Your campus is undergoing historic changes; more reasons for our alumni to come home

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

Upon arriving at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke in 1999, I was impressed and excited about the wealth of opportunities found within our campus “walls.” We are greeting one of the most exciting opportunities of our institutional life — the most ambitious building campaign in 30 years.

We take great pride in our many successes. We are rapidly establishing ourselves as a major regional university. We are the fastest-growing university in North Carolina. We have outstanding programs and professors, and we continue to offer a personal touch in teaching and learning. These established accomplishments and successes will never change, but the look of our campus will change significantly to mirror our strong infrastructure.

From UNCP’s Main Entrance to the new Physical Plant, virtually no corner will be left untouched as we transform our property into one of the most attractive and technologically advanced campuses in America. Braves Drive will permanently close and make way for a walking mall. The Oxendine Science Building, the first campus building most visitors see, will boast a new exterior and will complement a new Main Entrance that will greet you soon. Walking areas on campus will be enhanced with our new red, molded concrete sidewalks. UNCP’s Water Feature is a nice addition to our campus, and the recently refurbished Lowry Bell Tower on the Quad once again chimes our Alma Mater.

The UNC Pembroke family does not delight alone in our campus’ improvements. UNCP’s economic impact on its surrounding communities continues to grow as enrollment increases and construction booms. The money we infuse into our communities will surpass $100 million in a few years.

Our most important priority is to build stronger bonds with our alumni. I encourage all our alumni to visit us and once again enjoy all our campus has to offer. Coordinate a visit around our Distinguished Speaker Series, attend a soccer game at the new Belk Athletic Complex or attend a basketball game in the soon-to-be newly renovated Main Gym of Jones Athletic Complex (you will enjoy the new seats and the remodeled Braves Club room). If you prefer the arts, come visit our campus and see a Broadway production of “Cats,” “Saturday Night Fever” or “In the Mood” at GPAC. Better yet, begin planning now to join us for Homecoming in February 2004 with the Four Tops.

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is your campus — anyone who walked through our hallways, attended classes or enjoyed an event here has a part in who we are and what we will accomplish. Please come visit us soon and see the difference you have made in the life of this campus and our community.

Alumni Association President Hal Sargent ‘96

Commencement 2003 was a trip down memory lane

It was a wonderful graduation at UNC Pembroke on May 10.

Watching students make the transformation from undergraduates to alumni reminded me of my graduation from Pembroke many years ago. I remember how proud I was of being a graduate from what was then called Pembroke State University.

You could see it in the 2003 graduates’ eyes and handshakes that they had that same feeling and were proud to be graduates of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. This pride is still alive and well today in all the alumni I meet.

I challenge each of you to think back to the day you graduated and remember that great day in your life. Then call the Office of Alumni Relations and plan to be part of the next alumni function.

Find out when and where the nearest local alumni chapter is meeting and plan to be at its next gathering. Just because you graduated doesn’t mean that your time at the university is over. At UNCP, we are a family, and we want to see you and hear from you.

Visit your UNC Pembroke family soon and get that “just-graduated” feeling again. I look forward to seeing you there!
8-9 **Campus construction booming**  
Get the complete picture

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This photograph, by university photographer Bobby Ayers, shows the new University Village Apartments under construction in July. Don't blink! The privately-funded student housing project will be ready for occupancy in August.
‘River Spirits’: New book from the Native American Resource Center

by Sheri Sides

“River Spirits” is the first-ever collection of Lumbee writings published by the Native American Resource Center. Forty-nine Lumbee authors contributed a variety of work, both fact and fiction, that overflows with the tribe’s proud past and hopes for the future.

The book provides a window into the Lumbee culture, said editor Stan Knick, director of UNC Pembroke’s Native American Resource Center.

“The collection of writings here is not the result of a literary competition, but instead an exploration of what is meaningful, of what is valued, in Lumbee culture,” he said, “because the meanings and values of things are at the heart of all human culture.”

Dr. Knick said he tried to be as inclusive as possible in the selection process.

“There was such a variety of writing that was submitted, and I think that reflects something about the Lumbee culture,” he said.

The book includes the only known poem by the late Lumbee historian Adolph L. Dial, who co-wrote a history of the Lumbee, “The Only Land I Know.”

Several poems by the late poet and historian Lew Barton were also included. “Although deceased, I knew they were a part of the body of writing of the Lumbee,” Dr. Knick said.

Works from a new generation of Lumbee authors include Delano Cummings, author of “Moon Dash Warrior” and “River Dreams.”

This is the first book published by the Native American Resource Center to come complete with an ISBN number.

“Hopefully other publications will follow,” Dr. Knick said.

Dr. Knick has gotten a better view of the Lumbee Tribe during his 17 years at the university and is an honorary member of the Lumbee Tribe.

“Nobody outside of a culture can ever really get all the way inside,” he said. “All you can do is get a better view, and that is what this book is about.”

Each work in “River Spirits” is a reflection of centuries of tradition passed down through generations that continues to shape the Lumbee identity.

Most of the funding for the book came from private donors, especially Anne Lowry Sistrunk, her husband, Don C. Sistrunk, and her mother, Mrs. Earl C. Lowry.

The 174-page collection is available through the Native American Resource Center by calling (910) 521-6282, or e-mail nativemuseum@uncp.edu.

Journal No. 35 is Stephenson’s 25th

Sporting a red cover with gold lettering, Pembroke Magazine No. 35 is now available to readers.

The international literary journal features Robert Morgan, author of “Gap Creek” and “This Rock.” It includes a short story by Morgan, “The Church of the Ascension,” and 10 essays on Morgan’s work.

The 337-page volume also features a memorial to the late poet Anna Wooten-Hawkins, an interview with Poet Laureate Billy Collins and a tribute to Fayetteville newspaperman and historian Roy Parker Jr., who was honored at the annual North Carolina Writers Conference.

For English Professor Shelby Stephenson, No. 35 is his 25th edition. To celebrate, he took the summer off from teaching for the first time in history.

Published annually, Pembroke Magazine is available for $8 ($8.50 overseas) by writing P.O. Box 1510, Pembroke, NC 28358, by calling (910) 521-6358 or by e-mailing the managing editor at tina.emanuel@uncp.edu.
Burnette to lead University Relations

Dr. Glen G. Burnette Jr. has been appointed to the post of vice chancellor for the Office for University and Community Relations. Dr. Burnette was formerly vice chancellor for the Office of Advancement.

In his new post, he will be responsible for the planning and organization of the university’s internal relations and public affairs programs, including media relations, publications, community relations, legislative and government affairs, crisis communications and the public relations program.

Dr. Burnette has been employed as director of Alumni Relations for 10 years and most recently served as vice chancellor for Advancement for four years.

He received his undergraduate degree and his master’s of arts degree in education from UNCP. He holds his doctor of education degree in higher education administration from North Carolina State University.

“Dr. Burnette’s long leadership tenure is a testament to his abilities as an administrator and public servant,” said Chancellor Meadors. “His leadership skills, along with his knowledge, dedication and commitment to both the university and our service region, make him the right choice for this important position.”

“I will dedicate myself to empowering our constituents and promoting ownership in the university within our region,” Dr. Burnette said. “I am looking forward to continuing my work with the chancellor, faculty, staff, students and community to maintain and advance the university’s position of excellence in higher education.”

Baker named dean of School of Education

Dr. Warren Baker has been named dean of the School of Education.

He is a 1975 UNCP graduate and served as interim dean of the School of Education for the past 10 months.

“Dr. Warren Baker has a long and successful association with UNC Pembroke,” said Dr. Roger Brown, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. “Along the way, Dr. Baker was director of Admissions, director of Institutional Research and Planning, a faculty member, director of University-School Partnerships, interim dean of education and now dean of education.

“Rarely has any candidate had such a broad record of involvement in critical areas of the university,” Dr. Brown added. “His knowledge of UNCP and of the school communities in our region will be invaluable to us as we continue our exemplary record of teacher education for the 21st century.”

Dr. Baker has been instrumental in guiding the school through several important achievements, including National Council For Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) reaccreditation, an exemplary rating from the state Department of Public Instruction and growth of students seeking certification by 78 percent (to 812) since 1999.

“We know from the value of education today how crucial teacher preparation is to the future of North Carolina,” Dr. Baker said. “I am confident that we will continue to provide our state with the very best classroom teachers and administrators.”

Geller wins UNC’s highest award for teaching

The Board of Governors of the 16-campus University of North Carolina selected UNC Pembroke Professor Jeffery Geller to receive the ninth annual Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. Geller is widely acclaimed for making philosophy a popular course for successive generations of students and by his colleagues for his academic achievements.

He received a commemorative bronze medallion and a $7,500 cash prize. Dr. Geller is the keynote speaker for Winter Commencement 2003.

“The Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching has special meaning to the faculty of UNCP because we place such a high value on effective teaching,” said Dr. Roger Brown, UNCP’s provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. “Dr. Geller is a worthy addition to the list of previous winners who have established our reputation as a university where student learning comes first.”

Dr. Geller published an edited collection of essays on American philosophy this year, titled “Conversations with Pragmatism” (Rodolpi Press; New York and Amsterdam). He has published or collaborated on numerous papers covering a wide range of topics, including film theory, political economy, biology, psychology, African literature and philosophy.
U.S. Senator John Edwards issued graduates one final assignment: “to confront the bigotry and hatred we have yet to purge from this country.”

The first-term senator, who launched a bid for the presidency in January, said civility and passivity are allies of hatred and racial bigotry, and that “silence implies consent.”

“We turn our backs daily from small battlegrounds,” he said. “You — and we — have an obligation to stand against the forces of intolerance that deny opportunity to others. You — and we — have an obligation to confront hatred and state clearly that it will no longer be tolerated.”

Sen. Edwards was keynote speaker May 10 for Commencement ceremonies that saw 384 graduate, 61 with master’s degrees. It was the largest Spring Commencement in the history of a rapidly growing university.

The North Carolina native said the years following graduation should not be years of “blind ambition,” but instead years of “blind compassion.”

“How brightly you burn on this journey will not depend on what you do for yourselves,” he said. “It will depend, I am certain, on what you do for others ... and on how you permit others to be treated in your presence.”

“The Robbins, N.C., native, who is the first member of his family to graduate from college, sidestepped foreign policy questions to focus on domestic issues — social and economic.

“We have work to do in North Carolina, particularly in some parts,” he said about southeastern North Carolina. “The first thing we have to do is rebuild the economy of this country. We must energize the economy.”

Sen. Edwards also proposed a “College for Everyone” program to ensure that every young American can attend college.

On a sweltering Saturday morning with a standing-room-only crowd in the Main Gym of the Jones Athletic Complex, Chancellor Meadors bid farewell to a class that enrolled at UNCP the same year he arrived on campus.

“We share a special bond, as many of you began your journeys here at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke four years ago when I became chancellor of this fine institution,” he said. “During the past four years, UNC Pembroke has become the fastest-growing university in North Carolina, and each of you are fully prepared for your futures as UNCP graduates.

“I challenge each of you to claim your dreams and goals as your own,” he added.

UNC President Molly Broad offered praise for enrollment growth and high-quality instruction at UNCP, but added a cautionary note.

“This is a university on the rise with an outstanding faculty and a growing commitment to the region,” President Broad said. “In the face of remarkable growth, we face unrelenting rounds of budget cuts that now place the birthright of every North Carolinian in jeopardy. That birthright is to obtain a high-quality, affordable education.”

President Broad called upon legislators and the people of North Carolina to find the courage to make the right choices for the future of the state.

Dr. Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke brought greetings from the Board of Governors, Henry Lewis from the trustees, Dr. Thomas Dooling from the faculty, Hal Sargent II from alumni and Koji Sado from the student government.

Sen. Edwards and UNC President Broad

Sen. Edwards meets the press
UNCP’s ‘Weightless Lumbees’ take it to the limit with NASA

Boldly they flew outside the bounds of Earth. Like Icarus, they paid a price for defying the laws of gravity.

“They said not to eat a lot, and I just ate some Cheetos,” said Mary Beth Brayboy. “It was an amazing feeling, but I think I got too excited.”

Brayboy and a team of four other Weightless Lumbees flew aboard NASA’s KC135A at Johnson Space Center in Houston. They performed several scientific experiments on the diffusion of fluids in zero gravity.

Some time into the 40 parabolas that produced 20-second periods of weightlessness, Brayboy and most of the team found out why they call the KC135A the “vomit comet.”

“The flight engineer said they had never seen anybody the color of a green flight suit before,” said team adviser and Chemistry Professor Tim Ritter. “It’s a remarkable opportunity for undergraduates because it is the only place on Earth where you can experiment in zero gravity.”

For others, it was the theme park ride they will never forget and an experience of a lifetime.

“You can’t describe it,” said Joseph Oxendine. “You just leave the ground. I brought a football and played with it.”

“I turned flips,” said April Oxendine. “I just pulled my knees to my chest and the flight engineer spun me.”

For the university and the community, sending five students to work with NASA has many rewards.

“Only a few hundred earthlings have had the experience that our students got,” Dr. Ritter said. “They performed real science, and they are sharing it with the community.”

The UNCP students, from Scotland, Hoke and Robeson counties, shared their NASA experiments by giving lectures at several local schools and worked a NASA booth at the recent Festival of Flight.

More than 300 colleges and universities applied for 72 spots in the program. Harvard, MIT and California Institute of Technology were represented.

“It was great,” said April Oxendine. “We had the time of our lives.

“We have not analyzed all the data yet, but from visuals it did not look like there was any difference in the rate of diffusions. It was constant.”

The Weightless Lumbees underwent training at high-altitude conditions. They worked hard in the lab, and they met students from all over the nation also participating in NASA’s Reduced Gravity Undergraduate Research Program.

Participating for UNCP were April and Joe Oxendine, Toni Chagolla, Mary Beth Brayboy and Ginger Moody.

For chemistry major Joseph Oxendine, the experience was so compelling that he changed career plans.

“It was the best time of my life,” he said. “I want to fly jets and eventually join the space program.”

“My future has never been clearer to me,” he added.

Mary Beth Brayboy brought it home to Pembroke Elementary students.

April Oxendine found time for work and play aboard NASA’s KC135A.
Kelvin Sampson: ‘Find a way to inspire someone’

Kelvin Sampson was genuinely pleased to be home in Pembroke.

“I never thought I would be a distinguished speaker,” he told an audience of more than 500 this spring at the Givens Performing Arts Center. “I never thought I would be distinguished. I’m honored.”

Sampson, a 1978 UNCP graduate and head basketball coach at Oklahoma University, was the final speaker in the 2002-2003 Distinguished Speaker Series.

“I take representing Pembroke and UNCP very seriously,” he said.

Appearing very comfortable on his home court, Sampson mixed stories of his family and growing up in Pembroke with the lessons he has learned in 26 years as a head coach. And he offered inspiration.

“As you grow older, you go from having heroes to having people who inspire you,” the 46-year-old coach said.

“I challenge everyone in this room to find someone to inspire you and find a way to inspire someone else.”

Sampson and his teams have been accused of being overachievers after building one of the top programs in the nation without the benefit of waves of blue-chip players.

“I don’t like the word ‘overachieve.’ Don’t ever tell me my teams overachieve,” he said. “If you’re successful, you’ve lived up to your ability level.

“We don’t want to have great teams,” he added. “We want to have a great program.”

Sampson’s team has won three straight Big 12 Conference tournament championships and is invited to the NCAA tournament every year. But he said he has learned more lessons from losing than from winning.

At his first head coaching stop at Montana Tech, his first two teams went 5-22 and 4-23.

“Jud Heathcote called me up to congratulate me for taking Montana Tech from obscurity to oblivion,” Sampson said with a laugh. Heathcote was the Michigan State coach who gave the young college graduate from Pembroke his first coaching job.

“The first step up the ladder of success is failure,” he added. “It’s nothing to be ashamed of.”

Sampson persevered at Montana, and his next stop was in the PAC-10 at Washington State.

“The toughest job in the PAC-10 is Washington State,” he said. “Any team that would hire a 24-year-old Native American as its coach has to be in bad shape.”

Sampson’s first team went 1-17 in PAC-10 play.

“We weren’t really that bad. We just weren’t good enough to win,” he said. “Of all the things that have happened to me, that was the best.”

“Mature people know how to handle adversity,” he added. “People who can’t handle adversity blame others.”

Sampson said he admires commitment, unselfishness and teamwork in his players.

“Some kids have a hard time being teammates,” he said. “A very good player will get you 15 points and 10 rebounds a night. A great player will get you 15 points, 10 rebounds and will be your most popular player, the kind of kid other players go to when they’re down.”

“Coaching is getting your kids to understand teamwork, to be givers,” he added. “I don’t like people who were born on third base and think they hit a triple. If your best player is your hardest worker, it will be hard not to succeed.”

“Soft people want things handed to them,” the coach said. “Successful people compete, not just play hard.”

To the young people of the audience, Sampson had this advice.

“Kids will tell you it’s tough for them,” he said. “You can be anything you want, but you can’t be afraid to fail.”

“Ordinary people do extraordinary things,” he added.
The economic impact of UNCP on its surrounding community will surpass $100 million in just three years, a university study shows.

Enrollment growth and construction will fuel expansion of the university’s economic footprint, said Chancellor Meadors.

“We are a university under construction,” he said. “We are also expecting a fourth consecutive year of record-breaking enrollment growth.”

The university’s largest construction project in history — the $17 million renovation and addition of laboratories to the Oxendine Science Building — broke ground in May. But this is just the beginning:

- Regional Center — $1.4 million project broke ground in April
- Physical Plant Complex — $9.7 million project began construction in May
- Jones Physical Education Center — $9 million expansion and renovation project began in June

Over the next five years, the university expects to spend approximately $80 million on construction of all kinds. North Carolina Higher Education Bonds will pay for $57 million of these costs.

Construction at the university will add jobs and infuse capital into the surrounding communities, Chancellor Meadors said.

“This is the biggest construction boom in the university’s history, and it will add significantly to the prosperity of our community,” he said. “The value added to our communities from higher education is immeasurable, but this study tracks the measurable impact of a growing university on its surrounding community.”

Growth of enrollment at the university is well-established and gaining momentum. Since 1999, enrollment has grown 48 percent. The university’s budget is financed on a per-pupil basis.

Enrollment growth means employment growth, and university employment has blossomed from 450 to 660 since 1999, Chancellor Meadors said.

“Increasing job opportunities has the greatest impact on our local community, and it is what I am most proud of,” he said. “Jobs support families, and families support communities.”

When will it end?

Chancellor Meadors predicts enrollment to reach 6,000 by 2007. By that time, the university’s economic impact will be well in excess of $100 million.

“We have worked extremely hard to establish UNC Pembroke as a branded name in higher education,” the chancellor said. “Our future success will only be limited by how hard we continue to work and our own imaginations.”
Chancellor Meadors and a legion of architects, engineers and contractors are sculpting the new face of the university.

“We are,” the chancellor said, “a university under construction.”

At times it seems more like a campus under siege, as parking lots are temporarily cordoned off, sidewalks replaced and streets closed. It is the largest building program in university history.

Even the underground is not safe as major upgrades continue to water, irrigation, sewer, electric power and fiber optic systems. There is not enough room here to describe the tidal wave of campus changes that are under construction and in the planning stages.

Oxendine Science — A new exterior, renovations and a new laboratory wing at a cost of $17 million makes it the most expensive construction project in university history.

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**Construction Timeline**

*all dates are subject to change*

- **1999**
  - "Focused Growth" designation means funding for campus beautification

- **2000**
  - Higher Education Bonds passed by N.C. voters, with $57 million for UNCP

- **2001**
  - State and universities plan sales of bonds and create a construction management system

- **2002**
  - Architects are hired and designs drawn for the largest construction project in university history

- **2003**
  - May
    - Ground broken for Oxendine Science and Physical Plant $26.7 million
  - June
    - Work begins on Track/Soccer complex $800,000
  - August
    - Jones addition, renovations begin $9 million

- **March**
  - Ground broken for Regional Center $1.4 million

- **June-September**
  - University Village Apartments complete privately funded

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Chancellor Meadors offered this solution: “If our alumni and friends have not seen what is going on here, they should come visit us.”

Here are highlights of major campus construction under way or planned for the near future:

- **Braves Drive**, part of the north/south campus thoroughfare, will close forever this summer between the University Center and Jones Athletic Complex to make way for a pedestrian mall.
- **Oxendine Science Building** — the first building visitors see — will have an attractive new exterior and undergo $17 million in interior renovations, including a new wing with laboratories.
- **Jones Athletic Complex** will also get a new exterior, new classrooms, air conditioning, offices and a complete overhaul ($9 million).
- A new **Main Entrance** is being designed off Odom Road.
- The **Bookstore** will relocate from D.F. Lowry to the more spacious Business Services building.
- The **University Center** will get an annex building for additional offices and meeting space ($3 million).
- The new, privately funded University Village Apartments will be constructed on the former intramural fields.

A large new **Physical Plant and Business Services complex** will be constructed on the far north side of campus.

A 499-seat stadium, with locker rooms, concessions and storage, will be constructed at the new Belk Track and Soccer Complex.

A new classroom building is planned.

A cluster of 12 classrooms, offices and labs has been located just north of the Dial Building to temporarily house the departments of Mathematics and Computer Science, Biology and Chemistry, and Physics.

Major overhauls are set for the **Moore, Locklear, D.F. Lowery, Business and Student Health Services buildings**.

Old sidewalks are giving way to red, molded concrete sidewalks.

And a facelift for the Lowry Bell Tower. It will chime UNCP’s Alma Mater once again. “No corner of our campus will be left untouched,” Chancellor Meadors said. “UNC Pembroke is going to be one of the most attractive campuses in the United States. Our students and faculty deserve it. So do our alumni and friends.”

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**Facilities Planning and Construction** — In charge of campus construction are, from left, Steve Martin, facility architect; Bess Tyner, director; Bobby Dean Locklear, project manager; Frank Britt, facility engineering specialist; and Melissa Vance, administrative.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>Classroom building renovation begins</th>
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<th>Classroom building renovation begins</th>
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<td>Physical Plant complete</td>
<td>August $6.7 million</td>
<td>Business Services and Bookstore complete</td>
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<td>October Moore Hall renovations begin</td>
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<td>Locklear Hall renovation begins</td>
<td>Business Administration building renovations begin</td>
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<td>November Main Entrance complete</td>
<td>October $2 million</td>
<td>Annex complete</td>
<td>D.F. Lowry renovations begin</td>
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<td>December Business Administration building renovations begin</td>
<td>December $1 million</td>
<td>West Hall renovations complete</td>
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<td>September Oxendine Science renovation, addition complete</td>
<td>May West Hall renovations begin</td>
<td>Locklear and West renovations complete</td>
<td>June D.F. Lowry renovations complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>June Business Services and Bookstore construction begins</td>
<td>July Main Entrance complete; D.F. Lowry renovations begin</td>
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Distinguished Speaker Series

September 23.................Soledad O'Brien
November 3....................Billy Mills
December 2.....................Dave Barry
February 2......................Spike Lee

Givens
Performing Arts Center

Broadway and More Series

September 22...................."In the Mood"
October 29......................"Dancing Wheels"
November 1......................Carolina Pops
December 5......................"Seussical - the Musical"
January 22......................The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats
February 25......................Marvin Hamlisch
April 7.............................."Fosse"
Nostalgia Concert Series

October 4.....................Dionne Warwick
December 11..............The Oak Ridge Boys
February 20....................The Four Tops

Order the season today!
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910-521-6361

Special Performances

November 7............"Saturday Night Fever"
February 12......................"Cats"

The Oak Ridge Boys

2003-04 Season

On Stage for Youth Series

September 11..............."The Giving Tree"
October 29...................."Dancing Wheels"
December 5.........."Seussical - the Musical"
January 22...................The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats
March 5.........................."First in Flight"
April 5......................"Tales of Tom Sawyer"
INDIVIDUALS

John I. Adams
Bob Andrews
Robert W. Antone
William E. Antone
James H. Ayars
Sandy L. Baker
Martha Baldwin
Elmer Ray Barnes
Marion F. Bass
Martha H. Beach
Randall & Robin O. Beard
G. Thomas Blankership
Barbara Braveboy-Looklear
Hampton C. Brayboy
Isaac T. Brayboy
Larry R. Brayboy
Mary E. Brayboy
Betty F. Bridger
David E. Brooks
Martin L. Brooks
Roger Brown
Cliff Bullard
Sybil Bullard
Glen G. Burnett
Cecil A. Butler
Katharine Butterworth
Patrick & Suellen Cabe
Dallas M. Campbell
Mary D. Caple
James Carroll
Robert Caton
James B. Chavis
Janet O. Chavis
Herman Chavis
James J. Cobb III
Michael Cohen
Jeff Collins
Cecil & Naomi Conley
Samuel L. Cox
Sammy Cox Sr.
Robin G. Cummings
Jose D’Arruda
Kent Dean
Hammet C. Dial Baker
Maureen Dial & Family
Katherine Dial
Alfred Dipinto
Gerald Domenick
James Ebert
Charles R. Farrell
Chester Finn
Allene S. Gane
Melvin E. Gardner Jr.
Fred George
M. Carr Gibson
Gracie L. Gibson
Patterson Gibson
Paul R. Givens
Allan R. Glenn
Owen L. Goldsmith
Gibson H. Gray
Christine Griffin
Milton Gene Hall
Bill Hall
Elaine B. Haraway
J. Ben Hardin
Elwood Hardin
Barry Harding
Neil Hawk
Eunice Henderson
Luther Wilson Herndon
Jean Hodges
Leonard Holmes
James F. Hubbard
Josephine Humphrey
Francis Pete Ivey
Charles R. Jenkins
Darrell D. Johnson
Alfred Jones
Diane O. Jones
Thomas A. Jones
Bonnie Kelley
Christopher T. Kirs
Daniel H. Laurent
Thomas M. Lewis
Harry Lewis
Carlton Lindsey
Joseph P. Riddle
Gregory Locklear
Cheryl Ransom Locklear
Delton Ray Locklear
Dennis Lowery
Weldon Lowery
Burton Lowery
Lycourus Lowery
Monroe F. Lowery
Magnolia Lowery
Josephine B. Lucente
David Malloy
Al Mangum
Bill Mason III
Malinda M. Maynor
C.W. Maynor
James C. Maynor
Annie R. Maynor
Jaye P. Maynor
Waltz Maynor
John L. McLean
Allen C. Meadors
Elizabeth L. Normandy
Faye N. Ostrem
Roger D. Oxendine
JoAnn Oxendine
Louis S. Oxendine
Joseph B. Oxendine
Brion Oxendine
Russell Oxendine
Riley Oxendine
Jesse E. Oxendine
Gervais Oxendine
James W. Oxendine
H. Dobbs Oxendine Jr.
William L. Oxendine Jr.
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Raymond B. Pennington
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R.W. Reising
John Reissner
John C. Rozier
Karen Gall Sampson
John W. Sampson
Joseph E. Sandlin
Lula Jane Smith
C.D. Spangler
Kenneth Strickland
Ronnie Sutton
Dick Taylor
James A. Thomas
Alan Thompson
Sharon F. Valentine
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Rudy D. Williams

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Samuel R. Locklear Jr., Locklear & Son
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Grady Hunt, Locklear, Jacobs, Hunt & Brooks
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Sandra K. Locklear, Pembroke Optometric
Progress Energy
Roland T. Orr, Progressive Savings
Christopher Scott, Scott Buick-Cadillac
Charles E. Mullins, Scottish Food Systems
James H. Sheffield, Sheffield’s Seafood
Fred Formichella, Sodexho
Charles A. Maynor, Southern Interiors
Lou Kirchen, Spartan Broadcasting
James White, Square D Foundation
Henry Lewis, St. Albans Masonic Lodge
Duke Energy Foundation
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
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Triangle Community Foundation Inc.
Triangle Bancorp
Harvey Godwin Jr., Two Hawk Employment
Wal-Mart Foundation
Jim Thrash, WFAY-TV 62
Thomas Melhorn, Williamette Industries

Mitch Saced, WKFT-TV 40
Robert F. Bleecker, Bleecker Olds-Buick
Dana Wilson, Butler Mfg.
N.C. Natural Gas
John P. Barber, Triangle Ice
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Larry Brooks, Pembroke Elementary School
Charles R. Beasley, Lumberton Medical
Larry R. Chavis, Lumbee Guaranty Bank
A 1949 graduate and a member of the Board of Trustees when he passed away in 1997, James H. "Jim" Dial loved the university.

Like many college graduates of his generation, Dial returned from the war to get a degree and find a career in teaching. Dial and the post-war generation reinvigorated the university and their community.

Dial’s widow, Katherine B. Dial, has memorialized his life with a gift of $50,000 to the university to dedicate a courtyard in his name at the proposed new east entrance to the university. The courtyard will be located in the large island in front of Lumbee Hall.

Mrs. Dial said the gift is a symbol of her husband’s love of his university.

“I’m glad we could do this,” she said. “If my husband were here to see it, he would be proud.”

Dial was a lifetime Chancellor’s Club member and one of the first to join the club.

Chancellor Allen C. Meadors thanked the family for their support. “The garden will be a focal point of the university,” he said. “It will be one of the first things people see when they drive onto campus at the new entrance.

“This is a great gift honoring a great friend of the university,” he added.

Mrs. Dial said she needed a guided tour of campus because it has changed so much since she graduated in 1946.

“I’m glad they left the front of Old Main the same,” she said. “I had to have help to get around campus today.”

During her visit to UNCP, Mrs. Dial leafed through a 1946 Indianhead Yearbook and paused for some fond memories. She was the May Queen in 1946.

“We had some great times,” she said. “I had very few classmates, but we had good programs and plays.”

Jim and Katherine Dial have four children: James H. Dial Jr. of Charlotte; Dennis Dial, a military pilot stationed in Germany; and Gina Dial and Colette D. Locklear, both of Pembroke.

There are a variety of ways to give, including deferred gifts. Corporate matching gifts are credited toward your pledge. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent of current IRS regulations.

Chancellor’s Club members help the university grow brighter and stronger. Their generosity has woven commitment, encouragement and hope into the fabric of the university’s long and proud tradition.

Join today by making your check payable to UNCP or the UNCP Foundation Inc. and mailing it to the Office of Donor Relations, P.O. Box 1510, Pembroke, NC 28372 or call 1-800-949-8627 for details.
1940s

Katherine Dial '46 made a $50,000 contribution to the university in memory of her late husband, James H. Dial '49. (See story, page 13)

1960s

Tim Brayboy '64 was recently inducted into the North Carolina Athletic Association Hall of Fame. A longtime resident of Cary, N.C., he taught and coached in the public schools. He worked at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction from 1972 to 1995. He was also an outstanding high school and college game official. He officiated football for 35 years and basketball for 30 seasons. He is co-author of “Playing Before an Overflow Crowd.”

1970s

Ronnie Chavis '72 was coordinator this summer for the Student Athlete Summer Institute (SASI) camp at UNCP. He is athletic director for the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Rear Admiral Michael Holmes '72, a Robeson County native, has been assigned as commander of the Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Atlantic in Norfolk, Va. He is commander of Fleet Air Mediterranean Air Forces, Mediterranean in Naples, Italy. Holmes grew up on a farm near Lumberton in the Saddletree community. He is one of only two or three American Indian U.S. Navy admirals. Holmes entered the Navy through the Aviation Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in December 1973. He earned his pilot’s wings in November 1974.

Morris Bullock ’72 was promoted to vice president of physician services and business development at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. He has been with SRMC since 1987 as employment manager, director of physician recruitment and assistant vice president. He holds his master’s of public health degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Thomas Jernigan '75 recently joined Progressive State Bank’s loan department and has been promoted to assistant vice president. He has eight years of lending experience. He lives with his wife, Deborah, in Lumberton.

Ralph E. “Rick” Reeves Jr. ’75 has been named as a recipient of the Washington Post's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. He was also presented the Leo Schubert Memorial Award, given by the Washington Section of the American Chemical Society.

Bill “William McKee” Evans ’77, award-winning historian, recently hosted an evening of discussion on “Documenting, Preserving and Celebrating the 20th-Century History of Robeson County.” He is an emeritus professor of history at California

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Blackwell ’68 joins Order of the Longleaf Pine

Breeden

Blackwell ’68 has received the Order of the Longleaf Pine, the state’s highest civilian honor. Blackwell is a Cumberland County commissioner. He received a framed proclamation signed by Governor Mike Easley.

His wife, Cathy, son Ryan, and other relatives were present when he received the order. “It is indeed an honor, and I’m very humbled by this,” he said.

Blackwell is a retired school principal with 30 years’ experience in the Cumberland County school system. Blackwell has also served on the Fayetteville City Council, including three terms as mayor pro-tem, from 1992 to 1997.
Dr. Glenn Harris ’85 recently contributed $500 to Scotland County Concerned Citizens for the Homeless. The gift was given through Scotland Health Care System after Dr. Harris won the Physician of the Year award.

Dr. Ruth Dial Woods ’80 was invited to speak at the 2003 Transformative Justice Conference, sponsored by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute with partnership to the Birmingham International Festival. She shared her experience in human rights struggles during the civil rights movement.

Mary Ann Prevatte ’84, a teacher at Peterson Elementary School in Red Springs, N.C., earned the Public Schools of Robeson County Employee of the Month award.

Patricia Harris ’87 of St. Pauls, N.C., is a bank secrecy act compliance team leader with BB&T.


Rodney Cannon ’89 is facilities manager at the national office of the American Diabetes Association.

An anonymous donor has offered to match up to $1,000 in contributions to honor the legacy of all-American wrestler Willie Mayes, who died tragically in 1988 on the eve of his graduation. Mayes is described by Coach P.J. Smith as a rare individual for his incredible work ethic and team spirit. This spirit still lives at UNCP!

Coach Smith hopes that classmates, friends and members of Phi Beta Sigma will rise to the challenge and enhance this endowed scholarship that has already helped numerous wrestling scholar-athletes.

(910) 521-6261 or pj.smith@uncp.edu
Jacobs, reside in the Saddletree community of Lumberton.

Jennifer Brayboy Locklear ’90 received her Ed.D. degree in educational leadership from UNC-Chapel Hill in May 2003. She married Eric H. Locklear ’90 and works as a principal in Person County Schools.

Major Torrey Mitchell ’90 is chief of inspections with the U.S. Army Inspector General.

Whitney VanZandt Jones ’91 and Barry Edward Jones ’90 announce the birth of their second child, Blair Elizabeth Jones, on Jan. 24.

David Malcolm ’92 has been appointed new associate pastor at Camp Ground United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, N.C. David earned his master’s of divinity degree at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He is married to Beth Malcolm ’92, and the couple has three daughters and one son.

Sharon Mundy ’92 announces the birth of her sons, Alex Brian and Joshua Taylor.

Angie Revels ’92 is marketing representative for Healthkeeperz, a home health agency in Pembroke. She recently made a presentation to the Pembroke Business and Professional Women’s Organization about her company’s comprehensive plan of pharmaceutical services, respiratory care services, home medical equipment and home health services.

Brian Edkins ’93 was named the North Carolina High School Athletics Association’s Women’s Soccer Coach of the Year. In June, he was named athletic director of Southview High School in Hope Mills, N.C.

Felicia M. Locklear ’93 is principal of Brooks Elementary School. She recently attended the National Paideia Teaching Method Conference in Chapel Hill. She is married to Anthony Locklear ’79.

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Adams, Deta C.
Adams, Grady B. ’71
Adams, Karen Fournier ’80
Anderson, Tonya ’96
Andreacchio, Paul ’84
Andrews, Barbara ’82
Andrews, Donald ’97
Andrews, Kristi ’94
Andrews, Sharon W.
Anelli, Lisa Jean ’91
Angel, Ollie M. ’74
Anlberg, Walter ’71
Anthony, Ivy
Anthony, Joseph
Anthony, Sherrie Connor ’90
Armstrong, Beverly A. ’90
Armstrong, Christopher D. ’92
Armstrong, Donna R. ’77
Arnette, Charlene ’74
Arno, Russell ’96
Arnold, Deborah ’74
Arnold, Maria ’95
Arp, Nancy ’78
Arroba, Melinda ’94
Ashford, John ’86
Ashley, Carolyn C. ’84
Ashley, Richard C.
Ashlock, Lisa J. ’87
Ashton, Teresa ’84
Atkins, Debby L. ’93
Atkinson, Marjorie P. ’73

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Newy ‘Newdawg’ Scruggs ’93 was married to Lainie Yglesia Dec. 28, 2002, on the beach in the Bahamas. (See story, page 19)

S. Anthony Fields ’94 and Nancy Strickland were married Feb. 1 on the campus of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M. He is employed with the institute. Nancy was previously employed with Metrolina Native American Association and is enrolled in a museum studies program, seeking a bachelor’s degree. The couple resides in Santa Fe.

Clayton Alexander ’95 and Ashley Baker were married June 7 at Finch Chapel on the campus of Greensboro College. She is a graduate of the University of Central Florida and works for Merck. Clayton is assistant to the president of Greensboro College. The couple honeymooned at the Sandals Grande St. Lucian Resort in the West Indies.

Katina Dial Pittman ’95 received her doctorate of dental surgery degree with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry on May 18. She and her husband, W. Brian Pittman, reside in Chapel Hill.

Marcus Collins ’96 (M.S. ’01) is pursuing his doctoral degree in higher education administration at N.C. State University. He is employed at UNC-Chapel Hill as assistant dean in the Office for Student Academic Counseling. He was program coordinator for Upward Bound at UNCP.

Ryan Hammonds ’96 and LisaAnne Fedor ’03 were married June 7, 2003, in Lumberton at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church. The couple resides in Morrisville, N.C.

Captain Reginald J. McClam ’97 was commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps as an officer. He has been in the Marine Corps for the last six years, stationed in California with 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

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PHONATHON
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October 5-8
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He served as a rifle platoon commander and a mortar platoon commander during that time. He is assigned as a tactics, weapons and leadership instructor. At UNCP, he ran track and was a member of the Nu Lota Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

Ron Sharpe ’98 enjoyed the success of his guitar students at the Colorado Suzuki Institute. More than 500 performers were narrowed to a field of 31 in honors recitals. Only five were guitarists, including three of Ron’s students. Ron teaches more than 24 students from ages 5 to 19 in the Fayetteville, N.C., area.

Amanda B. “Mandi” Walters ’98 received her M.S. degree in molecular genetics from the University of Florida. She recently accepted the position of vice president at Metropolitan Research Associates, a clinical research organization, in Manhattan.

Christina Locklear Revels ’99 graduated in June with her B.S. degree from the physician’s assistant program at the East Carolina University’s School of Allied Health Science. At the same time, she received her master’s of health science degree from Duke University. Christina is the daughter of Carla Locklear, a UNCP employee in the Office of Business Affairs. Christina plans to practice in the area after completing her license requirements.

Renee Josette Lewter ’99 teaches English at Southwest High School in Jacksonville, Fla. She plans to wed Daniel Merion in March 2004.

Traci Powell ’99 and Greg Williams ’90 were married April 19 in Hope Mills, N.C. The couple lives in Laurinburg, N.C. Greg is a football coach and history teacher at Richmond Senior High School, and Traci begins teaching at Sycamore Lane Middle School in the fall. Traci was an admissions counselor at UNCP for three years before accepting a teaching position.
2000s

Natasha Jacobs '00 graduated in June with her B.S. degree from the physician’s assistant program at East Carolina University’s School of Allied Health Science. At the same time, she received her master’s of health science degree from Duke University. She is completing her clinical rotations and plans to practice in the area.

Wendy Leigh Jernigan '00 and Daniel Franklin Fields were married at Hyde Park Baptist Church on May 31. She works for the Public Schools of Robeson County. He works for Jerry Johnson Chevrolet.

Randall Channing Jones '00, a student in UNC Chapel Hill's marine science program, was the recipient of the J. Ernest Wilkins Jr. Award for Oral Research Competition for Life Sciences. He is the son of Diane Jones '71, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, and fiancé of Emily Love '00, an employee with UNCP’s University Computing and Information Systems.

Jennifer McLean '00 received her master’s of arts degree in community counseling from Appalachian State University. She married Jeremy A. McLean '01 on Aug. 5, 2000. Jennifer now works at UNCP in the Office of Student Support Services as a tutorial coordinator.

Tamra Moore '00 works with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as southeast regional computer consultant.

Rikki Cockrell '01 has been named sports information director at UNCP. She was a standout performer on UNCP’s basketball and softball teams.

Lorna McNeill '01 and Dr. Patrick Ricotta were married June 14 in Fayetteville, N.C. She is director of Alumni Relations at UNCP. He is a practicing physician and surgeon at the Foot and Ankle Institute, with offices in Lumberton and Laurinburg, N.C. The couple will live in Fayetteville, N.C.

Sherry Parnell '01 and husband Ivey Parnell announce the Oct. 11, 2002 birth of Abigail Grace. The family resides in St. Pauls, N.C.

Raegen A. Cecil '02 has joined Smith Moore LLP as a health care law librarian.

Shandora Lynn Locklear '02 and Kelly Dean Chavis '98 were married April 26 at the Saddletree Church of God. She is employed by the Public Schools of Robeson County. He works for Unilever, HPC-NA.

Laura Smith '02 of Murrells Inlet, S.C., has been promoted to business banker with BB&T.

Lisa Anne Fedor '03 and Ryan Hammonds '96 were married June 7 in Lumberton, at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church. The couple resides in Morrisville, N.C.

Katie Marsh '03 was named assistant women’s basketball coach at the College of William and Mary. Marsh begins her first season as a collegiate coach after a stellar career at UNCP, where she finished with 930 points and close to 400 assists while setting single-season school records in three-point field goal percentage (40.2 percent) and free-throw percentage (89.4 percent) while serving as team captain. A native of Richmond, Va., Marsh was a member of Psi Chi and graduated cum laude in May 2003.

Jessica Reed '03 has accepted a teaching position at Codington Elementary Year Round School and moved to Wilmington, N.C., in June.

Jessica Smith Rogers '03 was recently named director of education for Sylvan Learning Center in Whiteville, N.C.

In Memory

Lock B. Locklear '48 died April 11, 2003 at his home in Levittown, Pa. After receiving his degree from Pembroke, he received his master’s in education degree from Temple University. He was a retired public school teacher.

Dennis Dean Lowery '64 died May 17, 2003. He served on UNCP’s Board of Trustees and was awarded an honorary doctorate in laws in 1995.

Kenneth C. Lennon '78 died May 25, 2003 at Columbus County Hospital.

Bruce Alvin Proctor '80 died at St. Eugene Medical Center in South Carolina.

Jason Wayne Hunt, a rising junior at UNCP, died at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. He was a member of the Phi Sigma Nu fraternity.

Alumni Travel Planning Calendar

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- Norwegian Majesty — New Tour!

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Newy Scruggs ’93 has been known as “the Newdawg” since his Omega Psi Phi days at UNCP.

Since anchoring the sports desk at WPSU-TV, Newdawg’s star has been on the rise in television, radio and newspaper.

His latest stop is the Dallas-Fort Worth market, where he is weeknight sports anchor at top-rated KXAS (NBC, www.nbc5i.com).

Newdawg also co-hosts “The Big Show” on ESPN 103.3 FM weekdays. (www.espn1033.com). A one-man media empire, you can read his column in DFW Sports Weekly (www.dfwsw.com).

The sportscasting career of the Newdawg began in September 1992 in Florence, S.C. While in his senior year at UNC Pembroke, Newdawg was a Friday night high school football photographer for WBTW-TV13 and then became the weekend sports anchor.

In 1993, Scruggs went to work at KVUE-TV in Austin, Texas, to cover the Dallas Cowboys during their Super Bowl years.

In 1994, it was off to Cleveland’s WEWS-TV as a weekend sports anchor. In 1997, Newdawg launched his Sunday night sports show on KCOP TV, where he was sports director.

He was the 1998 and 1999 Associated Press Best Sportscast Award winner and, at KCOP, he won the Best Newscast Award.

During a recent campus visit, Scruggs talked about the endowed scholarship in sports broadcasting he has established.

“It was great here,” he said of the opportunities available to him at UNCP. “It (the scholarship) is about taking pride in your school and giving back.

“They started Action News here my sophomore year, and when they did basketball games, I got to be part of the three-man crew,” he added. Scruggs described internships in Wilmington and Florence and meeting his mentor, Tom Suter, the dean of sports broadcasting in the Carolinas.

“It was fun,” he said. Apparently, it’s still fun for the Newdawg as his star continues to rise.

Despite the big market exposure, Scruggs has great feelings about his college days, and he is fondly remembered at UNCP.

“He had a tremendous passion for sports and wanted to be a part of it,” said Athletic Director Dan Kenney. “I remember him coming up to me as basketball coach to ask if he could do anything.

“He was a fixture with the broadcast program, and I would not be surprised to see him on ESPN some day soon,” he added.

Scruggs was also a fixture with the players, said Student Activities Director Abdul Ghaffar, who was a senior co-captain during Scruggs’ freshman year.

“He was Mr. Fan,” he said. “He was like a teammate, and everybody loved him.”

He was also the guy who knew everybody’s stats on the team and in the league, Ghaffar said.

“He loves his sports and brings incredible energy to it,” he said. “I am so proud of his successes.”

The Newdawg is an Army kid who hooked up with UNCP via Fort Bragg. Send Newy e-mail at Newy.Scruggs@nbc.com, or visit his personal Web site: www.newdawg.com/index.asp.

“It’s about taking pride in your school.”
Koji Sado: From dropout to SGA president

by Sheri Sides

Four years ago, Koji Sado had a tough time getting accepted to college.

“I made the mistake of dropping out of school,” Sado said. “I got my GED later, but I think when colleges saw that, they considered it a weakness.”

Sado shows no sign of weakness now. He served two years in the Student Government Association.

Sado was an officer for the International Business Club and the Campus Activity Board and a resident adviser in the dorms.

He did all this while maintaining a 3.7 GPA, earning him the Outstanding Undergraduate Business Student Award.

“After dropping out of school, I got a job in marketing and sales in Malaysia, and people were impressed with my work,” Sado said. “When they asked what college I graduated from, I told them I had a GED, and suddenly they weren’t interested anymore. That’s when I made it a priority to go to college.”

Although other colleges were skeptical of his GED, Sado was accepted to UNC Pembroke.

Abdul Ghaffar, director of Student Activities at UNCP, praised Sado.

“Koji is one of the most dedicated students I have ever worked with,” Ghaffar said. “Koji is incredibly organized, intelligent and wise beyond his years.”

Sado said attending UNCP has been a maturing experience, and it took a little help from his friends.

“The faculty here is great. They really care about you,” he said. “Whenever I had problems, they were there to help me.”

The new graduate has some advice for new college students.

“You can redo your life. If you’re focused and believe in yourself, anything is possible,” he added.

Nick Arena: ‘It’s never too late’

Early in his career, Nick Arena tried to earn his master’s in business administration (MBA) degree. Twice, he was unable to continue due to busy work and family schedules.

When he decided to finish his MBA at UNCP, he was concerned that, being in his 50s, it might be too late.

“It was a personal thing for me,” he said. “I tried in the ’80s, but I was just too busy.

“I went into the program wondering if I could compete with the younger students,” he added. “I am not that good with computers, so that was an issue.”

Arena, who is general manager of Acme Electric’s Lumberton plant, was named Outstanding MBA Student.

Early on, he decided that age and experience are his best assets.

“As a general manager, I am involved in every area of the business,” he said.

“There was something I took out of every class and was able to put it into action immediately.”

He also took three courses via the Internet.

The only thing that suffered was his golf game, the Pinehurst resident said.

“I had a lot of support from my family,” Arena said. “I work pretty long hours, so I studied on Saturdays. Sitting on my deck with a laptop, it was tough watching the golfers.”

Arena said he recommends the program to his managers at Acme. A Philadelphia native and Villanova graduate, he spent a career rising through the management ranks at several Fortune 500 companies.

“The education you get here would compete with the big-name schools,” he said. “I had some of the best professors I have ever had.”

Acme Electric, which manufactures electric power conditioning devices, employs approximately 200 today and is owned by Key Components Inc., headquartered in Tarrytown, N.Y.

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Lowry Bell Tower renovated

“As the tones roll across the area and rise into the skies, let them remind us of this educational institution and of fine people like Ira Pate and Reba Lowry who contributed to the growth of Pembroke.” - Excerpt from the Bell Tower dedication in 1981

A campus landmark since its dedication on May 10, 1981, the Lowry Bell Tower recently received a complete renovation that included new speakers, new computer, panels and paint job. Silent since the early 1990s, UNCP’s Alma Mater, Hail to UNCP, along with other selections can now be heard at 9 a.m. and noon.

Lowry Bell Tower is named after the late Ira Pate Lowry (1906 - 1992) and his wife Reba Millsaps Lowry (1906 - 1980). The Lowrys contributed $20,000 to pay for the carillon bells and chimes and friends of the university contributed $30,000 for the tower.

Born near Maryville, Tenn., Mrs. Lowry, who wrote the lyrics to Hail to UNCP in 1941, served the university for 40 years. She was an instructor in the Foreign Language Department, advisor to The Indianhead, first Dean of Women, director of the Pembroke Players and women’s basketball coach. She was also the first woman to join the Chancellor’s Club.

Mr. Lowry, from the Elrod community south of Pembroke, organized and served as chair of the Music Department from 1935-57. In 1941, he wrote the music to Hail to UNCP. From 1957-71, he taught music at Pembroke Senior High School.

“Bell towers make such wonderful additions and produce such beautiful tones,” Lowry said. “Music has been such a part of my life. This tower will be beautiful to the ear as well as the eye.” – Ira Pate Lowry

Photo: new panels being installed.