestream with captions on a personal device, go online to [uncp.edu/live](https://uncp.edu/live).

## UNC Pembroke Land Acknowledgment

North Carolina is home to eight federally or state-recognized tribes: Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony and Waccamaw Siouan.

The University of North Carolina Pembroke respectfully acknowledges that the lands within and surrounding present-day Robeson County are the traditional homelands and gathering places of many Indigenous peoples — notably the Lumbee.

We share an ongoing responsibility to safeguard these lands and to respect the sovereignty of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. UNC Pembroke honors all Indigenous elders — past, present and emerging — who have been and remain an integral part of the history and culture of this region.

# Commencement Traditions

The academic regalia seen in today’s Commencement signify the scholarly pursuits and academic achievements of the people wearing them. Originally designed to keep monks and clerics warm in cold medieval monasteries, the heavy gowns, hoods and oddly shaped caps eventually became the attire of scholars.

Those who have earned doctorates wear gowns ornamented with narrow velvet panels down the front and large, silk-lined hoods worn down the back. The voluminous, bell-shaped sleeves have horizontal bars in colored velvet that indicate the doctor’s field of study. A doctor’s cap may be a square mortarboard, a tam or a beret.

A master’s gown is black and includes a hood trimmed in velvet, the color indicating the area of study. The large, oblong sleeves are cut with an arc in the front and squared in the back. A master wears a square mortarboard. The bachelor wears a simple gown with long, pointed sleeves and a square mortarboard.

## The colors that signify fields of study include:

Arts, Letters and Humanities .....	White
Commerce, Accountancy and Business .....	Drab
Economics .....	Copper
Education .....	Light Blue
Fine Arts .....	Brown
Music.....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Philosophy .....	Dark Blue
Physical Education .....	Sage Green
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science.....	Golden Yellow
Social Work.....	Citron

## Brief History of Commencement at University of North Carolina Pembroke

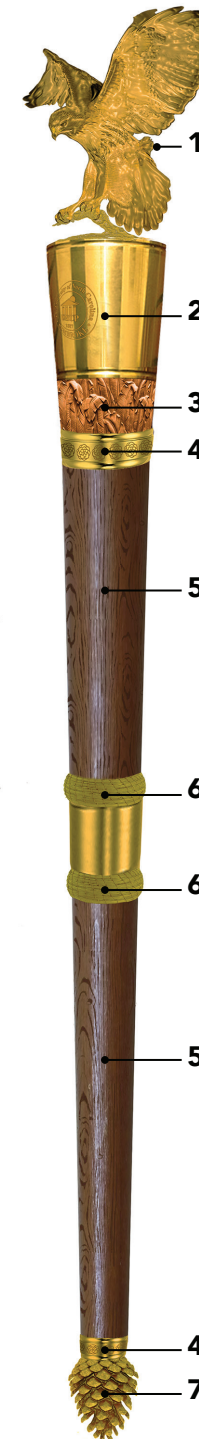
During the early years of the institution, Commencement spanned four or more days and was a huge campus and community event. The celebration typically included a baccalaureate ceremony; declamation, recitation and oratorical contests led by student literary societies; award presentations; a baseball game; student drama productions; and separate graduation ceremonies for the high school and normal/college graduates.

Notable events in the history of Commencement at UNC Pembroke include:

- 1905: Rev. D.F. Lowry, the school's first graduate and namesake of the D.F. Lowry Building.
- 1909: The last Commencement exercises took place at the original campus at Pates.
- 1912: John A.B. Lowry, the first high school graduate and second graduate from the institution.
- 1914: Winnie Lee Bell Jenkins and Ruth Sampson Locklear received high school diplomas; they were the first females, and third and fourth graduates of the school.
- 1923: Commencement took place in Old Main for the first time.
- 1928: The first two-year normal (teaching) class graduated with 10 students.
- 1935: The first two-year junior college class graduated with four students.
- 1938: The first three-year normal and college class graduated with 12 students.
- 1940: The first four-year baccalaureate degrees were awarded to six students: Inez Hunt Bell, Eteska Locklear Hunt, Dorsey Lowry, Charles W. Maynor, Conrad Oxendine and Joseph Sampson. Maynor is recognized as the first four-year graduate because he finished his degree requirements one semester early.
- 1944: First Bachelor of Science degrees awarded.
- 1954: Faculty members Ira Pate Lowry '29 and his wife, Reba M. Lowry, wrote the melody and lyrics to "Hail to PSC," the university's alma mater; the song was renamed "Hail to UNCP" to reflect the university's name change in 1996. Lowry Bell Tower is named in their honor. The first white graduate, Rev. Christian White.
- 1966-71: Summer Commencements held.
- 1969: The first African American graduate, Sylvia Baugham Banks.
- 1979: The first master's degree, a Master of Arts in Education, was awarded to 57 students.
- 1981: The university awarded its first honorary doctorate to Dr. English E. Jones, a former chancellor.
- 1987: Graduates wore gold tassels to commemorate the school's Centennial Celebration.
- 1999: The first winter Commencement took place; the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching recipient has since served as the winter Commencement speaker.
- 2011: In May, a separate Commencement exercise was established for the School of Graduate Studies; Commencement returned to the Quad next to historic Old Main.
- 2012: In May, the tassel color was permanently changed to gold as part of the 125th anniversary celebration. Graduates also wore special zipper pulls during the spring and winter ceremonies to commemorate their graduation in the school's 125th year.
- 2013: In May, graduates wore commemorative 125th anniversary zipper pulls. Commencement marked the conclusion of the university's 125th anniversary celebration.
- 2017: The new university mace — featuring the red-tailed hawk — was used for the first time in academic ceremony.
- 2025: The first doctoral degree, a Doctor of Nursing Practice, was awarded to eight students.
- 2025: The Graduate School was named the William Howard Dean Graduate School.

## THE UNIVERSITY MACE

The ceremonial mace, a symbol of university scholarship and integrity since the 11th century, is used to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonial occasions, signifying the importance of the event and the conformation of the academic process.



Drawing by Carla Rokes, chair of the Mace Committee

The University of North Carolina Pembroke has a rich history unlike any other institution of higher education. As it celebrated 130 years of service, the university commissioned a new ceremonial mace befitting the distinctiveness and importance of UNC Pembroke. Showcasing the work of local artists, the mace celebrates the university's heritage, mission and sense of place, including its indelible ties to the Lumbee people and southeastern North Carolina.

From the pinecone footer to the 24-karat-gold red-tailed hawk perched atop the staff constructed of local wood, every inch of the mace tells the UNC Pembroke story. Seven pinecone patchwork designs represent the institution's seven founding fathers, visionaries who championed the power and importance of education. Creation of the mace was made possible thanks to generous support from descendants of the founding fathers.

The three parts of the mace — foot, staff and head — represent the three phases of the institution's evolution from a normal school (1887-1941) into a college (1941-1969) and then a regional, comprehensive university (since 1969). While not in use during academic ceremonies, the mace is publicly displayed to honor our trailblazing institution.

### 1 RED-TAILED HAWK

The red-tailed hawk, plated in 24-karat gold, is UNC Pembroke's mascot and is indigenous to the region. The hawk's dual position — taking flight or landing — symbolizes the university's efforts to position students to be successful graduates, taking flight to soar into the future. The landing hawk symbolizes alumni who return home to reconnect with their alma mater.

### 2 UNCP SEAL

The UNCP Seal offers a representation of the columns in front of Old Main with a rising sun coming from the top right. Old Main is the institution's oldest and most iconic structure.

### 3 TOBACCO LEAVES

Tobacco is an herb sacred to American Indians that is used during ceremonies. It was also grown widely in the region by farmers from the 18th to 20th centuries. The color of cured tobacco reflects the university's color of gold.

### 4 PINECONE PATCHWORK

The Pinecone Patchwork derives its name from the longleaf pinecone. The seven patterned pinecones that surround the mace represent UNC Pembroke's seven founders: Isaac Brayboy, James E. Dial Sr., Preston Locklear, W.L. Moore, James Oxendine, John J. Oxendine and Olin Oxendine. Their names are cast on the head of the mace.

### 5 STAFF

Wood used to make the UNCP mace's staff was sourced from the Lumber River Basin. According to poet John Charles McNeill (1874-1907), the Indian name of Lumbee was originally used for the river, from an Indian word that means "black water."

### 6 PINE NEEDLE BASKET WEAVE

Needles from the pine tree are used by the Lumbee to construct baskets used for carrying and storing items.

### 7 PINECONE

One of the Lumbee Tribe's significant symbols is the pinecone. The pine tree, found throughout the region, was once the most populous tree on campus.

# Alumni Association

## Executive Board of Directors

Kendall Oxendine '03, President  
Dr. Robin Simmons '72, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Alicia Chavis '17, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Dr. Kelsey Cummings '10, '14, '17, Secretary/Treasurer

## Board Members

Kara Atkins '16	Anthony Locklear '89
Lauren Baskett '05	Chris Lowery '13
Dr. Shelli Brewington '99	Daryl Miller '00
Rodney Jackson '87, '06, '09	Joe Osman '93
Jason King '08	Kristi Strickland '12
Dr. Amber Locklear	Christy Strickland Theodorou '05

## Alumni Association Involvement

The UNC Pembroke Alumni Association invites and encourages all alumni to get involved in the life of the university. Support campus events with your presence. Support educational programs with your monetary gift. Support marketing and recruitment efforts by talking with friends, neighbors, co-workers and family about the great educational opportunities at UNCP. Support students by becoming a mentor.

Young or old, alumni can give back to their alma mater and ensure the quality of excellence students have come to expect. If you are a recent graduate and not yet financially secure, you can channel your energy and become involved in a network effort. If you are at the height of your career, you can become a mentor and/or make a financial contribution. If you are retired, you can donate your time through a number of opportunities.

For more information on how to get involved, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs by calling 910.521.6333 or emailing [alumni@uncp.edu](mailto:alumni@uncp.edu).

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