

Shelly Strickland is named a Park Scholar



Shelly R. Strickland

Shelly R. Strickland has received a Park Scholarship.

One of 60 students throughout the United States to be named a Park Scholar, Shelly was given the award for academic achievement, character, leadership and involvement in the community.

The scholarship, valued at \$47,000 for NC residents and \$83,000 for out-of-state students, pays all expenses for four years of undergraduate study at NC State, including a stipend for each student to purchase a personal computer and peripherals. It is named in honor of the late Roy H. Parks, a 1931 graduate of NC State.

A senior at Purnell Sweet High School, Shelly completed her high school requirements in December, 1999 and was also enrolled from August-December, 1999 at UNC-Pembroke, taking Calculus I. She is currently a full-time student at UNC-Pembroke.

Living in a rural, close-knit community, Shelly says, "I have been fortunate to receive encouragement and support from both family and friends."

In her junior year, she traveled extensively throughout North Carolina, as well as visiting Maryland and New Mexico as an ambassador for the Native American Youth of North Carolina, representing six different tribes. Shelly says it was "a thrilling and educational experience, never to be forgotten."

She keeps busy singing at churches, funerals, weddings and public school functions, admitting that "singing is an enjoyable hobby." She also plays piano, currently teaching piano to five students.

In the ninth grade, Shelly was on the Superintendent's Honor Roll; won second place at the Region IV Science Fair; was a member of NASA (Native American Student Association); the area Representative for NCNAYO (NC Native American Youth Organization); a cheerleader; class officer on the Student Council; a member of Who's Who Among America's High School Students; was an award winner in English I for the highest grade point average;

a 1997 Leadership Program participant at the University of NC at Pembroke; and served as a Page for the NC House of Representatives.

In the 10th grade, she was again on the Superintendent's Honor Roll; a Sophomore Student of Excellence; placed second at the Region IV Science Fair; a member of NASA; a member of the NCNAYO Executive Council; a member of the Living History Club; a member of Who's Who Among America's High School Students; a Hugh O'Bryan Youth Leadership participant; Class Secretary of the Student Council; and a tutor at Maynor Manor of the Pembroke Housing Authority.

She was a Chief Marshal and on the Superintendent's Honor Roll in the eleventh grade; a member of NASA; a NCNAYO Executive Council member as "Miss NYNAYO"; a member of the Living History Club; Class Secretary of the Student Council; a member of Who's Who Among America's High School Students; a Community In Schools tutor at Prospect Elementary School; National Honor Society Vice President; won award for the highest grade point average in Physics and English III; a Moorehead Scholarship nominee; won first place at the Region IV Science Fair; and was the US Navy Distinguished Service Award Winner.

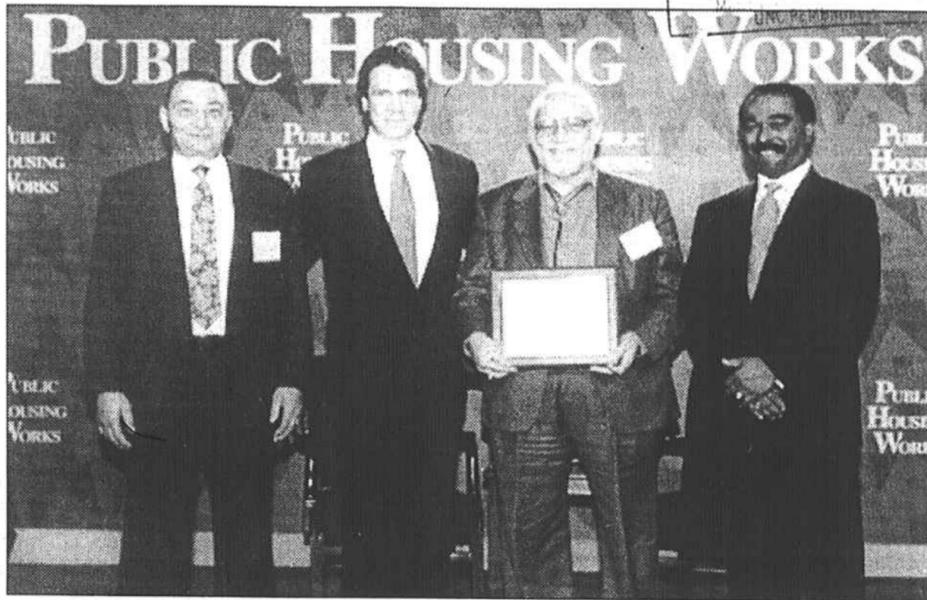
In the twelfth grade she was the National Honor Society President; class secretary of the Student Council; treasurer of DECA; a member of SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers); on the Superintendent's Honor Roll; a member of Who's Who Among America's High School Students; NASA Sergeant of Arms; Executive Council photographer for NCNAYO; a piano teacher; and a Student of Excellence Award winner.

Shelly is an active and faithful member of New Prospect Methodist Church where she has sung along with her mother and father in a family trio for thirteen years; is Assistant Sunday School teacher; and a soloist in the Young Adult Choir.

She traveled to the 1998 United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) conference in Washington, DC, serving as a representative for the Lumbee Tribe and providing entertainment at the banquet. She was a Lumbee Youth Representative at the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, NM. She has been a Special Olympics Volunteer for three years. She distributed gift bags during Thanksgiving at Pemberton Nursing Home. And was a Communities In School tutor (CIS) at Prospect Elementary School.

Shelly is the 18-year-old daughter of Ronald and Sandra Strickland of Harpers Ferry Road, Maxton, NC.

Congratulations Shelly!



Shown above, left to right, are: Commissioner Bricy Hammonds, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Chairman J. Garth Locklear, and Harold Lucas, Assistant Secretary

Pembroke Housing Authority Receives National Recognition for Excellence in Housing

Pembroke, NC—On January 12, 2000 then Chairman J. Garth Locklear and Commissioners Bricy Hammonds of the Pembroke Housing Authority attended an awards ceremony through an invitation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the ceremony was to recognize those housing authorities throughout the country that have excelled in providing decent, safe, and affordable housing in the communities for which they serve.

The U.S. Department of HUD has recognized the Pembroke Housing Authority for its performance each year for the last six years. This distinction has paved the way for the Authority to exercise greater flexibility in operating the five scattered sites with respect to management and modernization policies.

"This is an historic day for public housing. We've gathered here to celebrate your accomplishments. You represent the best in public housing. You provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for your residents. You are a good neighbor to the rest of the community. You are the nation's finest, and you should be proud," remarked Secretary Andrew Cuomo, of the U.S. Department of HUD. "I am proud to report that the success story of public housing is finally being heard."

"We are extremely proud to be invited to this national awards ceremony by Secretary Cuomo," replied Chairman Locklear. "Together, we have made a commitment of being the best at what we do. Today we see that we have been recognized for achieving that goal. We should be proud."

Commissioner Hammonds remarked, "It is good to know that the national leaders of our industry now in charge of HUD once worked in some way with public housing. I was glad to

learn that."

First Resident Appointed to Serve as Commissioner

Commissioner Bricy Hammonds is the first ever resident of the Pembroke Housing Authority to simultaneously receive housing assistance from the agency and serve on its five member board of commissioners. Despite earlier contradictions with state law, his appointment is a direct result of the Quality and Housing Work Responsibility Act of 1998. Through this legislation, most of all housing authorities must appoint at least one resident to serve as a Commissioner, just like any other appointment.

Commissioner Hammonds has been a resident of the Authority since October 1979. Since that time he has lived in both Strickland Heights and Dial Terrace. Commissioner Hammonds is married to Thelma Hammonds. "Commissioner Hammonds will bring to the forefront of every issue the livelihood of our residents," remarked Lemark Harris, Executive Director. "We are excited about his appointment and look forward to the insight and wisdom he can bring to our discussions."

Election of New Officers

Each year the Authority elects members of its Board of Commissioners to serve in the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. For the first fiscal year beginning January 1, 2000, Commissioner Olivia Revels was elected unanimously by her fellow commissioners to serve as the Authority's Chairperson. Chairperson Revels was recently reappointed by the Honorable Milton R. Hunt, Mayor, Town of Pembroke, to another five year term. Revels is co-owner of Revels' Funeral Home in Pembroke and Lumberton.

Better and Enhancements through Modernization Programs

Beginning in 1993, the Authority began to receive modernization funds

to improve the condition of its 243 dwelling units. For years these units had undergone less than the minimum maintenance required keeping up with the competitive private market. This in effect created large numbers of vacancies due to the inability to attract suitable residents.

Today Pembroke Housing Authority is the only authority in the county to have central heating and air conditioning in all of its units. This amenity has proven to be a great help with the hot, humid summers experienced recently. "We have been able to offer our residents relief from the dreadful heat that perish many elderly and disabled," stated Lemark Harris, Executive Director. "Although we are not situated in those areas most sensitive to hot summers such as Chicago or New York, we realized that our population of residents could not find comfort and safety in their homes from the heat, despite astronomical monthly electric bills. We set out to find a solution to this problem. We think with the modern HVAC systems our resident will be safe from the heat and save money each month when they pay their electric bills."

The Authority will begin to install new windows this year. This upgrade will provide another energy efficient upgrade with a greater degree of comfort and security. The U.S. Department of HUD's Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program will provide these funds. For FFY99, the Authority received approximately \$495,000; about half of what it will take to complete the replace and upgrade all of the windows. Nonetheless, the Authority has already pledged estimated funds of \$450,000 from the FFY 2000 CIAP to complete this project. "We are steadily marking off items that have been ignored for too long.

Continued Page 5

Haliwa Saponi to Sponsor 35th Annual Pow Wow

Hollister, NC—The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of Hollister, NC will sponsor its 35th annual Pow Wow on April 14-16, 2000 in Bethlehem (Near Hollister). The tribe, in celebration of receiving state recognition from the state of North Carolina in April 1965, sponsors the Pow Wow. The Pow Wow is also sponsored in order to showcase the tribe's culture and community. The event is open to the public. The tribe will honor elderly Indian Women and Princesses. Drummers and dancers are expected from the following tribes: Chickahominy, Piscataway, Navajo, Sioux, Blackfeet, Lumbee, Meherrin, Coharie, Rappahannock, Seminole, Tuscarora, Oneida, Commanche, Kiowa, Catawba, Nanticoke, Cheyenne, Mandan, Pequot, Mohawk, Maliset, Chippewa, Crow, and Onondaga to name a few. These dancers will also compete for nearly \$8,000.00 in prize money in the categories of jingle dress, fancy, traditional, and grass dance.

Over 25 traders/vendors will sell some of the finest American Indian crafts found in America. Items to be sold include: baskets, pottery, turquoise jewelry, beadwork, dream catchers, blankets, and moccasins.

Attendees will be able to purchase American Indian foods such as tacos, fry bread, okra and squash. Other items to be sold as well such as hot dogs, chicken and hamburgers.

Haliwa-Saponi craft persons will demonstrate basketry, carving, beadwork, pottery, and regalia making.

Admission to the Pow Wow is \$4.00 (ages 7-61) and \$3.00 (ages 62 and over). Children 6 years old and younger are admitted free. Gates will open on Friday, April 14, at 5:00 PM; Saturday at 10:00 AM and Sunday at 11:00 AM.

Little Ms Robeson



Megan Locklear was crowned Little Ms. Robeson County on April 3, 2000. She is the eight year old daughter of Alex and Dufrena Locklear of Pembroke.

Rockingham District Lay Rally 2000 Presents Awards to Gary Wayne Locklear, Robby Lowry, Prospect and Pleasant Grove Churches

by Alta Nye Oxendine

This year a lot of us missed being at Prospect UM Church, where he had been meeting every year since attendance at the annual Rockingham District Lay Rally got too large for all three counties to meet together. However, a number of us Robeson County Methodists made the trip to Hamlet on Sunday afternoon, March 26.

(Last time I made a mistake on the date in my column. This time I'm going by the program sheet to be sure I have this date right!)

Something happened that I had not expected. Once gain, Prospect Church had the most members present, in spite of the distance they had to travel this year! And Pleasant Grove had the most present from a small church.

We met in Richmond Community College's new Cole Auditorium, spacious enough for the 550 or so participants who attended from Richmond, Scotland and Robeson. Although we Robesonians were used to Harold Jacobs leading the hymn sin gas the group gathered, song leader Ronnie

Wallace of Rockingham chose some very meaningful songs. "He Touched Me" is the one that always touches ME, down deep, whether I sing it by myself or with a group. Pianist was Jack Swink.

Later in the program the Prospect Community Men, with Harold Jacobs at the piano, presented several powerful songs. The Galilee Singers, two men and two women representing one of the Black United Methodist churches in Scotland County, also blessed all of us listeners. There was spontaneous applause from the tri-racial participants for both singing groups!

Larry Chandler, pastor of Pleasant Grove, shared what the scholarship offering means to new pastors who are still students as they serve one or more churches.

This year Lee Wallace of Rockingham replaced Richmond Community College Vice President and Pembroke native, Jim Chavis, as Rockingham District Lay Leader. Although Lee was in charge of this year's program, Jim was present in what

seemed to me to be a kind of elder brother/host role. The attractive new Cole Auditorium will surely prove an asset to the Richmond Community College campus. President of the Rockingham District United Methodist Men, Allyn McLean, of Galilee UM Church, led the assembled group in the first prayer. At the end of the program Gary Locklear, Sandy Plains, offered the benediction.

Earline Waddell, president of the Rockingham District United Methodist Women, introduced the rally speaker, Barbara Tripp. Barbara has been serving as NC Conference Recovery Coordinator. With slides and touching stories, she shared with us what it's been like for the flood victims of Hurricane Floyd, and how various volunteers, along with aid from churches in other parts of the conference, have helped to alleviate the heartaches for those who lost everything but their lives.

Honorees

Each year United Methodist high school students selected by their

churches are honored for three accomplishments--church participation, academic achievement, and helping others in their community. Among the fifteen nominees were: Hall Sigmon and Christine Bell of Chestnut Street UMC and Tony Lowry, Elizabeth and Erickson Jacobs of Sandy Plains. Hall is the son of Dennis and Beth Sigmon, who were active at First Methodist Church when they lived in Pembroke. Dennis Sigmon still works in Pembroke, teaching in the English Department at UNCP. His wife, Beth, teaches at Robeson Community College. Sharon Bell, Christine's mother, teaches in the UNCP Business Department.

Christine Bell and Elizabeth Jacobs were among six students who received special recognition from the district. The Rev. Denny Wise, District Director of Higher Education, presented the awards. Elizabeth's parents are Bruce and Brenda Jacobs.

Gary Wayne Locklear

Once again, a member of one of the Indian United Methodist Churches in this area (Sandy Plains this time) was

chosen as Rockingham District Lay Person of the Year. Besides being very active in his own church, Gary has taken part in work teams in Russia and Bolivia. Forty-some years ago, when I was working with Sandy Plains and five other churches, I got to know Gary's parents, brothers and sisters. All of us are proud of the many contributions he has made!

Robby Lowry

Robby Lowry also received special recognition at the rally, for his work with is home church, Pleasant Grove UMC, as rocking ham District Lay Leader and then, for the past four years, as Lay Leader of the entire NC Conference.

He will also be one of the NC Conference representatives at General Conference in May. (Every four years persons elected to represent United Methodist churches from around the world meet to make decisions affecting the entire church for the following four years.)

I will always have fond memories of visiting at the home of "Mr. Harvey

(Sr.)" and "Miss Myrtle" when their four boys were young. And I am proud of the unique contributions each one of those "boys" has made as an adult. I could not help shedding some tears when both Gary's and Robby's names were announced. I've seen a lot of good things happen since coming to Pembroke in 1956!

Other Program Participants

Others on the program were Chevonne Wallace of East Rockingham UMC, the Rev. Robert Flynn, District Mission Coordinator, and the Rev. J. Edward Morrison, Rockingham District Superintendent.

Robeson County

During refreshments after the program, Earline Waddell, from Rockingham, told me that her very first job as a young woman was with the Robeson County extension service. One person she remembers fondly is Helen Sampson. It was interesting to me that Earline left Robeson County in September of 1956, the very SAME month I arrived. 43 and a half years later, the two of us finally met!