

UNCP graduates 384 at Spring Commencement

PEMBROKE, N.C. - U.S. Sen. John Edwards issued UNC Pembroke graduates one final assignment "to confront the bigotry and hatred we have yet to purge from this country." The first-term senator, who launched a bid for the presidency in January, said civility and passivity are allies of hatred and racial bigotry, and that "silence implies consent."

"We turn our backs daily from small battlegrounds," Sen. Edwards said. "You - and we - have an obligation to stand against the forces of intolerance that deny opportunity to others. You - and we - have an obligation to confront hatred and state clearly that it will no longer be tolerated."

Sen. Edwards was the keynote speaker Saturday, May 10 for commencement ceremonies that saw 384 graduate, 61 with master's degrees. It was the largest

Spring Commencement in the history of a rapidly growing university.

The North Carolina born and bred Edwards said the years following graduation should not be years of "Blind compassion."

"Where there is injustice, there is your battleground," he concluded. "Where there is misery, there is your battleground."

"I know you can, because 116 years ago, your forefathers, the founding fathers of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, acted and made a difference," Sen. Edwards said.

In a press conference before commencement, Sen. Edwards said he is "very encouraged" about his campaign for the presidency.

The Robbins, N.C., native, who is the first member of his family to graduate from college, sidestepped foreign policy questions to focus on domestic issues

- social and economic.

"We have work to do in North Carolina, particularly in some parts," Sen. Edwards said about Southeastern North Carolina. "The first thing we have to do is rebuild the economy of this country. We must energize the economy."

Sen. Edwards also proposed a "College for Everyone" program to ensure that every young American can attend college.

On a sweltering Saturday morning with a standing-room-only crowd in the Main Gym of the Jones Athletic Complex, Chancellor Allen C. Meadors bid farewell to a class that enrolled at UNCP the same year he arrived on campus.

"We share a special bond as many of you began your journeys here at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke four years ago when I became chancellor of this fine institution," Chancellor



Meadors said, "During the past four years, UNC Pembroke has become the fastest growing university in North Carolina, and each of you are fully prepared for your futures as UNCP graduates."

"I challenge each of you to claim your dreams and goals as your own," he said.

UNC President Molly Broad offered praise for enrollment growth and high quality instruction at UNCP, but added a cautionary note.

"This is a university on the

rise with an outstanding faculty from the UNC Board of Governors. Henry Lewis from

"In the face of remarkable growth, we face unrelenting rounds of budget cuts that now place the birthright of every North Carolinian in jeopardy. That birthright is to obtain a high quality, affordable education."

President Broad called upon North Carolina to find the courage to make the right choices for the future of the state.

Dr. Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke and Lewis, who is Pembroke brought greetings from Lumberton.

the UNCP Board of Trustees, Dr. Thomas Dooling from the faculty, Hal Sargent II from Alumni and Koji Sado from the Student Government Association.

Four outgoing UNCP Trustees were recognized by Chancellor Meadors: Roger Oxendine of Rowland, Dr. Cheryl Locklear of Pembroke, McDuffie Cummings of Pembroke and Lewis, who is Lumberton.

American Indian Women Receive Service Awards at Banquet

Awards were presented to American Indian Women who have provided leadership and service by the American Mothers at the Second Annual Memorial, Award and Scholarship Banquet on Friday, May 2.

Women recognized and receiving awards included: Dr. Josephine Locklear of Orrum, Education Award; Mickey Locklear of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs and Aileen Holmes, former member of the Robeson County Board of Education, Government Awards; Cynthia Locklear of Cyna's Jewelers, Business Award; Cynthia Brooks, artist and Potter, Cultural Awareness Award; Florence Revels Ransom and Mattie Bell, Public Service Awards; and Bonnie L. McMillian, Compassionate Service Award.

Youth leadership awards were presented to Hannah Worriax and Magie Brilliance Gomez.

Phyllis Davis of the Coharie Tribe of Sampson County received the Ambassador Service Award.

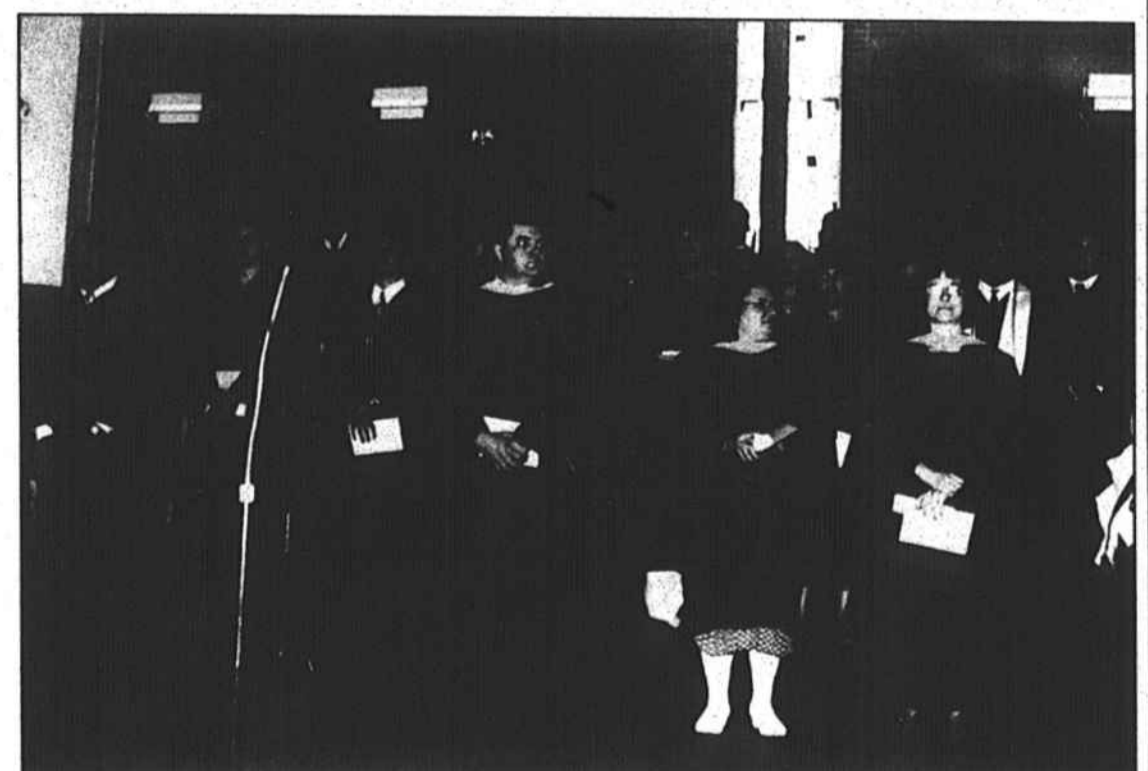
Four Educational Scholarships were awarded. The Delora B. Locklear Scholarship was awarded to Shalasha Locklear. Tabitha Locklear was the recipient of the Brenda Brewington Brooks Memorial Scholarship, and Ashley S. Deal was the recipient of the Brigitte B. Cummings memorial Scholarship. The sponsoring organization, American Indian Mothers, presented a scholarship to Stephanie Hora.

More than 300 persons attended the Banquet which was highlighted by a Candle Lighting Memorial Ceremony for Ilove American Indian women inducted into the First People Memorial Hall of Fame. New inductees were Lora Collins (Lumbee), myrtle Jane Maynor (Lumbee), Nettie Burnette

(Coharie), Luticia Jacobs (Waccamaw Siouan), Earnestine Hammond Locolar (Lumbee) and Mackley Spaulding-Oxendine (Lumbee).

Congratulatory letters were received and read from Senators John Edward and Elizabeth Dole, Congressman Mike McIntyre, and Governor Michael F. Easley. Miss Stars and Stripes, Rebecca Reveles, the Youth in Christ and the Pierce Family provided special music and the Daughters of the First People of the AIM Rueben Center performed special readings and a cultural performance.

American Indian Mothers is a state chartered 501 (c) 3 organization committed to compassionate service that will improve the quality of life for families through a Shield of Prevention of family counseling, self-awareness, respect, health services, educational programs, empowerment of women, cultural sensitivity and spiritual awakening.



Prospect UMC to recognize graduates Sunday

Sunday, May 18, 2003 will be a very exciting and special day. At 10:40 a.m. Prospect United Methodist Church (UMC) will recognize and honor its graduates of 2003. Then at 7:00 p.m. a Gospel Sing will conclude the day of activities. Prospect UMC's own choirs and vocal

groups will be part of this bi-monthly gospel singing.

The pastor, Rev. Bill James Locklear and the congregation invite you to worship with them as they celebrate the class of 2003 at 0:40 a.m. and then join them as the gospel is sung at 7 p.m.

The events will take place in the sanctuary of Prospect United Methodist Church at 3929 Missouri Road, Maxton, North Carolina 28364, across the road from Prospect School. For further information you may call 910-521-2111 or 521-8503. Come and bring a friend.

If it had to happen, nurse's stroke occurred in best possible place-in the emergency department

PINEHURST - Cheri White-Locklear would obviously prefer never to have had a stroke.

But if it had to happen, and it did, two days before Christmas 2001, she was in the best possible place - at work in the Emergency Department at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

White-Locklear, a registered nurse in the ED, was 35 years old.

"My friend, Kathy Gillon, was sitting next to me," White-Locklear recalls. "She asked me to smile at her, and I think I looked at her like I was crazy."

Gillon, who is also a nurse, has seen a lot of stroke patients come through the Emergency Department at Moore Regional, so she was instantly alarmed by the symptoms she observed in her friend and co-worker on that late-December night.

Gillon was also familiar with White-Locklear's history of pulmonary embolism (blood clot in the lung) and knew that her friend's older brother had himself had a stroke. That's why she asked her to smile.

"When she smiled, her smile was crooked," Gillon says.

White-Locklear's right eye was drooping and she was losing the use of her right side. At the time, Gillon says, her speech was normal, but that, too, would soon change.

"I could talk, but the words I was saying were not what I meant," White-Locklear says.

Most of the next 24 hours are fuzzy for White-Locklear, who doesn't remember much about what took place except what her husband, her mother and Gillon have told her.

"Kathy said the right side of my face dropped," White-Locklear says. "She told me to lie down for a while. She told me - I don't remember - that I tried to get up and she said I wasn't walking right. She grabbed me and called for help."

One of the first to arrive was Steven P. Strobel, M.D., the Emergency Department physician on duty that night. "He was just terrific with the whole situation," Gillon says.

Gillon recalls that Dr. Strobel attended White-Locklear while ordering a CAT scan and calling for a neurologist. "She was in CAT scan within five minutes," Gillon says.

Within minutes of the scan, White-Locklear was being examined by Jonathan Richman, M.D., the neurologist on call. Dr. Richman told Gillon to call the hospital pharmacy and order the

clot-busting medication tPA. In Gillon's mind, the drug couldn't get to the ED fast enough.

"I was calling down to the pharmacy and saying 'I need this medicine like yesterday,'" she says.

Given intravenously, tPA can improve a patient's condition while preventing further damage to the brain cells, which begin to die off from the effects of the stroke. The medication can be given only in certain circumstances, however, and needs to be administered within three hours of the onset of symptoms to be effective. Because many patients delay getting help when they first display symptoms, and because some aren't good candidates due to age or medical history, not every stroke patient will get tPA.

White-Locklear was one of the fortunate ones - even though her CAT scan didn't actually show immediate evidence of a stroke. She has since been told that stroke is difficult to detect in scans of young people. Since she was displaying all the common symptoms, however, including disorientation, numbness and difficulty speaking, she had the tPA anyway and a follow-up visit with a neurologist at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill only confirmed what Dr. Richman had correctly suspected.

White-Locklear says she doesn't remember much about what happened until the day following the stroke. She recalls being in Robins ICU at Moore Regional and her husband and mother being with her.

"They told me what happened, and I started crying," she says.

She doesn't remember exactly how long she was in ICU either or a lot about what happened in the ensuing few days - except for sessions with a speech pathologist and the thickened liquids and pureed foods she was given because of her difficulty swallowing.

She also remembers tests, "a lot of tests."

Thanks to the immediate attention she received in the Emergency Department and what Gillon calls her "tremendous will," White-Locklear left the hospital without needing inpatient rehabilitation. She did,

however, spend four months in physical therapy at the First-Health Center for Health & Fitness-Raeford, the closest outpatient rehab location to her home in the Rockfish community of Hoke County.

She returned to work on April 17 of last year, almost four months to the day of the stroke, still nursing a lazy right foot, but willing and able - thanks in part to her supportive co-workers - to carry a full-time schedule.

"She is doing great, carries a

full patient load and is a very skillful nurse," says her supervisor Dotty Kuell, Assistant Director of MRH Emergency Services.

If there is one thing that White-Locklear has learned from her experience, it is that she needs to take care of herself. Her stroke occurred at a time when she was under a lot of stress - caring for an ailing family member while working the same 7-to-7 night shift she took when she joined the Moore regional ED staff in November 2000. Nor was she as good as she should have been about taking the blood-thinning medication that was prescribed following her

embolism episode in 1997.

At the time, she was diagnosed with a clotting deficiency, the same condition that likely contributed to her 37-year-old brother's stroke a year before her own. She had never been on a regular schedule with her medication, taking it in the mornings when she got off work and then on "real people's time" when she was off.

Sometimes she just forgot to take it at all and then doubled up on the dosage.

She now takes her medicine at the same time every morning - whether she's working or not. "I don't miss a dose," she says.

A former Army Medic who served in the Persian Gulf War, White-Locklear earned her LPN (licensed practical nurse) degree through the Army and later trained as a registered nurse at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford. She worked in the ICU at Womack Army Hospital at Fort Bragg for eight years before transferring to Moore Regional.

Stroke symptoms and warning signs

Stroke should be regarded as a medical emergency requiring urgent medical attention. May is Stroke Awareness Month and the time when the warning signs of stroke are especially highlighted. The most common symptoms of stroke are:

- *Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- *Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- *Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- *Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- *Sudden, severe headache with no known cause