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Over 500 Students March

by Don Gersh and Jeffery Alejandro, *University Relations*
Kelvin Sampson, Associated Press College Basketball Coach of the Year, was the commencement speaker at Pembroke State University's graduation on Saturday, May 13.

Sampson, a 1978 PSU graduate and son of John W. (Ned) and Eva Sampson of Pembroke, is the head coach of the University of Oklahoma's men's basketball team.

Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine's announcement that Kelvin Sampson would address his alma mater was well received at Pembroke State University and in the region.

"We asked Kelvin to speak because he is an energetic and charismatic person," said Dr. Oxendine. "I feel that he will be stimulating to the graduating seniors."

More than 500 PSU seniors and graduate students received their diplomas during the ceremony in

the Jones Health and Physical Education Center. Commencement began at 2 p.m.

Former Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr., member emeritus of The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, David G. Martin, Vice President for Public Affairs at UNC, and Terrence Brewton, President of PSU's Student Government Association, presented greetings to the graduates, their families and friends.

Dr. Suellen Cabe, chair of the PSU Faculty Senate, presented the Adolph L. Dial Endowed Faculty Awards.

David F. Weinstein, chair of the PSU Board of Trustees, also took part in the ceremony.

Graduates of the Army and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps were commissioned during commencement.

Dr. Bonnie A. Kelley, recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, was the Grand Marshal.

Sampson graduated from PSU

with two Bachelor of Science degrees, one in Health and Physical Education and the other in Political Science. He was on the Dean's List and was named "Who's Who Among American College and Universities." Sampson was awarded the Gregory Lowe Memorial Award for being the top physical education major.

Sampson earned four letters in basketball and three in baseball.

He coached basketball at Montana Tech and later became its athletic director. Sampson then moved to Washington State University and spent two years as assistant coach and seven years as head basketball coach. He took the Sooners to the 1995 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

Sampson's other coaching achievements include the 1995 US World Junior National basketball team, the 1993 US Olympic Festival basketball team, and he was the assistant coach for the USA Goodwill Games basketball.



Shown left to right are: Kelvin Sampson, Commencement Speaker; PSU Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine; and Dennis Lowery who received his honorary doctorate.

Dennis Lowery receives honorary doctorate during PSU commencement

Dennis Lowery, chief executive officer of Charlotte-based The Continental Group, received an honorary doctorate of humanities degree from Pembroke State University during commencement held May 13, 1995.

Lowery was founder and chief executive officer of Continental Industrial Chemicals, Inc., Charlotte, and currently holds interest in Kelmar Industries, a textile formulating company, Spartanburg, SC. In 1993 he was named Entrepreneur of the Year for North Carolina.

The Continental Group is the holding company which oversees operations of the collective corporations. Of the 167 people employed by the corporations, 70 percent are women who hold 63 percent of the sales and managerial positions. Collective annual sales of the Continental Group are \$59 million, and collective assets exceed \$14 million.

Pembroke State University Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine described Lowery as not only distinguishing himself in business, but also through his extraordinary service to the young people of North Carolina, particularly the American Indian youth in the Charlotte area.

"Mr. Lowery has contributed greatly to the Indian Education Program has been through his involvement with American Indian youth," said Oxendine. "He continually reminds young people that their ethnic heritage, coupled with hard work, can become a strength in overcoming social and economic barriers against them."

"Lowery gives both time and funding to the Indian Education Program."

The Charlotte entrepreneur was born in Pembroke and started his business career in sales at the age of seven, shining shoes. He helped support himself from 9th grade through college by washing cars. Lowery graduated from Pembroke State University in 1964 and went to Charlotte with \$17 in his pocket.

He worked in the pharmaceutical industry for two years and in the chemical industry for nine. It was during his years as a sales representative and sales manager for two of his competitors that Lowery decided to start a distribution company to reach untapped markets.

Lowery and Bob Elliot formed Industrial Chemicals, Inc., (now Continental Industrial Chemicals, Inc.) in 1975 with \$15,000 of their own and a loan from the Small Business Administration. Lowery

had requested \$100,000 from the SBA but received \$45,000, enough for two and half months of operations. After first month sales of \$180,000, the SBA was willing to provide more assistance to the successful new business.

Lowery's business accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. In 1978 he was named Small Business Person of the Year by the Metrolina Native American Association. A year later, he received North Carolina's Small Business Person of the Year award and was named "Tar Heel of the Week" by the Raleigh News and Observer.

Lowery was named Entrepreneur of the Year for North Carolina.

He currently serves on several corporate boards and; hold membership in a number of business organizations. Lowery was recently appointed a director of the Charlotte office of the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond and was presented the Economic Advancement of Indian People Award at the 1994 North Carolina Indian Conference.

Lowery is married to the former Judy Locklear of Pembroke, also a PSU graduate. They have three children, Shelly, Dana, a senior at Pembroke State University today, and Brandon.

McMillan named PSU employee of the month



Joanne McMillan has been announced as Pembroke State University's employee of the month.

McMillan is an accounting technician for the University.

McMillan and her husband, Jeffery, reside in Maxton. McMillan is the mother of a 21-year-old daughter, Jodella.

She is an active member of West Robeson United Methodist Church. She is the adult and youth choir director as well as the head coach of the men's softball team.

Her other interests include fund raising and swimming.

McMillan has been an member of the PSU staff since 1988.

Local Troopers graduate from Highway Patrol Basic School

Fifty-three new Troopers were graduated Friday, May 12, 1995, from the 94th Basic School of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. They were sworn in during ceremonies at the Patrol's Training Center in Garner and will report for duty on Monday, May 22.

Ronald Devon Jacobs of Lumberton is a member of the class and has been assigned to Troop C-III, Raleigh. Randy Lamont Cummings of Pembroke is a member of the class and has been assigned to Troop A-V, Williamston.

"The 94th Basic School graduates are now part of the nation's finest law enforcement organization," said Thurman B. Hampton, Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, of which the Highway Patrol is a division. "They have shown they have what it takes to wear the black and grey and are ready to put their newly-acquired skills to the test."

New Troopers mastered 1,114 hours of instruction in 71 law enforcement subjects, including accident investigation and criminal and constitutional law, firearms training, and precision driving.

The class had an academic average of 94.23 percent in classroom subjects. But their education is never over. On-the-job training and annual in-service schools boost a Trooper's expertise throughout his career.



Kelvin Sampson, PSU's commencement speaker

Local News Briefs

Golf Tournament Scheduled

Kelsey Sampson "Swing For Life" Golf Tournament is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 3, 1995 at Cliffwood Golf Club in Lumberton, North Carolina.

Format will be Captain's Choice (Superball), four man teams. Women are encouraged to participate. Cost of \$5.00 per player includes cart, green fee, food and beverages. Hole and cart sponsorship are available. All proceeds will be donated to the Kelsey Sampson Cancer Fund.

For more information call (910)738-8829 after 6:00 p.m.

Advisory Council Election

Purnell Swett High School Board Elections for 1995-1996 will be held Tuesday, May 23, 1995 in the Media Center at 7:00 p.m.

Local students among East Carolina graduates

East Carolina University conferred degrees and certificates of advanced study on approximately 2,100 graduates at the spring commencement May 6. Nearly 2,000 graduates received degrees at the fall commencement in December.

Students receiving degrees Saturday completed requirements during the spring semester. The graduates were from 87 of the 100 counties in North Carolina, from 27 other states and from four foreign countries.

Those receiving degrees from Robeson County, included: Charles Dewey Hammonds of Fairmont who received a Bachelor of Arts Degree; Stacie Jane Jackson of Rowland, Bachelor of Science Degree; Mary Elaine Jackson of Rowland, Master of Science Degree; Kevin Patrick Hones of Lumberton, Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy; and Crystal Michelle Locklear of Maxton, Bachelor of Science (Professional).

Public Hearing to be held at Rex Rennert School

A public hearing will be held May 27 at 7 p.m. at Rex Rennert School. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input from the community on the Intensive Livestock Ordinances being proposed in the area. The public is urged to attend and participate in the very important public hearing.

South Robeson to hold Advisory Council elections

There will be a special meeting of all parents of South Robeson High School in the School Media Center at 7:00 p.m. on May 31. The meeting is being held for the purpose of electing Advisory Council members for the upcoming 1995-96 school year.

All parents of students currently enrolled at the school and who will be enrolled in the coming year are strongly urged to attend the meeting.

New Life Tabernacle Congregation Returns to the 50's

On Saturday, May 20, New Life Tabernacle will celebrate Old Fashioned Day. On this day they will return to the fifties. There will be a chicken bog, hotdogs, popovers and other foods available for 25c. The event begins at 10 a.m. and the public is encouraged to attend and participate by the pastor, Rev. Al Lowery and the congregation.

Raffle tickets will also be available for \$2.00. A 1977 Ford Granada will be given away Labor Day. Proceeds from these events will be used for renovation and building projects for New Life Tabernacle.

Local men involved in indepth course for tobacco producers



Craig Lovette and Gene Ransom, employees of Pate's Supply Company of Pembroke, were recently involved in an indepth course for tobacco producers and agribusinessmen. The Tobacco Short Course was sponsored by Philip Morris, USA, and conducted by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

Most of the four day course involved classroom instruction of the campus of North Carolina State University dealing with various topics related to tobacco production, management, and marketing. Sessions were also conducted with the Federal Tobacco Grading Service as well as the NCDA Ag-

ronomic Division. Participants were shown the procedures for processing soil, nematode, tissue, and water tests. The highlight of the week was a day long bus trip to the JPTaylor Slemmyer in Henderson, NC and the Philip Morris manufacturing and research facilities in Richmond, VA.

According to Everett Davis, county Extension Director with the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the primary purpose of the Tobacco Short Course is to provide the latest technology and research information which will help young farmers decrease

the cost of tobacco production while maintaining leaf quality. Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Mr. Dale Hill, Mgr. of Agronomy with Philip Morris, USA, (left) and Dr. Roger Cribbenberger, Interim Assistant Director and Program Leader for Agricultural Programs (right) presents certificates for successful completion of the Tobacco Short Course to Craig Lovette (second from left) and Gene Ransom (second from right).