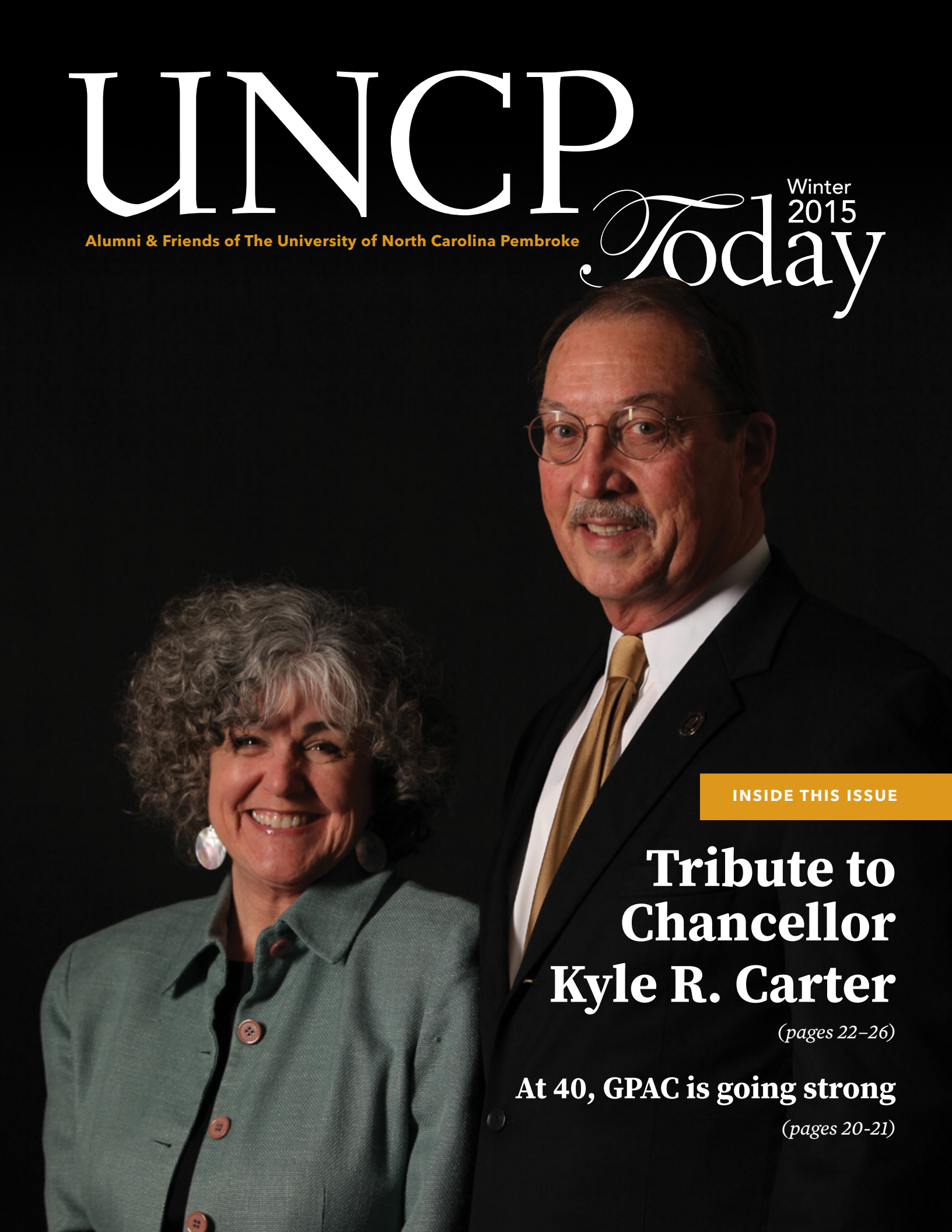
UNCP Today

Alumni & Friends of The University of North Carolina Pembroke

Winter 2015



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UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
PEMBROKE

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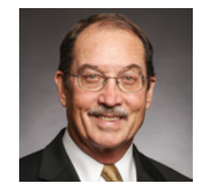
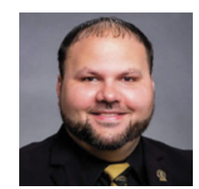
Braves wrestling has taken off under Othello Johnson. Johnson burst onto the scene, coaching two national champions in his first three years as head wrestling coach. You'll be surprised to know there is a lot more to him than meets the eye.



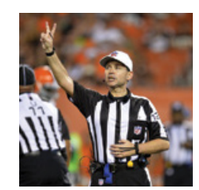
22 / Tribute to a Leader

Kyle R. Carter put his mark on every aspect of university life. Everything he touched, he improved. Despite a challenging economic and budgetary environment, he marshaled resources to the places where it counted most, and he got outstanding results.



30 / Alumni News

Alumni Association President Rudy Locklear not only talks the talk, he walks the walk. In this edition, he finds himself in the Class Notes for another outstanding accomplishment. Join us in congratulating Rudy, and join him in walking the walk as a proud UNCP graduate.



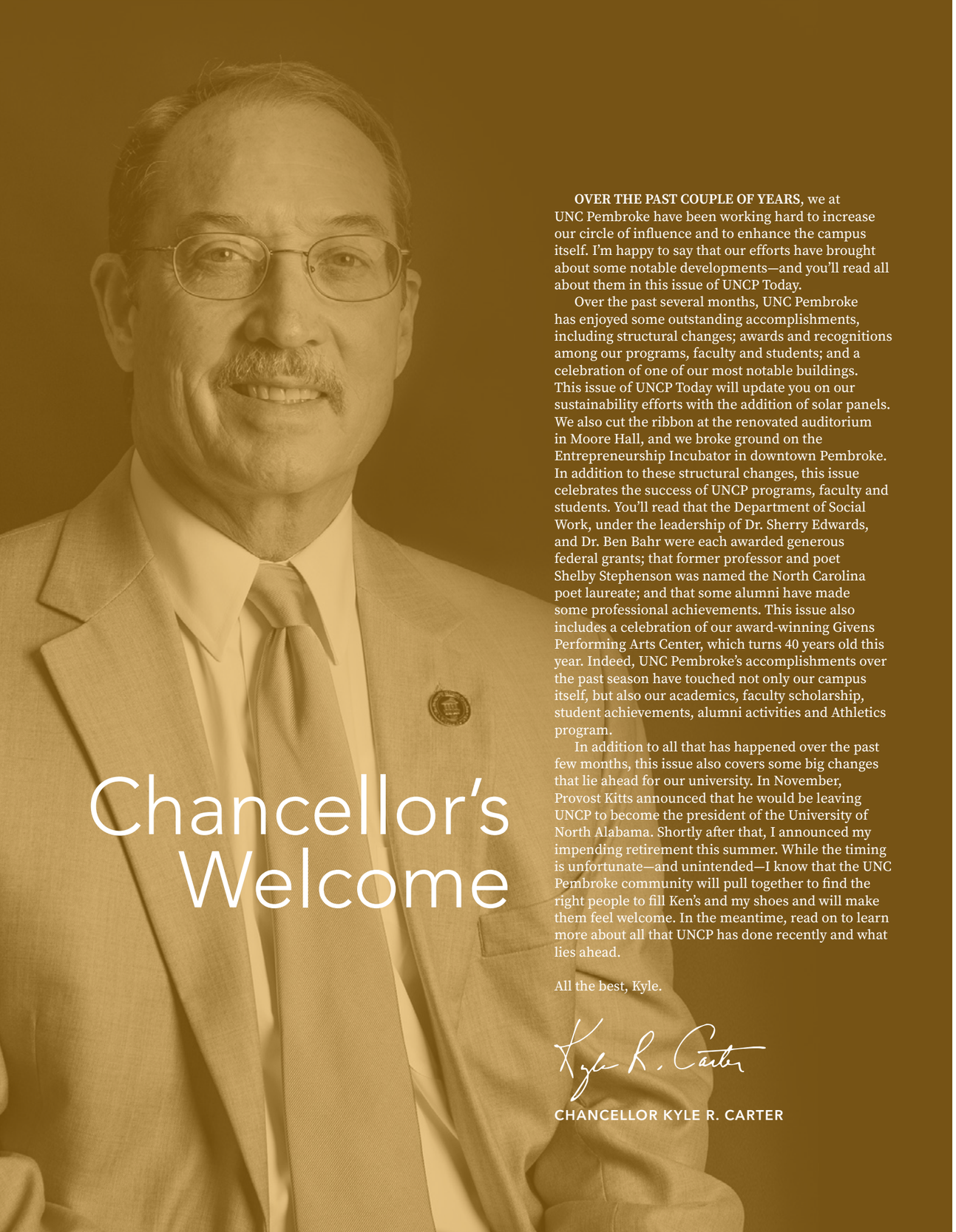
More...

Brad Allen '94 has risen all the way through the ranks to become an NFL head official. He made the jump from college to the pros last season. See page 32 for more about Allen and other great UNCP alumni.

COVER STORY: Kyle and Sarah Carter sat for University Photographer Willis Glassgow to make their final formal portrait. As the university community bids farewell to its first couple, UNCP Today's editorial staff examined the outstanding record that Chancellor Carter left behind. As readers will see, he left no stone unturned in the pursuit of excellence. What is it we liked about the Carters? Everything!

UNCP Today magazine is published twice a year for alumni and friends of the university by the Office of University Communications and Marketing. UNCP is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina system. 21,000 copies of this document were printed at a cost of $0.61 each.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Accessibility Resource Center, D.F. Lowry Building, Room 107, or call (910) 521.6695.



Chancellor's Welcome

OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, we at UNC Pembroke have been working hard to increase our circle of influence and to enhance the campus itself. I'm happy to say that our efforts have brought about some notable developments—and you'll read all about them in this issue of UNCP Today.

Over the past several months, UNC Pembroke has enjoyed some outstanding accomplishments, including structural changes; awards and recognitions among our programs, faculty and students; and a celebration of one of our most notable buildings. This issue of UNCP Today will update you on our sustainability efforts with the addition of solar panels. We also cut the ribbon at the renovated auditorium in Moore Hall, and we broke ground on the Entrepreneurship Incubator in downtown Pembroke. In addition to these structural changes, this issue celebrates the success of UNCP programs, faculty and students. You'll read that the Department of Social Work, under the leadership of Dr. Sherry Edwards, and Dr. Ben Bahr were each awarded generous federal grants; that former professor and poet Shelby Stephenson was named the North Carolina poet laureate; and that some alumni have made some professional achievements. This issue also includes a celebration of our award-winning Givens Performing Arts Center, which turns 40 years old this year. Indeed, UNC Pembroke's accomplishments over the past season have touched not only our campus itself, but also our academics, faculty scholarship, student achievements, alumni activities and Athletics program.

In addition to all that has happened over the past few months, this issue also covers some big changes that lie ahead for our university. In November, Provost Kitts announced that he would be leaving UNCP to become the president of the University of North Alabama. Shortly after that, I announced my impending retirement this summer. While the timing is unfortunate—and unintended—I know that the UNC Pembroke community will pull together to find the right people to fill Ken's and my shoes and will make them feel welcome. In the meantime, read on to learn more about all that UNCP has done recently and what lies ahead.

All the best, Kyle.

Kyle R. Carter

CHANCELLOR KYLE R. CARTER

Commencement

FULL HOUSE

The main gym is packed to the rafters as commencement begins.

Dr. Weston F. Cook Jr. (Below)

More than 500 receive degrees at Winter Commencements

The university staged one of the largest Winter Commencements in history on December 12–13.

Givens Performing Arts Center was the setting for the awarding of 65 graduate degrees. Four hundred seventy one undergraduate degrees were conferred in the Main Gym of the English Jones Health and Physical Education Center.

It was UNCP's 150th commencement, according to university historians, and one of the largest winter ceremonies in university history. It was also the first time that the chair of the UNC Board of Governors attended a commencement in Pembroke.

Chairman John C. Fennebresque explained. "The chair of the Board of Governors gets first choice of the university to attend for commencement. I chose Pembroke.

"Your university is on fire," Fennebresque said. "UNCP has raised admission requirements and toughened the standards for staying in school. That makes this year's graduates the best-educated and hardest-working class in university history."

Fennebresque did not stop there in his praise for UNCP and Chancellor Kyle R. Carter. "In my opinion, your chancellor, Kyle Carter, is one of the preeminent leaders of higher education in the nation," he said.

There was one other historic reason that brought the Board of Governors' chairman to Pembroke. He was invited by Robert Nunnery, who graduated on Saturday. Nunnery was UNCP's first student in history to be elected president of the UNC Association of Student Governments and the first student to hold a seat on the 32-member Board of Governors.

"Robert Nunnery is my friend, and it will be a thrill to shake his hand when he receives his degree," Fennebresque said. Nunnery, who received a degree in social studies education on Saturday, thanked the chairman.

"I was fortunate to have many great mentors at UNCP, and Mr. Fennebresque was my mentor on the Board of Governors," Nunnery said. They met for a photo with Chancellor Carter before the ceremony.

In his charge to the graduates, Chancellor Carter also talked about the importance of mentors, saying, "You know you are here because someone in our faculty took time to go the extra mile with you." he said.

> "The best-educated and hardest-working class in university history."

Commencement speaker Dr. Weston F. Cook Jr. also talked about being mentored and the importance of being a mentor. "You'll be amazed at how many lives you'll touch when you leave here," Dr. Cook said. "Everything I've become is because somebody took a chance on me. As I was mentored, I sought to mentor you when you came into my small world. I hope I did a good job."

A historian, Dr. Cook was the Winter Commencement speaker by virtue of winning the 2014 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. Besides being a compelling storyteller, he is a mentor, advisor and role model to his students. In 20 years at Pembroke, Dr. Cook has won the outstanding teacher award three times and the Adolph Dial Award for Community Service.

Dr. Cook urged the graduates to become engaged, voting citizens, to take leadership positions, to engage in charity–"soul work," he called it–and to remain involved in education.

In interviews before and after commencement, students eagerly recognized the value of mentors on UNCP's faculty and beyond.

The crowd poured out of the English Jones Health and Physical Education Building Saturday into the bright sunshine looking forward to bright futures.

NEWS

A University of Choice

UNCP's Growth in Size and Stature Is Getting Noticed

It has been a milestone year in UNC Pembroke's history in many ways. The university's success is on display in some very important places, perhaps allowing it to relinquish its claim as the hidden gem among the state's public universities. Instead, the university is laying claim to Chancellor Carter's mission to become a university of choice.

UNCP's state and national reputation has been getting a lot of polish lately from prestigious places. As the university grows and matures, the spirit of Pembroke is catching fire, and many diverse groups have beaten a path to Pembroke.

Case in point: the UNC Board of Governors recently held a quarterly meeting in Pembroke. It was an opportunity to showcase the university to the state's leaders in higher education. In the past year, the university has hosted several meetings of influential groups, including the State Board of Education, the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs, UNC's combined Student Government Association and the North Carolina Academy of Sciences.

UNCP's resurgent athletic programs are getting noticed too, in national rankings and in postseason play. This winter, both wrestling and men's basketball were ranked in the top 20 nationally. At this writing, the basketball team had surpassed 20 wins, and the wrestling team was getting ready to host the super regionals in Pembroke. The baseball team was ranked number three in the nation by one poll.

U.S. News & World Report, the premier national college rating service, has long recognized the university as the most diverse in the South and one of the most diverse in the nation. U.S. News also recognizes UNCP for its economic diversity.

With rising admission standards and high-impact academic programs, the university keeps pushing higher in U.S. News' overall ranking. In the 2015 rankings, Pembroke ranked 42nd among its peers–Southern, master's-granting public universities. That's a happy change from the time the university fell into unranked territory.

Also, U.S. News ranked UNCP's graduate elementary education program 22nd for veterans and 78th overall. As U.S. News and other publications look at the nation's universities from different perspectives, Pembroke keeps getting noticed. The U.S. News short list put the university in its top 10 most affordable schools in the nation for in-state students.

On another U.S. News short list, UNCP's master of public administration program ranked third for affordability. The popular MPA program is flexible and available entirely online, in the classroom or in hybrid format. UNCP's online classes are routinely taught by full-time faculty, unlike the online education mills.

The nursing program, which often leads North Carolina universities for the passing rate of its graduates on the national nursing exam, is also getting noticed.

Best Value Schools, a national online rating service, ranked UNCP's program number five in the nation.

GI Jobs and Military Advanced Education publications have rated UNCP as "military friendly" for many years. U.S. News, which just began evaluating universities that are focused on vets, found UNCP to be a "Best College for Veterans."

A flood of veterans are transitioning out of the military, and UNCP, with its proximity to Fort Bragg, is in a good position to serve them. Military Times examined Department of Education data on student-veteran success and placed the university in its top 100. The publication reviewed hundreds of institutions, and 11 percent of them qualified as "Best for Vets."

(Top) In a first for UNCP, the UNC Board of Governors met in Pembroke in April 2013. Here, Gov. Pat McCrory delivers his first address on higher education. Did UNCP take advantage of the opportunity to show its best side? You bet!

(Right) The university has focused on the military community, and national publications, including the leading collegiate rating service U.S. News, have taken notice. Here, Chancellor Carter congratulates Andrew Wheeler on his upcoming graduation during a special Veterans Recognition Ceremony, held twice each year.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY — EXCELS IN — PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS

Excellence is contagious at Pembroke, as the university community demonstrated in 2014. As the university has grown, faculty, staff and students have made their mark in North Carolina and beyond.

Great things have happened here, and people have made great things happen, like Dr. Olivia Oxendine '70, who is serving on the State Board of Education.

UNCP faculty continue to make their mark with scholarship and in leadership positions in state and national organizations. UNCP Today is dedicated to sharing these stories, and here are a few more.

Biology professor Dr. Maria Santisteban is currently president-elect of the North Carolina Academy of Sciences; School Counseling program coordinator Dr. Jeffrey Warren is president of the North Carolina Counseling Association; Mental Health Counseling program coordinator Dr. Angela McDonald was appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to the board of directors of the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors; physics professor Dr. Bill Brandon is president of the North Carolina section of the Association of Physics Teachers; School of Education professor Dr. Sara Simmons is a member of the executive committee of the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators. In February, the Counseling Center's Lyndee Horne was elected member-at-large to the American College Counseling Association.

SCIENCE RESEARCH TOPS

Senior Marcus Sherman's medical bioinformatics research earned one of 11 awards at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in November 2014. There were more than 1,700 entries.

Sherman, who is a veteran, worked in Dr. Ben Bahr's biotechnology lab with Dr. Conner Sandefur, a computational biologist who came to UNCP through a postdoctoral teaching program of UNC-Chapel Hill.

Sherman is a RISE Scholar, a grant program of the National Institute of Health, and a member of the Esther G. Maynor Honors College. He is interviewing for a spot in a doctoral program at several universities, including UNC-Chapel Hill, Michigan, Kansas and Johns Hopkins.

REVERE AWARD

Biology professor Dr. Rita Hagevik, director of the Science Education Program, and a team of collaborators found a way to help schoolchildren discover the natural world in their schoolyards utilizing new technologies.

Their article, published in the March 2013 issue of Science and Children, a journal of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), was honored with the REVERE Award (Recognizing Valuable Educational Resources) by the Association of American Publishers. The national award identifies and honors excellence in educational materials.

UNCP HISTORY AWARD

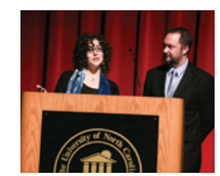
Lawrence Locklear '05, '12, coordinator of Southeast American Indian Studies, Dr. Linda Oxendine, professor emeritus of American Indian Studies, and the late Dr. David Eliades, professor emeritus of the History Department, have been awarded the 2014 Willie Parker Peace History Book Award from the North Carolina Society of Historians for their history of UNCP, "Hail to UNCP: A 125-Year History of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke."

KNICK VIDEO TAKES PRIZE

At the 17th Annual Native American Indian Film and Video Festival of the Southeast, an entry by Dr. Stan Knick and the Museum of the Southeast American Indian (formerly Native American Resource Center) won an award for Best Regional Film.

"Knowledge Wisdom and the Traditional Mind: The Nottoway in the 21st Century" is a 36-minute video about surviving traditional ways of the modern tribe located in coastal Virginia. The tribe, whose language was Iroquoian, is state recognized. They were near the front line of the first English settlements in Virginia.

Dr. Knick, director of the museum, has been producing and directing videos profiling tribal issues and traditions of the Southeast for 15 years.



'VOICES' WINS AWARDS

Mass Communication professor Dr. Jason Hutchens and English professor Dr. Michele Fazio won two awards last fall for "Voices of the Lumbee," an hour-long documentary about Lumbee experiences in the post-World War II economy.

The documentary took first-place honors in the faculty competition for District II of the Broadcast Education Association. The filmmakers were also awarded the Brown-Hudson Award from the North Carolina Folklore Society.

The award recognizes individuals who make significant contributions to the transmission, appreciation and observance of traditional culture and folk life in North Carolina. The Folklore Society held its annual meeting at the university in late 2014.

Sandra Torres, a student who worked on "Voices," presented her research at the annual IMPACT National Conference for Community Service, Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in Los Angeles in February.

CLASS PHOTO

The class of 2018, 1,074 strong, stream across the bridge on their way to First-Year Convocation.

Enrollment, retention are a growing success story at UNCP

Freshman, transfer and total enrollment showed gains in the fall semester.

The freshman class enrollment is 1,074, a gain of 24 students compared to last year, according to the official census. It is the third-largest freshman class in UNCP history.

Despite graduating more than 1,300 students last year, total enrollment grew to 6,269, an increase of 47 over fall 2013. There were 759 graduate students.

Transfer enrollment was "the brightest spot of all," Chancellor Carter said. Transfer students set an all-time record, a year-over-year increase of 93 students. UNCP admitted 589 transfer students this fall.

"This success is most gratifying because of the amount of effort spent by so many over the last 18 months," Chancellor Carter said.

Retention also contributed to the success story. Retention from freshman to sophomore year was 68.2 percent and has increased for three consecutive years.

Another bright spot for the university community is the record number of students living on campus. More than 2,000 students have taken up occupancy in university housing, and many more live in three adjacent off-campus apartment complexes.

Dr. Melissa Schaub, associate vice chancellor for the Office of Enrollment, said, "Enrollment is a truly integrated team effort from every person at the university, from the intensive planning that went into our enhanced transfer recruitment to the efforts of faculty members who took the time to help a struggling student make the grade and stay in school."

GROUND BROKEN

Pictured in the first row from left are: Dan Gerlach of Golden Leaf Foundation, Robin Cooley of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Congressman Mike McIntyre, Pembroke Town Councilman Channing Jones, Jim Thomas, Aaron Thomas of Metcon Construction, Cammie Hunt, Office of Engaged Outreach, Wendy Lowery, Office of Advancement, Larry Chavis of Lumbee Guaranty Bank, and Chancellor Kyle and Sarah Carter. In the second row are Gordon Vincent and Rob Hsin of Jenkins Peer Architects.

Ground-breaking ceremony launches Entrepreneurship Incubator

The Entrepreneurship Incubator is a game changer for the region and the university, Chancellor Carter said during ground-breaking ceremonies on October 24.

After four years of planning, construction has begun on the $1.2 million Entrepreneurship Incubator at 202 Main Street in Pembroke. It is the most ambitious outreach project of Chancellor Carter's administration.

The Entrepreneurship Incubator will house the university's two existing business development units and nurture eight-12 new businesses. Located in downtown Pembroke, the 16,800-square-foot storefront is expected to open in August.

Chancellor Carter said good things are in store at the storefront. It represents an organic model of economic development in a county and region plagued by chronically high unemployment.

"In the 1880s, when there were no teachers to instruct American Indian children in the area, the Lumbee community took matters into their own hands," he said. "This is their opportunity to transform this region, as the university's founders did so long ago."

The renovation of nearly a block of storefront real estate also represents a downtown revitalization project for the town of Pembroke. Further, it represents opportunities for UNCP's students who will work with new and developing businesses.

There will be space for 10-12 new and emerging businesses. The university will build the facility with $1.2 million in grants from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration and North Carolina's Golden Leaf Foundation.

Fundraising from private donors and businesses yielded $210,000 to purchase the property. Private donors included Jim Thomas (namesake of UNCP's Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship), Pembroke Hardware, Lumbee Guaranty Bank, CoreVantage Technologies, Rusty and Karen Livermore, Ron and Coleen Brown, Dr. Robin and Rebecca Cummings, Mary Ann Elliott and Chancellor and Sarah Carter.

Pembroke-based Metcon Construction is the general contractor.

Renovated Moore Hall Auditorium lauded at opening

The renovated Moore Hall Auditorium, which has been a haven for great music for more than 60 years, was reopened and celebrated on August 26.

Over the summer, the 204-seat auditorium was stripped to its bones and renovated with new surfaces, seating, lighting and a fresh coat of honey-colored paint. It is home to approximately 100 events annually and countless practice sessions for the university's musicians, choral groups and ensembles.

"Several of us here have very strong feelings about this performing arts space, and I am one," said Chancellor Carter. "I have been wanting to renovate Moore Hall since I arrived on campus."

Moore Hall was constructed in 1951 and dedicated to one of the university's founders, W.L. Moore, and several people with deep connections to UNCP attended the opening. As Chancellor Carter noted, "Moore Hall is more than a place; it is part of our legacy."

"We moved into this building my first year at the college," said Mabel Cummings '54, granddaughter of building namesake W.L. Moore. "The entire college could all sit together in there."

ALL DRESSED UP – *The newly renovated Moore Hall shows off its new colors.*

Music major Mary Alice Teets '58 had her junior and senior recitals in the auditorium. "We had three music majors then," she said. "With this (renovated) auditorium, this looks more like a conservatory."

Teets was joined at the ribbon cutting by several members of the Moore family, including W.L. Moore's great-grandchildren, Lyn Sanderson '79, and Luther Moore and Landon Richard Moore and Crystal Moore, who is a nurse practitioner in UNCP's Student Health Center.

The auditorium serves the university as a multipurpose stage for speakers, plays and meetings.

The auditorium has all the finishing touches of an outstanding venue for the arts, including recessed lighting in the walls, LED floor lighting and doors designed to close silently. Adding to the warmth of the hall, both ceiling and seats are wood with a natural finish.

LOGO DESIGNER – *Tim Locklear had the winning design for the image that will represent UNCP.*

UNIVERSITY ROLLS OUT ITS NEW LOGO, BRANDING FOR 2015

The university's new logo is the final piece in a yearlong rebranding program that rolled out a new website, slogan, fonts and other graphic images that will represent and promote the university.

Chancellor Carter appreciates the symbolism of Old Main and what it represents for the university and community.

"We are thrilled to launch UNCP's new logo featuring a representation of our most historic building, Old Main. The significance is even more meaningful because the design came from the local community and was vetted by alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members."

The logo was designed by artist Tim Locklear, who has designed many iconic images of the Lumbee Tribe for Cyna's Jewelers in downtown Pembroke. The design of UNCP's new logo was open to the public, and the winner earned $500.

"I appreciate the opportunity that the university offered to the community to be involved," Locklear said. "I understand that Old Main is the pinnacle symbol of the university to this community."

UNCP's comprehensive rebranding program was led by Sandy Briscar, executive director of University Communications and Marketing, and was driven by public input.

The rebranding has given UNCP a fresh face. It gives a unified, crisp look to publications of the university across all media.

Social work grant takes aim at region's mental health

The university and the graduate social work program have been awarded a $1.087 million grant that its authors say will transform mental health care in southeastern North Carolina.

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' division of Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), will train 60-80 social workers over three years in UNCP's Master of Social Work (MSW) program. The students will receive annual stipends of $10,000 and healthcare insurance while working 980-hour internships in primary care settings.

Titled "All of Me: Integrative Behavioral Health," the program is reaching out to primary care providers.

UNCP has formed partnerships with four large healthcare providers–Cape Fear Valley Health Systems in Fayetteville, Southeastern Health in Lumberton, Robeson Health Care Corporation and Children's Health of the Carolinas (Lumberton Children's Clinic)–and UNCP's Healthy Start infant mortality program. The All of Me Program will expand to additional providers over the course of the grant.

An annual symposium and a website will also be developed as resources for physicians and other frontline health care providers. Because interns must be supervised by a licensed social worker, the grant will fund a new position. Two graduate assistants will also be funded.

"Social workers are the largest group of behavioral healthcare providers, and the majority of mental health care comes from primary care professionals, who are often not effectively trained in this area," said Dr. Sherry Edwards, the grant author/coordinator and chair of UNCP's Department of Social Work. "We will train social workers in integrative behavioral health and send them to deliver care.

"It's going to change the culture of mental healthcare treatment in our region," Dr. Edwards said. "This is one more way for a university to impact the lives of people in communities it serves."

Winning an HRSA grant is a breakthrough for the social work program and UNCP.

"An exciting aspect of this award is that we are on the HRSA map, and we can seek other grant opportunities," Dr. Edwards said. "As for UNCP, we know we can now get grants like this."

(Above) At a recent pinning ceremony of graduates of UNCP's Master of Social Work program pose with faculty. The growing program, which launched at UNCP in 2007, graduates approximately 50 social workers per year.

(Below) Dr. Ben Bahr confers with researcher Dr. Marquitta Smith, seated, and lab manager Heather Romine.

Grant to boost Army research on traumatic brain injury

The university and Army scientists are in the hunt to solve the puzzle of traumatic brain injury (TBI), an issue that generated national news from Washington to the National Football League.

UNCP received a $276,427 grant from the Army Research Office to boost the capabilities of Dr. Ben Bahr's biotechnology laboratory at the university. The grant will purchase a laser-scanning Nikon C2+ Confocal Microscopy System that will peer deep into brain tissue and record signs of injury.

The new high-powered confocal microscopy system goes hand in hand with an earlier Army grant of $399,000 that brought an additional research scientist into the UNCP lab for three years. The Bahr lab is working with Army scientists at the Aberdeen Proving Ground to better understand blast-induced TBI.

Provost Ken Kitts named president of North Alabama

KEN AND DENA KITTS

They have moved on to lead the University of North Alabama.

// BY: SANDY M. BRISCAR

Ken Kitts wasn't looking for a job when he was approached in October by a search firm on behalf of the University of North Alabama (UNA) and asked to consider applying for the presidency there. He has been through the ranks in higher education –from instructor to full professor to department head to associate provost to provost–and had a presidency as a goal, only down the road a bit.

But when opportunity knocks, it's best to answer. So now, UNCP's vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and provost of four years is leaving to assume the presidency at UNA.

"[My wife] Dena and I are excited about the opportunity that awaits us at the University of North Alabama," Kitts said. "At the same time, we want everyone to know that it has been an honor to serve the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. UNCP is a wonderful institution, and our time here will forever be special to us."

I am extremely proud of Dr. Kitts," said Chancellor Carter. "His appointment to the presidency of North Alabama is not only a reflection of his personal style and leadership, but also recognition of the great impact he has had on academics at UNC Pembroke."

In four years, Kitts's impact has been significant–not only on academic leadership, but also on the strategic direction of the university and overall enrollment. In fact, all five of the deans at the university were hired by Kitts, as was the head of Enrollment Management and the assistant vice chancellor for Engaged Outreach. In addition, in his first year in Pembroke, Kitts cochaired the committee that facilitated the writing of the university's strategic plan.

"Dr. Kitts has been an outstanding academic champion for UNC Pembroke," said Dr. Zoe Locklear, dean of the School of Education. "He is a person who sets high personal and professional goals for himself and, in turn, expects this same level of professionalism from those around him."

Kitts came to UNCP from Frances Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, where, as associate provost, he oversaw the enrollment division. When UNCP's enrollment took a significant drop in the fall following his appointment, Chancellor Carter asked him to assume that function here. First, Student Services were placed under Academic Affairs to create a more coordinated hub between advising, disability support services and tutoring. Kitts assigned faculty member Dr. Melissa Schaub to head the department. The following year, enrollment functions were placed under that same umbrella.

"Dr. Kitts has worked tirelessly to stabilize enrollment, improve student retention and implement higher expectations," said Dr. Carter.

"Stabilizing enrollment in a very challenging budgetary environment and bringing together the right team to make that happen feels good," Kitts said.

Another component of enrollment success was his appointment of Dr. Cammie Hunt as assistant vice chancellor for Engaged Outreach, putting her over the Office of Distance Education.

"Demand is so profound for distance education options that it's here to stay," Kitts stated. "It's very important in a rural area to have such access–we have to take education to the people. Online or on site at a community college, it is a way to serve our citizens. It's a good thing, and I'm proud that it's grown."

UNCP maintains five off-campus sites, offers nine undergraduate degree completion programs online and three graduate degrees.

In addition to distance education, a priority has been to increase the number of articulation agreements (which provide easier access to transfer students) with community colleges. Dr. Hunt has led that initiative, and the number of agreements has grown from 31 to 44 in the past four years.

As the number two administrator on campus, Kitts's duties went well beyond academics. He has spent many hours working with Chancellor Carter and Vice Chancellor Rich Cosentino to mitigate budget cuts.

"Ken is an intelligent and thoughtful leader who sees conflicts and problems from a variety of points of view," Dr. Cosentino said. "As a result, he is always a key contributor to finding solutions to difficult challenges."

"State funding will continue to be uncertain," Kitts believes. "We feel it acutely because historically, North Carolina has supported higher education well. When I came here, 70 percent of our funding came from the state. Today, it's 60 percent."

Of all the challenges and accomplishments Kitts has faced in the four years he has worked at UNCP, he believes that leaving highly qualified personnel in place is among his highest achievements.

"Your legacy is what you leave behind," he contends, "and putting the right people in the right positions helps create a strong legacy."

Shelby Stephenson named North Carolina's poet laureate

Shelby Stephenson was installed as North Carolina's poet laureate by Gov. Pat McCrory on December 2 in the Capitol Building in Raleigh. The governor could not have made a better choice.

The poet laureate serves as ambassador of the state's literary community, using the office as a platform to promote both the written word and North Carolina writers. Stephenson is a pillar of North Carolina's widely respected literary community.

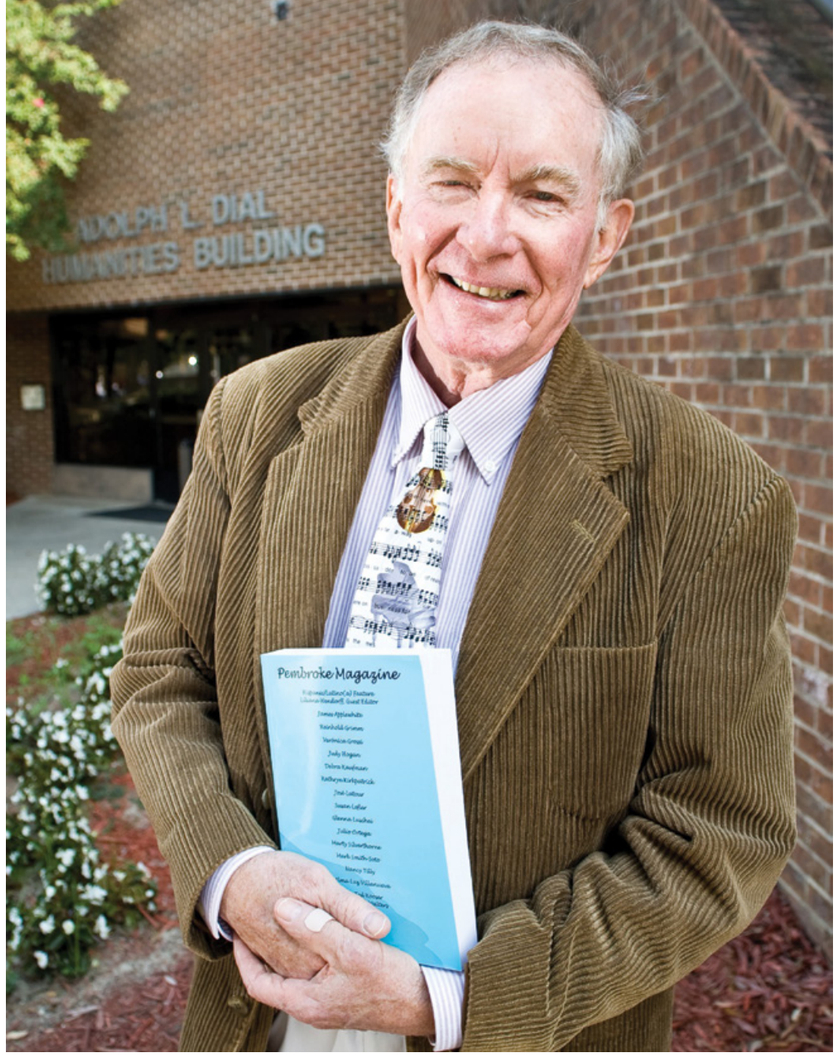
In October 2014, the poet and retired professor was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame. There, he was described by his peers as "North Carolina's poet."

For 32 years until he retired in 2010, Stephenson taught writing and literature at UNCP, and for 30 of those years, he edited Pembroke Magazine, UNCP's literary journal. The state's top writers were among the magazine's contributors. He also published groundbreaking editions of American Indian and Latino authors.

Perhaps Stephenson's only failing as Pembroke Magazine's editor was not publishing his own poems, which he wrote profusely. Fortunately, other publishers found Stephenson's work worthy, and they still do. Two of his poetry collections–"The Hunger of Freedom" and "Shub's Cooking"–were published in 2014. He has recorded several CDs of music with his wife, Nin, family and friends, and is currently working on a new musical recording and a play.

Stephenson continues to write from the porch of his restored homestead near Benson, North Carolina "I am happy, honored. Every morning, I wake up and try to write. I am happy to be along for the beauty and the joy and liveliness poetry brings to our lives," he said in a recent interview.

The only thing better than reading Stephenson's poetry is hearing him read it. The only thing better than hearing him read poetry is to hear him sing it, as he continues to do.



SHELBY STEPHENSON, POET LAUREATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

The poet laureate appointment is for two years. The recipient receives a $15,000 stipend and support of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

The appointment was met with universal praise across North Carolina. An editorial in the Raleigh News and Observer exclaimed: "Shelby Stephenson is a teacher, storyteller, singer and a native of Johnston County. He's also one heck of a poet, whose writings reflect his own days on a farm and his life experiences. His stories and poetry are filled with colorful images of rural North Carolina and the phrases and rhythms of Tar Heel speech. What better choice to serve as North Carolina's next poet laureate? There isn't one."

D.G. Martin, host of UNC-TV's Bookwatch, said, "Not content with his personal achievements as a distinguished writer and as a great musician, Shelby Stephenson has always sought to encourage other talented people to share their gifts with others. He has always looked for ways to find and expand appreciative audiences for good writing. Pembroke Magazine gave him the platform to share good writing and build an appreciative community of readers, and he gave us a treasure. Unselfishly, he poured his heart into this project and made this literary journal an important part of the American literary scene. As poet laureate, he'll be doing even more to celebrate and enhance our state's great literary scene. So congratulations to Shelby!"

Economist's study reveals UNCP's economic impact

The benefits of having a university in or near your community go far beyond educational opportunities. The economic impact of a university is significant–pivotal, in fact–as a recent UNCP study demonstrates.

Dr. Bishwa Koirala, an economist and director of the Economic and Business Research Center, studied the university's total economic impact and produced individual results for Robeson, Cumberland, Scotland, Bladen, Columbus and Moore counties, the counties where nearly all of UNCP's employees live and spend their paychecks.

Dr. Koirala's findings are eye opening. His model indicates that UNCP is responsible for generating 2,477 jobs in the region and an annual payroll of nearly $70 million.

The study, titled "The Economic Impact of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke for FY 2013," finds that UNCP's total operational impact is more than $104 million, and when student spending and construction are added, the impact is $131.4 million.

"In addition to the educational role of UNCP, it has become economically pivotal for the development of this region, especially in Robeson County and the Town of Pembroke," Dr. Koirala states in the executive summary. "The economic impact of UNCP has stimulating results which are the outcomes of direct economic activities."

"UNCP has a strong and vibrant relationship with Pembroke, Robeson County and its surrounding counties," Dr. Koirala said. "This report highlights the many ways in which UNCP contributes to the region."

DR. BISHWA KOIRALA

Director of the Economic and Business Research Center

UNCP earns prestigious Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification

The university is one of only 240 colleges and universities in the nation to earn the prestigious Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

UNCP earned the highest classification, and the newly elevated status reflects the university's emphasis on curricular or classroom engagement through service-learning courses.

For the 2014 Carnegie report, UNCP offered 38 service-learning courses with 653 students, an increase from 2008, when there were seven service-learning courses with 250 students. Service-learning incorporates civic engagement and community outreach into the classroom.

Civic engagement of all kinds is a growth industry at UNCP. A total of 2,351 UNCP students logged 17,684 hours of service in 2013–14. The number of student-volunteers and service hours have approximately tripled in four years.

Chancellor Carter said the Carnegie Foundation classification is the seal of approval for institutions of higher education, and it is one important measure of student learning.

"An important part of the university experience is to become a responsible, engaged member of society," Chancellor Carter said. "UNCP has made great strides in increasing opportunities for our students to actively participate in the life of the region. Achieving the Carnegie classification tells people unfamiliar with UNCP exactly how we have prioritized citizenship among our students."

Since 1970, the Carnegie Foundation has been the last word regarding classification of institutions of higher education in the U.S. UNCP has actively pursued its approval, said Dr. Cammie Hunt, associate vice chancellor for Engaged Outreach.

> "These are campuses that are improving teaching and learning, producing research that makes a difference in communities, and revitalizing their civic and academic missions."
>
> - Carnegie Foundation

"We have put great emphasis on service-learning and engagement through the classroom. We have also stepped up our community outreach significantly. We are a fully engaged institution, and I am very pleased with the Carnegie Foundation's confirmation," Dr. Hunt said.

Literary Achievements

Economist: Social safety nets ensure growth

Economist Dr. Mohammad Ashraf's newest book examines the impact of public and private social safety nets on economic growth.

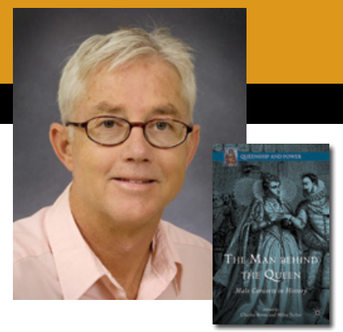
Since the Great Recession in 2008, economists, politicians and pundits have waged a war of words over government spending and social safety nets. Dr. Ashraf's contribution, *"Formal and Informal Safety Nets: Growth and Development in the Modern Economy"* (June 2014; Palgrave Macmillan; 256 pages), takes a look at international research on growth and social spending.

"I wanted to compare different developed countries to see how social spending affected the economic growth after 2008," Dr. Ashraf said. "The argument goes that a strong safety net will lower economic growth because of taxation and the loss of incentives. What I found is that safety nets do provide for economic growth.

"The consensus among economists is that innovation is the engine of economic growth," he continued. "To innovate is a risky business, and individuals are more likely to engage in innovative activities if they have resources to fall back on."

For the rest of us, taking a chance on the high wire is more likely to happen with a safety net.

"Income inequality and social mobility are closely related, and the U.S. is not a leader here," Dr. Ashraf said. To motivate someone to get ahead financially, he says, "there must be some reasonable chance of climbing the economic ladder."



Historian Charles Beem publishes his fifth book

In his fifth book, historian Dr. Charles Beem once again takes the covers off the monarchy, this time to reveal the husbands of queens, from Brazil to Bombay and England too.

"The Man Behind the Queen: The Male Consort in History" (Palgrave Macmillan; 2014) was published on December 17, 2014.

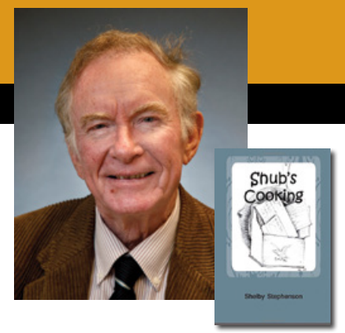
"The papers were so good, I talked with Miles about putting them together in a collection," Dr. Beem said. "No one has looked at the role of male consorts in this way. Filling in the gaps of knowledge is exciting, and I believe it will be quite popular."

It was a three-year project for the editors, and Dr. Beem calls the work "a starting point" on the subject, which is full of contradiction and potential conflict.

"Most consorts are women, so as a gendered female role, a male consort is problematic," he said. "Technically, they are their wives' subjects, but they are also married, in a relationship."

"The Man Behind the Queen" demonstrates that there is no one path for the male consort to follow, Dr. Beem said. "There are consorts who have taken over the role from their wives, and some who have remained invisible."

Democracies also have their consorts, Dr. Beem points out. "If Hillary Clinton is elected president, we will have our first male consort, who is a former president. Men are not always satisfied being behind the throne," he added.



Shelby Stephenson cooks up a new book of poetry

"Shub's Cooking" (Red Dashboard LLC Publishing) is a cookbook embedded in Shelby Stephenson's ode to Southern food. It is his second book of poetry in 2014.

"'Shub's Cooking' is based on my mother, Maytle's, recipes, mostly," he said. "She kept them in a little box with a plastic eagle tacked on the front."

Shelby Stephenson taught at UNCP, wrote poetry and edited Pembroke Magazine, the university's literary magazine. Today, he stays busy writing from the porch of his restored family home.

"Maytle was an artist in the kitchen," he explained. "It's just fun to write. You don't have anything to lose writing."

Stephenson, who was recently enshrined as North Carolina's poet laureate, says "Shub's Kitchen" is a project he has wanted to do for a long time. For a poet who writes about all things rural, why not food?

Maytle's recipes are uncomplicated, and many hark back to an era when kitchens had wood-fired stoves. Wild game was also a standard of country kitchens. "There are only a couple of recipes for wild game," Stephenson said. "My mother had a natural talent for cooking it."

There is plenty more. Who doesn't need a recipe for Southern chess pie? With Stephenson, readers will get their pie served with generous helpings of poetry, whimsy and love of the food that sustained rural people.

"I feel like I owe the world something, not the other way around."

- Ja'Kayla Hill

Ja'Kayla Hill: Campus leader honored for service

As a freshman, Ja'Kayla Hill challenged herself to make the most of college, so she started volunteering.

Four years later, she has made good friends, blossomed as a campus leader and earned the respect of her peers. For her good works, she has been honored as the university's top volunteer.

A social work major from Jacksonville, North Carolina, Hill has been recognized for outstanding leadership and service by North Carolina Campus Compact. She is UNCP's recipient of the Community Impact Student Award.

Hill cofounded a mentoring program at the Pembroke Housing Authority, served as a site leader for numerous days of service and participated in an alternative spring break trip. She also volunteers with Special Olympics and the Southeastern Family Violence Prevention Center.

As manager of the CARE Resource Center, an on-campus food pantry and clothing closet, Hill helps meet the pressing needs of students and community members. She works from one event to the next.

"It's been a good year," Hill said. "We've served 100 students, and we have 15–17 volunteers. I am especially pleased with the number of good volunteers."

The work requires "patience and organization, because it gets busy here," Hill said. "This work means a lot to me. I feel like I owe the world something, not the other way around."

Hill has found a home at UNCP and appreciates the community of friends she is surrounded by. She expects to graduate in December 2015 and go to graduate school.

CARDBOARD BRIGADE

Hill shows off some of the signs that were posted on the University Center Lawn for an upcoming hunger awareness campaign.

ROBERT NUNNERY LOOKS BACK ON A REMARKABLE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Robert Nunnery was busier than ever last fall, his last semester at Pembroke. He was student-teaching classes in civics at Lumberton Senior High School.

Nunnery had a remarkable run here. Starting as president of the Student Government Association, he became the first UNCP student to be elected president of the combined UNC student governments, a position that made him the only UNCP student to take a seat on the UNC Board of Governors.

"Right now, I am teaching five days a week," he said, taking a deep breath. "I think I've made a good career choice."

Nunnery was helped a great deal along the way at UNCP, a place he was not certain he wished to attend.

"The university gives a scholarship to SGA presidents, and they gave me a second scholarship while I was with ASG," he said. "I am very thankful for that, because they didn't have to."

Nunnery said he has much to be thankful for during his time at UNCP. "Pembroke was where I needed to be," he said. "I've made good friends and gotten a quality education. I've grown up as a person."

He said UNCP has supported him, from the Chancellor's Office to the Office of Student Affairs to his academic department. Looking to the future, Nunnery said he will remain in southeastern North Carolina, and he believes his future is in education.

"Long term, I would like to get a master's degree and go into administration," he said. "It's important to get experience in the classroom."

Nunnery has gotten a taste for politics, but he is "not interested in politics for the sake of politics. I am interested in politics with a cause, such as education."

UNC student politics provided the biggest thrills for Nunnery as an undergraduate. His term as president of the Association of Student Governments raised the profile of the group as it weighed in on controversial state legislative proposals, including concealed weapons on campus and voting rights for students.

"Basically, we won the right to vote as residents of our campus community," Nunnery said. "We worked hard to get students to vote in Pembroke too."

A LEGACY OF FIRSTS

Nunnery at SGA's legacy wall. He broke new ground for students as the first to take a seat on the UNC Board of Governors.

Several ASG position papers on controversial issues made national news. There were many other memorable moments, including Nunnery taking a seat on the UNC Board of Governors.

"I got to see how the state works," Nunnery said. "No one could say the ASG didn't get its opinions out there."

Looking back, Nunnery added one final thought: "I was proud to represent Pembroke."

Mikala Lowry: First-year student earns medical school assurance

For most college freshmen, graduate school and careers are a distant dream. But the future is now for the Early Assurance Program (EAP) Scholars, who enter college already accepted to East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine.

Mikala Lowry is UNCP's sixth EAP Scholar. It is a four-year scholarship that comes with medical school admission. High expectations come with steep requirements, but these talented students are up to the challenge.

Lowry is from the Prospect community and is a graduate of Purnell Swett High School. She was salutatorian of her senior class, excelled in three sports and was engaged in many school, civic and church activities.

Early in her first semester at UNCP, she has plans to sign up for the Health Careers Club and NATIONS, a Christian student organization. A high school member of the Native American Student Organization and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).

The scholarship presents a daunting challenge that Lowry calls "scary, exciting and a magnificent opportunity."

Choosing a career as a freshman presented no problem for Lowry. "I can't explain, but I've always wanted to be a doctor," she says.

To gain entry to the Early Assurance Program, Lowry sat for interviews and wrote an essay. In the essay, she cited one of her favorite sayings: "There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."

"Passion and commitment are just a few of the key ingredients necessary for a person to complete medical school and provide critical medical care," she wrote. "There could be no grander benefit than knowing at the end of the day that hard work and sacrifice have paid off."

Early Assurance Scholars have already learned that hard work pays off.

MIKALA LOWRY

UNCP's sixth Early Assurance Scholar, Lowry, a freshman, has earned a place at East Carolina's Brody School of Medicine.

Berri Locklear is UNCP's newest Esther G. Maynor Scholar

The newest Esther G. Maynor Scholar may be from Gaston County, but her family roots are firmly planted in Pembroke.

A future mathematics teacher, Berri Nicole Locklear is the sixth Maynor Scholar, the university's most prestigious four-year scholarship. She is an outstanding student as well as a well-rounded individual.

In high school, Locklear participated in theatre, student government and the teacher cadet program. She coached youth basketball, participated in her church's Youth Praise Team and was second runner-up and voted Miss Congeniality in the Miss North Gaston Pageant.

Honors College Dean Mark Milewicz said Locklear is a great fit for UNCP. "Berri perfectly captures the academic excellence and spirit of UNCP's Maynor Scholars," he said. "Not only does she excel academically, but she is well rounded and service minded."

In an interview before classes began, there is one class that Locklear said she is especially excited about. "I am very excited about Calculus II. I want to be a math teacher and eventually teach at the college level," she said.

But mathematics is not why Locklear chose to come to UNCP. She is named for and is a descendant of Henry Berry Lowrie, the famous hero of the Lumbee people.

"I chose to come to Pembroke because of the American Indian Studies program," Locklear said. "I didn't grow up here. I want to study our history, so I can connect with my family's past."

As school got underway, Locklear contemplated a world of possibilities. "Getting involved in theatre would make me really happy, and I'd like to volunteer in the community," she said. "In my first semester, I'll focus on my studies. Then, when I get adjusted, I'll look for more things to get involved in."

Well said.

BERRI LOCKLEAR

A bright and well-grounded student, Locklear excels in mathematics. She expects to become a fully engaged college student.

ATHLETICS ROUNDUP

Placekicker Connor Haskins had another outstanding year, with 13 field goals.

FOOTBALL REBUILDING UNDER RICHARDSON

The football team posted a 2-8 record under first-year head coach Shane Richardson. The Braves retained the Two Rivers Cup and stayed unbeaten against Fayetteville State. The Braves had a pair of close road losses to Shaw (20-17) and Tusculum (20-17, OT) before snapping a seven-game skid with a 26-0 victory over Limestone in the regular season finale.

MEN'S SOCCER FLASHED BRILLIANCE

After a 0-3-2 start, the men's soccer team rebounded to post a 6-8-3 record in 2014, including a 3-4-2 mark in the Peach Belt Conference. The team ran off seven straight wins at one point. Senior Sam Miles earned a spot on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) all-region squad after leading the Braves.

WOMEN'S SOCCER WAS OUTSTANDING

Blessed with eight returning starters, the women's soccer team turned in an 11-5-3 record in 2014, including a 6-3-2 finish in Peach Belt Conference standings. The Braves blanked Lander in the opening round of the Peach Belt Conference Tournament, but fell 3-1 to perennial national powerhouse Columbus State in the semifinals.

VOLLEYBALL SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

The volleyball team registered a 16-22 mark under third-year head coach Angie Byrd, including a 3-15 mark in the Peach Belt Conference. After a 1-6 start, the Lady Braves registered five straight wins in mid-September, including a perfect run through the GRU Augusta Invitational. Nicole Matthews became the first UNCP player in three years to be decorated with All-Peach Belt Conference accolades after a standout season.

Outside hitter Nicole Matthews elevates for a kill.

CROSS COUNTRY A RUNNING SUCCESS STORY

The men's and women's cross country teams both turned in outstanding seasons under first-year head coach Peter Ormsby. The men finished in the runner-up spot at the Peach Belt Conference Championships, while the women registered a fifth-place finish. Tim Sigmon and Joel Johnston crossed the finish line in fifth and sixth place, respectively, to grab all-conference honors for the Braves, while Sigmon also earned a spot on the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association all-region squad. Both squads finished among the top 10 in the final region polls.

One of many big goals for women's soccer in 2014.

THE O.T. JOHNSON STORY

From war-torn Liberia to coaching success in Pembroke

// BY TODD ANDERSON

Wrestling head coach Othello "O.T." Johnson has a life story filled with adversity, but his life has truly been defined by one of his own mottos: "If you work hard, good things are going to come to you. If you get knocked down, you just have to get back up and keep fighting."

It was a motto that Johnson learned early in life. When Othello was the tender age of eight, his family spent most of their nights finding a way out of their war-torn country of Liberia. The civil war eventually claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people in the West African country.

"I was about eight years old when the first civil war there began. It really shocked the country," Johnson said. "We went from very few people having guns to kids my age–anywhere from seven to 15 years old–carrying a gun, knowing that was their only option for survival. Their moms and dads had been killed, and there was nobody else left in the family, so they didn't have a choice but to join the rebel forces. They knew that was the only way that they were going to eat every day."

As tension in the capital city of Monrovia grew, more and more families began to flee to the countryside. Othello's family was able to take shelter in the U.S. Embassy before it was evacuated.

The family steadily made its way out of the country under the umbrella of night. Words cannot express how grave the situation had become or what their fate would have been had they been captured. The family made their way to a refugee camp in Ghana. "Our aunt went back to the states and worked on getting us out of there," Othello said.

Othello, his two older brothers, his sister and his cousin boarded a plane for Winston-Salem. His niece, Comfort, a newborn at the time, who recently graduated from UNCP, would also make the trip.

"When we got here, my aunt wouldn't let us leave the house for two weeks," Johnson said. "We were so malnourished she spent the first two weeks fattening us up."

Othello's dream was to become the next Michael Jordan. But at the lofty height of 5-foot-2 (with shoes on), he went out for the football team instead.

"One day, after football practice, I was in the weight room, and the wrestling coach came in and told me that I could be a state qualifier as a freshman. I started to win and became obsessed with the sport because I was that good at something."

Following an outstanding prep career, Johnson received offers to wrestle in college, but his grades and low test scores would have forced him to sit out a year. He decided to attend Colby Kansas Community College.

He thrived as a collegiate athlete with the Trojans, twice (2002, 2003) capturing all-American accolades from the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Importantly, Johnson also earned academic honors.

In a chance meeting at a pool conditioning session inside Colby's fitness center, he met his future wife, Ivy Ramsey, who became a three-sport standout for UNCP in basketball, cross country and track and field. The initial meeting was not all sunshine and rainbows.

"She told me I wasn't very good at swimming. We became friends, and it materialized into something more," he said.

Johnson made his way back to UNC Greensboro. It was there that he developed a love for the coaching side.

> Words cannot express how grave the situation had become or what their fate would have been had they been captured.

Having competed in Pembroke, Johnson was impressed by P.J. Smith's program. But Smith had already announced his retirement at the end of the 2005-06 season.

"I didn't actually meet (former UNCP head coach) Jamie Gibbs until August, but he asked me how involved I wanted to be with the program," Johnson said. "I told him that I thought I wanted to be fully involved and that I wanted to try and get as much out of this as I can."

The coaching marriage was magical for the Braves as Gibbs and Johnson led the program to five consecutive top-30 finishes at the NCAA Division II National Championships. The Black and Gold finished in a tie for 17th place at the 2010–11 national tournament, which would be Gibbs's last before moving on to Baldwin Wallace in Berea, Ohio. Johnson was named the program's sixth head coach later that summer.

"It meant a lot to me," said Johnson. "Jamie had enough faith in me to recommend me to take over the program. He believed that I was the right guy for the job."

The program has done nothing but blossom under Johnson's leadership. Under his direction, UNCP has registered three top-20 finishes at the national championships, including finishing in a tie for eighth in his first season. In addition to coaching eight all-Americans and 11 national qualifiers, Johnson led a pair of wrestlers, Mike Williams (2011–12) and Daniel Ownbey (2013–14), to individual national titles–the first two national champions in the illustrious history of the program.

Johnson said, "With the right resources, this team can win the national championship. We have the right pieces to make a run at a top-four finish this year, but this program is in pretty darn good shape. Good things are ahead of us."

GOLDEN BRAVE

Johnson earned the first Dan Kenney Coach of the Year Award in 2013–14. From left: Kenney, former athletic director and chief of staff for Chancellor Carter, with Johnson and Dick Christy, athletic director.

THE SPIRIT OF PEMBROKE THRIVES AT HOMECOMING 2014

The Spirit of Homecoming was on display the week of October 20 in Pembroke. More than 4,000 fans poured into Grace P. Johnson Stadium to watch the Braves battle Newberry College. The weeklong celebration saw two headline events at Givens Performing Arts Center, a color run, athletic contests in five fall sports, a standing-room-only pep rally and much more.

The Athletic Hall of Fame gained five new members: soccer player Whitney Beverly '09, baseball player Jason Morales '10, basketball player Danielle Richardson '07, soccer coach Mike Schaeffer and softball player Jelena Shaw '10.

At the 46th annual Alumni Awards Banquet, Allison Harrington '95 was named Outstanding Alumna, Ken Strickland was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and Derek Brunson took home the Young Alumnus of the Year Award.

As they do at every homecoming, alumni defined the spirit of Pembroke. While tailgating, sisters Audena Walker '79 and Theresa Tyler '77 used the word "family" to describe what the university means to them. "All five sisters are graduates," Tyler said. "Yes, it's a family," Walker said.

Lee Sampson '79 said the university is the pride of the small community where he grew up, and its heritage is defined by the doors of opportunity that continue to open for its graduates. "My uncle, Claud A. Sampson, earned a two-year degree here in 1932," Sampson said.

Redean Cotton '89 played basketball at UNCP in the 1980s and earned a degree in criminal justice. Since the return of football and fall homecoming in 2008, she has reconnected with the university. "I come out to celebrate Pembroke," Cotton said.

Kelli Wallace '02, who was Miss UNCP in 1999, never misses a homecoming. "Every time I come back here, I get a feeling of pride," Wallace said. "I haven't missed a homecoming."

Ashley Doughty '14, who works as a recruiter in the Office of Admissions, defined the spirit of Pembroke through the eyes of prospective students. "We have become a school of choice," Doughty said. "People are excited about UNCP."

Reunion!

The spirit of Pembroke was strong at the 1964 class reunion.

Bobby Jacobs '65, a Pembroke native who attended elementary school on what is now UNCP's campus, said college was eye opening.

Jacobs, who played basketball for the college, said, "Traveling with the basketball team was the first time I ever traveled out of the state." As a football season ticket holder, he enjoys the team spirit of the modern UNCP.

Rudolph Turbeville '64 said the college had about 600 students but half were freshmen when he arrived in 1961–"that's how fast the school was growing."

Dr. Ben Hardin '65, who has practiced medicine in the county for many years, called the college life changing. "My parents couldn't read or write," Dr. Hardin said. "I love this university. Without it, I wouldn't have gone to college."

For Dr. Hardin, UNCP is a family affair too. His son Adam '06 is a graduate and works in admissions, and his granddaughter has been accepted to attend the university.

Turbeville said, "There are really good memories here. Pembroke was my home."

Earlena Chavis Lowry '65 said, "This is home. I have three grandchildren here."

Parade Spirit!

Chancellor Carter lit a fire under the Homecoming Parade, and the fun continued this year. Beauty pageant winners waved while bands played on and students and staff raised their voices in cheers.

The parade entry from the Office of the Chancellor won the award for Best Representation of the Spirit theme.

The parade attracted Fairmont High School's Marching Band, Purnell Swett High School's ROTC unit and Pembroke Middle School cheerleaders. With so many young people riding in the parade, the noise was deafening at times at the reviewing stand.

The town loves a parade, said Traci Brooks '98, who was waiting on the parade route with her children and several family members.

"The parade was really good last year, and we're excited," Brooks said. "The spirit of Pembroke? I would say it's about culture, heritage and growth."

Francine Cummings '14 was on the Native American Student Organization float. "The spirit of Pembroke resides in the people," she said. "The people make it."

And the UNCP community kept on rolling.

Football team falls just short, 13-6

On the gridiron, the Braves capitalized early but let a crucial fourth-quarter chance slip away late and fell just short, 13–6 to the Newberry College Wolves at homecoming.

Both defenses were stout, with UNCP limiting Newberry to just 237 yards of total offense and a field goal in the second half. Unfortunately, the Braves offense could not generate enough scoring opportunities.

Quarterback Seth Owen put the only points on the board for UNCP with a 10-yard run on their first possession of the game. Owen also threw for 99 yards. B.J. Bunn caught six passes, and L.J. Stroman provided excitement with the return game gaining 123 yards on five touches.

The crushing blow came on an interception and 85-yard return by the Wolves' Sharon Irwin in the second period. Despite gaining just four yards of offense in the first quarter and a stifling Braves defense, Newberry went into the locker room at halftime with a 7–6 lead.

The rebuilding football team, which lost 22 players from last year, had lost five straight contests and was 1–6 going into homecoming. The Braves had a chance to win or tie late in the fourth quarter when they pushed down to the Newberry's 16–yard line, but lost the ball on downs.

ALUMNI AWARDS *(Inset Left Page) Athletic Hall of Fame inductees: Whitney Beverly '09, Jelena Shaw '10, Mike Schaeffer, Danielle Richardson '07, Alumna of the Year Allison Harrington '95, Young Alumnus of the Year Derek Brunson '07 and Hall of Fame inductee Jason Morales '10. (not pictured was Ken Strickland, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award).*

REUNION *(Top Left) At the 50th class reunion luncheon were, from left: Morgan Jones '06, '13, director of Alumni Relations, Dr. Mark Milewicz, dean of the Honors College and International Programs, Dr. Ben Hardin '65, Dr. Ken Kitts, provost, Rudolph Turbeville '64, Dr. Earlena Lowry '65, Bobby Jacobs '64, Gervais Oxendine '65, Gloria Lowery '66, Henry Ward Oxendine '64, Hunter Wortham, assistant vice chancellor of Advancement, Tom Wynn '63, Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor of Advancement, and Rudolph Locklear '06, '11, president of the Alumni Board of Directors.*

GIVENS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

A beacon for the performing arts and a community asset

Chancellor English Jones stands in front of his creation 1976.

GPAC Celebrates 40 Years of the Arts and More

// BY DAVID THAGGARD

As the curtain went up for a new season at the Givens Performing Arts Center (GPAC), the lights were shining brighter after 40 years of great entertainment.

As it does every year, this season is offering the best of Broadway and more. Throughout its history, GPAC's stage lights have shined on the arts at their best. In 1985, the Fayetteville Observer called it "a cultural gold mine."

"Thirty years later, we still consider ourselves a 'cultural gold mine,'" said Patricia Fields, GPAC's director since 2001. "As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, GPAC has truly come of age with grace and distinction. Since opening in 1975, this gold mine has become one of the most notable and impressive stages in North Carolina."

The idea of a performing arts center began with former Chancellor English E. Jones, who also sought a larger auditorium for university and community events. Dr. Jones imagined a place where the arts and community could gather.

GPAC was constructed on what was then the far north end of campus and is now closer to the middle. "What better way to introduce the public to GPAC than being located at the front door of the university?" Fields said.

Construction began in 1974 and was completed at a cost of just over $2 million. GPAC's replacement value is now estimated at more than $25 million. It officially opened in 1976 and was known as the Performing Arts Center, or PAC. Soon, it was affectionately known as the "PAC House."

With its modern design, the PAC was and remains one of the largest stages in the southeastern U.S., with a stage that spans 64 feet–only seven feet shorter than the Metropolitan Opera stage in New York–seating just over 1,600.

A three- to four-event season was planned. The opening performance was by popular comedienne Lily Tomlin, who was followed by a sold-out performance by the legendary Ray Charles.

"For several seasons, a four-event series of performances was offered to enthusiastic audiences," Fields said. "Pembroke, which is centrally located to many of the larger communities in the surrounding area, soon saw an influx of traffic as audiences began to grow."

As audiences grew, additional programming was in demand. Several of the earliest performers on the stage were comedian Steve Landesburg, political satirist Mark Russell, musician Taj Mahal and country legend Tammy Wynette. In 1981, the first season subscription was introduced, and 150 season tickets were sold.

After the retirement of Chancellor Paul R. Givens in 1999, the Performing Arts Center was named in his honor. GPAC continued to grow.

"GPAC grew up under Chancellor Givens," Fields said. "Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine came to call GPAC his football team, because it brought so many people to Pembroke."

Others were putting the large hall to good use also. The Lumbee Regional Development Association continues to hold four Miss Lumbee pageants at the center every year. Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's annual membership meeting is held there too.

GPAC annually hosts graduations for the Public Schools of Robeson County, awards ceremonies and performances such as the Very Special Arts Festival for the exceptional children of the county and Studio One, the performing arts wing of the county schools.

GPAC also stages events for UNCP's Theatre Department, as well as many musical events of the Department of Musical Theatre. The building is home to a variety of campus events, such as orientation, convocation, graduate school commencement and the Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant. Every summer, G-Camp, the summer theatre camp for kids, is a hit.

Arts education has long been a part of GPAC's mission. The center is home to the On Stage for Youth Series, which provides schooltime performances for grades K-12 and introduces young audiences to the magic of theatre. "I wish all of our patrons could have witnessed the children's reaction to the snow scene when we staged 'Nutcracker on Ice,'" Fields said. "They let out a huge, collective gasp as the curtain raised as it snowed in GPAC."

Each season, special event performances are added as a bonus to the regular subscription series. "Rent," "Saturday Night Fever," Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," "Shampoo" and the River People Music and Cultural Festival are just a few of these special events.

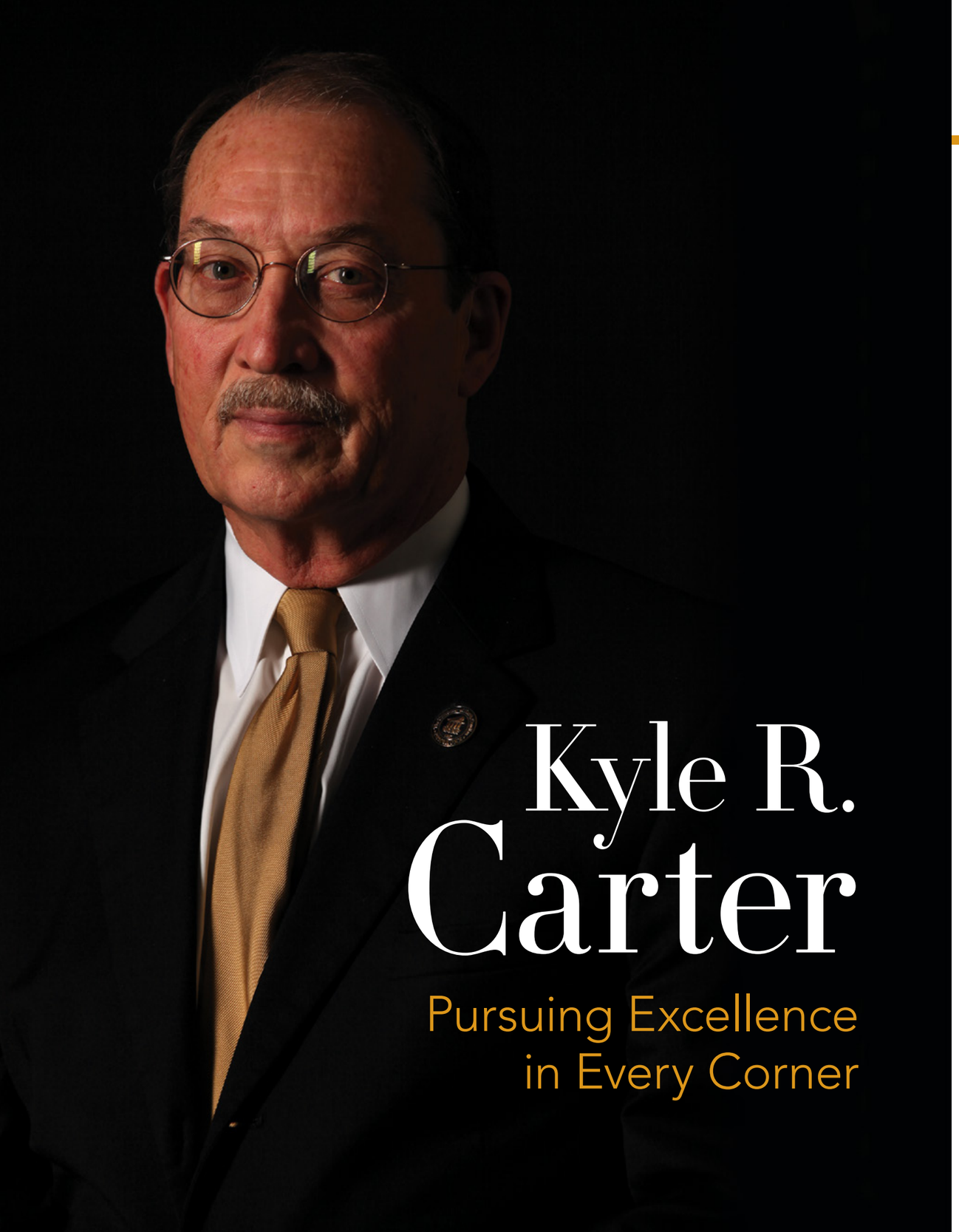
"As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we are excited to offer one of the most diverse seasons yet," Fields said. "We invite you to attend one of our performances and experience GPAC and the spirit of UNC Pembroke.

"Once you visit the Givens Performing Arts Center, you too will call us your home for the performing arts," she continued. "As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we believe it's just the start to an even brighter and more outstanding future.

"We have a seat waiting just for you. See you at GPAC!"

* * *

David Thaggard is GPAC's assistant director in charge of bookings.



Kyle R. Carter

Pursuing Excellence in Every Corner

What is outstanding about Kyle R. Carter's tenure at Pembroke? Everything! In his nearly five years at Pembroke, Chancellor Carter pursued excellence in every corner of the university. A longtime veteran of higher education, this leader had a holistic view of what UNCP should be and what it should do. He pushed, pulled, prodded and propelled the university forward in every way. Dr. Carter had a plan, and he backed it up with the inspiration and resources necessary to get the job done.

A wide-angle vision, plenty of grit and some creative thinking were needed if Chancellor Carter was to complete his mission when the national economy and the state budget went into a tailspin. For him, that meant it was time to do more with less.

Early in his administration, Chancellor Carter laid out four sweeping themes: facilitating student success, reaching out to the region, becoming an institution of choice and making the university more efficient and effective. These overarching goals were the yardstick by which everything was carefully planned and measured.

Chancellor Carter's Four-part Mission:

- Student Success
- Outreach
- Efficiency & Effectiveness
- Institution of Choice

Student Success

In 2012, Chancellor Carter introduced his mantra, "One Team for Student Success." He handed out buttons with the saying, and it echoed through campus, from faculty advisors to housekeepers. Increased community engagement, new dining options, new intramural playing fields, added programming and new staff all contributed to a more robust student experience.

In his first convocation address to new students, Chancellor Carter said his expectations for student success were very high. He proceeded to set standards high. With a new Academic Standing Policy, he raised the grade point average (GPA) required for students to remain in school. He tightened the standard for Satisfactory Academic Progress for students receiving federal financial aid. He also raised admission requirements for GPA and SAT/ACT. The new standards had short-term and long-term impact.

Enrollment declined by nearly 700 students in fall 2011. Chancellor Carter never blinked as recruiters in the Office of Admissions continued to tell the Pembroke story–that small classes, caring faculty and affordable tuition can make a college dream possible, recession or no. Enrollment steadily increased every year after 2011.

Looking to the long term, Chancellor Carter took aim at retention and graduation rates, two primary measures of student success. A reorganization and consolidation of academic support programs proved a masterstroke. Retention rates improved in each year of the Carter administration. The number of tutorials and referrals of at-risk students grew dramatically. GPAs for all students pushed ahead every year. Offices that serve students were beefed up, including support services for the growing number of transfer and veteran students.

Individual academic programs, like the nursing program, registered outstanding achievements. The School of Business, the Master of Social Work and Mental Health and School Counseling programs all earned important accreditations, which assure high academic standards and student success in the job market.

As state and federal financial aid declined, university fundraisers and grant writers went to work for students. The popular Arrowhead Scholarship was established and funded through special appeals to donors. Privately funded scholarships set a record in 2013–14 with 26 new endowments. The university secured additional student aid via two federal grant programs that benefited dozens of students in STEM fields. Another grant program will provide paid internships for as many as 80 graduate social work students.

Student-athletes set high water marks on the playing fields and in the classrooms. Baseball, football, wrestling and men's basketball earned national rankings and NCAA tournament bids. Two national champions were crowned in wrestling, and individual competitors earned all-American status. In 2013–14, the university set a record for student-athletes on the Peach Belt Conference Honor Roll. And the graduation rate hit an all-time high in the 2014 NCAA report. The Braves graduation rate outpaced all UNC Division II schools and surpassed the national average by more than 10 percent.

PEER THOUGHTS

Dr. Kenneth Kitts, Provost & Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs:

Chancellor Kyle Carter has provided superb leadership during a very challenging time for public higher education in North Carolina. He has brought stability and a sense of vision to UNCP. His emphasis on quality has elevated the reputation of this campus, both within the UNC system and across the Southeast. On a more personal level, I consider myself blessed to have had Chancellor Carter as a friend and mentor. I have learned much about strategic thinking, grace under pressure and the art of balancing efficiency with compassion. Perhaps most impressive has been his unflinching belief in the importance of UNCP's mission and his commitment to ensure that we serve our students well. Chancellor and Mrs. Carter care deeply about all members of the UNCP family. They are people of quiet dignity, and I wish them all happiness in their retirement.

Dick Christy, Athletic Director:

Dr. Carter has put our students and their achievement at the forefront of every decision that he has made. His commitment to improving student performance and the overall college experience is what attracted me to his leadership team. He focused on the big picture, and he has fully supported our efforts to improve the athletics experience and improve resources available to our coaches and student-athletes. The Carters' dedication to the university has been inspiring, and UNC Pembroke is a better place because of their leadership. Chancellor Carter has positioned us well for the future.

Outreach

Every year of the Carter administration, UNCP was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The university earned the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in early 2015. Only 240 universities in the nation earned this prestigious Carnegie classification. The university was upgraded to full status because of Chancellor Carter's support of civic engagement in the classroom programs via service-learning courses.

Chancellor Carter reached out to the community. He met with tribal leaders, expanded children's summer camps and launched certificate programs at the Office for Regional Initiatives (formerly Regional Center). Programs like "Voices of the Lumbee," the award-winning documentary film, and the Literacy Commons, which launched literacy programs in several schools, were funded.

The most significant achievement of the Carter administration is the Entrepreneurship Incubator. It was a stroke of creative genius to wed the incubator concept with two existing and successful small-business consulting programs, the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship and UNC's Small Business and Technology Development Center. Funding came from all directions: the federal Economic Development Administration, the state Golden Leaf Foundation and private contributors. Besides helping small and start-up businesses, the incubator will give business students opportunities for learning. This program will have a lasting economic impact in a community that badly needs it.

SINGULAR ACCOMPLISHMENT

Chancellor Carter addresses a crowd at the ground breaking for the Entrepreneurship Incubator, his administration's most ambitious project. It combines the best elements that a university can have. Funded by a public-private partnership, it will reach out to the community for economic development, while stimulating teaching and learning among students and faculty. It was through sheer determination that all the pieces came together, and the project will be a lasting legacy of Chancellor Carter's tenure at Pembroke.

Efficiency & Effectiveness

Planning and budgeting during the Carter years were trying because state appropriations took a nosedive in 2009. From $57.6 million in 2008, state appropriations fell to $51.9 million in 2014. Annual reversions of funds kept university accountants busy and planners in the dark. The lack of salary increases for faculty and staff challenged morale and recruitment of faculty and administrators. Despite this environment, Dr. Carter kept lines of communication open on campus. He managed rumors, avoided layoffs and kept academic programs intact.

UNC Pembroke continued to pursue its strategic initiatives. Chancellor Carter put the university on a course to be carbon neutral by 2050. Recycling programs made money, and conservation programs saved money. A sustainability director and an energy manager were hired.

Raising external funding was also critical. The Office of Advancement met its 2013–14 goal by raising $1.8 million. Marketing of the university also advanced, with a complete rebranding that included a new logo, graphics and website that put a new face on the university.

NEW TRADITIONS

With wife Sarah, Chancellor Carter leads first-year students north across the bridge to convocation. In the spring, he leads graduates south across the bridge to commencement. An outdoor spring commencement on the historic Quad was a new and popular addition.

Institution of Choice

Chancellor Carter would, undoubtedly, say that becoming an institution of choice remains a work in progress for UNCP. Many, many others would say the university has arrived.

Last fall, as first-year students assembled for the annual class photo, there was a great deal to celebrate. Enrollment (6,269) continued to grow, signifying that Pembroke has secured a place with North Carolina's college-bound students. Prospects for fall 2015 look good, according to the Office of Admissions.

The other great news about fall 2014 enrollment is the success of the university's strategic plan to focus recruiting efforts on community college students. It paid off with a record number of transfer students (589).

Outstanding scholarship is another piece of becoming an institution of choice. In kicking off the celebrations of UNCP's 125th anniversary, Chancellor Carter announced the formation of the Southeast American Indian Studies program that is designed to expand the scope of American Indian Studies at UNCP. It was an important acknowledgement of the university's heritage and an expansion of scholarship.

Faculty research got the attention of national and international audiences

Continued on next page

PEER THOUGHTS

Dr. John Jones, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs:

Dr. Carter's leadership allowed the cabinet to effectively steer the university toward a more student-centered environment. Continuously promoting student engagement and learning, he inspired us to become an enriched team working toward common goals in creating a robust campus community and advancing student success. We were fortunate to work alongside a chancellor who encouraged feedback, created settings where learning could flourish and who embodied the values of a true team player.

Wendy Lowery, Vice Chancellor, Advancement:

During my three years at UNCP, it has been a pleasure to experience Kyle and Sarah's unfettered passion for the students, faculty and staff of our university. Through Sarah's warm smiles or the Chancellor's undeniable emotion while telling the story of UNCP on one of our video tributes, one never had a doubt where their hearts lie. They are and forever will be the Spirit of the Brave. It has truly been an honor to have shared in this chapter of their lives. I feel confident UNCP will continue to prosper as a result of their unwavering commitment during the past five years.

Dr. Richard Cosentino, Vice Chancellor, Business and Finance:

Chancellor Carter's ability to be a strategic thinker and his thorough understanding of the details that make up the university's financial position have made him uniquely qualified to navigate these troubling financial times.

SUMMIT IN PEMBROKE

UNC President Tom Ross and Gov. Pat McCory pose with Chancellor Carter during an historic higher education summit in Pembroke.

(Continued from previous page)

with books, published papers and research on diverse topics like Alzheimer's disease, traumatic brain injury, the Civil War, ocean-going turtle migration and more. Dr. Ben Bahr won the coveted UNC Board of Governors James E. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service in 2013. Retired professor and former Pembroke Magazine editor Shelby Stephenson was named North Carolina's poet laureate in 2015. When the Board of Governors met at UNCP for the first time ever in 2013, Gov. Pat McCrory came to deliver his first statewide address on higher education.

Superlatives rained down from U.S. News and World Report and other rating agencies. Importantly, the university went from being unranked in past U.S. News rankings to 42nd among its peer institutions in the south. U.S. News took note of other high-quality programs and very affordable tuition. The emphasis on veteran student success earned UNCP "military friendly" and "best for vets" labels.

MBA students Daniel Bought and Lewis Adams bested all comers to win the UNC Social Entrepreneurship Competition. UNCP students are presenting their research across the nation.

UNCP is gaining recognition for things that the university and community have known all along. For instance, the Givens Performing Arts Center was rated one the top 20 university stages in the nation. These are just some of the things that make us an institution of choice.

Future historians will give high marks to Chancellor Carter's time in Pembroke. In a time that tested the commitment of North Carolinians to the future direction of higher education, Dr. Carter set UNCP on a steady course for the stars. One thing is certain–**this is a better place because of Kyle R. Carter.**

Advancement

Change can stir up emotions such as fear, anxiety, excitement and opportunity. In the world of higher education, change is inevitable as we strive to provide the optimal environment for students in an ever-changing world. A university must adapt to change in order to provide a high-quality education while remaining competitive and attractive to prospective students. A university must also stay in tune with the current professional environment in order to attract high-quality faculty and staff. And occasionally, a university must prepare for a change in leadership.

As you know, UNCP is in the midst of preparing for this change. Our Chancellor, Kyle R. Carter, will begin his well-deserved retirement in June of 2015. This will allow him to move to the next chapter of his life and give him the opportunity to spend time with family–a step most of us yearn for.

Chancellor Carter brought me home to my alma mater in late 2011. I landed in a position that would afford me endless opportunities to make an impact at an institution that has done so much for so many. The commitment that both Kyle and Sarah have made toward our efforts in Advancement is pervasive. We have worked together to build upon the foundation that was built by those before us. Although we faced several budgetary challenges, a commitment was made to connect with a broader base of alumni, to steward those donors who believe in our institution and to ensure that our team has the resources to prepare for an even stronger future.

The support we received during the Carter administration will continue to make an impact on our ability to garner private support for years to come. The Carters' sense of community, preservation of the university's historical roots and commitment to UNCP students and alumni will be their legacy. I, along with the members of the Advancement team, will be forever grateful.

Now, as the university embraces this impending change, we need the voices and support of our alumni and friends to be strong, visible and steady. We are preparing for a new set of ideas. We will look to a new vision that will continue to expand upon the strengths of our university and a leader who will carry us to an even higher level. As you receive letters, emails and phone calls asking for your support, I hope you feel compelled to give. Please give in a way that reflects your passion and expresses your appreciation for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Wendy Lowery

WENDY LOWERY

Scholarships Still on the Rise

A sampling of recent gifts

THE VAN DWIGHT SAMPSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: Family, friends, and colleagues of the late Van Dwight Sampson - The scholarship will benefit former participants of the Robeson County Parks and Recreation Department majoring in health, physical education and recreation.

PATTIE & LUTHER LOCKLEAR AND PEARLIE M. & HARDYWELL LOCKLEAR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Samuel and Katrina '63 Locklear - The scholarship will support residents of Robeson County majoring in nursing, elementary education or music education.

LARRY DWIGHT FREEMAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: Larry's three children: James, Kyland and Lindsey Freeman The scholarship is open to residents of Robeson County in any major.

MARION CRADDOCK ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK & FIELD

Established by: Marion Lee Craddock Jr. '75 - The scholarship will support a deserving student-athlete on the cross country or track and field team.

THE GORDON AND MARY LEA DOVE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNC PEMBROKE ATHLETICS

Established by: Gordon "Gordy" Dove III - This scholarship is open to any student-athlete demonstrating financial need.

MIKE AND DARLENE RANSOM SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: Darlene Ransom '80 This scholarship will support students who are members of a state or federally recognized tribe and pursuing a degree in social work.

JAMES E. AND NANCY M. MARTIN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: James '67 and Nancy '69 Martin - The scholarship is open to students in any major who are residents of North Carolina and exhibit a financial need.

STEPHEN A. HAMMONDS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: Ronald G. Hammonds This scholarship supports students majoring in science, math education or an agriculture-related program.

JAMES B. AND EVELYN J. KIRKLAND MIDDLE GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: James B. Kirkland Jr. The donor wishes to recognize outstanding juniors or seniors in middle grade language arts. This scholarship is open to education majors. Incoming juniors and seniors are preferred.

KAY MCCLANAHAN ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS

Established by: Dr. Mark Canada, Kathy Gallucci, members of the campus community and Dr. McClanahan's family - This scholarship will support deserving students enrolled in the theatre program.

THE TURBEVILLE-PERRITT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: Rudolph Turbeville '64 This scholarship is intended to help students to pay airfare, room and/or board for an international educational experience. The scholarship will be awarded to students who demonstrate commitment and dedication to getting a global education.

MARY ALICE PINCHBECK-TEETS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

Established by: Mary Alice Pinchbeck Teets '58 - This scholarship is open to residents of Robeson County who are undergraduate American Indian Studies majors.

PINCHBECK-TEETS FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN MUSIC

Established by: Mary Alice Pinchbeck Teets '58 - This scholarship is open to residents of Robeson County, demonstrating a financial need, who are music majors.

NAT AND SANDRA TOLAR ENDOWED ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP

Established by: Nat '70 and Sandra '72 Tolar - This scholarship is open to a student-athlete participating in any major and sport.

SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION DINNER

Lycurous Lowry meets with the recipients of the scholarship that honors his parents.

The university believes that donors should know firsthand that their generosity is appreciated by those who benefit from it the most. In its 10th year, the Scholarship Recognition Dinner gives scholarship recipients an opportunity to meet their benefactors.

It is a popular event, and with an attendance of more than 300 last year, the University Center Annex was bursting at the seams. "We have had so much growth in our endowed scholarship programs that we may have to find a larger facility," said Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor for Advancement. "We added a record 28 new endowed scholarships last year. This is a great problem to have."

The news brought an ovation from the guests. Chancellor Kyle R. Carter, who had announced his retirement only days earlier, was moved. "This room is a wonderful sight," Chancellor Carter said. "We've worked very hard over the last four and a half years to make this a better place, a university of choice.

"The best part of my job has been experiencing firsthand the success of our students," he said. "It is clear that UNC Pembroke changes lives, and the scholarships you've provided are changing lives.

"Our students are the beneficiaries of your generosity, and you are the beneficiaries of their spirit."

Alexis Jones, a freshman who aspires to be a nuclear engineer, said her scholarship "allows me to focus on my studies instead of my financial needs."

Marcus Sherman, a veteran, said, "Graduation has been a long and arduous journey for me. I owe my success to you donors, this university and the government."

Vivienne Leavan, a Spanish and digital art major, said a scholarship "is like a dream come true. It made me work harder. College is hard without a lot of money coming in. The scholarship took a lot of the worry off."

Michelle Hernandez, a soccer player from Sweden, put it simply: "Without scholarship support, I would not be here to thank you .. Thank you."

RONALD HAMMONDS

Hammonds honored his grandfather with an endowed scholarship. Stephen A. Hammond's educational journey culminated at Croatan Normal School with a degree in 1896. He was truly a pioneer of education in the county.

Stephen A. Hammond: Education pioneer left a remarkable legacy

In his determined pursuit of education, Stephen A. Hammond rode a bicycle from the Saddletree community north of Lumberton to Pembroke daily to attend the little school that is now UNCP. Croatan Normal School had just opened in 1887, and the school began training American Indian teachers like Hammond, who would spark a local revolution in education. Before attending school in Pembroke, Hammond attended Magnolia School and the Thompson Institute, an African American subscription school in Lumberton. He completed his studies in Pembroke in 1896, and at the age of 21, he began a long teaching career.

Stephen Hammond's legacy as a teacher, farmer, preacher and founder of one of the area's great families is huge in this community and far beyond. To honor his grandfather's legacy, his grandson Ronald Hammonds has endowed a scholarship in his name.

"The endowed scholarship represents the legacy of Stephen Andrew Hammond and his pursuit of education, commitment to his family and community and his dedication to faith," said Ronald Hammonds. A farmer and agri-businessman, Ronald Hammonds continues the family legacy in the Saddletree community.

The endowed scholarship was established with a gift of $10,000 to the UNCP Foundation, Inc. The Stephen A. Hammond Endowed Scholarship Fund is a perpetual gift that will provide the resources needed for UNCP students to obtain a college degree. The recipient must be a resident of Robeson County with demonstrated financial need.

Jim Kirkland Establishes an Endowment at UNCP

Hard work, community and education are important to Jim and the late Evelyn Kirkland, and they wish to pay it forward by investing in the future of the things they value.

They chose UNC Pembroke to establish the James Bryant Kirkland Jr. and Evelyn Johnson Kirkland Middle Grade Language Arts Endowed Scholarship. The perpetual endowment will benefit high-achieving education majors with demonstrated financial need.

Evelyn, who was a career teacher, passed away in 2013, and as Jim says: "We talked about this for a long time." The Kirklands chose to invest in education because it was important in their lives.

Their 50-year marriage began in college when Jim met Evelyn Johnson while they were students at East Carolina University (ECU). Evelyn earned an undergraduate and graduate degree in education at ECU. Jim earned a business degree.

"Evelyn was a believer when it came to education," Jim said. "I believe in academic scholarships and helping kids with college expenses."

Evelyn knew the importance of scholarships. She was one of the first recipients of ECU's North Carolina Prospective Teachers Scholarship, the predecessor of the Teaching Fellows Program. The Kirklands have established scholarships at ECU and, now, Pembroke.

"We watched Pembroke grow," Jim said. "It's a great institution that's helped a lot of kids make something of themselves.

"For Evelyn, education was a calling, like the ministry; she had a calling from the get-go, from the sixth grade, to be a classroom teacher," Jim said. "Even though she could have gone into administration with her master's degree in school leadership, she never lost sight of the importance of the classroom teacher, because they're on the front lines."

Jim delights in the idea of giving back or "paying it forward," he says. "I encourage other people to give."

"[Pembroke] has helped a lot of kids make something of themselves."

RUDY TURBEVILLE

With classmates at the 50th reunion of the Class of 1964.

Turbeville-Perritt Scholarship will open students to the world

Scholarships help students, Rudolph (Rudy) Turbeville believes, but a scholarship to foster international experience changes lives. Turbeville, who is a 1964 graduate, has established the Turbeville-Perritt Endowed Scholarship to help students study internationally.

From Chadbourn, North Carolina, Turbeville is a man for all seasons and a self-described citizen of the world. He would share both his forested estate near Mt. Gilead, Noth Carolina, and his view of the world with UNCP students.

"I like to take a larger view, and being a citizen of the world carries a certain responsibility," Turbeville said. "That view is prevalent among the French in particular."

As the Turbeville name indicates, he is of French ancestry, but his first taste of the world came far from France. He joined the Army out of high school at age 17.

"Being stationed in Korea is what did it for me," Turbeville said. "It was not long after the war, and much of their country was in ruins. My unit built a school. I had empathy for the Koreans.

"Wherever a student goes, studying internationally will broaden their outlook of the world," he said. "This affects the quality of our nation's citizenship and our government.

"I hope they also learn compassion and understanding," Turbeville said. "We need more of this. We are basically an ethnocentric nation that believes everyone should be like us."

Coming out of the Army in 1961, Turbeville discovered Pembroke State College. His worldly outlook resonated with this unique rural community.

"I had a pleasant experience during my student days," he said. "I made a point to meet people. I tried to integrate into the community, and there was a level of trust extended to me that was not common."

Last year, Turbeville decided to put additional properties on the market. Proceeds from the sale will add to the Turbeville-Perritt Endowment, which honors his grandmother Josephine Perritt, who spent her last years in the Turbeville household.

"I want to honor that side of the family," he said. "They are of French ancestry also."

Turbeville is pleased with the mission of his endowment, and he believes that studying abroad is a starting point to students' international experiences.

"I am hopeful and idealistic about the endowment at Pembroke," Turbeville said. "I feel at home whenever I'm in Pembroke. I am the richer for it."

Davis Enloe endowment honors running great Garry Henry

Davis Enloe '76 learned about Pembroke State University from an article in a Greer, South Carolina, newspaper. It was a life-changing moment.

"The article was on Ed Crain, who was from a nearby high school," Enloe said. "He was having success as a track coach at Pembroke State University.

"At the time, I was working the third shift in a print mill, and knew I didn't want to do that the rest of my life," he said.

Enloe parlayed his talent for running hurdles into a degree from the university and many wonderful memories. After graduation, he taught high school, earned a master's degree in creative writing and retired from the South Carolina National Guard with the rank of major.

The former track and field standout had not seen Pembroke in 35 years. But when he got the idea of creating an endowed scholarship, Enloe decided to return.

"When my wife, Mimi, created an endowment to honor her mother, it caused me to remember Garry Henry, an all-American runner for us," he said. "Garry was an incredible guy and one of the most authentic people I've known. So, I created a cross country scholarship in his honor."

Henry is UNCP's greatest distance runner of all time. Besides earning numerous all-American honors, he led the university to its only team national championship in 1979 under Coach Crain. At $120,000, the Garry Henry scholarship is one of the biggest athletic endowments at UNCP.

"It's funny how the best memories are often the ones that don't cost a thing," Enloe continued. "Call it nostalgia or longing, or just appreciating where I came from."

Enloe got in touch with the Office of Advancement and planned a trip to Pembroke. "My younger brother, who is also a graduate, and I came back for homecoming," he said. "The university has really changed, and it was nice to get back, meet new people and see some old friends."

HOMECOMING

Davis Enloe, second from right, was honored with a vintage cross country jersey during Homecoming 2014. Also pictured are Alison DeCinti, director of development, Chancellor Carter and cross country Coach Peter Ormsby.

Alumni President

These are exciting times at UNCP! The university continues on its path of growth and expansion–in enrollment and in the physical size of the campus. EXCELLENCE! ENGAGEMENT! EXPANSION! These three powerful words are at the very core of the vision that is unfolding here.

Our beloved university has experienced significant and steady growth over the past several years, while achieving a high standard of excellence. Under the visionary leadership of Chancellor Carter, the physical size of the university has grown by 50 percent.

As the university embarks on its 128th year, I hope you share my pride in our alma mater. It is important for alumni to know that every one of us has a role to play. Even in this challenging fiscal environment, I have every confidence that we will reach new heights, set new standards for excellence and achieve greatness at every level.

I would challenge you to think of ways you can give back to the university to whatever degree you are comfortable with. The Alumni Association looks forward to your continued support of UNCP through:

- **Engagement:** To be the leaders who engage our students, alumni and friends to connect to the university through meaningful alumni activities, volunteerism and advocacy.
- **Scholarship:** To grow the alumni endowment to provide more student scholarships that will attract the best and brightest students.
- **Recognition:** To showcase alumni who have achieved professional success and have made significant community contributions.

While I'm talking about things to be proud of at UNCP, this year marks the 40th anniversary of our beloved Givens Performing Arts Center. GPAC continues to uphold its reputation as one of the region's premier destinations for arts, culture and entertainment. Join me in wishing GPAC another 40 years of vibrancy and inspiration!

I have an overwhelming sense of pride in our alma mater that I know you share. As alumni, I am excited about what we can do together as the university grows. The legacy we are leaving behind will foster tradition and pride in the generations of UNCP students to come.

This is a great time to be a BRAVE!

RUDY T. LOCKLEAR '06, '11

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HOMECOMING WEEK 2015!

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CLASS NOTES

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Rudy Locklear appointed to Judicial Council

Rudy Locklear '06, '11, a Robeson County magistrate and president of UNCP's Alumni Association, has been appointed to the North Carolina Judicial Council, an advisory and oversight body of the judicial system. Locklear is currently serving his eighth year as a magistrate and third term as area director on the North Carolina Magistrates Association.

With more than 13 years of law enforcement and judicial experience, including having worked with the Robeson and Scotland County sheriff's offices and both the Pembroke Rural and Pembroke City fire departments, Locklear serves as an adjunct instructor at UNCP and Robeson Community College. He recently earned his general instructor certification from the N.C. Criminal Justice and Training Standards Commission.

"I'm looking forward to this new role as an opportunity to provide input to improve our judicial system from the perspective of the magistrates across the state," Locklear said. "I am a firm believer in setting smart goals and sharing those goals with the people that can help us get there. At the end of the day, we can't come close to achieving these goals without identifying what we're doing right and what we could be doing better to make the North Carolina Judicial System the most productive it can be."

Linda Jacobs publishes two books for children

Linda Locklear Jacobs '02, '04 said she has been too busy to enjoy the pride of authorship. She recently published two children's books: "Life on the Farm with Marcus and Mia" and "Summer on the Farm with Marcus and Mia."

"I plan to get out and promote the books more now that I have some time," she said. "It's an easy reading book for kindergarten through fourth-grade readers. I think they would be good books for parents to read with their children, too."

Jacobs started the book in Dr. Swanee Dickson's reading class. "We were given a blank hardcover book and an assignment to make a children's book," she said. "We had to be very particular about our word choices for early readers." The story line is about adventures of Marcus and Mia and how they learn to care for each other by watching farm animals. The real Marcus and Mia are Jacobs' grandchildren.

A series of temporary jobs convinced her to go to college. "I was working in the (UNCP) Bookstore when it came to me that I could do this," said Jacobs. "It just came to me suddenly."

The first-generation college student pursued that dream with all her might. Her persistence paid off with good grades and being named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll twice. Marcus and Mia are following in their grandmother's footsteps in attending UNCP.

ALUMNI

Class of 2014

ARMY SPEC. JORDAN L. LILLY '14 has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, he studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, and physical fitness and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare, bayonet training, drill and ceremony marching, marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, the military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises.

LEANN STRICKLAND MELVIN '14 began a position at UNC Pembroke on July 15, 2014, as the assistant director of Parent and Family Services. The Office of Parent and Family Services fosters the relationship between parents, families and students to enhance student development. As natural partners with the university, parents and families are encouraged to support total student learning and to empower students to take personal responsibility for their social and academic choices. The department partners with New Student and Family Orientation to facilitate successful transition to the university while developing ongoing communication between students, parents and families, and the university to provide student support. LeAnn was united in marriage on November 1, 2014, to Kevin Locklear Melvin, who will be graduating from UNCP in December 2015.

Class of 2013

KELLY MAYO CLARK '13 is a reporter at the Daily News-Record in Harrisonburg, Va. Kelly is married to Noah Clark '12, who was a copy editor for the Pine Needle. Noah has worked as a government and education reporter for the Kinston Free Press newspaper. Kelly and Noah are in the process of moving to Harrisonburg.

BRIAN THOMPSON '13 is Ardrey Kell High School's new wrestling coach. He was a four-year starter and captain at UNC Pembroke.

Class of 2012

The UNC Asheville Athletics Department is pleased to announce the hiring of **NICK PHILLIPS '12** as the school's new director of athletic media communications. Phillips spent the past two years as the sports information director at Louisiana State University Eunice, where he handled all athletic media relations efforts and day-to-day responsibilities for each of LSU Eunice's athletic teams. While in college, he worked with a pair of collegiate baseball teams, the Lake Norman Copperheads of the Southern Collegiate Baseball League and the Wilmington Sharks of the Coastal Plain League, in media relations roles. A native of Rocky Mount, N.C., Phillips graduated with his bachelor's degree in mass communication, with concentrations in broadcasting and journalism.

OFFICER HEATHER LYNN WYATT '12 was promoted to the position of investigator in Hamlet, N.C. She has been an officer in Hamlet for the past two years. Wyatt graduated from basic law enforcement training at Richmond Community College and was voted by her peers as best overall cadet. She has completed 200 hours of training at the North Carolina Justice Academy in the field of criminal investigations.

Class of 2011

BRITTANEY TYLER '11 and Bradley Strickland '14 were united in marriage on July 26, 2014, at Shannon Assembly of God. Brittaney works for the Public Schools of Robeson County. Bradley is employed by Lumbee Guaranty Bank.

Brad Allen breaks into the NFL

Brad Allen '91 is a little older than the typical NFL rookie, but like them, he climbed the ladder from high school to college to the pros. Allen, a Lumberton native and resident, began his career as an NFL official this season. He has excelled at all levels since putting a whistle around his neck in 1986.

As a veteran member of the Atlantic Coast Conference football officials, Allen got the call last spring from the NFL. His start was memorable because he wore the white hat of the referee, who is the official with the microphone. He is the first rookie to do that since 1962.

In a recent interview, Allen called the news of his promotion "a surreal moment." For someone who has worked college bowl games, it was the reward for a distinguished career.

When he's not working NFL games, he serves as regional supervisor of high school basketball and director of the North Carolina Senior Games.

Paul Norman '65: Memoir of a sharecropper's son

PAUL W. NORMAN SR. '65 is one of seven children born into a family of sharecroppers. He worked his way through college to earn a degree in business administration from UNCP.

Norman has held management positions at several large companies, including RJ Reynolds and Leggett and Platt. Having many exciting and funny adventures as a student, he decided to put them into print.

"The Cloud is Drifting Slowly Across the Sky" was published in October 2014. In it, Norman reflects on aging by returning to his youth.

"My life is like that cloud, slowly drifting away," Norman said. "There's nothing I can do about it; as the Bible says, man is appointed once to die. Someday, I will cast no shadow, and the cloud will have slowly gone beyond the horizon. Yes, the cloud is slowly disappearing.

"The Bible tells us that our days are like a cloud that crosses the sky and slowly disappears," he continued. "Today, I am going back to the place of my youth where the cloud first appeared. A certain amount of nervous anticipation began to funnel through my brain as the turnoff to my past approached. A beautiful multicolored leaf with its beautiful hues of green, gold and red blew across my windshield. I do not need any more reminders that Father Time is slowly ticking away."

Class of 2010

The Shelby Star welcomed lifestyles reporter **WADE ALLEN '10** to its newsroom in the fall of 2014. He will cover entertainment, health, food, fitness, faith and feature stories. Allen grew up in Rutherfordton. He received his bachelor's degree in mass communication with a concentration in broadcasting and journalism at UNC Pembroke. Before joining The Star, he worked at The Gaston Gazette for four years. Allen started as a crime reporter and later covered education. He has written articles about students, parents, teachers and schools in Gaston County.

JON BAEZ '10 is a marketing and communications operations professional with IBM living in Durham.

KELSEY CUMMINGS '10, the first graduate student to win the Miss UNC Pembroke title (served two years), recently graduated with a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in May 2014. Cummings is currently teaching music at Piney Grove Elementary School in Lumberton, N.C.

In the summer of 2009, **JJ DAVIS '10** was dreaming of winning a gold medal. He spent a couple of months at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he was given the opportunity to build on the skills that made him a state champion wrestler at Byrnes High School and a two-time all-American at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke. Fast-forward five years, and Davis has replaced his Olympic gold medal dreams with visions of gold and platinum records. Having taken the stage name JJ Dae, the burgeoning singer-songwriter and guitarist was recently nominated for best male R&B artist at the seventh annual South Carolina Music Awards.

Class of 2009

MOLLY CAPPS '09, '11 has been named principal of Aberdeen Primary School. Capps has been with Moore County Schools since 2012, when she became part of the Instructional Design and Innovation Team as an English language arts curriculum specialist. From 2006 to 2012, Capps was with Cumberland County Schools, where she served as an English teacher at the middle and high school levels. She received her doctorate in educational leadership and curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2014. She also holds master's degrees in school administration and reading education from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Her undergraduate degree is in middle grades education from North Carolina State University.

The Southern Pines Police Department welcomed **ROBERT WESLEY PAGE '09** to its officer ranks. Page recently completed a four-year commitment in the United States Army with deployments to Djibouti, Qatar and Turkey. He has extensive training in security management, safety inspections, interagency liaison, intelligence, counterintelligence, surveillance, survival, interrogation, psychological operations and cultural communications. Officer Page is a graduate of UNC Pembroke with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

AMANDA PAGE STRICKLAND '09 and Donavon Hunt were united in marriage on June 7, 2014, at First Baptist Church in Lumberton. The bride attended Lumberton Senior High School and The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She works as a loan officer for Lumbee Guaranty Bank. The groom attended Purnell Swett High School and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He works as an engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The couple spent their honeymoon in Key West, Florida.

Class of 2008

STEFANIE PHILLIPS '08 '13 is the new principal at Aberdeen Elementary. Phillips has worked for Moore County Schools since 2009, where she was most recently a curriculum specialist for the Science/Healthful Living department. She served as an assistant principal at Pinecrest High from 2012–2013 after working as a science teacher. Prior to coming to Moore County Schools, she worked with Scotland and Bladen county schools. Phillips holds master's degrees in school administration and science education and a Bachelor of Science degree in education, all from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

ROYCE MCNEILL GOLF SCHOLARSHIP

Pictured from left are Drew McBean, assistant golf coach; Laura Bird, a member of the golf team; Ronnie Chavis; Larry McNeill; David Synan, head golf coach; Terry McNeill; Lewis Adams, a member of the golf team; Dick Christy, UNCP athletics director; and Juanita Rico, assistant golf coach.

Golf scholarship established for Robeson sports legend

The late **Royce McNeill '68** was an icon of Robeson County athletics. And he had a lot of friends who took time out this summer to honor his memory by contributing to an endowed scholarship for golfers at UNC Pembroke.

In early September, a check for $4,000 was presented to bring the scholarship to $12,000 and establish the Royce McNeill Endowed Golf Scholarship at UNCP. The endowment represented proceeds from two very successful golf tournaments. McNeill's brothers, Terry and Larry, explained how the scholarship came to be.

"Ronnie Chavis came to the family with the idea of a golf scholarship at the university," said Terry McNeill. Chavis, a 1972 UNCP graduate and Robeson County's athletic director for many years, was a longtime friend and colleague.

"I thought we should do something special for Royce," Chavis said. "In 30 years of working in athletics, he touched the lives of so many people, especially kids."

To raise funds for an endowed scholarship, McNeill's brothers and Chavis decided a golf tournament would be both productive and appropriate. Chavis explained, "Royce organized and played in so many golf tournaments to help other people that this seemed like a perfect way to remember him."

The participating golfers enjoyed the tournament, Terry McNeill said.

"After the event, they asked us to keep the tournament going, so we're planning another one for next year," he said. "We'd like to do a scholarship for women's basketball at the university, and after that, who knows."

The endowed scholarship is perpetual, and its proceeds will benefit golf at UNCP. The endowment stipulates that the recipients be North Carolina residents and they maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

After graduating from UNCP, Royce McNeill coached at Prospect and Purnell Swett high schools. He was athletic director at both schools.

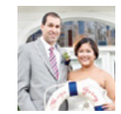
"Royce loved sports, he loved Purnell Swett High School and he loved this university," said Larry McNeill, who was a member of UNCP's Campus Police for more than 30 years. "He would have loved to play in this one."

Class of 2007

ERICA DELLINGER '07, of Pembroke, and Adam Atkinson, of Charlotte, were united in marriage on April 12, 2014. Erica attended Purnell Swett High School, UNC Pembroke and Campbell University of College of Pharmacy and Health Services. She works at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. The couple currently reside in Southern Pines, N.C.

SHAUN KRENCICKI '07 has assumed the position of leadership at the Community Learning Center at Pinckney with Moore County Schools. Krencicki is also completing a year with the Sandhills Leadership Academy and is finishing an internship at Union Pines High School. He will assume the principal's position at Pinckney on July 1. Krencicki began his teaching career in 2000 at New Century Middle School but left to teach English in South Korea in 2002, where he remained for three years while he and his wife ran a small English language school. He returned to New Century Middle School in 2005. In 2010, Krencicki taught at Crain's Creek Middle School until he joined the Sandhills Leadership Academy this year. Krencicki received his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and his Master of Arts in Teaching degree from UNC Pembroke.

Class of 2006



MAYA KIMBERLEY BUDIHARDJO '06 married Jerry Richardson on September 27, 2014, in Cary, N.C.

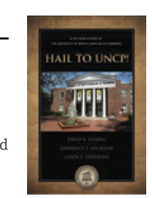
The Haigler and Wallace Co., which makes personalized leather, wood and nylon products including belts and dog collars, has been selected for inclusion into Who's Who for Executives and Professionals, the company announced in September 2014. Acceptance to Who's Who is limited to individuals who have demonstrated their leadership ability as well as achievement within their occupation, industry or profession. The company is owned by **SHARON HAIGLER WALLACE '06** and Jackie Wallace Jr. This will be the third year their company has been selected for this honor. Haigler and Wallace have also been selected for candidacy into the Worldwide Who's Who Registry and the Top 100 Business Leaders, which comprises "the largest network of professionals in the world." Their products are currently for sale through Intuit websites and on eBay, Etsy, Blujay, Artfire and Amazon stores. Sharon is a graduate of Richmond Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in administrative office technology, and UNCP, where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. She attended graduate school at UNCP in the school counseling program and has been accepted into Appalachian State University's graduate program in educational media, new media and global education.

DR. LEE R. LOWERY '06 has joined the Southern Pines Women's Health Center, a FirstHealth clinic. He likes the location because it is close enough to his hometown of Pembroke for frequent visits. His new colleagues are also a good fit, and he has the opportunity to practice the type of medicine he has wanted to do since high school. Lowery graduated from UNCP with highest honors and a degree in biology with a biomedical emphasis. He attended the UNC School of Medicine on a Board of Governors medical scholarship, earning his degree in 2010. He completed his OB-GYN residency at Vidant Medical Center of the East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine in Greenville earlier this year.

AARON PERKINS '06, an eight-year employee of Brunswick County, was promoted from athletic coordinator to director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Perkins holds a bachelor's degree in recreation from UNCP and has Brunswick County roots.

Class of 2005

"Hail to UNCP! A 125-year History of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke" has been awarded the Willie Parker Peace History Book Award by the N.C. Society of Historians. The award was presented on October 25 at the annual meeting of the society. The book was coauthored by Dr. Linda Oxendine, the late Dr. David Eliades and **LAWRENCE LOCKLEAR '05, '12**.



Class of 2003

William Todd Propes and **GINNY MARIE BRIDGERS '03** were married on December 6, 2014. Bridgers attended UNCP and works for Astellas Pharma.

DR. MATTHEW PERKINS '03 has joined the Towson University UTeach program as a clinical instructor/master teacher. He is coteaching multiple introductory secondary education courses, working with math and science majors placed in several schools across the county. The former director of the Robeson Planetarium and Science Center is also teaching an introductory astronomy class and presenting the programs to the public.

Class of 1997

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT JENNIFER GRAHAM '97 recently joined Southeastern Medical Clinic in Red Springs, an affiliate of Southeastern Health. A native of Pembroke, Graham completed a bachelor's degree at UNC Pembroke in 1997 and physician assistant training at Wake Forest University in 2006. She has a special interest in the treatment of patients with diabetes. The clinic offers complete family medicine services. Graham joins PA Bob Hollingsworth at the clinic.

RAY SHEPPARD '97 was named director of distance learning at Bladen Community College. Sheppard, a Cumberland County native and graduate of Cape Fear High School, has worked at BCC since 2008 as an adjunct instructor and full-time faculty member. He is a graduate of BCC and The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Class of 1995

A Lumberton speech pathologist has been appointed by Gov. Pat McCrory to the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists. **ALLISON HARRINGTON '95**, who is the owner and president of Speech Solutions, was appointed to the seven-member board on October 22. Harrington will serve on the board until 2017. Harrington opened Speech Solutions in her Rowland home before moving it to its Fayetteville Road location in 2004. She has expanded the business to include offices in Laurinburg, Whiteville and Shallotte. Harrington is the executive chairperson for the Lumbee Regional Development Association Policy Committee and is the founder of the Allison Harrington Endowed Scholarship, which provides support for residents in Robeson and Brunswick counties to attend The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

In 2014, Harrington was given UNCP's Outstanding Alumnus Award. She taught middle school in Robeson County for more than four years and has been a speech language pathologist for 14 years.

Class of 1993

After a five-year hiatus from coaching at the high school level, **DAN WILLIS '93** is returning to Laney High School as the head wrestling coach. Willis, who graduated from UNC Pembroke in 1993 with degrees in psychology and physical education, is practically a wrestling coaching legend in the Cape Fear region. Willis coached from 1995 to 2004 at Hoggard High School and from 2006 to 2009 at Laney.

Class of 1991

CHIFFON STRICKLAND JENKINS '91 was born in Lumberton and currently resides in Atlanta, Ga. Growing up in rural North Carolina as an only child, she loved children's stories and her endless adventures playing with her cousins at their grandmother's farm. Jenkins is drawn to the strength and resilience of children and said: "It's the purity of young imagination and the sense of being able to do anything that makes me long to write about, and for, children." "A Day With Gran" is the first book from the Goldflower Adventure Series. This story is meant to introduce young readers to Olivia and explain how her sense of adventure and bravery are given life. Olivia's imagination always gets the best of her. A cast of characters from various background the cultural diversity of the heroes makes it easy for any reader to attach him to a relatable character. "A Day With Gran" is currently available at Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle editions.

Jackie Jacobs '86 pens stylebook for Indian Country

Jackie Jacobs '86, a Robeson County native and former Miss Lumbee, has coauthored a new e-book designed to help journalists write accurately and authoritatively about American Indians.

A 1986 graduate, Jacobs has more than 30 years of media and public relations experience. She is one of four American Indian media professionals behind the "Indian Country Stylebook for Editors, Reporters and Writers."

"My goal with this project is to help educate journalists, editors and writers that things are different in Native America," said Jacobs, who works as a communications specialist for the Quileute Tribe of La Push, Washington. "There's a lot of confusion regarding sovereignty and the Freedom of Information act. It doesn't apply in Indian Country, and most don't understand why."

Released on December 1, 2014, the guide is modeled after "The Associated Press Stylebook."

The "Indian Country Stylebook" comprises more than 100 entries on spelling and word usage. As an undergraduate, Jacobs served as UNCP's director of Resource and Promotions. She describes her work at the college, where she headed a campus-wide telecommunications project, as a formative experience.

"I don't think the new graduates realize that we built that broadcasting program at the university from the ground up," she said. "It was where I cut my teeth."

The "Indian Country Stylebook" can be purchased online.

Jamie Burney is PSRC's Teacher of the Year

Jamie Burney '01 has taken another step in a successful teaching career by being named the 2014–15 Teacher of the Year for the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Burney was a Teaching Fellow and a busy student at UNCP. He was twice elected a senator to the Student Government Association. He was elected vice president his senior year and also served as treasurer for the UNC Association of Student Governments.

At Fairmont Middle School, where he teaches language arts, Burney continues to be involved. He is faculty advisor to the school's Junior Beta Club. On a bigger stage, Burney is past president of the Robeson Association of Educators and currently on its board of directors.

"Absolutely, teaching was the right choice for me," he said. "There is a lot of work if you're doing it right. I make sure my students understand the material, and if they don't, I go back and rework my lesson plan."

A Lumberton native and first-generation college graduate, Burney was an outstanding student in high school and college. He is also a firm believer in lifelong education.

Ronette Gerber assumes new legal duties at UNCP

In September, **Ronette Sutton Gerber '89** was appointed the director of Title IX and Clery Compliance. She previously served as associate general counsel for the university. The position is the most recent addition to the staff of Office of the Chancellor.

In this role, Gerber oversees the administration of policies, procedures and data collection to ensure UNCP's compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 as it relates to gender discrimination, with particular emphasis on sports, employment and sexual harassment. She will also instruct and manage the university's compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act, which requires an annual reporting and disclosure of campus crime statistics for all colleges and universities.

"It requires a good understanding of the law, familiarity with university policy and the ability to work collaboratively with multiple constituencies," Chancellor Carter said. "Ms. Gerber brings all these skills to the table, and I'm pleased that she has accepted this new role."

Gerber will collaborate with various university departments, including Police and Public Safety, Student Conduct, Human Resources and Athletics. Her duties will also involve consultation with the Campus Judicial and Appeal boards.

"I'm excited about the transition from associate general counsel to director of Title IX and Clery Compliance," Gerber said. "Gender discrimination and sexual assault are important issues for this and all universities to address. I look forward to working with staff, faculty and students to ensure this is a safe campus environment that is free of these issues; a place where everyone can have enjoyable professional and academic experiences."

Gerber holds both Juris Doctorate (1997) and Master of Public Administration (1992) degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill, and is a 1989 graduate of UNCP, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Kimberly Locklear promoted to director of purchasing

Kimberly Locklear '98, '05 has been promoted to director of the Purchasing Department.

As director, Locklear manages the purchasing programs of university and has responsibility for planning, directing and coordinating all functions as relates to the purchase of goods and services. She brings to the job more than 13 years of purchasing experience in higher education and reports to Carlton Spellman, assistant vice chancellor for administration.

Proficient in state purchasing laws and policies, Locklear has considerable experience with UNCP policies and procedures as well.

Locklear is also proficient in Banner, UNCP's data management system, and BraveCart, the university's procurement program that was created by SciQuest. She served as the department administrator for BraveCart and led its implementation.

A 15-year UNCP employee, Locklear is excited about the new opportunity. "It's going to be a learning experience, but this opportunity gives me the chance to use both my knowledge and training," she said. "We have a great staff in place who are capable, knowledgeable and experienced."

As the new director of the Purchasing Department, Locklear will focus on customer service and training.

"The role of our office is to facilitate the success of every department and office on campus," Locklear said.

A Laurinburg, N.C., native, Locklear earned a degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Public Administration.

Class of 1990

RUSS CRANSON '90, has been named the district manager for the Wilmington, N.C,. District of the Social Security Administration. Cranson's service area encompasses two offices and five Southeastern N.C. counties.

Lee University has tapped **DR. JEFFERY MCGIRT '90** as the new director of the school's Charlotte center campus. The campus operates under Lee's Division of Adult Learning and offers undergraduate degrees for both traditional and adult students. McGirt comes to Charlotte after pastoring for over 20 years at East Laurinburg Church of God. He has served on the denomination's State Council and Evangelism and Home Missions boards during his tenure as pastor. Dr. McGirt earned both his doctorate and his master of divinity degrees from the Pentecostal Theological Seminary. He received his undergraduate degree from UNCP in elementary education and was a certified K-4 teacher before entering full-time ministry.

ANTHONY SMITH '90, plant manager of Contempora Fabrics in Lumberton, has been selected Robeson County's Industrialist of the Year for 2014. Smith was recognized for his accomplishments at Robeson County's annual appreciation dinner, held in Lumberton. The event was sponsored by the Robeson County Committee of 100, BB&T, Lumbee Guaranty Bank and the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation. Contempora Fabrics, which specializes in knit fabrics, currently has about 160 employees. A native of Lumberton, Smith earned a degree in business management. After graduating from the university, he became a knitting supervisor at Contempora, followed by maintenance and safety committee chairman, knitting department manager and then plant manager, a position he has held since February 2003.

Class of 1989

MARK KINLAW '89, a Lumberton native and longtime vice president at Robeson Community College, has been tapped to lead Rockingham Community College as its president. He has served as vice president for Instruction and Support Services at RCC since 2001. Before that, he worked as the chairman of the school's Early Childhood/Social Science Department from 1997 to 2001. He was director of Title III technology grants from 1994 to 1997, and director of Planning and Research from 1988 to 1994. Kinlaw taught college-level education and history for five years and previously worked with the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Class of 1988

Topsail High School of Pender County has named **DEANNA MORRIS '88** as athletic director. She is a graduate of Eastern Wayne High School, where she ran track and cross-country and UNC-Pembroke, where she was a member of the crosscountry team. Morris has been teaching for 20 years, the last 10 years at Spring Creek, a grade six–12 school. She has served as the middle school athletic director and the high school assistant athletic director. Morris is the president of the NCAAE (North Carolina Association of Athletic Education), a division of the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance and Sports Management (NCAAHPERD), a nonprofit organization of athletics, health, physical education, recreation, dance and sports management professionals. Morris has been married for 15 years and has two grown daughters.

Eddie Mac Locklear contributes Indianhead nickel art

Indianhead nickels are highly collectible, and this one is priceless to **Eddie Mac Locklear '58**.

A rare hand-painted 1935 Indianhead nickel necklace was gifted to UNC Pembroke on August 28 in memory of Locklear's wife, Mary Ellen. Set in gold and accented with a piece of turquoise, the piece is framed and mounted above a dedication plaque. The artwork will go on display in the Chancellor's Residence.

Locklear and several family members–daughter Sharon '85, son-in-law Eric '84, and granddaughter Josie–met with Chancellor Carter to make the presentation. Locklear collected coins as a hobby for many years and specialized in Indianhead nickels. Lately, he has been gifting them to friends.

"I gave one of the painted ones to a visiting professor from South Africa," he said. "So, there is one in South Africa and one in Pembroke.

"The family agreed to the gift, and we think the Chancellor's Residence is a good place for it," he said.

Locklear, who worked for Robeson Community College for many years, is one of the original 100 members of the Braves Club, the university's athletic booster club. He is currently a member of its Board of Directors.

Chancellor Carter called it a unique piece of art that is a good fit with the university's heritage.

The Indianhead nickel is also known as the buffalo nickel because of the image on the reverse side of the coin. They were issued from 1913 to 1938 and represent some of the most iconic art that the U.S. Mint has produced. Recent prices for the five-cent pieces run into the hundreds of dollars, depending on condition and other factors.

MAC CAMPBELL GIFT

University officials recently recognized Mac '68 and Sylvia Campbell for their continued generosity to athletics and the School of Business. From left they are: Dick Christy, athletic director, Hunter Wortham, assistant vice chancellor of Advancement, Mac Campbell, Dr. John Parnell, interim dean of the School of Business, and Wendy Lowery, vice chancellor of Advancement.

Class of 1987

DR. JAMIE OXENDINE '87 is a Native American speaker, writer and teacher, storyteller, professional musician/educator and civil rights activist. He is of Lumbee/Creek ancestry and a member of The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Oxendine sits on several state boards, including the Ohio Humanities Council and The War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and was recently appointed by the governor, after approval of the state House and Senate, to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Board for nominating and approving sites for the National Register. He also sits on the K-12 Education Committee and chairs the Grants Policy Committee. Oxendine has also been appointed to the Fallen Timbers Battle Commission and teaches "Indians of North America" at the College of Languages and Sciences at the University of Toledo.

Class of 1984

ALVINA B. BLANKS '84 has joined the faculty at Frances Marion University as an instructor of mathematics. She earned an M.A. and a B.S. in mathematics education from Pembroke State University.

Class of 1982

ELIZABETH WARD '82 was named one of Pitt County's Elementary Teacher of the Year winners. Ward currently teaches third- and fourth-graders at Falkland Elementary School. She is National Board certified.

Class of 1976

JEFF CUSHING '76 died on January 6, 2015. Cushing was an NAIA All-American in 1975 after winning the 1,000-meter run in the indoor national championships. He was named to the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. Cushing pursued sports and recreation across several career endeavors, and died after being struck by an automobile while riding a bicycle on a country road in Robeson County.

Class of 1969

On July 18, **STEVE CLARK '69** reached the summit of the 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro. Steve, a former teacher in Virginia, Alaska, Washington, England, Turkey and the Czech Republic, participated in a six-day Tanzanian safari following his climb.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. KAY MCCLANAHAN, professor and chair of English, Theatre, and Foreign Languages, died peacefully at her home on June 14, 2014. She had been battling cancer since December 2013.

"Those who knew Kay appreciated her quick wit, fierce loyalty, attention to detail and unfiltered honesty," said Dr. Wendy Miller, a colleague. "She was deeply devoted to her friends, colleagues and students, and she will be terribly missed."

She earned a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts degree from American University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Andrews Presbyterian College. Dr. McClanahan came to Pembroke in 1999.

Friends of Dr. McClanahan have established a scholarship in her name for theatre students at UNCP.

TESSIE LEE HUNT '42, a 1942 graduate of Pembroke State College, died on September 28, 2014. She was 93.

Hunt was a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. She was a founding member of the Lumbee Tribal Elders and participated regularly in their activities, including quilt making.

In 2007, Hunt attended the dedication of UNCP's Heritage Walk, where her name is inscribed with early graduates from when the college was all-Indian. Hunt taught school for two years in Fairmont, worked in nursing at Baker Hospital in Lumberton and returned to teaching at Magnolia School, where she remained for 28 years.

Her mission work to children included teaching Bible studies. She was a member of the Pembroke chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club, which endowed a scholarship at UNCP.

MAGDALENE C. CANADY '35, the university's oldest living graduate, died on January 2.

Canady, or "Mag," as she was affectionately known to friends and relatives, was 102 and a member of the class of 1935 when UNCP was known as the Cherokee Indian Normal School.

Canady lived in Antioch, about five miles south of St. Pauls. "She was very well known," said Lawrence Locklear, university historian. Through his research, Locklear discovered that she was the college's oldest living graduate, and that she was having her 100th birthday.

Canady, who was the oldest of four children, received a two-year degree, as the school did not award four-year degrees until 1940. Canady was the last of the one-room school teachers among the Lumbee Indians and one of the last in the county. She taught at the old Barker School near St. Pauls and later taught at Magnolia School.

BARTO CLARK JR. '50 died last fall at the age of 88. A Pembroke native and lifetime resident, he died on October 27, 2014.

He was born in Robeson County on March 24, 1926. Clark, or "Uncle Buck," as he was known to family and friends, was a World War II veteran. When he returned from the war, Clark enrolled in Pembroke State College and graduated in 1950.

He was the president of the Student Government Association in 1949-50, and his engraved image hangs on the Wall of Presidents in the James B. Chavis University Center. Clark's name also appears on the university's Heritage Walk in front of Old Main with all the school's graduates until 1955. Clark was a teacher and principal, and for his church, he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher.

JAMES FURMAN "BUDDY" BELL '58 did it all with grace and humility. A veteran, athlete, educator, civic leader and patriarch of one of Pembroke's outstanding families, Bell died on December 24, 2014, at the age of 83.

Bell was a proud supporter of UNCP and Purnell Swett High School athletics. He helped lead the charge for the return of football in 2007, and was a founding member of the Braves Club, a university trustee from 1988 to 1991 and a recipient of UNCP's Distinguished Service Award.

Bell was a member of the Pembroke Jaycees, Lions Club and VFW. He also served for many years on the Pembroke Parade Committee and was the grand marshal of the 2014 Pembroke Twilight Christmas Parade.

He was a graduate of Magnolia High School and served in the Korean War.

Popular mass communication professor **TONY CURTIS** died on January 23, 2015, after a brief bout with cancer at the age of 74. Dr. Curtis is survived by his wife of 37 years, Judy Curtis, who is an associate professor of mass communication.

Dr. Curtis taught in higher education since 1967 and came to UNCP in 2002. He received an Outstanding Teaching Award in 2012. He served as the chair of the Faculty Senate and as president of the Friends of the Library.

Dr. Curtis and Judy breathed life into UNCP's journalism programs and into the Pine Needle. Possessing a lively and engaged mind, he had deep interest in space, electronics, computer technology, amateur radio and journalism.

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In Tribute
To Sarah Carter

UNCP's First Lady Sarah Carter has been an ever-present figure on campus for the past five years, serving as official hostess for countless campus and community groups – opening the Chancellor's Residence to 40 or more events each year. Sarah was a faithful committee member for landmark events such as the university's 125th anniversary celebration, the Board of Governor's meeting and the faculty-staff holiday party. She was instrumental in the creation of the Hawk Walk, a fitness trail through campus, and many of the sustainability efforts on campus. It is with admiration and fondness that we say thank you and wish Sarah and Kyle the very best in their retirement.