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"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Kelvin Sampson comes home to Pembroke

Pembroke, NC-Kelvin Sampson was genuinely pleased to be home in Pembroke and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. "I never thought I would be a distinguished speaker," Sampson told an audience of more than 500 on April 28 at the Givens Performing Arts Center. "I never thought I would be distinguished. I'm honored."

Sampson, a 1978 graduate and dead basketball coach at Oklahoma University, was the final speaker in UNCP's Distinguished Speaker Series.

"I take representing Pembroke and UNCP very seriously," he said.

Appearing very comfortable on his home court, Sampson mixed stories of his family and growing up in Pembroke with the lessons he has learned in 26 years as head coach. And, he offered inspiration.

"As you grow older, you go from having heroes to having

people who inspire you," the 46-year-old coach said. "I challenge everyone in this room to find someone to inspire you and find a way to inspire someone else."

Sampson and his teams have been accused of being overachievers after building one of the top programs in the nation without the benefit of waves of blue-chip players.

"I don't like the word overachieve. Don't ever tell me my teams overachieve," he said. "If you're successful, you've lived up to your ability level."

We don't want to have great teams," he said. "We want to have a great program."

Sampson's team has won three straight Big 12 Conference tournament championships and is invited to the NCAA tournament every year. But he said he has learned more lessons from losing than winning.

At his first head coaching stop at Montana Tech, his first two

teams went 5-22 and 4-23.

"Jud Heathcote called me up to congratulate me to taking Montana Tech from obscurity to oblivion," Sampson laughed. Heathcote was the Michigan State coach who gave the young college graduate from Pembroke his first coaching job.

"The first step up the ladder of success is failure," he said. "It's nothing to be ashamed of."

Sampson persevered at Montana, and his next stop was in the PAC 10 at Washington State.

"The toughest job in the PAC 10 is Washington State," he said. "Any team that would hire a 24-year-old Native American as its coach has to be in bad shape."

Sampson's first team went 1-17 in PAC play.

"We weren't really that bad. We just weren't good enough to win," he said. "Of all the things that have happened to me, that was the best."

"Mature people know how to

handle adversity," Sampson said. "People who can't handle adversity, blame others."

Sampson said he admires commitment, unselfishness and teamwork in his players.

"Some kids have a hard time being team mates," he said. "A very good player will get you 15 points and 10 rebounds a night. A great player will get your 15 points, 10 rebounds and will be your most popular player, the kind of kid other players will go to when they're down."

"Coaching is getting your kids to understand teamwork, to be givers," Sampson said. "I don't like people who were born on third base and think they hit a triple. If your best player is your hardest worker, it will be hard not to succeed."

"Soft people want things handed to them," the coach said. "Successful people compete, not just play hard."

To the young people of the au-

diency, Sampson had this advice: Kids will you it's tough for them," he said. "You can be anything you want, but you can't be afraid to fail."

Ordinary people do extraordinary things," he said.

Sampson answered questions following the speech/ During the day, he taped an interview with WNCP, the university's broadcast program and spoke with UNCP's men's basketball team.

Three speakers have been signed up for next year's distinguished Speaker Series, Today Show host Soledad O'Brien, Native American Olympic champion Billy Mills and filmmaker Spike Lee. A fourth speaker will be announced soon.

For more information about the speaker series, contact the Office of Student Activities at (910) 521-6207 or email abdulghaffar@uncp.edu.



Kelvin Sampson

This Article written by Scott Bigelow of the UNCP Public Relations Department.

First Baptist Church honors our troops



Let's pray for our men and women who are on a dangerous mission. They are fighting a war of good against evil. Pembroke First Baptist thanks them for their bravery.

Recently with much pray the members of First Baptist tied yellow ribbons out front of the church. There is a young man from that church family in the military conflict, Sgt. Joseph C. Carter (Joe). The church encourages prayer for him, his wife, Candi, and the children. He is the son of Buddy and Barbara Carter.

Sgt. Carter's parents, are shown in the center, Theresa Locklear is shown beside the pastor, Rev. Kent Chavis.

Pembroke Middle School students win county Battle of the Books competition



Pembroke Middle School won the Robeson County Battle of the Books competition for the second consecutive year. First place honors for the school for 2003 made is the second consecutive win for them. Thirteen middle schools competed for the ward. Carrol Middle School was awarded second place and Magnolia took third place.

Battle of the Books is like a quiz bowl competition where the students answer questions from 27 different books from the young adult literature. The competition began in 1992 in the public schools of Robeson County.

The winners shown above will travel to Harnett County to present Robeson County in the regional competition.

Members of Pembroke Middle School's winning team are Brandi McRae, Rachel Malcolm, Sarah Oxendine, Nathan Altomare, Rachel Ensing, Chelsea Locklear, Emily Altomare. Coach is the media coordinator, Lesa Maynor who is assisted by Ruby B. Locklear.

Great job, students! Well done!!!



Pictured (from left): Cecil Brown, HUD representative, Ronnie Hunt, LREMC, Rev. Ron Sanders, campus minister, Lorna McNeill, alumni director, Henry Lewis, UNCP trustee, Congressman Mike McIntyre, Johnny Hunt, Chairman of County Commissioners, Dr. Roger Brown, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

UNCP's Regional Center Breaks Ground

Pembroke, N.C.- The Regional Center is an investment for generations to come," said 7th District U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre. "This (groundbreaking) proves that when we work together, we can make a difference."

U.S. Rep. McIntyre said he has high hopes for the Regional Center's role in turning around the sagging economy of Robeson and surrounding counties. He was the keynote speaker April 28 at the groundbreaking ceremony for UNCP's new Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development.

"The number one issue in our community is jobs," McIntyre said. "The number two issue is jobs and the number three issue is jobs."

The congressman said he is very comfortable at the COMtech business and education park, where the new 11,500 square-foot center is to be constructed. McIntyre's great grandfather once farmed land there, and he cut wood at the site as a young man, he said. McIntyre personally delivered \$950,000 in federal funding for project Federal funding is nearing

\$3 million for the Regional Center, which seeks to harness the university's resources to address community issues. Representing UNCP Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Roger Brown praised COMtech and the Regional Center as a historic partnership that will break new ground for the region's economy. "The building we are about to break ground for already has a special place in the history and future of our institution," Dr. Brown said. "This is the first building we have ever constructed off campus." "It is fitting that we break ground here at COMtech, which is another project that owes its existence to an array of partnerships that are represented here this morning," Dr. Brown said. "Forging alliances and building partnerships is the only way we will be able to build a successful community in the new world we live in today." For COMtech, it was the third groundbreaking in the past few months, Robeson Community College will build a technology training center at the site, and the Public Schools of Robeson County

has promised a technology magnet school at the park, located between Lumberton and Pembroke. Lumbree River Electric Membership Cooperative (LREMC) has been instrumental in planning and building the 600-acre COMtech. "I am pleased to be here welcoming another founding partner at a groundbreaking," said Ronnie Hunt, LREMC's executive director and chair of COMtech's board of directors. "We're proud to have you aboard." The Robeson County Board of Commissioners provide initial funding and support for COMtech. "The commissioners and I long for the day that this 'field of dreams' is filled with business and industry," said Johnny Hunt, county commission chair. There were many representatives from local governments and businesses at the site, including Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt and Lumberton Mayor Raymond Pennington. UNCP trustee Henry Lewis, a Lumberton businessman, summed up by saying the groundbreaking is day one of the turnaround of the region's economy.

Woods presents at international conference on indigenous people

Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke was invited to present at the 2003 Transformative Justice Conference: This Land is Our Land Too! sponsored by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and partnership with the Birmingham International Festival, Birmingham Pledge Foundation and South Africa's Institute for Justice and Reconciliation. Presenters at this conference highlighted the common concerns linking indigenous peoples worldwide with other marginalized communities and explored the legislative and constitutional dimensions of land issues, racism and the highly controversial subject of reparations. The three day conference featured key addressed by Dr. Molefi Kete Asante of Temple University,

Bishop Tony Burton of the Anglican Diocese in Saskatchewan, Congressman Artur Davis, Dr. Samba Diop of Harvard University, David Horowitz, author and lifelong civil rights activist, Kim Phuc of the Kim Phuc The Foundation, Juan Williams, Senior Correspondent for National Public Radio and a political analyst for Fox News and other humanists and civil rights activists. Dr. Woods was invited to share her research and first-hand experiences in human rights struggles and the Civil Rights Movement. She joined other American Indian presenters that included Suzan Harjo, Executive Director of the Morning Star Institute and former Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians,

Dr. John C. Mohawk, author and Professor of the Center for the Americas at State University of Buffalo's Indigenous Studies program, Tribal Chairman Eddie Tullos of the Alabama Poarch Band of Creeks, and Donald G. Sampson, Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission of the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce American Indian Tribes. The conference on April 22-24 is part of a year-long International Festival Salute to Canada sponsored by the State of Alabama's Bureau of Tourism and Travel, Birmingham government and civic agencies and organizations, business and industry partners and public media entities.