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Linda Oxendine Beginning Duties As Chairman Of PSU's American Indian Studies Department



LINDA OXENDINE...New chairman of PSU's American Indian Studies Department.

By Gene Warren

Linda Oxendine, former director of Pembroke State University's Native American Resource Center who is completing work on her Ph.D., has begun her duties as chairman of PSU's American Indian Studies Department.

She succeeds as chairman Dr. Adolph Dial, who founded that department in 1972 and who retired from PSU in 1988. Dial is continuing to serve that department as resident consultant.

Oxendine, who attended the University of Minnesota for the past two and a half years in pursuit of her doctorate, has completed all requirements for her Ph.D. except her dissertation. She anticipates completing it this year. Her Ph.D. will be in American Studies with a concentration in American Indian Studies.

Oxendine is very proud of PSU's Bachelor of Arts program in American Indian Studies which was begun in 1984 and is the only one in the eastern United States. "I'm excited about it," she says. "It has great potential. I believe there is a resurgence in Indian Studies, which is an active and viable discipline. I believe more people are paying attention to it than ever."

Oxendine hopes to promote the

American Indian Studies program so that it will attract students not only from this state but nationally. She spoke of a student from Ohio who is majoring in American Indian Studies at PSU this year.

A native of Pembroke, Oxendine grew up on the PSU campus where her late father, Dr. Herbert G. Oxendine, taught and served as academic dean. She attended PSU for two years, then earned her B.A. in mathematics at UNC-Chapel Hill. She received her M.Ed. in educational administration at Penn State University.

From 1981-85, she served as director of PSU's Native American Resource Center and co-authored with PSU professor Dr. David Eliades a centennial history of PSU.

Oxendine spoke glowingly of her predecessor, Dr. Dial, who began PSU's B.A. in American Indian Studies.

"It was he who got me interested in the field of American Indian Studies almost 20 years ago. If it had not been for him, I would not be in it today," said Oxendine.

She described Dr. Dial as a "strong resource and supporter" of her efforts. "I will be seeking to build on what he started," she added.

Oxendine says that the fact that PSU has an outstanding Native American Resource Center and an American Indian Studies Department makes "for a strong alliance in the entire area of Indian Studies."

Teaching in the department are seven adjunct professors from other departments. They are Dr. John Bowman, Sociology and Social Work; Dr. David Eliades, History; Dr. Robert Gustafson, Philosophy and Religion; Dr. Robert Hersch, Library Services; Dr. Stan Knick, Native American Resource Center; Dr. Robert Reising, Communicative Arts; and Ralph Steeds, Art.

"I would like to see more faculty members in other areas take a part," added Oxendine.

Oxendine is married to Albert Conner, a native of Iowa Falls, Iowa. They are parents of a son, Christopher Merritt, 8.

RETURNS FROM EUROPEAN BUSINESS TRIP



Dorsey Van Lowry, Jr., a Pembroke native, recently represented Hoechst Celanese-a New York based textile fibers group during a European business trip. Lowry, a woven fabric development engineer

with the firm conducted an European Fabric/Fashion Intelligence tour of Germany, France, Belgium, Switzerland and England.

Lowry, a Lumbee Indian, is assigned to the firm's Charlotte office. The 42-year-old graduated from Pembroke High School in 1964, and earned a B.S. from North Carolina State University in 1968. He has been with Hoechst Celanese for seven years. He is married to the former Jeanette Pridgen of Spring Hope, NC and resides in Charlotte with his wife and two daughters, Karen and Elizabeth.

He is one of four sons of Dorsey Lowry and the late Gola Blue Lowry, Robeson County natives.

Lowry's brothers are Dr. Wade L., a Medford, Texas urologist; Jim, an Atlanta accountant and Garry Blue, a representative of Native American Valve & Guage Company in Charlotte.

CHRISTOPHER L. HUNT SERVES AS NAVY CHAPLAIN Finds It Challenging & Adventurous

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"When people know you care about them, they begin knocking on your door for help with their problems," says Navy Chaplain Christopher Lynn Hunt, stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

The 36-year-old spiritual servant was ordained in 1980, in ceremonies at Island Grove Baptist Church and has been giving solace to his "flock" in his native Robeson County and in countries throughout the world.

Born one of six sons to educators James Leon and Christine Roberts Hunt of Pembroke, he spent his early childhood years growing up in the New Hope community outside Pembroke. Later years were spent in the Deep Branch community. He graduated from Pembroke Senior High School. His college studies were interrupted when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was with the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery at Fort Bragg for three years. He earned B.A. from Pembroke State University in 1979 and a Master in Divinity from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky in 1982. While in seminary he served as a student chaplain at Veteran's Administration Hospital in Louisville.

Hunt and his wife, the former Teresa Cummings, returned to Robeson County in 1982 and accepted his first pastorate at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in rural Lumberton. In September 1984, he was called by the U.S. Navy to serve as a chaplain on active duty. Within a month he was in Newport, RI for the Chaplain's Basic School. His first duty station was the Naval Training Center in Orlando, Fla. There he served as chaplain for students and staff of the Naval Nuclear Power School and Service School Commands.

Two years later he reported to Pendleton where he now serves in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

Hunt says the Navy offers a wide variety of opportunities to minister. Navy chaplains serve with Marines, the Coast Guard, aboard ships, aircraft carriers, or submarines bases and at shore stations in the U.S. and overseas.

"There's nothing more exciting and challenging than serving as Navy chaplain," Lt. Hunt says. "Our mission is to help the people we serve to grow in faith and to bring God's love to bear upon their needs and problems." According to Hunt, this is done through preaching and teaching the Bible, administering the sacraments, providing fellowship and counseling, and promoting high morale and self-esteem.

Hunt says one of the exciting things about being a

chaplain is serving and interacting with people whose lives are so diverse and interesting. As battalion chaplain his "flock" consists of 783 marines and 30 medical personnel. Most are between 18 and 21 years of age and come from many different cultural, religious and racial backgrounds.

"Developing rapport and credibility with the troops and their leaders is crucial," he comments. "It opens the way to ministry." To be an effective battalion chaplain, Hunt says he must understand who Marines are and what they do for a living. Therefore, he spends time outside his office visiting work areas and talking with them. He also goes on battalion hikes and runs, attends all battalion staff meetings and functions. "In doing so, I'm tired when they're tired; cold when they're cold; miserable when they're miserable and they respect me for it." Hunt reports that his acceptance by his battalion has come easily by the Marines and Sailors.

To prepare for possible military combat in war, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines battalion spends an enormous amount of time in training combat skills. Since joining the battalion, Hunt says his group has trained in the cold snow-covered mountains of Bridgeport, CA; in the desert of 29 Palms, CA; in the jungles of Okinawa and the Philippines; and in the vast mountains of South Korea.

"As a member of the team, I go where the battalion goes, however, I never lose sight of my purpose for being there. I'm there to be their spiritual leader and to provide the best ministry possible. Hunt says the chaplain is the only one in a battalion who does not carry a weapon or qualify with one. He is a noncombatant who does not engage in combat, but gives pastoral care to those who do. He is assisted by a Navy Religious-Program Specialist who is combatant who does carry weapons and receives combat training.

A Protestant chaplain, Hunt conducts worship services for Protestants. He also sees to it that members of other faith groups have the opportunity to worship. "This often means contacting a Roman Catholic chaplain to come and conduct worship for my Catholic personnel," he says. "The bottom line is - we provide for our own faith group, facilities for others and care for all."

During his current assignment Hunt has served overseas duty. Last year he was deployed to Okinawa. During a six-months deployment he visited Korea and toured Hong Kong and Red China.

With an appreciative smile, the Lumbee Indian father of two says, "I appreciate the challenge and adventure that comes with being a Navy chaplain. There is seldom a dull moment."



CHAPLAIN CHRISTOPHER L. HUNT



SCHOOL NEWS

BY GENE WARREN

Some 60 Town of Pembroke leaders and administrative heads of Pembroke State University met in a luncheon hosted by PSU Chancellor Paul Givens Jan. 19 in an innovative effort to bring a closer relationship between the town and PSU.

"The purpose of this luncheon is for you to get to know the University better and for us to get to know you better. It provides us an opportunity to become better acquainted," said Chancellor Givens in providing the welcome for the occasion.

In his remarks, the chancellor said he likes seeing local people walking around the PSU track as a means of daily exercise. He also spoke of the increased attendance at events on campus, such as this record-breaking year at the Givens Performing Arts Center where 921 have purchased season tickets.

Mayor Milton Hunt of Pembroke thanked the University for hosting the luncheon and added with a smile: "I'd like to see you do it at least once a quarter," noting there might be some who have not had an opportunity to visit facilities like the Chancellor's Dining Room in the Chavis University Center where the luncheon was held.

Hunt referred to those "who say the University and the Town don't get along," adding with emphasis: "I don't see it. We try to work as much as we can with the University, which is a good neighbor and the largest employer in our area."

Hunt expressed his thanks to Greg Cummings, president of the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce who was present. "Greg is working hard to revive the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, which has been dormant."

Hunt said, "We certainly want to work with the University to help people progress."

Hunt, who said he would like to see everyone live in the community, expressed appreciation for all of the Pembroke business and community leaders present and added, "I'm grateful to see this."

Cummings, in his remarks, described PSU "as a vital part of the Pembroke community," and said by the same token that "Pembroke is a vital part of Pembroke State University."

Cummings said that PSU, being part of the UNC system, can improve the educational, social and economic conditions of the Pembroke community and Robeson County. "I'd like to challenge us as citizens and educators to work on projects that are out there and on which we can be very successful," Cummings added.

Cummings pointed to recent newspaper articles that pointed out that Robeson County has one of the highest illiteracy and lowest economic standings in the state. "One of our greatest assets is Pembroke State University with resources like the Economic Development Office. I'd like to challenge our community leaders and PSU to work together for the betterment of our county," he said.

A Town and Gown Committee has been formed, made up of members of the Town of Pembroke and PSU, to address these challenges, said Cummings. "We are going to decide when this committee will have its first meeting and start on the road to solving these problems,"

50 Meet For Luncheon Involving Town Of Pembroke And PSU Leaders

noted Cummings. In his remarks, Chancellor Givens pointed to the cooperative efforts of the PSU campus police and the Town of Pembroke police. "Larry Roberts, the chief of police for the Town of Pembroke, was formerly on the staff of our PSU campus police," said Givens. "I think it is symbolic to see how well these police forces work together-and I'm glad to see Larry in his present position."

The PSU chancellor then asked PSU's four vice chancellors to discuss their various areas of responsibilities as a matter of information for the Town of Pembroke leaders attending the luncheon. Those four were: Dr. Charles Jenkins, vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. James B. Chavis, vice chancellor for student affairs; William Mason, vice chancellor for business affairs; and Dr. Richard Pisano, vice chancellor for institutional advancement.

Jenkins said that PSU has a "very broad curriculum with 44 undergraduate majors and seven programs in its Master of Arts in Education program." He noted that 341 teachers and school administrators took courses in PSU's Master's program last fall.

Hopefully, Jenkins said, this year PSU will be approved for a Master's Degree in Administrative Studies.

Jenkins also noted that PSU has 128 full-time professors and 37 part-time professors. He said 68 percent of the professors hold doctorates and seven percent hold other terminal degrees. "Please look in the back of our University catalog and see the educational backgrounds of our professors. You will see the quality of their degrees," said Jenkins.

Chavis, in speaking of the record numbers of those attending events this year at PSU's Givens Performing Arts Center, said that 635 of the season ticket holders are from Robeson County, 303 from Lumberton, 95 from Pembroke, and 105 from PSU. He spoke of the Broadway hit, "42nd Street," which will be presented at PSU Feb. 1 and added, "Next year plans are to bring in the musical, 'A Chorus Line.'"

In speaking of financial aid for students, Chavis said that over \$2 million will be provided in financial aid at PSU this academic year. "If an individual is qualified for admission and qualified for financial aid, if he will fill out the papers or permit us to help him in filling them out, we will help him. If someone tells you he or she can't afford to go to school, ask them to call someone here," said Chavis.

Mason said that PSU has an annual budget of over \$15 million and its monthly payroll is over \$600,000 a month. He noted that PSU's food costs are the third lowest in the state to which Jenkins added: "The newspapers have stated that the total costs for attending PSU are the least expensive in the Carolinas."

Pisano reported that in its "New Horizons" giving campaign, PSU has raised \$361,765 in the last 17 months. He also pointed out that WPSU-TV, which began by reaching 700 homes, now reaches 200,000 homes-another growth of the University.

It was a fine beginning for a closer relationship between the Town of Pembroke and Pembroke State University.



Chancellor Paul Givens [center] was host to a luncheon Thursday for Town of Pembroke leaders and Pembroke State University administrative heads. Shown with the PSU chancellor here are Greg Cummings [left], president of the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, and Milton Hunt [right], mayor of Pembroke. Some 50 people attended the luncheon in the Chancellor's Dining Room at PSU's Chavis University Center.