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wasn't Miller's first connection with UNCW. In 1960 the Woodruff, S.C. native left the cotton-mill town and came here to college on a baseball scholarship, playing second base.

"It was Wilmington Junior College then and it was my opportunity of a lifetime," Miller said. "I probably wouldn't have gone to college if I didn't have that scholarship."

He reluctantly provides the details of his life. "We didn't have much money," he recalls. "My father worked in the cotton mill all his life." Miller was the fourth of five children. "My father started there at 14 and retired at age 70. In fact, at times both my parents worked in the mill."

So, with his scholarship and his baseball glove in hand, he came to Wilmington with the goal of an education and the dream of one day playing professional baseball, ideally for his favorite team: the Boston Red Sox. "I grew up knowing I wanted to play baseball," Miller said.

In his two college years here, Miller helped put Wilmington on the map. He ignited the college team's run to the 1961 National Junior College Baseball Championship. And he collected first-team All-American honors. Leaving Wilmington, he went to study and play baseball for Wake Forest, where he helped propel the team to the Atlantic Coast Conference title. There he again earned All-American honors.

Miller is one of only 24 athletes or coaches

in the UNCW Athletic Hall of Fame, where he was inducted in 1999.

When he graduated from Wake Forest with his degree in physical education he played professional baseball. "I played for the New York Mets," he said. He played second base for the Mets farm club in Williamsport, PA. for a year.

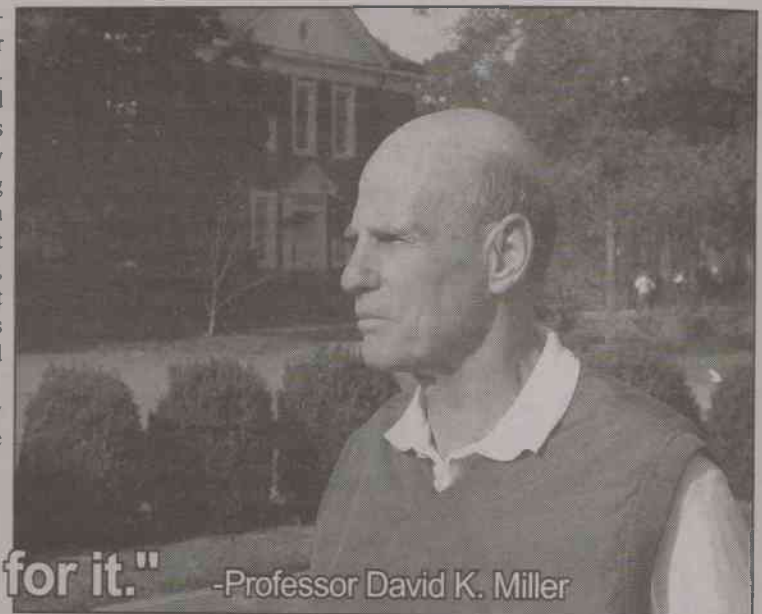
"But I have no regrets," Miller said. I ended up here teaching and coaching. And if I couldn't play baseball, I sure could be happy coaching."

Among his positions at UNCW, he has been the associate vice-chancellor for Academic

UNCW has been very good to me.

I hope I've been good for it."

-Professor David K. Miller



Don Hacker | THE SEAHAWK

Affairs, the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and chairman of the Physical Education and Recreation department for eight years.

While he admits he's going to miss the students, it is the faculty and staff he will miss the most. "I've taught for over 30 years with some of these people...They are my friends..." he said, his voice trailing off. "This is a top-of-the line faculty."

One friend of 35 years is Larry Honeycutt,

coordinator for PED 101. When told there was a story being written about Miller, Honeycutt said. "He's a good one... especially because

he's one of the few people on this campus older than me."

Although Honeycutt is only a couple years younger than Miller, he obviously likes joking about it. "Seriously though, he actually was my teacher my senior year at UNCW," Honeycutt said. "He was a tough teacher, fair

David Miller stands on the grounds of a campus that he has watched grow from infancy. As the longest standing faculty member currently employed by the university, he can remember a time when the campus consisted of only five buildings.

but hard."

Miller said that's a fair comment on the four-decade teaching career he has enjoyed and which has gone by quickly.



More parking questions at Wrightsville

BEN WIMMER
STAFF WRITER

A new parking proposal currently under consideration at Wrightsville Beach could put a noticeable cramp in commuter's wallets.

This month Lanier Parking Systems-- the company that handles meters and other parking issues for Wrightsville Beach--came up with a new proposal which should be decided on before the next busy parking season which

begins March 1, 2005.

The new proposal could add several new parking meters, raise the price of meters from \$1.25 to \$1.50, raise all-day parking from \$8 to \$10, and enforce the meters until as late as 11p.m.

Lt. Hank Narramore of the Wrightsville Beach Police Department reminds citizens that the increase is not guaranteed. "This is actually the third or fourth year that this proposal has come up and the recommendations

haven't really changed," says Narramore.

Along with many motorists, a local business group, the Wrightsville Beach Merchants Association, opposes the increase in parking and hours as well. The increase would, however, help fund the Wrightsville Beach Parks and Recreation department, and help provide lifeguards and police officers for the busy summer months. The Wrightsville Beach Board of Aldermen is expected to vote on the proposal sometime in February.



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On the Feb. 16, a soul food dinner will be prepared in Wagoner Hall displaying authentic African-American dishes.

"It is important for people to understand their history and where we come from," said Christy Settle, a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill.

The month of February was chosen as Black History month because the birthdays of the abolitionist Frederick Douglass and the celebrated poet Langston Hughes fall during this month. It's also the month the NAACP was founded.

Carter G. Woodson believed that studying African-American history is beneficial to counter white racial prejudice and educate the American public on a much-needed piece of lost history. Often referred to as "the father of Negro history," Woodson spearheaded the movement to establish a national celebration of black heritage.

There are several other events going on around the Wilmington area to honor America's historical past in the coming month that host activities ranging from guest speakers to community dinners. Those interested should contact the local chapter of the NAACP at (910) 762-5990.