

Student Use Improved in Lumbee Hall

Jump to Page 5



Braves Soccer vs. Chowan

Jump to Page 6



September 5, 2018

Volume 79, Issue No. 1

Library Renovations to Conclude Soon

By Abaigeal Brown
Beyond Campus Editor

As the Fall 2018 semester begins, students are anticipating the completion of renovations that have been taking place at Mary Livermore Library since the commencement in May. Dean of Library Services, Dennis Swanson, says the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to commemorate the completion of renovations will be set for sometime in late September or early October.

“I think the renovations will bring several significant improvements to the library going forward,” said Swanson. “The library has not been gone through to remove unneeded or unused materials for over a decade.”

Swanson believes a removal of some of the old physical copies of bound periodicals would be beneficial to the “weeding” process considering “we have better access to these items through our online subscriptions.”

Renovations will add an additional 120 study spaces to the existing 250 due to more open floor plans and new furniture. The A-G and H-Z shelves, as well as bound periodicals, will be moved downstairs to “give a more logical flow to the collection so things will be easier for students to find,” said Swanson.

“I think the renovations will bring more people to the library and will make it easier to have classes in there,” said Bianca Easterling, a psychology and biomedical major. “The new design is more aesthetically pleasing and people might react better to the colors compared to grey walls.”

Although the main remodeling work began in June, Swanson has been advocating for these renovations since he began working at UNCP two years ago.

Stationary study bikes along with moveable whiteboards have also been added to the study spaces.

Along with renovations to study spaces and floor plans, Mary Livermore is also making room for a new café downstairs.

“UNCP was one of the only libraries in the system without some sort of café or coffee shop,” said Swanson. “The old restrictions about eating and drinking in the library are passé and we will significantly modify those rules going forward.”

“I like the idea of being able to go into the library to study and not have to leave if I want to eat,” said Easterling. “I can just go downstairs, get a snack and bring it back up to study.”

Swanson believes these renovations will be a temporary placeholder for an overdue new library building.



Carson Mounce studies on new bikes.

Photo by: Tyana Morris

“The Chancellor has made a new library/information commons building the next major capital project for the campus,” he said. “But even if we got all the approvals this year, new buildings take 3-5 years to complete.”

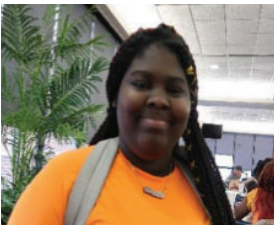
The size of the Mary Livermore Library building was projected to be too small “as long ago as 2003” for a university, according to Swanson. Carpeting in offices has not been replaced since 1997, and employee break rooms are not

efficient for the faculty. “With enrollment growing, we need to be creative about reclaiming the space that the Livermore Library building does have and using it more effectively,” said Swanson.

These are some of the changes to be implemented after the plans to build a new library is approved, but the new renovations and café will suffice for the time being.

BRAVES Answer This:

What advice would you give upcoming freshmen?



Jazniqueka Rodgers, Sophomore

“It’s good to socialize, but stay focused. Remember, books before boys because boys bring babies.”



Tyler Scott, Senior

“Take advantage of your professor’s office hours. Most of them are here to help you.”



Lorena Fuentes-Montiel, Junior

“Make sure you plan your assignments ahead of time so you stay organized and don’t fall behind.”



Gary Cooper, Junior

“No matter how hard you think life and school work is, take a deep breath and concentrate on what’s important.”



Mikwan Cole, Senior

“Focus, study, have fun, but also remember why you’re here.”

Fewer Computer Labs Impact Students

By Ky'Aire Goode
Asst. Sports Editor

Students campus-wide have been confused searching for answers and solutions as the computer labs have been removed from the residence halls and community buildings at UNCP.

As recently as Spring 2018, the campus residence halls of Cypress, Pine and Oak, as well as the community buildings at the campus apartment complexes of Courtyard and Village, all contained computer labs.

The labs were open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for students to do schoolwork or provide their own paper for printing.

The facilities gave stu-

dents convenient access to desktop computers in their dorms, which many of them found very useful for completing assignments, particularly at night.

“They were really useful and very convenient. I didn’t have to go all the way to the UC to print something out, I could simply go downstairs and do all my work,” said junior Marica Thomas.

The University removed the computer labs from both the residence halls and the community buildings as part of a university-wide change in May 2018.

Housing and Residence Life as well as UNCP’s Division of Information Technology contacted students via email in August

about the change and cited the computer warranty as a primary reason behind the move.

“The computers in our residence labs are no longer under warranty and are in general disrepair as a result.

The warranty expiration for the Dell OptiPlex 3010 computers in all five residential computer labs was May 2016,” said HRL and DIT in their joint email.

The removal of the computers was in response to the 2016 expiration date which has made students question why the computers were removed two years after the warranty expired.

UNCP also cited other reasons for the removal of the labs, but students have

not been satisfied with the explanation given.

One reason given was that nonresidential students cannot access residence hall computer labs.

Housing stated that since there are other 24/7 computer labs on campus accessible to all students, that residence hall labs are not necessary.

The two computer labs that stay open on campus the latest are the Chavis University Center and Mary Livermore Library.

The two labs close at 11:30 p.m. and midnight respectively throughout the week. These are also the only computer labs on campus that still contain printers for student access.

Jump to 4A

News
Distinguish Speaker 4A
News Briefs 5A

Campus Life/Local
Overload Spaces 3A
Care Center 4A
Meet The Greeks 5A

Sports
Soccer 6A
Volleyball 7A
Football 8A
Baseball 9A





The Pine Needle
The University of North Carolina
at Pembroke

Founded in 1947

Contact us

P.O. Box 1510
Pembroke, NC 28372

253 Old Main Building
Phone: (910) 521-6204
Email: pineneedle@uncp.edu
Fax: (910) 522-5795
Web: uncp.edu/pineneedle

Editors

Jessica Horne
Editor-in-Chief
Mason Miller
Managing Editor
Octavia Johnson
Campus Life Editor
Abaigeal Brown
Beyond Campus Editor
Joshua Reed
Sports Editor
Tyana Morris
Photo Editor
Sadira Bacchus
Copy Editor

Asst. Editors

Trevon Knight
Asst. Sports Editor
Jasmine Mason
Asst. Campus Life
Antwon Johnson
Asst. Beyond Campus

Social Media

Sports Tweede
Social Media Manager
Alex Smith
Asst. Social Media

Advertising

Kayla Pipkin
Ad Manager

Circulation Managers

Brian Pridgen
Circulation Manager
James Jones
Asst. Circ. Manager

Advisor

Darlene Natale
Faculty Advisor

Member
American Scholastic
Press Association
Associated Collegiate Press
North Carolina College Media
Association

The Pine Needle is supported by student fees and is printed twice a month by The Robesonian on 100 percent recycled paper.

The Pine Needle does not print anonymous letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. When submitting a letter to the editor, please indicate your name.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Accessibility Resource Center, DF Lowry Building.



“Overload Spaces” Created

By Mason Miller & Tyana Morris
Managing Editor & Photo Editor

With NC Promise bringing an increase of first year students, many departments on campus have had to adapt to the new changes. According to new records, housing has seen an increase in first year students - putting a strain on the fall housing process.

According to the UNCP website, compared to fall of 2017, UNCP has seen a “14 percent increase” with a “surge of some 885 additional students”.

“Overload spaces” were created to help alleviate some of the surge of first year students had on housing.

Belk transformed its 4 community lounge areas into a space which 5 people would be sleeping to occupy the high demand for on campus housing. Some residents have even had to move in with their resident advisors - who typically have single rooms.

“These aren’t typically your traditional dorm rooms,” Director of Housing and Residence Life Paul Posener said.



These assignments would not be temporary as most of residents who were living in these spaces are slowly moving out and into other assignments, according to Housing and Residence Life.

When asked about how she would describe this living arrangement Tiwana Stephens described it as “Unique” and “Interesting”. “Move in day was already terrible,” said Mikayla. “Then we get here up here and its three etar beds. We’re just like, ‘what’s going on?’ I feel like I deserve some type of compensation. I was so angry. I still am angry because they real-

ly played us. That was not okay.”

First year students are required to live on campus unless they sign a waiver specifying a reason why they do not need on campus housing, such as spousal arraignments or children.

Due to this, upperclassmen have also felt the effects of the surge in new students.

Some upperclassmen have had to be turned away to look for other housing options such as off campus housing because there wasn’t enough space.

“We’re approaching our limit for how many we can carry on campus and off campus,” Posener said.

The approval of waivers for the first year residency requirement has increased since housing has limited spaces for returning students.

The overload spaces happened to be a precaution of having on campus housing at full occupancy over the summer.

“Students who are involved on campus and live on campus typically do better in their classwork, so we want as many people on campus as possible,” Posener said.

Best UNCP Campus Attractions

By Janisha Gore
Staff Writer

Juggling the maintenance of a good GPA, bills and heightened stress levels, all while trying to get “the college experience” can be tough and if you are struggling to find a healthy balance between your academics and leisure, you may want to take advantage of the university’s many

The University Center

The University Center has Chick-fil-A, student lounges, couches a meditation room and many other things that can help students ease college-induced stresses.

Additionally, the UC also houses the Hawks Nest, where students can bowl or play billiards. “I like to hang out at the UC

where I went a lot to go eat and hang out with friends. I went to the meditation room in the UC too.”

“I enjoy going to Chick-fil-A because that’s where the food is at, ayyyeee,” said Kelliona Vaught, a junior Birth-Kindergarten Education major.

However, the UC is not the only place students can gather for entertainment or relaxation. There are many

mind.

It can also spark up those brain waves needed to write that paper, or complete any other assignment that you have on your agenda.

Starbucks

Need caffeine or the extra motivation to finish the paper you started five minutes ago (that you should’ve started five days ago)? Try Starbucks.

Or, take a stroll inside the D.F. Lowry building and meet a friend for coffee one afternoon you both are not consumed with schoolwork.

From Chick-Fil-A to Starbucks, the meditation room to the water feature, when you begin to feel overwhelmed with the many requirements college has, remember to take a break and re-group.

Although college is fun and exciting, it can be demanding of your time and attention. By using UNCP’s available resources, you will be on your way to a successful college experience and an appreciable career.

The Pavilion

In the summer evenings when you just want to relax and wind down for the day, you can go to the pavilion near the health science building to relax. The fall breeze is a welcoming feeling for contemplating the full beauty of nature on campus, or catching up on schoolwork with some starbucks.

The Water Feature

If you need to write a paper, but cannot seem to find the inspiration to do so, you can take the Brave Walk over the bridge by the Mary Livermore Library and enjoy the water feature or what students like to call “the Waterfall.”

This beautiful landmark is relaxing to the ears and can help you clear your

opportunities to do so.

While there are opportunities for students to engage off campus, there are also plenty available on campus.

These campus activities and meeting places serve to keep students engaged in school while acting to decrease stress levels.

Thus, engaging in these activities allow students to be productive in their free time and develop proper stress outlets.

[University Center] if they have an event going on, or by the waterfall,” said Annaca Jackson, a junior Pre-Med student, majoring in biology.

Other students seem to agree.

Valonda Clarida, a UNCP alumna who received a Bachelor’s degree in Birth-Kindergarten Education, remembers her time as a student.

“Where Chick-Fil-A is, it used to be called Bert’s,” said Carida. “That was

Greeks Pack the House

Students Connect with Frats and Sororities

By **Demetria McNeill**
and **Madison Long**
Staff Writers

UNCP hosted its annual “Meet the Greeks” event on Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. in Givens Performing Arts Center (GPAC). At 7:30 p.m., GPAC was filled with students, parents and staff who were excited to meet the various fraternities and sororities and learn more about what the Greeks represent and what they do for the community. Tucker Pridgen, junior and president of Phi Kappa Tau, described “Meet the Greeks” as “a very fun event that was well organized and is changing up the game for incoming freshman by being held in GPAC.” “Meet the Greeks” is an annual event held on campus to educate students about Greek Life. On Aug. 22, both Fraternity and Sorority life shared a small

portion of their values as they presented on stage at Givens Performing Arts Center (GPAC). Additionally, tables were set up for students to ask questions and to learn what the organizations were all about. “I had a lot of fun informing new students on what our organization has the opportunity to do on and off campus,” said Zackary Hunt, a sophomore and member of Phi Sigma Nu. Throughout the night, sororities and fraternities such as Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha and others presented what they are, what they do and their history. This information was displayed in the form of songs, strolling and video presentations. Phi Sigma Mu kicked the night off with the song “In My Feelings” by Drake. The students cheered them on and

sang along to the words. In addition, Alpha Sigma Alpha discussed their philanthropy and performed a chant for the students. Kappa Delta elaborated on how they serve to instill confidence in women and presented a video describing their values. Furthermore, Zeta Tau Alpha spoke on how they support breast cancer education and awareness by raising money to help find a cure. Afterwards, the sorority shared a video of their ladies and encouraged everyone to go Greek. The brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi discussed their upcoming Sweetheart pageant on Sept. 9. Alpha Sigma Alpha, Kappa Delta, and Zeta Tau Alpha are the three PanHellenic sororities here on campus.

Students Get Options

Meal Exchange Program

By **Daesean Harbin**
Staff Writer

Students have more options for eating this semester, thanks to additional meal swipes allotted to each student due to a concept called “the meal exchange.” General Manager of the Dining Team Mike Mahaffey came up with the idea. The meal exchange allows students to have the option once a week to use their meal swipe at any of Sodexo’s retail locations on campus, such as Chick-Fil-A, Papa Johns and Starbucks. Stipulations include that the students can only use the meal swipe for select combos chosen by facilities. Additionally, the meal exchange excludes use at Einstein Bros. Bagels, located beside Papa Johns. Braves Place is where the idea came from because students were able to exchange a swipe for a to-go sandwich or salad, chips or cookie and a fountain drink. Having the option to exchange your meal swipe once a week gives students a total of 16 exchanges for the whole semester. This idea has been found helpful in several ways. One way is that whoever has a meal plan and no flex dollars attached can partake in meals from the retail restaur-

rants located on campus once a week, giving students the opportunity to save some of their flex dollars if they have them. Students that don’t have time to sit and eat in the dining hall can grab food, get to where they need to be and satisfy their hunger. “Even though this is the first semester of trying out the meal exchange system, it will be continuous from this point on,” Sodexo’s Unit Marketing Coordinator Shiheem Bryant said. Several students were asked their opinion on the meal exchange option. “I enjoy the concept of the meal exchange, but I feel like we should have the option to have more meal exchanges weekly,” said sophomore Stanari Ballard. Another student said, “It’s good because if someone ran out of flex they could go somewhere else in case the cafe was closed. Three exchange swipes would be better for future reference.”

“I enjoy the concept of the meal exchange, but I feel like we should have the option to have more meal exchanges weekly.”

Stanari Ballard



Welcome to UNCP! And, welcome to your future.
You’re a Brave now, and so much is awaiting you.

“All-nighters”	“Freshmen Fifteen”	Lifelong friends	Frenemies
So many new people	Lonely isolation	Truthful integrity	Disillusioning hypocrisy
Caring community	Existential crisis	Good times	Challenging Times
Really hard times		Defining moments	Your future

If ever you need help or want to get answers to the soul-shaking questions in life, please reach out to us. And save this ad. As Christian professors and staff, we have found answers in the saving person of Jesus Christ and we would love to share them with you. We’re also happy to just listen over coffee.

Amelia Elk
Political Science and Public Administration

Aubrey Swett
University Center & Programs

Brenda K Jacobs
Social Belonging for Student Success

Cecelia Locklear
School of Business

Charla Suggs
Counseling and Psychological Services

Cheryl Rogers
The Thomas Entrepreneurship Hub

Dr. Calvina Ellerbe
Sociology and Criminal Justice

Dr. Laura Staal
Educational Leadership & Specialties

Dr. Si Ahn Mehng
Management, Marketing, and International Business

Dr. Edwin Mensah
Economics & Decision Sc.

Gordon Byrd
Maynor Honors College

H. Jay Blausner
Facilities- Planning & Construction

Dr. James Doyle
Management, Marketing, and International Business

Dr. John Parnell
MMIB

Sylvia Chavis
School of Business

Von A. Breeden
Student Affairs - Business Officer

Sponsored by Christian faculty and staff and Cru at UNCP



Confessions of First Generation College Student

By James Jones

I am a first-generation college student who has seen and lived within the dark and terrible side of life. I’ve formed close friendships with people who were so contradictory in their nature, they could have been compelling and complex characters in any number of fictional endeavors. Nonetheless, somehow I ended up here in UNC-Pembroke, age 25, and still young enough to remember with perfect clarity, the dark dens and chaotic surroundings I had resided with only just a few years previous. I know there must be other First-Gen’s out there like me with equally interesting stories to tell, though unlike me, they will likely choose to tell no one. I feel an intense sensation of nervousness and fear and wonder how this will be received by others who may read this. Will they call me a liar? Will they pity me? Will they despise me? Or will they congratulate me? I was born in Durham, North Carolina, often affectionately called the “Bull City”. Others like myself sometimes call it semi-jokingly, Home Of The Blue Devils. My heritage was split between the two Native American tribes of Lumbee & Cherokee. My mother’s family was a mixture of majority Cherokee, with hints of Scottish ancestry, while my father’s family was Lumbee dominated, with claims of Irish ties. I suppose even my parents were unorthodox in their own ways. My father was as mysterious as he was unavailable. He eventually became a financial success in the plumbing business, owning his own company and earning millions of dollars a year. For all his financial success, I received none of the support a child should expect from such a wealthy parent. However, my mother was quite a bit different, spending most of her adult life before I was born, bouncing from odd

job to odd job, never really finding her niche in life in the same way my father had. I can count the number of high school diplomas amongst all of my kinfolk and friends using the fingers of one hand, and as for college attendees? The mere question is laughable. I’m the first in all aspects. I would enjoy the prospect of not being the last, but I’ve never felt comfortable planning for the future in terms of long-distance goals. I’ve always felt I was a different sort of outcast, even among fellow outcasts. Friends would laugh as they questioned me on why I had so many history books in my possession. Most of them were admittedly stolen from the school simply because I enjoyed reading them over and over. I can remember stealing quotes or random passages of dialogue from fiction novels and using them on my friends. I knew they had never read anything that hadn’t been forced upon them, and so in their lack of knowledge, they would consider me deep, even philosophical. I can remember feeling depressed at times as I quietly thought about those moments later on and to this day. I didn’t graduate high school. Rather, I dropped out and moved to Roxboro at the age of 16, after an incident that ended with me being expelled, as well as legal charges being considered. I was a 17 year-old with a chip on my shoulder and no clue what I wanted. I drifted for a time after that, doing nothing in particular, and by the time I was twenty I made a random and half-hearted attempt at earning my GED. This, too, ended in failure. At 21, I was one strike shy of being a felon, and I had failed at every single attempt to better myself that I had ever made and I had grown to feel so tired and defeated. If it weren’t for a man who I initially called “Godfather” who came and offered me a helping hand, I suspect

my story would have ended prematurely and on a much darker note. He convinced me to try again. My godfather had lived a similar life much like mine, so he knew where I was headed which was for dead or prison. He convinced me to try schooling again. Within a week, I had my GED, and by the time I was 24, I had an Associates Degree in Art. All my life, I had never thought myself capable of such enormous changes. I found it unnatural. I found it surreal. It didn’t seem right. Sometimes it still doesn’t feel real. So, is there a moral or purpose to my story? Is there a purpose? I can’t honestly say my story will end happily, because I’ve witnessed far too many end tragically. I find myself suspicious of optimism. I’m haunted by my past and of past choices, and I believe I should be. I believe that who we are is shaped by our past. It doesn’t have to define us, but it does shape us. We should never forget our origin stories no matter how inglorious or infamous they may be. I can’t swear I’ll graduate and go on to be successful, but I’d like to think I will. Even now, I tend to think back and wonder how I made it to where I am now and if I deserve to even be here. All I know is that I hope to usher in a new era for my family, or at least my descendants and give them an example to look up to. I want them to know that even someone like me who was consumed by the darkness of his everyday life, could do it, so why can’t they? I want to set a bar for the next generation to strive to surpass, and if possible, maybe even inspire a few people in situations similar to mine to fight for their future.

Fewer Computer Labs Impact Students

Library
Jump from page 1

In the email, the university acknowledges the students’ personal computers as a motivator for the change. “Since a majority of students on campus already have laptops, is it still necessary for computer labs to be placed in the residence halls,” the email stated. Students found the reasoning to be particularly outrageous, saying that students’ economic backgrounds vary at such a diverse college and that it’s not right to assume students can afford laptops when the school has shown that they can provide computers. “I don’t understand why they’d take it away under the assumption that we all have laptops. And most of us don’t have printers. How do you know if you’ve never asked?” said Jennifer

Parker. Parker’s statement raised an interesting point about he level of communication between Housing/Technology and the student body on this issue. In addition to removing the computers in May when students would be out of school, unable to dispute the change, the office has not followed up on the initial email with any discourse for students who disagree with the move. To the school’s credit, they stated that Hall Councils along with the Residence Hall Association would be conducting a survey to discuss the future of the computer labs. In the meantime, they have also left five computers in each lab while the students and faculty discuss which direction to move in going forward. They also provided a number where students can contact the

Office of Housing and Residence Life to ask questions about the issue. No survey has been given out to this point and the number given to the students is the same line for general inquiries and complaints about a student’s personal dorm, not a forum to discuss the lab removal specifically. RHA President, Ayanna Williams found the level of communication between Housing/Technology and the students to be unsatisfactory. She believes that students and staff both could do a better job of communicating in a more official capacity. “A lot of students have been voicing their concerns. You hear a lot of people around campus. RHA would love to hear what they have to say about it,” Williams said.

CARE Resource Center: A Safe Place for All

By Tyana Morris
Photo Editor

UNC Pembroke offers many resources for students, staff and even the community. One in particular is the CARE Resource Center, ran by the Office for Community and Civic Engagement. It includes an on-campus food pantry and professional clothing closet. The resource center was created to help address food insecurity and poverty on campus and in the local community. The food pantry and professional clothing closet are operated through donations from community partners and academic/administrative departments of the university. Students are welcome to visit the pantry twice per month, while faculty and staff may only visit once per month. Community members who wish to receive food services are required to attend monthly educational workshops focused on life and career development skills. Upon completion of each workshop, participants will be awarded a CARE Resource voucher that can be used at the food pantry once every two months. The Office for Community and Civic Engagement (CCE) supports the university’s mission to develop responsible citizenship through education opportunities that provide service

to neighboring communities. The efforts of CCE encourage students to become active and engaged citizens while at UNCP and after graduation. CCE’s mission relies heavily on the support of private donations that are used to not only support the CARE Resource Center, but also the Academic Service Learning Program, the Alternate Break trips, and other service opportunities. The CARE Resource Center is primarily managed by student workers and volunteers. Volunteer opportunities at the resource center include stocking and organizing the food pantry, organizing the professional clothing closet, and sorting through donated goods. The goal of the CARE Resource Center is to be a central, safe location for UNCP students, staff, faculty and community members to come and receive aid towards their clothing, food and educational needs. It is located in Wellons Hall, Suite C and is operated on Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays from 1 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m., and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information or inquires, the CARE center can be reached by email at care@uncp.edu, or by phone at 910.775.4367.

The Distinguished Speaker Series Returns to UNCP

By Antwon Johnson
Asst. Beyond Campus Editor

This year, the university’s Distinguished Speaker Series will return to the stage of Givens Performing Arts Center (GPAC). The series features appearances from prominent stars and motivational speakers, who share their experiences of success and hardship with students. “The series provides an opportunity to provide our students and community the opportunity to enjoy top speakers who touch on major topics of today,” said Abdul Ghaffar, director of Campus Engagement and Leadership at UNCP. The series started in 1999 and throughout its first tenure brought A-list stars such as Spike Lee, Kevin Hart and Maya Angelou. However, “the series was halted due to a different direction in leadership and budget strengths,” said Ghaffar. The idea to bring the series back came at the request of many audience members, according to Executive Director of GPAC James Bass. “When I returned to

UNCP to direct GPAC in 2016, it was the number one request I heard from people,” said Bass. “Then a few months later, Abdul also returned, and we knew we had to bring this series back. He’s really the leader on this. I’m just glad we can help.” Ghaffar said he hopes that students will gain a valuable “life experience” and that the series will be a memory they can look back on for years to come. “We want students to be motivated to excel by what they hear from our speakers. We also hope our speakers spark conversation at UNCP and beyond,” he added. According to a press release from GPAC, the 2018-2019 series lineup will consist of four speakers including Martin Sensmiere (“Magnificent 7” and “Wind River”), Wes Studi (“Dances with Wolves” and “The Last of the Mohicans”), Michael Eric Dyson (New York Times contributing opinion writer) and Diane Guerrero (Orange is the New Black, Superior Donuts and Jane the Virgin).

Lumbee Hall Renovations Improve Student Usability



Brave Central is a one stop shop for Braves. Photo by Tyana Morris

By Octavia Johnson
Campus Life Editor

UNCP built a new area called Brave Central in Lumbee Hall’s first floor because they wanted better customer service for students.

Faculty and staff noticed the students were having issues going back and forth from one room to the next when getting their financial aid, admissions, registration and student accounts done.

They teamed up with other members on campus and decided to re-model the right side of the first floor.

Lois Hicks Williams, associate vice chancellor for enrollment, helped pull a group of 20 or more people to help with the building and process of Brave Central.

“It was really neat to help come up with the idea,” Williams said.

The group first discussed the blueprints of the area then the pros and cons of Lumbee Hall’s system.

The original idea of the blueprints was to have a more open space but the cost was going over the budget. It was redesigned and people from across campus who has something to do with student interaction came to help.

The faculty and staff broke up into teams and started the process. The facilities on campus came together and tore the wall down to make more space.

They painted the walls with bright colors to give students a more calming feeling than the upstairs hallways that they used to wait in.

They put comfortable couches in the waiting rooms with a media room for tours in a separate room.

To make sure that the students did not do the “Lumbee Hall shuffle,” they came together to help create a concept called “one stop.”

One-stop was a concept made to put all the needs for an individual into

one. The plan was to assign students to one counselor who specialized in financial aid, admissions, registration and student accounts.

This will help the student not have to go from one office to the next because they will have a counselor who is trained to know all the important needs of a student.

Christina Reeves, director of brave central, came to UNCP in the middle of their production. She was excited for the new model because she once helped create one-stop.

“I have to give kudos to one-stop counselors and everyone is the department,” Reeves said. “UNCP is on the right track and they did a good job.”

Although Brave Central is open, they are still working on the process of one-stop. There is a plan to put only one clipboard out when the counselors are all trained.

Reeves developed a training manual to help the new counselors learn how to help the students.

They plan to have faculty and staff from students of success learn how to advise too.

Lumbee Hall also want to create online form for students so they wouldn’t have to come pick up a hard copy.

“We’re still working to get Brave Central to where it needs to be,” Williams said. “It really does take a village to do something important.” Williams couldn’t put her excitement into words.

She said she couldn’t help but to smile when she overheard a student talk about how quickly she got out after meeting with a counselor in Brave Central.

Lumbee Hall is currently still in progress but wants students to continue to keep letting them know what more they can do to help.

Photos by Tyana Morris



Students can sit comfortably and enjoy the view while they wait at Brave Central.



New help desks await students at Brave Central.

Upcoming Events

Sept.
5

International Day of Charity
12 - 4 p.m.
UC Lounge

Braves Dialogue Series: Don’t Box Me In
3 - 4 p.m.
UC 208

Sept.
10

Circles
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
UC 251

Fun and Games Show
7 - 9 p.m.
UC Lounge

Sept.
11

Social Justice Symposium: A Dialogue about Dismantling Racism and Discrimination
6:30 - 9 p.m.
UC Annex

Pony Palooza
3 - 5 p.m.
On Campus

Cookies for Cancer
12 - 4 p.m.
UC Lounge

Blood Drive
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
UC Annex

Three Musketeers
8 - 10 p.m.
GPAC

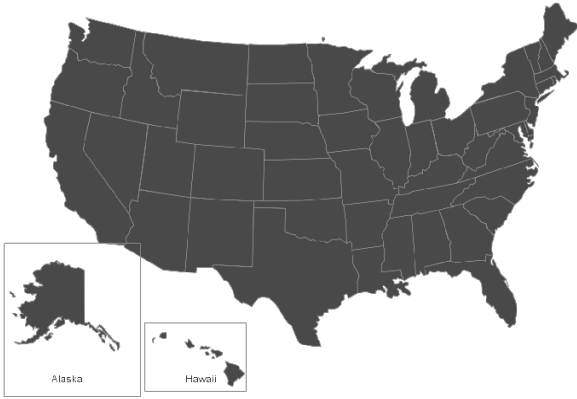
Sept.
27

Distinguished Speaker Series: Martin Sensmeier
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
GPAC

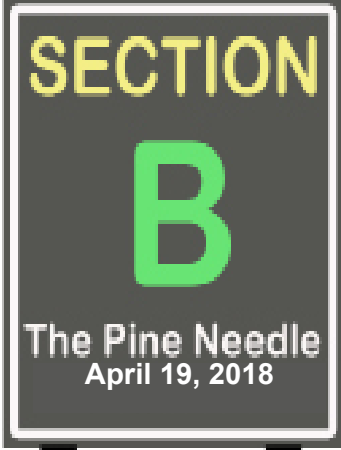
Sept.
28

Jessica Jane & Niels Duinker’s Magic Variety Act
8 - 9 p.m.
UC Lounge

News Briefs



- Colin Kaepernick, the former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, filed a grievance last October against the National Football League for blackballing him due to his peaceful protests against social injustices. Following the grievance, the NFL tried to hit back at Kaepernick by asking the System Arbitrator to get the case dismissed. The Arbitrator has since denied the NFL’s request and says there is enough evidence to take the case to trial. Coaches and team owners will be asked to testify in the hearing.
- * United States Senator John McCain, 81, passed away August 25 in his home in Phoenix, AZ. Sen. McCain had been battling with a malignant brain tumor since he was diagnosed in 2017. The Arizona Senator served in the U.S. Senate starting in 1987 where he was reelected and served five terms. Sen. McCain had his burial on September 1 at the U.S. Naval Academy.
- * On August 24 near the Silicon Valley Apple headquarters in California, an Apple self-driving car was the first of its kind to be reported in an accident. A Nissan Leaf rear ended the Apple car as they were merging onto the expressway. There were no injuries to the drivers involved and damages to both vehicles were minor.
- * A micrometeorite strike was detected on August 29 in the International Space Station after astronauts found a hole roughly two millimeters in size in the upper section of the satellite. The small hole made a minor difference in the cabins pressure. Alexander Gerst, an astronaut aboard the ISS plugged the hole with his thumb until it was temporarily fixed by taping over the hole.
- * At Aretha Franklin’s funeral on Aug 31. Pastor Charles Ellis III, senior pastor of Greater Grace Temple in Detroit was photographed alongside singer Ariana Grande in what many people are calling groping. “I personally and sincerely apologize to Ariana and to her fans and to the whole Hispanic community” said Ellis in a interview with the Associated Press on Friday. Also, he told AP that the touching of her side was not intentional and that hugging is a common way of showing love at his church.
- * Amazon becomes the second U.S company to reach one trillion dollars. The first is Apple who reached the trillion dollar mark earlier this year. At the beginning of 2018, the company was worth just \$ 580 billion. Then in the second quarter, the company’s net income spiked to \$2.5 billion after just being at \$197 billion in 2017
- * A kind gesture of a police officer helping out an elderly woman pumping her gas at a gas station goes viral on Facebook. The video, in which involves Seth Kazz, and the elderly woman whose name is unknown, has more than 20,000 reactions, 1,700 comments and 8,700 shares.



Braves Soccer Shuts Out Chowan in Season Opener

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP women’s soccer team and the reigning Peach Belt Conference champions kicked off their season with a 1-0 win at Lumbee River EMC Stadium on Aug. 30 over the visiting Hawks of Chowan University.

At the onset of the match the temperature was in the mid 90s but with the humidity, it felt as if it was over 100 degrees and it showed as the game went on. There were multiple players that experienced muscle cramps and suffered from fatigue in the second half of play.

“I think we were definitely fatigued a little bit, the heat making us tired. Definitely want to try to make the ball do all of the work instead of running after everything and chasing,” said junior defender Katy Ryan. “We wanted to

keep a calm game and try to keep control of possession and everything and not let the heat affect us as much.”

The lone goal of the game came in the 29th minute on a successful corner kick from Ryan herself, in which the ball first bounced off the fingertips of the goal and then off of the crossbar before it ricocheted into the net. The goal was not only the single score of the game and the first of the season, but it was also the very first of Ryan’s career.

“When I hit it, I wasn’t really thinking anything much of it. I thought it was just going to sail in and we were probably going to get a head on it and then it kind of had a curl and started going in towards the goal and I was like maybe this might be something and I saw it slip through the keeper’s hand,” said Ryan. “It kind of didn’t hit me

or realize that it went in at first and then everyone starts running towards me, so it was happy, and I liked it.”

Even though the Braves only managed to score a single goal, it was not from lack of attempts or opportunity as the Black and Gold were particularly aggressive in the first half. The Lady Braves outshot the Hawks 10-1 in the opening half and would ultimately finish with a 17-6 shooting margin over the course of the match.

The home team had a total of five players attempt multiple shots and last year’s leading scorer, senior Stacey Scott led the team with four attempts.

“I’m not obviously disappointed in result but I am somewhat disappointed in the performance, but again this is a win/lose driven industry and we won the game so ultimately

we achieved what we’re here to do and that was to start the season 1-0,” Head Coach Lars Andersson said. It was a true battle

visitors scoreless. “Some players handle the heat better than others and I think there were some players that



Junior Katy Ryan scored her first career goal against Chowan. Photo by Trevon Knight

of the birds in the smoldering heat with five yellow cards being issued in the second half, three of which were attributed to members of the Black and Gold. Ryan’s twin sister and the Braves stalwart, Gina Ryan once again held her own and proved to be an impenetrable wall by keeping the

clearly were affected by the heat and they struggled out there, but you play college soccer in the southeast,” said Andersson. “This is the norm for the first what...four or five weeks and then it cools off so again, those are just part of the elements that you have to accept and deal with.”

Braves’ Fourth Quarter Rally Falls Just Short Against the Rams

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP football team started off their 2018 campaign on the road in what was supposed to be a Saturday college match-up with the Winston-Salem University Rams. The game was played on Sept. 2 at Bowman Gray Stadium due to nearby lightning storms throughout the night on the game’s original date of Sept. 1.

Despite their resurgent fourth quarter, the Braves were not able to complete their comeback and fell to Rams 20-23.

In their first taste of Sunday action the Braves struggled to find their footing in the first 48 minutes of the contest. Another nearby lightning storm caused a delay in the game and just so happened to give the Black and Gold the jolt they needed.

However, their late game heroics proved to be futile as they would ultimately be undone by a fluke play in a familiar menace in Kerrion Moore caught a pass that had deflected off of the hands of its intended receiver into his before he raced down the sideline for the go ahead 63-yard score.

In a rematch of last year’s season opener that went down to the wire and saw the Black and Gold suffer a slim 31-34 loss, this time around was no different and even ended in more dramatic fashion.

After not being able to move the ball with much

consistency prior to Mother Nature’s delay of game, the Braves found themselves facing a 16-0 deficit. Their offense then exploded in the final 12 minutes of play.

Redshirt freshman Joshua Dale started the game at quarterback and was reinserted into the lineup for a few more drives sporadically, but it was true freshman Josh Jones that showed his promise and poise under center. It was also Jones who orchestrated the furious fourth quarter offensive flurry that saw his team take their first lead of the game with 1:50 left in the contest.

The Rams built up their 16-0 lead after a few miscues by the Braves in all three phases of the game resulted in points for the opposition. Winston Salem’s first score came following a broken play when the quarterback Rod Tinsley found a wide-open receiver for a 51-yard bomb that set up a go-ahead touchdown in the redzone.

The second came via high snap that soared over the punter’s head and out of the back of the endzone for a safety. The third came when the Braves appeared to be driving but then a fumbled snap by the center lead to a five-play, 55-yard scoring drive for the home team.

Coming out of the lighting induced delay it seemed as if the Black and Gold offense had been struck by one of the nearby bolts and brought to life behind the leadership and stellar play

of the freshman Jones. He began finding open receivers inside and outside of the numbers as well as downfield.

Jones finished the day 21-32 for 248-yards and two touchdowns and a passer rating of 151.4 as well as finding 10 different pass catchers. Braves receivers made several chunk plays in impressive fashion and had five players finish with multiple catches. Redshirt junior Quay Threatt lead the team in catches with five for 45 yards and a touchdown and redshirt freshman Tyshawyn Carter lead the team in receiving yards with 79 on just three catches and a score.

Redshirt junior Josh Sheridan lead the team in rushing on the day with 54-yards on 15 carries and scored the Braves’ second touchdown of the game.

He also reeled in a catch off of a check down pass and shrugged off a would-be tackler before weaving through traffic to set up the offense at Winston’s 10-yard line before punching in his go ahead score from a yard out a few plays later.

Although they fell victim to a few big plays, the Braves’ defense applied constant pressure on the Rams’ quarterbacks as four different players finished with sacks. Senior defensive linemen Tajai Liles and Tyler Hinton were especially disruptive in the backfield as the both registered a sack and two tackles for loss each.

Braves Defensive Backbone Remains Strong

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP football team will once again benefit and lean on yet another strong and stout defense that is bringing back last year’s team leader in sacks (9) as well as tackles for loss (15.5) in redshirt senior Tyler Hinton and their leading tackler who is also a key cog in the secondary in fellow redshirt senior Josh Manns.

The Braves defense will feature yet another talented and deep defensive front, especially along the line where second place sack and tackle for loss leader Tajai Liles will also be back for his senior campaign. The tenacious “Death Row” defensive line will be featuring young and up and coming talent eager to make names for themselves with their new opportunities this year.

Redshirt freshman Adonai Aloma off the edge and redshirt junior Dominique Davis from the interior are expected to apply plenty of pressure and wreak havoc in the backfields of opposing offensives this season after strong showings in the Black and Gold scrimmage this past spring.

Also roaming in the secondary with Manns will be returning junior defensive backs Shawn Everett and Tre’von Gibson who both tied for the team lead in interceptions last season

with three apiece. Having a background as a defensive minded coach with his expertise on that side of the ball Head Coach Shane Richardson hopes that a complete buy in to the core philosophies of this team to continue the proud defensive trend that he has established during his tenure.

“It’s not a given and those guys have got to continue to come out and work hard and know how important it is to establish who we are. To be able to play hard, play fast and play together is the biggest thing that we talk about defensively,” Richardson said.

The Braves are welcoming a new defensive coordinator into their coach ranks as Tim Driscoll will take over the reigns as the team’s defensive play caller for the former D.C. in Joe Ford. He brings with him 25 combined years of coaching experience, including 14 as defensive coordinator at the colligate level, with his most recent stint as a defensive shot caller coming at Michigan Tech from 2004-13.

“He understands our philosophy. He understands what we believe in and how we have done things over the years. He wants to be a contributor and bring some of the knowledge and experience that he brings to the table and be able to add to it,” Richardson said.

Braves Fall to Familiar Foe 2-3

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP women’s soccer team traveled to Charlotte to take on the Royals of Queens University on Sept. 1

In the rematch of the first round of last season’s NCAA Soccer Championships. Last year’s match up ended in a 0-1 overtime defeat for the Braves and while this time around the Braves were able to score two goals, they still were not able to topple their familiar foe.

The game was delayed two hours from its initial start time of 5 p.m. due to nearby lightning storms brewing that were reported to have touched ground.

The home team Royals jumped out to an early lead scoring two of their three goals in the first 23 minutes

of the match and held the Black and Gold scoreless in the first half of action.

The Braves came out of the halftime intermission determined to make it a truly competitive bout with last season’s leading scorer senior Stacey Scott scoring her first of the season goal within the first minute of the second half at the 45:50 mark.

On the play, Scott sprinted down the right side of the box and then beat the goal keeper across her body to put her squad on the score board for the first time.

The Braves would tie up the game when junior defender Katy Ryan scored not just the second of the game, but also the second of her career and second in as many games on a free kick from the top of the one in under 10 minutes from their first goal.

Despite their valiant efforts and furious rally in the onset of the second stanza, the home team Royals scored their second and final lead of the match when junior goal keeper Gina Ryan failed to coral a penalty kick.

The Royals doubled the amount of shots with 14 to UNCP’s seven. The Black and Gold were able to notch more saves with six as opposed to the home team’s two, but the visiting Braves did edge out Queens in fouls by one (12-11).

UNCP still leads the all-time series 4-3, with the Royals winning the last two matchups. The Braves will definitely look to turn the tide back in their favor as both teams anticipate meeting again on the post-season.



Junior defender Katy Ryan scored her second career goal against the Royals and the second of her career.

Photo by Trevon Knight

Mixed Results for Volleyball in Opening Weekend

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP women’s volleyball team kicked off the new season at the Coker/FMU invitational on August 24 and 25 at two separate locations. The first two games were against Catawba and Converse, and those games were played at Smith University Center in Florence, SC. The final two games that they played were against Anderson and Coker at Harris E. & Lousie H. DeLoach Center in Hartsville, SC.

Catawba:



The UNCP volleyball team looks poised to improve this season.

Photo by Trevon Knight

In the first set going into a timeout UNCP was up 14-12 following a pair of kills and a block by Aquia Jones. Then Catawba scored 5 of the next 6 points and that allowed them to get the momentum and win the

first set. Catawba got out to a hot start in the second set and it forced UNCP to call a timeout. With a pair of kills from Amber Tyndall, the Braves pulled within one then a kill and a service ace Catawba went up three and didn’t look back.

UNCP had their best attack percentage of .200 in the final set. The Black and Gold had an early lead but Catawba eventually got a commanding win in this one. The UNCP stats leaders were Aquia Jones with 10 kills, Casey O’Quinn and Elly Hicks both had 1 ace, Brianna Warren had 2 blocks, O’Quinn also lead the team with 2 assists and Raven Oates and Anna Heinz both had 11 Digs a piece.

Converse:

The Braves hit their match high in the first

set which was .257. The first set was tied early on and then UNCP scored 13 straight points to take a commanding lead and ultimately the victory. Shannon Skryd was serving for 12 of the 13 straight points and had 2 aces. UNCP started the second set up but Converse battled back to tie it up late in the set. However, back to back aces from Skryd helped her team to get the win.

Just like the second set, the third was close early on until the Braves grabbed the lead and didn’t look back as they won completed the three-nil sweep. The Black and Gold stats leaders were Amber Tyndall and Elly Hicks both with 11 kills, Shannon Skryd with 4 aces, Brianna Warren with 6 blocks, Casey O’Quinn with 19 assists and Anna Heinz with 13 digs.

Anderson:

The Braves got out to a quick lead in this set until the Trojans went on an 8-0 run and didn’t look back. Anderson started off hot in the second set getting out to an early lead and just like the first set Anderson went on an 8-0 run and too secure the win. UNCP had the lead about halfway into the third

Braves Volleyball Showed Grit and Promise in Home Invitational

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The Lady Braves returned home to Lumbee Guarantee Bank Court for their home invitational on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. Even though they finished with the same record of 1-3 as they did the previous weekend in the Coker/FMU Invitational, their overall record of 2-6 doesn’t accurately reflect the progress that they have been making from match to match.

Lenoir-Rhyne:

After a rough start to their invitational in which the host Braves fell to the Bears of Shaw University, they went the distance against another line up of Bears from Lenoir-Rhyne University before falling 2-3 following the fifth set. The home team would win the first and fourth set by the same slim 25-23 margin before running out of steam in the final set. The Black and Gold saw the trio of Shannon Skryd, April Tankersley and Savannah Bean finish with double digit kills as well as five different players have at least 10 digs.

Fayetteville State:

A new day saw a fresh start for the Lady Braves on the first day of the new month. After dropping both of their matches on day one of the invitational, UNCP would notch their first win and only win of the weekend in dominate fashion. In their first match of the day the Black and Gold would sweep the Fayetteville State Broncos three nil in which their opponent would only come within two points

just once in the second set 25-23.

The .257 attack percentage that the Braves posted was the highest of their young season and would’ve been the third best mark last year. Kaila Crowder and Skryd would tie for the team lead in kills with 11 each, Bailee Jones attributed a whopping 41 assists and Anna Heinz finished with 21 digs.

Coker:

In a rematch of last weekend’s bout with the Cobras of Coker College in which the Braves jumped out to an early one set lead, only to drop the next three.

They found themselves in an early 0-2 deficit but would bounce back by winning the third and fourth set, carrying all of the momentum into the deciding set. The Black and Gold were just five point away from completing their valiant comeback until a 4-0 Cobra slither gave them a 12-10 lead, and even though they would tie the set 13 all, two straight kills from Coker sealed UNCP’s defeat.

Crowder’s 18 kills in the contest were not only a career high for the sophomore but it was also the most by a Braves’ player in three years. Aquia Jones and Ashley Caesar were not far behind as they both set new career marks with 17 and 15 respectively. Jones’ 55 assists far exceeded her previous career best and was the most by player in the program in four years and picked up a double-double with 20 digs. Heinz led the team in digs again with 22 and on the day the Black and gold had five players register at least 11 digs.



Kaila Crowder is enjoying a hot start to her sophomore campaign.

Photo by Trevon Knight

Humbled Braves Are Hungry for Resurgent Season

By Joshua Reed and Ky'Aire Goode
Sports Editor and Asst. Sports Editor

Coming off of a down year the UNCP football team looks to bounce back this season and return to the postseason after a one-year hiatus. The 2016 season saw the Braves finish with a 10-2 overall record, dropping just one game in the regular season and making it to the second round of the Division II playoffs. However, the Black and Gold took a significant step back the following season. They failed to make it back to the postseason and only managed to win two games, but after a year of experience and an offseason of reflection and growth, they have all intentions to regain their championship contending prowess. Last year’s slump could be attributed to the loss of upperclassmen talent and leadership from the previous season’s team, but the players and staff aren’t using that as a crutch or an excuse. This year the Braves will look to learn from last year’s adverse experiences and turn the corner back into contention. Head coach Shane Richardson believes his team has made a lot of progress in the offseason. He has seen significant improvement from all of his players, a lot of ability from young guys that he envisions to be good contributors for us as well as a number of returners that know what the standard is supposed to look like. “There’s a lot of excitement, a lot of energy and it’s a very hopeful and good feeling right now” Richardson said. Richardson sees his team as a hungry bunch that was humbled do last year’s regression and that consistency as well as attention to details will be enough to turn motivation into results and a change in fortune. “We’ve got to do everything possible to change it. It doesn’t just happen by

itself and I think because we’re motivated because we know what happened last year. It has definitely played into our mentality of being hungry and desiring to be better,” Coach said. One of the biggest storylines heading into the season is the quarterback competition. Last year’s starter, Dominick Samson, transferred from UNCP, leaving the team with an all-new crop of signal-callers. The Braves currently have four quarterbacks on the roster: Redshirt freshman Joshua Dale, true freshmen Josh Jones and Logan McFadden, and redshirt sophomore Auston Foley. Coach Richardson expressed confidence in whichever quarterback gets the start on opening day. He also outlined the strengths of each QB that gives them an advantage in the competition. “Josh Dale has been in the program here for a year now so he’s got a little bit more experience with what we’re doing. He’s a very mobile guy but he can also throw it.” he said of Dale. Of Jones, Richardson expressed a different type of praise. “Josh Jones is a new freshman here, he’s got a lot of natural talent. His ability to throw the ball and be very accurate [as well as] a strong arm bodes well for him. He’s a student of the game.” he said. “And then you have Logan McFadden. He’s got a great combination of his arm and his legs and his intangibles. He’s an extremely hard worker and a very disciplined type of kid.” Coach said of the third quarterback on his roster. “All of those guys are going to bring qualities that are a little bit different to the table. Whoever the team rallies around and puts us in the best position to win a football game is what it comes down to...” Richardson said.

Young O-Line Expected to Pave the Way for Offensive Resurgence

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

The UNCP football team will welcome another first-time starter under center for the football team this year. Every young quarterback’s best friend is a strong and stout defense to relieve some of the pressure in games. A young passer’s second and third best friend are a sturdy offensive line to provide protection as well as pave the way for the running game and stable of running backs that can make plays and keep passing downs into shorter manageable situations. Offensive line struggles may have been the Black and Gold’s most significant reason for the offense’s inability to move the ball on a consistent basis, provide ample protection for passers and simply score points in general. While those struggles are well documented and reflected in many of the stat lines from last year, injuries as well as overall inexperience was the main catalyst for those discrepancies which led to questions about them coming out of last season. “They were young, they were behind the eight ball and they were very inexperienced. If your offensive line can not block and they cannot execute and perform well up front that’s going to hurt the offense and hurt the football team,” Head Coach Shane Richardson said. After having just one upperclassman in the starting line up for not even the entire year in guard Jared Johnson, who is now serving on the coaching staff, the young pass blockers were forged and molded by the crucible of adversity last season.

Emerged is a group that has exhibited the potential in the offseason to be a balanced offensive attack in both the ground game as well as the aerial attack and has garnered the confidence of the coaching staff. “They’re a year older, they’re a year more mature, they’re a year stronger and I think there are some guys there that really want to prove who they can be this year,” said Richardson. “They’ve really owned that, and they’ve taken great responsibility to try to fix that and I really like the attitude they’ve shown to try to get that right this year.” While this year’s starting five in the trenches will be comprised of freshmen, red-shirt freshmen and redshirt sophomores, many of those linemen received invaluable experience last season and will carry those lessons into this year’s campaign. “I think they have a better mentality than they did last year. I don’t know if it’s with the new team of whatever it is they’ve just been doing a really good job this year,” said Quarterback Josh Dale. Despite the overall struggles of the offense as a whole last year, one of the brightest spots and some of the most impressive plays came from the talent rich stable of running backs. The Braves returning rushing leader from last season is redshirt junior Josh Sheridan, who finished with a team high four rushing touchdowns. Sheridan exhibited the potential of being a dynamic weapon in the run game, with his most impressive play coming on a 29-yard score against Catawba College. On the play he displayed a low center of gravity as well as excellent body control before scam-

pering up the sideline in front of the home crowd. He also showed great vision and the ability to make would be tacklers miss and grasp for air, leading to the assumption that his skill set could be utilized coming out of the backfield as an extension of the passing game. Richardson has seen glimpses of what his other backs are capable of bringing to the table over the course of the offseason, and he expects contributions from players such as redshirt junior Quadrin Williams, redshirt freshman Travis Prince and freshman McKinley Nelson. He believes that Prince has a unique running style and that Nelson possesses all the intangibles and ability to be key contributors in the rushing attack. “There’s some great options that we have at running back and we’re looking forward to just seeing how all of them contribute in their own ways. We’re going to use the right guys at the right time and just try to be smart about it,” said Richardson. Even though Williams only appeared in seven of a possible 10 games last season and didn’t even eclipse a fifth of Sheridan’s carries, he still managed to lead all backs with a minimum of 10 touches in yards per attempt with 7.7 a tote on just 15 opportunities. “We really pride ourselves on wanting to run the ball so that’s got to be something that we’re able to do very well and it is extremely hard at this level to just only rely on one guy,” Richardson said. “You want to be able to have a few guys that are able to share the load a little bit and I think they’re all kind of different back there.”

Braves Showcase Offensive Potential in Opener

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

While it took the UNCP football team’s season nearly 24 hours from its originally scheduled date and time of kick off to get going, it took 48 minutes of game action and yet another lighting related delay to jumpstart the Braves offense against the Winston-Salem State Rams. It wasn’t until play resumed following the pause in what seemed to be a shut out in the making, that the offense came to life scored on their first three drives of what felt like an entirely new game and what looked like an entirely different team emerged from the locker room. Up until that point in the season opener it appeared as if the offensive attack had not just mirrored some of the dismal performances

from last year’s team, but it looked as if they had taken a step back as they struggle to move the ball on a consistent basis. The team also kept interchanging quarterbacks throughout the first three quarters with redshirt freshman Joshua Dale receiving the start, but it was true freshman Joshua Jones that showed what he could do and what the offense is capable of with him under center. “He’s got a lot of natural talent,” Head Coach Shane Richardson said of Jones’ ability. “His ability to throw the ball and be very accurate and he’s got a strong arm. That really bodes well from him. He’s a real student of the game, he really gets the game, he understands it cerebrally and can really put things together out there very well.” The Wilmington North Carolina native and for-

mer John T. Hoggard High School stand out exhibited every trait that his coach believes makes him a qualified quarterback and efficient passer as soon as he was inserted into the game midway through the second quarter. Jones was able to help the offense find some traction and pick up a few first downs. He showed the ability to handle pressure while still keeping his eyes down the field, make crisp throws and thread the needle into tight windows as well as throw on the run. His capacity to view the entire field and work through his progressions in what was often a collapsing pocket was made evident on a particular play on the Braves second scoring drive where he made his reads and found redshirt junior running back Josh Sheridan on a underneath check

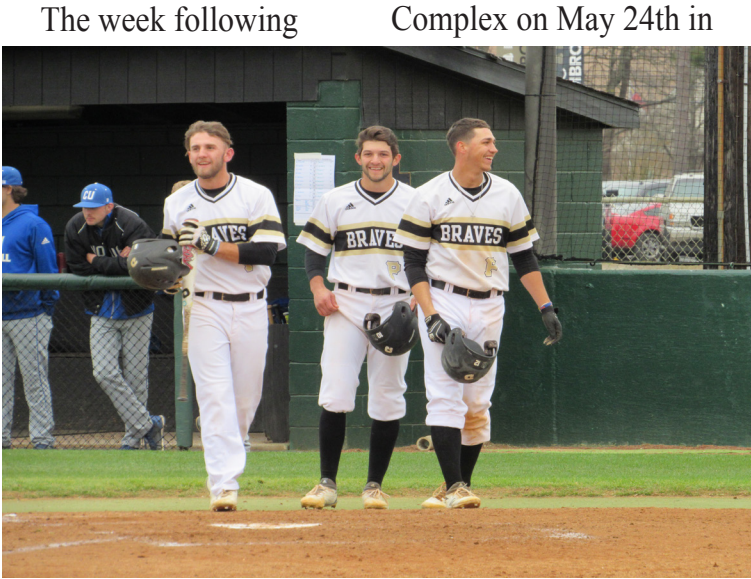
down out of the backfield. Sheridan would shake off the initial contact and make his way down the field for a 33-yard gain. On the team’s first touchdown drive Jones marched the offensive unit down the field for the score which was highlighted by a 35-yard bomb to redshirt freshman receiver Tyshawn Carter down the left sideline and followed that up just a few plays later with a seven-yard strike in the back-left corner of the endzone to redshirt junior Quay Threatt. Jones was not done launching bombs to Carter on the day as he found the speedy receiver streaking down the right sideline this time around and delivered an absolute dime for a 40-yard touchdown. Carter appears to be the team’s newest deep threat as he hauled in three passes for a

team leading 79-yards for an eye popping 26.3-yards per snag. Threatt and sophomore Corey West proved to be reliable chain movers on the day as they both consistently got open and made contested as well as acrobatic catches all over the field. The true freshman passer spread the wealth among his targets throughout the contest, hitting 10 different skilled positions and hopefully he has proved worthy to be given the chance to be the teams starter from start to finish going forward. Despite barely eclipsing the half century mark on the ground, Sheridan showed great vision, quick feet, nifty moves and versatility to be dynamic coming out of the backfield with his lone catch of the day going for big yardage.

Here’s What You Missed Over The Summer

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

While most of the student body made their ways back to their respective homes with no thoughts of studies after the conclusion of finals week, there were still Black and Gold student athletes hard at work achieving and receiving accolades as well as diligently grinding out the final stretches of their respective seasons.



final examinations the Braves’ Track and Field team headed to Mount Olive N.C. to take part in the final qualifier of the season at the Ray McDonald Sr. Track and Field Complex. Sophomore Javon Graham

managed to post the eighth fastest 110-meter hurdle time in the entire country in route to his eighth qualifying NCAA provisional finish of the season. On the women’s side senior Jeanna Cube recorded yet another record to her illustrious career for the Black and Gold by besting three-year-old mark in the 100-meter by about 1-1/2 seconds. The team would finish their season in Charlotte N.C. at the Irwin Belk Complex on May 24th in

the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, where senior long jumper Kory Jones concluded his decorated tenure as a Brave with a 13th place finish with a distance of 7.34 meters. Even though the UNCP

Softball team fell short of making the postseason, the Braves still managed to have three receive all state honors. The North Carolina Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) named the trio of Jordan Adcox, Jamie Johnson and Alex Watkins to their college Division Allstate teams. “We nominate our kids for every single award that we possibly can. We go out and we pursue any avenue where we can recognize our kids because they deserve it,” Head Coach Brittany Bennett said. “We’re bringing in good kids that have got a lot of talent, got a lot of background, that are prepared to play in the Peach Belt (Conference) and I think that anytime we have an opportunity to recognize them and show that its all about them it’s the best that we can do.” With Johnson being the only Brave with that designation moving on from the program to the next level, the Black and Gold will bring back two All-State players and look to garner more recognition for other members of the team. “It feels good to have our individual awards, but I think obviously for every



Senior Jamie Johnson finished her Braves career with All-State honors. Photo by Trevon Knight

individual award we’re hoping to have a team award as well,” Bennett said. “ We want to get back on top of the Peach Belt Conference and start receiving awards as a team instead of so many individuals because I think obviously the better the kids you have individually, the better your team is but we’re really looking forward to having those people get us back to the top and where we’re supposed to be.” The UNCP Baseball team was the other sports team to continue their competitive season into the summer months as they advanced to the postseason

following a 36-12 regular season record which included dropping just two games at home on Sammy Cox Field. The Braves enjoyed success in the postseason going 2-1 in the PBC Tournament and won a decisive 9-8 victory over Lincoln Memorial in the NCAA Southeast Regional Tournament that took two extra innings to secure. The best game of the Black and Gold’s playoff run came when they used five home runs and a sensational pitching performance from first year southpaw pitcher Landen Smith to blow past the Lander Bearcats 12-2.

Women’s Soccer Looks to Build on Success

By Ky’Aire Goode
Asst. Sports Editor

In 2017 the UNCP women’s soccer team enjoyed great success, posting a 15-5-1 record, winning a Peach Belt Conference Championship and advancing to the second round of the NCAA playoffs. This years’ team looks to compound on that success with a largely different roster, but a similar philosophy and style. The team lost six seniors to graduation from last year’s squad and will look to different players to replace that veteran leadership in 2018. Production will have to come from both old and new players alike, as the Braves welcome 10 first-year players to a team that returns 10 players from last year. Assistant coach Brittany

Padilla spoke about the challenge of fielding a team that is equal parts experience and new blood. “Our biggest challenge is making sure we’re all on the same page. Making sure that we all buy into what we’re all about; the culture that we’ve built.” Padilla said. The influx of new talent on the team also means better depth. The youth movement should reinvigorate a team that was a bit top-heavy at times in 2017 and allow for a bigger rotation. “This year we’re probably deeper than we’ve ever been. I think we’re going to sub more than we ever have,” Padilla said. The team has built a reputation for being stout defensively, on the back of 13 shutouts in 2017, and looks to remain strong on

that end of the field. The team promotes junior goalkeeper Gina Ryan as one of the centerpieces of the defense. “We pride ourselves on defense. We have a very lofty goal this year of 15 shutouts.” Padilla said. The team looks to improve offensively behind the fearsome scoring tandem of returning forwards Stacey Scott and Alexis Pittman. Pittman lead the team in scoring last season as a freshman and the two players will be looked to again to provide punch for the team offensively. Coach Padilla also expressed the desire to see the team spread the wealth more in terms of scoring. “I see a lot of contributing players,” Padilla said in reference to the goal scoring. “[we want to] have

10 or more players score at least a goal this season.” The renewed scoring

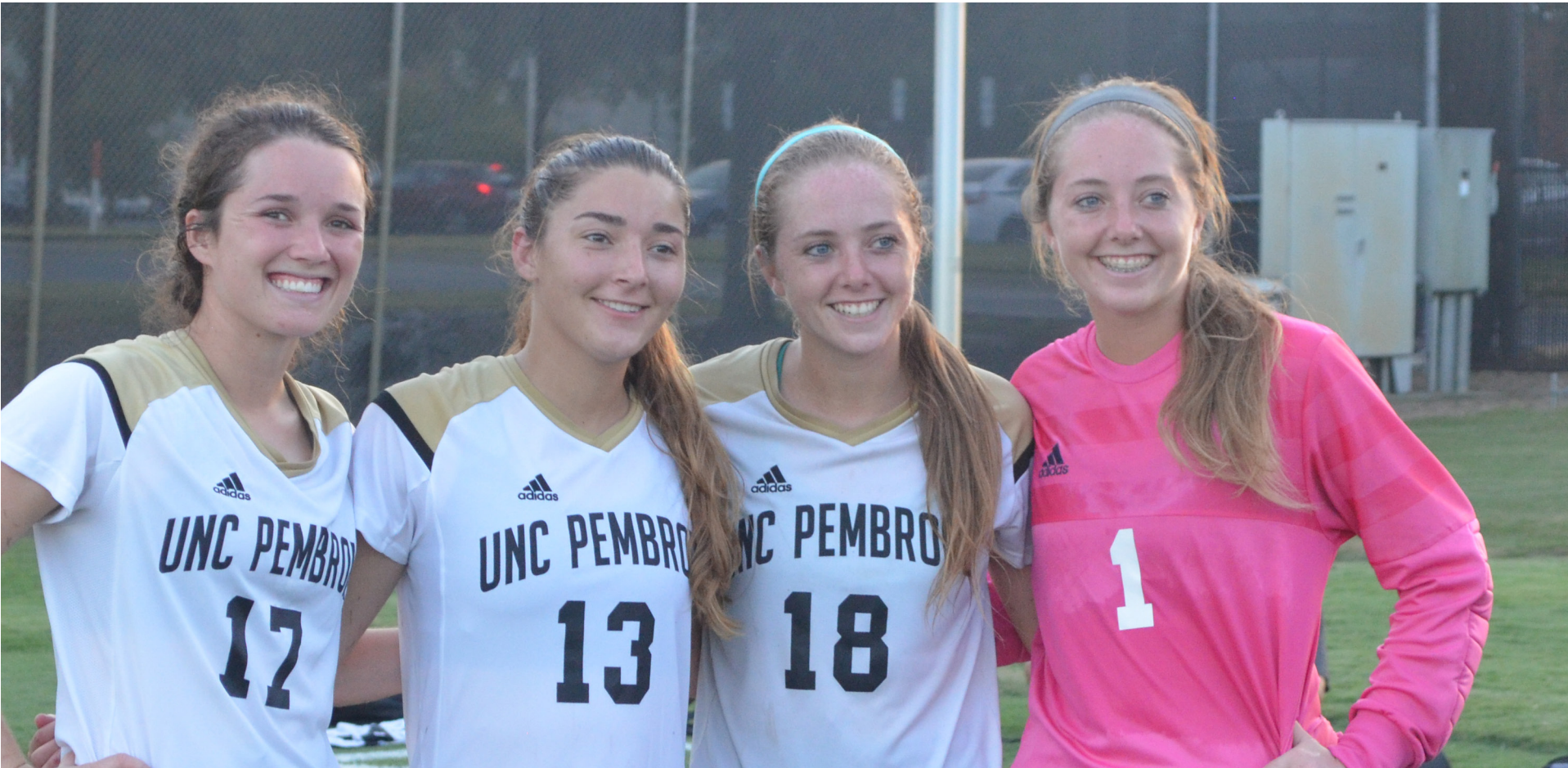


The UNCP women's soccer team is primed to defend their conference title. Photo by Trevon Knight

emphasis should help jumpstart an offense looking to improve on its 1.58 goal-per-game average from last

season and score more points. The new-look wom-

en’s soccer team opened its season at home against Chowan on Aug. 30.



Twin sisters Gina and Katy Ryan pose with teammates Bea Fretwell and Bree Mason following the team's 1-0 win over Chowan in season opener.

Joshua
Reed

Feature Spotlight

Braves Soaring to the Next Level

By Joshua Reed
Sports Editor

There’s a common assumption that the optimal route and often only path to the professional level in



E1 Pro Ballers Jamie Johnson and Taylor Gerhart

sports is for an athlete to attend a Division I institution until they are eligible to declare or ascend to the next level.

Typically, when athletes from the UNC schools



Boise Hawks players Trey Jacobs and Jesse Stinnett.

make it to the pinnacle of their sport, most people automatically assume the hail from the Chapel Hill, Charlotte or Greensboro campuses.

Even though there is a healthy pipeline to the professional leagues from Pembroke’s larger sister schools, there are some Braves that are bucking that trend. They’re setting a new pre-



Photos By UNCP Athletics

cedent that student athletes at the Division II colleges in smaller markets and underfunded programs can make it to the biggest stages as well.

Over the past few years, UNCP athletics has seen a



Photos By UNCP Athletics

proliferation in the number of trailblazers that formally put the Black and Gold that have made it to the ultimate level of their respective

competitions, ranging from softball to baseball and even the spirit squad.

On June 6 the softball team had a pair of Lady Braves drafted by the E1 Pro Ballers in the inaugural draft of the American Softball Association (ASBA) in Mobile, Ala. Infielders Jamie Johnson and Taylor Gerhart are now members of the newest alternative in women’s professional fastpitch softball in America.

“This summer has been one of the best times of my life. I can’t really express in words how much joy I have to say that our program has had two players go pro. I’m kind of a fan now. I bought some jerseys and I can’t wait for them to come back and sign them, so I can put them on my wall,” said Head Coach Britany Bennett. “I’m really proud of Taylor and Jamie. They both wanted to play softball as long as their bodies would allow them to play and this is the avenue of which they can succeed at that.”

Two months later, the Black and Gold baseball program had their own pair of Braves sign free agent contracts with the Boise Hawks, which serves as the Class A-Short Season affiliate for the MLB’s Colorado Rockies. The Peach Belt Conference’s reigning Fresh-

man of the Year Trey Jacobs chose to waive his remaining three years of collegiate eligibility to sign the minor league contract.

“I would like to thank UNC Pembroke for taking me in this year, and also the Staunton Braves for a great summer experience and the Cotuit Kettleers for allowing me to play in the Cape for the last week. There are a lot of other people to

inked his deal with the minor league organization just a few days later. He spent last season in the independent United Shore Professional Baseball League (USPBL) as a member of the Utica Michigan Unicorns.

As competitive as it is to make an NFL roster, it can be equally as difficult to make the cheerleading squad of a professional football team.



Former Spirit Squad standout Dasja Johnson is now a cheerleader for the Carolina Panthers.
Photo provided by Topcats

thank but, most importantly, to thank is the good man upstairs and my family for making all of this possible. This is a start of a new chapter in my life and what will be an amazing experience,” said Jacobs on a post via Facebook.

Former right-handed pitcher for the Braves from 2016 to 2017 Jesse Stinnett

However, that did not deter former UNCP Spirit Squad standout Dasja Johnson from pursuing and achieving her craft at the highest level when she graduated in 2017. She is now a proud member of the Top Cats, the official cheerleading team for the Carolina Panthers.

nextgen
north carolina

BE A
VETER

November 6, 2018

nextgenamerica.org/pledge

Paid for by NextGen Climate Action Committee;
nextgenamerica.org; not authorized by any candidate
or candidates' committee.