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Feature Section, pages 20 – 26
“Hail to UNCP,” the amazing story of this university’s 125-year history, is now available. It is a must-have for UNCP alumni and friends. As the university moves into the future, it is important to remember that success was never guaranteed; it was won.

The Shane Richardson era of Braves football begins! On the coaching staff for seven years, new head coach Richardson is well prepared for the job. The Braves have five home games, so come on out and see some outstanding football.

Things never stay the same, as our feature section details. There are challenges ahead, and the university is responding in critical ways. What readers will find is a spirited university that continues to provide life-changing opportunities for its students.

Enterprising, creative and engaging. These are important elements to the university’s future success. The Office of Advancement, which just wrapped up a successful year, is creating opportunities for student success through scholarships and opportunities for engagement for alumni and friends.

A new report ranks UNCP as one of the most successful universities in the nation for changing the lives of its graduates. But you would already know about our successful alumni if you have been reading the Class Notes in UNCP Today!

On the Cover: In the New Normal special section, Scott Bigelow captures the momentum the university continues to gain in its service to students despite budget cuts, changing demographics and shifting priorities. The stories illustrate how we are making the most of the resources we have through creativity, strategic planning and teamwork.

UNCP Today magazine is published twice a year 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. 23,500 copies of this document were printed at a cost of $0.61 each.

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I am pleased to introduce to you this issue of UNCP Today magazine. These pages are filled with exciting news and images—from current research underway at the university and new building dedications, to award-winning students and a movie premiere. Plus, this issue offers a glance into the future.

UNC Pembroke values and promotes scholarship among its faculty, and the faculty have responded with exciting research in the sciences and the humanities. We will introduce you to biology professor Dr. John Roe, whose cutting-edge research on turtle migration has earned him international notice. Alongside Dr. Roe are several colleagues who have published books on economics, the Civil War, and international business affairs. You will also meet Dr. Weston Cook, UNCP’s winner of the 2014 Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award.

Student success stories abound in this issue, too. With profiles of several award-winning Braves, including champion wrestler Daniel Ownbey and Daniel Bougt and Lewis Adams, the duo who took top prize at the UNC System’s Social Entrepreneurship Conference, this issue shows how UNCP students achieve excellence inside and outside the classroom.

The landscape of UNCP is changing with the addition of Pine Cottage to our footprint, and renovations to both the Chavis Center and the Jones Center. We’ve seen changes in personnel as well; you’ll meet our new head coach, Shane Richardson, as he prepares to continue the winning tradition of Braves football during their 2014-15 campaign.

Every year, this university’s graduates venture out into an uncertain future. This issue of UNCP Today considers what tomorrow will bring not only to our class of 2014, but also to current UNCP students who are the scientists and researchers of the future. We will explore the university’s rich athletic traditions, notable athletic achievements, players and coaches, and why the school was once heralded as the “Campus of Champions.”

The story of this university is one of the most compelling and unique in higher education. University historian Lawrence T. Locklear has written the book on it, and it is good as advertised.

Several years in the making, “Hail to UNCP: A 125-Year History of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke,” is a 375-page volume with 120 photos, illustrations and maps. It is available for purchase from the UNCP Bookstore for $25—either in-store or online. E-book versions are available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com for $9.99.

The book updates and expands on the university’s centennial history, “Pembroke State University: A Centennial History” (1986, 110 pages), written by Dr. David K. Eliades (1938-2007) and Dr. Linda E. Oxendine, who are cited as co-authors of the new edition. Locklear and Oxendine collaborated to deliver far more than the last 25 years of history, as new sources and technology made new information available.

The new edition weaves additional details into the period between 1887 and 1985 while including important developments from 1985 to the conclusion of the university’s 125th anniversary celebration in May 2013. “Hail to UNCP!” is a story of struggle, resilience, adaptation, progressive leadership and a community with an unwavering dedication to the ideal of education and their school.

CHANCELLOR’S WELCOME

Sincerely,

Chancellor Kyle R. Carter
A green space is dedicated on Earth Day

A green space is dedicated on Earth Day

Under a bright Earth Day sun, the university cut the ribbon on a six-acre addition to campus that is dedicated to creativity and imagination.

Pine Cottage, as the site is known, has already inspired a Campus Garden, disc-golf course and a small conference center. Insulated by woods, there is ample open space for gardens and orchards. Pine trees tower over azalea and daylily gardens.

From the moment he saw the property, Chancellor Carter said he imagined great things for it. “I felt like it was a special place from the first time I walked the property,” he said. “We can only imagine how it will be used in the future. It’s a beautiful place.”

The university acquired the property in 2013 from a local family, who were represented at the dedication by Mary Lou Lowry and her son, Heyward. “I was seven when my father, Hughes Dulin Lowry, and I planted these pine trees,” Heyward said. “This was part of a farm that’s been in our family since the 1800s.”

The two-story house was built by Dulin and Mary Lou Lowry, who raised their family there. “I lived it here,” Mary Lou said. “I am sure you all will love it too.”

Heyward Lowry noted that the university’s plans for the property reminded him of its past when gardens, grapevines and orchards flourished. Chancellor Carter said that Earth Day was an appropriate moment to dedicate the property. He seized the moment to sign the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment.

The university’s new sustainability director Jay Blauser said the agreement makes carbon neutrality a campus-wide priority. UNCP will “get serious” about its carbon footprint and make progress reports online, he said.

Produce and compost from the Campus Garden will help reduce the university’s carbon footprint. Dr. Deborah Hanmer, coordinator of UNCP’s Sustainable Agriculture Program, said the garden “will be the work of many people — students, faculty and staff.”

“We invite the campus to participate in an environmentally conscious model of agriculture that mirrors nature,” Dr. Hanmer said. “The campus garden will be a place for hands-on learning, research, workshops for the campus and community and a place to grow food for the campus and to address the issue of hunger.”

The Campus Garden held its first spring planting in early May. By June, the vegetables were flourishing and the orchards taking root. The grape vines were pruned and ready to produce another crop this fall.

Earth Day at UNCP was packed with booths, displays and new ideas. Car-sharing company Zipcar announced plans to rent cars on campus by the hour. Sodexo announced the purchase of a new “biogester,” which turns food waste into energy. There was locally-made ice cream too.

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The new office, staff and facilities represent wonderful opportunities for our programs and, more importantly, for our students,” Winans said before the ribbon was cut.

A new intramural field will come online next fall, Chancellor Carter said. Dr. Carter said the field would give greater visibility and accessibility to intramural sports.

“What I learned is that the intramurals were being played mostly off campus in several locations,” Chancellor Carter said. “We clearly needed more playing fields and staff.

“We need to put recreation on campus where it will be more visible and accessible for students,” he said. “Our goal is a more robust student experience to facilitate student success. Recreation and fitness are an integral part of campus life.”

“Health and wellness and adventure will be a growing part of our program,” Winans said.
The Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (COMPASS), provides $6,000 in annual scholarships for three, nine-student cohorts, who will join the program in their second year of study in biology, chemistry, environmental science or biochemistry. The COMPASS scholars will also receive additional resources, in the form of tutoring, mentoring and career counseling, to ensure their success. Chancellor Carter called the NSF grant a perfect match for several important institutional goals, including financial support for students and promotion of study in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

“I am so pleased that Dr. Santisteban and her team were successful in winning this grant,” Chancellor Carter said. “In addition to promoting the study of science and technology, this grant enhances UNC Pembroke’s ability to provide student support through resources—both academic and financial. These students will turn this extra support into careers in STEM disciplines.”

The grant will help the university recruit and retain outstanding students, said Dr. Ken Kinn, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. “UNC-P is on the rise in every way, and this award will serve to underscore our growing strength as a center of excellence for students interested in the sciences,” he said.

Grant co-author and COMPASS Program director Dr. Maria Santisteban said the grant provides what many UNCP students need to succeed.

“A lot of work went into the grant application; this is very exciting news,” Dr. Santisteban said. “This program will really make a difference for these students. Our goal is to graduate every COMPASS scholar on time.”

Students, STEM programs to benefit from new grant

If new grant program shines a light on the university’s pursuit of external funding and its focus on student success in the sciences. Chancellor Carter was notified this spring that the university will receive a five-year, $618,993 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide scholarships for promising science students.

The program, titled Creating Opportunities for Students in Science (COMPASS), provides $6,000 in annual scholarships for three, nine-student cohorts, who will join the program in their second year of study in biology, chemistry, environmental science or biochemistry. The COMPASS scholars will also receive additional resources, in the form of tutoring, mentoring and career counseling, to ensure their success.

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Dr. Roa, a biologist professor and reptile expert, is the lead author of the satellite-tracking study that began more than two decades ago and included 35 scientists from leading universities and institutions. It was released online in January by The Proceedings of the Royal Society B (Biological Sciences) of London and was published in print form in February.

The study tracked 135 turtles as they trekked across the Pacific Ocean. The leatherback population has declined by 90 percent since 1980 due in large part to longline fishing vessels hauling them in as by-catch. Using GPS to map the travels of the world’s largest ocean-going turtle, it may be possible to knock them from the multi-billion dollar fishing industry, Dr. Roa said.

“The high profile of this paper helps the turtle’s cause; it’s a huge industrial issue,” Dr. Roa said. “It’s an important study, and many conservation groups are behind it.”

“Leatherbacks travel thousands of miles to and from nesting sites, and this movement is predictable,” Dr. Roa explained. “They follow jellyfish, their food source, and the fishermen follow similar patterns.” It’s difficult to get data from the industry on leatherbacks hooked on longlines, but fishermen do not intentionally catch the large turtles, which can damage their equipment.

The study, which began in 1992 and ran through 2005, is a remarkable cooperative effort among many groups who tag turtles, Dr. Roa said. “Knowing that many people are putting satellite transmitters on turtles, we were able to collaborate with them to get a better picture of what’s going on in the ocean.”

Universities participating in the ongoing research are UNCP, Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne, Cornell, Duke, Stanford, Maryland and Drexel. Institute participants were NOAA and the Leatherback Turtle Conservation Trust, funding came from the least Oceans Program of the Pew Charitable Trust, the tagging of Pacific Palagics Program, Drexel’s Bess Endowment and the Schroy Endowments of Indiana-Purdue.

Several leading international turtle scientists were co-authors, including the study’s senior scientist, James Spotila of Drexel, Stephen Moreau of Cornell, and Frank Paladino of Indiana-Purdue, who is Dr. Roa’s mentor. The UNCP reptile expert explained his involvement.

“I was able to maintain a relationship with the group from my time as a post-doctoral fellow,” he said. “I pushed the study forward and crunched the numbers.”

As lead author, Dr. Roa is also the spokesman for the paper; and interest in the study has been high. BBC News, the Charlotte Observer and the Raleigh News and Observer reported on it. Dr. Roa did radio interviews with public radio stations in Philadelphia and New England. Dr. Roa said acquiring more data would narrow the field of collisions between turtles and fishing vessels. A related study of leatherbacks in the Atlantic will be published online in the coming months.

“Turtles and whales are in the spotlight globally,” Dr. Roa said. “There has been success in some areas like shrimping on the east coast of the Atlantic where turtle excluder devices have been incorporated in nets. But leatherback’s have no coastal turtles and remain in deep water which makes regulation more difficult.”
Dr. Jack Spillan: Professor explains ‘doing business in Latin America’

Dr. John (Jack) E. Spillan spent three arduous years writing “Doing Business in Latin America: Challenges and Opportunities” (Routledge, April 2014; 312 pages), but he has spent much of his adult life traveling, working, studying and teaching in Latin America.

Dr. Spillan teaches international business and is associate dean of the faculty for the School of Business. He is the book’s lead author with co-authors Nicholas Virzi, senior vice president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala and Mauricio Garita, an international economist at the Universidad Rafael Landivar and senior vice president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala.

The authors seek to incorporate both academic and business perspectives into the prospects for business enterprise in Latin American. As such, the book has appeal to both scholars and practitioners, Dr. Spillan said.

“This is the big picture of Latin America,” he explained. “For a long time, Latin American governments turned over opportunities. class has opened new markets, and new economic stability and a growing middle class has opened new markets, and new opportunities. A new era of political and American governments turned over the prospects for business enterprise in Latin America.

The second edition also got a new name. The publisher agreed with the authors that “Vanishing Boundaries” was a more appropriate title. The Crandalls also co-authored a textbook “Principles of Supply Chain Management,” published in 2009. They are currently in the final phases of completing the 2nd edition on that book. Like the title of their new book, the father and son are a merger of different business backgrounds.

Historian Jaime Martinez takes a fresh look at the ‘lost cause’

In her new book “Confederate Slave Impression in the Upper South,” Dr. Jaime Amanda Martinez re-examines one of the most dearly held beliefs about the Civil War. In 248 pages, Dr. Martinez looks at the nature of Confederate government through the unpopular practice of taking slaves from plantations in Virginia and North Carolina to build defensive fortifications. “Confederate Slave Impression” was published in December 2013 by UINCS Press and is part of its Civil War America series.

Like scholars of my generation, I was raised on the idea that the Confederacy ‘died of a theory’ – that theory being secession,” Dr. Martinez said. “Eventually, the South realized that an intrusive government was the key to winning the war. I kept reading that impression didn’t work at all, but I also kept reading complaints from slave owners that impression was interfering with work in the fields.”

Impression to build Fort Fisher had consequences for Robeson County too, she noted. Lumbee Indians of Robeson County unwillingly contributed labor at Fort Fisher.

“All of the Southern states allowed impression of free people of color, and North Carolina allowed for the substitution of free blacks and Indians to meet any requisition for slaves. Militias had goals and this put Indians and free slaves in the line of fire.”

Dr. Martinez, who joined the faculty in 2008, is pleased with the result of her work. Being published by the UNC Press Civil War series during the 150th anniversary of the war is also gratifying. Early reviews have been positive.

Crandalls author 2nd edition of book on business trends

In the second edition of their book, Dr. William “Rick” Crandall and his father, Dr. Richard E. Crandall, present new case studies to support their thesis of the growing fusion of business strategies between global manufacturing and service industries.

“Vanishing Boundaries: How Integrating Manufacturing and Services Creates Customer Value,” was published in late 2013 by CRC Press. Rick Crandall teaches in the School of Business at UNCP. His father, Dr. Richard Crandall, teaches in the Walker College of Business at Appalachian State University.

“Vanishing Boundaries” is an in-depth technical analysis of how two types of business entities — service and manufacturing — are looking more and more alike, said Rick Crandall. The UNCP professor calls it “product and service cohesion.”

“We were very pleased that our publishers asked for a second edition,” Dr. Crandall said. “We have included new case studies on GE, Hewlett Packard, Amazon and UPS, and incorporated new trends in global business.


dr. weston f. cook picked for teaching excellence award

Dr. Weston F. Cook is a dynamic teacher with a passion for history; his students and his university. For these reasons, the Board of Governors of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system has selected Dr. Cook to receive its 2014 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The Board of Governors selects one tenured faculty member on each UNC campus for the award, which was established to underscore the importance of teaching. The award was presented at undergraduate commencement.

Dr. Kenneth Kitts, provost and vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, said the university community is “very proud” to have Dr. Cook represent UNCP as the 2014 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award.

“Dr. Cook’s impact on this university spreads far and wide,” Dr. Kitts said. “When he’s not in the classroom sharing his knowledge and love of history with students, he’s often talking about teaching with colleagues, and they frequently quote him.”

Over the course of his 20-year career in the History Department, the Middle East scholar has continued to captivate students and colleagues alike with his dynamic, compelling teaching style while enlightening them about the histories of the Ottoman Empire, India, Iran, Africa, Medieval Europe, Islamic civilizations and the pre-modern and modern Middle East.

In the classroom, Dr. Cook’s intention is to give students “a sense that what happens in the world really matters to us,” he said. “That is just one of the gifts of history – it illuminates.”

“To put the flesh on the bones” of the past, Dr. Cook incorporates a variety of methods, including extensive reading, map work, and critical interrogation of concepts and texts during classroom discussions. In all his courses, Dr. Cook demands that students “develop analytical capabilities that are critical [to become] informed world citizens.”

He supports his students’ progress at every step in their development, which is evident in the generous office hours he maintains for students.

“I am willing to tutor, mentor, advise or help in any way I can, but you have to come see me,” he said. “We do a tremendous amount of work in terms of retention and advising to help students succeed.”

Like many of Pembroke’s students, Dr. Cook was a first generation college student. He joined the ROTC at the University of New Hampshire as an undergraduate while the U.S. was in the early stages of the Vietnam War.

“Dr. Cook went on active duty, eventually joining Defense Intelligence where he engaged in counterintelligence,” Dr. Crandall said. “He learned Arabic and was stationed in Morocco, where he spent time in libraries that contributed to his doctoral dissertation and later his book, “The Hundred Year War for Morocco: Gunpowder and the Military Revolution in the Early Modern Muslim World.”

A Ph.D. from Georgetown University in Middle East/Islamic history in 1989 was followed by a stint teaching at the United States Military Academy (West Point). In 1992, Dr. Cook retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel with 21 years of service. He accepted an appointment at UNCP in 1994 and is a full professor.

“This is a wonderful department, and I love my colleagues,” he says. “I love being in Pembroke, and it’s wonderful to have a reward like this.”
One of Dr. Cosentino’s goals is to have a presence at Purnell Swett High School. Purnell Swett principal Antonio Wilkins wanted more internships for his students to learn valuable career skills. The partnership is working. “An internship is a great thing to have on a student’s resume,” Dr. Cosentino said. Campus tours, lunch in the food court, t-shirts, UNCP portfolio and free Starbucks have the flavor of recruitment. “Yes, we want more kids to go to school here, and we want them to choose careers in executive level management in my area. “It’s a win-win-win because interns are a valuable asset for us too,” he said. “At the end of their day here, they take with them two applications, one for an internship and one for admissions.”

The students who participated were a diverse group, said Purnell Swett guidance counselor Roxanne Flanagan. “Some of our students already have exposure to the university, but some do not. Some are interested in business careers. “I told them they would hear from some of the top people on campus,” Flanagan said. “They jumped at the chance to come.”

Many university department heads participate in the program. Jenna Freeman has built a relationship with the school, its counselors and students. She is managing the day-to-day operations. Aubrey Swett, director of UNCP’s Office of Community and Civic Engagement, made the initial contacts. “This program had success written all over it from the start,” Swett said. “For me, it’s unique to build a community outreach program that does not involve the university’s students or faculty. It harnesses some of the university’s other assets to do good work.”

For Dr. Cosentino, it’s work in progress. “We’ll look at expanding the program in the future,” Dr. Cosentino said. “It’s going well.”

As top leaders from across the UNC system looked on, Daniel Bougt and Lewis Adams raised UNCP’s flag in victory. The graduate students won top honors in the 2nd UNCP Social Entrepreneurship Conference. MBA candidates and student-athletes, Bougt and Adams bested 13 teams from 10 UNC graduate programs and walked away with a $5,000 prize. The pair submitted a business plan and made two oral presentations that would establish a retail outlet for STARworks NC, a non-profit center for creative enterprise in Montgomery County.

MBA program director Nick Arena was the project advisor. He said Bougt and Adams are outstanding students who worked diligently to produce a comprehensive plan. Arena advised both graduate teams, and Drs. Howard Ling and Rebecca Gonzalez advised the undergraduate teams.

Bougt and Adams agreed that the pressure was intense in the finals. “We only had about 10 minutes between the announcement of the finalists and the presentations,” Bougt said. “We had a lot of practice with the other UNCP teams and input from many faculty members. We were happy with our performance.”

Five of the participants are (or were) student-athletes and five are international students. Bougt, who is from Stockholm, Sweden, played soccer at UNCP and Lewis, a Lilesville, NC, native, played on the golf team. Both student-athletes entered the MBA program with athletic eligibility remaining.

“I got my U.S. driver’s license just so I could go visit STARworks,” Bougt said. “It is an awesome place, and I think that helped with the judges. We told the judges that there is some really beautiful artwork that needed to be seen.”

The students’ performance made Chancellor Carter proud. “It’s really nice to be able to prove our capability among our colleagues and peers in the UNC system,” he said. “It’s even more special that our graduate students won.”

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Newest Farm Bureau Scholar is at home in the lab

As Walter Patterson talks, he can barely contain his enthusiasm for his work. The first-year student is having a great year in the lab.

Patterson is spending a lot of time in the lab, which is why he chose UNCP instead of a much larger research university. The university’s 2013-14 Farm Bureau Scholar is in hot pursuit of a career in research.

“I got excited here,” he said. “This is the most awesome job in the world. I get to work with a bio-reactor that costs more than my car.

“I came to UNCP because there was a guarantee that I could get into a lab as a freshman,” Patterson said. “My first (scientific) paper is under review for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and I am working on three more.”

Patterson’s talent in research was recognized as a high school senior when he was the overall winner in the 2013 Region IV Science Fair. Dr. Len Holmes, a veteran professor and director of the Biotechnology Research and Training Center at COMtech, said “Walter is a creative young man, and has integrated well into the research climate of this laboratory. The Farm Bureau should be very proud of the difference their support has made on the education of this student.”

Patterson enjoys the science and describes himself as “the kind of person who is never satisfied.” He says he feels like a research student and is already thinking about his future in graduate school.

UNCP TODAY 12 SUMMER 2014

IMPACT AWARD winner Evan Long started a campus food pantry

“I love engaging builds strong students and communities, Evan Long is a man of steel. In his final year at UNCP, Long started a campus food pantry.

For his good works, the senior from Lincolnton, NC, was named the university’s 2013-14 Community Impact Award winner. It is the university’s highest honor for campus and community engagement.

The first business major to win the award, Long said his volunteer work has enriched his college experience and developed his leadership and business skills. It started in the university’s Leadership Living-Learning Community. There, he met people like Christie Poteet, director of service-learning at UNCP.

“I saw the passion she has for community service,” Long said. “I got excited here,” he said. “I hope to earn a Ph.D. and do this for the rest of my life. He is certainly off to a running start.

UNCP TODAY 13 SUMMER 2014

Alumni Association names its first Senior Outstanding Award winner

Hundreds of seniors crossed the stage in May, each with accumulated knowledge and experiences to propel them into the next adventure in their lives. One of many standouts, Kayla Seedig of St. Pauls, NC, was selected by the Alumni Association to receive its first Outstanding Senior Award. As an artist, Kayla has already made a name for herself through juried exhibitions.

Seedig has seized the opportunities given her at UNCP. A printmaker, she will take her UNCP credentials to the University of North Texas, where she has been accepted into a Master of Fine Arts program.

“Seedig’s resume is outstanding. Her work has been juried in exhibitions on campus and in Wilmington and Fayetteville. One of her prints was selected for the cover of the 2014 edition of The Aurochs, the student literary journal.

For three years, Seedig displayed her work in the Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity (PURC) Symposium. This year, she won the top prize in the art division. She was also awarded several PURC scholarships and travel grants.
The much-anticipated premiere of the documentary film “Voices of the Lumbee” was staged in a carnival-like atmosphere on the opening night of the second annual Lumbee River Independent Film Festival.

The Givens Performing Arts Center sported live music from local indie band Dark Water Rising, a photo booth, balloons, popcorn, raffles, and memorabilia for sale. The film festival is student sponsored and lasted long into the night during its two-night run. Attendance on the first night topped 700.

“Voices of the Lumbee” is an hour-long oral history of Robeson County’s Lumbee Indians’ experiences in the post-World War II economy as it transitioned from farm to factory and then to the service economy. Bonds were forged between students and elders and stereotypes shattered, she said.

The project was nearly three years in the making, and approximately 100 students worked on recording interviews, conducting research, and completing various aspects of production and editing with producers Dr. Michele Fazio of the Department of Mass Communication and Dr. Jason Hutchens of the Department of English, Theatre, and Foreign Languages and Dr. Jason Hutchens of the Department of Mass Communication.

In his introduction, Chancellor Carter sensed the electricity in the crowd. “We’re in for a real treat tonight,” he said. “There is a wonderful story that retains its strength and resilience.”

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The baseball team reached its program benchmark once again, as the club registered 30-0-more wins for the 10th straight season on route to finishing the 2014 campaign with a 33-18 record, including a 17-13 clip in the Peach Belt. As always, the Braves got off to a hot start by registering an 11-3 mark in the month of February to climb to No. 14 in the national rankings. The season resulted in a pair of all-American honors for the Braves, including a first team honor for second baseman Daniel Fraga. Third baseman Jordan Edgerton, who also earned all-America honors for the Braves, is a ninth-round selection of the Atlanta Braves in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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Owenbey wins national championship; team finishes 11th

Shane Richardson Promoted to Head Football Coach

In February, Chancellor Carter Carter announced that Shane Richardson will be the university’s second head football coach. The university conducted a national search to replace head coach Pete Shinnick, who started UNCP’s highly successful football program in 2007 with Richardson at his side. As defensive coordinator, Richardson consistently coached outstanding defensive sides and was a top recruiter. He was introduced at a press conference inside the Catlin Fieldhouse. It is his first collegiate head-coaching job, but he is well prepared.

“Shane is the total package, and we are so excited to keep him and Janina in the UNC Pembroke family,” said Director of Athletics Dick Christy. “His dedication to developing our students on and off the field is awe-inspiring, and he has the organizational skills and tenacity to be a tremendous leader of men. His desire to win and build a program grounded in integrity is evident with the way he prepares and carries himself on a daily basis.”

Under Richardson, the Braves ranked among the nation’s top 10 teams in total defense four times and among the nation’s top 100 in the nation’s top scoring defense (11.2 points/game), the Braves also ranked second in total defense (226.6 yards/game), fourth in rushing defense (71.6 yards/game) and fourth in sacks per game (4.0). Richardson coached three all-Americans in seven seasons.

“Being named and honored to be standing here today as the next head football coach at UNC Pembroke,” Richardson said, “I am humbled and honored to be standing here today as the next head football coach at UNC Pembroke." He thanked his father, who had always instilled the importance of giving back, and his mother, who had always been a part of this. Two groups that deserve special recognition throughout this process are our players and our assistant coaches. They have not wavered through these last three weeks.”

Wiley and Dianne Barrett establish a basketball scholarship

Dr. Wiley Barrett and his wife, Dianne, have agreed to endow a scholarship in the amount of $25,000 for a male or female basketball player. Barrett is chair of the university’s Board of Trustees.

“I was fortunate to have been able to attend UNC Pembroke and play basketball," Dr. Barrett said. "This is my expression of appreciation for that opportunity. The scholarship will help another young person further their education and reach their educational goals while playing basketball at UNC Pembroke.”

The scholarship will go to students who demonstrate their commitment and dedication to getting an education and improving their future. The award is renewable, provided the student reapplies and maintains qualified status.

A Southern Pines, NC, resident, Barrett is a retired educator, and former chair of the Moore County School Board. Dianne Bigbee Barrett is a retired banker.

The national title marked UNCP’s second national championship on March 15. The Braves finished in 11th place in team standings. The 11th place finish by Blaze Shade (174), the Braves in three years. Mike Williams claimed a title for Justin Pencook (157 pounds) and an eighth place finish by Blaze Shindel (174), the Braves in their 11th place in team standings. The Braves were also ranked 12th in the 2013-14 NCAA Division II All-Academic Wrestling Team by the Wrestling Coaches Association.

Sammy and Onita Cox throw support to softball

The university dedicated the remodeled softball locker room to Sammy Cox ’76 and his wife, Onita. The new locker room is carpeted with wood-finished lockers with player names on them.

Cox, a Lumberton businessman, has been a fan of Braves baseball since he was an undergraduate. After attending several softball games, he developed a soft spot for the other ball game that resulted in a $20,000 contribution.

“I am very fortunate to be in a position to give back,” Cox said. “Supporting the university as a whole is very important. This university is important to me and to a lot more people in this community.”

Athletic Director Dick Christy said private contributions like this make a huge difference. “We want our student-athletes to have a first-class experience, and it did not take long to see that Sammy and Onita shared our vision that we needed to improve these locker areas.”

This is the fourth major gift for the Coxes. In 2005, the university dedicated the baseball field to them.

Softball coach Britney Bennett said the gift has already made a difference for the team. “I think for Mr. Cox it is about making a difference in people’s lives,” Bennett said. “The funding he has given provides a space the players can take pride in and call their own. I know that this locker room will positively affect our future Braves. We know that just a simple thank you can never express how appreciative we are.”

Golf scholarship to honor Royce McNeill

Family, friends and colleagues have come together to honor the memory of one of Robeson County’s legendary coaches by creating the Royce McNeill Endowed Scholarship for Men’s and Women’s Golf.

A 1968 graduate, McNeill was a part of the athletics director of Robeson County as a golf coach and athletic director at Prospect and Purnell Swett high schools. Larry McNeill, Terry McNeill and Ronnie Chavis ’72 established the scholarship.
In two commencements on May 9-10, the university said goodbye to a record 642 undergraduates and 157 graduate students.

The Givens Performing Arts Center was nearly filled to its 1,600-seat capacity on Friday evening for the graduate ceremony. Under partly cloudy skies Saturday morning, an overflow crowd of nearly 6,000 attended the undergraduate ceremony on the Quad.

Commencement in Pembroke is popular with graduates and their families. On Saturday, 599 of the 642 graduates accepted their diplomas in person. Their families overwhelmed the 5,000 available chairs.

In his commencement address, UNCP graduate and U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Allen J. Jamerson ’83, ’86 gave graduates a short piece of advice that he hoped will stick with them: “Do what brung ya,” he said.

“There is something about each and every one of you that got you here today,” Brig. Gen. Jamerson said. “Be true to who you are and build on that foundation.”

The long undergraduate procession streamed through the heart of campus across the bridge and onto the Quad, the university’s most hallowed ground. Commencement is just one bridge to cross in life, Chancellor Kyle R. Carter reminded the graduates.

“I advise you to keep learning regardless of the instability and change of the future,” Chancellor Carter said. “Education is the best insurance. You are the people who will adapt to and lead the change.”

With two undergraduates and two master’s degrees, Brig. Gen. Jamerson offered his life and career as an example of the benefits of lifelong learning. “Yes, generals still have to go to school too,” he said. “The Air Force believes in educating all of its people. Continuing education is the hallmark of a superior organization.”

The general, who was commissioned in 1986 after completing the Air Force ROTC program at UNCP, wondered aloud what his life would have been like if he had not returned to Pembroke to earn a second undergraduate degree.

“A degree is just a beginning, but Pembroke kick-started me on a mission to the stars— one that no one could have imagined,” Brig. Gen. Jamerson said. Today, he commands 73,000 security forces and is the deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support at Air Force headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Brig. Gen. Jamerson noted that he had a couple of very fortunate breaks in his life. He had a piece of digital age advice. “Fortunate breaks,” he advised. “Do everything you can to protect that reputation. It’s your best insurance. You are the people who will adapt to and lead the change.”

Today, you are taking a big step in building your reputation,” he advised. “Do everything you can to protect that reputation. Be at your professional best all of the time— on duty or off duty; online or offline.”

Allen Jamerson came to Pembroke State University from Raleigh in 1979. He joined the track team, worked in the cafeteria and online to complete his degree in just two years. He is in Afghanistan at this time.

As the university fulfills its role to provide lifelong learning in a diverse region and nation, UNCP is developing ever more flexible ways to serve students. The university will continue to “do what brung ya,” as Brig. Gen. Jamerson advised, and it is ready to do a lot more.

For example, U.S. Army Capt. La Tise Higgins, who was the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program’s Student of the Year, said she took classes on Fort Bragg, in Pembroke and online to complete her degree in just two years. She is in Afghanistan at this time.

At the graduate commencement, Mary Peterman, Ben Wooten and Leslie Brinson O’Connor were in Pembroke for the first time ever and were eager to meet the professors who taught them online in the MPA program.

“I advise you to keep learning regardless of the instability and change of the future,” Chancellor Carter said. “Education is the best insurance. You are the people who will adapt to and lead the change.”

“I’m in a program that will pay my student debt through teaching.”

Community college can reduce the cost of a college education, said Bridget Smith, who graduated from RCC to save money before transferring her academic credits to UNCP. She said the transfer went smoothly.

This generation of college graduates will be challenged in many ways including student debt, which is another part of the new normal.

With her college debt more than double UNCP’s student average of $19,000, Christine Jansco said, “Just to be here today was worth it.”

“On-demand education is part of the future. It worked for me in this program,” Peterman said.

Both Wooten and O’Connor were promoted and got married while they were studying for their master’s degrees in the Triangle area. One of Peterman’s daughters is a student at NC State University, and one is working toward a four-year degree starting in community college to save money.

Community college is a growing piece of the future of four-year colleges. When Brenda Oxendine lost her job, she restarted her career by earning an associate degree at Robeson Community College (RCC) and then a Bachelor of Science degree in special education at UNCP.

“It was a long road, but I graduated with a 3.97 GPA, and I am teaching at Red Springs High School,” Oxendine said.

This generation of college graduates will be challenged in many ways including student debt, which is another part of the new normal.

With her college debt more than double UNCP’s student average of $19,000, Christine Jansco said, “Just to be here today was worth it.”
At commencement this spring, Chancellor Carter offered this timeless advice to the university’s newest graduates: “Education is the best insurance. I advise you to keep learning regardless of the instability and change of the future. You are the people who will adapt to and lead the change.”

In the 21st century, education is key, and this university will play a vital role in the future of the region and state. What will Pembroke be like in five, 10 or 25 years? When Chancellor Carter talks about the future or “new normal,” he usually follows up with phrases like “doing more with less” and “efficiency and effectiveness.” It is the calculation of how this university will continue on the road to achieving its strategic goal of becoming an institution of choice - while flying into the headwinds of financial limitations.

Shrinking budgets are pressuring the university and its students. Federal and state funding for student scholarships have been cut or reduced. Student debt is likely to rise with tuition. State funding for new construction is not on the table.

Nevertheless, the university’s enrollment will continue to grow, classes will remain small, opportunities for student success will increase and tuition will remain affordable. The emphasis on sustainability will wring out savings through new efficiencies. Buildings will be repurposed. Technology will reduce costs, expand the university’s reach and produce exceptional educational outcomes. The pursuit of grants and scholarships to enhance student success will go viral.

There is a contagious spirit of enterprise in the air around Pembroke. It is initiated built on self-assurance and nurtured by purposeful leadership. Campus conversations are focused on opportunities. As the pages of this magazine attest, scholarship among faculty and students is soaring, student life is growing more robust by leaps and bounds and outreach to the community is stepping up in many directions. Forged from a unique history, this university has a never-say-die spirit.

On the next pages, UNCP Today writers and editors have taken stock of how the university is changing and adapting to future challenges. The success of this institution will hinge, not on funding formulas, but on the actions and the spirit of thousands upon thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who are the Brave Nation. Join us!

At the crossroads of enterprise & resources
Creativity will drive future success in an era of shrinking budgets

The Entrepreneurship Incubator that is under construction in downtown Pembroke is the visible symbol of the university’s can-do spirit, notes Dr. Kenneth Kitts, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. “We know we could not wait on state dollars to fund that project, so we worked creatively to identify alternative sources of funding – grants and private donations – to make it happen. Good for the university, but also good for the community, plus it underscores the way we have had to think differently given budget challenges.”

To make it happen, university leaders harnessed the existing resources of two successful business consulting programs – the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship and the Small Business and Technology Development Center – with $1.34 million of grants and private gifts. The Entrepreneurship Incubator stands as a guidepost for the future.

In contrast to the optimism generated by the Incubator is the reality of six successive years of state budget cuts and stagnant pay for university employees. At this writing, it appears UNC’s operating budgets will be cut another $76 million in 2014-15. UNCP’s share has yet to be determined.

In an op-ed piece that ran in newspapers throughout North Carolina, Chancellor Carter expressed grave concern for the future of the state’s public universities, which he said are “the foundations of North Carolina’s success.” In a written statement this spring, UNC President Thomas Ross put a number to Chancellor Carter’s concern: “The state now spends nearly $1,000 less per full-time equivalent student than it did in 2007. While the university system is operating more efficiently and has become more accountable, we have been forced to raise tuition in order to maintain the excellence for which we are known. While we will continue to search for additional efficiencies and savings, we cannot continue to shift the costs of higher education from the state to students and their families.”

The university’s library is a poster child for the new political, financial, technological and educational realities. With 405,000 print volumes and access to 53,000 periodicals and 135 databases, the Mary Livermore Library continues to supply students and faculty with educational resources and research information that they need to succeed. If digital technology is transforming higher education, the library is changing with it.

The library building itself is more important than ever, and a new library or “information commons” is the top construction priority for the university’s future. A 1960s-era building, the Mary Livermore Library was last expanded to serve 3,000 students. A new library will still have books, but more space will be committed to technology, learning labs, classrooms, collaborative study rooms and quiet study areas.

While funding for new construction on university campuses is far from the minds of current budget writers, Chancellor Carter and his staff are becoming more creative about building. Renovating and repurposing buildings is ideas with merit in the age of efficiency and effectiveness. Private sources of funding is also a priority. However, funding for a new library with a price tag of more than $50 million remains an unanswered question, for now.
The garden at Pine Cottage is a learning laboratory that provides fresh food & learning. The campus sustainability movement Great potential for savings and education

The intersection of humans and the environment is one of, if not the greatest, challenges for the future. If it is the mission of higher education to inform the next generation, sustainability presents a real opportunity to both save and educate.

“We don’t throw away anything,” Dr. Richard Cosentino said. “We’re still calculating the savings, but in the past six months we’ve realized $50-100,000 in savings and revenues. There are real savings here.” Efficiency and effectiveness are the new refrain for Dr. Cosentino, vice chancellor of the Office of Finance and Administration. “The state is looking closely at the university system,” he said. “We set detailed goals in each area about how we’re going to move the institution forward.”

This summer, two campus parking spaces were reserved for qualifying fuel-efficient vehicles in the parking lot of the Health Sciences Building. It was a baby step, but a symbolic one in the march toward a sustainable future. Not a month later, the university became the first in North Carolina to sign the U.S. Department of Energy’s Workplace Charging Challenge to install electric car charging stations. Beginning August 19, students, faculty and staff may rent Zipcars by the hour.

Every campus building will be metered for energy use, Dr. Cosentino promises. Entire buildings will go off-line during the summer, and software will manage energy use 24/7. The future will see shared services with other campuses, remote hosting of some IT services and the paperless office. “We are looking at everything we do and anything that somebody else can do better and cheaper,” Dr. Cosentino said.

The university made a major statement in 2012 when the Health Sciences Building, the first LEED Silver (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building, opened, featuring a living roof among other efficiencies. All future buildings will meet or exceed that standard. Existing buildings are being upgraded. In 2012, the university contracted with Siemens Corporation to invest $4.6 million in HVAC systems, low-flow bathroom fixtures, motion-activated lighting systems and other building improvements for Old Main, the English E. Jones Health and Physical Education Building, Oxendine Science and Livermore Library. A second project is on the drawing board.

A sustainability director and an energy manager were hired in early 2014. Students, staff and faculty will participate in the planning and execution of projects. Without a million small acts of saving, big goals will not be reached. On Earth Day, Chancellor Carter set the stage when he signed the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment. The location for the signing was Pine Cottage, a new six-acre green space on the north end of campus. A Campus Garden sprouted there this summer as a learning lab for students in the Sustainable Agriculture Program. A new student group, the Greener Coalition, has formed around the idea of producing food locally.

Great potential for savings and education

Outreach – A university known for its proud heritage, there is reason to believe American Indian enrollment will grow. Here, art students reached out to the Lumbee Tribe’s Boys and Girls Club for a joint project. Outreach to the local community is increasing.

Continuing enrollment growth Building an even more diverse university

From the beach to the Sandhills, the university will continue to be a magnet for students in the region. The university’s many assets – affordability, size, diversity, engagement and outstanding instruction – will continue to draw more students from outside the region. According to the most recent survey, UNCP’s enrollment from five urban counties (Wake, Mecklenburg, Guilford, New Hanover and Durham) increased by 78.5 percent in 10 years.

As Dr. John Jones, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, says, student life is growing more robust and more satisfying. He has strategically restructured offices and added staff to programs like Campus Recreation and Student Involvement and Leadership. Winning athletic programs are firing up the #BraveNation, which echoes through social media. Dining on and off campus continues to get more interesting.

The university is also strategically refocusing its administrative resources to tap into new and growing pools of potential students, according to Provost Kitts. “Ensuring robust enrollment becomes all the more important when state dollars are stagnant or decrease, thus our effort to enhance all recruitment activities and to underscore UNCP as both military friendly and transfer friendly.”

UNCP’s flexibility in delivering high-impact academics in the region and beyond will attract a wider range of students. Today, 35 percent of UNCP undergraduates are 25 and older, and in fall 2013, 800 students were either veterans, active duty soldiers or their family members. The average age of veterans at UNCP is 27. North Carolina and particularly this region is a magnet for veterans. Only one percent of U.S. citizens are veterans, but 13 percent of North Carolinians are veterans, and while only 25 percent of them have four-year degrees, all of them have the new GI Bill. UNCP’s office of Veteran Services ensures that the university is military friendly. Another asset is UNCP’s satellite campus on Fort Bragg.

With two satellite campuses at community colleges and a presence at eight others the university is working smarter to recruit community college graduates. The Office of Admissions has assigned one full-time and one part-time recruiter and two supervisors to work exclusively with community college transfer students, and it is paying off. On August 1, applications from transfer students were up 3.3 percent, acceptances were up 26 percent compared to last year, said Lala Clark, director of Admissions. When transfers arrive on campus, the Transfer Transition Office is ready to smooth out any bumps in the road.

This spring, a statewide articulation agreement with all 58 community colleges paved the way for students with Associate of Arts degrees to transfer to the state’s public universities. UNCP has 36 separate articulation agreements with the region’s community colleges for other programs like nursing.

Future students may arrive with a different educational background, but they will come to Pembroke for the same reasons, and the university is already paving the way for them.

The first NC university to sign the Workplace Charging Challenge for electric car-charging.

Mark Anderson, a veteran who is studying in the Sustainable Agriculture program, along with other volunteers planted the first vegetable garden and orchard. “The whole point of the garden is to show students and the community how to grow high-value crops on a small amount of land,” he said. The fruits (and vegetables) of their labor will find their way to food pantries and kitchens on campus and off.
Student debt will rise along with tuition and fees

UNCP will remain very affordable

An informal survey of graduates this spring showed that approximately one-third of UNCP graduates had no student debt. Nationally, the class of 2014 owes an average of $33,000, the highest in history. By comparison, UNCP grads owe approximately $20,000 per graduate.

The cost of a UNCP education is a relative bargain and will remain so into the foreseeable future. This spring, US News & World Report put the university on its short list of the 10 most affordable universities in the nation. That’s an attractive reason to come to Pembroke.

It’s no secret that many UNCP students and their families are experiencing considerable financial stress. Provost Kitts said, “There will be additional financial pressure on students due to personal economic conditions and/or rising costs. We get that, and we have endeavored to increase the amount of need-based aid available, to create additional merit-based scholarships such as the Arrowhead 1887 Scholarship, and to supplement traditional aid packages with new opportunities such as the Hawk Assistantship Program, our work-internship program.”

Students at regional universities like UNCP are particularly vulnerable to financial stress. Approximately 58 percent of students receive federal Pell Grants, a need-based program. In a Career Center survey of May graduates, 97 percent said they worked at some time during college. A survey of food security on campus found that 45.5 percent of respondents admitted to “repeated disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.” The university, with students taking the lead, established a campus Food Pantry, and they are seeking other solutions to this problem.

UNCP’s students have always been creative and hard working. But administrators and faculty are concerned that students are working too much, affecting retention, graduation rates and learning. As biology professor Maria Santisteban noted recently, “Students today do not work 10-12 hours a week to help pay for college. They work 20-30 hours and sometimes late into the night.” Dr. Santisteban did something about it by successfully writing a National Science Foundation grant to provide $6,000 scholarships for 27 outstanding science students.

The university has also been creative in aiding students financially. Going into its third year, the Hawk Assistantship is an internally funded internship program for approximately 100 students. They receive $1,000 a semester while gaining on-the-job experience in their area of study.

UNCP continues to transform lives

Graduates are succeeding in the job market

UNCP is consistently turning out winners in the job market, says Dr. Karen Pruett, director of the Career Center. “Our survey of recent graduates shows that 26 percent said they had a job offer before graduation and another 36 percent said they had fielded an employment offer within six months of graduation.” Approximately half of respondents said they were making between $25,000 and $40,000 annually. Another 23 percent said they were going to graduate school.

An independent survey released in May is also bullish on the job prospects for UNCP grads. The Educate to Career Index states that graduates of universities that rank in the top one-third of its rankings find relatively high-paying jobs, don’t default on student loans and find work in their field of study. UNCP ranked 94th out of the 1,222 four-year schools that ETC surveyed, putting us well into the top 10 percent. The survey covers a wide range of metrics such as tuition costs, debt, default on loans, salary of recent graduates, percent of grads employed within a year of graduation and more. The rankings show which schools did the best job of improving the earnings and gaining of quality employment of their students, in other words which schools do the best job of transforming the lives and fortunes of their students.

Education is not magic, and the university can show that between the freshman and senior years significant learning has occurred. On the Collegiate Learning Assessment, the most widely accepted yardstick for measuring learning outcomes in higher education, UNCP students scored in the top 15 percent among its peers nationally. “These results confirm what we know to be true about the quality of instruction at UNCP,” Provost Kitts said. “Our students benefit every day from contact with professors who are as caring as they are knowledgeable.”

Dr. Pruett, however, is concerned about the future. Shifting economic realities are not favoring rural communities. “I worry about the job market in southeastern North Carolina, and our graduates tendencies to stay close to home after graduation,” she said. “This can put college graduates in jobs outside their field of study and in lower paying jobs.”

Nevertheless, UNCP students are opportunities and are tailoring their studies to the job market. A fifth of May graduates will work in education and 15 percent in healthcare. Some will create their own jobs as entrepreneurs who were trained in the university’s growing entrepreneurship programs.

A national survey showed what we already knew – that a UNCP degree changes lives. Graduates find relatively high-paying jobs, don’t default on student loans, and work in their field of study. The survey covered tuition costs, debt, loan defaults, salary of recent graduates, percent employed within a year of graduation and more. The rankings show which schools did the best job of improving the earnings and gaining of quality employment of their students.

Thanks to you I was able to Work towards a better life!

Thank you UNCP donors!

Keeping the door of opportunity open to students in the future

The new normal for students is fewer financial aid dollars, higher tuition and higher student debt. In the fiscal year 2013-14, the Office of Advancement established a record 26 endowed or perpetual scholarships, 17 funded during the celebration of the university’s 125th anniversary, provided to “repeated disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.” The university can show that between the freshman and senior years significant learning has occurred. On the Collegiate Learning Assessment, the most widely accepted yardstick for measuring learning outcomes in higher education, UNCP students scored in the top 15 percent among its peers nationally. “These results confirm what we know to be true about the quality of instruction at UNCP,” Provost Kitts said. “Our students benefit every day from contact with professors who are as caring as they are knowledgeable.”

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The new normal for students is fewer financial aid dollars, higher tuition and higher student debt. In the fiscal year 2013-14, the Office of Advancement established a record 26 endowed or perpetual scholarships, 17 funded by alumni. The new Arrowhead Scholarship, which was established during the celebration of the university’s 125th anniversary, provided 19 scholarships in the coming year. Students are the number one priority for the future.
Technology presents opportunities in Academics

University seeking to meet student and community needs

The university continues to look hard at its academic programs “to ensure they are meeting expectations for productivity,” Dr. Kitts said. “We are working with others to design strategies to bolster enrollments so that we can meet student demand and allocate our resources effectively.”

Online course delivery is one important strategy. From the beginning, UNCP has been a leader among UNC institutions, Dr. Kitts notes. Nearly a quarter of UNCP’s credit hours are delivered online. Online education is cost effective and convenient, and several graduate programs are completely online. During summer school, more than half of all credit hours are delivered online. It works well for students who save money by living at home and getting summer jobs to offset college costs.

Online education comes with caution flags as well as great potential. Will it produce the educational outcomes and retain the personal learning experience that Pembroke is known for? “We understand student interest in online learning and other flexible course delivery systems,” Dr. Kitts said. “We are already a system leader in that field and intend to look for ways to expand our distance education efforts.”

For UNCP students, MOOCs may allow them to earn credits and thousands of students to courses offered free by celebrity scholars. It will require continued hard work, good planning and visionary leadership to make this university “a university of choice.” Chancellor Carte’s unwavering commitment to excellence is paying dividends. He has a clear understanding of how important this university is to every student who crosses the bridge to begin their college education here.

Smart leadership will make the university more efficient and effective. Good planning will boost enrollment, keep tuition affordable and continue to add layers of high-impact academics. Technology will help the university reach out to more students. And yes, the political climate will change. However, there is no return from the seismic shift that has occurred in the economic paradigm.

A Spirited university of opportunity

Focused on student success

A survey taken at spring commencement revealed that 202 of 645 graduates identified themselves as the first in their family to attend college. Earning a UNCP degree is a life-changing event for individuals and their families.

Because UNCP cultivates and celebrates the spirit of opportunity, students will come. However, the financial obstacles facing students are making the dream of a college education more difficult. To ensure that the door to higher education remains open to the next generation, the university is focused on scholarships, and it appears to be paying off, said Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor of Advancement.

“As a graduate who has already benefitted greatly from a UNCP education and as a fundraiser, it is evident that privately-funded scholarships will make the difference for student success and the future success is YOU, our alumni and friends who receive our UNCP Today magazine. We did it – all of you!”

In 2013-14, our number of alumni donors doubled, more than 300 of our faculty and staff contributed over $180,000, and 26 new endowed scholarships were established in that 12-month period. These are all amazing accomplishments, and I feel there are few things more exciting than to be a part of a university family that works together and truly believes in the Spirit of the Brave.

As we begin to plan for the year ahead and work together to establish new goals, priorities and a work plan for the coming year, we hope to continue to enhance the value of a UNCP education. We will strive to find creative ways to connect with our alumni who may live across the street from the campus or thousands of miles away, and we will continue to work to raise the bar in private support.

Now that the dust has settled, I couldn’t be more ecstatic to share our news with you and the other 24,000+ alumni and friends who receive our UNCP Today magazine. We did it – all of you!”

The most important ingredient in our future success is YOU, our alumni and friends. Step forward and join us as we construct the future of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.
The nation’s largest electric utility is energizing its communities. With its latest gift, the Duke Energy Foundation completes a circuit of support for education and research in the STEM fields.

Duke Energy is already supporting study in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through its sponsorship of the Region IV Science and Engineering Fair and the Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. The latest $25,000 grant from Duke connects the talent and resources of the university to the students and teachers in the public schools. The gift will facilitate education fairs, family nights and teacher training, connecting university resources to the public schools to support STEM education.

“Enhancing regional engagement through its outreach and academic program offerings” is one of the four pillars of the university’s mission statement. The importance of outreach is evident in the various programs that engage faculty and students with area K-12 students.

One of Duke Energy Foundation’s four community investment priorities is “building STEM knowledge and skills in schools by encouraging innovation and supporting proven programs,” according to David McNeill, district manager for government and community programs, “and jobs and loans. With their endowed scholarship, they want other young men and women to have an opportunity to get the same great education that they did at the university.”

The couple contributed $10,500 in December 2013 to endow the scholarship. The gift was part of a planned giving program, and the Bells will contribute each year.

The Walter C. Bell Jr. and Barbara Penninger Bell Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to full-time undergraduates who are residents of North Carolina, Roanoke County, Va or Salem, Va. The recipients will have demonstrated financial need and maintain a 3.0 GPA or better and major in mathematics, computer science, biology or physical sciences.

Walter was a history and mathematics major, and Barbara majored in home economics. Residents of Salem, Va., the Bells knew each other as undergraduates, but it was not until they attended graduate school together at the University of Alabama that they attended graduate school together. Walter Penninger Bell, “The Duke Energy Foundation is a strong supporter of education and workforce development,” McNeill said.

Virginia couple establishes a scholarship through planned giving

Walter and Barbara Bell ’65 came to Pembroke because it was a place where “you could get an excellent education at an affordable price.”

The Bells know that affordable comes with a price too. Walter paid for his education the same way many UNCP students do today—with scholarships, jobs and loans. With their endowed scholarship, they want other young men and women to have an opportunity to get the same great education that they did at the university.

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The Bells have always remembered the start they got at UNCP—“The school was very good to us,” Barbara recalled during a visit to campus.
Spring was late this year, but things warmed up fast for Channing Jones ’00 and Teresa Locklear ‘97, ’99, ’10, who were elected to the Pembroke Town Council.

Both Locklear and Jones have deep ties to the community and the university. Jones is Chancelloress of Chancellors and the daughter of Randall ’72 and Diane ’71, retired vice chancellor of Student Affairs.

Locklear is the great granddaughter of founder Preston Locklear. She is the first female to be elected to the council. Jones lives in Pembroke with wife, Emily (Love) ’91, and three children, Kennedy, Brocklyn and Canyon.

Will their elections pump new life into town and gown relations? Here is what Jones told Jones, Locklear elected Pembroke Town Council

Former women’s soccer defender Fanny Forsman ’13 has inked a contract to continue her playing career on the professional level with Oreved Høle IL, a club in one of the largest organizations in Norway.

The peach belt conference and Suntrust Bank, Inc., are proud to announce that volleyball standout Danielle Brown ’14 has been awarded the PBC-Suntrust Minority Postgraduate Scholarship. The scholarship provides financial support to a deserving Peach Belt minority student-athlete in pursuit of a postgraduate degree.

Justin Duncan ’14 has accepted a job with the Student Conservation Association as an urban treehouse program coordinator in Washington, D.C. He is located in Anacostia National Park and delivers curriculum-based environmental education to youth groups, clubs, schools and organizations. Duncan had worked with SCA during an alternative Spring break trip as an undergraduate. The job is seasonal, and he plans to do some traveling in the winter months.

Class of 2013

Former women’s soccer defender Fanny Forsman ’13 has inked a contract to continue her playing career on the professional level with Oreved Høle IL, a club in one of the largest organizations in Norway.

All-American Jordan Walker ’12 carried a two-under-par 70 in the final round to finish in a tie for 14th on the leaderboard at the British Columbia Qualifying Tournament on May 9 to earn his card to play PGA Tour Canada for the 2014 season. The fast will allow Walker to play in 12 events this summer throughout Canada, with each event sporting a purse of $150,000. The top five money leaders after the conclusion of the 12 events will earn their tour card to play on the 2015 Web.com Tour.

Class of 2014

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Friends, family honor Steven Hunt with scholarship

To honor the life of Steven A. Hunt ’93, ’02, his wife, Charlyne Jacobs Hunt, and friends have established an endowed memorial scholarship.

Starting at UNCP as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Hunt was director of the Center for Academic Excellence at UNCP at the time of his death on March 2, 2014. Recipients of the scholarship will be full-time students who have benefited from the center’s services and have demonstrated financial need.

Hunt was nearing completion of work on his Doctor of Education degree from East Carolina University. Hunt, who was 46, was a veteran and served in Iraq with his National Guard unit. He was a member and alumni advisor to Phi Sigma Nu fraternity and active in the Association of American Indian Faculty and Staff on campus.

“Steve was a passionate and visionary leader,” Charlyne Hunt said. “He never stopped looking for new and better ways to help students show what they could do, instead of what they couldn’t. He was a huge supporter of his alma mater and continuously gave back to the university.”

The donors intend to fund the scholarship to the $10,000 endowment level within five years. To contribute, please contact the Office of Advancement at (910) 521.6252 or email morgan.hunt@uncp.edu.

Class of 2011

Owen Thomas ’15, ’13 was recently promoted to senior account executive at Dial Insurance Agency in Pembroke. A native of California, Thomas received his Master’s in Business Administration degree from UNCP, where he also played football.

Class of 2010

Cassie Manis ’10 and Kyle Lott were united in marriage on April 27, 2013.

Class of 2009

Lauryfoss Chavis McGhee ’09 is currently teaching 8th grade at Red Springs Middle School and resides in Hope Mills, N.C.

Each week stand-up comedian Efrian Colon ’09 can be heard on the radio throughout the region as part of the staff of Cumulus Broadcasting in Fayetteville, NC. He credits a youth spent as a class clown at Pembroke-Piney Grove High School’s Mount Zion Christian Academy for preparing him for a life spent making people smile. Colon graduated with a degree in mass communications.

Class of 2008

Jonathan McCurry ’08, a political science major, recently signed a contract to continue his volleyball career at UNC-Greensboro. McCurry graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education and is a fourth grade teacher at Bladenboro Elementary School.

Class of 2007

Tiffany Michelle Locklear ’07 and Terry Blake Locklear ’03 were married June 21 in Saint Lucia. Tiffany works for the Public Schools of Robeson County. Terry works for UNCP in the Office of Distance Education.

Richmond Community College announced Sporty’s Restaurant & Tavern in downtown Rocky Mount has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship in toxicology at UNC-Chapel Hill. Hannah Espirates Woriax, M.D., from Pembroke, will do her residency in surgery at Carolin Clinic of Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke, VA.
Dr. James Bass presents at UNCP conference

You may now call him Dr. James Bass. Dr. Bass, who recently completed requirements for a Doctor of Education at Fayetteville State University, was a featured speaker on April 10 at the 10th annual Southeast Indian Studies Conference at UNCP.

He is a former assistant director of Student Activities and director of Alumni Relations at UNCP. Dr. Bass, who is now director of the Learning Center at Robeson Community College (RCC), discussed his research on American Indian student success from community college to the university.

“I looked at persistence of American Indian students as they moved to UNCP from RCC, which is a feeder institution for this university,” Dr. Bass said.

Class of 2005

On February 20, Brenda K. Scott Jacobs ’05, student support associate at the Campus Alliance for Native American Student Achievement Project (CANA), was presented Robeson Community College’s 2013 Educational Office Professional of the Year Award. The award is dedicated to the achievement of professionalism of educational office personnel and to the quality of service provided to students, educators and the community.

David English Jones ’05 and Morgan Brittany Hunt ’06, ’13 were engaged in May. The couple will marry in Charleston, SC, in September 2014. Jones is the co-owner and manager of 1st Choice Insurance and Realty in Pembroke, and Hunt works as the director of Alumni Relations at UNCP.

Class of 2003

Eleanor Grace Freeman was born on March 2, 2014, at Lumberton Hospital. The proud parents are Eric and Dr. Lauren Freeman ’03 and proud big brother, Arlington El.

Winifred Winston ’03 was recently hired as the associate director for Career Services at the University of Maryland University College. Winifred works with the director to provide effective leadership, direction and supervision of UMUC’s career service programs. She will also take the lead in building and nurturing relationships with employers and organizing virtual and face-to-face job fairs.

Class of 2002

The Karmapola City Board of Education has unanimously selected Kenneth Bowes ’02 to become the next principal of A.L. Brown High School. Mr. Bowes has served as an elementary educational experience, including service as a high school principal, assistant principal, social studies teacher, counselor, assistant superintendent, and chief officer for student learning and accountability. He has worked in both North Carolina and South Carolina. Kenneth Bowes is currently completing his Doctorate of Educational Leadership degree from East Carolina University.

Class of 2000

Rawford native Patricia McLear Hollingsworth ’00 is the chief public information officer for Nash-Robert Mount Schools. Hollingsworth previously worked two years as the executive director of communications and public relations for Cumberland County Schools. Prior to her role in Cumberland County, Hollingsworth spent eight years as the executive director of public relations and coordinator of support personnel for Hoke County Schools. Hollingsworth’s educational career began as a mathematician and science teacher at Scotland County School. She earned an undergraduate degree in business administration and a graduate degree in school administration from UNCP.

Channing Jones ’00 was recently named to the 2014 Under Forty” by the Fayetteville Observer and received the award during a gala in March. Jones is the vice president of continuing education and workforce development at Robeson Community College. He and Emily Love Jones ’00 have three children.

Class of 1999

Holly Hunt Brewington ’98 and her husband Matt Brewington ‘98 are the proud parents of a baby girl, Bella Star, born Dec. 7, 2013. She weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz.

Class of 1998

The Karmapola City Board of Education has unanimously selected Kenneth Bowes ’02 to become the next principal of A.L. Brown High School.

Class of 1997

Southwestern Health has welcomed a new practitioner to its North Lumberton Clinic, Jennifer Graham ’97, who completed her medical training at Wake Forest University and has joined the clinic as a physician assistant. A native of Robeson County, Graham has a special interest in treating patients with diabetes.

Class of 1995

Marcus Bryant ’95 was named First Bank’s city executive and senior vice president for Pembroke. Bryant, who has more than nine years of banking experience, is a Pembroke native and alumnus of Purnell Swett High School.

Class of 1994

Due to its effective communication, Public Schools of Robeson County received five awards at the event. Cowden won in the marketing, photography, newsletter, special purpose and image/identity categories.

Class of 1992

Chris Arnsfeld ’92 has established a scholarship in honor of soccer coach Mike Schaeffer, who retired in 2010 after 30 years of service to the university. The scholarship will be open to full-time undergraduate students on the Men’s or Women’s Soccer Team to help with college expenses. Contributions to the scholarship can be sent in care of Kristen Anderson, Director of Advancement Services at UNCP. For information, call Kristen at (910) 775-4379.
Class of 1990

Lewis Adams '90 has been named division administrator for the Second Judicial District. Adams will oversee probation and parole operations in 21 counties, including the Triangle and Fayetteville areas. He previously served as assistant administrator in the division and as the judicial district manager supervising probation and parole in Sampson, Duplin and Jones counties. His corrections career began in 1992 as a probation officer in Richmond County. He is a Lumberton Senior High School graduate and a Lumberton City School of Education alumnus.

Class of 1991

Shelana Smith '91, Robeson County’s clerk of Superior Court, was reelected in the May Democratic-Primary Election and will serve four more years. Smith was appointed clerk in 2012 by Superior Court Judge Robert F. Floyd. Smith is a licensed attorney and has worked in the legal field for 20 years. After graduating from UNCP with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice, Smith worked with the NC Division of Prisons and then served as a parole and probation officer with the NC Division of Community Corrections. Smith received her law degree from NC Central University School of Law in 2005.

Class of 1992

David J. Cunnings '87 received the Parental Drug Association Distinction and Service Award at their 2014 meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Class of 1993

Brigadier General Allen Jamerson ’83, ‘86 has established an endowed scholarship to help a young person further his or her education. The General Allen Jamerson Scholarship for Aerospace Excellence will recognize the outstanding UNC Pembroke Air Force ROTC cadet as determined by the Detachment 607 staff.

“The people who have made a difference in my life, and many of them came from two particular institutions: UNCP, Pembroke and the United States Air Force. I could not have the career or the way to pay it forward that established a UNCP endowment to support future Air Force officers.”

Class of 1994

Randy Lefford ’76 was selected to the class of 2014 Fayetteville Sports Club Hall of Fame. Lefford was a star athlete at Seventy-First High School in baseball and football. He briefly attended Clemson University before transferring to UNCP to play baseball. He built Westover High School’s baseball program into a top contender before moving to South View as the baseball and assistant football coach. He took over the baseball program in 1993. Lefford guided the Tigers to the state 4-A baseball title in 1991 and took his team to the football state finals in 2000 and 2004. He has coached in both the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and the NC Coaches Association Blue-Gray All-Star game. He is the career leader for football wins at South View, with a 21-year record of 176-86, including 24-15 in the state playoffs.

Class of 1995

Dr. Robert E. Beck ’72 retired April 1, 2013, after more than 40 years of service at Richmond County Schools. Dr. Beck served as a teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, assistant superintendent and associate superintendent. In addition, he taught generations of school leaders by serving as an adjunct professor in UNCP’s School of Education, teaching courses in school law and finance.

Class of 1996

Dr. Olivia Osunde ’70 received the prestigious Eagle Feather Award, the highest recognition in Native culture, for “achievement through service” at the 39th Annual United Tribes Scholarship Banquet. Ruth Reveis ’58, chairman of United Tribes Association, bestowed the award.

The families of Agnes Hunt Chavis ’50 and Eva Chavis Jones ’31 established an endowed scholarship honoring the UNCP alumni in their family. Leading the efforts to establish the scholarship are Larry Chavis ’72 and Donna Chavis ’89.

The value of receiving a college education was highly regarded by the family, mainly due to the influence of both Agnes and Eva. The family wishes to celebrate the successes of both women through the establishment of an endowed scholarship.

The intent of the family is to reach the endowment level of $10,000 within five years. An endowment is a perpetual fund and scholarships are drawn from its earnings. The scholarship will benefit Native American students from Robeson County, who are majoring in education.

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Class of 1998

The American Indian communities in Dillon and Robeson counties are connected just as Braboy and Leland Grove School are connected to the African-American communities in Dillon and Marion counties. The white, wooden school building still stands on a sandy ridge near the Little Pee Dee River on SC Highway 57.

The historical marker was endowed by the Dillon County Historical Society, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the state House of Representatives.

Approximately 75 former students, family and friends attended. Bobby Braboy, a nephew, and Judge James Lockamy (pictured above) of Dillon, SC, served as moderators. Braboy organized the event.

Braboy grew up in the Pee Dee, and the family is well known in the region and state. A niece, Barbara Braboy-Lockamy ’90, helped organize the event. Also in attendance were Braboy’s nephew, Ray Braboy ’69, his wife, Beatrice ’69, and their daughter, Mary Beth Lockamy ’03, ‘12.

The American Indian communities in Dillon and Robeson counties are connected just as Braboy and Leland Grove School are connected to the university in many ways. Braboy was a member of the first class at the university to graduate with a two-year degree in 1928, and he returned to earn a four-year degree in 1958. The school’s most famous student was English E. Jones, UNCP’s first American Indian chancellor.

The historical marker itself made history, Judge Lockamy noted. It is the first time in South Carolina an American Indian has been honored with a roadside marker.

As late as 1952, the two-room school had no indoor plumbing, not even a pump. The school did get a hand pump in the mid 1950s. Prior to that, water was carried from a spring near Molvinis Bridge.

Braboy was named South Carolina’s Teacher of the Year in 1970 and was a finalist for national Teacher of the Year. He died in 1976.

Class of 1999

James K. Braboy, Leland Grove School honored with historical marker

A South Carolina historical marker was unveiled on June 21 to honor the Leland Grove School and the late James K. Braboy ’28, ’58.

Braboy served as principal, teacher, bus driver and custodian from 1934-70 at the American-Indian serving, two-room school. The white, wooden school building still stands on a sandy ridge near the Little Pee Dee River on SC Highway 57.

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In April, Kelvin Sampson ’78 signed a five-year contract to become the head basketball coach for the University of Houston, one of the great basketball programs in NCAA history.

A 25-year coach, with stops at Indiana, Oklahoma, Washington State and Montana Tech, Sampson compiled a 500-270 record. He led his teams to 13 NCAA Tournament appearances, including 11 in 12 years with the Sooners from 1994 to 2006. During his Oklahoma tenure, he guided the Sooners to 10 consecutive 20-win seasons, the 1999 Sweet 16, the 2002 Final Four and an Elite Eight appearance in 2003.

Sampson joins the Cougars after spending the previous six seasons as an assistant coach in the NBA with the Houston Rockets (2011-14) and the Milwaukee Bucks (2008-11). “I wasn’t thinking about getting back into college coaching,” Sampson said. “I had profound things happen to me in 2014. My mother died January 14. My father died on February 18. I know how much my father loved following our teams. I was on West Coast trip on February 16, and one of the things I talked to him about was about getting back to college. That resonated with me.”

Sampson will take his son, Kelan, with him to Houston’s staff. Kelan’s last stop was as an assistant at Appalachian State.

Mac Rhoades, Houston’s vice president for athletics, said he was confident that Sampson was the right leader for Houston men’s basketball. “Outside court, he has been a proven winner at college programs across the country, and he is the right choice.”

Hall of Famer Ned Sampson passes away

John W. “Ned” Sampson, 84, died on February 18. He was preceded in death by his wife, Eva ’71, who died on January 14.

Sampson ’53 was a first-class member to be inducted into the UNCP Athletic Hall of Fame in 1980 and the first class of Robeson County’s Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Ned played at Pembroke High School in the Tri-County Indian Athletic Conference from 1945-47. In high school and college, he was a three-sport star – football, basketball and baseball. He graduated in 1953. Basketball was Sampson’s real love, and it lasted a lifetime. After playing against a team of traveling Atlantic Coast Conference all-stars that included Duke all-American Dick Groat, everyone left the gym with the respect for something, when he would not be denied his opportunity to contribute.”

Outside of class, Dr. Rundus was collegial, warm, and had a wonderful sense of humor. As Professor Emeritus, he remained very involved with the university with the Retired Faculty Club and Friends of the Library.

Dr. Richard Vela, who arrived at the university shortly after Dr. Rundus, remembered a brilliant leader: “Looking back at these enormous and imposing personalities, I am sure it was only Ray’s inherent sense of order and fairness that allowed him to pull as difficult a group as this together. As cool and collected as he always tried to be, it was clear when he had a passion for something, when he would not be denied his opportunity to contribute.”

Dr. Rundus continued to write during retirement, penning a weekly column for the local newspaper. He is survived by his wife and three children, Raymond, Ronald and Victoria.

Passing of Raymond J. Rundus

From his trademark beard and pipe to his scholarly pursuits, Dr. Raymond J. Rundus was the quintessential man of letters at UNCP for many years. Dr. Rundus died on April 15 at the age of 79.

The Kansas native came to Pembroke in 1970 and retired 25 years later. Dr. Rundus served as department chair for what was then the Department of Communicative Arts from 1970 to 1979. Tall and meticulously dressed, students said he was an intimidating classroom presence. His teaching philosophy was, “I can’t learn for them. I’ve got to give them the opportunity, the best chance to learn.”

Outside of class, Dr. Rundus was collegial, warm, and had a wonderful sense of humor. As Professor Emeritus, he remained very involved with the university with the Retired Faculty Club and Friends of the Library.

Dr. Susan Whit, interim dean of the Mary Livermore Library, said the university has lost a much-cherished friend: “I want to recognize and applaud his many years of service to the Friends of the Library.”

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In Memoriam