

Earl Cummings is Employee of the Year at UNCP



PEMBROKE, N.C.-Earl Cummings won't get to enjoy one of the prizes he won as UNC Pembroke's Employee of the Year. Because he retired at the end of 2003, Cummings, who served as equipment manager for Jones Athletic Center, won't need the reserved parking place for 2004. But he did complain while accepting the honor at the recent Holiday Social.

"After 30 years, I was really surprised by this. I wish the best to each and every one of you because after December 19th, I'm out of here." Cummings did not go away empty handed. He won \$150, a plaque, several gifts and a reserved parking place for a year. His colleagues heaped praise on the man who kept the Jones Athletic Center running Track Coach Larry Rodgers: "There are not enough good words, but dedication, trustworthiness and willingness to serve fit Earl well."

Men's Soccer Coach Mike Schaeffer: Earl was a good friend to the coaches and faculty, and we will miss him. Wrestling Coach P.J. Smith: "If you need something done or in the community, you asked Earl." Physical Education Chair Tommy Thompson: "Earl epitomized the word, professional. We're losing a great worker and person."

Athletic Director Dan Kenney: His work let everyone else shine.

LRCDC Receives First Nations Grants

The Lumbee Revitalization and community Development Corporation (LRCDC) has received a grant from the Little Eagle Staff Fund distributed by the First Nations Development Institute of Virginia. The grant sum was totaled at \$15,500 and will be used for the development of a loan officer position for the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), a component of the LRCDC.

For the past two years the LRCDC has been developed as a non-profit corporation to promote and foster economic development activities among the Lumbee Indians. As a component of the LRCDC, the CDFI was created to foster job creating business development through loans and business training.

Leroy Freeman, chairman of the LRCDC, stated, "We have been working diligently to develop this corporation. We are now at a point where we can begin to make an impact for the economic condition within our communities and this county. This grant will help us to begin the process."

Dewey Locklear, executive director of the LRDA, added, "We appreciate the assistance from First Nations Development Institute. This grant is just the beginning of a mission to change the economic direction of the Lumbee Indians communities."

The First Nations Development Institute was founded in 1980 with the mission to assist indigenous peoples to control and develop their assets and, through that control, build the capacity to direct their economic futures in ways that fit their cultures.

The Little Eagle Staff Fund focuses on general operational needs and on developing loan loss reserves for emerging Community Development Finance Institutions located in reservations or within Native rural communities.

For more information about the LRCDC or the CDFI, please visit our website at www.lrcdc.com or call (910)521-8602

A Message from Miss Lumbee Morgan Hunt

Native Killer

When blessed with the honor to represent the Lumbee nation at Miss Lumbee 2003, I wanted to choose a platform. When pondering on what issue I would dedicate my year to, I wanted to select something that has affected my life and affects Native Americans. No other topic could hit any closer to home than Diabetes, better known as the "Native Killer." I could continue to struggle with the effects of diabetes everyday. I lost my Grandmother to a massive heart attack but the onset of her problems was due to this disease, as a small child I watch my great Grandmother undergo leg amputations, and now my Mother who my best friend suffers from type 2 Diabetes daily.

The prevalence of diabetes has been called "epidemic" for American Indians, an unusual word to use to describe a chronic health condition. This is troubling considering that diabetes was almost unheard of among American Indians two generations ago. Recent studies show that 18.2 million American endure diabetes everyday, which is a million more than a couple of years ago. It is a leading cause of death, as well as a major contributor to heart disease, stroke and kidney disease, blindness and lower extremity amputation among Native people. Some tribes, such as the Pima Indians in Arizona rates as high as 50% of the adult population. The Pima Indians have the highest prevalence of type 2 diabetes of any population group in the world. The prevalence of the self reported diabetes among the Lumbee Indians is about 40% higher than the state rate. Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for Native people, compared to the seventh leading cause of death for the whites. The death rate for diabetes for American Indians is three times higher than it is for whites. I'm not making this a race issue, I'm just trying to make a point.

The disease is killing leaders and path makers within our Indian community, State and Country. We all need to realize that knowledge is the key. If we as Lumbee people are knowledgeable about whatever issue that we might face, then we may not be able to cure the disease, but we can gain control of our problem. Always remember that proper nutrition and exercise is so very important. Please don't take diabetes lightly, it is killing people everyday.

Some people ask, "Well what do I do to help?" The answer is get involved any way you can by volunteering at you local diabetes community center, or just by spreading the word about the deadly consequences of having this disease. I am currently working with the Charles Ray III Diabetes Association and participated in a commercial supporting his cause. Mr. Charles gives medical supplies to those who are in need. I am in the process of starting my own diabetes foundation in honor of my late Grandmother, the Delora Locklear Foundation will give individuals who are in need of medical supplies and scholarship money for upcoming college students who have been affected by the disease. If you would like to help of give a donation, please feel free to contact me at my email mohunt28383@hotmail.com or through the LRDA. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Erica N. Dellinger



Tara S. Bishop



Jessica L. Carter



Jessica Ortiz-Carrero

Miss UNCP Pageant January 29

PEMBROKE, NC- Six contestants are competing to become the next Miss UNCP. The annual scholarship pageant will be held at 7 PM on January 29 at the Givens Performing Art Center. Miss UNCP 2003 Robin Baker will crown the winner, who will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship, free room and board for on semester and a \$1,000 wardrobe budget for her appearance in the Miss North Carolina Pageant. First runner-up receives a \$500 scholarship, the second runner-up gets \$300 and all contestants get \$100. Special pageant performance will be given by Dana Reason, Miss North Carolina 2003, Kelli Wallace, Miss Fayetteville 2003 and former Miss UNCP and Morgan Hunt Miss Lumbee 2003. Pageant Director is UNCP Alumni Director Lorna McNeill Ricotta who was Miss North Carolina 2000. "Last years pageant drew and audience of more than 1,000 and the pageant is shaping up to be another exciting night of entertainment" says Dr. Diene Jones, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

The contestants are Angela G. Remeau is a Raeford native and a junior account major at UNCP. Her talent is interpretive dance and her platform issue is the emotional effects of diabetes. She is sponsored by Revels Barbecue, UNCP Financial Aid Office, family and friends. Erica Nicole Dellinger is a former Little Miss Lumbee, Junior Miss Lumbee, Teen Miss Lumbee and Miss All-American North Carolina

Princess. She is a Pembroke native and a freshman at UNCP. Her talent is singing and her platform issue is prevention of teen smoking. Jamilah Jackson, a Goldsboro native, was a contestant in the Miss Goldsboro Scholarship Pageant and the Miss New Jersey Pageant. Her talent is dance and her platform issue is hypertension awareness. Jessica Lynn Carter is from Lumber Bridge and is a sophomore in Special Education. Her talent is piano and voice, and she is a former contestant in the Miss Lumbee pageant and the Miss All-American Scholarship Pageant. Carter is sponsored by Theta Kappa Pi Lambda Upsilon and Joyce Chavis.

Jessica Ortiz-Carrero is a Fayetteville native and a freshman at UNCP. Her talent is singing and her platform issue is Special Olympics. Ortiz-Carrero plans to go into the medical field and aspires to work internationally.

Tara Sue Bishop is a Huntersville, NC native and a senior science education major at UNCP. Her talent is interpretive sign language and her platform issue is the promotion of self esteem and positive language body imaging among children. Her sponsors at the Baptist Student Union, Admissions Office and Residential Life staff members. General Admission for non students to the 52th Miss UNCP Scholarship Pageant is \$5. For more information please visit http://www.uncp.edu/sa/ms_uncp/

Spike Lee to Speak at UNCP on February 2



PEMBROKE, N.C.-Actor, film director and political activist Spike Lee will speak at UNC Pembroke Monday, February 2, at 7 p.m. as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series. The event will be held at the Givens Performing Arts Center. General admission is \$10. Spike Lee was hailed by film critic Roger Ebert as "one of the most crucially important" in the business. Applauded as both controversial and talented, Spike Lee has made his impact in the movies as an actor, director, writer and producer, creating such blockbusters as "Do The Right Thing," "Malcolm X," and most recently, "25th Hour." Lee speaks to students about pop culture, filmmaking, current issues and setting goals.

In 1986, his debut film, the independently produced comedy She's Gotta Have It, earned him the Prix

de jeunesse Award at the Cannes Film Festival and set him at the forefront of the new wave of African American cinema.

"School Daze, his second feature, was not only highly profitable, but it also helped launch the careers of several young Black actors. His timely 1989 film, "Do The Right Thing," garnered an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay and Best Film and Best Director awards from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. Lee's "Jungle Fever," "Mo' Better Blues," "Clockers," and "Crooklyn" were also applauded by the critics.

Born in Atlanta, Ga., and raised in Brooklyn, Lee returned to the South to attend Morehouse College. After graduation, he returned to Brooklyn to continue his education at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he received his Master of Fine Arts degree in film production. Lee's commercial work began in 1988 with his Nike Air Jordan campaign. Collaborating with basketball great Michael Jordan on seven commercials, Lee resurrected his popular character, Mars Blackmon, from "She's Gotta Have It." Lee is also well known for his Levi's Button Fly 501, AR & T, Navy and ESPN television commercials.

For more information on the UNCP Distinguished Speaker Series visit www.uncp.edu or call Abdul Ghaffar (910) 521-6207.



Jamilah Jackson



Angela G. Remeau

Free Tax Assistance from AARP

Free income tax assistance will be available for Robeson County residents starting Wednesday, February 4, 2004, through the Tax Aide Program of the AARP. This program can assist with tax preparation for persons with low to moderate income. Special attention will be given to those age 60 and older. AARP membership is not required to receive this assistance. Volunteer Counselors, trained in cooperation with Internal Revenue Service, will provide counseling service and assistance at the location shown below:

Lumberton-Robeson County Public Library, 101 N. Chesnut St.
February 4 through April 15
Wednesdays 1:00PM until 5:00 PM
Thursdays 9:AM until 1:00 PM

The Counselors, retired business people and educators with considerable experience in tax matters, are trained to prepare both Federal and NC State returns. Assistance will be provided to meet the individual taxpayer's needs. The Counselors will prepare the tax return, assist the taxpayer in preparing the return, check the return the taxpayer has completed, or answer questions.

Persons wishing to use this free service should bring with them to the site copies of their previous year's federal and state returns, W-2 forms, 1099 forms, and other relevant records showing income and deductible expenses for 2003. Verification of the accuracy of the spelling of names and Social Security numbers will be required. This proof can be in the form of SS card, SSA1099 benefit statement, or a SSA letter. Individuals may call Burt Ozment at 910-215-8860 for additional information about the service. The Library can verify the dates of service, but cannot answer questions about the program. Please come to the Library for needs you may have.

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Local churches to hold Winter Bible Conference

Rev. Steve Strickland, pastor of Mt. Airy Baptist Church and the Congregation, Bear Swamp Church, Berea Baptist, Reedy Branch Baptist and vision of Hope Church all cordially invite you to share and be apart of their Winter Bible Conference. The Conference will begin on Sunday, January 25, 2004 at 6 p.m. Mt. Airy Church will be the host for the conference. Dr. Stephen Rummage will be the Presenter. These churches hope your schedule will permit you to be able to worship and study with them at this Conference.

Effort underway to preserve local Boy Scout Hut

Legal Aid of North Carolina-Pembroke, formerly known as Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc. is currently working on a project to have the local Boy Scout Hut preserved as an historic property with the State of North Carolina. If you were a member of Troop 327 under the leadership of the late Mr. Walter Pinchbeck, or the late Mr. Bernard Lowry, we would be interested in meeting with you to discuss the historic activity of the Troop. Please contact Cynthia L. Hunt at 910-521-2831 Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.