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"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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## DANELLE LOCKLEAR BECOMES FIRST FEMALE LICENSED LUMBEE MORTICIAN

BY BARBARA BRAVEBOY-LOCKLEAR  
Special to The Carolina Indian Voice

During her senior year at West Robeson High School Danelle Locklear spent far less time seeking advice from her school guidance counselor than did her fellow students. She felt no need to discuss what to do after graduation in 1984, for she had made a firm decision on a career choice a year earlier.

It was an easy decision brought on by a visit to a local funeral home where she'd gone to visit with a bereaving family. "I observed the behavior of the grieving family and other visitors during the wake of my friend and sensed their deep suffering and pain," she recalls. And even though Locklear had visited families before on the eve of a funeral, she says she'd never been as emotionally moved as when she visited during this time. "It was a very difficult time for the family, and I was overcome with a desire to help during their worst time of need."

The 17-year-old Lumbee Indian knew then she would one day be able to render comfort to bereaved families through professional training as a licensed funeral director. Thus, the aspiration was cemented in her mind.

But what she knew with certainty, she could not share even with those closest to her—family. "I knew my mother would not be happy with my decision to become a mortician," the daughter of Willie Sanford and Vernon Hazel Locklear says.

"Two years later when I finally told my mother about my decision, she was very discouraging. She felt it was not in keeping with gender ideology. 'Women just don't become morticians' she said at the time." Locklear says her father, a retired farmer, shared his wife's sentiments, and went a step farther and said he didn't think his daughter could psychologically handle working around deceased human beings on a regular basis.

Locklear, a lifetime Pembroke resident, says only after two years of study at Pembroke State University, and enrollment at Fayetteville Technical Institute in Fayetteville, N.C. did her parents fully accept her decision to become a mortician.

During her final quarter of academic study, Locklear was introduced to the "preparation" room of the funeral home where she'd earlier arranged to do her required apprenticeship. She had wanted to be near her beloved native town and its people, so she chose to train under Samuel R. Locklear, owner and operator of Locklear & Son Funeral Home located on Union Chapel Road outside Pembroke.

"My first experience, of course, was as observer. I felt perfectly comfortable," she remembers. "It seemed like the most natural thing I'd ever done," she says of the experience.

In June of 1988, Locklear received her Associate Degree in Funeral Services from Fayetteville Technical Institute. After two years of intense study and a year's completion of apprenticeship, on June 13, 1989, she became the first-ever licensed female Lumbee Indian mortician in the state and nation.

The license qualifies the 23-year-old woman the legal right to render all services connected with the preparation of a deceased body for burial, as well as direct the final ceremony of funeral services for the deceased.

"Having Danelle associated with Locklear & Son Funeral Home is a great asset," says Samuel R. Locklear, the first-ever licensed male Lumbee Indian mortician in

the nation. "We are the only firm in Robeson County that currently has a female funeral director and licensed embalmer," he boasts.

Mr. Locklear says his funeral home was established in 1948 by his late father Luther H. Locklear, and that he joined his father as a licensed funeral director in 1954. Mr. Locklear received his professional training at Dallas Institute, Gupton Jones College of Mortuary Science in Dallas, Texas.



DANELLE LOCKLEAR

And while young Locklear views her chosen profession seriously, her former high school classmates still sometimes do not. "They tease me with silly jokes and remarks which they think are funny," she smiles. "And as I listen to them, I think how non-humorous they really are, but I've come to laugh along with them, and let them get the sick humor out of their systems." She says older adults exhibit greater respect for her profession than do younger ones.

Locklear's sails are firmly set in the direction of her profession. Her feet are firmly set in her native Robeson County. "I will stay here because it's home. I don't think I could ever leave because my roots are here," the single woman says. "I entered this profession to help people, and there is no one I'd rather help than those people who live in and around the land I love."

BY KYEN JOHNSON

## Locklear Reunion Planned

To the descendants of the Zachariah "Zack" Locklear and Preston Locklear families of the

Prospect and Preston communities: The annual family reunion is scheduled for Saturday,

August 12 at Preston Gospel Chapel. A business session will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch served immediately thereafter. All planning to attend the reunion are asked to bring a covered dish for the noontime meal.

## BAKER ASSUMES NAS MEMPHIS COMMAND IN JULY 28 CEREMONY

Captain Jerry Baker, Jr. assumed command of Naval Air Station Memphis from Capt. Richard Grant during ceremonies on July 28. Guest speaker for the ceremony was Rear Admiral James D. Cossey, Chief of Naval Technical Training.

Capt. Baker, a Lumbee Indian and native of the Magnolia High School area, graduated from Pembroke State University in June 1965. His mother and father were Mrs. Maybell Hardin Baker and Canadian Capt. Jerry Baker, Sr., both now deceased. Following graduation, Baker reported to Aviation Officer Candidate School and was subsequently commissioned, and designated a Naval Aviator in November 1966.

Reporting to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron ONE in Key West, he completed replacement pilot training in the SH-3 and reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine ELEVEN in Quonset Point, R.I.

While assigned to H S-11, Capt. Baker served as Aircraft Division and Quality Assurance Officer. His deployments were to WESTLANT and the Mediterranean on board USS WASP (CVS 18) and USS FORRESTAL (CV 59).

In July 1970, Capt. Baker reported to Training Squadron TWO in

Milton, Florida as a flight instructor flying the T-28 aircraft. While assigned he served as the squadron's Transition, Precision, and Aerobatics Unit Leader, Standardization Officer, and Assitant Maintenance Officer.

Reporting to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light THIRTY in April 1973 for SH-2 replacement aircraft training, Capt. Baker subsequently became a LAMPS plank owner with the establishment of HSL-32 in Norfolk, Virginia in August 1973. His job assignments included Assistance Maintenance Officer and Detachment OINC. As HSL-32 Detachment's TWO and EIGHT OINC, he deployed to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean in USS BOWEN, GARCIA, ALYWIN, HEWES, and MOINESTER.

In July 1976, Capt. Baker reported to the Naval War College and upon graduation in 1977 from the Command and Staff curriculum was assigned to HSL-30. Duties at HSL-30 included Administrative, Operations, and Executive Officer.

While at HSL-30, Capt. Baker also completed requirements for the awarding of the Master of Arts Degree in Management from Pepperdine University in 1978. Transferring to the staff of COMHELSEA-CONWING ONE in February 1981, Capt. Baker served as the Wing

Operations Officer until November 1981, when he reported to HSL-34 as Executive Officer. After assuming command of HSL-34 in March 1983, the squadron received two Battle "E" awards, two CNO safety awards, and three consecutive Capt. Arnold T. Isbell trophies for ASW Excellence.

Departing HSL-34 in September 1984, Baker reported to USS GUA-DALCANAL (LPH-7) where he served as Air Officer. Selected for "bonus" command in 1984, Capt. Baker commanded HSL-30, the LAMPS MK-1 FRS, from July 1985 until November 1986. His most recent assignment was in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-503), Washington, D.C., where he was the ASW Branch Head and Program Coordinator for the SH-60B and SH-2 aircraft.

Capt. Baker is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy Commendation Medal (2), Naval Achievement Medal (2), the Navy Unit and Meritorious Unit (2) Commendation, the Battle Efficiency (5), and Sea Service Ribbon.

He is married to the former Letha Brewer, also of the Magnolia area. She is the daughter of Mr. Isaac Brewer (deceased) and Mrs. Retha Brewer of Magnolia. Capt. and Mrs. Baker have two daughters, Melissa and Paige.

## Excellence Is Theme of Merged Staff Development Program

School principals, assistant principals, central office supervisors, and other school district administrators of the Public Schools of Robeson County participated in a two-day staff development program entitled "In Quest of Excellence" at Lumberton Senior High School on July 27-28. The program was designed to afford school district personnel an opportunity to set goals for the 1989-90 school year, the first year of the consolidated school district.

Superintendent William R. Johnson set the tone of the program with overall goal statements that included 1) making the "Quest for Excellence" a reality; 2) ensuring that students excel; 3) practicing the beliefs, values, and purpose for which public schools are

administered; 4) treating students, staff, and school publics with dignity and respect; and 5) constantly searching for improvement of public education in the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Four Associate Superintendents presented divisional and departmental goals to program participants. Dr. J.C. Humphrey presented goals for Business and Administration; Donald A. Bonner presented goals for Personnel and Staff Development; John Ray presented detailed goals for Curriculum and Instruction; and Dr. Ruth Dial Woods presented goals for Educational Support and Compensatory Education programs.

Given the district-wide goals and objectives, principals and assistant principals were provided opportuni-

ties to react and to give input into district-wide plans and were requested to initiate goal-setting and comprehensive school-level plans for the 1989-90 school year based on an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective schools with teachers and staff at the local school level.

The second day of the staff development program was devoted to orientation to policies, procedures and specific program requirements for effective implementation of goals, and a smooth transition for the opening of the 1989-90 school year.

District-wide orientation for all teachers and teaching assistants is scheduled for August 16, at 9 a.m. at Performing Arts Center at Pembroke State University.

## COMMUNITY FEATURE

### Tuscarora Indian Studies at Duke

Iris Lynn Locklear, a rising senior at Purnell Sweet High School is one of 125 high school students nationwide participating in a six-weeks-long pre-college program at Duke University this summer.



Iris Lynn Locklear

The 17-year-old Tuscarora Indian was awarded a scholarship to attend the Talent Identification Program sponsored by the university. Her tuition is jointly financed by the university and the Robeson County Compensatory Indian Education Project, Title IV. The scholarship was awarded on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

While at Duke, Locklear is taking two college introductory classes from which she will earn two combined credit hours. The credit will apply towards undergraduate credit contingent upon enrollment at the university or other universities.

"I chose to study Engineering and Physics during my summer stay on campus," she says. "Engineering allows me the opportunity to work with computers in solving problems. The course also allows me to develop computer programs."

Locklear says she is taking Physics as a second course as an aid in understanding other courses she will be

taking this fall when she returns to Purnell Sweet High. "I want to major in pre-medicine in college, and even though I know I need to concentrate on Biology, I feel the study of Physics will help me to better grasp the understanding of curriculum associated with pre-medicine," she adds.

A Who's Who Among American High School Students, Locklear will apply to Duke University upon graduation from high school next spring.

While at Duke University this summer, Locklear is taking part in the Health Careers Volunteer Internship Program which is administered as a component of career development for Duke undergraduate students who may be interested in pursuing a career in the health care field. During her six-weeks stay on campus, Locklear is participating in a shadow internship of which she receives no monetary compensation or academic credit.

"The HCV Internship Program focuses on altruism, patient interaction, observation of health care professionals, development of interpersonal skills, and exposure to biomedical laboratory research," Locklear relates.

The goal of the program is to prepare the students not only for the rigors of medical and other professional schools, but to offer them the opportunity to give of themselves, and to gain greater insight into the meaning of a career in any of the health professions.

Of the clinical settings, Locklear chose placement in a three-hour time block per week in Orthopaedics.

Locklear is the daughter of Elisha and Mary Ann Locklear of Route 3, Maxton.

## Earns GED at Robeson Community College



Denise Barton of Route 3, Maxton recently graduated from Robeson Community College where she received her GED. She earned her degree while working a second shift job and raising her five children.

She is married to Michael Barton and is the daughter of Carletta Locklear of Route 3, Maxton and the granddaughter of the late Richard Locklear.

## Pembroke Kiwanis News

Program Chairman Buddy Bell presented Dr. Joey Bell, Pediatrician, of the Lumberton Children's Clinic. Dr. Bell spoke of the dangers of using steroids.

Dr. Bell said steroids are a class of drugs (anabolics) in that they will make muscles larger with exercise. They are not just psychological in nature but will enlarge muscles to create better performances in track, as the Canadian Ben Johnson did in the '88 Olympics and like the South Carolina football team as was brought out in Sports Illustrated. The problem is that they are not legal, they have bad side effects, and can be life threatening. They were first used by the Nazis in World War II to make their soldiers more aggressive. Since the early 70's an astronomical number of athletes have used them as in cyclic training—8 weeks of steroids, 8 weeks off, and 8 weeks on under team doctors and trainers—and a staking method of using several steroids in combinations with each other. Common names are diabolol,

nibal, stanazol and winstrol. All are legally made, but for other medical problems. It is a \$100 million black market business and the demand keeps going up. Side effects of these drugs include tumors in the liver causing a malfunctioning of the liver; sterility can result in both male and female; joints and tendons weaken; hardening of the arteries; higher cholesterol levels; strokes; and high blood pressure. Also, nervousness and aggressiveness cause bad psychological results. Steroids are used in 17% of all college athletics as well as high school athletics.

Buddy Bell made a report on the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Ron Sutton, Henry Ward Oxendine, Bill Oxendine, Clay Maynor, Jeff Maynor, Mitch Lowry, Larry Chavis, and Buddy Bell picked up litter on 1 1/2 miles of Hwy. 710 Saturday morning. They had a good time and worked hard filling up 13 bags. \$100 was given to the Little League team for a supper.

BY KYEN JOHNSON