

James A. Thomas Honored at Ribbon Cutting



Chancellor Cummings cut the ribbon for the new business building on campus that bears James A. Thomas' name. Several state officials were in attendance including Gov. Roy Cooper, N.C. Rep. Tim Moore and N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson

by Anayah L. Peterson, Managing Editor

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to acknowledge donations for Thomas School of Business. It is a \$38 million facility and home to the new Thomas School of Business in James A. Thomas Hall. There were six speakers at the ceremony and among them was Gov. Roy Cooper.

The building is named after James A. Thomas. He and his wife Sally made the largest donation in the history of the university, a \$7 million gift.

"We are here to celebrate this amazing building. It is an example of a public private partnership and people working," Cooper said.

Thomas received two proclamations from from N.C. Rep. Tim Moore and N.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger.

Gov. Cooper presented the "Order of the Longleaf Pine." It is the highest award for state

service by the Office of the Governor.

During the ceremony, the crowd praised Gov. Cooper when he said the Lumbee Tribe deserved federal recognition. Gov. Cooper acknowledged the area and state's diverse demographics.

"We value our diversity. Our diversity makes us better and stronger," Cooper said.

Each speaker addressed Thomas humility for the donation. Chancellor Cummings said "Home is a feeling, not a place."

They talked about how generous he was and the commitment that he has to help develop Pembroke. Thomas began his work in downtown Pembroke before working on the School of Business.

Don Metzger, who conducted the invocation, said the ceremony was outstanding. He said it was great to see the community come together.

"It was really encouraging to see all the students who came here. You can see how the facilities are so open for them," Metzger said.

James A. Thomas Hall features 13 classrooms, offices, a business career center, breakout session, an eatery and more.

The pattern imitates the design of renowned business schools such as those at Harvard and Wake Forest.

Groundbreaking was held in April 2019 and the opening of the building in Jan. 2022. It is a grand 64,000 square-foot building with a cupola that lets natural light in through its windows.

The building features a hallway that reaches to the other side of the building to give the building a spacious feel. The breakout session rooms features advanced technology so students can use it for projects and studying.

"This has been a day that has been long awaited. With the crowd here it was well worth the wait," Thomas said.



Gov Cooper presents "Order of the Longleaf Pine" to Thomas. A certificate inducted in the state's highest honorary society. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson



Reggie Brewer smudging sage in seven different directions to bless the new School of Business. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift



Lumbee Tribe Woodland Society performs their traditional blessing. They explained their smudging and honor song. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson

Pembroke Activities Council Hosts Yearly Talent Show

by Michaela Tisdale, Promotions and Social Media Manager

Pembroke Activities Council left everyone on the edge of their seats at the 29th annual talent show. The show was hosted by previous winner and UNCP spring 2019 graduate, Nick Courman.

The show featured nine students who were chosen from previous performances. The contestants were voted on via a poll website. The show had four judges, Brittany Best, a student, Lekya Francis and Lamar Courmon from the Campus Engagement and Leadership Office and Christie Poteet, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

The talent show was a site to see because each performer performed with enthusiasm. Courman was engaged with the crowd as a host. Joshua Mceachern won first place, the dance group K-Revolution won second place and Tai’JeaDavis won third place. First place received \$300, second place received \$200 and third place received \$100.

“I was shocked when I won, I was very excited, and I loved every experience of it. Hopefully, they will let me be a judge at the next talent show, fingers crossed,” Mceachern said.

Mceachern said that he had a few bumps in the road during rehearsal because he didn’t have anything prepared. He said that when the show started he became more confident in himself and that the show went well overall.

Givens Performing Arts Center had 230 people in attendance for

the show. The show started off with dances from alumni Courman and his fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma.

The first performer of the night was Tai’Jea Davis, a senior nursing major. She sang “Like I’m Gonna Lose You” by Meghan Trainor, a song close to her for her family. Davis previously won the talent show two years in a row. Davis was able to meet new people and enjoy their company since performing is her passion. Davis says that so many people have talent and are good singers but some may just be afraid to show it on stage.

“The Talent show was a great experience! Even though I didn’t win it’s okay because I’ve already won for the past two years,” Davis said.

William Duff, a honors business major, sang a cappella to “Goodbye Monday” by Caleb Hyles.

The Korean pop club group, K-revolution, danced to the Korean pop song “Blue Hour” by Tomorrow X Together. The dance was entertaining with the unique culture of the music and outfit changes in the performance.

Isabella DePietro from K-revolution gave insight into the Korean pop club on campus and how students can join. The club started in 2017, the group has grown and done performances in global engagement. They are always open for more members who can join via Braveconnect and no dance experience is needed.



The K-pop dance group, “K-Revolution” won second place. PN Photo/Michaela Tisdale

Senior Joshua Mceachern sang Bruno Mars, “When I was your Man”. The crowd cheered for him as he was singing.

Onyx Odgers, junior, danced to “Bad Mama Jama” by Carl Carlton. The crowd was entertained and excited for the next performer.

Freshman Chloe Stephens sang “Listen” by Beyonce while playing the piano. She was very energetic with her performance and performed gracefully.

Freshman Ayanni Sequoia sang “One Night Only” by Jennifer Hudson. She was described in her introduction by Courman as a shy person with a big singing voice.

Junior Brandon Turay danced to “Fall” by Davido and the crowd was energetic.

“I had a great experience. I got a chance to show everyone what I love to do. Dancing is my passion,” Turay said.

Senior Bonnie Ray sang “Where Do Broken Hearts Go” by Whitney Houston for her performance. Ray entered the stage with confidence and it showed within her performance.

Pembroke Activities Council hosts the talent show every year and this was the first in-person show presented in the last two years.

Traditional Community Fun Festivities

by Anayah L. Peterson, Managing Editor

The Festival at Old Main is an annual event that allows students and the community to come together for fun, free food and live entertainment on the Quad Lawn by Old Main and Livermore Library.

The event originated in 1990 as Family Day. To encourage student participation and family engagement. This is a 30 year tradition of connecting the community and university.

The festival is hosted by the Office of Campus Engagement and Leadership. There were several live performances including: Ainsley, Robert Williams, and Kelontae Gavin.

Everyone was able to get a free shirt at the check in station. Those who wanted food were able to go through three different food stations.

Everyone could take pictures at the photo booth and design customized street signs for free.

Balloons made into different types of animals and objects could be made by Twist the Ballonman. Cornhole, inflatable slides and other activities like a

bouncy house were out for all ages to use.

“The first place I went to was the balloon guy. I wanted to get the balloon,” George said.

Caitlyn George, junior, went to the event with her friend Aliah Figgs, senior. They enjoyed listening to Ainsley, one of the performances for the afternoon.

Students and community members were able to check in at the tent to receive their green band. It allowed them to grab several of the food options such as: walking tacos, chicken and waffles, candy and homemade ice cream.

Jaliah Singleton, senior, enjoyed the event as a great social experience. She also enjoyed the



Ainsley finishes her live performance at the Quad. PN Photo/Anayah L. Peterson

musicians that performed at the event.

“The inflatables were really fun. My favorite part was being able to customize something and the food of course,” Singleton said.

The event remained free for staff, students, their families and the community.

The Pine Needle

Editor in Chief

Zachary C. Young

Managing Editor

Anayah L. Peterson

Copy Chief

Andrew Thrift

Entertainment Editor

Victor Mays

Photo Editor

Mahala Treish

Web Editor

Ester Sanchez

Promotions & Social Media Manager

Michaela Tisdale

Graphic Artist

Alana Peterson

Photographer

Mykayla Brady

Videographer

Michael Thomas

Reporters

Christopher Machine, Nicole Cook

Adviser

Dr. Darlene W. Natale

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pineneedle@uncp.edu



“Festival Point of Views,” a cartoon by Alana Peterson.

Restaurant Review

Kay's Cafe

The Pine Needle staff went to Kay's Cafe to try out their homestyle food. The restaurant opened a month ago.

Restaurant goers should note that the largest table is for four seats.

The design of the "cafe" was more fitting of a fast food restaurant with an incomplete interior. There was a TV mount on the wall but there was no TV on the mount. The chairs seemed unstable and worn. The walls were a gloomy gray. The bathrooms were not sparkling clean.

When entering the restaurant, you visit the hostess stand which also serves as the check out.

They seated us and presented



Pecan pie. Photo PN/Anayah L. Peterson

an option between the menu and the fried chicken bar. Unfortunately, they only gave one menu to share and forgot to come back and

the order was not taken until 30 minutes later.

As we were ordering our food, drinks came out at the same time.

Most of us ordered sweet tea with one student ordering a soda. One staff member changed their sweet tea to a soda because it was too sweet. The tea also tasted very thick while others were very water.

The entrees arrived 20 minutes later. The staff ordered: Philly steak hoagie, bacon cheeseburger, boneless chicken, onion rings, fries, cheese fries, sweet potato and pecan pies. The staff originally wanted yams as well, but it was out of stock.

The Philly steak hoagie had a lot of mayonnaise which hurt the overall taste. However, it was not entirely bad. The steak seemed to be cooked medium. The server did not ask how the staff wanted their steak or burgers cooked.

The bacon cheeseburger met the expectations but there was no "wow" factor, as well as the cheese fries. The burger was well done.



The Philly steak hoagie with fries. Photo PN/Anayah L. Peterson

The boneless chicken was delicious. Customers can choose to have a grilled or fried chicken sandwich. Staff went with the fried choice. The onion rings were crispy and good.

As for the desserts, overall they were acceptable. The staff originally wanted the fried cheesecake, but they were out of stock. The desserts came pre-packaged. The sweet potato pie had a white fluffy coat on

top that helped with the flavor of the pie. The pecan pie is a great southern option for everyone.

Although the interior was not interesting, the staff was very friendly. They had traditional southern hospitality and made you feel welcome. The overall experience with food, space, design and order time was not extremely bad. Take out would be the best option.



The boneless chicken sandwich fried instead of grilled. Photo PN/ Anayah L. Peterson

Kay's Cafe

104 W 3rd St. Pembroke Nc, 28372

Monday - Thursday: 11 am- 8pm

Friday- Saturday: 11 am- 9pm

Sunday: Closed



Fun Night of Juegos and More

by Ester Sanchez, Web Editor

A game night with popular Latin games, refreshments and music provided, a place for Latino and non-Latino students to connect.

The games available were "Loteria," "brisca," "dominoes" and "Latino or no." Loteria is like bingo but with Spanish words. Brisca is a card game played with a 40-card Spanish deck that's played with two to four people. Dominoes is very popular in Caribbean countries. "Latino or No" is a game that puts your cultural knowledge to the test and prove that you're #definitelylatino.

"I enjoyed seeing familiar faces and playing a game that is commonly played back home. It

was also a great opportunity to meet new people and learn more about other cultures and how they play the games differently," Isabel Olivares said.

The refreshments were horchata and jamaica. Mexican horchata is made of rice and cinnamon. Other Latin countries make horchata in different ways. El Salvador makes their horchata from the seeds of morro. Jamaica is made from hibiscus flowers.

Latin music played in the background. Students could request songs.

"I love these Latino events because as someone that's learning Spanish, I can get in contact with Latino culture and people," Caleb Gilbert said.

The Latino Student Union was



Students at OSID playing loteria at OSID Latin game night. PN Photo/Ester Sanchez

promoted at the event. The Latin Student Union(LSU) will be an organization that focuses on the Latin and Hispanic student body and supports them throughout their years at UNCP. The LSU will embrace and bring aware-

ness to the Latino community. "We want our Hispanic students to feel included and to help them out with job opportunities, scholarships, tutoring, student hall and other things," Tonya Juarez said.

Pembroke Supports LGBTQ by Hosting BravePride



Free buttons, stickers, etc. for all students. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

by Andrew Thrift, Copy Chief

The month of April is Pride Month here at UNCP and was celebrated by hosting a Pride festival, BravePride.

Hosted by Student Inclusion and Diversity, BravePride Festival took place in the University Center Annex due to the rain on April 26. The Pride Festival showcased small and queer owned businesses in the community, activities and poetry readings.

"I am so honored to have been a part of cel-

ebrating queer excellence and promoting queer visibility here at UNCP," said Emma Cooke, an intercultural student ambassador with OSID, helped run the event.

Students had the opportunity to design their own Pride shirts whatever way they wanted. Some colored theirs with their respective flags colors, others just colored what they wanted.

Booths handed out pride flags, pins and stickers. Members of Sandhills Pride were there to advertise for their Pride events and for their organization.



Emma Cooke and Alara Hainer welcome students to BravePride. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

'The Batman' Review: Dark, Gritty, Hopeful and Great

by Victor Mays, Entertainment Editor

“The Batman” is a detective noir film that centers around Batman’s second year as the masked vigilante. In this movie Gotham is a city that is rotting. Crime is at an all time high and the city is poorer

than ever. Right off the bat, Matt Reeves shows a version of the city that feels like its own character. The city is distinct. A lot of times with Gotham city in movies, the city will look like a real world city. Christopher Nolan’s Dark Knight Trilogy specifically made Gotham

look like Chicago. This movie is truly a Batman movie that understands the detective aspects of the comics. So many times in these movies we will see Batman as a crime fighter or trying to save the city. It is not often that we see his detective side. He is known as “The World’s Greatest Detective.”

This is definitely in part because of the villain that they chose to use. The Riddler played by Paul Dano is a zodiac killer-like character who spends the majority of the movie leaving riddles around for Batman to solve. Everyone knows that Batman is a great fighter, but what makes him special is his mind. It’s great to see him just enter a room and be the smartest one there.

My favorite aspect of the film is that we see more Batman than Bruce Wayne. Because of the death of Bruce Waynes parents, Bruce has become obsessed with fighting crime and unleashing vengeance for his parents death. He becomes so obsessed with being Batman he forgets how to be Bruce Wayne. “The Batman” does a great job at taking well known characters and

making them more realistic. This even comes down to peoples outfits. Batman’s cape turns into a wingsuit when he needs to make a quick escape from the police. Catwoman uses tools to break into safes. The Penguin does not use an umbrella to fight like he tends to in the comics.

The scene where Batman first appears is one of the best shot scenes with excellent sound design. You could hear his heavy footsteps before he steps out of the shadows. There was genuine fear in the faces of the actors.

The first sight of the Batmobile made the theater erupt with cheers. When you see the headlights come and you hear the roaring engines, people can see the fear in the eyes of everyone who could hear it. The speakers in the theater when the engine of the Batmobile revs shook the seats.

The movie had great visual effects and great stunt work. There are scenes when people in the theater were yelling and cringing at certain action sequences. When the Batmobile flies through fire in the high speed chase with the penguin, it makes people gasp.

“The Batman” is a must see movie. It has just hit HBO Max streaming service and can be bought digitally on the Google Play Store. However, go see it in theaters. Streaming will not be able to do this movie justice.



The Bat and The Cat Poster for “The Batman.” Photo/MCTCampus

'Sonic The Hedgehog 2: Return of the Blue Blur'

by Jaden Jones

The second installation in the Sonic The Hedgehog cinematic universe, “Sonic The Hedgehog 2,” came out just two years after the success of the first one.

The sequel amassed a total of \$71 million during the first week of its screening, officially making it the #1 movie in the world. With a healthy combination of humor, suspense and action, it’s no wonder this movie was the hot topic all across social media.

The first movie was generally well-received, but one issue that is noticed was that Sonic wasn’t always as prominent as he should have been. Thankfully, the sequel strongly rectifies this previous issue. Sonic is the main focus of the movie, with the main human characters taking a backseat as they’re effectively pushed out into their own minor subplot at the start of the movie.

I thought this was a nice change of pace, as Sonic’s increased screen time made the sequel all the more entertaining. After all, I bought the tickets to see Sonic and his adventures, not

a handful of regular people going about their normal day-to-day lives.

Granted, the story of the humans is shown briefly on several different occasions, but this is done for good reason. At one point in the movie, an unexpected twist occurs that explains why their little sideshow was necessary.

Sonic, or “Blue Justice,” as he’d prefer to be called, his adventure is one without a single dull moment. From snowboarding down a giant mountain to engaging in a dance battle to the death, Sonic’s got his hands full with all sorts of perils. The worst of them by far is the notorious “Robotnik.” The Doctor’s back and he’s partnered with a familiar echidna known as “Knuckles.”

With Robotnik’s brains and Knuckles’ brawn, they’re an unstoppable force that even Sonic was no match against. Thankfully, he finds an ally; a two-tailed fox who goes by the name “Tails.”

Sonic and Tails are a classic duo in the franchise, their friend-

ship dating all the way back to 1992 when the actual “Sonic The Hedgehog 2” video game came out. While Robotnik and Knuckles might have them beat in firepower, the undying brotherhood of Sonic and Tails is sure to lead them to victory.

With the excitement, it shouldn’t be forgotten that the movie is targeted toward a younger audience. There are many childish and cheesy jokes that aren’t going to get the adults laughing but kids will.

While the comedy elements might be lacking, there are still genuinely amusing moments when even the adults will find themselves chuckling.

There are various easter eggs sprinkled throughout the movie that are sure to get the nostalgia flowing in a lot of longtime Sonic fans.

Two unmissable references were Sonic’s iconic “Super Sonic” form and the reveal of “Shadow The Hedgehog” during a mid-credits scene. I could hardly contain the shock and awe I felt during these moments and neither could many other viewers



“Sonic the Hedgehog 2” grossed \$141 million worldwide as of April 25. Image/Paramount Pictures Studio

in the theater. This is why a person unfamiliar with Sonic The Hedgehog may not get as much entertainment out of the film, but there’s still plenty for them to enjoy. Ultimately, even though the movie focused on appealing to children, it was still made with both old and new Sonic fans in mind.

Volition Excites Fans About Their New Game Reboot

by Christopher Machine, Reporter

The Video Game development team Volition went live on Twitch

with information on their upcoming release “Saints Row.” On April 21st, Volition showed off the various ways that players will be able to express themselves in

a “Customization Showcase.” The showcase was hosted by American Actress Mica Burton, and went into depth about character; clothing, vehicle, and weapon customization, though the primary focus was face and character customization.

Character customization has always been one of “Saints Row’s” biggest celebration and has been expanded with every new title. “Saints Row” follows this formula, allowing the creator to attach prosthetic limbs to the protagonist and make their face asymmetrical.

Fans see a return of being able to layer the protagonist’s clothing, a feature that has been absent since the release of the original series’ sequel, “Saints

Row 2.” Fan reception to the series reboot has definitely improved with this showcase, as many fans were concerned with this new release lacking the amount of creative liberties as before.

Fans have gone on to social media platforms such as reddit (on subreddit r/SaintsRow) and twitter (at #SaintsRow) discuss their support for the new game.

While some fans are now looking more favorably on the new release, other fans are still holding onto their wallets with the claim that customization had never been their concern. Instead, these fans are voicing their disagreement with a reboot being released before officially finishing their original story.



Saints row protagonist screen grabbed from Deep Silver’s official creator showcase. Image/Deep Silver

ROAD TRIP!

Atlanta!

WooHoo!

A Traveler’s Atlanta CityPass Wonders



The Georgia Aquarium at Pemberton Place. PN Photo/Sharlyn Tabaco

by Sharlyn Tabaco

Atlanta has interesting attractions that are surely worth the trip The Atlanta CityPass offers three of these main attractions, which are the Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola and Zoo Atlanta.

When you purchase a CityPass you also get into two more attractions which you can choose yourself.

The options include the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, the College Football Hall of Fame and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Upon purchase of the tickets, you have nine days to explore all five attractions.

Georgia Aquarium

The Georgia Aquarium exhibits a large multitude of species and animals and contains more



Jellyfish floating around at the Georgia Aquarium. PN Photo/Sharlyn Tabaco

than 11 million gallons of water! My personal favorites at the aquarium were the jellyfish.

They looked absolutely beautiful and seeing them flow in the lights was a very interesting experience.

The aquarium has many species ranging from African penguins, Tiger Sharks, Green Moray Eels and California Sea Lions. They also have various galleries available including Dolphin Coast, Trust Pier 225, Aquanaut Adventures and many more.

World of Coca Cola

The World of Coca Cola was also a very interesting to visit, they have a wide range of activities available. “Taste It,” allows you to sample various beverages from around the world.

There were many to try and I couldn’t get around to them all myself.

It is definitely worth spending some time here

and getting to sample the different flavors, you may even find your new favorite here.

The Loft is also a great activity. Here you can experience the rich heritage of Coca Cola by viewing the various artifacts from the past and present.

I really enjoyed looking at the variations of Coca Cola songs that were all over the place. The Milestones of Refreshment gallery has an engaging walk through of the Coca Cola company.

Another interesting activity is Bottle Works, where you can view the bottling process of Coca Cola bottles from start to finish from behind the scenes.

There are plenty of other activities you can try out such as Scent Discovery, Pop Culture, The Vault of Secret Formula and the 3D Theater

Zoo Atlanta

Zoo Atlanta is the third attraction in the Atlanta CityPass. The zoo is very large and has many animals, they have amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles. My personal favorites were the pandas. There’s something comforting about watching a panda relax and eat bamboo.

They have African elephants, African lions, African slender-snouted

crocodiles, Aldabra giant tortoises, Angolan colobus monkeys and more.

The zoo offers activities depending on the day but they generally include feeding different animals and educational talks with the zookeepers where you can learn more about these amazing animals and rides around the zoo.

The Atlanta CityPass saves nearly 44% on Atlanta’s top five attractions. Tickets can be purchased online for \$86 per adult and \$68 per child.



Panda eating bamboo. PN Photo/Sharlyn Tabaco

If You’re Going

Atlanta CityPass Description:

Georgia state aquarium
225 Baker St NW, Atlanta, GA 30313. General parking Rate \$17. Aquarium Guests with discounted rate \$12.
Spring Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 8 pm Friday- Saturday 9am – 9pm Sunday 9am – 5pm

World of Coca Cola
121 Baker St NW Atlanta, GA 30313
Hours: Monday – Thursday 10am – 3pm Friday – Saturday 10 – 5pm Sundays 10am – 3pm

Zoo Atlanta
800 Cherokee Avenue SE, Atlanta GA, 30315
hours: Monday – Friday 9:30 Saturday – Sunday 9:30am –4:30 pm

Georgia State Aquarium to the World of Coca Cola is a 6 min walk. The World of Coca Cola to Zoo Atlanta is a 11 min drive.

<https://www.citypass.com/atlanta>

'In The Heights': A Musical of a Barrio of Community



On closing night, the entire ensemble of “In the Heights” crowds the stage for the opening number. PN Photo/Victor Mays

by **Andrew Thrift, Copy Chief**

Eleven years after its Broadway debut, UNCP presents “In the Heights.” Students worked hard to perform at the Givens Performing Arts Center.

Directed by Jonathan Drahos and Carolanne Marano, the UNCP theater department was able to present “In The Heights.” With the original Broadway set with dancing choreographed by Marano, Pembroke was able to bring the streets of Washington Heights to life.

Starring Sean Deam, Chelsea Williams, Jamonte Madison, Mahala Treish and Cameron Holder, they were able to bring Lin-Manuel Miranda’s first musical to the Givens Performing Arts Center stage.

Givens Performing Arts Center was filled for opening night with students and family members filling the front of the auditorium. The whole play was a beautiful experience for those who either know the musical

and for those who’ve never seen it. Marano and Drahos were able to showcase the best Pembroke has to offer. Members of the audience were shocked when they learned about Abuela winning the money and were even more heartbroken when they learned she passed away.

The costume Designer Corey Jacob Brittain really made the characters

look how they acted. Vanessa was always in stunning outfits, which had the audience cheering when she walked out in a gorgeous red dress and heels when they went clubbing.

In all the show was beautiful with a runtime of roughly 2.5 hours. If you weren’t able to see it, you definitely missed out on the pure talent Pembroke has.

The show opens on the streets of Washington Heights at sunrise, the day before the fourth of July as Usnavi opens the bodega. The show focuses around Nina Rosario coming home from Stanford after she dropped out. Nina is scared to tell her family and the barrio about the situation. She is the first in her family to go to college and she doesn’t want to disappoint them.

When they find out Abuela Claudia has died, Nina’s father goes onto the dispatch to tell the barrio which saddens the whole neighborhood as well as the audience. The whole neighborhood goes to Abuela’s house to put out candles.

“I am most proud of our director Carolanne Marano and the cast of this piece. We had theater majors and students from six different departments on campus,” said Drahos.

In The Heights was a beautiful production, the cast and crew should be proud of the countless hours of work they have put into the production.



The original Broadway set for “In The Heights” fills the GPAC stage. PN Photo/Andrew Thrift

Seasons Change, Sigma Alpha Iota Blossoms



Sigma Alpha Iota Eta Beta Chapter provides a grand vocal and instrumental performance in Moore Hall. PN Photo/Michael Thomas

by **Michael Thomas, Videographer**

Sigma Alpha Iota Eta Beta Chapter put on a fantastic performance in the Moore Hall Auditorium. this was the first musical showcase since COVID-19.

Conducted and directed by Holly Riedesel, the musical started with the singing of the Sigma Alpha Iota Pledge song.

They poured their hearts and soul into a song about their sorority. The performance of “Piece No. 2 Op. 28,” features senior pianist Ethan Sevigny.

The clear and beautiful medley from the flutist plus piano harmonies created an enjoyable rendition.

Sara Fox performed a poem about the most important person in her life, her mother.

The poem displays the profound impact motherly love can have on the journey of life.

Senior Priscilla Contreras performed “Cello Suite NO.1, Menuetto 2.” The cellist put on a



Senior Priscilla Contreras elegantly plays the violin. PN Photo/Michael Thomas

fantastic display with a peaceful performance as Contreras showed off beautiful stroke work taking the powerful yet gentle redemption of Johannes Bach music pieces.

A different act for the musical was present next with a stand-up comedy set with Sigma member senior Lauren Holmes.

Jokes hit home to most of the audience with jabs about Moore Hall’s Layout and experience over the years, from different staff members in the building and second-hand embarrassment to friends and family.

Holmes gave a unique perspective about a specific unofficial

holiday like April 20.

Milkalah Weston gave the crowd a beautiful rendition of the Aretha Franklin’s “Ain’t No Way.”

Minor technical difficulties gave the public a slight chuckle, but after, Weston gave a fantastic and show stopping performance.

Her passion and heart was evident throughout the entire song as she delivered her performance that was nothing short of spectacular. The audience was filled with cheers.

The closing for the musical is the performance of “So Near, So Dear” by all members of Sigma Alpha Iota. For the first musical in over three years, being held in Moore Hall, it was nothing short of being spectacular.

With COVID restrictions being lifted throughout campus and more production being able to be put on around the school, I highly recommend the next musical if you enjoy fantastic music and have some free time available.



Savannah Watkins (Left) and Quanterra Harrison (Right) participating in hurdles, Harrison finishing in 9th. Submitted Photo/Alycia Artman

by Nicole Cook, Reporter

Uof SC Open - April 23

The Braves traveled to the University of South Carolina in Colombia, S.C. to challenge their opponents, many of whom were Division I schools, at the Sheila and Morris Creggor Track for the UofSC Open on Saturday.

While the Braves did not record as many top-10 finishes as usual, they did boast a new NCAA provisional qualifying athlete and multiple new personal-bests.

Orlandus Gamble qualified for the NCAA’s with his mark of 2.11m in the High Jump for which he placed second. Gamble defeated 12 Division I athletes with his score.

Meanwhile, Caleb Baldwin, Ervin Almanzar, Walker Mabe and DaMarr Harvey teamed up to claim fourth place in the Men’s 4x100m Relay with a time of 41.23.

The Braves closed the regular season off with 11 new personal-bests at the UofSC Open. Next, they will head to the University of Mount Olive on Friday, April 25, for the Conference Carolinas Championships at Ray McDonald Sr. Track & Field Complex.

Gamecock Invitational - April 16

The UNCP Track and Field squads arrived at Sheila and Morris Creggor Track in Colombia, S.C. on Saturday, April 16 for the Gamecock Invitational.

Leading on the track, Walker Mabe recorded a new personal-best and placed second in the 400-meter Dash with a time of 49.04, and Javion Seger recorded a new personal-record as a top-10 finisher in the 100-meter Dash with a time of 10.92.

In the field, Quanterra Harrison finished in ninth in the 400-meter Hurdles with her time of 1:03.86. Cole Thomas nabbed a top-10 finishing spot as well, reaching a new height of 4.55m for eighth place, and Harrison also completed the 100-meter Hurdles in 14.43 seconds for 12th place.

Trojan Relays - April 16

The second day of the Trojan Relays saw Pembroke capture four event titles and break 17 personal-records.

Delsin Burkhart highlighted the events on the track and claimed first place in the 800-meter Run with his time of 1:56.67.

On the field, Lucas Nervo finished first in the Men’s 3000-meter Steeplechase with his fellow teammates Alec Valle and Gabe Blackwelder finishing right behind him in second and third place. Nervo recorded a new personal-best in the event with his time of 10:00.86. Jackline Kosegi also recorded a new personal-score and won the Women’s 3000-meter Steeplechase with a time of 12:29.24.

Aly Hudspeth took the High Jump event title reaching 1.53m, while Savannah Watkins finished in third in her High Jump competition also with 1.53m which

marked her new personal-best. Watkins also stole the runner-up spot in the Long Jump, having reached 5.36m. Bennie Oxendine took the lead in the Men’s Shot Put competition and landed a new

personal-record of 13.784m for the fourth place spot. Meanwhile, Cedric Douglas also earned a top-5 finishing spot with his own new personal-best at 13.12m, and Sebastian Bradley finished in the



Walker Mabe running through a relay race. Submitted Photo/Alycia Artman

top-10 with a mark of 12.39m.

Lillian Marino boasted two new personal-records with her third-place win in the Discus Throw at 41.63m and her fifth-place win in the Shot Put competition with her 12.63m mark.

Trojan Relays - April 15

The Braves traveled to the Ray McDonald Sr. Track & Field Complex at Mount Olive University to be a part of the Trojan Relays where they claimed three event titles and five new personal-bests.

On the track, Norman Junker had a first place finish in the 10,000-meter Run while scoring his best performance of 31 minutes and 53.75 seconds.

Valary Samoei also scored first place and a new personal-best with her 5000-meter Run time of 18:32.78. Hunter Levy finished as the runner-up in the 10,000-meter Run with a new personal-record of 31:53.75. To finish off on the track, Delsin Burkhart also recorded his best time in the 5000-meter Run at 15:10.40.

Carolina Flax led the Braves on the field with her first place finish and new best performance in the Pole Vault with a mark of 3.05m. Sara Ormsby competed with Flax and finished as the runner up in the event with a mark at 2.30m and Lillain Marino marked her best score in the Hammer Throw at 47.72m.



Bennie Oxendine competing in the shot put competition, landing fourth place. Submitted Photo/Alycia Artman

Braves Have a Current Four Game Streak in Baseball

by Andrew Thrift, Copy Chief

UNCP Baseball swept Catawba at home with a 13-1 win. The Braves Ethan Ott recorded a three run home run in the first inning to give the Braves all the offense it would need. They capped a nine-game home stand with a 13-1 victory over Catawba on April 12 at Sammy Cox Field.

The Braves kept the Indians at bay after racking up all of their 13 points by the end of the sixth inning. The Indians scored their only run of the game during the ninth inning.

The following weekend, the Braves took on the Mount Olive Trojans on their own turf with a doubleheader on Friday and another game the next day.

During the first game, the Braves were pushed hard resulting in a 4-2 loss. The Braves held the lead for the first four innings, getting their two points in the first inning.

In the second game against the Trojans, the Braves avenged their loss with a 7-2 win, holding off the Trojans until the fourth inning.

This victory for the Braves snapped a four-game series losing streak and gave the Braves their first win over the Trojans since an extra-inning home win on April 16, 2003.

With a win on both sides, the Braves and Trojans took to the field the following day with the hopes of getting the final win over their opponent.

The Braves fought hard getting four points in the second inning, but sadly it was their only scoring inning. The Braves went back to Pembroke with a 5-4 loss over the Trojans.

That Tuesday, the Braves took on the number two Wingate Bulldogs at Sammy Cox Field, scoring nine points in the first inning.

Bobby Dixon and Wellington Guzman both hit homers to showcase a 9-run first inning, cruising the Braves to a 12-7 victory over the defending national champions. The Victory over Wingate started



Braves' Gage Hammonds slides safely into home plate against the Bulldogs. Submitted Photo/Jayla Coley

the first of a current four game win streak.

The Braves headed to Francis Marion for a three game surge of wins for the Braves. The first game was held Friday giving the Braves an 11-5 victory over the Patriots.

A relief effort from freshman Will Harris gave him his first collegiate victory after he struck out two and surrendered just two hits across four innings for the Braves. This loss for the Patriots snapped a five-game win streak that took 11 of its last 12 outings.

The following day was a doubleheader and the Patriots were ready for a fight. The Braves still took home both wins with a 3-2 win in the first game and a 4-2 win in the second.

The Braves are currently number two in conference with a 20-7 in conference win just behind North Greenville.

The Braves will take on the Emmanuel College Lions at home for three games for senior day April 29-30.



Pitcher Chase Jernigan has pitched a total of innings this season, racking up 30 strikeouts in the process. Submitted Photo/Jayla Coley

UNCP Softball Ties For Sixth in Conference Carolina



Freshman Samantha Allred had 3 at bats in game two of the Barton College doubleheader, recording 1 hit and 1 run. PN Photo/Mykayla Brady

by Nicole Cook, Reporter

The Braves have done an excellent job racking up seven wins in the last two weeks.

UNCP at Francis Marion, Double Header - April 14

The Braves traveled to the Francis Marion University Softball Stadium, in Florence, S.C.

It was a double header that resulted in a clear win for Pembroke, 10-2.

This win marked the third in the Braves' winning streak against Francis Marion and put

the Braves' record at 20-14, 9-9 in the Conference Carolinas standings.

However, the Braves dropped the next game in a 6-5 loss against the Patriots.

Francis Marion has a home record of 21-8, making them a tough opponent to face at home.

UNCP vs. Barton, Double Header - April 19

The Braves battled the Barton Bulldogs at home on senior day and swept the competition with a 4-2 victory in the first game and a 4-3 win in the second.

Redshirt senior Jordyn Adcox highlighted the first game with her walk-off homerun nearing the end of the seventh.

The homerun helped steer the Braves to their first victory of the day.

In the following game, Red-shirt Freshman Makenna Sibbett stole the show with a four-bagger in the bottom of the sixth inning.

UNCP at Belmont Abbey, Double Header - April 22

UNCP Softball traveled to Crusader Field, in Belmont, N.C. and started off the day with a 4-1 win and slipping in the second game, 4-3.

Redshirt Senior, Tatum Brummitt secured a three-run homer in the seventh inning to

help secure the win for game one.

The Braves endured a 4-3 loss in the second game and ended the game with Crusaders ending the game with a walk-off hit.

This puts the Braves at a record of 23-15, 12-10 in the Conference Carolinas.

UNCP at Converse, Double Header - April 23

Pembroke won their sweep against Converse University at Tyger River Park. With

Braves won with a total of 24 runs on 27 hits over the course of the day, the first game was an 8-0 victory and the second was secured with a 16-7 lead.

Now, with a record of 25-15, 14-10 in the conference, the Braves are succeeding on the field having only lost one of their last six games.

The Braves are now tied for sixth place in the Conference Carolinas standings with Emmanuel College and will return to Tyger River Park for the first round of the championship games.

The Braves will take on the Fleet of Erskine College on Thursday, April 28 at 12p.m.

Erskine is currently ranked below Pembroke as 10th in conference standings with a record of 13-26, 9-14.