

833 receive degrees, become alumni

Marching in as students and departing as alumni, 833 men and women graduated May 18 during UNCW's thirty-sixth commencement ceremony. Among those attired in cap and gown were the university's first graduates of its Master's of Business Administration program, begun in 1982. Nine graduates received MBA degrees in the program designed for employed persons who seek evening classes to earn the master's degree. Master's degrees in science and education were also awarded.

The pomp and circumstance of the ceremony was broken with the pop of champagne corks and when students stood and applauded parents and faculty who helped make graduation a reality.

Asheville lawyer Philip G. Carson, chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, delivered the commencement address. He described graduation as a celebration of new beginnings when graduates congratulate themselves, each other and the faculty. Carson advised graduates to give of themselves.

"You must contribute to the solving of the problems of this fragile world. Use your skills to benefit mankind," he said. "We are the world. We are the children."

Honorary doctoral degrees were conferred upon Wilmington physician Hubert A. Eaton and retired UNCW educator J. Paul Reynolds.

Eaton received the honorary doctor of laws degree for his service to UNCW and the Wilmington community and his leadership in desegregation efforts. He is a member and former two-term chairman of the UNCW Board of Trustees.

During his acceptance speech, Eaton remarked that most of his successful efforts to destroy local discrimination and injustices were resented; however, time has tempered such reactions and today adverse racial attitudes are fading.

"I am convinced that The University of North Carolina at Wilmington has contributed to these changing attitudes and this is but one of the reasons that I am proud to have been associated with this institution for the past eight years," Eaton said.

The honorary doctor of science degree was awarded to Reynolds whose distinguished career in higher education spans 43 years and five institutions. In 1964 he joined Wilmington College as dean of the faculty and professor of biology, and subsequently served as vice chancellor for academic affairs from 1969 to 1971. His tenure was marked by the advancement of this institution to a four-year college, inclusion into the UNC system, addition of buildings, and increase in students and faculty.

During the ceremony, John William Morris III of Wilmington was awarded the 1985 Hoggard Medal. The annual award is presented to the graduating senior who has shown the most improvement during his years at the university.

Morris first came to UNCW in 1975 but dropped out with a poor academic record. He reenrolled in 1983, established an outstanding academic record, and graduated with a degree in history. He is pursuing a master's degree in the underwater history program at East Carolina University, a nationally acclaimed program that admits only 12 students per year.

Angela Maria Valenti was named the Alumni Association Achievement Award recipient for graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.



Linda Williams, a UNCW graduate from Durham, thanks her parents in a unique way for their contributions to and support of her campus life at UNCW.



(Top) UNCW's first MBA graduates await diplomas at the Business School's reception following commencement.



(Left photo, center) Hubert A. Eaton and (right photo, center) J. Paul Reynolds receive honorary degree citations and doctoral hoods from Charles H. Cahill (l), vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Chancellor William H. Wagener.



Yield to campus pedestrians

UNCW pedestrians have the right of way. In April the campus became a "pedestrian campus," giving pedestrians in crosswalks the legal right of way. Appropriate signs telling motorists to yield to pedestrians have been erected at campus entrances and at all crosswalks.

Traffic is increasing on the campus due to a growing university population, along with the many non-university individuals who use university streets for short cuts or other reasons.

"We are trying to alleviate accidents before they happen," said Joe Johnson, chief of UNCW campus police.

The campus police have issued warning notices to motorists to increase awareness of this safety precaution. After a certain time, motorists who fail to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks will be issued tickets to appear in district court.

In addition, a jaywalking ordinance requiring pedestrians to use crosswalks when available has been issued by campus police. Joggers and runners are required to run facing traffic and to run single file when using campus streets.

"Our next step will be to provide additional safety for bicyclists," said Johnson.

Fasten seat belt signs have also been erected at exits of campus parking lots and streets to increase awareness of this safety precaution.