UNCP Today
for alumni and friends of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

WINTER 2007

Ramon Jacobs ’98 returns home
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Winter 2007

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UNCP Today magazine is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the University by the Division for University and Community Relations. 16,000 copies were printed on recycled paper at a cost of $1.49 each. UNCP is a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.

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Winter 2007
When school began last fall, five new buildings were under construction on your campus. These are the buildings that are moving the University into the future, and they will be the setting for college memories of a new generation of alumni.

Enrollment increased again this fall for the seventh consecutive year. It was a smaller increase than we had expected, but we were short of on-campus and off-campus housing – a problem that will be remedied next fall.

Besides a new residence hall (Oak Hall), the construction of two new off-campus apartment complexes adjacent to campus will ensure our students have ample housing choices.

As the University grows, the Town of Pembroke grows, too. In addition to the two new apartment complexes, there are several other new businesses slated to open between now and next fall. UNCP pumps well over $100 million into the local economy annually.

Pembroke continues to grow into its role as a college town with new shops, eateries and other entities to attract our students. It has been an evolutionary process, but this exciting transformation is taking shape.

Growth has a synergistic quality, and opportunities multiply:

- There are great performances like “Jesus Christ Superstar;”
- Distinguished speakers like Nancy Grace, Pat Buchanan and BB&T’s CEO John Allison;
- New tools for learning, like the observatory and the outstanding new concert organ in Moore Hall;
- Stimulating international opportunities for faculty, staff and students;
- An explosion of outreach at satellite campuses like Fort Bragg and in distance learning opportunities (UNCP now ranks third among UNC institutions for enrollment in online and off-campus courses);
- An increase in grants and gifts as symbolized by the Esther G. Maynor Honors College, named for the donor responsible for the University’s largest gift ever;
- And more!

There are new traditions, too. On October 6, 2007, we will host our first-ever fall Homecoming on a home football weekend. Make plans now to be there for the start of this new tradition. Ticket information for football games will be available on the University’s Web site (www.uncp.edu).

It has often been said that the difference between good universities and great universities is involved alumni. Join us as we grow into the future!

Allen C. Meadors
Allen C. Meadors, Ph.D., FACHE
Chancellor
The distance between Pembroke and Harvard is greater than the miles it takes to get there.

The education of Ramon E.A. Jacobs M.D. has taken the Pembroke native to one of the world’s top medical training programs and back again to the Tar Heel State.

A 1998 UNCP graduate and 2002 graduate of the UNC School of Medicine, Dr. Jacobs recently accepted a position as assistant professor and hospitalist at UNC Healthcare.

“My training was at the Harvard Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Program in Boston,” he said. “We affectionately call it ‘Med/Peds’ for short.”

Dr. Jacobs is the same bright and engaging person he was when he graduated from Purnell Swett High School a little more than a decade ago. His brow should be furrowed from study and stress, but it is not. He knows the way home and visits family members and friends monthly. His apartment in Durham, N.C., is sparsely furnished, and his diplomas are not yet hung, but he keeps a framed black-and-white photograph of his grandmother, Katie Acosta, on a kitchen counter.

In an interview this fall, Dr. Jacobs talked about his education.

“Harvard? It’s a place that attracts some of the smartest people from all over the world,” he said with a smile. “I told myself that I would not be at a place like Harvard if I didn’t think I could do something extraordinary.

“I worked primarily at Massachusetts General Hospital and Children’s Hospital of Boston, which are Harvard teaching institutions,” he added. “I had great training in a great program in a great city. I not only survived, but I also served as chief resident for my program, which is an immense honor.”

The “Med/Peds” combined residency takes four years to complete and is one of the most difficult in the medical world. Dr. Jacobs’ colleague and hospital section chief, Dr. Mitchell J. Wilson, makes this point emphatically.

“We’re so incredibly lucky to have him here,” he said. “He could be anywhere in the country. ‘Med/Peds’ are the cream of the crop.”

Family Influences

Dr. Jacobs’ education started with a solid family foundation. He is the son of Eddie and Rose Jacobs. The family believes in education.

“I would certainly have to put my parents at the top of the list of people who influenced me,” he said. “They continued on next page
sacrificed so much for our family and did it with a smile.

“They stressed the importance of getting a good education and letting us know that the world was ready and waiting for us if we were willing to take it by the horns and run with it, so to speak,” he added. “I’m truly blessed to have them in my life.”

Being Lumbee is also important to Dr. Jacobs, even at Harvard. He delivered a required lecture to classmates on the subject of the inequities of health care among Native Americans.

“I asked them to look around and ask themselves, ‘How many Native Americans have been through this program?’” he said. “I was one of two Native American residents out of hundreds.

“At UNCP, he was Lumbee Indian Student of the Year in 1997, president of the Health Careers Club, a founding member of Native American fraternity Phi Sigma Nu, a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society, an honors student all four years and number two in his class at graduation.

“If I had to do it all over, I would go to UNCP again,” Dr. Jacobs said. “I loved being there, and I discovered so much about myself.

“I would have to say that college was a big turning point for me,” he added. “I felt like the world opened up all of a sudden, and I was becoming aware of what was happening outside of my immediate surroundings.

“That’s a great feeling,” he said. “To notice that the world outside of you is helping to shape you, and your ideals and your values.”

Pointing to Medicine

A chemistry and biology major, Dr. Jacobs ticks off a long list of favorite professors, including Drs. Paul Flowers, Siva Mandjiny, John Reissner, Jose D’Arruda and Harold Teague. However, his education was not confined to the science lab.

“In every building, there were so many great teachers like (Dr.) Linda Oxendine in American Indian Studies and (Dr.) John Labadie in art history,” he said. “I got counseling from Sylvia Johnson (director of the Health Careers Access Program). I was in her office all the time.”

Johnson pointed the future doctor in the right direction, but medicine had been a driving passion for some time.
“When I was almost 12 years old, my grandfather became sick and was hospitalized at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton,” he said. “I remember the incredible physicians that took care of him during his hospitalization.

“That was one of the sparks that began my interest in the field of medicine,” he added. “And I can’t forget Dr. Joey Bell, the Pembroke pediatrician.”

As a graduation present, Dr. Bell gave Dr. Jacobs the Indian beadwork that adorns the stethoscope he wears on rounds at UNC Hospitals.

At the time of this interview, Dr. Jacobs had just finished taking his comprehensive medical boards and was becoming adjusted to his new roles as professor and hospitalist.

“I’m an assistant professor of both internal medicine and pediatrics,” he said. “I have the wonderful responsibility of helping teach doctors in their residency and medical students.

“Hospital medicine is a relatively new field whereby the primary focus is on the care of patients in the hospital,” he added. “Thus, I do not have an outpatient clinic. It is an incredibly rewarding field of medicine. By working at UNC Hospitals, I am able to take care of patients from all over this great state of ours.”

‘Dr.’ Jacobs

Asked to picture himself in the future, Dr. Jacobs laughed. He said he is not used to being called “doctor” yet.

“I smile every time I hear someone call me that,” he said. “I remember the first time a patient called me that during my first day of internship.

“I turned around to see who he was talking to, and then realized, ‘Hey, that’s me!’” he added. “It humbles me every time I hear it. I don’t think even my family has gotten used to it. I see their smiles when other people address me that way.”

There have been necessary adjustments.

“Seeing kids getting sick is always heart-wrenching, and the same is true for taking care of adults,” he said. “I don’t care how many times I’ve seen it or dealt with it, seeing a child sick always grabs me in the heart.

“So many people have asked how I can do it – you know, being a pediatrician and seeing sick kids,” he continued. “Especially since my career choice involves taking care of the sickest children in the state. I usually tell them that even though it saddens me to see a child sick, seeing them recuperate is a cure for that.

“Seeing a child get better brings an incredible sense of accomplishment, and certainly a huge smile to my face,” he said.

At the beginning of his career, the future is just beginning to unfold.

“I’m keeping as many options open for the future as possible,” he said. “I like being in a teaching hospital, and hospital administration or development might be interesting.”

Lastly, what are his thoughts about coming home some day?

“I’ve been asked this by many, many people,” Dr. Jacobs said. “Home will always be home, and I know in my heart that my community would welcome me with open arms should I ever decide to return to Robeson County.

“And I am truly grateful for that.”
Enrollment sets record as construction booms

Enrollment surged ahead for the seventh consecutive year at the University as construction activities boomed.

Chancellor Meadors reported that fall 2006 enrollment reached 5,829, compared with 5,632 the previous year. Since 1999, enrollment has almost doubled, growing 96.5 percent.

Student housing on campus also hit a new record. At the start of the fall semester, 1,440 students were living on a campus with a capacity of 1,344. By next fall, a new residence hall will be online with 336 beds, and several off-campus apartment projects are under way that will offer between 830 and 1,050 new beds, Chancellor Meadors said.

Out-of-state and international student enrollment both increased. There are 81 international and 269 out-of-state students, compared to 59 and 239, respectively, in 2005.

Employment of faculty and staff continued to grow in 2006. There are 255 full-time faculty members, compared to 237 last year and 150 in 1999, which is when Chancellor Meadors arrived on campus. There are 454 full-time staff members at UNCP, compared with 294 in 1999.

Five new buildings totaling more than $33 million are under construction; the busiest season in UNCP construction history continues. The new bookstore opened in December.

Construction on a classroom building, residence hall, field house and a major addition to the student center will continue through the winter.

Ongoing projects:
- **O.R. Sampson Academic Building:** $7 million; complete in spring 2007; purpose – departments of Social Work and Sociology, Philosophy and Religion, and Psychology
- **Bookstore:** $4.2 million; completed in December 2006; purpose – campus police, Bookstore, convenience and coffee shops
- **U.C. Annex:** $5 million; complete in summer 2007; purpose – a two-story student services building that will provide a large multipurpose room on the first floor and office space for Student Housing and Student Government; financing – student fees
- **Oak Residence Hall:** $10.8 million; start date in June; complete in summer 2007; 360 beds; self-financed
- **Field House:** $4.5 million; start date in June; complete in April 2007; purpose – locker rooms, training, coaching offices, meeting rooms and bathrooms for the football stadium; financing – UNCP Foundation Inc.

Future projects:
- **Biotechnology Center:** $1.8 million; start date not available; purpose – research and training; location – Regional Center
- **D.F. Lowry Building renovations:** $1.9 million; purpose – renovate space to add classrooms, offices and restaurant; follows Bookstore completion
- **Business Administration Building renovations:** $600,000; start date next summer

A record 484 graduated on December 9

The 484 graduates on December 9 represented the largest class in the history of Winter Commencement at the University.

Commencement speaker Dr. Robert Brown, a long-time UNCP history professor and winner of the UNC Board of Governors 2006 Award for Teaching Excellence, congratulated graduates and delivered one final history lesson.

On this day in history in 1886, Dr. Brown noted, inventor Clarence Birdseye was born. There is a lesson in the life of the man who invented the modern frozen food industry.

Neither a scholar nor a genius, Birdseye had a remarkably productive life, and Dr. Brown said all graduates are capable of great things.

"Birdseye said of himself: 'I do not consider myself to be a remarkable person. I never made exceptionally high grades when I went to school. But I am immensely curious about the things which I see around me and this curiosity, combined with a willingness to assume risks, has been responsible for such success and satisfaction as I have achieved in life," Dr. Brown said.

The history lesson was followed by a lesson on the value of a college degree. College graduates' average annual salary is $51,500, while high school graduates earn $28,600 and high school dropouts only $19,000 annually, he said.

"By receiving this degree, you will be joining an elite group in the United States, not to mention the world," he said. "And, by earning it you will be gaining privileges as well as responsibilities."

The record number of graduates was due, in part, to the large number of graduate students. There were 150 graduate degrees awarded. The two most popular programs this year were school administration with 55 graduates and reading education with 34.
Musical Theatre professor remembered in tribute

In words and music, the UNCP community said goodbye to Professor Travis Stockley, who died in an August 24 auto accident.

The Music Department staged a tribute September 6 to Stockley in the Givens Performing Arts Center. Some of Stockley’s favorite music was performed by UNCP students during the 90-minute tribute.

A veteran of stage and higher education, Stockley, 50, joined UNCP in 2002 and was instrumental in establishing the Bachelor of Music program in Musical Theatre in 2005. Since joining the faculty in the Musical Theatre program, the popular and energetic professor staged several musicals at the University, including “Sweeney Todd,” “Ain’t Misbehavin’” and “Charlie Brown.”

He directed more than 100 professional productions throughout the United States and Europe, including “The Music Man” (starring Gary Sandy), “Man of La Mancha” (starring David Holiday), “My Fair Lady,” “Singin’ in the Rain,” “West Side Story,” “Grease” and “Show Boat.”

A Chicago native, Stockley earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Illinois Wesleyan and his Master of Fine Arts from Northwestern University. He was a member of the faculty at East Carolina University before coming to UNCP.

Stockley won the Outer Critics Award for best off-Broadway musical production and the Joseph Jefferson Award for best director of a musical. A finalist in the Sundance Theatre Lab, he entered three shorts in the Sundance Film Festival.

An active member of his community, Stockley served on the advisory board for the outdoor drama “Strike at the Wind!” in Pembroke, N.C., and directed plays at the Gilbert Theater in Fayetteville, N.C. He was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a national music fraternity for men.

“Class” Reunion

From left, Kenneth Maynor, Dr. James Ebert, Eugene Brooks, Joseph Brooks, James “Buddy” Bell, Sanford Hunt and Joseph McGirt.

There are class reunions, and there are “class” reunions. On July 13, the 1956 Human Anatomy and Physiology class, Biology 211/212, celebrated 50 years over lunch at Sheff’s Restaurant in Pembroke.

It was Dr. James Ebert’s first year at the University where he would teach for more than four decades. He said it was great fun. “There are few things I have enjoyed more than this,” he added. “They are a good bunch of guys.”

Dr. Ebert brought one of the original textbooks used in the class, but there was no test afterward. “The group was pleased to see and leaf through my copy of “An Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology,”” he said.

Six of the original class of 26 students came to the reunion and signed the text. “Memories of the days of learning the vessels of the coronary circulation, processes and insertions of bones and muscles, and many other studies of the human body and its functions entertained us as we remembered former classmates,” Dr. Ebert said. “For a former professor to be invited to participate in such a celebration is a highlight in his professional career.”
Dr. Jose D’Arruda continues to promote science

Dr. Jose D’Arruda has vigorously promoted science education in the region for more than three decades and has no intention of stopping now. He and his wife, Dottie, a 25-year veteran science teacher, established an endowed scholarship at the University to promote the study of physics.

“It’s been a great 32 years at UNCP, and I hope there are more to come,” Dr. D’Arruda said August 16 while finalizing the scholarship at the University where he has taught since 1974. “I have no plan to retire.”

Physics is his first love, but as chair of the Chemistry and Physics Department for 23 years, he promoted all the sciences to young and old while building a first-class department.

In 1980, he started the Region IV Science Fair at UNCP, for which he continues to serve as co-chair. An early adapter to new technologies, Dr. D’Arruda brought one of the first computers to campus in 1980 and quickly offered training to public school teachers.

In 2005, he christened the new University Observatory and opened it for public viewings so “people can put their eye to the telescope and see the universe for themselves,” he said. “The observatory is a real highlight of my career.”

Perhaps the biggest highlight of Dr. D’Arruda’s career was launching the physics major at UNCP. “We have three physics professors now,” he said, adding a cautionary note: “Out of the UNC 16-campus university, only four physics teachers were produced last year. We need more graduates in all areas of science education.”

Over the years, Dr. D’Arruda was active in faculty governance, serving as chair of the Faculty Senate for three years and on the Chancellor’s Search Committee in 1979. He also built a legacy of philanthropy at the University and was the first faculty member to join the Chancellor’s Club, UNCP’s most elite group of donors.

“We owe so much to Pembroke,” Dr. D’Arruda said. Dottie agreed.

“I got a degree in biology here, then teacher certification and later a master’s degree,” she said. “That led to 25 years of teaching.”

Chancellor Meadors congratulated Dr. D’Arruda. “Senior faculty at this University have left a wonderful legacy,” he said. “What better gift than to establish a scholarship that will continue to promote the study of science.”

Dr. D’Arruda said that as an undergraduate, he sought out the most difficult course of study. “When I went to college, I wanted to take on the most challenging courses I could find,” he said. “The study of physics led all the way to a Ph.D.”

He would like to see others follow the same course, and an endowed or perpetual scholarship will help. “Because science plays such a large role in the lives of people of all ages, I want them to be informed about science,” he said. “I teach because I am eager to share with others my delight in the world we live in.

“I emphasize physics as comprising principles that have great explanatory power, both qualitative and quantitative,” he added. “The fact that many diverse phenomena can be explained in terms of a few principles is elegant and beautiful to me. I try to convey my sense of wonder and pleasure to my students as I teach principles and concepts.”

The scholarship was initiated with a gift from Dr. Jose and Dottie D’Arruda.
Dr. Thomas and Cheryl Ross establish a scholarship

From the mountains of West Virginia, Tom and Cheryl Ross came to Pembroke on a hot summer day. They were sweethearts in junior high school, and after four years in the Air Force and graduate school, they were starting a family and career. Tom carried a master's degree in geography, and Cheryl was carrying their child.

Dr. Ross remembers that hot August day in Robeson County. “We arrived in August 1969,” Dr. Ross said. “Cheryl was pregnant, and we had a brand-new car with no air conditioning.”

On another warm summer day in 2006, they signed papers establishing the Dr. Thomas E. and Cheryl E. Ross Endowed Scholarship in Geography at UNCP.

A lot of hot summers have come and gone since their arrival. Tom earned a Ph.D. and wrote several books, and the couple reared a family of two children and four grandchildren. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 2004.

Dr. Ross continues to teach in UNCP’s Geology and Geography Department, which he chaired for 22 years. The family fell in love with the land and its people.

“I became interested in old tobacco barns,” he said. “I suggested to Chancellor (English E.) Jones that they were disappearing from the landscape, and we should move one to campus to serve as a monument to their importance in the economy of the region.”

Dr. Jones, who grew up working in the cotton and tobacco fields of Robeson County, had a different view of tobacco barns, Dr. Ross said with a smile.

Robeson County, the surrounding coastal plains and its inhabitants would continue to grow on Dr. Ross and result in three editions of “One Land, Three Peoples: A Geography of Robeson County, North Carolina” (Karo Hollow Press; 2005). He wrote atlases for Moore and Richmond counties and the seminal work, “American Indians in North Carolina: Geographical Interpretations” (Karo Hollow Press; 1999).

The Rosses remember the kindness of their Pembroke neighbors. “We lived in Pembroke for the first three years,” he said. “On the first day, our neighbors brought watermelons. Great people.”

Cheryl remembered their first gardens and an abundance of vegetables. “A neighbor taught us how to raise cucumbers and sell them at the local market,” she said. “It was a lot of fun. It was an education for us and the children.”

They moved to nearby Lumberton, N.C., and later to Southern Pines, N.C. They still have a garden, and Dr. Ross is teaching a summer school course on UNCP’s satellite campus at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Dr. Ross is one of North Carolina’s most celebrated geographers and was named Outstanding Educator of the Year by the North Carolina Geographical Society in 2004. He contributed several chapters to the distinguished “North Carolina Atlas” (University of North Carolina Press; 2000).

He is a nationally recognized expert on Carolina bays, which are shallow depressions in the landscape of the coastal plains. His book, “Carolina Bays: An Annotated and Comprehensive Bibliography” (Carolinas Press; 2001), has been widely praised by scholars.

At UNCP, Dr. Ross twice won Adolph Dial Awards for Scholarship and was recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award in 1988. He has also been awarded a UNCP Teaching Award. Since 1980, he has served as faculty adviser for UNCP’s Geography Bowl team. The Rosses have enjoyed their role in the annual competition that has produced several outstanding performers for UNCP.
“I enjoy the Geography Bowl and the students,” Cheryl said. “They are really outstanding young ladies and gentlemen.”

The results of her research are contained in the new book, “Invisible Action: Proof vs. Possibility, Habeas Corpus, and Waco” (Carolinas Press; 2006; Southern Pines, N.C.).

“Invisible Action” contains autopsy photos and memos between a key investigator and Dr. Fuller. In a recent interview, Dr. Fuller offered that in the final assault on the Branch Davidians, federal authorities overrode the protests of both the social worker and the state of Texas.

A tenured professor, Dr. Fuller continues to teach and conduct research.

“Participation and outstanding performance in the Geography Bowl will be a consideration. There is no requirement for financial need or residency.”

Sandy Waterkotte, vice chancellor for Advancement, thanked the Rosses for their generosity and commitment to the University.

“The Rosses exemplify the kind of committed UNCP family members who view this institution as far more than just an employer,” she said. “Their feeling for this campus runs deep, and luckily for us and for our students, they feel compelled to give back. The fact that this gift was initiated by both Cheryl and Tom says worlds about the level of commitment that UNCP inspires.”
Faculty/Staff News

Dr. Mario Paparozzi wins national award

Dr. Mario A. Paparozzi, chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, was named winner of one of the American Probation and Parole Association’s (APPA) most prestigious awards. During the APPA annual training institute in Chicago, held July 23-26, Dr. Paparozzi was awarded the Walter Dunbar Award for significant contributions to the field. It is the association’s oldest award and presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of community corrections.

Dr. Paparozzi began his criminal justice career in 1972 as a parole officer trainee and, over the course of a 30-year career, worked his way up through the positions of assistant corrections commissioner and state parole board chair.

He earned a Ph.D. and certification as a public manager from Rutgers University. From 1992 to 1994, Dr. Paparozzi served as an elected county legislator in Union County, N.J. He has provided numerous keynote addresses, seminars and professional trainings in 46 states, the District of Columbia, the United Kingdom, Canada and Bermuda and to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. He has appeared on several television and radio shows in the United States and Canada, including A&E’s “Investigative Reports,” NBC’s “Dateline,” “McNeil Lehrer,” CNN and Geraldo Rivera.

Dr. Paparozzi has published extensively on a variety of topics related to criminal justice, public administration and other civic issues involving the relationship between government services and public value. His writings are frequently cited by scholars.

Braves Athletics

Dan Kenney named Athletic Director of the Year

Dan Kenney, athletic director, was named Athletic Director (AD) of the Year by his peers at the June 21 meeting of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

The NACDA announced 29 winners of the GeneralSports TURF Systems AD of the Year Award. Kenney won for Division II in the Southeast region. He received the award during the James J. Corbett Awards Luncheon at NACDA’s 41st Annual Convention, held in New Orleans.

Chancellor Meadors said the award is well-deserved. “Dan Kenney is committed to the academic and athletic success of our students and UNCP,” he added. “The University community applauds him for this outstanding recognition of his achievements.”

Kenney has been in college athletics for more than 30 years, the last eight as director of athletics at UNCP, where he added women’s soccer and golf and is preparing to launch football in the fall of 2007.

Kenney said he appreciates the honor from his peers.

“This award is really a reflection on the job that our coaches and athletic support staff do at UNCP,” he added. “In accepting this award, I do it on behalf of our wonderful student-athletes and coaches. I also thank the late Lacey Gane and Dr. Raymond Pennington, who served as director of athletics before me and provided me with a great example of what leadership and service mean.”

It’s been a go-go era in UNCP athletics, with Kenney directing more than $10 million in improvements and additions to the University’s athletics facilities. He hired a head football coach, and work is under way on an athletic fund-raising campaign, stadium and field house.

Previously, Kenney was a basketball coach for 23 years at four universities in the Carolinas. As a coach, he was the National Association of Basketball Coaches’ Coach of the Year in 1991 and the Central Intercollegiate Athletics Conference Coach of the Year in 1987 and 1991. Kenney earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from East Carolina University.
Ray Shaw, Spencer Howington honored at UNCP

Naming rights in the Jones Athletic Center were dedicated August 16 in honor of area businessmen Ray Shaw and Spencer Howington. In a dedication ceremony witnessed by family members, friends, business associates and UNCP representatives, a plaque for Shaw-Howington Concessions was unveiled.

A $15,000 gift to the First and Ten: Campaign for Football and Athletic Excellence earned perpetual naming rights to one of the most visible places in the University’s growing array of athletic facilities.

Shaw owns Shaw Office Supplies of Lumberton, N.C., and Howington, from Pembroke, N.C., is a longtime employee with the successful company. The business was founded in 1987 and employs 12.

Both Shaw and Howington are dedicated to their communities, said Chancellor Meadors. “What makes this a special event is that we are recognizing men who have served their communities throughout their lives,” he added. “It is an honor to dedicate this facility to two gentlemen who have done so much for the community and this University.”

Shaw serves on the board of the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce and was a volunteer for more than 30 years with the Lumberton Rescue Squad. Howington serves on the board of the Pembroke Chamber and is active in the public schools.

Howington, whose son attends UNCP, said he met Chancellor Meadors on a football field when their sons played for the local high school team. “I met Chancellor Meadors at the practice field at Purnell Swett High School,” he added. “We deeply appreciate what he has done for the community and for the relationship we have with the University.”

Howington thanked Shaw for allowing him to share the honor of the naming rights. “Ray is a great boss who knows how to get the best out of people,” he said. “This is a real tribute to me and my family.”

Shaw said they were seeking a way to contribute to the University. “We wanted to help, and the University found a good way for us,” he added. “It is our pleasure to help the University now and for what we can do in the future.”

Athletic Director Dan Kenney added his thanks to Shaw and Howington. “I applaud you for your successful business model and for your philosophy of giving back to the community,” he said. “This site is a gathering place for the things that will be happening in the future at UNCP.”

The First and Ten Campaign put naming rights on the block to a number of key athletic sites across the University, including Lumbee Guaranty Bank Football Field, Sammy and Onita Cox Baseball Field, LRA (Lumberton Radiological Associates) Softball Field, First Bank Chancellor’s Box Seats, Native Angels Homecare and Hospice Braves Club Room, Mac and Sylvia Campbell Wellness Center, Paul and Pat Willoughby Press Box, 1947-1951 UNCP Football Alumni Locker Room and the UNCP Faculty and Staff Head Coach’s Office.

UNCP will play its first football game in more than 50 years this fall and is nearing the halfway point of its goal of raising $4 million for the construction of a field house and other facilities.
Jamie Gibbs was named the new head wrestling coach for the University. He joined UNCP full time in early July. Gibbs came to UNCP from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was head assistant coach. At Coe College, he was an All-Iowa Conference wrestler and responsible for day-to-day coaching, recruiting, strength and conditioning, and instruction in the Physical Education Department.

He received an Associate’s degree from Iowa Central Community College, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Coe College and a Master of Science degree in exercise sports science from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

During his four years at Coe, Gibbs’ teams were ranked every year in the top 20 in the NCAA’s Division III. Eight of his wrestlers qualified for the nationals during the past two years.

Gibbs replaces retiring 25-year head coach P.J. Smith, who applauded the selection.

“Jamie comes from a top-notch program, and I believe he will take our program to the next level,” Smith said. “Not only does he know wrestling, but he is also an excellent recruiter.”

Jamie Gibbs

Ground was broken on September 6 for a $4.5 million field house at the University. When completed in the spring of 2007, it will be home to the University’s football program.

Chancellor Meadors offered advice to members of the first football recruiting class who were on hand for the event. “This community had the vision for a long time to bring football back to this University,” he said. “Guys, on this date next year, you will have one game behind you and be preparing for the first home game. You have an opportunity to make history.”

The weather was overcast, but spirits were high among the 100 football prospects in attendance, including freshman Tommy Locklear, who played football at Purnell Swett High School, a few miles from UNCP. “I’m excited to be here for the first year, and we are working hard,” he said. “Being able to play football was important in my decision to go to college.”

Terrail Littleton of Asheboro, N.C., who practiced with the team at 6 a.m. that morning, said playing football at UNCP is a chance to make history. “It is an honor to be on the team that will bring football back here,” he added. “We’re working really hard. We’ll be ready.”

Located on the north end of Lumbee Guaranty Bank Football Field, the 27,000-square-foot field house will house a strength and conditioning room, equipment and laundry rooms, a large team meeting room, coaches’ offices, a training room, a team locker room and a visitor’s dressing room.

The field house will be funded with private donations through UNCP’s First and Ten: Campaign for Football and Athletic Excellence. Donor and University Trustee Dick Taylor said football is important to the future of the University.

“As you can see from the young men around us here, football is already having an impact on enrollment,” said Taylor, a Lumberton, N.C., businessman. “Weatherwise, this may not be the most beautiful day, but for the University, it is a beautiful and historic moment.”

Supporters from across campus and around the region have joined in support of the football program, said Athletic Director Dan Kenney. “A lot of people have worked together to make this happen – that’s teamwork,” he added. “We cannot do this as one department or even as one University. It will take an entire region to make football a reality again here.”

New Head Football Coach Pete Shinnick said construction of the field house is a positive for the program. “We feel blessed and fortunate to watch this building under construction, as our team is under construction,” he said.
It was homecoming on September 15 for alumnus Nathan Powell. A 1988 graduate and a standout in cross country, Powell returned to the Jones Athletic Center for the dedication of the Nathaniel Powell Trophy Case. Powell contributed $32,500 to UNCP’s football, track and cross country and wrestling programs.

“I know football is very important to the future of the school, and I wanted to be part of it,” Powell said. “Football will be good for the University, good for school spirit and good for the students.”

Powell is co-owner of PCS Enterprises, an information technology company with five offices and headquartered in Washington, D.C. He said he owes a lot to many people at UNCP.

“Twenty-five years ago, I don’t think (track and cross country) Coach Larry Rodgers ever anticipated this day,” he added. “I’m here because you guys instilled some character in me.

“Thank you all for taking the time that you gave to me and to all the athletes, now and into the future,” he said. “The things you do leave an impression on young people.”

A portion of Powell’s contribution establishes an endowed scholarship in track and cross country. Coach Rodgers remains an institution in UNCP’s Athletics Department.

“The thing I remember Nathan for is his dedication,” Rodgers said. “After a race, he would always say that he could have done better. If he got a 90 on a test, he would say he could have gotten a 100. That attitude has carried into his career, and that’s why he is successful.”

Another part of Powell’s gift is earmarked for the Whitey Smith Endowed Wrestling Scholarship that was established by retired wrestling coach P.J. Smith.

“I remember Nathan well because he spent a couple of weeks on my couch as a freshman when he had housing problems,” Smith said. “I want to thank him for this generous gift to the scholarship in my father’s name, and I hope this inspires other athletes to give back to the University.

“In my 25 years at the University, I have never seen the level of optimism that I am seeing now,” he added.

The dedication took place in the Native Angels Braves Club Hospitality Room. Located in the lobby of Jones Athletic Center, the trophy case is named for Powell’s grandfather, Nathaniel Powell Sr.

Powell is a New Bern, N.C., native, who posted the second-fastest 8K time in UNCP cross country history in 1986. In an interview, he credited coach Rodgers’ 6 a.m. workouts for keeping him focused as an undergraduate.

“The morning run was followed by an afternoon workout every day,” Powell said. “Running was a good way to go to college. It was all fun, and we had a great time.”

The Powell family lives in Maryland and is five children strong, ranging in age from 10 to 24. Powell’s family and business have grown nicely. The business had its roots at UNCP.

Besides running track, Powell was a computer science major with a minor in business. He got his start in information technology at UNCP, and he remembers the early technology.

“I remember we used a (Commodore) VIC-20 computer, which was a keyboard plugged into a cassette tape recorder,” Powell said. “At PCS Enterprises, we offer turnkey business solutions. We recently completed work on an electronic medical records system for the (U.S.) Department of State.”

Nathan Powell, center, with track coach Larry Rodgers, left, and retired wrestling coach P.J. Smith at the trophy case named in memory of Powell’s grandfather, Nathaniel Powell.
UNCP dedicates Esther G. Maynor Honors College

The Esther G. Maynor Honors College was dedicated September 13.

A Pembroke, N.C., native and resident of Mount Airy, N.C., when she died in 2005, Maynor bequeathed $1.25 million to UNCP, the largest gift in University history. The endowment will perpetually provide scholarships and international study for students in the college.

Chancellor Meadors said Maynor “wanted to give other people opportunities. I think she would feel very good about this, and we will be forever grateful.”

Maynor’s cousin, Mary Alice Teets, spoke for a contingent of family members and friends in attendance. She recalled a “gentle spirit” who loved family, friends and her garden. Teets, a longtime educator and UNCP graduate, said the endowment is a seed in Maynor’s garden.

“Esther never forgot her roots in Pembroke or the University,” Teets added. “She graduated from Indian Normal School (now UNCP) in 1938.

“It was her wish and prayer that our students will grow strong, blossom and bear good fruit,” she said.

Honors College Dean Jesse Peters said the gift will have a lasting impact on the University, its students and the surrounding communities.

“This scholarship will allow us to better serve our students, the community and the region,” Dr. Peters added. “A gift like this is more than a gift for the moment; it is a gift to humanity.”

Dr. Charles Harrington, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, thanked UNCP’s Board of Trustees for their support in renaming the Honors College.

“This wonderful bequest represents a legacy of hope, and it is opportunity that brings hope,” he said. “It is an opportunity for the very best and brightest of the UNCP community.”

The daughter of Duncan and Dovie Graham, Esther married Therod Maynor who, with Floyd Pike, operated Pike Electric, the largest electrical contractor in the Southeast. Therod died in 1968, and Esther remained in Mount Airy.

The Esther G. Maynor Honors College was established in 2001 to recruit and offer academic and cultural enrichment to outstanding students. To learn more about the college, visit www.uncp.edu/honors_college.
The University and Cape Fear Valley Health System (CFVHS) of Fayetteville, N.C., the region’s largest health care provider, have forged an alliance based on their mutual interest in the promotion of nursing education.

CFVHS Chief Executive Officer Richard H. Parks visited UNCP on July 10 to tour the campus and discuss a $110,000 gift for two nursing scholarship programs. The scholarships will boost nursing in the region by providing financial aid to students and nurses seeking advanced degrees.

Parks is hopeful that this is the beginning of a partnership between the two institutions. “I expect a long and fruitful relationship,” he said. “We felt like this would be a good relationship to embark upon.”

With a nationwide nursing shortage, CFVHS and its four hospitals stand to benefit from UNCP’s new nursing program, said Dr. Breeden Blackwell, who is a Cumberland County commissioner and a trustee of both UNCP and CFVHS.

“This means additional nurses for Cape Fear Valley hospitals,” he added. “This is a natural marriage that will turn out to be something good. We know it can work, and it will work.”

UNCP admitted 120 students to its new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program over the last two years, said Dr. Barbara Synowiez, chair of the Nursing Department.

“First of all, I am elated for our students, one-third of whom are from the Fayetteville area,” she added. “This gift will also help our faculty pursue advanced degrees in nursing. In our region, it is difficult to find Ph.D.-trained faculty.”

Chancellor Meadors, who is a former hospital administrator, said UNCP’s two nursing programs would lift the profession in the region.

“Now that we’ve added our four-year BSN program, you will see the fruits of that work,” he added. “Because nurses often stay in their home region, it will help Cape Fear Valley’s pool.

“We’re really looking forward to working with Cape Fear Valley and expanding our health care programs any way we can,” he said. “We believe in making education available throughout the region. We will come to Fayetteville if necessary.”

UNCP has major satellite campuses at community colleges in Moore and Richmond counties and on Fort Bragg near Fayetteville.

About half of the Cape Fear Valley Health System’s gift will go into a perpetual endowment to promote advanced education for nursing professionals. The other half goes to undergraduate nursing scholarships for area students.

A not-for-profit corporation, Cape Fear Valley Health System has 616 beds at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Highsmith-Rainey Hospital, Southeastern Regional Rehabilitation Center and Behavioral Health Care. CFVHS is a comprehensive health care center that operates cancer and heart centers, in addition to hospice and home health services.

UNCP has two nursing programs: One for registered nurses (RNs) to earn their BSN degree and one for undergraduates to earn a BSN degree.
Memorial scholarship honors David L. Dean Jr.

The friends and family members of a former UNC Pembroke student have established a scholarship in his memory. The David L. Dean Jr. Memorial Scholarship was endowed in early 2006.

Dean, a St. Pauls, N.C., native, was an outstanding student and a young man with many gifts, said his mother, Sharon Dean. “David was talented in poetry, art, singing and playing the guitar,” she added.

An Eagle Scout at age 14, Dean also earned the Boy Scouts’ God and Country Award. An outstanding student at St. Pauls High School, he worked in his church and was named an Outstanding Young American.

After studying at UNCP and UNC Greensboro, Dean attended broadcasting school and worked as an on-air personality for several local radio stations. Eight months after relocating to Seattle, Wash., he was diagnosed with a deadly form of cancer. He was 33.

David L. Dean Jr. died 11 years ago, but he is not forgotten, said Joe McKinstry of Seattle, Wash. Dean and McKinstry met in Seattle’s music scene and became friends. “We both played and wrote music,” McKinstry said. “He was an intense, funny and very intelligent person with a beautiful vision of the world.”

Since Dean’s death, McKinstry maintains close ties with the Dean family, and they discussed ways to honor him. A perpetual scholarship to benefit students in Robeson County was an uplifting idea, McKinstry said. “I thought it was a perfect idea, and I’m honored to be a part of it,” he added. “I can see a pressing need to help kids from Robeson County.”

McKinstry graduated from a regional state university and today works for a large biotech company. He is familiar with the mission of universities like UNCP in providing affordable education. “State universities serve an important role in providing opportunities for people,” he said. “It matters a lot to us that this scholarship goes to somebody from this county.”

Chancellor Meadors said scholarships are sorely needed. “Many of our students could not go to college without help,” he added. “And many of our students are the first members of their family ever to attend college. Education transforms their lives and the lives of their families forever.”

The recipients of the scholarship shall be residents of Robeson County majoring in English. Recipients must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and be full-time undergraduate students. The recipients must demonstrate financial need, and the award is renewable.
Scholarship created for George ‘Kelly’ Locklear Jr.

George “Kelly” Locklear Jr. always wanted to attend UNCP, said his sister, Lindarose Locklear. The George Kelly Locklear Jr. Memorial Scholarship will help others do what he could not. A Vietnam veteran and resident of Gwinnett County, Ga., Locklear died at age 57, and his scholarship will help other American Indian vets realize their dreams.

“We grew up here and visited the University often, and he always wanted to come to college here,” Lindarose Locklear said. “With this memorial, I figure he’s here now.”

Kelly and Lindarose grew up in the Saddletree area near Lumberton, N.C., and attended Magnolia School. Their father, George Sr., who traveled from Florida for the check presentation, was a career member of the U.S. Air Force, so the family lived around the world. Kelly followed in his father’s footsteps and joined the Army.

Professor Lindarose Locklear earned a Ph.D. from San Diego State University and teaches sociology and American Indian Studies at Palomar College in San Marcos, Calif. She also writes scripts and produces documentary videos.

Also gathering at UNCP was Marti Dewees, a sister who lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. Elaine Elliott, Kelly Locklear’s widow and a retired teacher, had a hand in funding the scholarship. Elliott and her co-workers at Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville, Ga., originated the idea of the scholarship and made the first contributions in Kelly’s memory.

The scholarship is perpetual and will be awarded to an American Indian veteran or their family members who demonstrate financial need and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Donna Payne, University attorney and chief of staff for the Office of the Chancellor, thanked the family. “On behalf of the University and our students, I would like to thank the family for this generous gift,” she said. “Kelly Locklear’s dream of a college education will be realized by many, many young men and women.”

A total of $5,000 will begin the endowment.

From left, father George Locklear Sr.; sister Lindarose Locklear; Donna Payne, University attorney and chancellor’s chief of staff; Dr. Linda Oxendine, chair of American Indian Studies; and sister Marti Dewees.
To UNCP’s Donors:

These pages are dedicated to UNCP’s donors who make it possible for the University to grow in ways that could not have been imagined just five years ago. We in the Advancement office are proud of our association with each of you and hope that you are gratified to count your name among the more than 2,000 names on this list. Over the past few years, the amount that alumni and friends contribute to this institution has tripled. This fact is not only important to UNCP’s continued growth, but is also important to today’s students who see and feel the impact of your gifts every day.

Our sincere thanks to those of you whose names are found in this listing including our Chancellor’s Club members who are recognized with a feather beside their names. For those who are not yet listed, we look forward to telling you the UNCP success story over the next year – and to counting you among this important group in 2007!

Sincerely,
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and
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Note: The Office of Advancement has done its best to ensure that names are listed as the donor prefers. If we have made an error, please email us at advancement@uncp.edu so we may correct our records.
"I am pleased to be able to donate to UNCP. The opportunities made available to my daughter, Natalie, have been both exciting and rewarding. The education and life skills she received at UNCP prepared her for postgraduate studies and life beyond. Our family appreciates the continued support from UNCP, and we’re pleased to give back so others may have a chance to enjoy the UNCP experience like our daughter did.”

Craig Dies
Parent of Natalie F. Dies
Senior at UNCP

The above list reflects donors as of June 30, 2006.
“I give to UNCP because someone gave of their time, talents and money before me. The opportunities of my life are largely based upon the investments made in me by professors and administrators, parents, friends and fellow students at UNCP. As an example, I still quote my journalism advisor, Mrs. Grace Gibson, in nearly every class I teach: ‘There are no good writers; only good editors,’ she said. That advice was passed from her...to me...to scores of other young students. I often think about links from one generation to the next as we learn and teach. UNCP prepares us to carry on a valuable tradition of education...and that’s a great reason to give.”

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“We support The University of North Carolina at Pembroke because we believe in the mission of the University, and we are grateful for the opportunities it provides. We have a long family association with UNCP. Our desire is to assist all students with opportunities for advancement that education provides. The University is a wonderful asset for the state and the native Lumbee people.”

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UNCP Today
Winter 2007
When asked why I give to my alma mater, I could state several reasons, but the fact is that the monetary gifts I have given pale in comparison to what my alma mater and the UNC Pembroke community have given to me. I give because I care!

Darlene Holmes Ransom, ’80, ’91
School Social Worker, Cumberland County School System
Fayetteville, N.C.

The above list reflects donors as of June 30, 2006.
“UNCP creates an abundance of opportunities for students in our region. Growing up in Cumberland County, I am a student that has benefited from my UNCP experience. An investment in UNCP is an investment in the region’s economy. As an alumnus who loves UNCP, I think it is vital that we support our University.”

Jim Pucyzlowski, ’85
President, Regency Homes, Inc.
Fayetteville, N.C.
“Progress Energy values its relationship with UNCP because it plays an integral role in economic development in the region, training for workforce development and providing Progress Energy an opportunity to recruit graduates for employment, not to mention programming, outreach, collaboration and technical centers that the region relies on for development. UNCP plays a unique role as a community partner as well as an educator.”

The above list reflects donors as of June 30, 2006.
“I wanted to donate to UNCP to honor my father, James Thomas Sampson, and my mother, Dorothy Harmon Sampson. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, my Dad was the coach at ‘The College’ and my mother taught at the local high school. My earliest memories of growing up are centered around life in our tiny apartment at the end of the old ‘boys dormitory’ and the love and guidance I received not only from my parents, but also from the college students, many of whom were either related to or were good friends of our family. It was a very supportive, family-like environment and even though it has grown significantly, I feel the University staff is striving to maintain this type of atmosphere for their students, and I trust that my support will make them successful.”

Sarah “Sally” Sampson Bolognesi
Durham, N.C.
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"Working at UNCP we see close-up the important niche that this University fills for so many in our region and state, and that made our decision to become donors that much easier! We each have our own perspective on what makes this University so very special, but we both agree that it’s deserving of our support."

Anne and Collie Coleman,
UNCP employees
Librarian, Sampson-Livermore Library and Associate Vice Chancellor, Distance Education & Outreach Lumberton, N.C.

The above list reflects donors as of June 30, 2006.
I picked cotton to pay tuition and paid my cousin room and board with vegetables and other farm goods. After graduation, I became a first grade teacher. I know firsthand what it’s like to need financial aid and the benefits of a college education. I am proud to be able to provide for future generations of students through the scholarship I endowed at UNC Pembroke.”

Dorothy L. Blue, ’55
Pembroke, NC

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The above list reflects donors as of June 30, 2006.
The smaller class sizes at UNCP create a unique one-on-one learning experience. I support UNCP because I want my gift to help keep the University a distinctive institution that’s committed to offering a special educational experience to today’s students.

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“I give to UNCP because of the old saying ‘you can take
the boy out of the country, but you can’t take the country out
of the boy.’ Robeson County is and always will be my home, so
whatever I can do for the University that made me what I am, I
will.”

Charles D. McGirt, ’83
Charlotte, N.C.

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The above list reflects donors as of June 30, 2006.
Greetings, Alumni

The spirit of the Braves is alive and strong! During the past two years, as president of the UNCP Alumni Association, I have had the opportunity to talk with many alumni about the University and its impact on their lives. We swap stories of how things used to be and how much we look forward to seeing where the University will go next. I really enjoy these chance meetings because they are interesting and enlightening and leave me with a true sense of pride. One thing is for sure – we graduated from a great University.

I want to inform you that the academic year at UNCP is off to an outstanding start! Enrollment is at its highest and, once again, we’ve received accolades in The Princeton Review and as one of U.S. News’ “Best Colleges and Universities”. And while it’s no secret to many of us that a UNCP education is one of the most affordable in the country, it’s great to know that more people are learning about it. As ambassadors of UNCP, it’s up to our alumni to keep spreading the word about what a gem we have in our alma mater.

Several special events and programs are being planned for this year. I recommend that you take advantage of these opportunities to reconnect with the University. In this issue, you’ll find the 2007 football schedule on page two. This fall, we’ll have our first football game in more than 50 years, and this is sure to raise excitement among alumni and football fans all over the state. We hope to see you there and cheering the Braves to victory, but mostly, we look forward to you coming back to see all the incredible changes that have been happening on campus, including the new Bookstore, where you’ll find lots of new UNCP paraphernalia … just in time for Homecoming, scheduled for February 2-3.

And speaking of Homecoming, if you haven’t already, check out the schedule on the Web at www.uncp.edu/alumni. There will be lots of great activities taking place, including reunions, the annual alumni awards banquet, casino night, athletic events and more. So plan your visit to UNCP now – and we’ll see you at Homecoming!

Best wishes,
Jeffery Alejandro '95
Alumni Association President
In 1969, Buddy Austin became the first graduate of Pembroke State University. He explained: “We were the first class to graduate after the University changed its name to Pembroke State University. Because my name begins with ‘A,’ I was the first in line to get a diploma.”

A Blenheim, S.C., resident, Austin retired in 2000 after a 30-year career in education, serving as a teacher, head football coach, athletic director, counselor and administrator in the Marlboro County School System. Austin returned to UNCP on July 12 with his family to establish the Lewis M. and Louise P. Austin Endowed Memorial Scholarship to honor his parents.

The campus was considerably smaller in the late 1960s, but this had advantages, Austin said. “I went my last semester on credit,” he added. “The registrar just said pay when you can. There was no paperwork whatsoever.”

Austin worked in the cafeteria and elsewhere to pay expenses, and everything just seemed to work out.

“I thank God I came down here from the big town of Kannapolis (N.C.),” he said. “We had big time, a lot of fun.”

Austin wrestled and was a cheerleader, too. His wife, Ann, offered this about his outgoing nature: “When people asked his momma about how Buddy did in college, she always said, ‘He met a lot of people.’”

When Austin called the University about establishing a scholarship, he had his parents in mind. “Dad was a carpenter,” he said. “Dad always wanted to help somebody to go to school.”

Both graduates of Appalachian State University, Lewis and Louise Austin “highly valued a college education and provided the means for (Buddy) and his sisters to receive college degrees,” the endowment agreement states. “Throughout their lives, they encouraged and supported others who were seeking an education, but their support, encouragement and passion that their own children complete their undergraduate degrees are best described as uncompromising.”

A lot of people supported Buddy Austin’s dream of a college degree, he said. The scholarship is “payback.” “Everything has worked out well for us, including our children, who studied hard and did well, too,” Austin added. Austin and Ann have two children: Lewis M. “Bud” Austin II and his wife, Julie, of Blenheim, S.C., and Jean Austin Cochran, her husband, Nick, and daughter Anna Beth of Lexington, S.C.

A Marlboro County resident will have first option to receive the Lewis M. and Louise P. Austin Endowed Scholarship. The recipient shall have demonstrated financial need, and there is no academic requirement. The award is renewable.
UNCP graduate Josh Deese dies in Iraq

1st Lieutenant Joshua Deese of Rowland, N.C., died October 15, 2006, in Balad, Iraq. The cause of death was injuries sustained from a roadside bomb, according to a statement from the U.S. Army.

Deese was a 2003 graduate of the University. He was an American Studies major and a member of Phi Sigma Nu, a Native American fraternity.

He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant upon graduation from UNCP’s ROTC program, said Master Sgt. Johnny Torre.

Chancellor Meadors spoke for the University.

“We received the news of Joshua Deese’s untimely death with great sadness,” Chancellor Meadors said. “While we grieve the loss of any life, the loss of one of our own unites us in sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joshua’s family.”

Torre said, “He was a good leader who liked to lead from the front. He was very competitive physically and was on our Ranger Challenge team in 2002, which finished third out of 33 schools.”

Master Sgt. Torre said he was in contact with 1st Lt. Deese, and Deese had planned to return to UNCP in the summer of 2007 to pick up personal items. Several photos of Deese are in an album next to the ROTC trophy case.

“He was a good kid, and we enjoyed having him in our program for four years,” Torre said. “He came to us fresh out of high school.”

Dr. Stephen Berry, a faculty member of the History Department and Deese’s adviser, said he was good student.

“He was a smart kid, affable and handsome,” he added. “He was very quiet and smiled easily. He had a lot of integrity and tried to do the right things.”

Deese was a 1999 graduate of South Robeson High School. He was deployed to Iraq in August after serving in Afghanistan, according to newspaper accounts. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Division, based in Hawaii.

He is the son of Ronnie and Rogina Deese.


1960s

Catherine Berdeaux Goodman ’67 retired from teaching in 2003. She has two children: Jenny in Austin, Texas, and Mark in Virginia Beach, Va.

Larry Norris ’67, president of Fayetteville Technical Community College, accepted the Realtor Cup Award on behalf of FTCC from the Cumberland County (N.C.) Business Council for the college’s contributions to the civic, industrial and cultural growth of the community.

Dr. Reginald Lee Oxendine ’68 is president and CEO of Arrow Educational Products, a company that develops and markets educational reading programs for the school and home markets. Dr. Oxendine is also an assistant professor in UNCP’s School of Education. He lives in Pembroke, N.C.

Mary Olene Sampson ’68 is an attorney for the Housing Authority of Pembroke, N.C.

Marvin S. Weaver III ’69 is a self-employed certified public accountant in Bennettsville, S.C., where he also resides.

1970s

Donna Chavis ’71 was named the first executive director of NCGives, a $6 million initiative created at the Raleigh-based North Carolina Community Foundation by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich. Its purpose is to support and increase giving among youth, women and communities of color. Chavis is a Pembroke, N.C., native and a member of the Lumbee Tribe. She is the chief operating officer at the Center for Community Action in Lumberton, N.C. She also served with Native Americans in Philanthropy, the N.C. Center for Nonprofits, the N.C. Rural Center and the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation.

John Michael Student ’71 is chair of the English Department at Monsignor Bonner and Archbishop Prendergast High School in Drexel Hill, Pa.

Ronnie Chavis ’72 and Sherry Van Buskirk were married July 2, 2006. Ronnie is director of athletics for the Public Schools of Robeson County, and Sherry is employed with UNCP.

Dorothy Moody ’72 is employed with the North Carolina Employment Security Commission as a workforce investment supervisor. She resides in Maxton, N.C.

Angela Mize-Williams ’72 is associate professor of developmental English and coordinator of the writing center at Patrick Henry Community College. She resides in Bassett, Va.

James Maynor ’73 is self-employed as an entrepreneur. He resides in Lumberton, N.C.

Don Singletary ’73 is vice president for employment practices and associate relations at Home Depot in Marietta, Ga.

Alphonzo McRae ’74 is vice president for institutional services at Robeson (N.C.) Community College. McRae earned a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from East Carolina University and earned his certification in administration and supervision from UNCP. He is a former president of the UNCP Alumni Association.

Jimmy Autry ’77 was among 16 members inducted to the prestigious College of Fellows of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) at its 2006 International Conference. Induction into the College of Fellows requires its members to have practiced public relations for 20 years or more. Autry is senior vice president of member and community relations at Flint Energies in Georgia.

Dr. Randy Bridges ’77 is superintendent of the Alamance-Burlington (N.C.) Schools. Dr. Bridges was superintendent of Rock Hill Schools District Three in South Carolina since 2002. He was also associate superintendent of human resources for Orange County Schools and associate superintendent of public relations for Johnston County Schools. He received his Doctor of Education degree from Fayetteville State University and a Master of Education from East Carolina University. The Shelby, N.C., native is the first black superintendent in Alamance County. He is married to Vernetta Nelson, and they have two children.

Claude A. “Buddy” Sampson Jr. ’77 is employed as a chemist with UT-Battelle LLC. He resides in Harriman, Tenn.

Hazl Perez ’78 is employed with Lumbee Regional Development Association Inc. in Pembroke, N.C., as a technology in-kind manager. She has three children and five grandchildren.

Mike Baldwin ’79 is general manager of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Fayetteville, N.C., which recently received the Business of the Year award from the Cumberland County Business Council.

Josephine Locklear Cummings ’79, ’89 is employed as a speech therapist with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She holds a master’s degree in communication disorders from North Carolina Central University, and she resides in Lumberton, N.C.

Melvin Gibson ’79, a retired U.S. Army medic, teaches tennis lessons at Grand Reserve Resort in Orlando, Fla. He credits Dr. Ken Johnson, former UNCP men’s tennis coach, as his influence for teaching youngsters. Gibson recently graduated from the U.S. National Tennis Academy in Dallas, Texas, and is now a certified tennis instructor. He is employed as a senior health services administrator at the Central Florida Reception Center.

1980s

Gene T. (Tim) Harper ’81 is the city administrator for Marion, S.C.

Donna Marie Godwin ’82 is a medical technologist at Shands Teaching Hospital at the University of Florida. For the last 20 years, she has specialized in blood banking. She resides in Worthington Springs, Fla.

Teresa (Jo) Pocock ’83 is an executive at Swisher International Inc. and resides in Charlotte, N.C.

Laura Chavis Price ’83 is a news director at Cumulus Broadcasting. She can be heard daily on 98.1 FM and on other Cumulus radio stations in Fayetteville, N.C.

Gwendolyn Johnson ’84 is a sentencing specialist with the Durham Sentencing Services Program. She resides in Durham, N.C.
Lisa Huggins Oxendine ’85, ’90 released her novel “The Pink Begonia Sister’s Caribbean Retreat” in July 2006. The book is a story of three Native American women from southeastern North Carolina who turn 40, encounter breast cancer and decide to live in the Caribbean. A book signing for the novel was held July 1 in the Native American Resource Center at UNCP. Lisa is a physician’s assistant at Pembroke Pediatrics, and she lives in Lumberton, N.C.

Robert E. Brown ’86 is the offensive coordinator for the football team, weight training and advanced physical education teacher at Dillon High School in Dillon, S.C., where he resides with his wife, Kathy Roberts, a customer service manager for First Citizens Bank, and their two children Taylor, 8, and Heath, 4.

George Pate ’86 was selected as Teacher of the Year at Robeson Community College. He also teaches as an adjunct lecturer in the UNCP School of Business. He is married to Sylvia Pate ’99, director of the UNCP Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development.

Karen Russell Hall ’88 is a National Board Certified reading teacher at Edgewood Elementary School in the Whiteville (N.C.) City Schools. She was the Teacher of the Year in 2003. She is married to Jack “Buck” Hall Jr., and they have three daughters: Sable, 18, who married to Jack “Buck” Hall Jr., and they have three daughters: Sable, 18, who married to Jack “Buck” Hall Jr., and they have three daughters: Sable, 18, who married Jack “Buck” Hall Jr., and their two children Taylor, 8, and Heath, 4.

1990s

Jason Jacobs ’90 received an outstanding performance award for support to the Library and Information Services Branch of the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., where he is employed as a technical information specialist.

Sheila Strickland ’90 is a teacher with the Cumberland County Schools. She resides in Hope Mills, N.C.

William Deese ’91 is a teacher at Purnell Swett High School. He resides in Maxton, N.C.

Charles E. Huggins ’91 is a physician’s assistant at Lumberton Radiological Associates. He resides in Red Springs, N.C.

Debbie Lowery Jacobs ’91 is the accommodations coordinator in the Office of Disability Support Services at UNCP. She was voted the Employee of the Year in July, and Employee of the Year in December. She resides in Maxton, N.C.

Sheila Smith ’91 is a partner/attorney with the general practice law firm of Smith & Graham L.L.P. in Lumberton, N.C. She graduated from the North Carolina Central University School of Law in May 2005. She and Steven Smith of the UNCP Police Department were married Sept. 11, 2004.

Jill Ammons-Rogitz ’92 and her husband, Todd, welcome the birth of their daughter, Lauren Faith, born April 18, 2006. She weighed 6 lbs., 10 oz. Jill is a PE teacher at Sandy Grove Elementary in Hoke County.

John H. Britt ’92 retired after 24 years at Broward Community College as associate dean in charge of medical imaging, radiation therapy and medical assisting. Britt earned a certificate in radiologic technology from Southeastern General Hospital in 1965 and a master’s in career guidance from the University of Massachusetts at Boston in 1979. He served as two-time president of the New England Conference of Radiologic Technologic and on several committees of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. He lives in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Angela Revels Bullard ’92 is the director of human resources for the Town of Red Springs, N.C. She is married to Keith, and the couple resides in Pembroke.

Brian Freeman ’92 was featured in the September issue of Our State magazine. Brian is a second-grade teacher at Peterson Elementary School in Red Springs, N.C., where he resides.

He has received numerous teaching awards and was twice named one of the top 40 teachers in the nation by USA Today.

Matthew Patterson ’92 is employed by the accounting firm of Collins & Kemp. He resides in Lumberton, N.C., with his wife, Gaynelle, and two sons, Bradley and Andrew.

Jeremy West Sampson ’93 is a sports exchange adviser and basketball coach at Nagasaki Nishi High School in Japan, where he also teaches conversational English. He received his master’s degree in athletic administration from North Carolina Central University in 2002. In October 2004, he was named to the Native American National Team in men’s basketball in Albuquerque, N.M., and a member in the ABA professional league.

Sharon Locklear Stirewalt ’93 is a social studies teacher at Jesse C. Carson High School. She resides in Kannapolis, N.C.

Donald R. Bennett ’94 married Samantha Mackey on June 10, 2006. Donald works for Smithfield Packing in Tarheel, N.C., and Samantha works at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. The couple resides in Bladenboro, N.C.

Leslie Carver-Roseboro ’94 graduated summa cum laude from North Carolina Central University in December 2005 with a Master’s of Public Administration degree. She and her husband, John, had their first child, a boy, in July 2006.

Naomi Slatt Henard ’94 is an employment career specialist at East Tennessee State University. She is married to David Henard, and they live in Church Hill, Tenn.
1990s continued

Annette Morris ’94 is an industrial engineer with Paraclete Armor & Equipment. She and her daughter, Neve Perez, 2, live in Lumberton, N.C.

Steven Douglas Thibodeau ’94 is a retired teacher. He resides in Rocky Mount, N.C.

Willie D. Christian ’96 was mobilized to Fort McCoy in April and deployed to Iraq on June 18 to spend a year in Baghdad with the 108th Division. He is part of the 6th Battalion, 108th Division of Fort Bragg, N.C. He is employed as an access and visitation coordinator with the Cumberland County Family Court Division.

Jerry Scott Frye ’96 is director of testing and accountability for Richmond County Schools. He lives in Rockingham, N.C., with his wife, Laura Ussery, and their daughter, Kenleigh Paige, 2.

Stephanie C. Price ’96 is program manager for Sylvan Learning Center in Morehead City, N.C., where she resides.

Medeana J. Bruton ’97 is a probation/parole officer with the N.C. Department of Probation. She lives in Carolina Beach, N.C.

Michael Cummings ’97 is a case manager for Companion Home Health. He resides in Pembroke, N.C.

Philip Daniels ’97 is an advertising executive with the News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C. He lives in Willow Springs.

Susan “Becky” Welker Peterson ’97 was promoted to office coordinator at Passport to Health, the senior wellness program of the Cape Fear Valley Health System. She and her husband, Steve, had a baby girl, Abigail Rose, on March 19, 2006.

Amy Bass ’98 is the drama teacher for Tarboro (N.C.) High School in Edgecombe County.

Holly Hunt Chavis ’98 and husband, Derek, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Daria McKenzie, born March 23, 2006. Daria weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz. and was 22 inches long.

Twilla Chavis ’98 and Brad Allen were married May 6, 2006. She works for the Lumber River Council of Governments, and he is employed with the North Carolina Senior Games Inc. in Raleigh, N.C. The couple resides in Lumberton.

Tonya Murphy Jasinski ’98, ’04 is a National Board Certified school counselor. She is a graduate assistant and doctoral student at the University of South Carolina in the counselor education program.

Calvin Lockdhar ’98 is a server tester with IBM and resides in Raleigh, N.C.

Rosenberg Rodriguez ’98 is a telecommunications crew leader at Telaid. He lives in Ormond Beach, Fla.

Yolanda Sinclair ’98 is the administrative services manager at the N.C. Correctional Institute for Women. She received an MBA degree in 2002 from Webster University. She resides in Garner, N.C.

James D. Worriax ’98 is a family medicine resident at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. His wife, Jessica L. ’99, is director of the Southeastern Preschool Education Center. The couple lives in Wilmington, N.C., and they have two children: Jacob Benjamin, 1, and Jayden Mikaela, 4.


Stacey Jackson Canady ’99 married Mark Anthony on May 13, 2006. She is a youth program specialist with the Lumber River Council of Governments in Lumberton, N.C., where the couple resides.

Donna Brown Parker ’99 is a registered nurse at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, N.C., where she resides.

2000s

Ahren Burrage ’00 is plant manager at Old Castle Precast Inc. He is married to Alicia Griffin ’01. Alicia is a kindergarten teacher with Stanly County Schools. The couple has one child, Kalab Michael, and reside in Richfield, N.C.

Greg Frick ’00 is head men’s soccer coach at R.J. Reynolds High School (N.C.) and was named Central Piedmont Conference Coach of the Year in 2005 and 2006. He was also named Region 8 Coach of the Year in 2006. Coach Frick holds a USSF State “C” license.

Jessica Watts Johnson ’00 is the employee benefits manager/accountant for Pennington Seed Company. She lives in Covington, Ga.

Margie McLean ’00 is working toward a Master of Public Health degree from Walden University. She resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

Kendra K. Batd ’01 and Kennan L. Collins ’03 were married June 17, 2006. She is employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County, and he is employed with IBM. The couple resides in Pembroke, N.C.

Karen Carlson ’01 is the nursing supervisor at Scotland Memorial Hospital. She resides in Red Springs, N.C.

Spencer Ross Caudell Jr. ’01 is the program director for Arc Services Inc. in Craven County. He resides in New Bern, N.C.

Timothy Cochran ’01 teaches social studies and coaches junior varsity football at Farmville Central High School in Farmville, N.C., where he resides.

Daniel Froelich ’01 is a technology facilitator for Craven County (N.C.) Schools. He is enrolled in the instructional technology graduate program at East Carolina University and serves as president of the Craven County Association of Educators. His daughter, Emily Grace, was born Feb. 9, 2006. They reside in New Bern, N.C.
Class Notes

2000s continued

William Brandon Lowry '01, married Heather Dial on April 4, 2006. He is employed with the N.C. State Employees Credit Union. The couple resides in Pembroke, N.C.

Paul Nathan Powers '01, and Maeghan Sullivan were married July 15, 2006. Paul is employed with N.C. State University, and Maeghan works for BB&T. The couple lives in Raleigh, N.C.

Patricia A. Winfield '01 is a teacher assistant with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She has two daughters: Damika '06, and Lea, a UNCP student. She lives in Rowland, N.C.

Renaia Cobb Dean '02 is employed with the Pitt County School System. She lives in Robersonville, N.C.

Ryan Felten '02 is a production assistant at News-13 WLOS. He resides in Brevard, N.C.

William Flagler Jr. '02, '04 is a special events coordinator with the Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management. He resides in Ashburn, Va.

Rhesa Grady '02 is the manager and co-owner of Midnight Farms, a complete home furnishings store in Asheville, N.C., where she resides.

Karen Spencer Smith '02 and Brent Smith '01, '04 were married June 3, 2006, and are living in Spartanburg, S.C. Karen works for Robert Half International as a recruiter, and Brent teaches at the University of South Carolina Upstate, working as an assistant athletic trainer.

Rita Atkinson Styron '02 is secretary to the human resources senior director of recruitment and retention of the Wake County (N.C.) Public School System’s Human Resources Department. She married Paul Styron on Dec. 10, 2005. The couple lives in Raleigh, N.C.

Travis Wimoth '02 and his wife, Jera Courts, had their first child, Aubrey Madison, on July 29, 2006. The family resides in Statesville, N.C.

Gene C. Deese '03 started a new business, Red Man Travel. He is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County and resides in Pembroke, N.C.

Eugenia Dial '03 was married May 24, 2006, to Darrel Edwards. The couple resides in Maxton, N.C.

Rennie Harrington-Jones '03 is a social studies teacher in Bertie County Schools, located in Edenton, N.C.

Candice Horner '03 and Christian Fuhrer were married Aug. 12, 2006. Candice is in her second year of working toward a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. The couple resides in Grenada, West Indies.

Carol C. Jones '03 is a clinical operations manager for OccuLogix, a medical device company, and manages eight clinical research sites in the United States and four in Canada.

Demetria Locklear '03 is the owner of Southeastern United Care LLC in Pembroke, N.C. He resides in Lumberton.

Heather Locklear '03 is the finance director for Southeastern United Care LLC in Pembroke, N.C. She resides in Lumberton.

Jeanette Brooks Locklear '03 is a counselor technician with the Public Schools of Robeson County (N.C.) and is enrolled in the school counseling graduate program at UNCP. In 2005, she traveled to Guatemala for two weeks on a missionary trip. In 2004, her husband, Sgt. Harmon Locklear Jr., served in Iraq with the 30th HSB 1/120th Army National Guard Unit out of Wilmington, N.C. He is currently with a unit in Red Springs N.C.

David Michael Lowery '03 married Cassandra Gail Locklear on June 24, 2006. He is employed with Community Innovations. The couple resides in Rowland, N.C.

Cassandra Oxendine '03 married Julius Bullard '01 on July 8, 2006. Cassandra works for the Public Schools of Robeson County, and Julius works for Robeson County public utilities. The couple resides in Maxton, N.C.

Adrienne Satchell '03 is the office supervisor for Risk Optometric Associates PA. She resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

Quincy Wade '03 is an assistant branch manager with Columbus Bank and Trust.

Barbara Swaner Bingham '04 is a social worker in the Richmond County Health Department. She also teaches basic skills at Richmond Community College. She lives in Rockingham, N.C.

Matthew Bobby '04 is an order filler with Wal-Mart. He resides in White Oak, N.C.

Anne Marie Britt '04 is a safety training coordinator at Campbell Soup Company in Maxton, N.C.

Lan Cui '04 is a director at the College of Adult Education of China University of Mining and Technology.

Cara Glick '04 is a community resource specialist with Learning Perspectives. She is engaged to Norman Aubrey Merritt IV, co-vice president of Newell Davis, a wire, rope and rigging company. She resides in Rocky Point, N.C.

Curtis Henderson '04 is a graduate student at North Carolina Central University, majoring in English. He is working with NCCU graduate studies as a writing studio consultant. He resides in Raleigh, N.C.

Lauren Jernigan '04 is a teacher with the Johnston County Schools. She resides in Benson, N.C., and was married Dec. 9, 2006.

Lisa Carol Jernigan '04 and Ryan McGirt '04 were married June 30, 2006. They are both employed by the Public Schools of Robeson County. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C.

Sally Mercer '04 is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Lumberton, N.C.
Chris Nicolini ’04 is the new executive producer of Web content for NBC-17 WNCN in Raleigh, N.C., where he resides.

Tina Ray ’04 is a staff writer at the Fayetteville Observer in Fayetteville, N.C.

Ashleigh Sanderson ’04 was married to Harry Bice Gale on April 15, 2006. She is employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County. The couple resides in Maxton, N.C.

Darline Scott ’04 is a teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County (N.C.).

John Riley Secrist ’04 is a supply officer with the U.S. Navy. He resides in Groton, Conn.

Charles Barton Wagner ’04 is a senior consultant in the electronics business segment of DuPont, which is based in Research Triangle Park, N.C. In December 2005, he became a certified LEAN practitioner and six sigma master black belt supporting plants in China, Taiwan, Japan, Europe and the United States. He resides in Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

Shamar Allen ’05 is a collateral management analyst at Wachovia Corporation in Charlotte, N.C.

Natalie Nicole Baker ’05 is a news and creative writing instructor at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, N.C.

Adrian Britt ’05 is working toward a nursing degree at UNCP. He is employed as a bank teller at Woodforest National Bank. He married Kelly Strickland ’05 on Dec. 17, 2005. Kelly is a choir teacher at Lumberton Senior High School. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C.

Nicole Locklear Brooks ’05 is the assistant director of the Robeson County Water Department. She is married with two children: Ted Q. Brooks III, 6, and Alyssa Lane Brooks, 3. They reside in Lumberton, N.C.

Jared Housand ’05 is in flight school in Pensacola, Fla., where he resides. He is employed by the U.S. Marine Corps as a student naval aviator.

Vanessa Jones ’05 is a sales manager for William Wrigley Jr. Co. She resides in Fairborn, Ohio.

Gail C. Lowery ’05 is a diabetes nurse educator at the Diabetes Community Center of Robeson County. She is also enrolled at East Carolina University in the Master of Science in Nursing program. With a concentration in nursing education, she expects to graduate in December 2006. She lives in Red Springs, N.C.

Todd Luck ’05 is a reporter for the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Chronicle.

Doreen McNeill ’05 is a computer technician for the Public Schools of Robeson County. Her son attends UNCP. She resides in Fairmont, N.C.

Jessica Schirmer ’05 married Brian Michael Riesbeck. She is a systems library technical assistant at UNCP. The couple lives in Pembroke, N.C.

Kevin Whitaker ’05 is a safety officer at Sandhills Community College. He resides in West End, N.C.

Lindsey Bartholf ’06 is working toward a graduate degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Jessica Bernier ’06 is a grants coordinator at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., where she resides.

Robert Berongi III ’06 is a travel agent with AAA Carolinas. He was married April 1, 2006, and he resides with his new wife in Charlotte, N.C., with their three dogs.

John Stephen Cooper ’06 and Rebecca Leigh Kenney ’04, ’06 were married Aug. 5, 2006. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C. John is a former member of the UNCP soccer team, and Rebecca is the daughter of Dan (UNCP’s director of athletics) and Mira Kenney.

Ron Christopher Emanuel ’06 is an auditor of public accounts with the State of Virginia. He lives in Richmond.

Danielle Hiraldo ’03, ’06 is an assistant director of admissions at UNCP.

Mark Hunt ’06 is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in the School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering.

Arnold Brett Lowry ’06 is a behavioral therapist at the Mariposa School in Cary, N.C., where he resides.

Amy Lynn Mishue ’06 married Aaron Frank Abrams. She is employed with Southeastern Regional Mental Health. The couple resides in Lumberton, N.C.

Charles Seibert ’06 is the head wrestling coach at America International College in Springfield, Mass. Seibert spent the last two seasons as assistant wrestling coach at UNCP and helped lead the Braves to a seventh-place finish at the 2005 NCAA Division II championship. Seibert coached six NCAA Division II individual national qualifiers, five All-Americans and two national finalists.

Katherine Leigh Stokes ’06 and Thomas Jordan Martin ’06 were married May 20, 2006. They reside in Charles Town, Va.

Natasha Tajman ’06 is a grants coordinator in the Clinical Research Support Office at Duke University Medical Center. She resides in Durham, N.C.

James Andrew Wilson ’06 is enrolled at the University of Florida, where he is pursuing a graduate degree in South Asian religions of the Indian subcontinent. He is serving as a teaching assistant in the Religion and Philosophy Department.

Michael Zindros ’06 is a teaching assistant at NC State University in the Computer Science Department.

Joseph Robisch (CE) is a professional basketball player in Germany, where he lives with his wife, Silvia, and their sons, Jamail, 8, and Jalen, 3.
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Adolph L. Dial remembered

Adolph Lorenz Dial, or “Mr. Adolph,” was a scholar, teacher, businessman, politician, philanthropist and friend. He was also an avid storyteller. Among his collection of stories is the story of the Lumbee Indians in "The Only Land I Know." In this monumental work, Dial gave voice to others who had historically been silenced.

Born in the Prospect community in 1922, Dial learned the value of work on his family's farm and attended all-Indian public schools and Pembroke State College for Indians. He later served in World War II and saw firsthand the horrors of Nazi concentration camps. Upon returning home from the war, he was denied entrance to North Carolina's graduate schools because he was Indian.

Dial earned a master's degree from Boston University. In 1958, he joined the faculty of Pembroke State College, an institution his grandfather, the Rev. W.L. Moore, was instrumental in founding. At the University, he served as a 30-year faculty member and was founder of the American Indian Studies program.

Dial was a visionary who helped establish Lumbee Guaranty Bank in 1971 and built Pembroke's first shopping center. A major advocate for federal recognition, he believed Lumbee should not become "welfare Indians." Dial was elected to the N.C. House of Representatives in 1990 and died in 1995.

Mr. Adolph's legacy still looms large at this University and in the Pembroke community. The Adolph L. Dial Amphitheatre, used for the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!" stands as a testament to Dial, the philanthropist. His legacy as a scholar, teacher and friend to the University lives eternally through the Adolph L. Dial Humanities Building, lecture series, an endowed scholarship and faculty awards for scholarship and community service.

Adolph L. Dial

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