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UNCP Hires Two in the Office of the Chancellor



Donna G. Payne

Angela P. Weston

PEMBROKE, N.C. -- Some talented new faces will surround UNC Pembroke's Chancellor Allen C. Meadors in the New Year.

A full-time university attorney and a new special assistant have been added to the Office of the Chancellor.

Elizabethtown native Donna Gooden Payne has been hired as the general legal counsel for the university.

Angela P. Weston, a 1995 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., will serve as special assistant to the chancellor. She replaces Beth Carmical, who has been appointed director of International Student Life and the new Multicultural Center.

A Morehead Scholar and graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, Ms. Payne has been in private practice since 1996 with Hester, Grady, Hester & Payne in Elizabethtown. As a student, she performed an internship with the Supreme Court of Texas and later practiced with a law firm in Austin, Texas.

Chancellor Allen C. Meadors said a full-time attorney on staff is a welcome addition.

"Given the volume and complexity of the legal affairs at a growing university, we are very pleased to have Donna Payne join our staff," Chancellor Meadors said. "She is an expert in education law to UNC Pembroke."

With Hester, Grady, Hester & Payne, Ms. Payne participated in general practice of law and served as general counsel to the Bladen County board of Education and to Bladen Community College, handling legal matters concerning contracts, employment, construction, real estate and civil litigation.

Ms. Payne explained that her enthusiasm about representing UNC Pembroke stems, in part, from her appreciation of the opportunities the university offers to students in the region.

"Just as one example," she said, "my mother received her undergraduate degree in education from UNCP, which lead to her career as a school guidance counselor. She received an excellent education at the university, and I know her life was genuinely improved because of the experience."

"My work as general counsel will be challenging, but also extremely interesting," Ms. Payne said. "I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Chancellor Meadors and the outstanding group of administrators, faculty and staff he has assembled at the university. It's gratifying to be part of an institution that is and will continue to be an important engine for positive change in Southeastern North Carolina."

Ms. Payne is a 1987 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was a John Motley Morehead Scholar and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with highest honors. She is a member of the Morehead Scholar Regional Selection Committee.

Following graduation, she studied international economics at Maquarie University in Sydney, Australia, as a Rotary International Scholar.

She is the daughter of the late Stewart and Joyce Gooden of Elizabethtown and a graduate of East Bladen High School. Ms. Payne is married to Mark Payne, a private investigator.

A fellow of the Institute of Political Leadership at UNC Wilmington, Ms. Payne is president of the Elizabethtown-Whiter Lake Chamber of Commerce and was named Member of the Years for 2000-2001.

She is also a member of the Elizabethtown Rotary Club and an Executive Committee member of the Cape Fear Region, Boy Scouts of America.

Ms. Angela P. Weston, a Maine native, left the military in 2000 at the rank of captain. She served in the Army as a military intelligence officer and held the positions of training officer, information manager and executive officer among other duties.

Ms. Weston will be responsible for the managerial and administrative functions of the Office of the Chancellor. Additionally, she will direct the office staff, serve as assistant secretary to the Board of Trustees and serve on various internal and external committees.

Chancellor Meadors said Ms. Weston's training and organizational skills would be an asset to the university.

"Angela has already made a positive impact on the operations of the office," Dr. Meadors said. "We expect a great deal from this talented individual."

Ms. Weston graduated in the top 25 percent of her class at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree in management. While serving her country, she led a 20-man detachment from Ft. Bragg to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

She also earned her Master's of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2000.

Ms. Weston said she is excited by her new responsibilities at a growing university.

"I am happy to be a part of the UNCP team and look forward to contributing to the growth of the university," she said. "There are several programs and projects we are currently working on that will benefit the student body and the community."

Ms. Weston is married to Captain Jeff Weston, a Special Forces officer currently attending language school at Ft. Bragg. They have one daughter, Sierra.

11th Annual Native American Powwow "Our Children, Our Gift to the Future"

Durham --- The 11th annual Powwow, which will be held at The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM), will take place on Saturday, February 9 from 1:00 to 10:30 pm in the Charles R. Eilber Physical Education Center. The pageantry and colorful attire on display in previous Powwows will be in evidence this year, along with an unprecedented treat. The Powwow's head dancers will be NCSSM students, Senior Amanda Faircloth and junior Stewart Lowry, both Lumbee, were bestowed the Powwow's highest honors due to their mastery and knowledge of the Lumbee tribe's cultural history and dances. Native American Students attending NCSSM often learn about their cultures through the Native American club, but Amanda and Stewart arrived already versed in Lumbee tradition and practices. Amanda and Stewart exemplify this year's theme: "Our Children, Our Gift to the Future."

Amanda Faircloth, daughter of Rhonda Faircloth, is from Lumberton in Robeson County. She previously attended Lumberton Senior High School. Stewart Lowry, whose parents are Frances and Thurman Lowry, is from Lexington in Davidson County. He previously attended East Davidson High School.

Everyone is invited to the Powwow (admission is \$3); it's a good opportunity to learn about and celebrate Native American culture. Twenty-five tribes from all over the state of North Carolina will take part in the Powwow, including Cherokee, Waccamaw Siouan, Lumbee, Coharie, Haliwa-Saponi, and Meherrin. The exciting grand entry kinks off at 1 pm, followed by dancing until 5 pm, the big feast, another grand entry at 7:00 pm, and more dancing until 10:30 pm. In addition to the intertribal dancing, there will be a variety of arts and crafts and Native American food.

The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics opened in 1980 and recruits statewide to educate academically talented 11th and 12th grade students who show promise of exceptional development and/or special interest in science and mathematics. Students accepted to NCSSM are required to live on the Durham campus at the historic site of the former Watts Hospital. Approximately 550 juniors and seniors attend the public high school, living in five residence halls on campus.



Holiday Dinner for the "Healing Lodge" ministry to be established in Pembroke. More than 150 people participated in the event. Several denominations made this possible.



Some of the members of NAIM are shown above. In rear, left to right are; Rev. Mike Cummings, Rev. James H. Woods, Gary Locklear, Millard Lowry, Rev. Robert Mangum and April Oxendine and Lumbee Davis, shown in front.

Ministering to the Whole Man is the Goal of New Program

A central place for persons to come to receive an array of services ranging from spiritual healing to being fed a hot meal is how one would describe the "Healing Lodge," a faith based-community project of the Native American Interfaith Ministries (NAIM), a non-profit organization comprised of representatives from the Indian churches in Robeson County. The Native American Interfaith Ministries is an interdenominational community based organization made up of approximately 90 different congregations in Robeson County. According to Rev. Swett, "Our goal is to address many of the issues affecting our community by providing community education on these issues, and developing partnerships with other service organizations." Spiritual depletion, socio-economic conditions and education are three core issues the group has identified as leading to a greater number of societal problems in the area. They will attempt to improve the community by providing

services to help alleviate these problems. In addition, the group will make referrals to other service based organizations.

NAIM proposes to combat problems at the grass-roots level. Substance abuse, homelessness, sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence, and suicide prevention have been identified as areas of concern for Robeson County. They will focus on providing community education in each of these areas.

In December, NAIM co-sponsored a Syphilis Awareness Seminar at Prospect United Methodist Church. There were approximately 300 persons in attendance. Other events include a community Christmas Dinner held in December. The dinner was a great success. According to Rev. Robert Mangum of the group, "We want to reduce the obstacles and increase the opportunities for community members."

The group is currently seeking a location for the Lodge. Future plans include a soup kitchen, clothes closet, and thrift store.

Local Student is Nominated to Compete in National Award Program

Tyson Meadors, a Purnell Swett High School senior, has been nominated to compete in the national Principal's Leadership Award Scholarship Program (PLA), sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Herff Jones, Inc., funds the Principal's Leadership Award Program.

Wesley Revels, principal of Purnell Swett High School, announced the nomination, which places Meadors in the national competition. One hundred fifty national PLA winners will be chosen this spring to receive \$1,000 college scholarships.

High school principals from across the country could nominate one of their student leaders. Nominees were selected based on their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs; achievements in the arts and sciences; employment experience; and academic record. They also were required to write an essay.

In recognizing leadership in co-curricular activities as well as academic performance, the PLA scholarship recognizes the importance of a well-rounded education. Co-curricular activities are an essential part of the school curriculum.

While at Purnell Swett High School, Meadors serves as Student Council president and has received the following honors: National Merit Qualifier, Student Body President, ranked #1 in a class of 235, voted Most Likely to Succeed, 4.00 GPA, 1450 SAT score, National Honor Society, sophomore Student of Excellence, Superintendent's Award Winner, Coca Cola Scholar athlete, school subject awards in Spanish II and III, chemistry honors, physics honors, advanced math honors and AP calculus A and B, AP U. S. History, English honors, dramatics, and Play Production II honors. He also attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference as a participant for the North Carolina East Region. His community involvement includes: Relay for Life Volunteer, Special Olympics Volunteer, and math tutor for at-risk elementary age students.

NASSP, the preeminent school leadership organization, serves as the national voice for middle level and high school principals, assistant principals, and aspiring school leaders. NASSP promotes the intellectual growth, academic achievement, character development, leadership development, and physical well being of youth through its programs and student leadership services. NASSP administers the National Honor Society, the National Junior Honor Society, and the National Association of Student Councils. NASSP is also the sponsor of National Student Leadership Week.

An Open Letter to the Tribe Relative to Our Constitution

Recently, the Tribal Council has been rumored as saying they do not feel the constitution is a valid document, and they will not support being sworn in under that document. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the fact that the Lumbee Tribal Constitution adopted by the Lumbee tribal membership on November 6, 2001 is a valid document. Further, the current Lumbee Tribal Council is bound by the terms of that tribal constitution. It is our responsibility as tribal members to ensure that the Tribal Council operates under that document and that they do not usurp the authority of the Lumbee people who have stated very clearly that they wanted a constitutional form of government, and they have adopted the tribal constitution that they wanted. This constitution was legally binding on our Tribal

Council and our Tribal Chairman upon adoption by the people. It is imperative that our Tribal Council and our Tribal Chairman immediately appoint our Tribal Elections Board, and even more importantly our Tribal Court, as required by the duly adopted Lumbee Constitution. Failure to do so in a timely manner could result in a recall movement which is the people's right under our tribal constitution.

Lastly, our review of the constitution will continue in February. And, remember the Lumbee Constitution is our constitution and it is no more effective than we the people demand that it be.

Thank you.
Cynthia L. Hunt, a duly enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe.

AIM and Iron Bear Visions Contribute to needy families

American Indian Mothers Organization and Iron Bear Vision Organization wishes to thank the many supporters for their dedication and support of their projects during the Christmas holidays. They made a lot of needy families have a brighter Christmas. These special people have shown the true spirit of the Good Samaritan. Through their example of service we can see the commandment of loving thy neighbor in action.

Among the activities during the holidays was the Robeson County Housing Authority Breakfast Program where the senior citizens received thirty fruit bags on December 20.

On December 21 eight young people received clothing and went Christmas caroling at the Methodist Home for Children. This event was sponsored by the Robeson County Commissioners Raymond Cummings, Johnnie Hunt and Noah Woods; and Mart T. Locklear of Eagle Protection Services and North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Director Kenneth P. Hall also helped sponsor the event.

During the month of December three families in Robeson County lost their homes to fire, including ten children and six adults.

American Indian Mothers member Lora Collins of the Shannon community who is confined to a wheelchair got to work by calling friends and family and received clothing shoes and toys for these families. Also the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Pembroke Ward made a donation for clothing.

Nash Finch and employees donated fruit baskets and food vouchers. On December 23rd the organizations sponsored the event for the Toy Run and Truck Pull in the parking lot of

Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse. During this event Chief Iron Bear Harold Collins and Curt Nobles, "The Extreme Team," Lee McCallum, Nikki Nobles; who is the daughter of Curt Nobles, pulled a tractor trailer 100 feet. Also thirteen year old son Josh Noble and Curt Noble bent iron bars and broke concrete blocks with their heads. What a showcase of "Brute and Spiritual" strength. Curt Nobles gave a wonderful demonstration of the power of God through scripture and righteous living, bringing our minds back to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and his example through service.

Nash Finch's donation of the tractor trailer and driver, along with the employees' donation of money for toys made this a happy day for so many families.

Through a tragedy like September 11, 2001 the attack on American, demonstrated that there are still Good Samaritans with the courage to carry on. The American Indian Mothers wish to also thank their member, Janice Oxendine, Chairman, Beverly Collins-Hall, vice chairman, Christine Locklear, treasurer, Ginger Carter, secretary, and AIM Ambassador Dr. Ruth Dial Woods. Also "Iron Bear Vision" Harold D. Collins and Velinda Warrax, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Lumberton Branch Missionaries.

The American Indian Mothers (AIM) wishes all the world peace on earth and good will to men. For more information about American Indian Mothers (AIM) call Beverly Collins-Hall at 910-843-9911.

by Beverly Collins-Hall

UNCP's Kay Oxendine Hosts Public Radio Show



PEMBROKE, N.C. -- By day Kay Oxendine is a mild-mannered employee of UNC Pembroke's Printing Center, but one night a week, she is transformed into the host of her own public radio program.

Kay is the voice of "Native Voices," a news, music and information program on Native Americans that airs on 100,000-watt WISS-FM (91.9). The show runs Tuesday nights, 7-10 p.m. on the public radio station that is operated by Fayetteville State University.

"I am very excited about doing this show because it allows me to share pieces of my culture with the listening audience," she said.

Kay has been around the entertainment scene for many years, managing and performing in Native American drum groups and doing casting work for several high profile movies, including "Broken Chains," "Richie Rich," "The Chamber" and co-producer of "Pocohantas: The Documentary."

Her passion for all things Native American and the entertainment busi-

ness was nourished by her role in making movies.

"Making the movie "Broken Chains" changed my life," Kay said. "This was the first time I was able to see Native Americans from across the U.S. and Canada come together for such a worthwhile project."

"It gave us hope that we can do anything that we put our hearts and minds to," she said.

Kay has published many articles on Native American issues for newspapers and other periodicals. This is her second radio program. Kay has recently begun singing with Kau-ta-noh, Jr., a local Native American drum group. They just signed a five-year record deal with Sunshine Records of Canada.

A Haliwa-Saponi Tribe member and raised in Richmond, Va., Kay comes to Pembroke via marriage to John Oxendine. They have two children, Jonathan, two, and Rachel Ann, 12.

For the future, she plans to take classes at the university and to keep an eye on the entertainment industry.