



Pembroke State University



OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

GENE WARREN
Director of
Public Information

Mother From Lumberton To be No. 1 Honors Graduate at Pembroke State

When Pembroke State University's commencement is held Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. in the Jones Health and Physical Education Center, the No. 1 honors graduate among the undergraduate students will be Mrs. Gloria Harrell Cook of Lumberton.

On that day 456 undergraduate students and 70 graduate students will receive degrees, meaning a record total of 526 will graduate.

Speaker for the occasion will be Charlie Gaddy, anchor for Raleigh WRAL-TV's 5 and 6 p.m. news.

The commencement will include the presentation of three Dr. Adolph L. Dial Distinguished Professor Awards for: teaching excellence, creative work, and service to the community. An honorary doctorate will also be presented.

Not only is Mrs. Cook the top graduate, she is graduating in one of PSU's toughest majors: accounting. She is the recipient of the Alpha Chi Honor Medal, which goes to the top graduating senior from that organization, the highest academic society on campus.

Her plans are to enter a Ph.D. program working toward her doctorate in strategic management. Among the institutions to which she has applied

is UNC-Chapel Hill.

Mrs. Cook is one of PSU's "older" students and is the mother of a three-year-old daughter, Lauren Elizabeth. Mrs. Cook is married to Lawrence D. Cook, who is an assistant district engineer for the N.C. Department of Transportation and stationed in Lumberton.

It was while an administrative assistant to the town manager of Red Springs, where she used to live, that Mrs. Cook decided to earn her college degree.

She started at PSU in 1986, eight years ago. But in the midst of her studies, she had her child and had to curtail her studies to be more at home with the child during those important formative years of the child.

Last fall, Mrs. Cook began embarking on a full load of courses, taking 18 semester hours last fall and 18 again this spring.

Her ultimate goal is hopefully "to teach at a university and do research at University."

Asked if she has been surprised at her success in competing with the 18-22 age students, Mrs. Cook, "Yes, I have been surprised that I have done pretty well. But let me say that the younger students have been most receptive of me. They have appreciated my efforts to make good grades."

She also expressed appreciation

for the supportive efforts of the PSU professors in the Department of Business Administration and Economics, particularly Dr. Douglas Schell and Ollie Bishop.

"The more I found out, the more I wanted to learn," she said. The secret to her success as a student? "Dedication and hard work." Mrs. Cook replied. She agrees that making good grades is not so much I.Q. as "I do." She also agrees with PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine that the harder you work, the luckier you get.

The daughter of Frances and Alvin Harrell of Wilmington, Mrs. Cook has a background of being a good student. At New Hanover High School in Wilmington, from which she graduated, she was a member of the

National Honor Society, the Thespians, the Student Government, and the Latin Club.

Her entire family will be beaming with pride as she marches to "Pomp and Circumstance" as PSU's No. 1 graduate come May 7.

CONFERENCE ON COUNSELING AND LEADERSHIP SET MAY 12

The 14th annual PSU Conference for Excellence in Counseling and Leadership entitled "Professional Counselors: A Resource for Life!" will be held at PSU Thursday, May 12.

Registration will be from 8-840 a.m. in the lobby of the Jones Health and Physical Education Center. Refreshments will be served during registration.

The conference will continue until 3:30 p.m. and will include information workshops, a business meeting of the Southern Coastal Plain Chapter of the N.C. Counseling Association, and a luncheon.

The conference is hosted by PSU and sponsored by the Master of Arts in Agency and School Counseling Programs of PSU, the Southern Coastal Plain Chapter of the N.C. Counseling Association, and the Public Schools of Robeson County.

The conference is designed to enhance the skills of counselors and administrators by practitioners who represent a variety of professional backgrounds, topics, programs, and institutions.

On-site registration will be \$15. If you register by May 5, the registration fee is \$10.

For more information, contact Pam Powell in the PSU Graduate Office at 521-6271.



Gloria Cook of Lumberton, No. 1 honors graduate of Pembroke State University.



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