

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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## Heart assist device credited with saving man's life

Richard Adams, an assistance computer teacher at Cameron Elementary School, credits the use of a heart assist device at Moore Regional Hospital's Heart Center with saving his life.

After suffering from an uneasy burning feeling in his chest for two days, Adams came to the emergency department at Moore Regional Hospital. Because of the concern that he might have blockages involving the arteries of his heart, he was admitted for further evaluation.

Adams was seen by Scott Denardo, M.D., one of the four invasive cardiologists in the Heart Center, and underwent catheterization which revealed severe blockages involving all major vessels of his heart. He was referred to Cardiac Surgeon Robin G. Cummings, M.D., who evaluated him and agreed with the need for surgery.

Despite having no prior history of lung difficulties, Adams was noted to have an extremely low level of oxygen in his blood. Function tests revealed that his lungs were surprisingly weak. Prior to surgery, Adams underwent several days of therapy in the Intensive Care Unit to maximize his lung function and stabilize his heart condition as much as possible.

Adams underwent a five-vessel bypass procedure. His surgery proceeded routinely and he was separated from the bypass machine with excellent heart function. However, over the next 10 minutes, his blood became extremely dark.

"This was a very interesting turn of events in Mr. Adam's case," said Dr.

Cummings. "His heart appeared to be working well, but the oxygen content in his blood was very low, indicating poor function of his lungs."

Dr. Cummings, with the assistance of his partner, John F. Krahnert Jr., M.D., returned Adams to the bypass machine and conducted a number of studies to determine the source of his problem. The surgeons concluded that Adam's lungs were not functioning correctly because of a tremendous excess of fluids within them. By this time, Adams' heart had become very much weakened.

"Without extreme measures, it was clear that Mr. Adams would not survive," said Dr. Cummings.

At this point, Adams' heart was being supported by a number of medications as well as a commonly used support device known as a balloon pump. Despite these measures, he continued to deteriorate. Dr. Cummings and Dr. Krahnert elected to proceed with a seldom-used device known as a left ventricular assist device (LVAD).

"This device essentially removes most of the burden of supporting the body's circulation from the heart," said Dr. Cummings. "During this time, the heart can recover and eventually resume its normal pumping activity."

The device was inserted and Adams was returned to the Intensive Care Unit. Over the next 60 hours, his vital signs were continuously monitored.

"In addition, the LVAD required constant monitoring to ensure that it was functioning properly," said Dr.

Cummings. "David Christaldi, our Chief Perfusionist, essentially remained at Mr. Adams' bedside for the next two days."

During this time, his heart slowly recovered its function. Although his blood oxygen level was originally extremely low, with appropriate medications, Adams' lung function improved.

"The use of the LVAD is reserved as a last resort in extreme life-threatening situations," said Dr. Cummings. "In Mr. Adams' case the device performed exactly as we wished, allowing him time to recover. We were then able to wean the device as his heart function returned."

Adams returned to the operating room three days later, at which time the LVAD was removed without difficulty. He experienced a relatively uneventful recovery over the next two weeks. Intense measures to maximize his lungs function were undertaken. He left the hospital with supplemental oxygen with plans to eventually wean this support.

"The ventricular pump saved my life," said Mr. Adams. "I appreciate all that the doctors and nurses did to get me through my operation."

Use of the LVAD is rare. On average, only twenty to twenty-five percent of the patients requiring this device will survive and return home.

"Each patient is an individual and receives the dedicated effort of the entire cardiac team," said Dr. Cummings. "One of the benefits of our Heart Center at Moore Regional Hospital is that Dr. Krahnert and I work together. In difficult cases, such as Mr. Adams', this arrangement is extremely beneficial."

Dr. Cummings is a native of Pembroke and completed his surgical training at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Krahnert established the Cardiac Surgery Program at Moore Regional Hospital after completing his training at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. Over the past five years, more than 1200 heart operations have been performed with an overall mortality rate of less than two percent.

Richard Adams' case represents not only the latest technology available at Moore Regional Hospital's Heart Center, but also the cooperation which exists among the surgeons and the entire surgical team.



Richard Adams recovers with the help of the cardiac care team consisting of (left to right) Robin G. Cummings, M.D.; Michael Curry, Perfusionist; David Christaldi, Perfusionist; and John F. Krahnert Jr., M.D.

## PSU nursing program receives federal grant

by Jeffery Alejandro, Intern  
PEMBROKE--Pembroke State University's Nursing Department will receive a federal grant for \$643,272 to begin its Disadvantage Students into Nursing Program.

Dr. Peggy Opitz, Director of the Nursing Department, was notified that their grant approval by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Division of Nursing on June 6.

The program is scheduled to begin on Sept. 1. Cherry Beasley has been named the director of the program.

Dr. Opitz commented, "This grant will help the program greatly. The program will in turn help health care in this region greatly by increasing the number of Registered Nurses (RN) in its system, especially those holding Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing."

The Disadvantage Students into Nursing (DSIN) is a three year, multicampus program which is designed to assist disadvantaged Native American and African American Students to successfully enter and complete the associate degree of nursing (ADN) program at five community colleges in the PSU area. After completion of the ADN program,

each student will then enter PSU's Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) program.

Each year, 25 disadvantaged students will be selected from the community colleges' ADN applicant pool to take part in the DSIN program.

The community colleges that are part of the program are Fayetteville Technical Community, Richmond Community, Robeson Community, Sandhills Community, and Southeastern Community.

The DSIN participants will attend a structured summer science enrichment program that is designed to enhance their academic skills to a level where they will compete successfully in matriculating in a ADN program, progressing to successful entry, and completion of PSU's RN-to-BSN degree program. Participants will be required to take writing and mathematics classes as well during the regular quarters.

While in the DSIN program, the students will be assigned mentors and counselors who will share with the participants skill techniques, career contacts, and experiences. Students will also receive financial support in the forms of stipends and financial aid.

## Dr. Reising presents paper

Dr. Robert Reising, professor in Pembroke State's Communicative Art Department, recently presented a paper at the American Literature Association's annual convention.

The paper, "N. Scott Momaday and the Lumbees" tells about the relationship between Momaday and

the Lumbees Indians. It also describes how his thinking and writings had an impact on the Lumbees and how their culture had an impact on him.

Momaday was a Kiowa Indian. He won the famed Pulitzer Prize in 1969.

Reising's paper was dedicated to Lew Barton and Dr. Adolph Dial.

## Sgt. Bryant performs duties with remarkable accomplishment



Gunnery Sergeant Ray Allen Bryant, son of Jimmie and Mary E. Bryant, graduated from Pembroke Senior High School in 1979. He joined the U. S. Marine Corps in 1983. Since his enlistment he has exceeded his duties with remarkable accomplishments. While serving his country, he successfully completed the Marine Corps Recruiter course in 1990. Since then he has received numerous outstanding awards. Among those awards were: (3) Naval Achievement Medals, (11) Meritorious Mast, and (4) Certificates of Commendations.

In 1991 he was awarded Recruiter of the Year for the recruiting station in Houston, Texas, 8th Marine Corps Recruiting District, for his superior performance in recruiting. In 1992, he received a meritorious promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was once again awarded Recruiter of the Year. In 1993, he became in charge of Recruiting Sub-Station Pasadena of Houston. His hard work and dedication followed him, and his station was named Recruiting Sub-Station of the Year and also of the 8th Marine Corps Recruiting District which covers eight (8) states.

Gunnery Sergeant Bryant is currently stationed in Arkansas as a Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of Recruiting Sub-Station in Fayetteville and PCS Joplin, MO., along with his wife, Felicia, and two children, Wesley and Kyna Bryant.

## Lumbee Homecoming Award Winners



Shown above are the 1995 Lumbee Homecoming Award winners. Left to right they are; Lawrence Locklear, Postsecondary Student of the Year Award (student at NC State); Shelly R. Strickland, Middle School Student of the Year Award (student at Pembroke Middle-School); Rebekah C. Revels, High School Student of the Year (St. Pauls High School); Dr. Jeff Collins, Indian Business Person of the Year (Pembroke Dentist); Dr. Stan Knick, Hamilton McMillan Award (PSU Resource Center); Rev. Isaiah Locklear, Henry Berry Lowrie Award (95-years-old, retired minister); and Dr. Linda E. Oxendine, Advancement of Education Award (Chairman, PSU Native American Studies Department).

## New Queens



Miss Lumbee Beth Candace Chavis, daughter of Ronnie Chavis and Judy B. Chavis.



Junior Miss Lumbee Kelli Yvonne Wallace, daughter of Eiland Earl and Yvonne Wallace.



Little Miss Lumbee Chyna Jude Lockler, daughter of Michael and Angela Locklear.

## appointed to editorial board

by Jeffery Alejandro, Intern  
PEMBROKE--Dr. Robert Reising, professor in Pembroke State's Communicative Arts Department, was recently appointed to the Editorial Board of the North Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

The editorial board reviews all educational publications produced within North Carolina.

## Pembroke High School Class of '75 Reunites

The 20th Class Reunion for Pembroke Sr. High School Class of 1975 was held Saturday, July 8, 1995 at the Holiday Inn in Lumberton, N.C. Over 100 classmates and guests attended including members from as far away as California. The Reunion was organized by Tessie Locklear. Also participating with the classmates, Apesanahkwat, star of Northern Exposure. He signed autographs and posed for photographs throughout the evening. The photo enclosed shows Apesanahkwat class members Sandra Lucas, Suzanne Sampson & Sara Lucas. This photo was taken by Attorney James Gregory Bell.

## Chavis Receives Academic Scholarship



Kelly Marie Chavis, daughter of Verlon and Jean Chavis and granddaughter of Eli and Vera Chavis of Baltimore, MD, has been awarded a full tuition Board of Governors Academic Scholarship and the Catonsville Recreations and Parks Scholarship for academic and athletic excellence. Miss Chavis is a graduate of Catonsville High School and will be attending Shippensburg University, PA in the fall.

## Housing Authority seeks families

The Pembroke Housing authority is seeking qualified families for its housing units. The Authority currently has several three and four bedroom units available. The rent is affordable and each family receives free water and a monthly utility allowance. The units are conveniently located within the city limits of the town - just a few minutes from the banks, post office and grocery stores. The local police regularly patrol the developments, thus providing a high level of security.

If you wish to apply applications are taken on Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. at the Central Office in Locklear Court. Please bring a birth certificate and social security card for each member of the household. Prior to admission, the Authority conducts a thorough background check of each person age sixteen or older who may reside within the unit.

The Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, or handicap.

If you should need additional info, call (910) 521-9711 or for TDD (910) 521-8765