

PEMBROKE STATE UNIVERSITY
 by Gary Warren
 Director of Public Information

PSU BASKS IN THE GLORY OF THREE PINNACLE DAYS OF CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Three pinnacle days of celebration! This is a way of describing the multiple centennial celebration events which occurred last Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Pembroke State University. With these events, PSU's celebration of its 100th birthday during this 1986-87 academic year reached its zenith.

Gov. James Martin's visit...the unveiling of the statue of Hamilton McMillan, one of PSU's founders...Eric Sevareid's speech...the announcement at the elegant Centennial Founder's Day Banquet that PSU has exceeded its three-year fund-raising goal of \$1 million...the N.C. Symphony's performance...the premiere performance of Elliot Del Borgo's "Centennial Ode" done so beautifully by the PSU concert band...the influx of hundreds of musicians for the 12th annual PSU Instrumental Music Festival...the national TV exposure on ABC and NBC...the excellent "Carolina in the Morning"



Jim Ogle conducts the N.C. Symphony Orchestra last Friday night in a concert which attracted an estimated 1,500 to the Performing Arts Center.

hour-long program, hosted by Wayne Jackson and devoted to PSU's centennial on WECT-TV in Wilmington...the superb coverage by area media, etc. It all made for three tremendous days in the life of this century-old institution.

PSU also made every effort to have President Ronald Reagan visit. He was unable to, but sent a special letter by federal express which was read by Chancellor Paul Givens at

the Thursday convocation and again by Dr. Joseph Sandlin, PSU distinguished executive in residence, at Friday's banquet. The letter said in conclusion: "I congratulate the Pembroke State University family on this historic occasion, and you have my best wishes for the next century of excellence in education."

Gov. Martin, in his speech, said: "Pembroke State University, our nation's first four-year, public-supported institution of learning for Native Americans, today stands and shines as one of the brightest stars in our galaxy of higher education."

Chancellor Givens, in his welcome at the convocation, said: "Today we celebrate the 100th birthday of Pembroke State University, and I am delighted that we have come together as students, faculty, trustees, alumni and friends to hold our heads high and say how much we appreciate being a part of this University family."

Special Alumni Participate

Two of PSU's outstanding alumni were part of the platform party participating in Thursday's convocation.

Bearing the golden mace was the grand marshal for the occasion, Mary Hammond Locklear, class of '33.

Giving the invocation was Rev. C.W. Maynor, the first graduate of PSU when it became a four-year college in 1940. He is now pastor of Bear Swamp Baptist Church near Pembroke.

Playing Of "Centennial Ode" Outstanding

The PSU concert band, directed by Dr. Robert Romine, provided one of the highlights of the centennial "Founder's Week" with its stirring rendition of the "Centennial Ode," a composition written especially for PSU's centennial by Elliot Del Borgo, professor of music from State University of New York at Potsdam.

After each performance of the musical composition, Romine gestured to Del Borgo, who was sitting in the audience, to stand. This man who wrote the music for the 1980 Olympics was greeted each time with enthusiastic applause.

A Truly Inspiring Prayer

Providing the dedicatory prayer for the unveiling of the statue of McMillan, the state legislator from Red Springs who introduced the bill beginning the forerunner of PSU in 1887, was Rev. Tryon Lowry. A member of the PSU administrative staff, Rev. Lowry also pastors both New Philadelphus United Methodist Church and Collins United Methodist Church in Robeson County.

As a prelude to his prayer, Rev. Lowry said with deep feeling: "As a Native American, I'm proud to have been asked to offer this dedicatory prayer on behalf of Rep. Hamilton McMillan. As an alumnus of PSU in its 100th year, I have the privilege of giving thanks unto God for a friend of our people who helped to open the doors of opportunity."

In his prayer, Rev. Lowry's words included these: "May we, as did Hamilton McMillan, always have respect for and appreciation of all mankind without regard to race, color or national origin...We dedicate this memorial to the glory of God and in memory of your humble servant, Rep. Hamilton McMillan, and his family."

Idea Of Statue Was Dr. Adolph Dial's

The idea of erecting a statue honoring Hamilton McMillan as one of the founders of PSU was the idea of Dr. Adolph Dial, chairman of the PSU American Indian Studies Department. His committee raised the money for the statue, picked the sculptor [Paul Van Zandt, chairman of the PSU Art Department], chose the site, etc.

His committee consisted of Jack Sharpe, who also spoke at the dedication; Lew Barton, Native American historian; Dr. Clifton Oxendine, professor emeritus of PSU and its former dean; and R.D. McMillan, former state legislator from Red Springs who is no relation to Hamilton McMillan.

The inscription on the marker under McMillan's statue says: "Honorable Hamilton McMillan, 1837-1915. State legislator, educator and historian. Sponsored legislation in 1885 establishing public schools for Indians of Robeson County. In 1887 he introduced legislation to establish Croftan Normal School--now Pembroke State University. Elected March 5, 1987."

McMillans Travel Long Distances To Attend

The descendants of McMillan numbered 10 at the dedication ceremonies for the statue and came from points as distant as Houston, Tex., Jacksonville, Fla., Anderson, S.C., and Columbia, S.C.

The unveiling of the statue was done by Richard William Carr, Jr., a great-great grandson from Jacksonville, Fla., assisted by his sister, Betsy, and John Tudor, a great grandson from Columbia, S.C.

Spokesperson for the group was Jane McMillan, who like her sister Mignon lives in Red Springs. Ms. McMillan responded to the accolades paid her grandfather in this way: "We are thankful for our grandfather, Hamilton McMillan, who was one of those forefathers who believed in education and particularly in the education of Robeson County Indians. Without their own schools and no compulsory school laws, it would have been easy for their education to have been neglected. We are also proud that he played a strong and, we hope, an important part in the founding of this great university. We are also thankful for all of the other men who had quite a struggle to keep the school going and refused to give up when the going got tough."

Pisano's Efforts Are Saluted

After it was announced by Dr. Joseph Sandlin, co-chairman of PSU's centennial fund-raising committee, that PSU had surpassed its \$1 million goal at Friday's Centennial Founder's Day Banquet, Chancellor Paul Givens saluted the efforts of Dr. Richard Pisano, PSU vice-chancellor for institutional advancement who coordinated the efforts.

Givens, addressing the audience of 323, said: "I want you to help me give special thanks to Richard Pisano. Dick Pisano has kept bugging me and bugged Joe Sandlin and bugged all of us to get moving to raise this money--and I want to express my special appreciation to Richard Pisano."



Mary Hammond Locklear, class of '33, is shown carrying the golden mace of Pembroke State University at last Thursday's convocation. She was the grand marshal.

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bulletin
 "Elijah" To Be Presented March 28 At Fairmont
 "Elijah," a musical presentation about the life of Elijah, the Old Testament prophet, will be presented Saturday, March 28, at 8 p.m. at the Carolina Civic Center in Fairmont. Admission is \$5.
 This same program will be presented in Whiteville on Sunday, March 29.
 For more information, contact Dr. Colin Osborne at 739-3232 in Lumberton.
 "Always do right. This will gratify some people and offend others."
 -Mark Twain