Summer 2010

UNCP Today

UNCP Welcomes a new chancellor
Kyle R. Carter
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Don't miss the 35th Anniversary of Givens Performing Arts Center!

Broadway and More
- Oklahoma! - October 22
- Legally Blonde - November 1
- The Color Purple - January 27
- The National Philharmonic of Poland - February 4
- Tango Buenos Aires - March 1
- Russian National Ballet Theatre: Romeo and Juliet - April 14

Nostalgia Concert Series
- KC & The Sunshine Band - October 29
- Diamond Rio - December 4
- The Tams and Craig Woodard Band - April 29

On Stage for Youth Series
- Charlotte’s Web - October 4
- Otherwise Known As Sheila The Great - October 25
- Click, Clack, Moo - March 17
- NC Youth Tap Ensemble - February 24-25

Distinguished Speaker Series
- Erin Gruwell - September 15
- Adam Beach - November 29
- Judy Shepard - February 21
- Hill Harper - April 26

Special Event
- Destino - September 24
- *Spring Awakening - March 14
- Adam Fererra - April 28

*Strong Adult Language and Content

Visit www.uncp.edu/gpac for all the details of the 2010-2011 Season.
It is an honor to offer greetings to our alumni and friends from the pages of UNCP Today.

I would like to thank all the good people on campus and in the community who have graciously welcomed Sarah and me to Pembroke. In the next few months, I hope to meet many more of you. This is an institution with many wonderful friends, and I am eager to hear your stories.

It has been a smooth transition to Pembroke. I have Dr. Charles Jenkins to thank for his excellent work as interim chancellor during 2009-10 and for his help in the transition. His assistance has been invaluable, and he has played yet another important role in the history of the University.

My election as chancellor was a wonderful day for me and for my family. I was attracted to UNCP initially by the genuineness of the search committee, who made Pembroke’s story very real and exciting. Like any great story, I hope to spend time listening and learning from the Pembroke story.

This is an institution with a unique and remarkable history. For more than 123 years, the University has served this community as an engine of opportunity. I promise that will not change during my tenure.

I will need the assistance of the entire Pembroke community to chart the future course of the University. I pledge, first and foremost, to honor and preserve the essential values of the past. Change has become a way of life here during the last decade, and the demands of the future are pressing. Because of growth on Ft. Bragg and pending federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe, it appears the future is bright for the region and the University that serves it.

Looking into the not too distant future, two new construction projects are poised to break ground. A new residence hall is always welcome news because it improves the quality of student life. A new allied health building will be home to our nursing programs. It will also be home to new programs that will contribute to building a healthier community.

Uplifting the region’s health, education and welfare is an important mission for the University. Many powerful tools and connections are in place to make this a reality. The most important thing we can do to help our region is to continue becoming the best regional university that we can be.

With the start of the fall semester a short time away, I am getting excited to see the faces of our students. Classrooms, sidewalks and sporting events full of students are satisfying sights. There is so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. I look forward, especially, to seeing our alumni and friends throughout the year. Please enjoy this publication and stay connected to your University.

Sincerely,

[Kyle R. Carter]

Chancellor
Jenna Walters crowned 2010 Miss UNCP

Senior mass communication major Jenna Walters was crowned Miss UNCP 2010 in front of an enthusiastic audience of 1,000 in the Givens Performing Arts Center.

Walters represented the University at the Miss North Carolina Pageant in June.

From Raeford, N.C., Walters bested five contestants to win the Miss UNC Pembroke Scholarship Pageant. For the winner, the title brings nearly $5,000 in scholarships and prizes.

For Walters, it was her second trip to the Miss North Carolina Pageant. As Miss Fayetteville, she competed in 2007.

The 58th annual pageant sported the theme, “I Am What I Am,” and was a night of star-studded entertainment. Reigning Miss North Carolina Katherine Southard and Miss North Carolina 2000 Lorna Ricotta served as Mistresses of Ceremonies and performed.

Miss UNCP 2009, Katy Helen Locklear, also performed the pageant theme song and delivered the traditional farewell address. Locklear will be remembered as a popular and hard-working queen, who made more than 100 appearances as an ambassador of the University.

Walters set the bar high during the talent portion of the contest when she lit up the audience with a rendition of “Brave.” Walters’ platform is HEARTStrings: Helping Educate and Reach through Song.

“I help children express themselves through music,” she said during the on-stage interview. “I start with their feelings and senses, then we express it with music and song.”

First Runner-up was Arlene Grady of Spring Hope, N.C.; Second Runner-up was Ashton Young of Garner, N.C.; and Third Runner-up was Kelsey Cummings of Pembroke. Each contestant was awarded a scholarship.

Grady also won the Miss Congeniality Award and Walters won the Jessica Reed Family Community Service Scholarship. Ashton Young won the new Scholastic Achievement Award for the contestant with the highest grade point average.

The talent competition showed off the diverse talents of the six contestants. Cummings played a piano rendition of a Chopin piece and Chelsea Collier of Fayetteville, N.C., played the violin. Mary Ann McGirt of Laurinburg, N.C., and Young clogged. Clogging may evoke traditional mountain folklore but this pair took the art form to an all new level in the 21st century.

In the audience were approximately two dozen other queens and princesses who participated in the pageant. Also attending was Alan Clouse, executive director of the Miss North Carolina Pageant.

In an interview following the event, Walters said she will “work harder and practice my poise and elegance. I’m ready to go back in the spotlight.”
Hailed by UNC President Bowles as a “strong, effective and experienced leader for UNC Pembroke,” Chancellor Carter is a 35-year veteran of higher education. He has experience in North Carolina, the UNC system and with regional universities in rural communities like Pembroke.

After earning a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in educational psychology, Dr. Carter began his career on the faculty of Valdosta State College.

In 22 years at Northern Colorado University, he earned faculty tenure, the rank of full professor, and ended his career there as associate vice president for Research and Graduate Studies and dean of the graduate school.

Before coming to North Carolina as Western Carolina’s first provost, he served the University of Central Missouri as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

When introducing Dr. Carter, Dr. Freda Porter 78, chair of both the Chancellor Search Committee and the Board of Trustees, said he is a “dynamic leader with a searing vision for UNCP.”

In recommending Dr. Carter to the Board of Governors, President Bowles said “Kyle Carter brings to the task more than three decades of academic and leadership experience at respected public universities, including one of our own UNC institutions. At each step along the way, he has proven himself to be an engaged and effective leader who promotes collaboration and strategic thinking, academic excellence and student success. He has also earned a reputation for great integrity, sound judgment and an unwavering commitment to community engagement and outreach."

“I am convinced that Kyle Carter brings the right mix of experience, skills, and passion needed to be a truly great chancellor for UNC Pembroke, and I am thrilled that he has agreed to join our leadership team,” Bowles concluded.

In her remarks to the Board of Governors in Durham and later at a reception in Pembroke, Dr. Porter praised the 16-member search committee for its work over nine months.

Dr. Porter invoked UNCP’s proud 123-year history, saying Dr. Carter is a leader who will continue to “foster UNCP’s unique cultural diversity and the vision of the founders.”

“Today marks the beginning of a new era,” Dr. Porter said. “We believe that we have in Dr. Carter a leader with integrity who will advocate for the community and engage in significant outreach.”

**FIRST WORDS**

Then, it was Chancellor Carter’s turn. He spoke to the Board of Governors and at a press conference. Then, he traveled to
Pembroke for meetings with key leaders, a community-wide reception, a press conference and dinner with executive staff.

After thanking the Board of Governors, Dr. Carter said it was "a great day in my life and the life of my family. I am absolutely thrilled by this appointment.

"I pledge to you that your decision will be rewarded," he continued. "I was drawn to Pembroke initially by the search committee, which made Pembroke's story a compelling one.

"UNC Pembroke is an institution with a rich history," Dr. Carter said. "For more than 123 years, the University has served a very diverse citizenry.

"I will invite the entire Pembroke community to help chart the future course of the University," he said.

In the press conference that followed, Dr. Carter started the conversation.

"I have had a great deal of experience in dealing with change," he said. "Base realignment on Ft. Bragg and pending federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe will bring growth to the entire region.

"I am a good listener," Dr. Carter continued. "I am adaptable. If the course I've set is not the right one, I am willing to change."

Dr. Carter introduced his family in Durham and later in Pembroke. He and his wife, Sarah, who is a former elementary school teacher, have two children. Travis is at the University of Chicago doing post-doctoral work after earning a Ph.D. in social psychology from Cornell University. Heather, who was in attendance, works for the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and is working on a doctorate in nutrition at the University of Georgia.

Chancellor Carter has experience working with American Indians. On the list of people he met Friday was Lumbee Tribal Chair Purnell Swett.

At WCU, Dr. Carter supervised the Cherokee Task Force to promote collaboration between the university and tribe. One of those collaborations included Wake Forest University in a Cultural Health Care Initiative for rural healthcare providers.

The chancellor has also been active in the communities where he worked. He volunteered with a variety of service organizations including Upward Bound, the normal school transitioned to become UNCP, a regional university that offers a large array of programs important to the region, and it now serves all North Carolinians regardless of race within the region and beyond. However, its link to its historic past remains a core value, and its basic mission remains the same: educate the citizenry to improve individual lives and the economic condition of the region it serves.

As UNCP looks toward the future, it will continue its original purpose, providing academic programs important to the region, and it will continue to offer itself as both a resource to the region and as a convener of key constituencies to address regional needs. Although universities aren't specifically designed to resolve social and economic issues of a region, they can provide intellectual capital and settings where key stakeholders and decision makers can gather to address problems. I anticipate UNCP's outreach will increase in the region by continuing to develop partnerships with local county and city governments to address regional issues like capitalizing on economic development with the BRAC corridor, achieving federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe and reducing the dropout rate in the public schools, to mention just a few.

Q: Western Carolina University lists 120 programs among its offerings, many more than UNCP. Do you foresee adding programs and do you have any in mind?

A: As our involvement in the region grows, UNCP will add additional programs to serve regional needs. That is inevitable. I don't have specific programs in mind, but we will regularly evaluate the region's needs to drive the University's program creation.

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Q: Our biggest challenge — improving retention and graduation rates — is the same one that plagues almost all regional universities. How will we improve outcomes?
A: That is a very big and complex question! If the answer were simple, someone would have already addressed the problem. However, former Chancellor Jenkins started a process to address these issues last spring when he presented a 25-point plan to the Board of Trustees. His plan is an excellent start. What I learned from my experience at WCU—we worked on the same issue for the last three years—is that improving retention and graduation rates isn’t related to one or two issues but depends upon improving multiple routine practices and services. You have to continue to do a lot of little things well over a period of time before you see results. So, universities must make sure that all of their student services (e.g., advising, financial aid, early alert systems for students in academic trouble, tutoring, etc.) are working well. We must make sure that faculty are focused on student success, i.e., challenging students but also providing the means for them to meet expected outcomes. Finally, we must make sure we recruit the right students, those who are capable of success at UNCP, and they must understand the type of experience that awaits them when they arrive on campus.

Q: In a conversation, you mentioned “branding” of a university in terms a little different than the conventional marketing concept we are familiar with. Can you explain more?
A: Sure. Branding is the set of messages that an organization uses to communicate its purpose, values, and defining characteristics. All members of the organization must understand the brand and communicate consistent messages to its target audiences. Branding is extremely important to any organization and relates to the last point I made in the previous question: “We must make sure we recruit the right students.” Let me illustrate my point this way. A couple wishes to celebrate their anniversary in a nice, quiet restaurant with an intimate atmosphere. They also have a few other criteria: white tablecloths, candle light, healthy international cuisine, and a good wine list. They find an ad for “European Bistro” that advertises the following: Enjoy unique international dishes in an intimate setting suited to celebrating your special event. Our complete wine list will complement any meal. They decide to try it. Much to their disappointment, the restaurant is noisy and crowded. The menu is limited with mostly American dishes. And the wine list has a limited selection of wines. The couple is very disappointed and decides they will never come back! Why? Because the advertising didn’t truly represent the experience. Universities run the same risk. If the actual experience doesn’t match the brand promise (i.e., how universities describe themselves when they recruit), students will be disappointed and leave. So, it is important to accurately portray UNCP to potential students. When you do so, those students who enroll have experiences that fit what they expect to encounter. So, they are a good fit for the institution and will persist until graduation.

Q: At the town hall meeting in April, you said that finding the right provost is of paramount importance. What special qualities will you look for in our next academic chief?
A: We’re in the process of developing a complete job description for UNCP’s provost position and have created a Web page to keep people informed about the process of the search. You might want to review the page (www.uncp.edu/provostsearch/) to get a more complete understanding of the importance of the position as well as the attributes that person must possess. However, I will give you a couple of qualities that I consider absolutely essential:

United Way and Habitat for Humanity, as well as youth sports, Boy Scouts, Rotary and school booster clubs.
He has also been an experienced fundraiser. Working with Northern Colorado’s first capital campaign, he helped raise $11.5 million. At Central Missouri, Dr. Carter worked closely with a $21 million Campaign for Students. At WCU, he was a member of the executive leadership team for the successful $51.8 million capital campaign that ended in October 2009.

IN PEMBROKE
In front of about 400 faculty, staff, student and community guests at a late afternoon reception at UNCP, it got more personal for Chancellor Carter.
“I will spend the next several months learning more about UNCP,” Dr. Carter said. “I will rely on Chancellor Jenkins to assist me in this transition.
“You don’t know me yet, but we will get to know each other better over time,” he promised.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Carter introduced his wife, who he met at freshman orientation in college, his children and family pet. He listed the five reasons why he and his family wanted to be a part of the Pembroke community.
On the list was: a beautiful campus; people who care about their University; diversity, which he said is an asset of limitless value; the University’s mission to uplift people’s lives in the region; and the opportunity to share in UNCP’s future.
“What are we going to become?” he asked. “We will chart that course together.
“The thing I will never change is the history and culture of this University,” Dr. Carter said.

Chancellor Carter met with representatives of The Pine Needle and WNCP-TV following the reception. He revealed even more about himself and how he will lead.
To a question about athletics and UNCP’s new football team, Chancellor Carter revealed that he is a sports fan.

Chancellor Carter speaks to the Board of Governors following his election.
The Provost must:

- Be an academic leader who will advance and expand the University's academic mission.
- Be capable of galvanizing the faculty to initiate change to support and promote higher levels of academic excellence.
- Be an individual who recognizes and embraces the role of an engaged comprehensive regional institution as a catalyst for change and improvement in the region it serves.
- Be committed to working within a policy environment characterized by transparency and integrity.
- Embrace diversity as a core value and understand the role UNCP's history has on its institutional character.

Q: You have said you are a sports fan. Are there additional opportunities for UNCP in athletics?
A: Yes, I am a sports fan. I have been very impressed with the success UNCP has had in a variety of sports. A priority for UNCP Athletics is to have all of our teams be part of a conference. Dan Kenney and I have had preliminary conversations about the need for adding conference affiliation for football. We are currently playing as a NCAA Division II independent in football, and I look forward to learning Pete Shinnick's perspective. In regard to other opportunities for UNCP, it is too early for me to know. I need to learn more from the coaches and students before I broach that topic.

Q: You have met the Lumbee Tribal Chairman Purnell Swett '57. What have you learned so far about the tribe and its relationship with UNCP?
A: First, I would like to comment on my meeting with Chairman Swett. After I was named Chancellor-Elect, I made a conscious decision to meet with Mr. Swett before I stepped on the UNCP campus. That meeting was intended to do two things: (1) demonstrate my respect for the Lumbee Tribe and the role it has played in the history of UNCP, and (2) begin a relationship with the Tribe through the Chairman that will benefit both the Tribe and UNCP. I found Mr. Swett to be very gracious and forthcoming. I look forward to getting to know him better and working with him in the future. By the way, Mr. Swett is also a graduate of Western Carolina. So, we have already discovered common ground. Regarding what I have learned about the Tribe...I have learned that the relationship is deep and complex and of great importance to both the University and the Tribe. Whenever we can, Sarah and I add to our knowledge about the culture and significance of the Tribe to the University. For example, we went to a Pow Wow in April and Dr. Mary Ann Jacobs, Chair and Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies, and her student assistant, Sunshine Costanza, provided an orientation for us. We have visited Mr. Curt Locklear a couple of times in his True Value store and listened to him recount important events in his life as a citizen of Pembroke and as a former student of Pembroke State College for Indians. We have talked to people in Linda's and Sheff's restaurants, about their University and their hopes for the future. We know we have a lot more to learn about the Lumbee and their relationship to the University, but one thing is very clear: The Lumbee have great pride in UNCP and are fiercely loyal to its mission.

Q: What will be the impact of federal recognition of the Lumbee on the region and on UNCP?
A: I don’t think anyone can fully understand the impact of federal recognition. However, it will be huge. First and foremost, it would provide the Lumbee Tribe their rightful place at the national table on issues of Indian affairs. This intangible outcome may far exceed the...

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Questions and Answers
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The tangible benefits of recognition. When federal recognition happens, UNCP will feel the same pride because the American Indian identity runs deep in the historical roots of UNCP’s history. Federal recognition would have a huge economic impact on the region because the Tribe would be eligible for federal programs for education, health services, housing and economic development. Pembroke and Robeson County, in particular, but other adjacent counties as well, would experience the economic benefits. There would also be more jobs as the Tribe expands its programs and services. More jobs mean more spendable income that would stimulate the creation of more amenities for people in the region. Within five years of recognition, the area around UNCP could have more commerce and housing. This fact alone would help UNCP as it recruits new faculty and staff to the University. I would love to see people begin to refer Pembroke as a university town where people choose to live, work and play.

Q: Have you said you are a good listener. How do you describe your management and decision-making style?
A: I use a team approach to manage an organization. I work with a team to establish priorities and then I charge them to lead and manage their areas consistent with those priorities. I strive for consensus, but don’t believe in endless debates. I listen to the team’s advice and counsel, make a decision, and move on. I expect team members to operate independently within the policy framework, style and values that mark my administration. A policy environment assures fairness and consistency. It also promotes transparency and accountability. I believe both are core values of any successful organization that depends upon shared governance and collegiality. Similarly, open communication is another trait that characterizes healthy organizations. That is why I use town hall meetings to discuss important issues with the campus. Finally, as my administration puts plans into place, we will monitor progress, seek feedback from the campus, and deal with problems as they arise. Our focus will always be on implementation, assessment, and improvement.

Q: On a more personal note, what do you do when you’re not on duty as chancellor?
A: Home renovation projects or working in the yard are high on the list. I guess I am a handyman of sorts and enjoy working with my hands. Now that I live in the Chancellor’s Residence, I don’t have that opportunity. When Sarah and I take some vacation time and visit our Sylva home in the mountains, I’ll find something in the house and yard that needs fixing. Sarah and I also like to travel with friends and family. We especially enjoy Napa Valley, Aruba or a cruise in the Caribbean. Our best times are always with family. We try to find times where we can get together either at their homes or in our mountain home. We cook together, play some golf, and usually play cards or a cut-throat version of Mexican Train dominos. I also like to hike and fish—especially for trout.

Q: What are some favorite books? What will you read this summer?
A: I read a lot of different fiction, but my main criterion is that it be a good story. If inventoried, my reading list would be slanted toward mysteries and spy novels. My favorite authors are David Baldacci, Ken Follett, Nelson DeMille, Frederick Forsyth, Daniel Silva, Tom Clancy, Robert Ludlum, James Clavell, Michael Crichton, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Lord Jeffrey Archer. My all time favorite books are “Pillars of the Earth,” “World without End,” “The Power of One,” and “Shogun,” “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, the Harry Potter novels, and Jimmy Carter’s “An Hour Before Daylight,” the one non-fiction in the list.

TOWN HALL

Before taking command on July 1, Dr. Carter came to campus on several occasions including a University-wide town hall meeting on April 28. Early that morning Kyle and Sarah Carter, dressed less formally, took a walking tour of campus.

“You will not see my car parked in the reserved space outside Lumbee Hall unless I have to leave campus that day,” he said. “I will walk to work.”

Chancellor Carter met with approximately 200 faculty, staff and students.

The purpose of the event was to set a course for the future of the University and meet its new leader. Chancellor-elect Carter outlined the search for a new provost who will become the University’s academic chief.

“A town hall meeting is the common way I will bring issues to you,” he said at the start. “Please ask questions and make comments. Our success hinges on understanding what the expectations are.”

Chancellor Carter made a point about

At the press conference in Durham with Dr. Porter and former Chancellor Jenkins

spoke with The Fayetteville Observer after a meeting with the Chancellor.

“He said he is here to learn, and I think that is absolutely awesome,” Branch said. “He hasn’t come here with a to-do list; he has come with a clean slate.”

Maxine Locklear Amos, a community member with historic ties to the University, told The Robesonian she thinks Chancellor Carter brings a good balance.

“I’m impressed that he doesn’t want to forget the historical background of the school,” Amos said. “He said he wants to chart the future together.”
Right now, I am reading “Term Limits” by Vince Flynn. As Chancellor, my reading of fiction has slowed down, replaced by technical and research reports on the University, higher education and organizations and people who have relationships with the University. Yet, I end most evenings by reading a little before ending the day.

Q: Your children are very successful. Heather is working on a Ph.D. and Travis recently earned his doctorate from Cornell University. What is the secret of a successful family?
A: Sarah and I are very proud of our children and are thankful for their success. We’ve been fortunate that they have been great people throughout their lives. Even during the turbulent pre-teen and early teen years, Heather and Travis were great. I don’t know what made them turn out so well, but suspect it had to do with a couple of things. Both Sarah and I are educators and modeled success and an achievement orientation. Sarah and I were always a part of their lives, but never tried to push or pry. We supported them in whatever they wanted to do and cheered them on in every activity from little league baseball, softball, soccer, science fairs, plays, and volleyball. We always made a point to be there for them, celebrated their success, and supported them when they lost or didn’t perform well. I am very proud of the fact that I never missed a single performance, match, or game while Heather and Travis were in high school. It took some juggling of my schedule, but I was always able to manage. Sarah and I continue to make family a priority and make sure we are present during our children’s special celebrations. Last, and probably most important, I attribute their success to the foundation Sarah provided our children before they went to school. When Heather was born, Sarah took time out from teaching elementary school to become a stay-at-home mom. She provided a nurturing and supportive environment for Heather and Travis for their first five years—before going to kindergarten. When I came home in the evening, I would often find Sarah reading to Heather and Travis and find freshly baked cookies in the kitchen that the three of them had baked during the day. I don’t think you can overestimate the importance of providing a nurturing environment to children. We worked parents find other ways to create that environment. The key is to make your children a priority and support and nurture them.

The balance between growth and retention perfectly clear.
“Transparency builds trust and ultimately leads to better decisions, Dr. Carter said. “I will build an environment built on honesty and integrity.”

PROVOST SEARCH
The search for a new provost will be “open” and transparent, he said. Chancellor Carter expects to have a new provost by February 2011.
“Provost is a very important position whose role is to advance the academic mission of the University,” he said.
“The provost is first among equals who will support and collaborate with the vice chancellors to promote the entire institution.”

A provost at UNCP should be visible, embrace diversity and the University’s core values, work with alumni and the foundation as well as serve as the academic leader, Dr. Carter said.
“This person should be someone who matches my style and works well with all the vice chancellors,” he said.

A broad-based search committee will be formed by the start of the fall semester. It will include faculty, staff and community members. It will be an “open search.”

In conclusion, the chancellor said “we will do this again.”
Largest graduating class earned their diplomas at Commencement 2010

The past and future came together on May 8, during Commencement 2010 for 613 graduates of the University. It was an historic event that witnessed the largest graduating class in school history assembled for a Spring Commencement. It was a day to chart plans for the future for the graduates, the University and the 17-member University of North Carolina system.

President Bowles thanked Dr. Charles Jenkins, who led the University as its interim chancellor during the 2009-10 academic year. He said former Chancellor Jenkins set the stage for UNCP’s new chancellor to succeed.

“Chancellor Kyle Carter will be a tremendous asset for this University,” Bowles said. “He is going to take this University to the next level.”

Dr. Jenkins also acknowledged leaving the University at a crossroads.

“Over the next few weeks, there will be much discussion regarding budgetary matters ... there will be tough decisions,” former Chancellor Jenkins said. “I hope that everyone at this Commencement today recognizes the value of this institution and the UNC system in the educational and economic development of our region and state.”

If North Carolina and UNCP’s graduates “continue making daily choices aimed at achieving our goals ... (we) will revel in the joy of lives lived wisely,” he said.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Commencement speaker Judge James W. Oxendine has lived an exemplary life. From Fairmont, N.C., he became the first Lumbee Indian to graduate from law school and the first American Indian admitted to the Georgia Bar and to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“I hope you will not forget where you came from,” Judge Oxendine advised. “It’s great to be from North Carolina and great to be from Robeson County.”

The retired Superior Court judge, who counts one semester at UNCP on his resume, said times may be challenging, but “don’t let anyone tell you that you cannot succeed.

“Remember that the difference between mediocre and good is not much,” Judge Oxendine continued. “I realized if I worked harder and did better, I would excel. You can do the same.”

In his introduction of Judge Oxendine, University Attorney Joshua Malcolm ’92 said he is “a professional and personal role model.”

After Judge Oxendine’s speech, Chancellor Jenkins said, “You have made a statement with your life about how someone from Robeson County can succeed.”

Success was on the minds of UNCP’s graduates who focused on their futures. Their plans were as diverse as the student body itself.

LOOKING AHEAD

Three generations of Traci Johnson’s family, including her grandmother, Pauline, and parents, Franklin and Carolyn, were on hand to watch her receive a Master of Arts in Education. Like Judge Oxendine, she is from Fairmont, and she was a first generation college graduate.

“None of it was easy,” said the first grade teacher. “If I had to do again, I wouldn’t change anything.”

Johnson said National Board Certification is the next step in her continuing education.

Husband and wife, Nadine and Elliot Samuel were all smiles as they graduated together. Two of their four children attended.

“We plan to get a master’s degree in public administration at UNCP,” Nadine
Samuel said, “We love it here; that’s why we are continuing here.”

The question of who was the better student brought laughs. Elliot graduated Summa Cum Laude and Nadine, Magna Cum Laude.

“It was crazy,” Nadine said. “We pushed each other, especially in the classes we took together.”

“I would say we excelled in our own special areas,” Samuel Elliot said.

Ava Walker’s grandchild was in the audience Saturday. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication.


The new graduate hopes to turn an internship at a local radio station into a full-time “on-air” job.

Tiffany Lee, a psychology major who worked throughout college, has an ambitious plan.

“I am moving to Atlanta to start an organization for young women called Opened Cocoon,” Lee said. “I plan to get a graduate degree in counseling and a Ph.D. in divinity with a concentration in counseling.”

LARGE ATTENDANCE

Approximately 5,000 attended the ceremony on a warm, sunny and breezy morning. Commencement was held on Lumbee Guaranty Field in the Grace P. Johnson Stadium.

Dr. Beth Maisonpierre, a 25-year member of the Music Department faculty, was grand marshal. During the ceremony, she received the UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence from Dr. Cheryl Marvileane Locklear, a member of the UNC Board of Governors and a 1975 graduate.

The Rev. Chris Hunt of the Berea Baptist Church delivered the invocation. Greetings during Commencement were provided by Dr. Locklear, Dr. Freda Porter ’78 on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Anthony Curtis on behalf of the faculty, Arjay Quizon on behalf of the students and Floyd Locklear ’86 on behalf of the Alumni Association.
UNCP celebrates its founding 123 years ago

Founder’s Day was celebrated on March 17 in the Paul R. Givens Performing Arts Center.

It was the University’s 123rd year, and University officials said the event is a prelude to a far bigger 125th celebration.

Approximately 200 relatives of founders and early graduates of the University attended the mid-morning event. Founder’s Day 2010 honored the founding Board of Trustees and University graduates up to the class of 1950.

Dr. Gilbert Sampson ’58, retired chair of UNCP’s Mathematics and Computer Science Department, is related to four of the seven founders, including one of the first students, O.R. Sampson.

“This was very informative and a great thing for the University and the community,” Dr. Sampson said. “This is a good day.”

Wendy Moore is a descendant of W.L. Moore, the man who was hailed as a “founder, erector, teacher.”

“I thought I knew a lot about this University, but I learned a lot today,” Moore said. “I’m glad I came.”

Magnolia Oxendine Lowry, a retired faculty member, is also related to several of the founders.

“I never realized there was so much history here,” Lowry said. “I am ever grateful to the founders.”

The University was founded in 1887, said Dr. Linda Oxendine ’68, the retired chair of the American Indian Studies Department and co-author of the centennial history of the University.

“W.L. Moore and Hamilton McMillan shared a vision for this University,” she said. “The history of this institution is so unlike any other.

“That this University had Indian control is what made it so visionary,” Dr. Oxendine said. “I think that having local control was key.”

State Representative McMillan authored a bill to appropriate $500 to pay faculty of the school, but it was up to the local American Indian community to purchase land and building materials and erect the first buildings.

“The $500 appropriation was for salaries and came with the stipulation that the community would provide the buildings or the legislation would be repealed during the next session of the legislature,” Dr. Oxendine said.

Dr. Oxendine and Lawrence Locklear ’05, a member of the Founder’s Day Planning Committee, discussed the early history. Former Chancellor Charles Jenkins, who has worked 38 years at the University, welcomed guests to the Founders Day celebration of 123 years of the school’s history.

“This is a seminal event that we hope will become an annual event,” former Chancellor Jenkins said. “We all have a great deal to celebrate, and this event will lead up to a larger celebration of the 125th year.”

Former Chancellor Jenkins said the school’s founding and history speak to the “courage, tenacity and strength of our founders.”

“The founders of this University were men of good will,” he said. “The Lumbee Indian community, which built this University, are people of good will.”

Speakers offered their thoughts and shared their personal histories with the University.

Dr. Cheryl Locklear ’75, former trustee and member of the UNC Board of Governors, said “there is no university in America with a more unique history or a story so compelling.”

“The founders may have lived in a place that people considered poor, but their ideas were rich with possibilities,” Dr. Locklear said. “There is no limit to what can be done if we are willing to do the hard work, fight the good fight and believe in ourselves.”

Dr. Locklear noted that her parents and daughter are graduates also.

Dr. Freda Porter ’78, a faculty member and chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, called the founders’ work an “unrelenting personal sacrifice.”

“The history of our University is a story of ordinary people
"courage, tenacity and strength,"
- Former Chancellor Jenkins

with extraordinary ambitions,” Dr. Porter said.

“By celebrating our history, we honor ourselves, and we have much to celebrate at UNCP,” Dr. Porter said. “Many life changing opportunities were made possible by attending this University.”

Student Government President Arjay Quizon drew a parallel between his parents’ immigration to the U.S. and the quest for a better life that University founders dared to dream.

“My family moved here for a chance at a better life,” Quizon said. “The same goes for the founders who hoped this University would provide an opportunity for a better life for this community.”

Purnell Swett ’57, chair of the Lumbee Tribe, called the University’s history one of “123 years of service.”

“This University is a great source of pride for the Lumbee community,” Swett said. “So long as this University flourishes, so will the Lumbee Tribe.”

Dr. Anthony Curtis, chair of the Faculty Senate, brought greetings from the faculty.

“This is a time to reflect on our University’s history and its mission for the future,” Dr. Curtis said. “The faculty gives you its pledge to continue the hope, excitement, promise, pride, purpose and accomplishments.”

Floyd Locklear ’86, president of the Alumni Association, thanked the audience for “celebrating 123 years of education.

“This is a time to find out about this University’s history, and I encourage you to get involved and give back to its future,” Locklear said.

The University will host two Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) programs offered by East Carolina University beginning in August 2010.

The programs — higher education and K-12 administration — drew considerable interest and have formed cohorts. Classes will be held at UNCP and supported with the latest, state-of-the-art instructional technology.

According to ECU’s College of Education, the Ed.D. program in higher education administration prepares experienced leaders for senior and executive leadership in community colleges, private and public universities and other academic organizations.

“The degree is designed to develop and foster leadership skills for individuals to resolve educational problems and issues,” said ECU faculty member Dr. Bill Grobe.

The 60-hour program includes study of leadership theory, finance, human resource development, organizational theory, policy analysis, planning studies, curriculum, instructional leadership and political systems analysis.

For UNCP and ECU, the doctoral program is the latest collaboration in school leadership. From the mid-1990s through 2003, ECU worked with UNCP in offering the master of school administration program, which UNCP continued since that time.

The doctoral program offers important education in leadership for UNCP’s region, said former Chancellor Charles Jenkins, who worked with ECU on the previous school leadership program as UNCP’s provost and taught in the program for 10 years.

“Our continuing partnership with ECU has been a great benefit to UNCP and our region of the state,” Dr. Jenkins said. “We are excited to help provide this opportunity.”

Dr. Leah Fiorentino, dean of UNCP’s School of Education, said the training and research that emanates from the Ed.D. program will benefit the region greatly.

“Eighty individuals have showed interest in joining the cohort so far,” Dr. Fiorentino said. “We are pleased to be able to work with ECU.”

The program requires a minimum of 60 semester hours beyond a master’s degree, a dissertation and a supervised internship. Level I licensure in administration or supervision is also required for admission to the K-12 administration cohort.

To be admitted, applicants must take the GRE or MAT, submit references, complete transcripts and a writing sample, complete an interview, have leadership experience and a 3.5 GPA or better in graduate work.
BUSINESS VISIONS: Robeson’s outstanding business people honored

Donna Lowry, president and CEO of Caring Touch Home Healthcare of Pembroke, was named Business Person of the Year, and Pembroke Hardware was named Business of the Year at the 14th annual Business Visions Awards Banquet on April 29.

Diane Surgeon, who has launched several businesses for senior citizens, was named Entrepreneur of the Year. Dan Kenney, UNCP’s athletic director, was the recipient of the Collie Coleman Spirit of Unity Award.

Outstanding Student Awards went to Caroline Sumpter, a business student at Robeson Community College (RCC), Katherine McGinnis, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) candidate at UNCP, and Peter J. Skeris, a candidate for the Master of Public Affairs (MPA) degree at UNCP.

Curt Locklear ’49, founder of the 50-year-old Pembroke Hardware, accepted the award with his wife, Catherine, and family looking on.

“I feel insufficient,” Locklear said. “The kids deserve this more than I do because they have done it all in the last few years.” Pembroke Hardware, a True Value Hardware affiliate, and Pembroke Building Supply moved to a large new store in 2006.

Donna Lowry started her home healthcare and behavioral counseling business in 2005 and now has 600 employees. She is a philanthropist and member of UNCP’s Board of Trustees.

In her introduction, Beth Wilkerson ’90, assistant director of UNCP’s Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC), called Lowry a “fierce competitor and a warm and compassionate person.”

Lowry thanked her family, the University and SBTDC, who consulted during the business start-up.

“I have a lot of people to thank,” Lowry said. “I didn’t do this by myself.”

An attorney, Diane Surgeon said she saw a need for legal and other services for seniors.

“I am excited by the opportunity to serve people,” Surgeon said. “My role is to help seniors at an important time in their lives.”

Surgeon, who also consulted with SBTDC, started two businesses: Comfort Care Senior Services and Elder Law Care, and is planning a day care for seniors.

Dan Kenney has been busy at UNCP, where he launched a football program, and in the community, where as past president of the Robeson Road Runners, he helped launch two major events, the Chevy to the Levy and Rumba on the Lumber road races and festivals.

“It takes a team with a vision,” Kenney said. “I would like to thank Business Visions for celebrating Robeson County’s success stories.”

RCC’s Outstanding Business Student is an outstanding student, said George Pate of the business faculty. Carolina Sumpter is also a mother and employed full-time as a branch manager for H&R Block.

UNCP’s Outstanding MBA Student is also an outstanding student, said Dr. Howard Ling, program director. Katherine McGinnis is director of the medical library at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, N.C.

UNCP’s Outstanding MPA Student is a battalion chief for the Charlotte, N.C., Fire Department, said Dr. Dan Barbee, program director. Peter Skeris is a former New York City law enforcement officer.

Former Chancellor Jenkins addressed the banquet, which was held in the Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development at COMtech. As the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University, he helped found the center.

“One of the greatest things we can do is celebrate the successes of our citizens,” former Chancellor Jenkins said. “Entrepreneurship adds to the quality of life in our region, and the University has taken many steps to promote economic development.

“This is not a narrow focus for us that is limited to the business school,” he said. “Last winter, we graduated the first group with entrepreneurship certificates. They were drawn from majors across campus.”

UNCP’s Thomas Center for Entrepreneurship, SBTDC, Biotechnology Center and the Regional Center, host of the Business Visions program, all work to promote economic development, Dr. Jenkins said.

“There is wonderful potential for entrepreneurship at the University, and if we’re going to grow and prosper in Southeastern North Carolina, it will come through education,” he said.

Keynote speaker was entrepreneur, motivational speaker and author Kelly Castor.

Sponsors for the event included Lumbee Guaranty Bank, BB&T, Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Robeson County Committee of 100 and SBTDC.

Dr. Lowery’s appearance was a part of the Native American Speaker Series, sponsored by the American Indian Studies Department and Office of Academic Affairs.

The book tells the story of a formative era of the Lumbee Tribe by the UNC-Chapel Hill historian, who is a member of the tribe. “Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South” is often a personal look at a harsh time that includes references and photos of family and friends living in a close-knit community.

The setting for the reading and book signing was also very personal. Dr. Lowery’s husband, Willie Lowery; parents Waltz and Louise Maynor; two sisters, Dr. Cherry Beasley and Lucy Maynor; and many friends were among the 85 in attendance at the Chancellor’s Residence for the reading and book signing.

Dr. Lowery said “Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South” is her effort to “pay forward the blessings” she has received from her family and community because she will “never be able to pay them back.”

“The story I tell in this book is not always pretty, but I think it’s an honest story,” she said. “It’s about how a group of Native Americans carved out a place for themselves with an iron-sided wall in place between the races.

“White supremacy was a fact of life” in the era, she said.

Dr. Lowery earned a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University, a master’s degree in documentary filmmaking from Stanford University and a master’s degree and doctorate in history from UNC-Chapel Hill. The book was derived from her dissertation, although a more personal version.

There are four layers of identity among the Lumbee, Dr. Lowery maintains:

- First, there is kinship, or “who’s your people” as the local saying goes;
- Second, there is place, or “where do you stay” in terms of church and community;
- Third, tribe; and
- Fourth, race.

Dr. Lowery carefully described several archival photos of school students and family members that she distributed via handout to the audience. The pictures, also included in her book, are archetypes of a time long gone.

“This is the picture of poverty amidst affluence all around,” she said of a photo of a woman and her two children in the family kitchen that is lined with advertising posters, probably put there to block cold wind.

The complexities of race, blood quantum, tribal government and federal recognition were outlined as they shaped the tribe's identity over time.

Using photographs, letters, genealogy, federal and state records and first-person family history, Dr. Lowery demonstrates how the Lumbees challenged the boundaries of Indian, Southern and American identities.

The era depicted in the book begins and ends with great triumphs in Lumbee history - the story of Henry Berry Lowry's war against tyranny during the Civil War and Reconstruction and the 1958 rout of the Ku Klux Klan.

“I wrote this book for my people to remind ourselves of how we can divide and unify ourselves in the face of threat,” she concluded.

Dr. Rose Stremlau, a faculty member in UNCP’s American Indian Studies Department, was Dr. Lowery’s roommate in Chapel Hill as the book came together. She introduced her friend.

“Malinda was close-up to the conversations…around the kitchen table and in the tobacco fields,” Dr. Stremlau said. “She struggled to tell this story.

“Her people are on every page,” she said. “She is passionate about the well-being of her people.”

Former UNCP Chancellor Joseph Oxendine, a Lumbee, was in the audience. He said he is in one of the book's photos.

“It’s a fascinating story,” Dr. Oxendine said. “I am pleased with what she’s doing to remind us of our identity and to be proud of it.”
Student publications rake in awards in 2010

The student newspaper, literary magazine and yearbook won top honors in competitions against many of North Carolina’s largest and most prestigious universities.

The Pine Needle’s Web site was named Best of Show Online News Site by the North Carolina College Media Association (NCMA) in a competition with North Carolina colleges and universities of more than 6,000 students.

The Aurochs literary magazine won Best of Show for a Literary Magazine in the same competition. Its editor was Stephanie Heather Leigh Ann Hammond.

Adam Tex Hill won first place for his work of nonfiction for the magazine. Craig Wilson won honorable mention for fiction.

The Indianhead yearbook won two honorable mention awards in the Media Association contest: Joel Beachum for photography and 2010 Editor Tiffany Schmidt for student life copy.

The 2009 edition of The Indianhead yearbook, won first place with “special merit” in the American Scholastic Press Association’s annual contest.

UNCP and Clemson University scored highest in the yearbook competition. The Indianhead received 965 out of a possible 1,000 points.

The awards were presented at the NCMA conference in late February. It was the first year for the contest.

Dr. Judy Curtis, a faculty member in the Department of Mass Communication, has served as faculty advisor to The Pine Needle for eight years.

“We are thrilled with this statewide recognition for our students,” Dr. Curtis said. “They devote tremendous time and take pride in making The Pine Needle print edition and its Web site great sources for excellence in news coverage.”
"Last year, the paper won first place and Outstanding Sports Section from the American Scholastic Press Association."

The Aurochs is UNCP’s annual student publication of poetry, art, and literature. Dr. Karen Helgeson, a faculty member in the English and Theatre Department, has served as the publication’s only faculty advisor during its nine years of existence.

The Pine Needle Web editor is Shawn McCain, a junior computer science major from Laurinburg, N.C. The assistant Web editor is Chang Lin, a sophomore computer science major, also from Laurinburg.

McCain’s newest development for the Web site is an RSS feed, which gives anyone the ability to download the latest issue’s top stories to their iPhones or other smart phones.

In addition to news from the print edition of The Pine Needle, the Web site offers podcasts by Electronic News Editor Dustin Porter, a freshman studying mass communication from Lumberton, N.C., and video news packages by Web Video Editor Charles Grant Merritt, a junior mass communication major from Whiteville, N.C. There is also a Facebook page and a Twitter stream.

The Pine Needle print edition earned two honorable mention awards: Editor-in-Chief Wade Allen, a senior mass communication major from Rutherfordton, N.C., for news writing; and Layout Editor Kaleh Myers, a junior mass communication major from Lumberton, N.C., for design.

The American Scholastic Press Association’s judges called The Indianhead “an outstanding overall example of a scholastic publication in format, content, and presentation.” Other categories included creativity, photography and page design.

In his third year working on the yearbook, David Torres II, a digital art major, was the editor. He was excited to hear the news.

“My reaction to winning the award was beyond shock,” Torres said. “I was really excited because not only has the yearbook been such a success to myself and the entire staff but also the University.”

The Indianhead had perfect marks for “content presentation” and “publication structure.”

“The yearbook, thanks to the entire staff and our advisor, was very colorful, structured and couldn’t have been put together any other way,” Torres said.

For faculty advisor Sara Oswald, the 2009 edition was her 20th yearbook. She was pleased with the edition and with the award.

“David is a talented artist and did some nice digital art work,” Oswald said. “I appreciated all the work and creativity that David and his staff put into this book, and now others appreciate it too.

With the 2010 edition well underway, Oswald took a moment to reflect.

“We will enter both competitions again next year,” she said. “I was pleased with the scores and input we received.

“It was a high quality yearbook,” Oswald concluded. “This award was well deserved.”

“It was hard work, but a great experience,” Editor Torres said.

“Staff put together the yearbook in less than seven months, and it is not easy,” he said. “It requires endless phone calls, late nights, interviews, pictures, emails and, of course, walking all over campus to get it all done.

“To know that we received the 2009 American Scholastic Press Association’s first place award with special merit made it all worth it,” he concluded.
Dr. Elizabeth Maisonpierre wins Award for Teaching Excellence

Elizabeth W. Maisonpierre, a member of the Music Department faculty, was awarded the 2010 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. A medallion representing the award was presented during Spring Commencement by Dr. Cheryl Marvilleane Locklear ’75, a member of the Board of Governors.

Dr. Maisonpierre joined the faculty in 1985 and teaches music theory and piano. To celebrate teaching on UNC’s campuses, the board selects 17 of the most outstanding faculty to receive the annual award.

As the recipient of UNC’s top teaching award, Dr. Maisonpierre is humbled. It is the 16th annual award, and the first time it has gone to a member of the Music Department.

“I am honored to be the recipient,” she said. What stands out about Dr. Maisonpierre, her colleagues say, is her boundless enthusiasm for teaching music and playing piano. “I’ll never lose my enthusiasm for teaching or playing,” she said.

Colleagues offered praise for the performer and the teacher. Dr. Mark Canada, professor and chair of the English and Theatre Department, recently observed one of her classes.

“Anyone who has heard her play the piano knows of Dr. Maisonpierre’s mastery of her art,” Dr. Canada said. “This opportunity showed me that she was not only a fine pianist, but a brilliant teacher.”

Dr. Maisonpierre’s students also have been effusive in their praise of her teaching, including former student Tommy Cox.

“Dr. Maisonpierre is an exceptional communicator and a gifted teacher,” Cox said. “She is a highly motivated professional who knows how to motivate her students to strive for excellence both in the lecture hall and in person.”

Former student Maren Walter concurred.

“Dr. Maisonpierre created a feeling of community and encouragement among students in her classes and those of us who made up the piano department,” Walter said. “Her love of people, optimism and enthusiasm were infectious during daily interactions with her and during classes.”

Music theory and piano performance are demanding and complex subjects to teach or learn, and Dr. Maisonpierre has a special affinity for the rigors of the discipline. Mathematics was her first love, she said.

“I believe that the most important thing I can do as a teacher is to give my students a firm foundation upon which to build,” she said. “I think this is especially true in the field of music, and specifically in the two areas on which I am currently focused – piano and music theory.”

“If students understand every step of the process, they will be successful and then they can take the next step,” Dr. Maisonpierre continued. “There is a connection or sequence that demands step-by-step learning.

“I’ve believed this since I began teaching Kindermusik and Suzuki piano to very young students,” she said. “As a teacher, I sometimes feel like a detective learning which step a student missed.”

In piano performance, Dr. Maisonpierre’s theory of teaching and learning is similar.

“Often students learn to play a piece, and it may be a beautiful piece that they have played over and over,” she said. “There is no guarantee they can transfer what they learned to another piece.”

“We are not teaching them to play a piece but to play classical music,” Dr. Maisonpierre said. “We are teaching them

Online Pioneer Elected to School Board

Dr. Irene Aiken ’93, associate dean of the School of Graduate Studies, was elected to the Richmond County School Board. In June, the 20-year education professional and self-professed political novice, was sworn into office and will serve a four-year term. Dr. Aiken earned a master’s degree in education from UNCP and a Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill. She joined the faculty in 1994 and has had a varied and distinguished career that includes pioneering online teaching.
to do music— to read it and to perform it.

“My philosophy is basically about the importance of foundations in musical education,” she continued. “The most important classes I teach are always a student’s first classes.” When the steps are not taken in sequence, she said “I take the time to fix it.”

Dr. Maisonpierre’s enthusiasm for music started early, as she explained with a story of a little girl, age four.

“My father was a college president, and we lived next door to the music building,” she said. “My mother could watch our music lessons from the kitchen window. My older siblings were taking lessons, and I desperately wanted to be like them.

“My mother sent a snack with my sister who had a lesson before mine, so my teacher and I always sat down to cookies and milk first. It was such a good experience. I just couldn’t wait to go each week,” she said. “Taking piano lessons was such a privilege and so much fun,” Dr. Maisonpierre said. “I want my students to feel the same way.”

In this year’s recipient of the Award for Teaching Excellence, that kind of enthusiasm is infectious.

Dr. Maisonpierre’s enthusiasm for performing also continues. She performs often as an accompanist, but more often with her husband, Dr. Jonathan Maisonpierre, also a member of the music faculty. They have performed hundreds of piano concerts for four hands.

“My scholarship is researching, practicing and playing,” she said. “That is how I grow as a performer and teacher.

“We study, read, listen and practice like crazy,” Dr. Maisonpierre continued. “You grow with each piece, and it takes a long time to do that because you have to know each piece on so many levels.”

Dr. Maisonpierre earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Music degree from Ohio Wesleyan. She also studied at the Eastman School of Music. Drs. Elizabeth and Jonathan Maisonpierre earned their Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Maryland. Their joint dissertation was titled “Twenty-three Sonatas or Sonata-Related Works Written in the Twentieth Century for Piano, Four Hands.”

A stint with the N.C. Artist in Residence program led to positions at UNCP. In the years since, Dr. Maisonpierre has not lost her enthusiasm for the faculty evaluation model of teaching, service and scholarship.

“When I perform, I am doing all three at once,” she said. “I teach through performance, and some of my best teaching comes through well-performed pieces.”

When the Drs. Maisonpierre perform, they are ambassadors, role models and recruiters for their University. Their enthusiasm has enriched their students’ experience and their University.

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**Faculty Awards Banquet**

At the 2009-10 Faculty Awards Banquet on May 7, the following awards were announced. Pictured from left: the Adolph L. Dial Award for Research and Creativity winners Dr. Mario Paparozzi (Sociology & Criminal Justice) with Dr. Martin Slann (Arts & Sciences), accepting the award; and Janette Hopper (Art); UNCP Teaching Awards Dr. Jeffrey Lucas (History); Dr. Scott Hicks (English); Dr. Ryan Anderson (History); and Dr. Kevin Freeman (Political Science); and Dr. Eric Dent (Business), finalist in the UNC Board of Governors Service Award.
Bees, Bays and Biochar

Beekeeping project looks into troubled hives

University scientists peered into their new beehives for the first time on May 3 to check their health.

Dr. Charles Harrington, a veteran beekeeper and member of the business school faculty, declared the four hives, located in COMtech Park near the University’s Sartorius Stedim Biotechnology Center, to be “very healthy and active.”

The hives are the first of several dozen planned by the UNCP Honey Bee Center that will fan out across the region, said Dr. Len Holmes, a biotechnology researcher.

“Bees in North America are under a lot of stress for reasons we don’t completely understand,” Dr. Holmes said. “We are working with local beekeepers in hopes of promoting beekeeping and to do research on bees.”

A sample of spring honey offered a taste of good things to come. As a group of interested hive owners looked on, Dr. Harrington examined the hives after applying smoke to calm them.

“I got interested in beekeeping through my grandfather,” Dr. Harrington said. “I see heavy pollen flow and bees working the combs nicely.”

An October harvest is planned if all goes well, he said.

“The queen is healthy and rapidly turning over her brood,” Dr. Harrington said. “I estimate between 12,500 and 15,000 bees in this hive.”

Looking on was Forrest Malcolm, son of Joshua Malcolm, UNCP’s attorney.

“Forest has raised everything from dogs and turtles to fruits and vegetables,” his father said. “We thought this would be very interesting.”

Megan Locklear was taking notes. She is a student at Robeson Community College who will attend UNCP in the fall.

“I am working with Dr. Holmes on this project, and I hope to continue doing research in the fall,” Locklear said. “I want to major in biology.”

Dr. David Oxendine, a faculty member in the School of Education, was on hand, too.

“I want to put a hive at my home in Union Chapel,” Dr. Oxendine said. “I have always wanted to do this.”

As Holmes peered into a sealed hive, he picked up from the panel, which weighed about 10 pounds, a good sign of a productive hive. “Loaded with honey,” he said.

Dr. Holmes and his student research team will study the hives with an eye for problems.

“We’ll conduct basic research on the biological and environmental agents that negatively influence bees,” Dr. Holmes said. “We’ll promote beekeeping as a hobby and collect data on hive locations to share with regional and state beekeeping associations.”

UNCP hopes to become a resource for beekeeping in this agricultural region and save the pollinators to build a stronger economy.

The project is funded in part by a grant from the Robeson County Farm Bureau and in cooperation with COMtech, a regional business incubator located in Robeson County. UNCP’s project is a member of the N.C. Honey Bee Research Consortium.

UNCP geologists will bore into Carolina bays past

By pinpointing the date of their creation, geologist Dr. Lee Phillips will help solve the “mystery” of Carolina bays.

A $25,000, two-year, NASA grant through North Carolina’s Space Grant Consortium will aid his research.

“The mystery of the bays’ origins is a bit overdone,” Dr. Phillips said. “We will take core samples to learn how old they are.”

The project – “Carolina Bays: A Paleo-climatic Perspective” – will engage undergraduates in a scientific investigation with “potentially global significance,” Dr. Phillips said.

From preliminary surveys that Dr. Phillips and an undergraduate student have already performed, two poster presentations have resulted, one at a joint meeting of the Geological Society of America. That poster, by environmental science major Sidney Post, was titled “Delineation of Spatial Variances of Carolina Bays within Robeson County, N.C.”
UNCP begins producing biochar for soil research

The first successful batch of biochar or charcoal produced at the University will push soil and plant research another step forward.

On the far north end of campus this spring, Dr. Deborah Hamner, a biology professor and plant pathologist, and an undergraduate researcher hovered around a 55-gallon barrel to produce biochar.

On Earth Day, Dr. Hamner cracked open the 30-gallon interior chamber to find almost perfect charcoal.

Biochar was discovered in the soil of pre-Columbian people in South America and dubbed “Terra Preta” by Europeans. The soil demonstrated some remarkable characteristics including the retention of nutrients after 1,000 years.

Research began two years ago when Dr. Hamner began purchasing biochar.

“Using different amounts of biochar, we tested to see how soil would resist common plant disease,” Dr. Hamner said. “The biochar we will make here will be used in a pesticide and a nematode study.”

Biochar is produced through the pyrolysis of biomass, or in this case, the heating of wood in a nearly oxygen-free environment. Sequestering carbon in biochar has peaked scientists’ interest in this age of global warming research.

UNCP’s biochar production was made possible by a contribution of materials, labor and consulting from Flow Farms of Aberdeen, N.C.

“This method only takes about two to two-and-a-half hours to produce biochar,” said a representative who works at Flow Farms. “We are learning how to use it in our gardens to produce organic and vegan vegetables.”

Dr. Hamner’s collaboration with Flow Farms came about through the North Carolina Farm Center for Innovations and Sustainability, headquartered in Fayetteville, N.C.

“Biochar is beautiful,” Dr. Hamner said, breaking a piece in her hands. “You can see the entire structure of the wood.

“These tiny holes are critical to retaining nutrients,” she said. “We want to see what else it retains, like insecticide.”

“We hope to learn more about the qualities of biochar in the soil,” Dr. Hamner said. “Our students will learn science and have publishable results.”

“The next step will be a test project to see how this study can be expanded,” Dr. Phillips said. “During the process, we’ve met many other bay researchers, and it has peaked the interest of other scientists.”

The UNCP team will drill 20-30 foot holes in Carolina bays in five counties around Robeson. They have hundreds to choose from because the bays – oval depressions – dot the landscape from New Jersey to Florida.

“There are no studies like this in North Carolina,” Dr. Phillips said. “Studies in Georgia and South Carolina indicate the bays are about 100,000 years old.”

“We’re excited because this project deals with North Carolina’s landscape and how the coastal plain has changed over the last 100,000 years,” he continued. “It gives us an idea about what went on here in the recent past, geologically speaking.”

With apologies to those who theorize that aliens or asteroids formed the bays, Dr. Phillips’ team will learn more about how wind and waves shaped the landscape, probably during the Glacial Maxima period and the later interglacial period.

“I cannot predict exactly how old the bays are, but we will get a good idea,” he said.

The research team will use a process called “optically stimulated luminescence,” which measures the solar radiation of quartzite rock.

“What that means is the sun’s radiant energy excited certain elements in rock,” he explained. “When that radiation stopped, we have a ticking clock for measurement.”

The UNCP team will be the first to read this clock in North Carolina.

“I am very excited for the students,” Dr. Phillips said. “The grant will help us promote teamwork, confidence and hands-on training with state-of-the-art scientific equipment.”

One last mystery that Dr. Phillips revealed: Carolina bays are not named for the Carolinas, where most of them occur, but the Carolina bay tree that populates the bays.

[Image of Dr. Phillips, right, with students at the beach.]

[Image of Dr. Hamner, right, with students in the greenhouse.]
Dr. William Gash named interim provost; search to begin for full-time academic chief

Dr. William Gash, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, was named interim provost and vice chancellor on April 5.

Former Chancellor Charles Jenkins made the announcement. In a University-wide town hall meeting on April 28, Chancellor Kyle R. Carter said UNCP will have a new academic chief by February 2011.

In stepping down from the provost post, Dr. Charles Harrington said he will return to the School of Business faculty.

“We are indeed fortunate to have someone with the background and experience of Dr. Bill Gash willing to accept the responsibilities and duties of provost and vice chancellor on an interim basis,” former Chancellor Jenkins said.

Chancellor Carter outlined his plan to form a search committee. He spoke in front of a gathering of approximately 200 faculty, staff and students and said groundwork to form a search committee will be laid this summer.

Dr. Carter is familiar with the provost position. He rose through the faculty ranks to the position of provost at Central Missouri and then served as provost for Western Carolina, where he served before coming to Pembroke.

“Provost is a very important position whose role is to advance the academic mission of the University,” he said. “The provost is first among equals who will support and collaborate with the vice chancellors to promote the entire institution.”

A provost should be visible, embrace diversity, nurture the University’s core values, work with alumni and the foundation and, most importantly, serve as the academic leader, Chancellor Carter said. He said he was looking for a proven leader, perhaps someone with prior experience as a provost.

“This person should be someone who matches my style and works well with all the vice chancellors,” he said.

A broad-based search committee will be formed by the start of the fall semester. It will include faculty, staff and community members. It will be an “open search.”

Dr. Gash has served in the Office of Academic Affairs for 18 years. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Business Administration degree from Western Carolina University, a Master’s of Music Education degree from Florida State University, a Bachelor’s of Music Education degree from Maryville College and a Bachelor of Science degree from UNC Asheville.

Dr. Gash said, “I’m honored to serve as interim provost and work with faculty, students and staff during this time.”

Tecumseh Brayboy

In the last edition of UNCP Today, the following information was unintentionally omitted from Tecumseh Brayboy’s memorial on page 11. We regret the error and are pleased to share the omitted information below.

Tecumseh Brayboy ‘64 was founder and pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Arcola, N.C., from September 11, 1982, until his death on December 9, 2009.

In addition to his brothers and sisters listed in the last UNCP Today edition, Brayboy is survived by his wife of 43 years, Barbara (Lynch) Brayboy ‘65, and three daughters: Jennifer (Eric) Brayboy Locklear, Heather (Johnathan) Brayboy Hedgepeth, and Natalie. He leaves four adorable grandchildren to cherish his memories: Elan and Mary-Riley Locklear and Lydia and Andrew Hedgepeth. He is also survived by his mother, Eva Harris Brayboy. Brayboy’s wife, daughters and sons-in-law are UNCP graduates.
Distinguished Alumnus Tom Oxendine passed away on May 27

When he enrolled at Pembroke State College after World War II, Tom Oxendine ’48 wore a flight jacket and the distinction of being the first American Indian Navy pilot. He had already earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

A Pembroke native, Oxendine died on Thursday, May 27, at his home in Arlington, Va. He was born on December 23, 1922, the son of the late Thomas H. Oxendine and Georgia Rae Maynor Oxendine.

Oxendine is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elizabeth Moody Oxendine; two sons, Thomas of Lexington, Va., and Robert of Tampa, Fla.; four brothers, Robert of Lyman, S.C., Louis of Pembroke, (Chancellor Emeritus) Joe of Pinehurst, N.C., and Ray of Maxton, N.C.; two sisters, Magnolia Lowry of Pembroke and Ruth Hurneich of Hazel Park, Mich. He was preceded in death by a son, William, and a brother, Earl Hughes.

Oxendine joined the U.S. Naval Air Corps in January 1942 and completed flight school. Before enlisting, he had learned to fly in Lumberton, N.C., at Horace Barnes’ flying school.

As a navy pilot, Oxendine took part in 33 battles during WW II and received numerous awards and medals. On July 26, 1944, he defied radio communications and landed his seaplane under Japanese gunfire and in adverse weather to rescue a downed airman. For this, Oxendine received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In college, Oxendine stood out as a three-sport star and played on the heralded football teams. After graduation, Oxendine returned to serve in the jet age as a fighter pilot and flight instructor in the Korean and Vietnamese wars.

During his Navy career, he test piloted a carrier aircraft and was a combat flight instructor for the supersonic F6V Crusader. While stationed on the U.S.S. Midway, Tom recorded 177 landings at sea.

Oxendine retired from the military after 29 years and became chief of public affairs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., a position he held for 16 years. For the past 15 years he served as a consultant for American Indians and Alaska Natives with the EOP Group.

Despite never gaining the same attention as the Tuskegee airmen, Oxendine earned many honors. He was the University’s first “Distinguished Alumnus” in 1967 and was inducted with the first class in the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1980.

He is cited in the textbook “North Carolina: Social Studies for a Changing World.” Published by McGraw Hill in 1993, the text was required reading for fourth grade students in North Carolina.

In 2003, he was recognized by the North Carolina Museum of History as one of the state’s “Pioneers in Aviation.”

At home, he was a hero, and in the 1950s and 60s, Oxendine made flyovers of the Town of Pembroke in Navy jets. It was a signal to young Lumbees that the sky is the limit.

Through the years, Oxendine was a frequent visitor to Pembroke and UNCP. He attended homecoming activities in 2009.

Memorials may be made to the American Indian, ROTC, football, basketball or baseball scholarships at the University.

Long-time University figure, Bertha Pinchbeck, died May 28

Bertha Lowry Pinchbeck, 92, passed away on May 28 in her home in Pembroke surrounded by her family, friends and caregivers.

She was the daughter of the late William Henry and Cossie Maynor Lowry. Pinchbeck was married to the late Walter J. Pinchbeck, UNCP’s long-time superintendent of buildings and grounds.

The Pinchbecks had six children, four of whom were born on UNCP’s campus. She was a mother figure to hundreds of college students and Boy Scouts in her husband’s Troop 327.

Walter Pinchbeck, a Cree Indian, was a national figure in Boy Scouting. In 2004, UNCP put his name on the new Walter J. Pinchbeck Maintenance Building.

In 2007, Bertha Pinchbeck was affectionately named “The Mother of Boy Scouting for the Pembroke Boy Scout Troop 327.”

Pinchbeck was preceded in death by her husband; two sons, William Henry “Buddy” Pinchbeck and Francis Pinchbeck; a grandson, Mark Schrader, and a daughter-in-law, Sylvia Pinchbeck. Three siblings preceded her: Lockie Lowry Deese, Seavie Lowry and James Lee Lowry.

Pinchbeck is survived by a son, Walter Pinchbeck Jr. of Louisville, Ky., three daughters, Mary Alice Teets ’58, and husband, Edward, both of Pembroke; Sandra Bond and husband William Richard, both of Titusville, Fla., and Helena Williams and husband Ron, both of Beaufort, S.C. She has 20 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Boy Scout Troop 327 of Pembroke.
Women’s Basketball
Junior basketball player JaToya Kemp led the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) in scoring (18.1 point per game) and field goal percentage (.631). She was elected to the all-conference team. Kemp has 972 career points and is poised to finish her career as one of the all-time leading scorers in school history.

“I would like to congratulate JaToya on her outstanding accomplishments this season, the honors she has received are truly deserved,” said coach John Haskins.

“JaToya is an outstanding team player,” coach Haskins continued. “She plays extremely hard, is very competitive and will do anything she can to help her team be successful.”

Men’s Basketball
Shahmel Brackett was selected the PBC Freshman of the Year. Brackett scored 14.5 points per game and led the Braves in scoring in 12 games, including a season high 29 points against Francis Marion.

Brackett is coached by Ben Miller, who finished up his second season at UNCP.

“Congratulations to Shahmel on a great freshman season and being named freshman of the year,” coach Miller said. “Shahmel has unusual talent and skill but also possesses a passion for the game and desire to improve.

“He has also been a great teammate and representative of UNCP,” he continued. “I think we will all enjoy watching him grow and develop as a student-athlete over the next few years.”
Wrestling

Under coach Jamie Gibbs, UNCP wrestling finished the season ranked in the top 25 nationally. Four wrestlers competed in the NCAA's in Omaha, Neb. Two earned all-American honors: Russell Weakley, a junior who competes at 125 pounds and Michael Williams, a freshman at 157 pounds.

“Weakley is fun to watch,” coach Gibbs said. “He’s a brawler and very physical. He led the team in wins and pins.

“He’s a solid student and a good guy,” he continued. “Russ helped out with our youth club.

“Williams is Weakley’s opposite,” Gibbs said. “He’s naturally gifted and extremely athletic.

“A good student and a special young man, he had to overcome knee surgery in the first semester,” he continued. “Michael ended up strong and was the most outstanding wrestler in the regionals.”

Golf

Coach David Synan was selected PBC Women’s Coach of the Year. Katja Dammann, a junior from Pinehurst, N.C., senior Christina Crovetti and freshman Shauna Walor were selected all-conference. Walor was selected PBC Freshman of the Year, and is the first player in UNCP history to receive the award in women’s golf.

On the men’s side, sophomore Jordan Walor was selected all-conference and is the first Brave to win the PBC Golf Championship. Shauna and Jordan are brother and sister.

“Mentally, Jordan is a very strong golfer,” coach Synan said. “He does not worry much about mechanics, but focuses on what he is trying to do with the ball.

“Jordan is a nice young man to have as a part of the UNCP golf family,” said coach Synan. “He is a great example of what I strive to recruit - a good student, a good person and an outstanding athlete.”
ATHLETICS

UNCP athletes shined during winter and spring competition

Track and Field

At the NCAA Division II Southeast Regionals, Karlos Jordan won the 100- and 200-meter races and ran a leg in the winning 4x100 relay team to lead the men’s track team to a fourth place finish.

It was a strong team performance with David Lynn finishing 1st in the hammer throw and 5th in the javelin, Darel Crook, 5th in the high jump; Daniel Yeakley, 4th in the 10,000 meter run; Greg Byrd, 5th in the 400 meter; Jon Williams, 2nd, Darius Brantley, 3rd and Cedrick Wilson, 4th in the 800 meters; A.J. Davis, 1st in the discus; and Zack Bayless, 2nd in the 5,000 meters.

Earlier in the year, Maurice Eubanks had a 100-meter personal best of 10.51 at the UNC Charlotte Invitational.

Coach Larry Rodgers said both Eubanks and Jordan had outstanding spring seasons along with Pardon Ndlovu, who won at 5,000 meters in the Duke Twilight Invitational. David Lynn finished 4th in the shot put at Duke.

The women also finished strong with 4th place in the regional meet. Kye Tennyson won the high jump, Nicole Hill was 4th in the hammer and Katherine Davis was 5th in the javelin.

Davis had a school record throw of 46.24 meters in the hammer at the Duke meet and Jessica McDowell finished 3rd in the 100 meter hurdles and 4th in the 400 meter hurdles.

“With only one senior on either squad, we should be very strong next year,” Rodgers said.

Baseball

The 32-member PBC All-Conference Baseball Team included four Braves. The team was ranked 22nd nationally at the end of the regular season with a 34-13 record.

Pitcher Matt McGovern and infielder Seth Kivett earned all-league honors for the second year, while relief pitcher Brian Willis and outfielder Kenny Mickens made the team for the first time.

McGovern is 18-2 over two seasons. Kivett batted .362 with eight home runs. Willis had 10 saves and a 1.66 earned run average. Mickens led the team in hitting with a .395 average and nine home runs.
Softball

The softball team posted a 29-19 record. Jelena Shaw, a senior third baseman, was selected as PBC Player of the Year and first team all-American. It was the first time in school history a Lady Brave softball player received the honor. Shaw holds six career softball records and led the conference in hitting this season with an average of .441. Coach Lacinda Melanson is in her second year.

“There is not enough time or space to describe the positive impact and leadership Jelena has provided for this team all four years,” coach Melanson said. “She is the hardest working and most humble athlete I have ever coached.

“She is blessed athletically with tons of speed, power and quick reaction time; when you add her work ethic there is no stopping her,” she continued. “There is no doubt that she deserves every award she has received this year. Off the field, she held a 3.0 cumulative GPA and is involved with the student advisory committee. She is leaving very large shoes to fill!”

Holly Berry was selected Peach Belt Conference Freshman of the Year in softball. Berry plays shortstop and batted .423 for the season along with ranking third in the conference in hits and fourth in RBIs.

“Holly has come on strong this year as a true freshman this year,” coach Melanson said. “We are very proud of her! She is a great all-around athlete and works hard to stay in the shape she needs to be in.

“Holly provides power, good speed and a very strong arm,” she continued. “In the classroom, she has also done very well. “She is an exciting ball player to have because we know she is going to continue to improve and mature,” Melanson said. “We look forward to her becoming a sound leader for us and anticipate better seasons each year she is here.”

A third member of the softball team, junior Loren Bartz, was selected to the all-conference team.
Friends, teammates establish scholarship honoring Joe Gallagher, an all-time great

Joe Gallagher continues to value the friends he’s made over the years playing and coaching basketball.

On March 23, some of his basketball family established the Joe Gallagher Basketball Scholarship for the University’s basketball program, where he played and coached.

Gallagher ’68, still holds the University’s career scoring record. For the lanky ex-Marine, it’s not about records.

“The records are inconsequential, and I hope they are all broken,” he said. “What’s important are the friends you make on the way.

“I want to thank you guys for this,” Gallagher said. “As teammates, we liked each other from the start, and we still get along.

“This is a great thing for Pembroke, a University I support wherever I go,” he continued. “This was a great University when we were here, and it’s a great University now.”

Wiley Barrett, a college teammate from Pinehurst, N.C., led the scholarship effort.

“Joe was in the Marines before he came to college, so we were all in awe of him,” Barrett said. “He has phone numbers for everyone he’s met, and he stays in contact.”

Barr Hopkins, another teammate from Greensboro, N.C., talks with Gallagher two or three times a week.

“Joe and I have known each other since 1966 and nobody thinks more of him than I do,” Hopkins said.

But Hopkins said Gallagher never gave him enough credit as a basketball player.

“If I hadn’t missed so many shots, he never would have gotten that rebounding record,” Hopkins said. “I’m glad we’re doing this in Joe’s honor; he’s been a good friend for a long time.”

Gallagher’s basketball coaching career began at Maxton High School with stops at Pembroke, Methodist, Richmond, Belmont Abbey, UNC Greensboro, Campbell, Boston (Celtics) and Philadelphia (76ers). He may not be finished yet.

Gallagher lives in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., with his wife, the former Sharon Skipper, whom he met at UNCP. He still has a fire burning for the game.

“I’m semi-retired, and I’m looking for an opportunity either in college or the pros,” he said. “I have a passion for the game; I miss it.

“When I was playing, basketball was never a job, and when I was coaching, it was never a job,” Gallagher said.

Basketball has changed considerably since Gallagher strapped on his first pair of “Chuck Taylors.”

“I study, work and teach my craft,” he said. “It didn’t come easy; there were a lot of bumps along the way.”

Gallagher returned to his alma mater on February 13 for “Joe Gallagher Night.” Former Chancellor Charles Jenkins attended the event.

“Joe Gallagher Night was one of the greatest events I have attended at this University,” former Chancellor Jenkins said. “This scholarship is fantastic for several reasons.

“We’ve honored a lot of great players, but there is very seldom a scholarship named for them,” he continued. “This was not initiated by the University, but by Joe’s friends, classmates and teammates.

“Joe left his legacy on the court, and this is a legacy that will last forever,” the former chancellor said. “It will make a difference in the lives of many, many basketball players into the future.”

Basketball coach Ben Miller said upon arriving in Pembroke, he learned about Joe Gallagher.

“What you did on the court is still a huge part of what we’re doing now,” Miller said. “Your legacy is important to our program today.”

Athletic Director Dan Kenney summed up.

“This scholarship is about loyalty,” Kenney said. “We will make sure that quality continues through the recipients of this scholarship.”

To contribute to or endow a scholarship, please contact the Office for Advancement at (910) 521-6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu.
UNCP celebrates BB&T’s second endowed professorship in business

University and BB&T officials celebrated the establishment of its second endowed professorship in the School of Business. BB&T Corporation of Winston-Salem, N.C., has now pledged $1 million over 10 years to establish the endowments. A separate gift of $50,000 will support programs on ethics in business.

The BB&T Distinguished Endowed Professorship in the Morality of Capitalism was announced at a luncheon honoring the bank. The BB&T Distinguished Endowed Professorship in the Philosophical Foundations of Free Enterprise was established in 2007.

The School of Business held forums in 2009 on business ethics and the philosophical foundations of capitalism. A new course, “Ethics in Capitalism,” was launched in January 2010.

The event highlighted the historic and ongoing ties between BB&T, the 10th largest U.S. bank holding company, and UNCP. The guest speaker was BB&T employee Maggie Wojtowicz ’09, a current MBA candidate.

“When I look around at the office, I see so many UNCP graduates and students,” Wojtowicz said. “I appreciate BB&T’s leadership in the community and for allowing students like me to put theory into practice.”

“BB&T plays a great role in the lives of students like me,” she said.

As a student, Wojtowicz worked part-time with BB&T and has been promoted to supervisor as a full-time employee. She said she has learned more than business on the job.

“As a student we learned the moral lessons of business,” Wojtowicz said. “BB&T is an example of a mission-driven business.”

Former Chancellor Charles Jenkins called it a “wonderful gift.” He noted that BB&T’s strong core principles are a beacon of light amidst recent turmoil in the financial markets.

“The values that BB&T inculcates into its business relationships are a model for our students,” former Chancellor Jenkins said. “When I teach a class in applied ethics in school leadership, I often quote John Allison (former BB&T chief executive officer).

“The number one crisis in our nation is not a financial one, but one of ethics,” he said.

Senior Vice President and Lumberton City Executive James Gore echoed the bank’s mission statement and praised UNCP’s role.

“At BB&T, we have a strong commitment to improving our communities,” Gore said. “Our mission has never wavered and never changed.

“It is a distinct advantage to have a UNC university in our community,” he continued. “UNCP is a vital part of higher education in the state and in the region, and a very important part of the economy of this county.”

As BB&T’s CEO, Allison lectured at UNCP and earned a wider reputation during the recent financial downturn for his highly principled leadership.

Dr. Eric Dent was dean of the School of Business when the first endowed professorship was established.

“Our School of Business has held up BB&T as a success story,” Dr. Dent said. “They have demonstrated good moral and ethical business practices and have avoided the pitfalls that befell so many other financial institutions.

“How will the next generation acquire these values when many universities have not taken up the cause of moral and ethical training?” he asked. “This gift will mold our students to become better students, better employees and better citizens.

“John Allison was pleased with UNCP’s activities thus far, which built confidence that another donation to our campus would be spent wisely,” he concluded.

The gift will be made over 10 years and will be matched by the North Carolina General Assembly’s Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund. As an endowment, the gift will fund the professorship perpetually.

BB&T Corporation and its subsidiaries offer full-service commercial and retail banking and additional financial services such as insurance, investments, retail brokerage, mortgage, corporate finance, consumer finance, payment services, international banking, leasing and trust.

BB&T operates more than 1,800 financial centers in 13 states and Washington, D.C. With $165.3 billion in assets, it is the nation’s 10th largest financial holding company.

The bank has historic roots in Eastern North Carolina. BB&T was founded in Wilson in 1872, and in 1995, it merged with like-sized Southern National Corp., a bank founded in Lumberton, N.C.
Endowed scholarship honors coach A.G. ‘Tunney’ Brooks

One of the great high school coaches in North Carolina history was honored on February 24 in the Jones Athletic Center. More than 100 friends, family and fellow coaches turned out to honor A.G. ‘Tunney’ Brooks at a reception and ceremony in the Native Angels Home Care & Hospice Braves Club Room of the English E. Jones Athletic Center. He was a coach and athletic director at Lumberton High School for 31 years.

The Lumberton Booster Club and Coach Brooks’ friends contributed $100,000 to an endowed or permanent athletic scholarship in his name. It is the largest athletic scholarship at UNCP.

“I love every one of you,” Brooks said during the ceremony. “I love everything you’re doing to help UNC Pembroke and Lumberton High School. I love you all.”

“Thank you for all you did for me when I came to Lumberton,” he continued. “I came here to teach, but I learned more from you.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed coaching and teaching,” Brooks said, lighting up the room. “If I’d known I was going to have to do all this, I’d have run a few laps to get into better shape.”

Coach Brooks came to Lumberton in 1959. He coached football and basketball and was athletic director. He instantly turned around an ailing athletic program and for 31 years steered the Lumberton Pirates to solid success.

Attending the event were coaches like Findley Read, who coached with him in Lumberton, and Rockingham High School coach Bill Eutsler; friends like Charlie Kinlaw, who like Brooks played at Wake Forest; and players like Nicky Guy, a Shrine Bowl player, and Paul Willoughby, who played and coached for him.

“Tunney Brooks was the coach that other coaches said got more from less,” said Paul Willoughby ’74, who is a UNCP trustee. “I was fortunate to play three years for him in the late 1960s and then come back to coach Lumberton High School’s football team under him as athletic director.

“Coach, we love you,” Willoughby said.

Willoughby described Brooks with the terms “trust, stability, organization and structure.”

The endowment will produce a maximum of four $1,000 scholarships each year with a guarantee that at least two will be awarded. The scholarship will be open to male and female student-athletes at the University, who exhibit character, maintain a 2.5 grade point average and demonstrate financial need.

The scholarship will be first offered to student-athletes from Lumberton Senior High School then student-athletes from Robeson County will be eligible. If no Robeson athlete qualifies, the scholarship will be available to any UNCP student-athlete.

“I have been contacted by people as far away as Alaska and California about giving to this scholarship,” James Cranger, scholarship facilitator, told The Robesonian.

Former Chancellor Charles Jenkins coached against Brooks for three years while at Scotland High School.

“In life and sports, we run into people all the time who are legends in their own mind, but not coach Brooks,” former Chancellor Jenkins said. “He truly is a legend.

“When I coached against him, we almost never won,” he said. Dave Bullock, a former player, is making a special tribute to the coach of a scale “Pirate” ship named in his honor.

“She’s got 30 long guns,” Bullock said. “Coach, she’s deadly.”

Attending the event were Brooks’ wife, Joan; sons, Ritchie and John; their wives, Carol and Sherry respectively; and five grandchildren.

Ritchie Brooks spoke for the family.

“The things you did made his career, and the things he did made you who you are,” Brooks said. “Thank you for this ceremony and for what you have done for our father and your coach.”

Athletic Director Dan Kenney said the University will ensure that the scholarship honors its namesake.

“When we select recipients for this scholarship, we won’t compromise the values that coach Brooks stood for,” Kenney said. “Coach, it is a great honor to be in the room with you.”

To contribute to or endow a scholarship, please contact the Office for Advancement at (910) 521-6252 or email advancement@uncp.edu.

30 UNCP Today Summer 2010
SOS Beach Party returns to benefit student scholarships

In the spring of 2009, when UNCP realized that our endowments had taken such a hit as a result of the troubled economy, it was time for us to take action. We have always prided ourselves in being a small town University “Where Learning Gets Personal,” so this was the perfect time to show it! Thanks to our guests and sponsors, we were able to raise enough funds to award 96 scholarships for the 2009-10 school year. It was such a success, we are doing it again! The SOS Beach Party 2010 will take place on August 6th and will feature some of the great beach-themed festivities from last year plus a few new surprises. Visit www.uncp.edu/advancement/sos/ today for more information!

After last year’s event, we notified the scholarship recipients and explained what had taken place to make their award possible.

In addition, we asked for their thoughts about the origin of the award and how they feel about UNCP. Below are some of those responses.

“There are no words to express my gratitude for allowing me to have this wonderful helping hand. I will do my best to make you proud by giving 110% effort in my studies.”

-Valery Q. (Nursing), San Juan, Puerto Rico

“This semester has been hard on me financially and I would like to say that your contribution has made my life more at ease. UNCP is truly a special University.”

-Joshua R. (History), Bladenboro, NC

“I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your help. UNCP is a very good place to meet new people and develop relationships that last for a lifetime.”

- Erin D. (Biology), Raleigh, NC

“Thank you. The scholarship has helped me continue my education that leads to a brighter future.”

- Roxi G. (Education), Hamlet, NC

“Thanks to everyone who participated. This money helps in making my education dream become a reality.”

- Ronald G. (Computer Science), Meadville, PA

S.O.S. BEACH PARTY

Save the Date
August 6th!

Support Our Students

Visit www.uncp.edu/advancement/sos for more information and to reserve your table!
Greetings Alumni,

It’s with great pride that the UNCP Alumni Association welcomes our new Chancellor Dr. Kyle Carter! We are excited that he will be part of our University family, and we look forward to our relationship together. We also want to thank Dr. Charles Jenkins for his hard work and dedication to the University during this period of transition. We appreciate your guidance and leadership.

There is no shortage of excitement on our campus. The University celebrated its biggest commencement in history on May 8 when the UNCP Alumni Association welcomed 613 new members into our family. We wish you all the best as you leave UNCP and move out into the world. We hope you will return often for visits – and don’t forget, Homecoming is October 30!

Remember to keep in touch. It only takes a few minutes to join the Alumni Association’s Facebook page, which is linked to our Web site (www.uncp.edu/alumni), and while you’re there, you can update your contact information and share your latest news here in UNCP Today. Keeping in contact with your college friends and your alma mater is the first step in being an active member of your alumni association.

Finally, we want our alumni to come back to campus. Fall is just around the corner, and we hope you will visit during this vibrant and energy-filled time to experience the excitement. Check out the incredible 2010-11 season at Givens Performing Arts Center, tailgate with us during football or just come back to say hi to old friends. We hope to see you soon!

In keeping the tradition,

Floyd H. Locklear

Floyd H. Locklear ’86

P.S. In response to budget cuts, the University believes that cutting down to one printed issue of UNCP Today per year is the responsible thing to do. To make sure you don’t miss an issue, take a minute to visit www.uncp.edu/advancement/emailupdate/ and submit your e-mail address.
Three Alumni reunite in the United States Army

Three UNCP alumni – all with the rank of major – reunited at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Maj. Ira Baldwin ’96 is a 26-year military veteran. Maj. Reggie McClam ’97 has 12 years of service and Maj. Ryan Foxworth ’97 has 20 years of service. Baldwin and Foxworth were commissioned through the University’s ROTC program and McClam was commissioned through the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School.

All are veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The trio will take their combined experience and new training to shape the military of the future.

- After he graduated on June 11, Maj. Baldwin was assigned to the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Casey, Korea.

- Maj. Reggie McClam is assigned with the Marine Corps as a military aide to the President in the White House.

- Maj. Ryan Foxworth is currently working to complete the requirements and will graduate in December. After graduation, Maj. Foxworth plans to serve as an instructor at the college to develop and shape the field grade officers of tomorrow.

The Command and General Staff College (USAC&GSC) at Fort Leavenworth is an Army institution that functions as a graduate school for the Armed Forces and foreign military leaders. It was established in 1881 as a school for infantry and cavalry by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. The development of the college has parallels with the increasing professionalization of the Army, reaching its present form in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and the current war on terrorism.

The college educates and develops military and civilian leaders for full spectrum joint, interagency and multinational operations; acts as lead agent for the Army’s leadership development program and advances the art and science of the profession in support of Army operational requirements.

The Command and General Staff College is a 10-month course for the intermediate level education of Army and other service officers. Almost all Army officers who attain the rank of major attend the school or its branch campuses at Fort Belvoir and Fort Lee, Va., and Fort Gordon, Ga.

The 2010-11 class has an enrollment of more than 1,100 students, which is its largest class ever. All students are provided the opportunity to pursue a graduate studies program through several different universities or the resident School of Advanced Military Studies, which awards a master’s degree in military arts and sciences on studies of strategically and operationally complex issues.

Greg Taylor named BRAC RTF executive director

Greg Taylor ’03 of Bladen County was named executive director of the BRAC Regional Task Force (RTF) effective July 1.

The BRAC RTF is a partnership of governments working with 11 counties and 73 municipalities surrounding Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. Its mission is to coordinate the planning and identify community impacts as U.S. Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command move to Fort Bragg by 2011.

“Greg’s experience as chairman of our board, as a board member, and as a former county commissioner in Bladen County will serve him well in his new position,” said Tim McNeill, BRAC RTF chairman of the board of directors, who made the appointment.

Taylor will be responsible for the regional planning, economic development, workforce development and education programs currently funded by the U.S. Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), local governments in the Fort Bragg region and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Most recently, Taylor served as director of the eight-county Cape Fear Region of the Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC) headquartered at Fayetteville State University. Before that, he worked for the SBTDC at UNCP’s Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development.

He earned his MBA at UNCP and his bachelor’s degree in business from Campbell University.
McInnis approved as new Richmond Community College president

The N.C. Community College System State Board approved Richmond Community College Executive Vice President Dr. Dale McInnis ’90 as the next president of the college. When he took office March 1, he became the seventh president since the college opened in 1964.

A native of Ellerbe, N.C., Dr. McInnis received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from UNCP, a master’s degree in business administration from Campbell University and a doctorate in higher education administration from NC State University.

He began his community college career in 1992 as a business instructor at Montgomery Community College (MCC) in Troy, N.C., and advanced there to become MCC’s vice president of administration. He joined South Piedmont Community College in Polkton, N.C., in 2001 as the vice president of administrative services.

In 2002, he became RCC’s vice president for administration and advanced to become the executive vice president. Although McInnis’ seven years at the college shortened his learning curve on how things operate, he admits he still has a lot to learn.

“I appreciate the history of this college and want to build upon it and look to the future for opportunities that allow us to expand our partnerships with the county commissioners, the public schools, local businesses and industries and with other agencies who work with us and with our students,” he said. “This is where I have always wanted to be.”

Former Chancellor Charles Jenkins, who is a Richmond County native, hailed the outstanding achievement of a UNCP graduate.

“We are very proud that an alumnus of UNC Pembroke has been selected to serve as president of Richmond Community College and wish him the very best,” Dr. Jenkins said. “Dale has a genuine interest in RCC, Richmond and Scotland counties and the entire region and will work hard to serve the needs of the area.

“His commitment to this region is most appreciated, and we at UNCP will work very closely with him and RCC’s faculty and staff,” he continued. “In fact, we have already moved forward on planning a new joint venture in higher education leadership development.”

Dr. Irene Aiken ’93, associate dean of UNCP’s School of Graduate Studies, was a high school classmate at Richmond County High School.

“Dale and I were friends in high school and college,” Dr. Aiken said. “Richmond Community College is fortunate to have someone with his knowledge and experience.

“His heart is in the right place,” she continued. “He will have a positive impact on the college and our community.”

“Personally, it makes me feel very proud to receive the support and encouragement from people I’ve known for many years and from those whom I have just met. I am thankful for a Board of Trustees who has confidence in me and who will support me. RCC is fortunate to have such an engaged and committed Board,” said McInnis.

Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, community college board chair said, “In approving Dr. McInnis as the new president of Richmond Community College, the state board is pleased to recognize the achievements and leadership of someone who has ‘grown up’ in our system. We look forward to watching how he, his trustees and his faculty and staff shape the future of RCC.”

Dr. Scott Ralls, N.C. Community College System president, said, “Dr. Dale McInnis is an excellent choice for president of Richmond Community College. His history in the community and his experience at the college has laid a strong foundation for his ability to lead RCC to continued success.”

Doc Davis Era Baseball Alumni Reunite at UNCP

About 28 former baseball players gathered in April. A reception at the new Holiday Inn Express was followed by golf and an afternoon game at Cox Stadium.

“The reunion was everything I had hoped for,” said Geoff Bennett ’90. “Everyone was happy to see each other.”

“I only played for two years, but those two years transformed my life,” said Alan Wildes ’92. “Doc (coach Danny Davis) had a huge impact on me.”

Bennett said he and Wildes made plans for the reunion early in the year.

“I had not been back since I graduated in 1990, but I had a few contacts already,” he said. “Being in British Columbia didn’t seem to matter, and I soon had a list of 70 from the 1986-89 teams.”

Bennett said he hoped that the spring reunion lead to another reunion at Homecoming.

“It’s important to remember great friends and great times, especially as we get busy raising our own families and building careers,” Bennett said. “The reunion went well and I can’t wait for the next time I see all of my friends again.”

Standing (L-R): Danny Davis, Jeff Nance, Paul Hodges, Rusty Chambers, Casey Roberts, Eric Hudson, Hugh Cannady, Keith Ransom, Andrew Hammonds, Billy Gaskins, Cedric Locklear and Jay Shotwell Kneeling (L-R): Dwight Donaldson, Ronnle Hobbs, Geoff Bennett, Billy Caver, Rusty Cramson, Rene Chaim and Alan Wildes
GIVING TO UNCP: Stadium Brick Campaign

There are a number of ways to inscribe your name on the UNCP campus. This campaign will raise funds for the UNCP Football Program. Choose between a 4” x 8” brick for $250 or an 8” x 8” brick for $500 with your name and message. Leave your legacy at the Grace P. Johnson Football Stadium and support the Braves. The bricks will be displayed in the Curt & Catherine Locklear Legacy Courtyard outside the stadium. These bricks make a great gift for parents, students, alumni and friends.

To order your brick, or for more information, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at (910) 521-6533.

GIVING TO UNCP: Heritage Society Newsletter Published

UNCP’s Advancement Office proudly announces the release of Circles, a biannual Heritage Society newsletter whose name is meant to evoke the symbolism of the circle of life. UNCP’s Heritage Society recognizes donors who have included the University in their will or estate plan.

Circles focuses on the many ways you can benefit the people and causes you love through charitable giving. It also introduces planning strategies that fit your financial goals at any stage of life. Our spring 2010 issue includes a Heritage Member Spotlight on Gifts of Stock with Louis Oxendine of Pembroke, N.C. in addition to information about:

- 4 Steps to Financial Planning for the Busy Person
- How Do I Donate Securities?
- Planning Your Estate: How to Get Started

Call the Advancement Office at (910) 521-6252 or visit the planned giving Web site at www.uncp.edu/plannedgiving for answers to questions you may have regarding Circles, Pembroke Heritage Society or Planned Giving.

GIVING TO UNCP: Putting Your Name on Campus

The Legacy Bench Campaign is an affordable naming opportunity at UNCP. For $1,500 you can leave a legacy for yourself, a family member or a special friend on the campus. Your name or the name of a loved one will be inscribed on a beautifully crafted bench to be located at strategic sites throughout campus. The benches are installed all over campus, and at this point donors can still pick their desired location. These benches are permanent, practical and offer a beautiful addition to campus for years to come. They are great for group gifts, as well.

For further information, please contact Alison DeCinti at (910) 521-6515.
2009
Marisa Jane Adams is an information technology specialist with the Social Security Administration Office of Telecommunications. She resides in Raleigh, N.C.
Tina M. Creech is a case manager with FirstHealth Moore Regional. She resides in Southern Pines, N.C.
Lindsay Davis and Jonathan Smith were married on April 10. She is employed by Scotland Memorial Hospital.
Robin Cummings Jones is a physical therapist assistant at FirstHealth of the Carolinas. She resides in Pembroke.
Christian Felihi is an assignment editor at News Carolina 14. He resides in Wake Forest, N.C.
Kayla D. McMillian and Cecil B. Locklear '05 were married on May 22 in Lumberton, N.C. She is employed by Stephens Outreach Center, and he works for Woodforest National Bank.
Leigh A. Oxendine and Blake A. Bullard were married on May 1 in Pembroke. She is employed by FirstHealth Fitness Center in Pembroke, and he works for T.R. Hunt Drywall.
Eric Ron is a court advocate with the Southeastern Family Violence Center, where he interned as a UNCP student. He resides in Lumberton, N.C.
Alicia Thompson is a fifth grade teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. She resides in Evergreen, N.C.

Laury Rose Chavis is a teacher assistant at Littlefield Middle School (Public Schools of Robeson County). She resides in Pembroke.
Jamie Clarke is head coach of the women's soccer team at Northside High School in Jacksonville, N.C. She is assisted by Whitney Beverly '09 and Nisa Akins '09, who also played on the Braves women's soccer team with Clarke. Clarke is an in-school suspension teacher at Northside, in addition to her coaching duties. She resides in Jacksonville.
Jamecia McNiel is a business customer service specialist with AT&T Mobility. She resides in Greensboro, N.C.
Terri Rorke is a public affairs specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She resides in College Place, Wash.
Mark Schulman received the North Carolina Press Association's (NCPA) first place in general excellence award for Henderson, N.C. The Times-News Web site, www.Blueridgenow.com, in the 15,000 - 35,000 circulation category. Schulman is the online editor. The NCPA gave Schulman the award at the Winter Institute Editorial Awards in March at the Dean Smith Center, UNC-Chapel Hill.

2007
Lindsay Jo Troutman and Evan Henry Lowry were married on April 10 in Thighman Beach, S.C. She is employed with Southeastern Regional Medical Center, and he is employed with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department.

2006
Erin L. Berry is a Master of Arts candidate in the Organizational Communications Department at Bowie State University. Her thesis focuses on hip-hop music, ethnography, rhetoric and African American feminist thought. She plans to complete the program in December and pursue a doctorate in cultural anthropology. She resides in Upper Marlboro, Md.

2005
Brenda K. Jacobs is coordinator for the Learner to Leaders program at Robeson Community College (RCC). The program, offered jointly by Smithfield Packaging and RCC, is designed to help prepare economically disadvantaged high school students for college and to provide them for real world work experience and personal development. Jacobs resides in Lumberton, N.C.
Angela Smith Mintz is a controller with Phillips Ford. She resides in Hamlet, N.C.
Kimberly Hope Phillips and Steven Shawn Taylor were married on June 19 in Lumberton, N.C., where they reside.
Katherine Greer Townsend moved to Wilmington, N.C., with her husband, Michael, and is the family activities director at Porters Neck Country Club.

2004
Eric Cutie is a math teacher at Hoke County High School in Raeford, N.C. He resides in Laurinburg, N.C.
Jenny Rebecca Hadden and Marques Allen Goodwin were married February 20 in Lumberton, N.C. She works for the Upward Bound program at UNCP, and he is in the Army.
Alice Faye Locklear and Anthony Leon Hunt were married on February 27 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. She is employed with Primary Health Choice in St. Pauls, N.C., and he is employed with Lowe's Home Improvement in Lumberton, N.C.

2001
Jennifer Kay Casey and Chad Casey were married on April 24 in Smithfield, N.C. Jennifer is the art director for Cary Living Magazine, in Raleigh, N.C. The couple resides in Pine Level, N.C.

2000
Ava Watts Arp is an eighth grade math teacher with Whiteville City Schools. She has a 2 1/2 year-old daughter, Allison Kaylee, born on Oct. 25, 2007. She resides in Clarkton, N.C.

2002
Rita Atkinson works in BB&T’s Online Banking Department in Raleigh, N.C. She resides in Wake Forest, N.C.

2003
Nick Arena is CEO of the Carolina Commerce and Technology Center, Inc. (COMtech), in Pembroke. He resides in West End, N.C.

Deese and William Nickolous Emanuel were married on March 13 in Dublin, N.C. She is employed with Caring Touch Home Health Care, and he is employed with Campbell Soup Company.

Whitney Hammonds Bell is a licensed nursing home administrator. She serves as the assistant administrator for the N.C. State Veterans Home in Fayetteville.

2001
Whitney and her husband, Windell, have two children, Lucas James, 7, and Julianna Eden, 4. After graduating from UNCP, Whitney attended UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health Long Term Care.

1999
Jennifer Dail Blakely is the associate director of Foundation Outreach at Sandhills Community College. She resides in Southern Pines, N.C.

Kristy Nance and her husband, Jeff, welcomed a daughter, Anna Kate, on February 9. She was 7 lbs., 20 1/2 inches long. The family resides in Hope Mills, N.C.

Jennifer Langley graduated from law school at Washington and Lee University on May 8. She resides in Chesapeake, Va. Terry Mardis is a licensed professional counselor and owns his own practice in Fayetteville, N.C., where he specializes in mental disorders. He resides in Fayetteville.

Peter Pizzo Jr. is a horse trainer and owns a farm in Kentucky. He resides in Paris, Ky.

Tracey Sampson is a nurse at Woodhaven Nursing Home. She resides in Maxton, N.C.

1998
Yolanda Sinclair is an administrative services manager with the N.C. Correctional Institution for Women. She resides in Garner, N.C.

1996
Johnathan Hedgepeth is an agent for the Horace Mann Companies in Pickerington, Ohio. He earned the company’s Rookie of the Year award for 2009. The award recognizes the newest top sales producer in the first year of their career with Horace Mann. The award was presented to Hedgepeth at Horace Mann’s annual, national sales conference. He is also a volunteer basketball coach for the Pickerington schools and is an active member of Jersey Baptist Church. He sponsored the Partners in Education program and helped support Discovery Day at Brown Elementary School in Hilliard and the Ohio Achievement Test for French Run Elementary in Reynoldsburg. He has also donated bicycles and iPods to the Pickerington and Canal Winchester Schools for student attendance and student achievement. A former high school science teacher, he earned his MBA from Franklin University. He and his wife, Heather ’96, reside in Pickerington, Ohio.

1995
Tosha Ann Kinlaw and Jason Allen Autry were married on May 14 on the Cape Fear River.

1994
1992
Christa M. Evans is working on a Ph.D. in clinical neuropsychology at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif. She plans to practice clinical neuropsychology with specialization in forensic psychology. She earned a master's degree in clinical psychology from East Carolina University in 1995, and she has worked as a clinical psychologist for various mental health centers and Cherry State Psychiatric Hospital. She resides in Newport, N.C.

Kristy Woods-Billings and Frankie Allen Billings were married on April 3. She is a math teacher with the Public Schools of Robeson County. The couple resides in Maxton, N.C.

Angela D. Revels-Bullard and her husband, Keith S. Bullard '98, welcomed a daughter, Presleigh Shae, on Nov. 6, 2009. She weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz.

Angela is the associate vice chancellor for Human Resources at Fayetteville State University. Keith is a juvenile court counselor with the Department of Juvenile Justice in Lumberton, N.C. The family resides in Pembroke.

Brian Freeman received the 2010 Kay Trull Outstanding Educator Award in March at the annual convention of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Trull Award honors teachers who work for excellence in education. Freeman is also a recipient of the NCAE Teaching Excellence Award, the Disney Teacher Award, and the USA Today Top 40 Teachers Award. Freeman serves on the board of directors for the North Carolina 4-H Advisory Board and is chair of the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children. He is a kindergarten teacher at Peterson Elementary School and resides in Red Springs, N.C.

Raymond L. Wherry is a headquarters company commander with the U.S. Army. He resides in Paso Robles, Calif.

1991
Lynn Griffin is the director of athletics at Coker College, where she is responsible for the oversight of a NCAA Division II athletic department with 13 intercollegiate teams competing in Conference Carolinas. Her responsibilities also include planning, program development, budget and resource management, supervision of compliance, coaching and support staff appointments, professional development, outreach to the local and regional community, fundraising and recruitment and retention of student-athletes. Griffin began her career as an assistant women's basketball coach and exercise and sports science instructor at Tarleton State University in Texas, where she earned a master's degree in exercise and sports studies.

David E. Thames and his wife, the former Janet Wilkins, are owners of Blythewood Pharmacy, an independent pharmacy in Blythewood, S.C. She serves as pharmacist and he is the general manager. The couple has two children: Ethan, 6, and Lillie Grace, 3. The family resides in Blythewood.

1981
John P. Goetzke is an investment counselor with BB&T. He resides in Stedman, N.C.

1980
Denise D. Dunn is employed with DM Norton Enterprises. She resides in Laurinburg, N.C.

1979
Melvin K. Gibson is engaged to Susan Marie Strout of Ranier, Ore. A wedding date is planned for fall. Both are employed by Walt Disney World and after the wedding, they will reside in Orlando, Fla.

1977
Robert W. Dole is owner of Heart of the Home Installations, Inc., in Charlotte, N.C., where he resides.

1976
Margaret Lewis Moore is the drop-out prevention coordinator for Bladen County Schools. She resides in Clarkton, N.C.

1975
David Goodwear is the senior vice president and market executive with New Century Bank. He resides in Fayetteville, N.C.

1974
Joe B. Blackmon is a school psychologist with the Public Schools of Robeson County. He resides in Orrum, N.C.

1973
Marian Beauchamp retired from the City of High Point, N.C. She resides in Trinity, N.C.
1971
Steve Barbee is employed with United Restaurant Equipment Co. He is expecting another grandson in August. James E. Lockemy was elected to serve as one of the nine judges on the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Before that he served for 18 years as a circuit judge for South Carolina after serving eight years in the state legislature. He was awarded The Order of the Palmetto in 2003, Dillon County Citizen of the Year in 1987 and Military Veteran of the Year in 1999. He is also the recipient of the Dolph Braddy Award given annually by the Dillon Chamber of Commerce. He was inducted into the Dixie Youth Baseball Honor Roll in 2007 in recognition for his dedicated coaching of his Kiwanis Youth Baseball Rangers for 30 years. He resides in Dillon, S.C.

1970
Gail Powell Cannon is a counselor with Lower Cape Fear Hospice. She resides in Whiteville, N.C.

1958
Mary Alice Teets was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, N.C. She has more than 40 years of experience in education, including 22 years of teaching before serving as a principal at Janie Hargrave Elementary School for 10 years. She retired after serving for nine years as principal of Tanglewood Elementary School. She and her husband, Ed, reside in Pembroke.

1949
Curt Locklear Sr. received the Business of the Year Award from the Committee of 100. He accepted the award on behalf of Pembroke Hardware at the 14th Annual Business Visions Awards Banquet. Pembroke Hardware, an affiliate of True Value Hardware, is more than 50 years old. The business opened its new store in Pembroke in 2006. He and his wife, Catherine, reside in Pembroke.

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