

Ribbons for Cancer Recovery Gala planned for Feb. 2004

What began five years ago as a way to help local patients financially during cancer therapy has continued to grow and flourish. The Ribbons for Cancer Recovery Endowment was established to provide cancer patients with financial aid for out-of-pocket expenses during the course of their chemotherapy and radiation treatments. The fund was first announced at the 1998 Southeastern Regional Medical Center Foundation Gala. Now the work of the endowment has sparked the interest of a new group of Foundation volunteers, who are preparing for the 12th annual event set for Friday, February 27, 2004. The proceeds from the 2004 gala, "A Night to Remember-Ribbons for Cancer Recovery," will be designated for the endowment fund.

"Over the past three years, 2000 through 2003, Ribbons for Cancer Recovery has assisted patients at Gibson Cancer Center with nearly \$28,000 in medication, transportation, and educational materials with an occasional hotel accommodation," said Karen Kay, director of the center.

Kay indicated that the proceeds from the 2004 gala will help infuse the endowment with some much needed additional funding. "During the past year, the endowment assisted 55 patients and distributed 86 vouchers for medication and 15 for transportation costs," she said.

She added that during the past three years, 180 cancer patients from Robeson, Bladen and Columbus counties have received help. Many patients on fixed incomes struggle to pay for cancer treatment medications in addition to their routine medicines and their normal expenses for food and shelter. Kay said that oncology therapist Stephanie Chavis completes and assessment for each patient in order to determine the need for assistance from the endowment. Vouchers may then be issued for assistance with cancer medications, transportation to and from the center and motel accommodations.

"The Ribbons for Cancer Recovery program not only helps with the healing of a cancer patient's body. It also helps with the healing process of mind and spirit," Kay added.

Co-chairs Janice Helms and Fordham Britt are heading up the planning efforts for the 2004 gala along with 24 other volunteers. The black-tie event will be held from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. at the Pinecrest Country Club. The Bill Bolen Band will offer a varied program of musical selections for the dancing pleasure of the guests.

"It is wonderful that the Ribbons fund has helped so many. Now it is time to try to help more cancer patients," said Sissy Grantham, executive director of the SRMC Foundation. "We are grateful for this year's gala volunteers who believe so strongly in this event and who are committed to this worthy cause."

The cost is \$125 per couple and \$1,000 for a reserved table. For more information and gala reservations, call the Foundation office at 671-5583.

RCC, UNCP boost birth-to-kindergarten programs

Pembroke, NC - Officials for UNC Pembroke and Robeson Community College signed a landmark agreement December 4 that will support birth-to-kindergarten (BK) education in the region.

The articulation agreement will allow students to earn a two-year associate degree in Early Childhood at RCC and, with two additional years at UNCP, they may complete a bachelor's degree with teacher certification in BK.

Educators, lawmakers and the legal community have focused on the early education of children as a key to later success, UNCP and RCC educators said.

UNCP's Chancellor Allen C. Meadors and RCC President Charles Chrestman signed the pact Thursday morning, December 11, in the boardroom of Lumbee Hall on UNCP's campus.

"This agreement is about students, and this represents a good opportunity for our students to continue their higher education," Dr. Chrestman said. "This is a very good day for us, and we are very, very pleased to enter into this agreement. It is something we have wanted for a long time."

Chancellor Meadors agreed, saying the early childhood agreement is the first of more pacts to come.

"This is the beginning of several programs of this nature," Chancellor Meadors said. "In the world today, education is what it is all about, and this is an important mechanism for students to start their education at RCC and then be prepared to walk straight in our doors."

Dr. Warren Baker, Dean of UNCP's School of Education, and Dr. Jane Huffman, Chair of the Education Department, were also on hand for the signing ceremony.

"This opportunity will help meet the many, many needs for early childhood education in the region," Dr. Baker said.

"The important thing about this is, that for students, there will be no delay in the progress of their four-year degree," Dr. Huffman said.

UNCP has approximately 200 students in its Birth-to-Kindergarten program, and RCC has 317 students in its Early Childhood program said Dr. Mark Kinlaw, RCC's Vice President for Instruction and Support Services.

Dr. Kinlaw said, "RCC is excited about this articulation between our Early Childhood program and UNCP's BK program. At RCC, we believe that we must get involved in helping to provide more students who pursue teaching as a profession."

"We believe this articulation will encourage students to earn their associate degree and continue their studies at UNCP and eventually enter the teaching field in birth-to-kindergarten," he said. "We believe this agreement is good for both RCC and for UNCP. Most importantly, we believe it will be good for our students."

The BK degree prepares teacher education candidates to work with children birth-five years, with and without disabilities, in a variety of settings including public schools, More at Four programs, Head Start, public and private child-care facilities and agencies serving children birth-to five years of age, and their families.

Dr. Stanley, Coordinator of the Birth-to-Kindergarten program at UNCP, said graduates of BK programs are in demand.

"There is a great demand for BK licensure now because of the increased emphasis on early intervention and preparing young children for school at the local, state and national level," Dr. Stanley said. Gwendolyn L. Chavis, Chair, Early Childhood.

**Happy Holidays
from the staff of the
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Felicia Hunt, Marketing Teacher at Purnell Swett High School, was selected as Teacher of the Year for the Public Schools of Robeson County. She is shown receiving a Plaque from Mr. Wesley Revels, Principal, Purnell Swett High School.

Swett High Teacher named Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Felicia Hunt, Marketing Teacher, was selected Teacher of the Year for Robeson County for 2003-2004. She attended UNCP and received her BS degree in Business Administration. She is a HSTW coordinator, Marketing Schools Work coordinator, State Employees Credit Union Advisory Board member, and was SIT chair person in 1999-2001. Ms. Hunt has been teaching school for eight years.

"Special thanks to the PSHS staff and student body for helping me receive this great honor. My accomplishments are possible because of the wonderful people that I encounter on a daily basis," stated Ms. Hunt.

by Casey Jones



Mrs. Pamela Wright, Guidance Counselor of the Year for Robeson County, is shown receiving a plaque from Mr. Wesley Revels, Principal, Purnell Swett High School, where Mrs. Wright serves as counselor.

WRIGHT ELECTED AS ROBESON COUNTY COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Pamela Wright, a guidance counselor was selected Counselor of the Year for Robeson County. Mrs. Wright attended North Carolina Central University and received a B.S. degree in Community Health Education and a M.A. in Guidance and Counseling. Mrs. Wright was a counselor at Rosenwald and Green Grove Elementary for one year. This is her fourth year at Purnell Swett High School.

Mrs. Wright has taught part time at Robeson Community College, served as health coordinator at Bladen County Schools, Health Education Coordinator, Public Schools of Robeson County, and director for Stanley County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) five and a half years.

Mrs. Wright was selected as one of eight Enterprising Women in Stanley County by the Stanley News and Press.

Mrs. Wright's community and church activities include: Tutor-Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Zetar Enrichment Program; 4-H Volunteer Robeson County, Mentor, Public Schools of Robeson County Student Mentoring Project; Board Member, Director, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School teacher, Special projects coordinator-Faith Community Christian Center, Lumberton, NC; North Carolina Minority Health Advisory Council-three year appointment; Board of Directors of Stanley County Arts Council; and North Carolina Association for the Advancement of Health Education; and a Board member-American Heart Association, North Carolina Affiliate.

Mrs. Wright is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Dela Kappa Gamma-Lambda Chapter, North Carolina Counseling Association, School Counselor Association; Phi Delta Kapp, University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

by Casey Jones and Candice Smith

Swett High Happenings

ART TALK

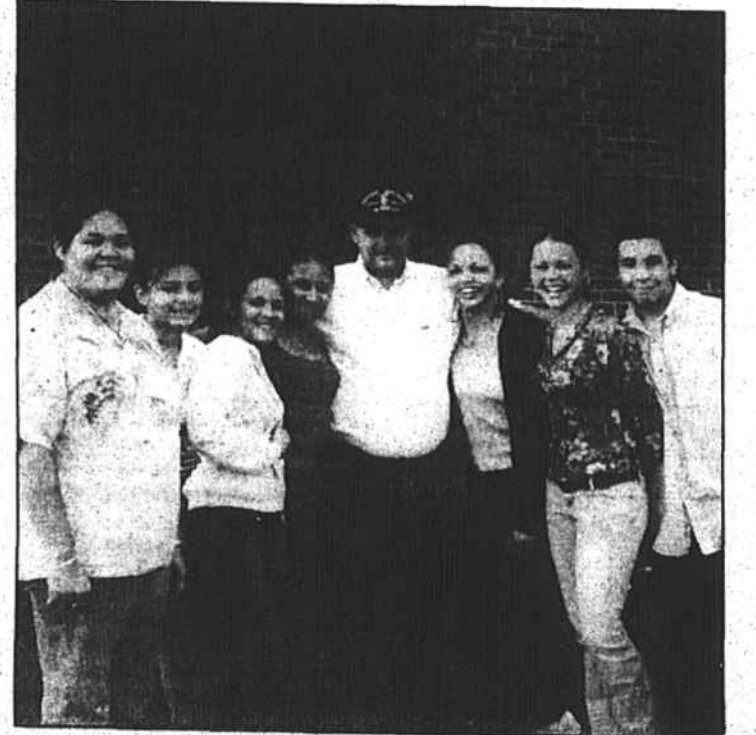
Visual Art students in Ms. Delora Cummings' classes have been active in local art exhibits and contests. Students participated in the Robeson County Fair Art Contest. Winners were Ian Bullard, first place in school art contest; Kara Lynn Locklear, BEst in Show and first place drawing; Elijah Locklear, first place painting, and Ricky Barton, second place in painting Open Art contest.

Art students had an art exhibit at the opening of the new Town Hall in Pembroke. These students were Roger Hunt, Jacob Oxendine, Alexandria Eubanks, Danielle Hammonds, Kara Locklear and Laken Locklear. The show will hang in the Lobby until December.

Advanced students designed and constructed a 4-H exhibit at the NC State Fair. The exhibit won second place on the state level. The theme of the exhibit was "Get On The Right Track." The students constructed a 10 foot train on a 3-dimensional map of North Carolina.

The Art Club traveled to the NC Museum of Art to view the Dreams of Flight exhibition in which some of the students participated with their own art work in the Robeson County celebration.

On campus, art students, along with Mr. Boss Locklear's class, painted new letters for the front of the school.



Shown left to right: Canel Locklear, Brittany Oxendine, Miranda Oxendine, Christin Thompson, local author Delano Cummings, Megan Clark, Lauren Jones and Trey Harris.

Purnell Swett High school students in English III, Advanced Placement, enjoyed author Delano Cummings as guest speaker as he shared his experiences in the Vietnam War after students had read his book, Moon Dash Warrior.



Students Against Drunk Driving celebrated Red Ribbon Week with trying ribbons on cars, making pledges not to drink and drive and participated in a program to promote its mission. The SADD Club is directed by Felicia Hunt and Ana Thompson.

McIntyre Announces \$ 530,65 Federal Funds for Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Washington, D.C. --Congressman Mike McIntyre announced to Southeastern North Carolina will receive \$530,658 in federal emergency food and shelter funds.

Congressman McIntyre stated, "During this Christmas season it is important that we remember those that are less fortunate, and do our best to help them with food and shelter. These funds will do just what we need to supplement other assistance programs for those in need."

The following counties are scheduled to receive the following:

* Bladen County	\$ 26,035
* Brunswick County	\$ 44,687
* Columbus County	\$ 38,081
* Cumberland County	\$ 136,800
* Duplin County	\$ 33,252
* New Hanover County	\$ 94,000
* Pender County	\$ 28,478
* Robeson County	\$ 95,851
* Sampson County	\$ 33,270

Funds for this program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency will support social service agencies in more than 2,500 cities and counties across the nation to help the hungry and homeless.

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