ECL MAGAZINE

WINTER 1988 Vol. 2, No. 1



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ECU MAGAZINE

FOR ALUMNI • AND FRIENDS



Daily life on a rural Piedmont farm in the 1860s-70s is portrayed by interpreters Valerie Jones '82 (left) and Sheila Harrell at Duke Homestead in Durham.

Clothing Of The Past 2
Intensive research guarantees historical accuracy in costumes designed by Clothing & Housing Chairman Vicki Berger

In The News 7
ECU holds its first fall commencement, and the Student Stores get a new name

Beating The Odds 12
Editor Peter Makuck reflects on Tar River Poetry*'s first 10 years*

Future Teachers 14
ECU's 64 Teaching Fellows are making their presence known

Reaching Out 16
The success of ECU Friends proves that apathy isn't a problem at ECU

Scientific Glassblower 18
Owen Kingsbury's specialized glassware is as functional as it is beautiful

Going For The Gold 21
Track star Lee Vernon McNeill hopes to add an Olympic medal to his rapidly-expanding collection

In Perspective 22
The future is bright for Eastern North Carolina cities, an ECU professor says

Betsy Hill Owens 27
If there's anything she likes better than talking about peanuts, it's eating them

Sallie Southall Cotten 30
A new book by an ECU English professor documents the life of one of the state's most distinguished women

In Memory 32
Ovid Williams Pierce, former writer-in-residence, touched the lives of many during his 20-year tenure at ECU



Dr. Vicki Berger (right) examines the garment she designed for Duke Homestead which is worn by historical interpreter Valerie Jones '82. Typical of the period, the dark brown calico gown has a full, floor-length gathered skirt, and its long hem is faced and bound with double-fold bias tape.

Designing Women

Historical accuracy is the goal of Vicki Berger & associates

What does a mid-19th century family of tobacco farmers have in common with male servants in a royal governor's household?

All are characters portrayed by living history interpreters at North Carolina historic sites, and they wear authentic costumes researched, designed and constructed by ECU home economists.

Dr. Vicki L. Berger, who heads the clothing and housing department in the School of Home Economics, and two graduate students combine costume design techniques with intensive historical research. The result is an array of historically accurate garments for interpreters at Duke Homestead near Durham and Tryon Palace in New Bern.

Recreating the clothing of the past is not simply a matter of avoiding manmade fibers or using buttons instead of zippers. The location of shoulder and side seams in pre-1900 clothing, for example, differs greatly from modern tailoring.

Assisting Berger on clothing for the Duke Homestead staff was Rebecca A. Cornwell, a 1985 MS degree graduate who now teaches at Georgetown College in Kentucky. Her Tryon Palace project collaborator is a current master's degree candidate, Terri A. Riggs '84.

Work on these historic costumes is the subject of each student's master's thesis, and the two projects have been reported at 1986 and 1987 meetings of the American Home Economics Association.

At the start of each project, a specific goal is identified. In the case of Duke Homestead, two sets of clothing were desired: one for everyday wear and one for church, community socials and other special occasions of the type enjoyed by rural middle class North Carolinians in the 1860-70 era.

The purpose of the Tryon Palace project was to produce correct outfits for a blacksmith and a typical manservant employed in the gardens.

"Not only did each project call for garments that were authentic for historical and educational purposes, but each item had to be strong and hold up under heavy use," Berger says. "Fortunately, the tailoring techniques of the past resulted in good, serviceable clothing that was made to last."

This is particularly apparent with the

everyday cotton dresses she designed and made for Duke Homestead. Each full, floor-length skirt features a hem that is faced and bound with double-fold bias tape, which represents the edging of horsehair braid found on period examples. This braid had a very practical use for a hem that would be constantly subjected to soil and wear from frequent contact with uncarpeted floors and bare ground.

"Also, piping was used in several sections of the dresses. Not only is this an attractive decorative feature, but it makes a very strong seam," Berger says. "We used corded piping to strengthen and accent the armscyes (armholes where the sleeves join the bodice), necklines and waistline seams."

The Tryon Palace blacksmith's outfit is also made with a bow toward practicality: his leather breeches protect him from flying sparks from his forge and are expected to be extremely serviceable and long-wearing.

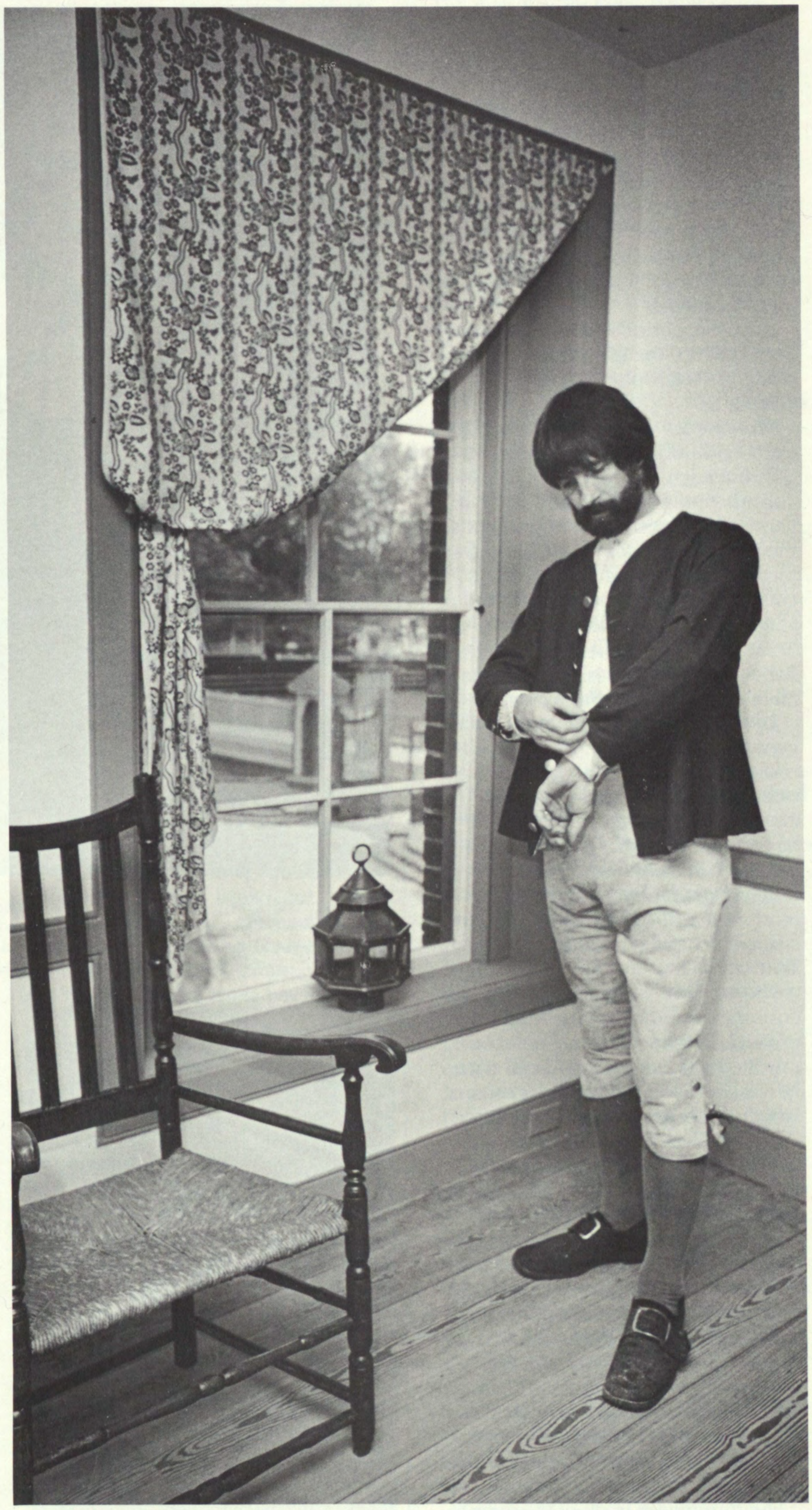
Berger, Cornwell and Riggs spent weeks intensively gathering ideas for their historical costumes. "We studied photographs, portraits and illustrations, such as the pictures in copies of *Harper's Illustrated Weekly*," Berger recalls. "The documents and pictures we examined were in various libraries and museums, most notably the Library of Congress and the manuscript collections at Duke University and ECU.

"Then we visited museums and costume collections to study actual examples of the type of clothing we were interested in."

Field trips to look at authentic clothing were productive and enjoyable, she says, because of the "wonderful cooperation" of the museum curators. "They were so helpful, assisting us in every conceivable way.

"We went to the Smithsonian, to Williamsburg, to the Valentine Museum in Richmond, the Mint Museum in Charlotte, the N. C. Museum of History, and to museums in High Point and Hillsborough," Berger explains.

"We were very well equipped for our visits. Some museums don't permit photographing items in their collections, so we had to take our colored pencils and sketchpads and draw the items that interested us. Some museums did let us take photos,



Shelton Browder dons the garments designed for his role as blacksmith at Tryon Palace: a dark blue wool jacket with metal buttons, a flax and cotton shirt with long, full sleeves and tan leather knee breeches. These are typical items of workmen's attire during the period between 1770 and 1794.

so we took along light gray bedsheets to spread out on worktables so we could lay the garments on them and photograph them front and back.

"Of course we wore white cotton gloves to protect the fragile garments while we handled them, and we always had our tape measures and magnifying glasses. We were quite laden down each time we went to a museum, but we were certainly prepared for thorough examination of these garments."

After this period of preliminary investigation, the ECU designers were ready to sketch plans for their costumes.

"The pieces we produced are not true copies of any one garment we saw, but each has design or construction elements of many garments," Berger says. "You might say they are composites of actual museum pieces. Each item of clothing has components of garments examined in various costume collections."

For the Duke Homestead project, Rebecca Cornwell designed the men's clothing and Berger the women's.

Like his counterpart of more than a century ago, the Duke Homestead man wears a frock coat, waistcoat and trousers of forest green wool with cotton chintz lining. His cotton shirt has a full linen bib. On the farm he wears full loosely-fitted trousers of blue cotton denim (forerunners of modern jeans) supported with suspenders and an unbleached muslin shirt.

The women's everyday cotton calico costumes, one dress in dark brown broadcloth and one in cream-colored muslin, have gathered bodices, each fully underlined, and shoulder seams which slope backward toward the shoulder blades. The side seams are placed toward the back rather than down the sides under the arms as with modern garments.

Each dress has wrist-length bishop sleeves and a full, gathered skirt worn over several petticoats.

"For special occasions, a woman of the North Carolina Piedmont a century ago would have probably worn a dress of finer material with a fitted bodice, pagoda sleeves and a full, gathered or pleated floor-length skirt supported by petticoats or a wire-cage hoop," Berger says.

She designed a frock of this type, but because of budgetary limitations, it has not yet been constructed. At present, the everyday garments can be "prettied up" with detachable lace collars for special tours of the Duke Homestead site.



ECU graduate student Terri Riggs '84 displays the manservant's trousers she designed for Tryon Palace. The trousers feature a "fall front" fastened with several buttons.

At the royal governor's palace, the two workmen's costumes feature loose, long-sleeved shirts of unbleached flax and cotton. Instead of a "fly" in front, the blacksmith's knee breeches and the field hand's calf-length trousers have a "fall front" fastened with eight buttons.

Using as models the restoration staff members who would actually wear the garments, the design team took a thorough set of measurements and used them to draft a basic pattern, or sloper, to create pattern pieces for each item of clothing. This was done by a variety of techniques known in designer's parlance as draping, flat patterning and drafting.

With a working pattern of brown paper, they constructed a prototype garment of muslin, fitted it to the model, made any necessary adjustments, then corrected the paper pattern as needed before making the garment again, this time in the selected fabric.

"Our fabric choices were as close as we could come to the textiles we saw in the museums without going to the expense of having fabrics from the museums duplicated to order," Berger says. "We studied several swatches in similar colors and designs before selecting the fabrics we would use."

Berger personally washed the cotton material several times to minimize shrinkage and remove modern factory sizing.

To further contribute to the authenticity of the clothing, the modern fabrics in their wide bolt widths were sliced down to 27-inch widths. This narrow width is a feature the ECU designers observed in period garments. Of course, this resulted in the need for more seams. "Each of the Duke Homestead calicos needed seven panels of material in this narrow width," Berger says.

The pursuit of historical accuracy also limited the choice of fasteners. Duke Homestead women fasten the bibs of their cotton aprons to their bodices with plain straight pins (no snaps, safety pins, or Velcro)!

Appropriate buttons of leather,

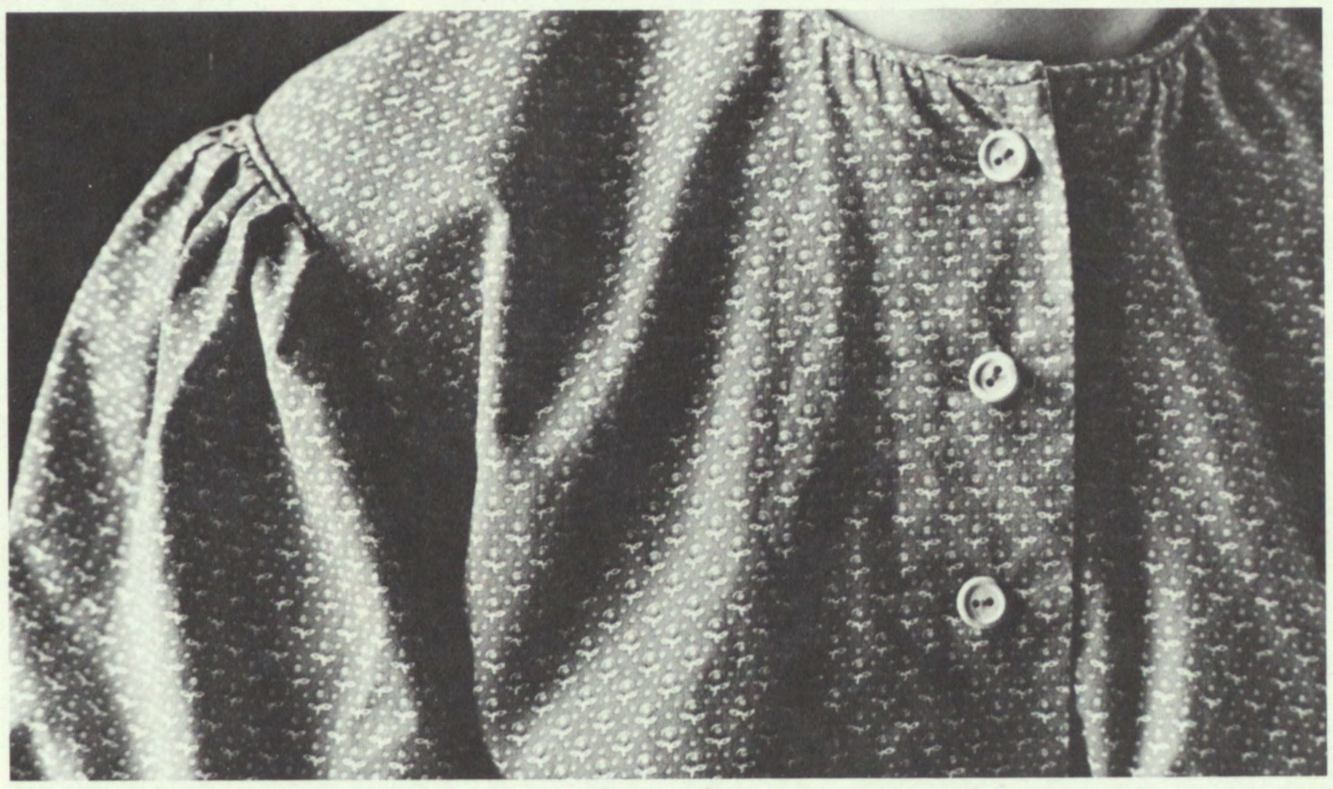
wood, metal or mother-of-pearl were chosen for the costumes. All were popular materials for button-makers in the pre-plastic era.

After these preparatory phases, the garments were finally cut out and sewn. Each was turned over to the restoration staff, along with a full-scale pattern so that the garments can be duplicated when replacements or reinforcements are needed.

No attempt was made to hide evidence that the Duke Homestead apparel had been sewn on a machine, since the sewing machine had been invented and was in use during this period. Most pieces of the Tryon Palace costumes, however, were handmade.

Both the Tryon Palace Restoration Complex and Duke Homestead host visitors of all ages, singly and in tour groups, for much of the year. These restorations are two of the 24 state-operated sites located across the state, used to illustrate the life and culture of past eras.

Tryon Palace first served as a colonial capitol and as the residence of royal Governor William Tryon, and was later the capitol of the independent state of North Carolina.



These views of everyday dresses designed for Duke Homestead interpreters show the use of corded piping at the waist (below right) and along the armscyes (below left), which helped to make 19th century garments strong and serviceable. The dropped shoulders and backward-sloping shoulder seams are typical of late Victorian era tailoring techniques. Buttons on the gathered bodice are made of wood.





The complex includes the mansion house with its nearly 40 rooms, outbuildings, extensive gardens and several nearby restored New Bern residences.

Duke Homestead consists of the dwelling house, farm buildings, and primitive tobacco factory where Washington Duke first grew and processed tobacco. A Tobacco Museum at the site holds exhibits which trace the history of tobacco from its cultivation and use by the Indians to the present.

The staff members who wear the costumes are enthusiastic participants in the process of creating living history for their visitors, and are competent practitioners of arts and skills of the past.

Both of the Duke Homestead women were history majors. Valerie Jones '82 minored in housing and management at ECU. She enjoys demonstrating the housewifely art of spinning for visitors to the site. Sheila Harrell, a UNC-Chapel Hill graduate, is an able cook on the farm woodstove; among her specialties are boiled puddings, fried chicken and cornbread.

Costuming historic sites personnel is just one way Berger has been involved with costume design since she joined the ECU faculty five years ago. She has designed costumes for numerous musical comedy productions of the Wilson Shoestring Theatre.

Her creations range from the gingham pinafores of *Oklahoma!* and Victorian outfits for 37 cast members of a stage version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to the great variety of outfits for *The Sound of Music*. She has even dressed dragon and wizard characters for a children's play, *Quest of the Amulet*.

A previous historical project was serving as consultant to an America's 400th Anniversary Celebration project. Berger assisted the Outer Banks Women's Club in Nags Head in the design and construction of several opulent Elizabethan costumes which were later modeled in the Elizabethan Gardens at Manteo for some distinguished guests from Britain.

Her personal involvement with costume design has benefitted her ECU clothing classes, Berger believes. "A major benefit resulting from these costume projects is the opportunity to study clothing in museums, libraries and historic sites and to share the



The everyday dress of cream-colored muslin worn by Sheila Harrell is edged with dark brown tape which protects the hem from soil and wear.

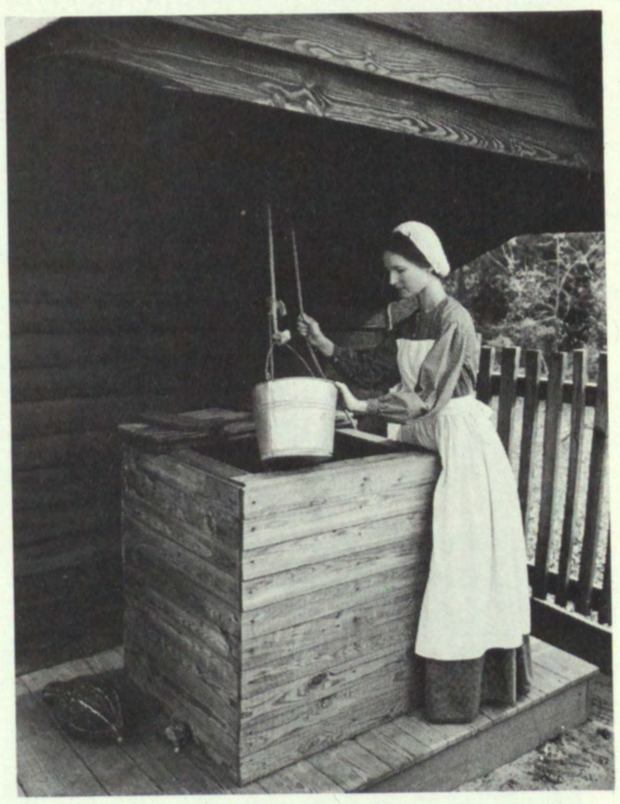
knowledge and experience with my students," she says.

"Eventually, every project becomes an example in lecture or laboratory — the actual cut and construction of a period garment or how to solve a complicated technique."

She has often brought some of her theatrical costumes to class for her students to examine and even try on. A pattern or picture of a costume seen in a textbook comes to life when students have contact with the actual garment, Berger says.

Rapid enrollment increases in Berger's home economics course, *History of Costume,* attest to the popularity of her class. Sixty-three students took the class in 1982; this year 94 were enrolled.

The course is a chronological survey of the development and characteristics of historic costume from the ancient Egyptian culture to the present.



Valerie Jones wears a white cotton apron over her dark brown broadcloth dress while going about farmhouse duties at Duke Homestead. The bib of the apron is pinned to the bodice of her dress.

Students learn not only to recognize and identify clothing items but also study how social, political, economic and religious conditions within a period of history relate to that period's costume. Practical instruction regarding the correct display and storage of historic clothing is also given.

Berger received ECU's Robert and Lina Mays Alumni Association Award for Teaching Excellence in 1986. In addition to her teaching and administrative duties, she directs the ECU School of Home Economics fashion merchandising program.

She has placed some 200 ECU students in merchandising internships at retailers in several eastern states and initiates regular student field trips to fashion market events in Atlanta and Charlotte.

By Franceine Perry Rees

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Student stores named for alumnus

ECU's Student Stores, which include the bookstore and two snack bars, were named in honor of Ronald E. Dowdy '66 during a formal ceremony in October.

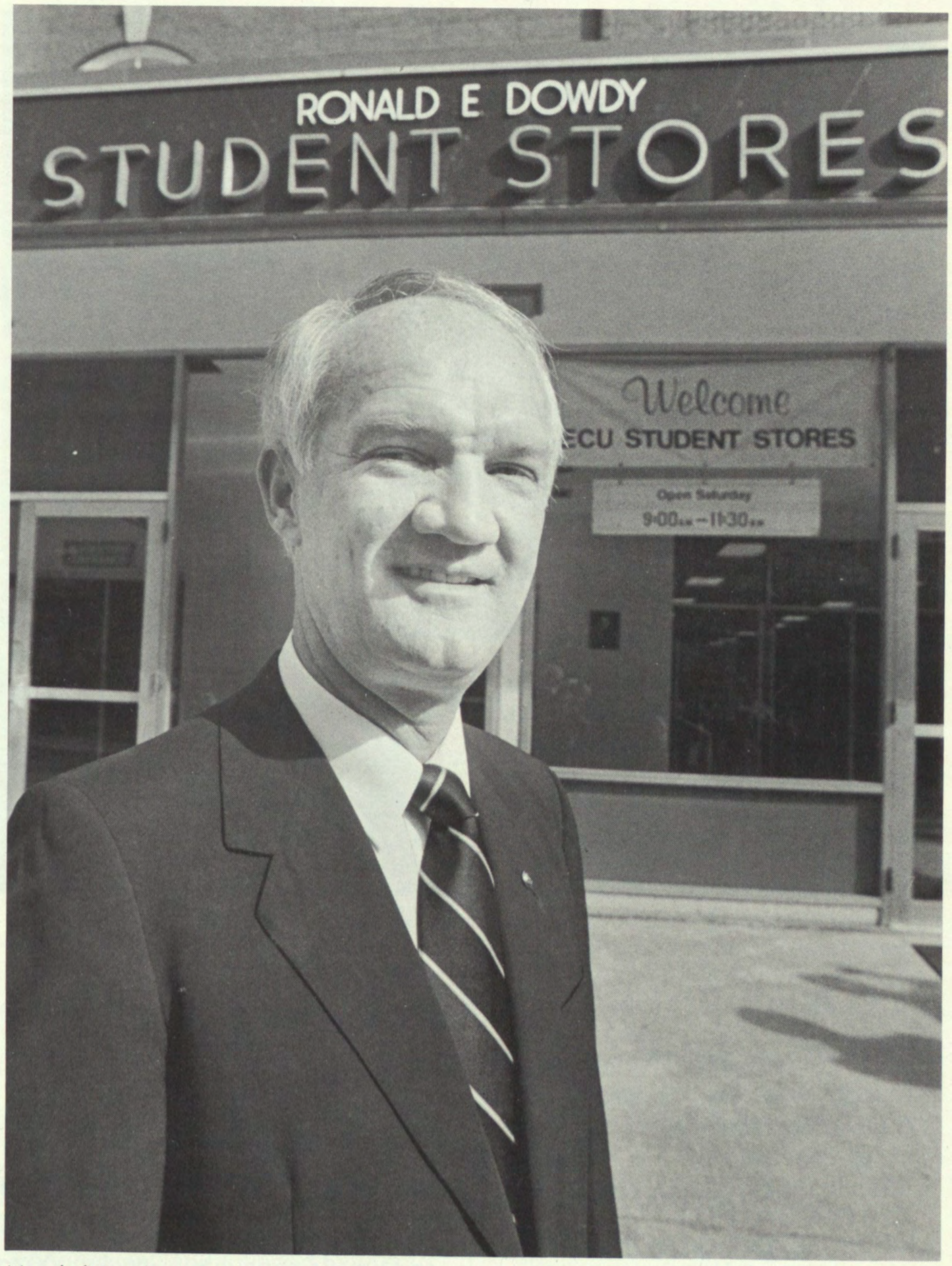
A resident of Orlando, Fla., Dowdy is a self-made millionaire who prospered through real estate development and investments. He gave $100,000 to ECU's Annual Giving Program in 1985, successfully challenging other alumni to match his contribution. He also pledged $25,000 to the School of Business Golden Anniversary Campaign.

"His steady support has permitted ECU to provide students with opportunities that would otherwise not have been possible," said Chancellor Richard R. Eakin. "We are proud to be able to recognize Mr. Dowdy's contributions."

Dowdy worked his way through school by booking dance bands for local shows and providing a laundry delivery service to students. "Five nights a week I went around picking up dirty clothes," he said. "It was a challenge, but I needed to eat and stay in school, so I did it."

Attending the ceremony were Dowdy's wife, Mary Ellen; their three children, and more than 40 relatives and friends from Florida, Virginia and Alabama.

Dowdy was presented with a framed drawing of the store and a replica of the plaque that hangs on the foyer wall of the bookstore area.



It's only fitting that ECU's Student Stores bear the name of self-made millionaire Ronald E. Dowdy '66; his first successful business venture was in retail, a gift shop located in a hotel near Walt Disney World.

Grant to support Project PARENTING

For the second consecutive year, the Children's Trust Fund, a division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, has awarded the School of Education a grant for Project PARENTING (Proactive Assessment and Regulation of Environmental Nurturing and Teaching Interventions for Normal Growth).

Project PARENTING is an educational program designed to teach parenting skills to selected adolescent mothers enrolled in Pitt County Schools.

"Being a parent can be stressful to individuals of all ages," said Becky H. Taylor, program director. "The sudden change in lifestyle as well as the burden of new responsibilities can be difficult to adjust to. This adjustment is even more difficult for adolescent parents who are coping with the tremendous changes occurring emotionally, physically and mentally during the adolescent period."

The $40,000 grant, combined with a $9,500 contribution from the United Way of Pitt County, covers the salaries of Taylor and a part-time social worker, as well as travel, telephone and supply costs.

Angel Edwards, 16, of Fountain believes she is a better mother because of her involvement with Project PARENTING. "It helped me learn a lot of things about kids," she said. "I read to my one-year-old son now. I didn't read to him before because I didn't think it was all that important."



Silly String and confetti filled the air as jubilant graduates celebrated ECU's first fall commencement.

ECU holds first fall commencement

Between 650 and 700 summer and fall graduates participated in ECU's first fall commencement at Minges Coliseum on Dec. 5.

The event was identical to the university's traditional spring commencement. Wearing caps and gowns, the graduates marched into the coliseum's seating area following the academic procession of faculty, university administrators and trustees.

Dr. Tinsley E. Yarbrough, a political science professor at ECU, delivered the commencement address. He chose as his theme the values reflected in the U.S. Constitution.

In the past, ECU has held only one commencement each spring at which degrees were conferred upon all students who completed degree requirements during the preceding year.

For the past three years, a recognition ceremony has been held in late fall for the estimated 1,500 students who complete degree requirements in the summer or fall. Due to the popularity of the event, university officials decided to initiate a formal commencement for these graduates.

Faculty member honors parents with scholarship

James L. Rees, a professor of speech and broadcasting, has given $10,000 to ECU to establish a scholarship in honor of his deceased parents.

The Dr. Lester C. and Alta M. Rees Memorial Scholarship will be given annually to an out-of-state undergraduate student who plans to specialize in broadcast communications. The $700 award ($350 per semester) will be derived from the interest of the gift.

Criteria for recipients include graduation in the top 10 percent of their high school classes, demonstration of interest in and commitment to a career in the field of broadcasting and evidence of financial need.

An award may be renewed four times for recipients who maintain superior academic grade point averages. Scholarship recipients will be screened and recommended by the Department of Theatre Arts scholarship committee.

Rees has been a member of the ECU faculty since 1966. His wife, Franceine Perry Rees '69, is a communications specialist with the ECU News Bureau.

"The Rees scholarship endowment fund will grant generation after generation of our students the opportunity to learn," said Chancellor Richard R. Eakin. "It is especially rewarding to know that university employees are willing to supplement their considerable gifts of time and talent in this way."

Fraternity supports community projects

A social fraternity known for its annual toga party is trying to improve its image by supporting community projects.

Pi Kappa Phi sponsored a "basketball blowout" in September to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House of Greenville. Students were charged 50 cents to enter the basketball shooting contest which was organized by all fraternities and sororities at ECU. A total of $300 was raised.

The Inter-Fraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council, organizations that govern social fraternities and sororities, donated a $100 grand prize for the winner.

Pi Kappa Phi carried its philanthropic efforts a step further in October by assisting in a telethon for the Pitt-Greenville Crime Stoppers.

The brothers gave up part of their fall break to answer telephones and pick up pledges made by callers.

The fraternity also contributed $500 to the telethon. According to Dillon Kalkhurst, the money was raised during a toga party in September.

Kalkhurst said the fraternity selected Crime Stoppers, which pays cash rewards for information about criminal activity in the city and county, because they wanted to support a community project.

"The Greenville Police Department has been good to us," Kalkhurst said. "They've been very patient with some of our activities, and we wanted to return the favor and do something to help them."

Program finds employment for mentally retarded

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities has awarded ECU a $53,000 grant to establish a program that will provide employment for developmentally disabled residents of Pitt County.

"The purpose of Project HIRE (Helping Individuals to Realize Employment) is to increase the independence of these people by getting them into jobs," said Ann Chaffin Clark, director. "People who are as independent as they can possibly be are out making a living, not creating a tax drain by sitting at home doing nothing."

Developmentally disabled persons 18 and older who reside in Pitt County are eligible for the program. "A developmental disability is one that is attributable to a mental and/or physical impairment manifested before the person reaches 22 years of age, is likely to continue indefinitely and results in substantial functional limitations," Clark said.

"Project HIRE will primarily be concerned with individuals with mental retardation."

Once a person is accepted into the program, an entry level job is found and the client is put to work. Each client is taught how to do the work by a job coach provided through Project HIRE. The coach stays on the job with the client until the required skills are mastered.

"From day one the employer is assured that whatever production rate established for that position will be met," Clark said. "Initially it will be more job coach than client. But once the person has mastered the job, the job coach begins to fade out. Eventually the job coach will not be there at all."

Periodic checks are made on the client to "make sure everything is all right," Clark said. "We'll go in maybe once a day at first to check on them, then maybe twice a week. If there is a problem, the job coach will follow up until the problem is solved."

According to Clark, Project HIRE provides many benefits for employers. "Persons who are mentally retarded make real good workers," she said. "They're proud of their work, and they are dependable. Job retention is high because they're not interested in job hopping."

Employers are only responsible for paying the employee's salary; Project HIRE covers the cost of the job coach. "If the employer decides they want to train that person for another position, they can call us, and we will put the job coach back in and train them," Clark said.

Plans are being made to provide practicums for ECU students majoring in special education and vocational rehabilitation. "Undergraduate students will probably observe," Clark said. "Graduate students will do some actual job coaching under the supervision of a job coach."

University Scholars Award established

Samuel J. '65 and Sandra Wornom of Sanford have endowed a $40,000 University Scholars Award. Through interest income, the award provides full tuition and fees for the recipient's four years at ECU.

University Scholars are selected on the basis of academic achievement and leadership capabilities through a competitive selection process.

"I would hope that the recipient of a University Scholars Award would not only be academically outstanding, but would shine as a motivated student leader in other campus activities," Wornom said.

Wornom co-founded The Pantry, Inc., a chain of 480 convenience stores. He recently sold his interest in that company and founded Nouveau Investments, Inc., a multi-diversified investment company.

Wornom is a member of the ECU Board of Trustees, the ECU Foundation Board of Directors and the Chancellor's Society. He is a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and is a plank and endowment member of the Pirate Club.

Grants to improve water quality

Two marine scientists and a maritime sociologist have received grants totaling $100,000 to study swamps and aquatic vegetation and to collect population data in and around the state's two largest inland water basins.

The research grants are aimed at improving water quality in coastal North Carolina and are provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

Dr. Mark M. Brinson, a marine biologist, will study the function and value of swamps that join the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. Brinson says the major concern of his five-year study is the ability of the wetlands to recolonize after timber harvest, their role in water quality maintenance and their value as fish and wildlife habitat.

Another ECU biologist, Dr. Graham J. Davis, will look at the distribution and management potential for submersed aquatic vegetation which serves as breeding ground and food for fish. Vegetation has disappeared in some places, Davis said, and undesirable species have taken over.

His study will include transplanting the most desirable kinds of vegetation into the Pamlico River.

In addition to the biological research, Dr. Paul D. Tschetter, a sociologist, will collect data on the population in the Albemarle and Pamlico region. This project will develop a data bank of information about the permanent, temporary and seasonal populations in the 33 coastal North Carolina counties.

Fall enrollment hits all-time high

A total of 14,882 students registered for the fall semester, according to Registrar J. Gilbert Moore. The new record — 418 more students than last year — marked the 10th consecutive year that fall semester enrollment has exceeded the previous high.

"I am pleased that our academic programs are increasingly attractive to students and their parents," said Chancellor Richard R. Eakin. "An enrollment growth rate of 2.9 percent is especially remarkable at a time when enrollments are expected to be stable or declining in many parts of the country."

The increase included a jump in full-time undergraduate students from 10,853 to 11,167. Full-time graduate students increased from 798 to 829.

Student center expansion begins

Construction on the long-awaited $3.6 million expansion of Mendenhall Student Center began in October. The project, for which planning began seven years ago, will add 31,000 square feet of space to the building.

Full-service dining facilities including a 400-seat cafeteria, kitchen and food preparation areas, storage facilities and office space for food service personnel will occupy the entire main floor and part of the ground floor of the addition.

Also housed on the main floor will be campus radio station WZMB, the Media Board photo lab and a large party room to be used by student organizations for dances and other social activities.

The top floor will contain offices of the Student Government Association and other organizations plus additional meeting rooms.

The principal meeting room on the top floor will be at least twice the size of the Multipurpose Room presently located in the student center.

"It will provide better facilities for the Madrigal Dinners, Dinner Theatre productions and large banquets and meetings," said Rudolph Alexander, assistant vice chancellor-director of University Unions and Student Activities. "If everything moves reasonably well, construction should be completed and furnishings moved in in time to open the new area at the beginning of the 1989 spring semester."



Hydraulic scoops remove one of eight trees from the construction site of the Mendenhall Student Center addition. The trees were transplanted near the new general classroom building.

$100,000 endowment honors LuAnne Lanier

Ted '59 and Peggy Lanier of Sanford have established a scholarship endowment fund at ECU in memory of their daughter, LuAnne, who died in 1977 at the age of 13.

"LuAnne was a blessing, not only to her family, but to all who knew her," her father said. "We hope that through these scholarships, other young people will have opportunities to develop their capabilities to the fullest potential."

Mrs. Lanier added, "We wanted to perpetuate the memory of our daughter in such a way that would help many young people secure a college education. LuAnne always wanted to share whatever she had with her friends."

Interest income from the $100,000 endowment will fund scholarships for students from several North Carolina high schools. The first award will be made this spring to a graduate of Lee Senior High in Sanford.

Recipients will be chosen on the basis of financial need and academic merit. Scholarships may be continued for four years as long as recipients maintain the required grade point average.

The endowment will eventually support four Lanier scholars, one at the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior levels.

Lanier is a financial consultant in business for himself, specializing in mergers and acquisitions. He is a member of the ECU Foundation, Inc., and serves as chair of the Foundation's investment committee.

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Cheerleading squad features twin sisters

Elizabeth and Ellen Whitaker of Cary are 18-year-old freshman students at ECU who are best friends, roommates, junior varsity cheerleaders — and identical twins.

The two began leading cheers together in the seventh grade, but split up when they reached high school. Ellen attended Cary High while Elizabeth chose to go to Enloe High in Raleigh.

When it came time to go to college, the girls did not want to be apart. "We've always been good friends with other people, but I've never had a best friend like Ellen," Elizabeth said. "There's just a bond between us that is indescribable."

The girls supported each other during cheerleader tryouts at ECU. "We don't know what we would have done if one of us had made the squad and the other hadn't," Ellen said.

Jayvee cheerleaders assist the varsity squad at home football games and cheer at women's basketball games.

"We love ECU, and collegiate cheering is a great experience," Ellen said. "We like it when another student comes up and says, 'Aren't you a cheerleader? Weren't you at the game?'"

ECU Foundation officers elected

The ECU Foundation elected officers and new members during its annual meeting in September. Greenville businessman I. Jackson (Jack) Edwards '60 succeeded W.R. Roberson Jr. of Washington as president. Judge S. Gerald Arnold '63 of Buies Creek was elected vice president.

"Jack Edwards is in the unique position of serving as president of both the ECU Foundation and the Pirate Club this year," said James L. Lanier Jr. '69, '71, vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement. "His dual role is indicative of the interest and support he shows in all of ECU's endeavors."

Although semi-retired, Edwards' businesses — University Book Exchange, Art & Camera Shop and Art & Camera Frame Shop — continue to serve the Greenville and university community.

The Foundation's new members are Peggy S. Corbitt '49, Sid Warner and Dr. Sam C. Winchester Jr. of Greenville; Robert A. Ward '62 of Burlington, Milford Quinn of Warsaw and Barbara B. Forester '59 of Charlotte.

The Foundation is a private corporation that supports ECU's academic programs through the solicitation of gifts and the management of resources. Volunteer members work with the Offices of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations to promote and assist the Foundation.

Projects accomplished with the Foundation's assistance in 1986-87 include the completion of a $2.2 million fund-raising campaign commemorating the School of Business' 50th anniversary; the funding of six new University Scholars Awards; and the establishment of a $50,000 distinguished professorship for international studies.

Scholarship to aid real estate students

The Greenville-Pitt County Board of Realtors has established a $3,000 endowment fund that will recognize and reward outstanding undergraduate students seeking degrees in the ECU School of Business with a concentration in real estate.

"We felt it was our job to bring some of the business aspects back to the school," said Elaine Troiano, board president. "It will also benefit the real estate industry by helping the standards grow to meet our requirements."

Selection of scholarship recipients will be made by the ECU student financial aid office from recommendations made by the dean of the School of Business. Seniors who have completed more than 90 semester hours, take part in university activities and have high academic standings will be considered for the $250 annual award.

"Scholarships are important to our students, and we have a number of them in the real estate curriculum," said Dr. Ernest B. Uhr, business school dean. "This, however, is the first scholarship dedicated to that program. We are pleased with the board's action and hope that they will choose to expand this fund."

University Scholars Award honors former Martin County mayor

A University Scholars Award has been established at ECU in memory of the late J. Woolard Peel, former mayor of Everetts. The endowment was funded by Peel's wife, Helen K. Peel of Everetts, and their son, Dr. Jesse R. Peel of Atlanta, Ga.

A University Scholars Award provides full tuition and fees for a student's four years at ECU. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement and leadership capabilities through a competitive selection process.

"ECU is becoming more important to our community and to all of Eastern North Carolina," Mrs. Peel said. "My son and I decided to establish the award because it's so close to home. We've seen how the university is growing and wanted to be a part of that development."

"The Peels' gift is a reflection of their confidence in the university's ability to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of our region," said Chancellor Richard R. Eakin. "Endowing scholarships that help ECU attract a number of our state's and nation's most talented young leaders is one of my top priorities. We are indebted to the Peels for their generosity."

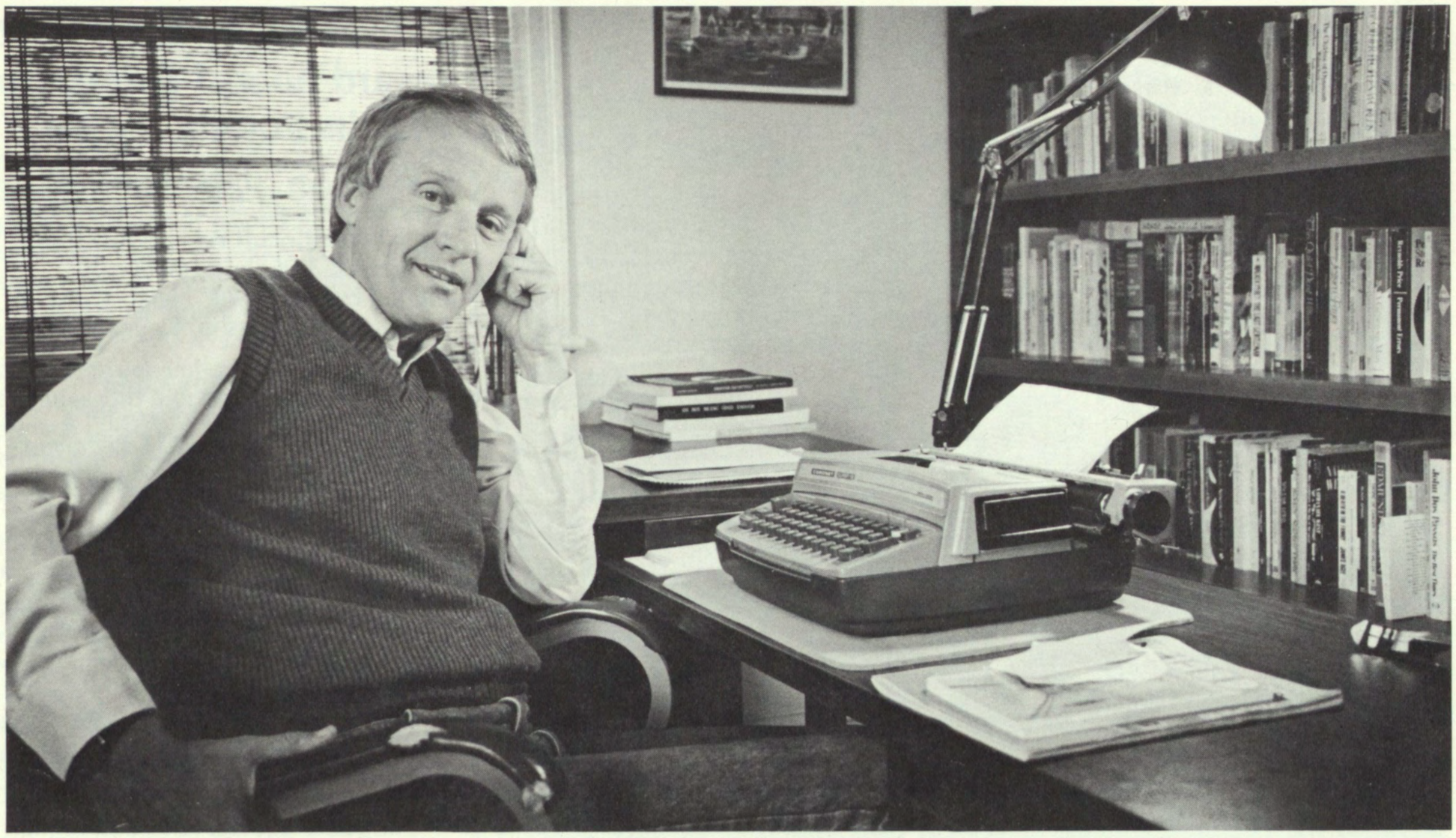
Art student wins national contest

An essay written by Steven F. Reid Jr. of Havelock was the winning entry in a national contest sponsored by the National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers for graphic arts students.

Reid received the President's Service Award and $1,000 for his essay, "The Vital Role Printing Ink Will Play in My Printing Industry Career."

School of Art Professor Donald R. Sexauer, Reid's faculty advisor, also received special recognition for encouraging student participation in the contest.

Reid is a candidate for the bachelor of arts (BFA) degree.



Writing comes easily to Dr. Peter Makuck in the upstairs study of his Greenville home. Makuck has served as editor of Tar River Poetry *since 1978.*

Tar River Poetry

Flowing into the mainstream of literature

From its beginning as a regional outlet for local poets, *Tar River Poetry* has developed into a journal of international repute.

The 64-page journal — published twice a year by the Department of English — features poetry, essays, reviews and interviews with major contemporary poets.

More than 100 manuscripts are submitted weekly to the publication, which is circulated among 1,000 subscribers, including libraries in England and Japan.

"East Carolina can be proud that some of the very best poets in the country send their work to *Tar River Poetry*," says Dr. Peter Makuck, editor and ECU professor of English. "What's important is that we now have a national reputation. To be published in our journal you have to compete with the best — poets like Louis Simpson, Carolyn Kizer and William Stafford, all of whom have won Pulitzer Prizes for their poetry."

By bringing forth literary accomplishments from the best poets and critics, *Tar River Poetry* exemplifies ECU's commitment to the research and study of contemporary literature as well as to the teaching of the classics.

"I am impressed with the image of the university that the magazine conveys to its readership," says Dr. William Bloodworth, acting vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and 1982-87 Department of English chairman. "*Tar River Poetry* indicates without a doubt our concern for, involvement in, and influence on contemporary American artistic and literary life."

Tar River Poetry evolved from a series of verse booklets published in 1966-67 by the ECU Poetry Forum, an organization formed in the early '60s by three students. Each booklet — *Trio in Blues, Trio in Gold, Trio in Bronze,* and *Trio in Scarlet* — featured works by three Forum participants.

The number of contributors increased in 1969 with the fifth booklet, *Tar River Poets*. The Forum continued to publish works under this title until 1978, when Makuck became editor and proposed a change in focus and name.

"Until then, the journal's title reflected its contributors; the poets were people who lived near the Tar River," Makuck says. "We decided to broaden the scope of the journal by seeking submissions from poets of national stature and changed the name to suggest that the journal was simply printed at Tar River.

"Some people thought I should change the name altogether since the strategy for the journal would be different," Makuck remembers. "But poets have written and said they submitted poems because they liked the name. It doesn't seem that exotic to those of us who live here, but to some people, the name itself is poetic."

Over the years, the journal's reputation has grown by example and word-of-mouth. "Every time an important poet is published in *Tar River Poetry*, it's like getting the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval," Makuck says.

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regional meetings and literary conferences of the Modern Language Association and Small Press Publications in the South. "An invitation to display a publication at these meetings is an honor itself in that only the best are asked," Makuck says.

In a review published in 1981 by *Library Journal*, Bill Katz, a professor in the School of Library Science at State University of New York, Albany, wrote of *Tar River Poetry*, "it has a unique claim. Most of the material is written not just for other poets and academics, but for the general public. The poems are clear, precise, and, if this issue is typical, tend to be involved with close inspection of thing and events rather than with the inner layers of the poet's mind. Most contributors enjoy long publishing records, success and appreciation. They are not amateurs."

In 1984, *Writer's Digest* rated *Tar River Poetry* one of the top 50 publications for poetry. "Every four or five years, *Writer's Digest* evaluates and rates journals for aspiring writers," Makuck says. "It's the largest newsstand publication for writers in the country. It lists and describes the best markets for fiction and poetry."

A journal has to be outstanding to be listed in the poetry market. Only a few of the 1,200 literary journals and magazines catalogued in *The Directory of Literary Magazines* are chosen. Some of *Tar River Poetry's* competitors have circulations of over 5,000.

"Given this kind of competition, such a high ranking suggests that we must be doing something right," Makuck says.

One reason for its success, Makuck believes, is the journal's design. "It's printed on an ivory parchment sort of paper, so it has a warm, welcoming feel to it," Makuck says. "We seldom publish more than 25 poets per issue so that each poet gets the right amount of representation. Their poems are not lost, and they like that."

The journal's pen and ink illustrations, drawn by Peggy Schadel-Swearingen of the ECU Print Shop, where the journal is printed, have also attracted attention and praise.

Department of English faculty members assist Makuck with each issue: Phyllis Zerella is assistant editor, and Norman Rosenfeld, Jim Kirkland, David Sanders and Luke Whisnant '79 are advisory editors. Patsy Collier, the department's administrative assistant, handles subscriptions, correspondence and mailing.

Makuck and his staff are currently making plans for a double issue commemorating the journal's 10th anniversary. Makuck has a commitment for a major essay from poetry critic Jonathan Holden, author of *The Rhetoric of Contemporary Lyric* and *Style and Authenticity in Postmodern Poetry*. Both works are frequently cited critical sources.

Several other major poets and critics have agreed to submit works. "I'd like to compensate for our modest beginnings with the anniversary issue," Makuck says. "We haven't had enough money to widely advertise in national poetry journals or to send out flyers and direct mailings. The expanded anniversary issue will be sent to a wider audience which we expect will stimulate an increase in our subscriptions.

"It's important that *Tar River Poetry* has survived for 10 years because literary journals come and go," he adds. "The life expectancy is about five years. Ten years clearly means that the university believes in what we're doing, and that we're valuable enough to receive financial support."

Most literary and scholarly journals are non-profit publications. "It's a foregone conclusion that you're not going to make any money," Makuck says. "The goal is just to stay afloat somehow. I'm shameless about advertising the journal myself, and I try to do everything I can to get people to subscribe to it."

A published poet and short story writer himself, Makuck has been nominated for Pushcart Prizes for both poetry and fiction. Two of his poems have been reprinted in *The Yearbook of American Poetry*, and his works have won honorable mention in the annual, *Best Short Stories of 1976* ('79, '81 and '82).

Makuck grew up in New London, Conn., and earned his undergraduate degree in English and French at St. Francis College in Biddeford, Maine. He received his master's degree in English at Niagra University and taught high school French in Connecticut.

He earned his Ph.D. in English at Kent State University in 1971, then taught at West Liberty State College in West Virginia for four years, one of which was spent in France on a Fulbright Exchange Professorship. He joined the ECU faculty in 1976.

Subscriptions to *Tar River Poetry* are $6 a year or $10 for two years. Single back issues and complete sets are available.

Subscription orders and manuscripts should be sent to *Tar River Poetry*, Department of English, Austin Building, ECU, Greenville, N.C., 27858-4353.

By Linda Johnson Morton



Makuck believes one reason Tar River Poetry *has been successful is its attractive appearance and top quality. "It's printed on an ivory parchment sort of paper, so it has a warm, welcoming feel to it," he says. "We seldom publish more than 25 poets per issue so that each poet gets the right amount of representation."*



Dr. Betty Levey (second from left), campus coordinator of ECU's 64 Teaching Fellows, enjoys breakfast at a local fast-food restaurant with two of her charges, Khris Reyer of Jacksonville (left) and Karen Spivey of Taylorsville. During the course of the semester, Levey met with the Fellows in small groups.

ECU's Teaching Fellows

Learning today, teaching tomorrow

Margaret Barnhill always wanted to be a teacher. "When I was little, if I couldn't get anybody to play school with me, it was time to drag out the stuffed animals," she says.

Although the teaching profession is not considered a lucrative one, Barnhill — and 43 other college juniors in the state — are $8,000 richer for having selected it. As recipients of two-year awards from the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission, they will receive $4,000 for each of their last two years of college.

The award is high, but doesn't come without obligations. Each recipient must maintain a 2.5 grade point average and "repay" the $8,000 by teaching in a North Carolina public school for three years following graduation.

The commission also awarded four-year scholarships to 400 high school seniors, who will receive a total of $20,000 each ($5,000 per year). They are obligated to teach four years in a North Carolina public school following graduation and must also participate in special enrichment programs.

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program is the General Assembly's answer to the teaching shortage. "It has been predicted that North Carolina could need an additional 11,000 teachers within the next decade," says Dr. Betty Levey, director of the School of Education's Division of Services and campus coordinator for ECU's 64 Teaching Fellows.

The General Assembly was also concerned about the quality of teacher candidates. "They recognized that in order to attract capable high school students some support mechanism was needed since large scholarships were offered in so many areas," Levey says. "If a high school student is offered more than one scholarship, he's going to take the one that is better for him financially, regardless of the obligations."

Keisha Lee, a graduate of Williamston High School, was interested in teaching, but probably would have pursued a career as a certified public accountant if she hadn't been offered a Teaching Fellow scholarship. "The money was not what attracted me most about this program, even though without financial assistance I knew I could not come to college," she says. "I liked the fact that I was basically guaranteed a job.

"When you're teaching, you're holding the future in your hands," she adds. "I want to make an impact on this world; what better way to do it than to teach people?"

Applicants for the 400 fellowships were carefully screened through personal interviews to ensure they exhibited what a brochure calls "the 'something special' that holds the key to effective teaching — sensitivity to people, strength of character, an ability to motivate others, creativity and a dedication to learning."

Selection was based on a number of criteria, including high school grades, writing samples, class standing and SAT scores. Other considerations were community service, extra-curricular activities and references from teachers and members of the community.

"They had a healthy pool from which to draw," Levey says. "There were 1,500 applicants for the 400 fellowships. The average SAT for the 400 was 1049. The GPA overall average was 3.3."

Although 44 college campuses in the state offer programs in teacher training, only nine were invited to participate in the program: ECU, Appalachian State University, A&T, UNC-Charlotte, Central, N.C. State, UNC-Greensboro, Western Carolina, and UNC-Wilmington. Each student was able to choose the school he wanted to attend.

Preston Bowers of Siler City, a history education major, picked ECU after being recruited for the baseball team as a pitcher. "This is my freshman year, so in the fall season I got right much playing time," he says. "But in the spring, I'll just have to see how things go. With a lot of hard work, I think I've got a good chance."

ECU's respected theatre arts department attracted Shelby native Rob Perkins. "I've always wanted to do something where I could help people," he says. "Teaching is helping people. I got real close with a couple of my high school teachers. Whenever I had problems, I could talk to them. I'd like to help other people the way they helped me."

Twenty-eight of ECU's 64 Fellows plan to major in two high-demand areas: science and math. Other majors include elementary education, history, journalism and English.

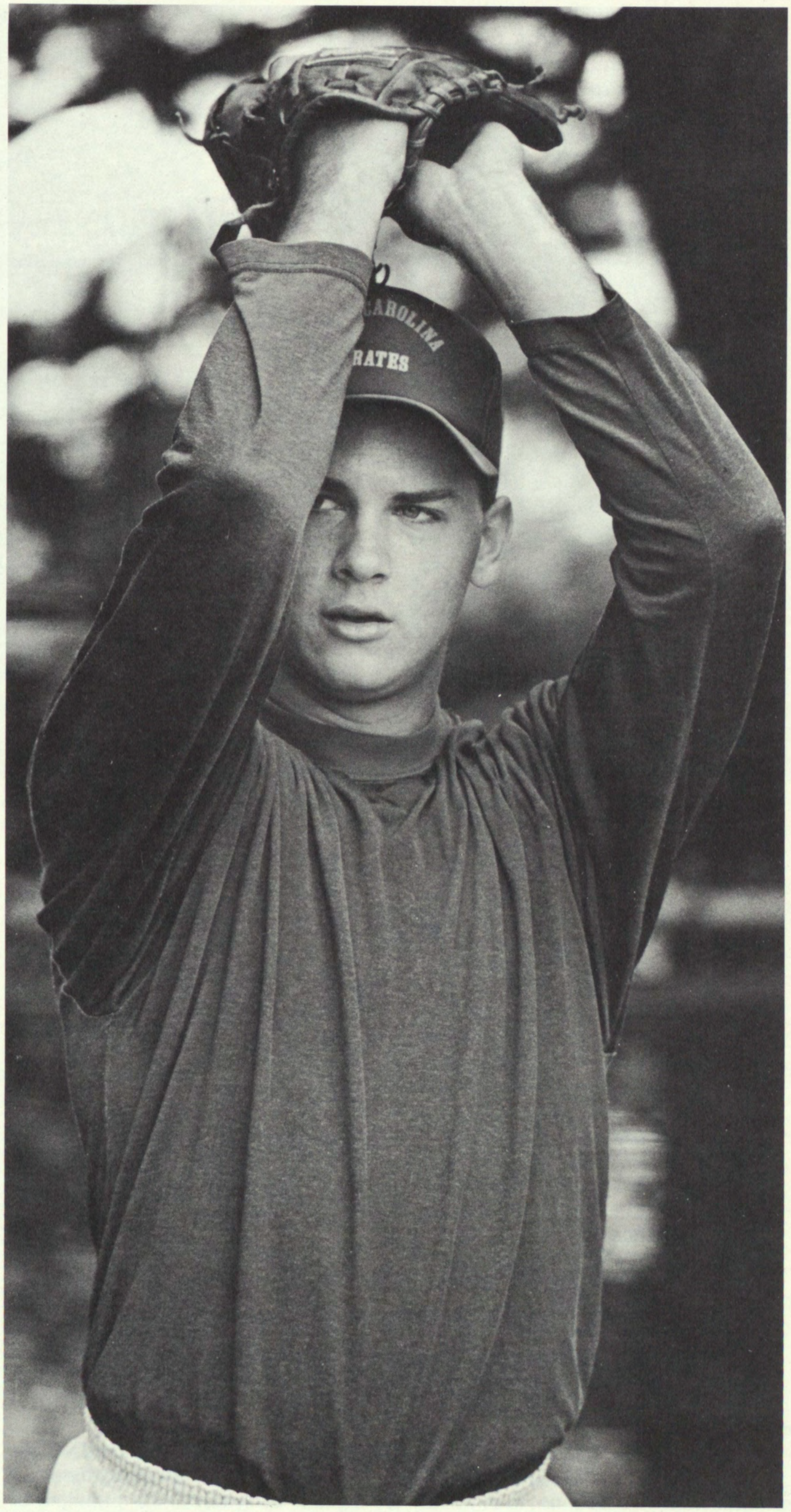
Much has been accomplished by the Pirate Fellows — as they call themselves — in their first semester. Those who could miss a day of classes traveled to Chapel Hill on Sept. 11 to hear the presidential candidates discuss educational issues in "Education '88: A Presidential Candidates Forum."

"They felt very well informed to hear the candidates speak and the issues discussed," Levey says. "This will be the first presidential election in which they will have an opportunity to vote."

They also helped build the School of Education's Homecoming float, which won first place honors, and have volunteered to return to their high schools to talk to students about the Teaching Fellows program.

"I am very impressed with their affective skills," says Levey. "When 64 strangers get together, you would not expect a great deal to occur — you would expect tentative interaction. But they were dynamic. They explored and expanded; they supported and reacted in very competent ways.

"They did, by consensus, decide to do a newsletter," she adds. "The logo



Outside interests of the Pirate Fellows are as varied as the subjects they study. Preston Bowers of Siler City, a history education major, is a member of the ECU baseball team.

underneath the letterhead on their newsletter is 'learning today, teaching tomorrow.' Now that came from them."

To fulfill the service portion of their contract, the group voted to adopt a Greenville elementary school. The Fellows spend their spare time at Third Street School assisting teachers in everything from putting up bulletin boards to tutoring.

"My Fellow works with children who are having problems in reading, who need some additional one-on-one," says first-grade teacher Lisa Pinner '82, '83. "She plays vocabulary games with them, reads to them, listens to them read, and works on skills that are in their reading text. That's where I need assistance the most.

"The children she works with have learned to expect her every Friday," she adds. "It gives them a boost because they're the ones who get to go out and work with her."

The project was the brainchild of the school's volunteer coordinator, Ann Maxwell '70. A former teacher, Maxwell recognized the advantages such an arrangement would provide for everyone.

"The Teaching Fellows will have an opportunity to find out what teaching is all about before they graduate, and at the same time help the teachers by giving some individual attention to these children," she says. "This is the most enthusiastic group of people I've ever met. They're really gung ho about teaching; 36 of them signed up immediately to help at the school."

The Teaching Fellows Commission plans to award 400 more scholarships this spring following screening and interviews. The new Fellows will have four additional schools to select from: UNC-Asheville, UNC-Chapel Hill, Elon and Meredith College.

"This is not a one-time deal," Levey says. "This is a long-term obligation which can, of course, be reversed by the next General Assembly."

Dr. Charles R. Coble, dean of the School of Education and director of teacher education at ECU, hopes that never happens. "We're very proud of the Teaching Fellows and the program," he says. "They've brought a new level of excitement to teacher education on our campus."

By Karen E. Simmons

ECU Friends

Program pairs student volunteers with Pitt County youth

Apathy isn't a problem on the ECU campus, at least when it comes to community affairs. With its 50 student volunteers, ECU Friends — a program which provides companionship for children within the Pitt County School System — is thriving.

"This program helps to dispel the idea that students don't care," says Gay Maness '87, who started the organization during her senior year. "People have a tendency to accuse undergraduates of not caring about what goes on in the community. Yet, here you have college students volunteering their free time to help kids."

ECU Friends attempts to provide adult role models for children in Pitt County who, according to school counselors and principals, need special attention—a special sort of attention that only college-age students can provide.

"It is important to realize that we are not there just for kids who are poor or wild," says Chris Harris, ECU Friends president and a senior marketing major. "We're not a babysitting organization. We want kids who will benefit from the program. We want to help those who want to help themselves."

Presently there are 30 "little friends" — 15 students from Third Street School (kindergarten through third grade) and 15 students from South Greenville Elementary School (fourth through sixth grades).

Each "little friend" is paired with an ECU volunteer. By spending time together each week — a minimum of two hours is required — the "little friends" become comfortable enough with their role models to confide in them.

"This has been a personally satisfying experience for me knowing that I'm helping someone," says sophomore Bob Griffin. "My sixth-grader has been opening up a lot more. He shares his problems with me. I like to think that I have a positive influence on him, and that I'm helping him to mature and develop."

Volunteers who are not yet matched with a "little friend" support the program through fund raising, recruiting, record keeping and other activities.

The establishment of ECU Friends was the realization of a dream for Maness, who has long been interested in service to the poor and powerless. Now a first-year law student at Wake Forest University, she is a volunteer for Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Forsyth County, Inc., and still serves on the ECU Friends advisory council.

While attending ECU, she did volunteer work with Pamlico Sound Legal Services, a Greenville-based legal aid office serving a 20-county region.

"The faculty, particularly in the Department of Social Work, supported and encouraged us in classes to do more in the community," she says. "I benefitted simply because of their positive approach and willingness to help."

It was Maness' willingness to help troubled children served by juvenile court systems in Greenville that led her toward organizing ECU Friends.

"I was looking to work one-on-one with children," recalls Maness. "But the programs here in town just didn't offer what I wanted. That's when I got the idea of starting a new organization



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First-year law student Gay Maness '87 finds time for her "little sister," Lakesha Rikard, 10, and friends at Hanes Park in Winston-Salem. (Contributed photo)

— one patterned after Big Brothers-Big Sisters and the Big Buddy Program at UNC-Chapel Hill."

Meetings with faculty and students convinced Maness that interest existed for such a program. With the help of ECU Friends faculty advisor Dr. Linda Mooney, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Maness wrote the constitution and gained approval from the university and the Pitt County School System.

The ECU Ambassadors, Gamma Beta Phi honor society and CORSO/NASW, a criminal justice and social work group, supported Maness by providing the necessary manpower to fill key positions within the organization.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology lent support as well, allowing the program access to its office equipment.

To ensure an influx of workers, Harris plans to target campus groups and tap two unused sources, ECU faculty and alumni. "Most people think this is just open to students, and that is not the case," he says. "We feel this program provides a good way for alumni and faculty to help children in the community."

Male volunteers are being recruited since most of the "little friends" — 70 percent — are male. Only 30 percent of the current volunteers are male. "It really isn't a problem," she says. "But the school counselors say their kids are in need of more male role models."

Much care goes into the selection of volunteers, who are screened extensively through interviews and evaluations. Once accepted, all must attend training sessions.

"We look for understanding and compassionate people, not the type of person who would do this just to put on their resume," Maness says. "We have a wide range of students because it is important to match volunteers with kids who have similar interests."

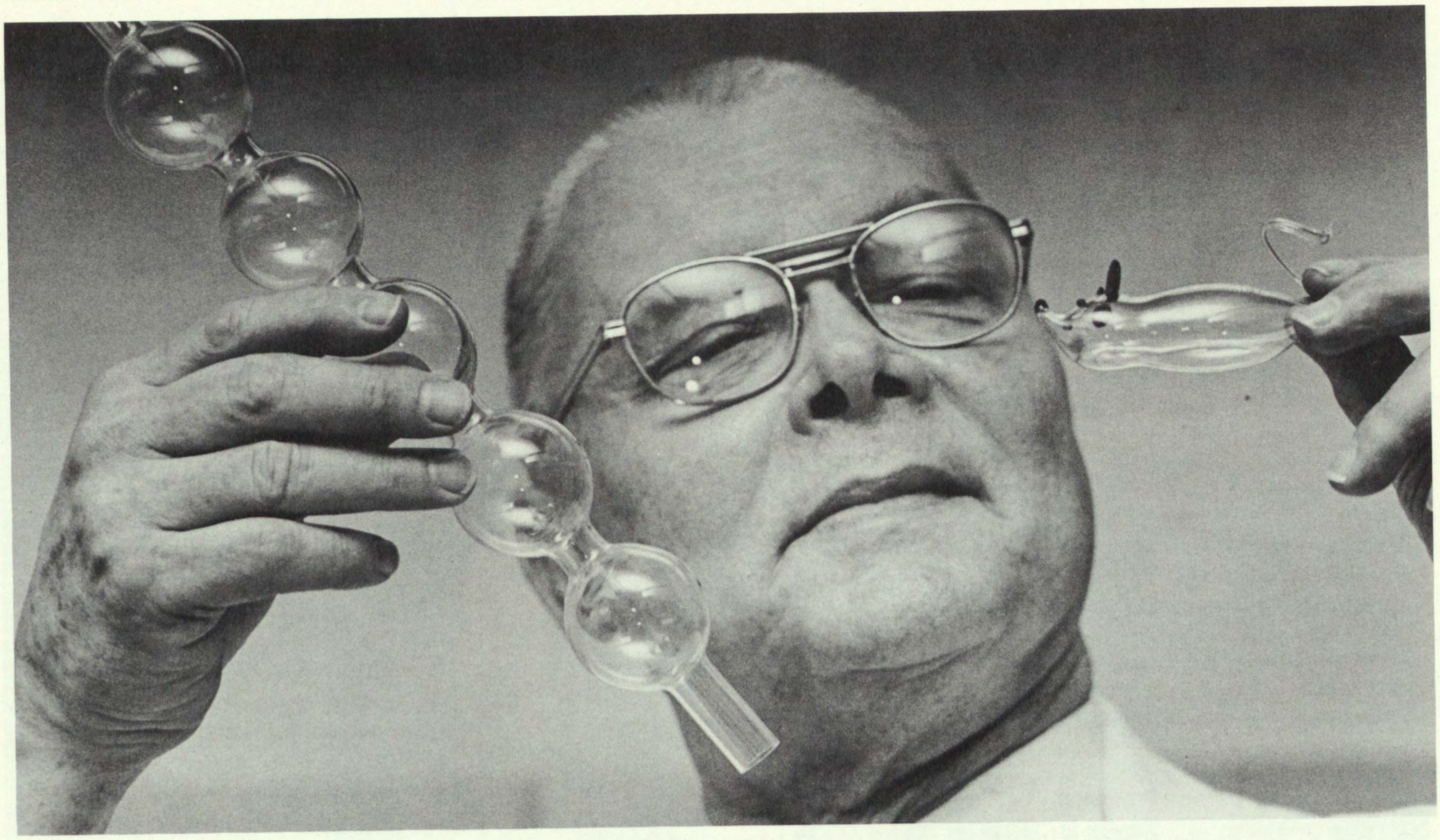
The organization's semester-long trial run has been well received. Pitt County Schools officials, anticipating an expansion of the program to three schools, have compiled lists of students who might benefit from contact with an ECU Friends volunteer.

"I've even had parents calling me about ECU Friends," says Harris. "They've heard about what we're doing, and they want to get their children involved. But I have to tell them that right now we're only expanding a little bit at a time, and that it is the school system which chooses students for the program."

It is this type of concern and resolve that will make ECU Friends an effective program — both for the university and the community. "This program means more to me than anything I've ever done in my life," Maness says. "I'd really like to see it work, to see it grow and expand. Eventually I'd like to see ECU Friends become a network and serve all the schools in the UNC system."

By Stephen L. Logan

Logan is a graduate assistant working in the office of Institutional Advancement. He is a candidate for a master's degree in English with a concentration in literature.



Glass Menagerie

From playful mice to complicated condensers, Owen Kingsbury does it all

Owen Kingsbury doesn't start his day facing backlogged paperwork and ringing telephones. As ECU's first and only scientific glassblower, he is more likely to spend his time creating complex laboratory equipment from elaborate drawings and descriptions.

Although the chemistry department buys stock items like flasks and test tubes for use in labs, it's more economical for Kingsbury to make all specialized glassware.

"I made 20 of these," Kingsbury says, referring to a complicated piece called a trap. "If you had to buy them they'd cost maybe $15 or $20 apiece. It only took me an hour."

Kingsbury prides himself on his large inventory of parts. "Whatever they want, I can make," he says.

In a storage room down the hall, and in cabinets located just outside his shop, he keeps "all tubing from 2mm up to 5½ inches," and parts like ground joints, stopcocks, and glass valves, "from the smallest size to the largest."

Kingsbury's most indispensable tool is his lathe, which turns the glass but allows freedom of his hands. To join two pieces of tubing, he places the pieces on the lathe and starts the fires. Only when the glass reaches a certain temperature can the tubes be fused.

The amount of heat needed to work with glass depends on the size of the piece, Kingsbury says. On a piece of tubing about one to two inches in diameter, he heats the glass from 1200 to 1300 degrees Celsius.

He also uses the lathe to make openings in glassware. While blowing through an air tube, he heats only the spot where the hole is to be made. Because glass is a poor heat conductor, only the heated area responds when air is blown into the cylinder. Air is forced into the tube, forming a bubble on the heated area. The bubble is then popped open to create the opening.

Later he might fill the hole with a smaller piece of tubing or whatever equipment has been requested and splice the pieces together under fire.

Working with glass under fire causes a "strain" on the glass which he removes when the job is completed — either with a high temperature flame or an oven. Removing the strain returns the glass to its original strength and prevents breakage, Kingsbury says.

One job he recently completed was a distillation apparatus with an inserted thermometer. Previously the department had been using a cork to stabilize the thermometer. Problems with the cork included burning, leakage and reduced vision for the thermometer reading.

Kingsbury devised a method to stabilize the thermometer using glass, eliminating the problems students had with the cork. He made 24 of these for laboratory use.

"I never know what's coming up," he says. "Somebody will come over and say, 'Owen, can you make this?' Then I look at what he wants and make it."

Another aspect of his work, and one he especially enjoys, is providing demonstrations to students ranging from first grade through college. He

also provides programs for civic meetings when requested.

He has a portable supply of all the equipment needed for a demonstration "ready to pack in the trunk of the car and go." When he travels to schools, Kingsbury makes gifts for the students. One of his favorites is a glass mouse designed from a tiny piece of tubing.

He especially enjoys demonstrating for young children and special groups like the handicapped who are most fascinated by his work. "You can't help but love them," he says. "They're so appreciative."

To ward off potential accidents with older children, Kingsbury lets them know in advance the dangers involved. "I'll take a piece of glass I've just finished heating, but it has no flame. I take out a piece of paper and touch it to the glass. It starts on fire, so they don't come near it. Then they know how hot it is."

Kingsbury also teaches glassblowing to inorganic chemistry lab students at ECU. And he works occasionally with students from other departments.

His liaison with other departments began when an art student came to him with an idea for a project. Kingsbury admitted he couldn't make her a glassblower overnight, but showed her the fundamentals. "Her hands worked beautifully," he says. "She was good."

Kingsbury is one of nine glassblowers in the state — three work exclusively on university campuses at Duke, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The others are employed with private industries in areas like Cary, Charlotte and Greensboro.

He has been interviewed on television numerous times and was featured in January as *The News and Observer's* Tar Heel of The Week.

Kingsbury first entered the glassblowing field in 1951 while working in Schenectady, N.Y., at G.E. Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, a division of General Electric Company. He had been a laboratory technician about a year when one of the glassblowers quit.

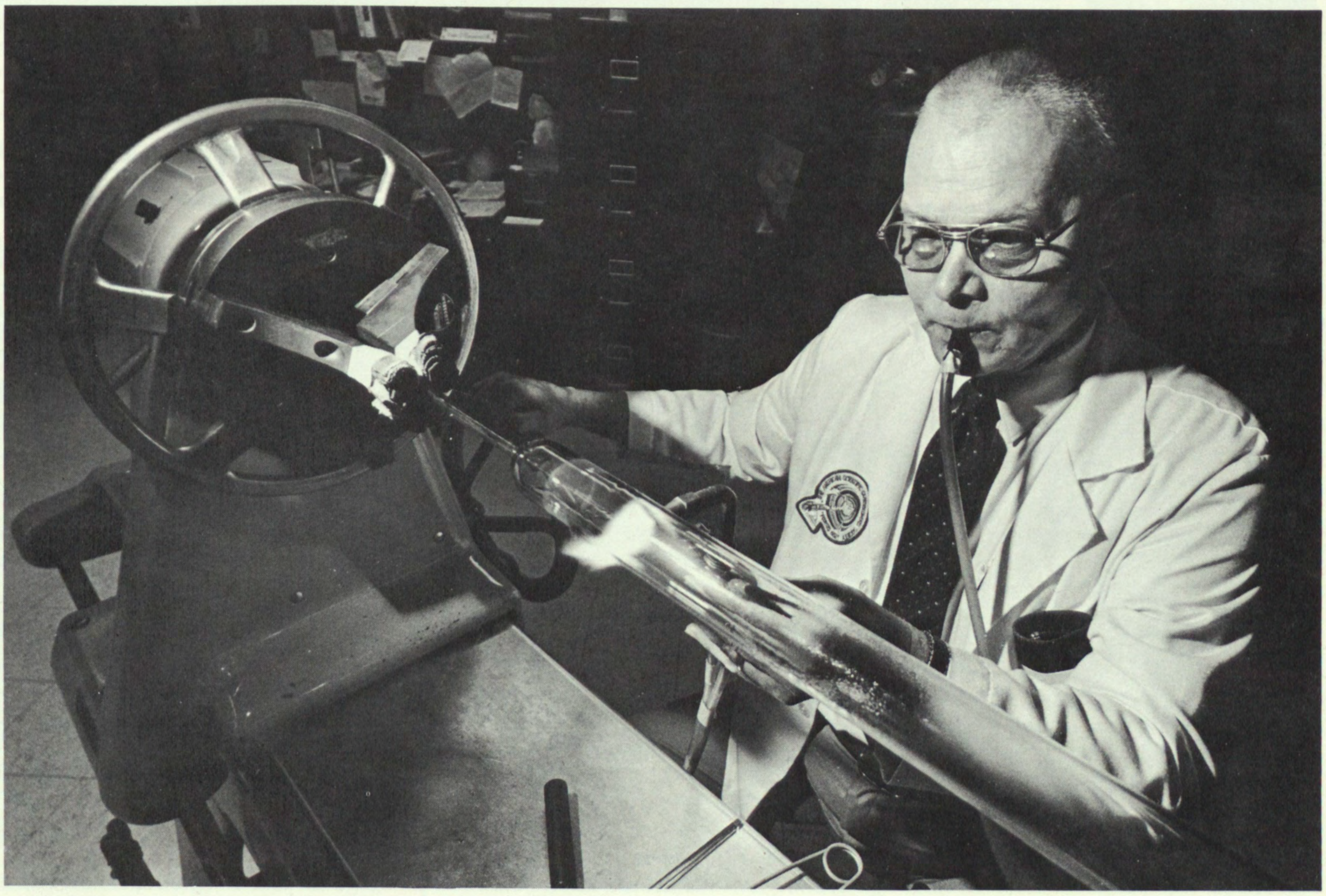
The job was first offered to other staff members, but no one would accept because it meant taking a cut in pay. Kingsbury, however, was "willing to lose a couple of dollars an hour for the chance to learn something new."

He joined the apprentice program and has been a scientific glassblower ever since, holding jobs at Vanderbilt University and Union Carbide Corporation in Oak Ridge, Tenn., before coming to ECU in 1970.

Although Kingsbury once vowed never to return to North Carolina — as a Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune in 1945, the New Jersey native was overwhelmed by the heat and humidity — he was drawn to ECU because of the upcoming medical school.

Now he enjoys the solitude of small-town living. "When I go North on business, I can't wait to get back here where it's quiet," he says.

Aside from his work at the



While working, Kingsbury keeps the door to his shop locked to keep away the crowds his activities attract.

university, where he serves as faculty advisor of the Circle K Club, Kingsbury stays busy in community affairs as an active member of the Presbyterian Church, the Kiwanis Club and the American Legion.

But the activity which takes up most of his leisure time is the American Scientific Glassblowing Society (ASGS). Kingsbury was just elected president for 1987-88, the first ASGS president ever from the state of North Carolina.

As the society's 25th president, he oversees 15 sections throughout the United States and Canada and serves on the board of directors. He works with each section's committees to provide an ongoing source of assistance to all glassblowers on new techniques and equipment.

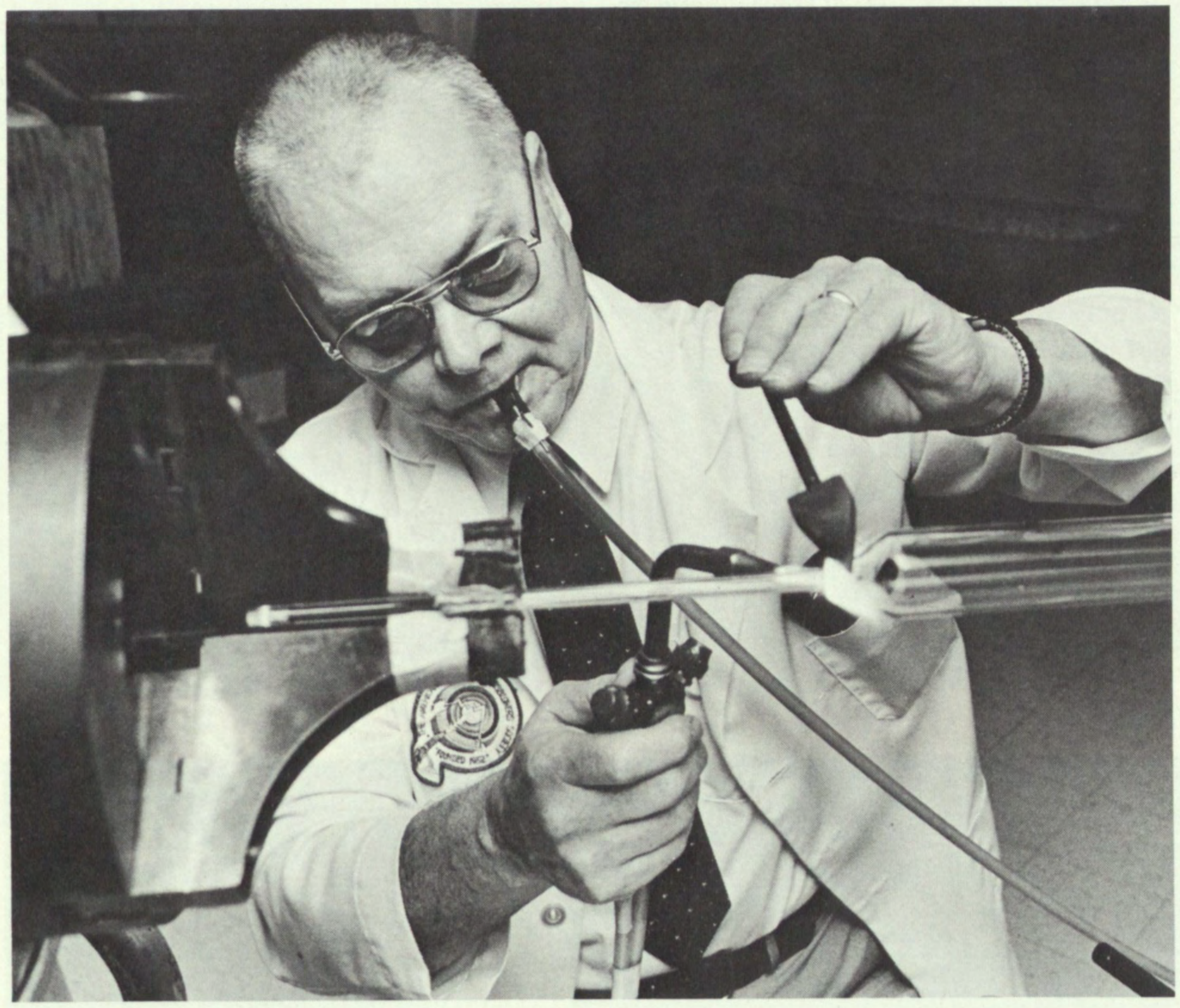
He's also serving as national audio-visual chairman, maintaining inventory and managing requests for the society's extensive videotape library of glassblowing techniques.

The primary function of the society is to provide fellow glassblowers with information, primarily through workshops, seminars and symposiums. "These are created just for the people who never get a chance to do every kind of glasswork," he says. "So if you've got something new we can help."

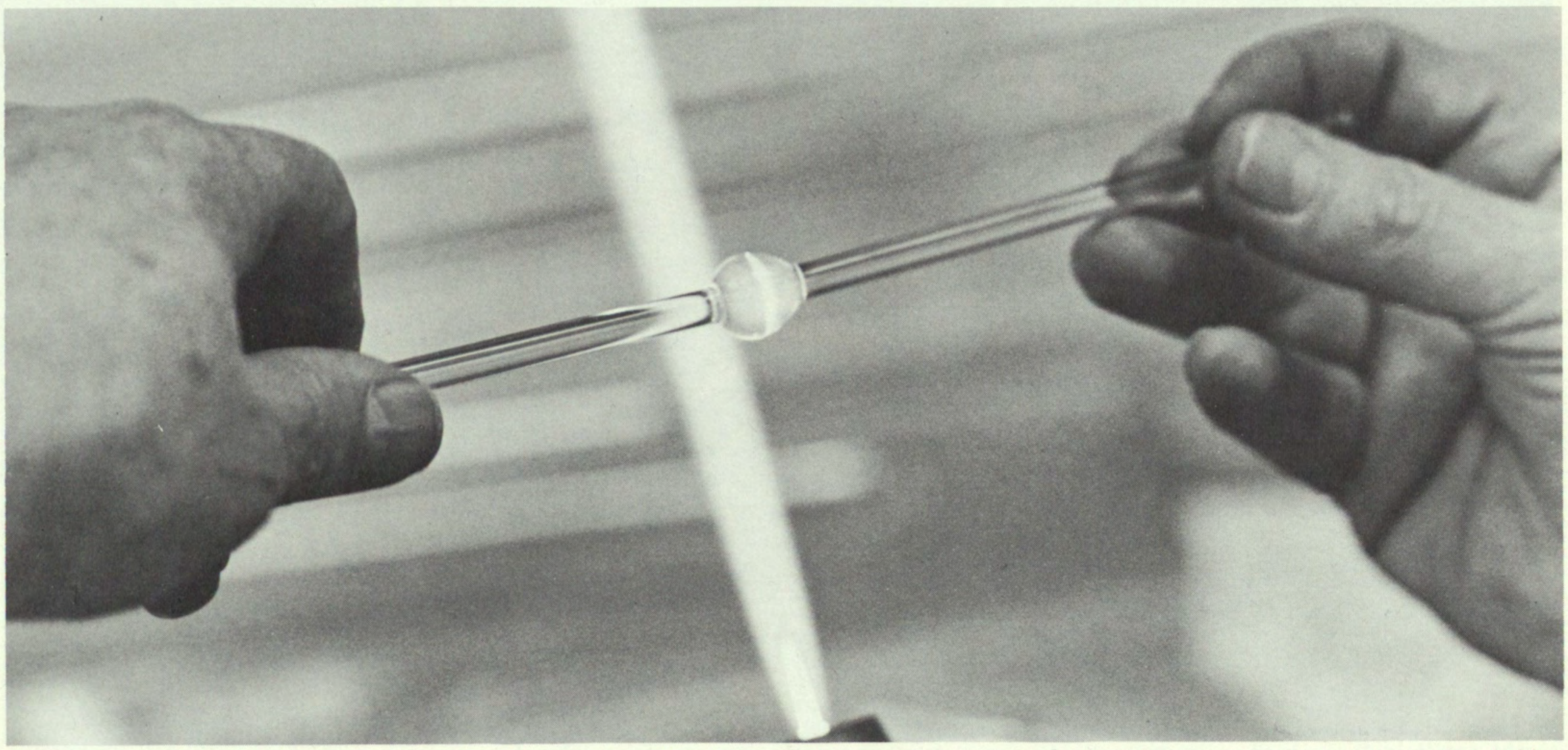
Kingsbury has served the ASGS in a number of positions since he joined in 1954 — in the southeast section as secretary, treasurer, chairman, vice chairman, and nationally as secretary for the board of directors, audio/visual chairman and president-elect.

He and his wife, Audrey, have two children, John Eric and Karen Lynn.

By Joy Manning Holster



With the help of a blowtorch and lathe, Kingsbury tubulates a tulip column for the medical school.



To make a stopper, Kingsbury heats a glass rod and forms it into a ball. Although the center is red hot, the ends of the glass rod remain cool enough to hold.



Surrounded by teammates, Lee Vernon McNeill accepts the gold medal for his performance in the 4x100 meter relay during the U.S. Olympic Festival last summer. (Contributed photo)

Star Sprinter

Lee Vernon McNeill goes for the gold at record-setting speeds

If ECU track star Lee Vernon McNeill gets his wish, he'll soon have an Olympic gold medal to add to his rapidly-expanding collection.

Coach Bill Carson, for one, is confident the sprinter will be in Seoul, South Korea, come Sept. 8. "I can't deny my positive feelings about him," Carson says. "Barring injury, he'll make the relay team, but he has to get a good start to make the top three."

A finish in the top three will qualify McNeill for the 100-meter dash, a category in which he's currently ranked ninth in the world. The first six who cross the line will be placed on the 4x100 relay team.

It's no wonder Carson is so confident his prodigy will succeed; three relay teams McNeill ran on last summer placed first in each of their races. "This kid is one of the greatest relay runners in the world," he says.

His first gold medal of the summer came in June at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Durham. "That was the first time his parents had seen him run in a major meet," Carson says. "He ran a great leg."

McNeill also picked up a bronze medal in the 100-meter dash.

Luck was on McNeill's side at the Pan American Games in Indianapolis. He started out as an alternate for the USA relay team but got to run after problems arose with two of the runners. "Mark Witherspoon pulled a hamstring, and Calvin Smith remained in Europe," Carson says. "That put Lee into the relay."

According to Carson, McNeill held his own against some pretty formidable teammates — Olympic veterans Carl Lewis and Harvey Glance, and University of Pittsburgh star Lee McRae.

Their first place finish qualified the team for the World University Games in Rome, which according to Carson, many athletes regard more highly than the Olympics.

The relay was a challenge for the USA team, which trailed after a bad start. But McNeill's effort on the second leg enabled the team to eventually take the lead and cross the finish line first.

"That world championship medal was worth $28,000," Carson says. "McNeill didn't take it so he could run his senior year here at ECU. Accepting money would have made him ineligible in the NCAA."

Although ECU will have its star sprinter back this spring, McNeill won't be participating in every race. "We're going to keep him out of some of the lesser meets," Carson says. "We don't want to wear him out before the Olympic trials."

Carson recruited McNeill in 1984 out of St. Pauls. "He's the best runner we've ever had here at ECU," Carson says. "He's tough and has the right temperament to be a sprinter. His only limitation is that he's short (5'4")."

McNeill made a name for himself in 1985 when he beat Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis in the semifinals of the 100-meter dash at the USA outdoor track and field championships. McNeill placed second in the final, outrunning both the world record holder and the NCAA champion.

Later that summer he dropped the baton in a Pan American Games relay, but still managed to bring home three bronze medals from the National Sports Festival and the World University Games.

A missed plane kept McNeill from racing during the summer of '86. "We were on our way to the Track Athletic Conference in Oregon," Carson recalls. "We had to leave late because Lee was enrolled in summer school. When we finally got to Denver we were told there was no flight to Eugene, Ore. We never made it to the race.

"This summer we went with a vengeance."

-KES



Downtown beautification projects, such as this mini-park in Tarboro, have been created to complement existing structures.

Fact or Fiction

Is Eastern North Carolina declining?

A specter is haunting Eastern North Carolina — a specter of poverty, unemployment and deterioration. Or is it?

In August, market analysts at Branch Banking and Trust (BB&T) of Wilson released a report which raised the possibility that the specter was closer than most of us would like that it be.

Based on statistical analyses on U.S. Census and state data from 43 eastern North Carolina counties, the report concluded that the condition of the East was pretty bad. Words like "grim," "distressed," and phrases like "a four-engine plane with two engines on fire" were used to describe the future of our region.

Not only did this report conclude that we are still behind the rest of the state in such things as employment, median income and education, but it reported that we are falling even further behind and, in some cases, we are declining compared to our own past.

The future of the region was one of "declining farm income, migration out of the region, a drop in the region's already low per-capita income and a lack of industrial plant expansions or openings," according to one newspaper account.

Local newspapers questioned the BB&T report's findings, pointing to new construction, educational reform, new commercial enterprises, etc., as evidence of the East's health. But are these latter items merely small additions which cannot stem the historic tide of decline?

This is a difficult question to answer since it depends so much on things like what trend lines for the entire region and its sub-parts look like, how much of the contributions from new industry remain in the region and how much are taken out by absentee owners, and the extent to which new construction, new industry, and new commerce helps the average person in the region rather than simply making already affluent individuals even more wealthy.

My own observations on the question of decline, based on research beginning when I arrived at ECU, are that things are changing in Eastern North Carolina, and as a result, some people will get hurt and others will do well.

Few of our lives, however, will be unaffected by these changes. For the most part, the average residents in Eastern North Carolina are better off today than they were 20 years ago. This is particularly the case in Greenville and other economically developed cities of the region.

But, there are some whose standard of living has declined, both relative to others, and absolutely compared to times past. These latter people tend to

be those in rural counties where life has not, for the most part, changed to keep pace with the changing economic and social conditions of the state and nation.

These observations are based mainly on a year-long study of seven population centers in the East (Goldsboro, Greenville, New Bern, Roanoke Rapids, Rocky Mount, Wilmington and Wilson). In addition, the observations are based on my own in-depth reading of the BB&T report and other reports of economic and social conditions in Eastern North Carolina.

In each of the seven cities I researched, surveys of city officials were conducted to determine what they thought the major problems facing their cities were, how they thought conditions had changed, and what sorts of policies they thought would benefit Eastern North Carolina in the short and long runs.

The field work for this study was begun in March, 1987, and ended this past summer. I was beginning analysis of the returns I had received when the BB&T report became public. Although my research was not designed to contradict the BB&T study, I found striking differences between the two accounts.

For example, the BB&T report found that some areas in Eastern North Carolina were worse off now than they were several years ago. In my own study, however, 75% of the city officials indicated that things were better now than they were 10 years ago.

In no city was there less than a healthy majority who thought conditions were better now. Only 10% thought things were worse now than 10 years ago.

Although it is tempting to choose sides in the debate over the health of the East, one should note that the BB&T study and my own look at two very different aspects of this region. BB&T looked at all 43 eastern North Carolina counties. I looked at seven of the major population centers.

They found many problems; I found few. This argues that the cities may be healthy while the countryside is suffering. I therefore question the single-minded view that the region is either glowingly healthy or devastatingly sick.

What I think is going on is what the prestigious magazine *The National Journal* calls the "two Souths." In the original "two South" scenario, cities in the South were described as "glassy, urbanized metropolises where income and educational levels match or exceed the national average" while rural areas include "some of the poorest sections of a rich country."

This is the future of Eastern North Carolina. As the region develops, the cities seem likely to change first. New industry is attracted to the cities and these areas improve, income rises, educational reform takes place, and the general quality of life improves.

Some of this improvement takes place at the expense of rural areas as people move to where the opportunity is. Those left in rural areas may be people who cannot afford to move to an area city, or who lack the marketable skills that industry requires. This would logically lead to improving cities and declining rural areas.

This scenario fits both the original statistical report which, by relying on data from 43 counties, may have underestimated the health of area cities, and my own research which focuses solely on those same cities.

The BB&T report was conducted by market analysts for a conference on the future of Eastern North Carolina. The report was designed as a discussion document in order to "get people to work together to try to solve some of our problems," according to Jerry Powell of BB&T.

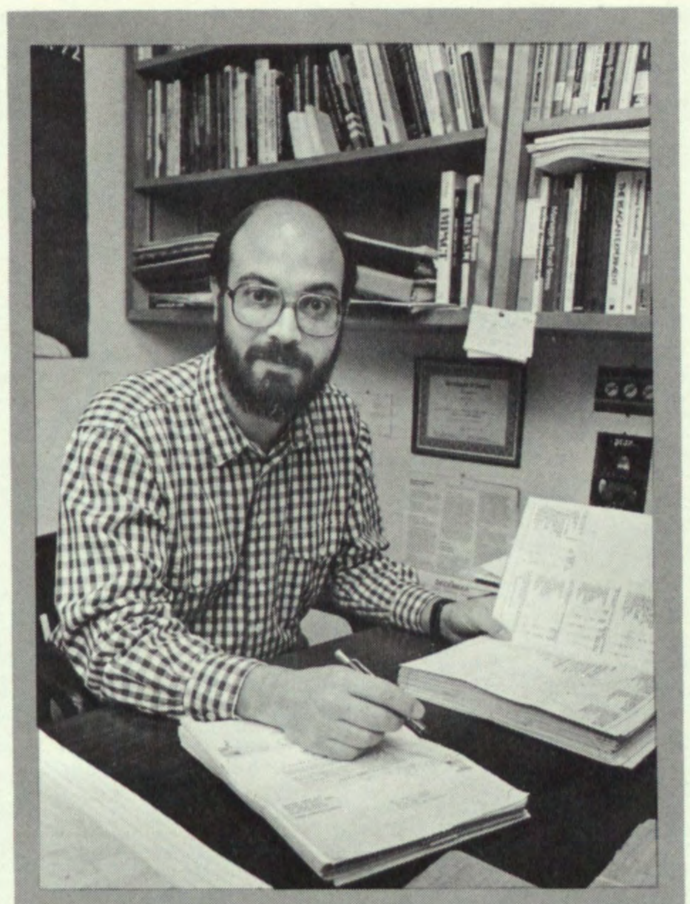
The analysts looked at U.S. Census and North Carolina Department of Commerce data for the 43 counties in Eastern North Carolina in order to assess the state of the region and to examine trends in things like population, number of high school graduates, job creation, income, and other economically-relevant variables.

My own study relies on the observations of Eastern North Carolina city officials — those who, in my view, know the region best. I decided very early in the planning of this study to interview city council members, school board members, city administrative officials and political party leaders.

My reason for interviewing these officials instead of relying on statistical data was twofold: first, statistics can be tricky. Often portrayed as hard, objective evidence, statistics are only as good as who collects them.

In addition, statistical evidence is open to interpretation by the people who analyze the data who may slant their interpretations to fit a pre-existing bias. This is the origin of the oft-quoted saying, "There are lies, damn lies and statistics."

My second reason for relying on the judgement of city officials was that statistics are cold — they may give an impression of an area, but statistics do not give the contextual information which people can give. This contextual information is what gives meaning to statistics. At times, this can



Dr. Carmine Scavo is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at ECU. He has a B.A. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and has taught American politics, state and local politics, and public policy at the University of Michigan and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro before coming to ECU in 1985.

For two years, while conducting research for his Ph.D. dissertation, Scavo was a neighborhood worker in an inner city neighborhood in Cincinnati. His work there concentrated on organizations which worked for economic and social development of city neighborhoods and improving police-neighborhood relations.

His areas of research and writing include neighborhood organizations, political culture, community development, and the decision-making of political leaders, as well as methodology. He also maintains a lively interest in the role of computers in politics and in the education of college students.

lead to problems of bias in the view of the respondent.

I was impressed by the answers from the city leaders who responded to the questionnaire I sent out. Instead of being positively biased, making their cities seem better than they really are, they were biased according to their positions. Quite naturally, school board members tended to see more problems associated with education. Quite naturally, the opinions of elected and appointed leaders differed significantly.

Overall, I would rather trust the biases of people who are close to the area's problems than the biases of a researcher looking at statistical data.

What do the leaders see when they look at their cities? In a nutshell, it depends. Some see very few problems and report overwhelmingly positive conditions, while others see a somewhat less rosy situation.

Leaders were asked to assess the extent of 14 different problems in their cities. The average number of serious problems ranged from less than one in New Bern to over two in Goldsboro and Wilson. The average number of all problems mentioned (serious and somewhat serious) ranged from under seven in New Bern and Greenville to over eight in Goldsboro, Rocky Mount, Wilmington and Wilson.

The actual incidence of serious problems was quite different in each city. Economic development was cited most frequently as a serious problem in three of the seven cities (Goldsboro, Roanoke Rapids and Rocky Mount); public improvements were cited most frequently in two cities (New Bern and Wilmington); safety was cited most frequently in Greenville; and unemployment was cited most frequently in Wilson (see table).

Other frequently mentioned problems were: poverty in Goldsboro and Wilson; education in Rocky Mount, Wilmington and Goldsboro; cost of government in Roanoke Rapids; and housing in Wilmington.

Officials were asked their overall level of satisfaction with the city on a scale where one meant "completely dissatisfied" and nine meant "completely satisfied." These levels were high, ranging from slightly under six in Goldsboro to over seven in New Bern, indicating that the officials thought that, even where problems were present, life in their cities was generally good.

The differences in these perceptions of city life show that cities are perceived by those in the know as being different. A single picture of Eastern North Carolina's economic and social conditions is thus very misleading.

If the "two South" scenario describes the future of Eastern North Carolina, what can be done? The glib answer is to hang on since eventually the economic health of the cities will diffuse into the countryside. This doesn't, however, offer much solace to those who are poor, illiterate or unemployed.

We can call for increased aid to these people, but in the current tight economic times, this type of aid is hard to find. We can call for increased educational opportunities for these people, but if the money is not there, educational opportunities cannot improve as dramatically as would be necessary.

We need to face the possibility that for some areas of the region, the only assistance that may work is to offer programs which emphasize basic health, literacy and economic needs.

Health needs to be emphasized since correcting and preventing children's health problems can save substantial amounts of money down the line when these children reach adulthood. Literacy is essential in that a population which cannot read cannot achieve self-sufficiency which is, after all, the goal of economic development efforts.

The "two South" scenario offers many challenges to those of us who live in and care about Eastern North Carolina. It offers even more challenges to political and economic leaders who must come up with creative solutions to the region's problems without overtaxing its resources.

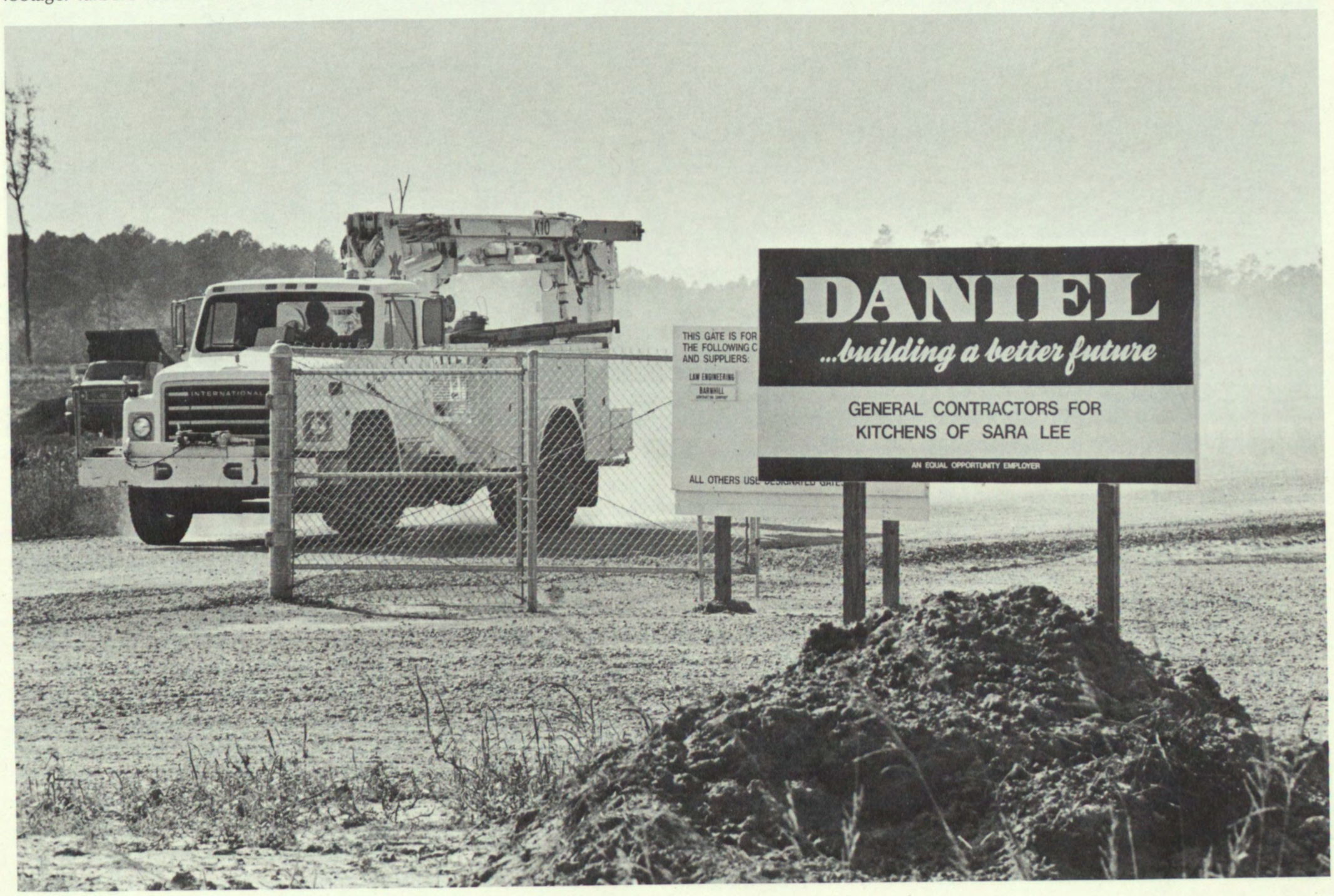
Attempting to foster economic growth is nothing new to the South. Various agencies in the state and region, both private and public, have been working on this problem for some time. The problem has always been to keep the beneficial aspects of

Serious Problems Cited by City Officials

	GOLDSBORO	GREENVILLE	NEW BERN	ROANOKE RAPIDS	ROCKY MOUNT	WILMINGTON	WILSON
Education	21.7%	16.0%	7.1%	10.0%	33.3%	27.3%	15.4%
Unemployment	29.2%	4.0%	—	10.0%	16.7%	—	47.8%
Poverty	43.5%	12.0%	—	20.0%	22.2%	—	30.8%
Health Services	10.0%	—	—	10.0%	—	—	—
Housing	14.3%	3.8%	7.1%	20.0%	—	30.0%	—
Public Improvements	14.3%	3.8%	40.0%	20.0%	5.9%	50.0%	—
Recreation and Culture	—	4.0%	—	—	5.6%	9.1%	7.1%
Safety	23.8%	24.0%	—	—	16.7%	—	7.7%
Pollution	10.0%	4.2%	7.1%	—	5.6%	8.3%	7.1%
Social Services	5.0%	8.0%	—	—	5.6%	—	16.7%
Race Relations	19.0%	11.5%	—	—	16.7%	9.1%	7.1%
Economic Development	45.8%	19.2%	7.1%	40.0%	38.9%	9.1%	42.9%
Cost of Government	4.8%	15.4%	7.1%	30.0%	11.8%	9.1%	—
Newcomers	15.0%	—	—	—	—	—	7.7%



Since its August '86 opening, Golden East Crossing has expanded from 25 to 66 stores. The Rocky Mount mall is the largest east of Raleigh in terms of square footage. Tarboro received an economic boost in August when ground was broken for a Sara Lee bakery. The plant is scheduled to start production this fall.



the "old South" while attracting new industry and economic opportunity.

When the Southern Growth Policies Board, a regional agency which fosters economic growth in the South, was founded in the early '70s, its motto was "Southern growth without Northern mistakes."

The challenge of Eastern North Carolina seems to be similar — to develop this area economically without sacrificing everything which makes it unique. ECU, as a regional institution, will play a large role in the development of creative solutions to these vexing problems.

To a large degree, ECU is already addressing many of the needs of this region in its educational programs. At the undergraduate level, programs in nursing, education, social work, child development and other professional fields train practitioners who will be needed to assist in the provision of basic health, literacy and economic needs.

At the graduate level, programs to train health center administrators, to upgrade the skills of public administrators, to care for the environment, and others not only assist in the same provision of basic needs, but attempt to foster creativity in the solving of problems which face the region.

Research on regional concerns can always use assistance. Perhaps the single most important research project which can begin at ECU is the collecting of necessary data (both statistical and perceptual) which will track economic and social change in Eastern North Carolina.

A truly dispassionate, impartial and current portrait of Eastern North Carolina needs to be developed. This can be done with the cooperation of academics, public sector officials and private sector analysts. When this portrait is completed, projections of the future can be generated which will isolate problem areas and draw relevant institutions' attention to those areas.

By collecting these data and by making them available to interested parties, ECU can provide a service which will be of immeasurable value to the region.

By Dr. Carmine Scavo



The Sheraton Hotel and Marina, located on the banks of the Neuse River in New Bern, opened in 1986 and features 100 rooms and 150 boat slips.



It was harvest time in Leggett when Betsy Hill Owens '60 took to the fields in search of raw peanuts.

Peanut Pusher

Increasing peanut consumption is Betsy Hill Owens' job

Betsy Hill Owens '60 loves peanuts — whether it's a handful of the cocktail variety straight from the can or a peanut butter cookie hot from the oven.

"Nothing smells better than peanuts roasting; that's comparable to coffee and bacon in the morning," she says. "And I'm a nut for chocolate coated peanuts; I can mow down a whole canful in one sitting."

Owens' job has a lot to do with her preference for peanuts — she just started her 13th year as director of Growers' Peanut Food Promotions (GPFP) in Rocky Mount.

GPFP is the promotion arm of the North Carolina and Virginia Peanut Growers Associations. "Since the same type of peanut is grown in both states, officials decided in 1968 they could accomplish more by combining promotional activities," she says. "My job is to conduct activities aimed at increasing the use and consumption of peanuts grown in North Carolina and Virginia."

The peanuts Owens promotes are Virginia-type. "They are the largest ones grown in the country and are considered beautiful because of their size," Owens says. "We feel we have the Cadillac of peanuts. Most of ours go into the cocktail market with only a small amount going into the peanut butter market."

GPFP is funded by peanut farmers through an assessment program. "Two dollars a ton of farmer stock goes to the two associations, which in turn budgets certain amounts to GPFP," Owens says. "They vote on the amount and whether to continue the program every six years."

Owens has seen a gradual increase in peanut consumption since coming to GPFP. "Per capita consumption is now around 10 and a half pounds per person," she says. "I'd like to say I'm responsible for that, but I can assure you I'm not."

What has helped, she says, are special promotions which keep peanuts in front of consumers. One promotion, now into its fourth year, motivates grocery stores to showcase in-shell peanuts by awarding prizes for the best displays.

"In-shell peanuts are the hardest ones to sell because there's only so much you can do with them," Owens says. "Usually, in-shell peanuts are



Although her background is in home economics, creating posters, educational materials and brochures is a large part of Owens' job.

stored on the bottom shelf behind the bird seed.

"One store participated by setting up 24 displays. They had peanuts with the beer, soft drinks, milk, nuts, snacks, produce, end of aisle displays, the checkout, and where you come into the store."

In addition to promotions, Owens also provides exhibits for state fairs and trade shows and assists small peanut companies in selling their products. "I help them expand when they're ready, locate sources for packaging and provide information on how to cook them — that sort of thing," she says.

Another hat Owens wears is that of journalist — she edits a quarterly newspaper for the farmers, publishes numerous brochures containing recipes and other helpful information, and produces educational materials for elementary and high school students extolling the nutritional value of peanuts.

"I have the best job in the world because I get to do so many different things," she says. "I like the travel aspect of it, and I enjoy being creative."

Since she is a "one-man band," Owens rarely finds time for the live television demonstrations she did during her first years with GPFP.

"One time I forgot to bring one of my major ingredients," Owens says with a laugh. "Another time I

An important part of Betsy Owens' job is developing recipes for promotional brochures. "Dessert recipes are the most popular, but vegetarians are interested in our appetizers and main dishes," she says. "We have had cooking contests over the years that have netted us lots and lots of recipes. Most of the time I go to those for ideas."

One of her favorite recipes, Heavenly Peanut Torte, was a winner in a dessert contest. "It's a three-layer cake made with only two tablespoons of flour; the rest of it is peanuts ground to a meal-like consistency," she says. "You ice it with whipped cream. I will not say it's low calorie, because it's not, but it is delicious."

HEAVENLY PEANUT TORTE

3 cups finely chopped roasted peanuts
2 T. all-purpose flour
2 t. baking powder
6 eggs, separated
1-1/2 cups granulated sugar, divided
1-1/2 t. vanilla
1/4 t. salt
1/2 cup confectioners sugar
1 pint whipping cream
1/2 cup grated sweet chocolate
peanut halves for garnish

Line bottom of three 9-inch round cakepans with greased waxed paper; set aside. Mix peanuts, flour and baking powder; set aside. Combine egg yolks and 1 cup granulated sugar; beat until thick and light colored. Add vanilla, then stir into peanut mixture. Combine egg whites and salt; beat until stiff, but not dry. Gradually add ½ cup granulated sugar, beating until stiff peaks form. Gently fold egg whites into peanut mixture. Pour into prepared pans. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Allow to cool for about 15 minutes. Loosen layers around edges and turn out of pans onto wire racks. Remove waxed paper. Wrap cooled layers and store at room temperature until ready to serve. Combine confectioners sugar and whipping cream, beat until soft peaks form. Chill. When ready to serve, spread whipped cream on each cake layer and sprinkle with grated chocolate. Stack layers and garnish top with peanut halves. Makes 12 servings.

Whenever Owens entertains guests at home, she enjoys serving peanut soup. "It may not sound good, but it is delicious," she says. "I like serving it because it's so unusual; it's always a good conversation piece.

"Peanut soup is an old dish; several of the restaurants in Williamsburg serve it."

COLONIAL PEANUT SOUP

2 T. butter
2 T. grated onion
1 branch celery, thinly sliced
2 T. all purpose flour
3 cups chicken broth
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/4 t. salt
2 T. lemon juice
2 T. chopped roasted peanuts

Melt butter in a saucepan over low heat; add onion and celery. Saute for about 5 minutes. Add flour and mix until well blended. Stir in chicken broth and allow to simmer for about 30 minutes. Remove from heat, strain broth. Stir the peanut butter, salt and lemon juice into the strained broth until well mixed. Serve hot in cups. Garnish each cup with a teaspoon of chopped peanuts. Yields 6 servings.

Owens also recommends this recipe for Sweetheart Cookies, which feature a healthy combination of oats, roasted peanuts and chocolate chips.

SWEETHEART COOKIES

1 cup butter, softened
1-1/3 cups granulated sugar
1-1/3 cups light brown sugar, firmly packed
2 eggs
1 t. vanilla extract
1-1/2 cups all purpose flour
1 t. baking soda
3 cups quick cooking rolled oats
1-1/2 cups chopped roasted peanuts
1 package (6 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate bits

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cream butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl; add eggs and vanilla. Beat until fluffy. Mix flour with soda in large bowl, add oats and toss to coat with flour mixture. Add to first mixture a cup at a time until completely mixed. Stir in peanuts and chocolate bits. (Batter will be stiff). Drop from a teaspoon onto a cookie sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Yields 6 dozen.

Following are a few other recipes featured in some of Owens' recipe pamphlets.

PEANUT & HAM DIP

1/2 cup plain yogurt
1/4 cup peanut oil
1 cup ham, finely chopped
1/2 cup chopped roasted peanuts
3 T. sesame seeds
1 t. monosodium glutamate
1 clove garlic
1/2 t. ground cumin
1/8 t. cayenne pepper

Combine all ingredients in blender container. Blend until smooth; chill. Serve with assorted fresh vegetables (bite-sized portions of cauliflower, tomatoes, green and red bell peppers, celery, carrot sticks) and/or crackers. Yields 4-6 servings.

PEANUT BUTTER TEMPTATIONS

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
1 egg
1/2 t. vanilla extract
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 t. baking soda
1/2 t. salt
48 miniature peanut butter cups

Combine butter, peanut butter, sugars, egg and vanilla. Stir in dry ingredients until blended. Roll dough into 1 inch balls. Press into 1-1/2 inch muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately press one miniature peanut butter cup candy into each hot cookie crust; allow to cool. Yields 4 dozen.

SUGAR COATED PEANUTS

1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup water
2 cups raw shelled peanuts, skins on

In a saucepan over medium heat, dissolve sugar in water. Add peanuts and continue to cook over medium heat, stirring frequently. Cook until peanuts are completely sugared, (coated and no syrup.) Pour on ungreased cookie sheet; separate peanuts with a fork. Bake at 300 degrees for approximately 30 minutes, stirring at ten minute intervals.

discovered that my glass mixing bowl had broken into three pieces. The only cooking utensil that station had was a coffee pot, so the host's secretary ran out to try and find something I could use. Unfortunately, it was so early that most of the stores hadn't opened yet. The only thing she could find was a yellow sand bucket at a drug store. So I mixed my cake in a yellow sand bucket."

Owens is a native of Deep Run, where she and her sister, Catherine Hill Tyndall '53 of Goldsboro, oversee the family farm. "My father died when I was three, and my mother carried on the farming after that," she says.

After graduating from high school, she followed her sister's footsteps to East Carolina to pursue a degree in home economics. "I came along in the dark ages when women either taught school or became nurses," she says. "I didn't want to teach school, and I knew with a home economics degree many more options would be open, like becoming a dietician, an interior decorator or an extension agent."

Owens remembers her years at East Carolina as carefree and fun. "Those were the good old days prior to demonstrations," she says. "There were no real problems, and everybody was having a good time."

She helped start Delta Zeta Sorority, served as vice president of the Inter-Sorority Council, was a member of the Home Economics Club, and was selected queen of the 1960 Alpha Phi Omega White Ball.

Owens remains in close contact with ECU through the School of Home Economics Professional Society, and three years ago established a scholarship with her sister for home economics education students. The recipient receives $250 per semester and is selected annually on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

"We just have a real soft spot in our hearts for East Carolina and wanted to do something to be helpful," Owens says.

Owens was also a member of the steering committee which started the Bessie McNiel Scholarship. McNiel served as director of the Home Economics Department from 1950 until 1962.

After obtaining her degree, Owens did 4-H work with the extension service in Elizabeth City, became a full-time homemaker, and worked for the N.C. Pork Producers Association.



Dust clouds the air as raw peanuts drop through the roof of a warehouse at the Battleboro Peanut Co-op.

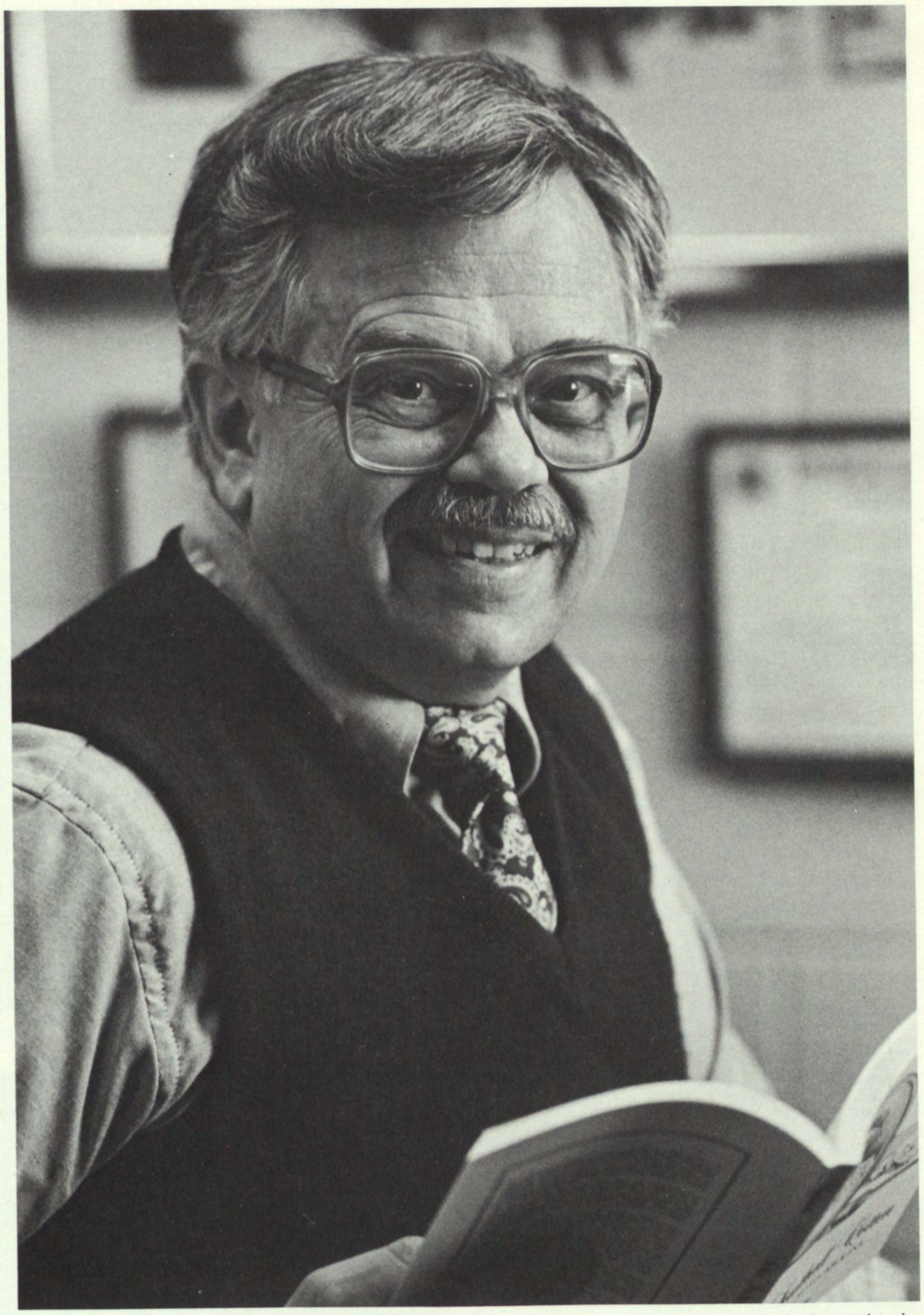
"My home economics background from East Carolina has been real helpful in all of my jobs," Owens says. "Even when I was a full-time homemaker, I did a little bit of everything, from sewing and cooking to upholstery to making draperies."

Owens is an active member of the North Carolina Home Economics Association, having held all offices, and has been a national officer of the American Home Economics Association. "I try to give back to my profession some of what it's given me," she says.

By Karen E. Simmons

'Cotton' to Cotten

A professor closes the book on Sallie Southall Cotten after a decade of research



Dr. William Stephenson came to ECU in 1970 after a long residence in California. His book chronicles the life of Sallie Southall Cotten, for whom dormitories are named at ECU and UNC-G.

The life of one of North Carolina's most distinguished women is documented in a new book by an ECU English professor.

The biography, *Sallie Southall Cotten: A Woman's Life in North Carolina* by William Stephenson, is the result of 10 years of research and "piecing together" scattered bits of Cotten's writings.

Within days of its official publication, the biography was named winner of the first annual Marguerite Schumann Award for Literary Achievement, an honor given by the North Carolina Chapter of the Victorian Society in America.

Dr. Stephenson's book, the only full-length biography of Cotten, was based on interviews with her surviving relatives and associates, contemporary newspapers and several collections of unpublished papers in the East Carolina Manuscript Collection, the Southern Historical Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill and the Virginia State Library.

A particularly rich source of material was her correspondence. "Her letters were of immense help because she told her story to so many people in so many ways," Stephenson says. "She was a wonderful correspondent, and people tended to save her letters."

In the course of his research, Stephenson discovered a treasure trove of material in Minnesota; one of his subject's correspondents was former Union Army General and U.S. Agriculture Commissioner William G. LeDuc, whom she met on a train trip in 1894.

The two exchanged letters until the general died 23 years later at the age of 94. Encouraged by LeDuc, Cotten wrote a long romantic poem about the legendary transformation of "Lost Colony" maiden Virginia Dare into a white doe.

Cotten (1846-1929) is best known as a tireless advocate of educational opportunities for women and founder of the N.C. Federation of Women's Clubs. She was also a plantation wife and mother of a large family who "lived a successful double life," according to Stephenson.

Born into a distinguished, but impoverished southside Virginia family, young Sallie Southall was sent to the Murfreesboro, N.C., home of

prosperous Southall cousins, so she could attend Wesleyan Female College. When the Civil War began and federal gunboats menaced the Chowan River region, she was sent to Greensboro Female College.

A brief teaching career in private, home-based schools in Concord and Edgecombe County ended when she met and married Confederate cavalryman Robert Randolph Cotten. Six eventful decades as wife, mother and helpmeet followed.

During the first 10 years, Cotten's energies were focused on caring for her husband and their family at homes in Tarboro, Wilson and Falkland. The book traces the lives and fluctuating fortunes of the Cotten family throughout this period until their eventual settlement at *Cottendale*, a comfortable, though isolated, plantation home in northern Pitt County.

Living in such a remote area made Cotten a prolific letter and journal writer, Stephenson says. "The nearest sizable town was Greenville, a 16-mile round trip on unpaved roads," he points out. "Trips to Greenville had to be scheduled when a farm horse was available."

Some of her most poignant writing records her grief when the Cottens' eldest son, Robbie Jr., drowned in the Tar River on his 15th birthday. This loss, Stephenson believes, "remained always the great personal tragedy of her life."

Cotten's involvement in public affairs began in 1890 when a family friend, political leader Elias Carr, arranged to have her appointed "alternate lady manager" on the committee to plan North Carolina's part in the Chicago World's Fair. This experience brought opportunities for travel and development of the public speaking, fund raising and leadership skills which she would later put to use on behalf of women.

Stephenson became intrigued with Cotten while doing research for an editing project on a Greenville women's club, The End of the Century Club, founded and led by Cotten. This dynamic personality, affectionately known as "Mother Cotten," was evidently the club's "moving spirit," according to the club minutes, Stephenson says.

Further research revealed more about Cotten and her dedicated work for the betterment of women. "I grew interested in tracing her life story in all its details," he says.

His biography goes beyond a chronicle of Cotten's life and work; it delves into her failures and disappointments as well, and offers reasons for why this particular gifted and persuasive woman failed to achieve what other women of her era were able to accomplish.

Her ambition was hampered by the sheer weight of her responsibilities as a plantation wife and mother, Stephenson acknowledges, although she probably came as close to "having it all" (public career and family) as any other rural North Carolina woman could have in those days.

"Prevailing attitudes among even progressive North Carolinians of the late 19th and early 20th centuries effectively curtailed women's function in public life," he explains.

The notion that women could form a book club and meet regularly to exchange ideas was a radical concept, Stephenson points out. Even Cotten's successful campaign for women to be granted the right to serve on public school boards met bitter opposition in 1913.

A tendency toward social and political conservatism is one of several character traits of North Carolinians Stephenson discusses in the Cotten biography, making a not entirely flattering picture of our forebears. The nickname "Tar Heels" may imply that North Carolinians of former times were known to be "slow, stubborn and averse to any change from their habitual ways," the author suggests.

As a bright schoolgirl, Cotten met this conservatism when she became aware of what was regarded as woman's proper place. "That marriage and motherhood were likely, suitable destinies for young girls had been a general presumption in Virginia," Stephenson says. "In North Carolina it was more like a holy law, with no exceptions allowed."

Other strong "Tar Heel" traits noticed by Stephenson are frugality, dislike of urban life, preference for modest, unostentatious living — even among the wealthy — dependence upon strong family ties, a strong sense of nature's beauties, unquestioning acceptance of innate class differences and integrity and devotion to duty. Most of these qualities are apparent today, especially to a non-native observer, Stephenson maintains.

As an adopted North Carolinian, Cotten shared some of these qualities; she recognized all of them in people she sought to persuade. Since many women, as well as men, needed coercion to accept the role of women as voting citizens, Cotten's speeches for suffrage coaxed, rather than exhorted. She compared going to the polls with going to church, promising that women would be able to vote "without any compromise of dignity or principles."

Largely because of her circumstances, Cotten did not become "a full-time public figure with a long list of personal achievements," Stephenson notes. Her influence was chiefly felt through her letters, attendance at public meetings and encouragement of others.

"Sallie was famous for what she was, more than for what she did," Stephenson says. "She did not repeatedly make headlines herself, but she was the reason others went on to all sorts of public accomplishments."

Sallie Southall Cotten: A Woman's Life in North Carolina was published under Stephenson's own imprint, Pamlico Press. "There are two more books in preparation now," he says. "I anticipate others to follow. Our focus will be North Carolina culture, folklore, history and interesting people. The emphasis will not be scholarly treatments, but on books for the intelligent general reader."

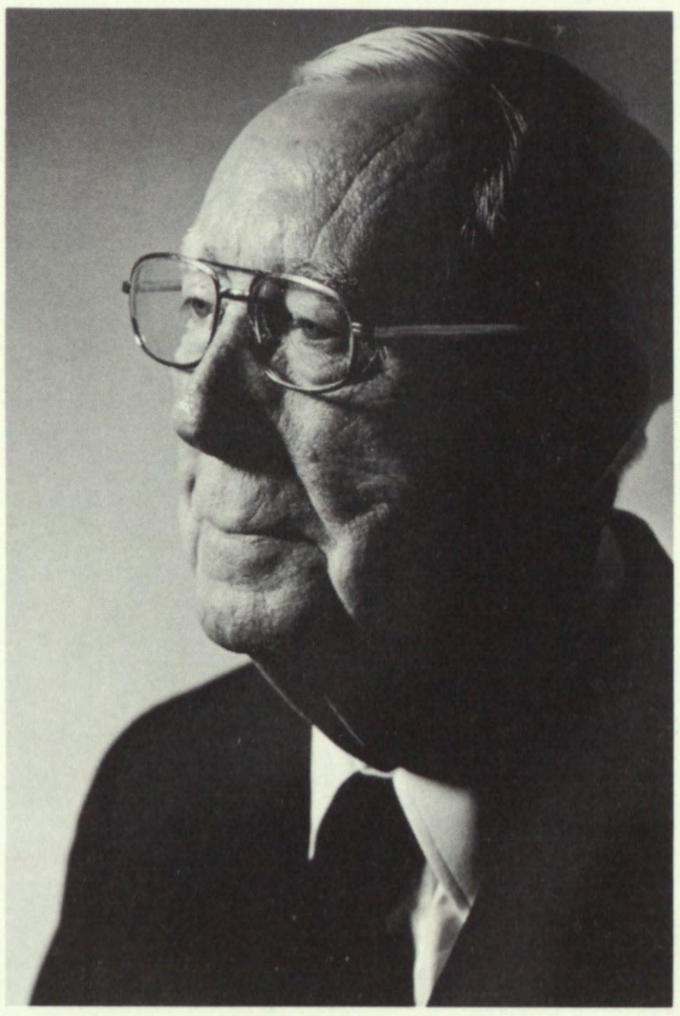
Stephenson has begun preliminary work on another biography, but not for Pamlico Press. His subject will be Broadway theatrical producer Charles Frohman, victim of the 1915 *Lusitania* disaster. This project is "way in the future," Stephenson says, and will require research at Texas and Harvard universities.

By Franceine Perry Rees

Copies of the Cotten biography are available by mail from Pamlico Press, P.O. Box 1691, Greenville, N.C., 27835, at $11.95 plus tax for the paperback edition and $17.95 plus tax for the hardcover.



Ovid Pierce served as advisor to Kappa Alpha chapter at ECU for 25 years, and received the order's highest awards for achievement and distinguished service. Here he congratulates David W. Dupree of Smithfield on his election to the post of national undergraduate chairman.



Ovid W. Pierce

1910-1987

Ovid Williams Pierce, 77, author and 20-year member of the ECU faculty, died Dec. 9 at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville.

In failing health for more than a year, Pierce was hospitalized Oct. 26 for brain surgery which was complicated by a heart problem. Death was attributed to cardiac arrest.

Pierce's writings included five novels and a number of articles and short stories.

His first novel, *The Plantation*, published first by Southern Methodist University Press and later by Doubleday, also appeared in a French edition and was used as the basis of a drama, *Run Slowly, O Slowly,* by Texas playwright Dale Blair. Briarpatch Press of Chapel Hill reissued the novel in 1975 in a limited edition.

Doubleday also published Pierce's later novels: *On a Lonesome Porch* (1960), *The Devil's Half* (1968) and *The Wedding Guest* (1974).

On a Lonesome Porch appeared as a *Book of the Week* supplement edition in several U.S. and Canadian newspapers, and *The Devil's Half* was reissued in paperback by Curtis Books.

Pierce's most recent books included *Old Man's Gold and Other Stories,* a 1976 anthology of stories previously published in *Southwest Review,* and *Judge Buell's Legacy.*

"He was perhaps the finest prose craftsman in North Carolina's 403-year history, surpassing in his own way even the work of Thomas Wolfe or James Boyd," said Dr. Keats Sparrow, chairman of the ECU English department. Sparrow delivered the eulogy at Pierce's funeral.

A native of Weldon, Pierce attended Duke University, graduating in 1932 with a degree in English. He later received a master's degree from Harvard, where he studied writing and literature under Robert Hillyer and Ellen Glasgow. When World War II began, Pierce joined the Army and undertook counter-intelligence assignments in the Caribbean and Central America.

He taught creative writing at Southern Methodist University and Tulane University before joining the ECU faculty in 1956 as writer-in-residence and professor of English.

Pierce served as faculty advisor to the award-winning literary magazine *The Rebel,* for many years.

"Generations of students were groomed for entry into the publication field in such faraway places as New York and Washington, D.C.," Sparrow said. "This was no mean feat considering most of these fledgling writers and editors came from rural backgrounds where publishing was hardly mentioned or heard of."

Pierce also served as advisor to Kappa Alpha Order for 30 years, stepping down only last year. "Many faculty had little relish for such a heavy extracurricular duty," Sparrow said. "But he took on the responsibility willingly, doggedly, enthusiastically, leading mainly by his gentle presence and fine example and garnering thereby innumerable spiritual sons."

During his 20 years on the ECU faculty, Pierce continued to write and lecture, dividing his time between a Greenville apartment and his family's 350-acre farm at Pierce's Crossroads near Enfield in Halifax County, which he dubbed *The Plantation*.

Pierce's native Roanoke River Valley region provided the inspiration and the setting for his novels, some set in the post-Civil War era. His prose style and skill in handling his characters' dialogue and dialects won acclaim from major literary critics, among them Orville Prescott of *The New York Times* and Harnett Kane of *The Chicago Tribune.*

In 1973 Pierce was awarded the University of North Carolina's most prestigious faculty honor, the O. Max Gardner Award, for having "produced, with artistry and integrity, an authoritative portrait of the South." Earlier he was twice awarded the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction and the North Carolina Gold Medal Award for Literature.

Pierce was an eloquent defender of the Southern literary tradition, which he perceived as rich, complex and inextricably rooted to its land and landscape.

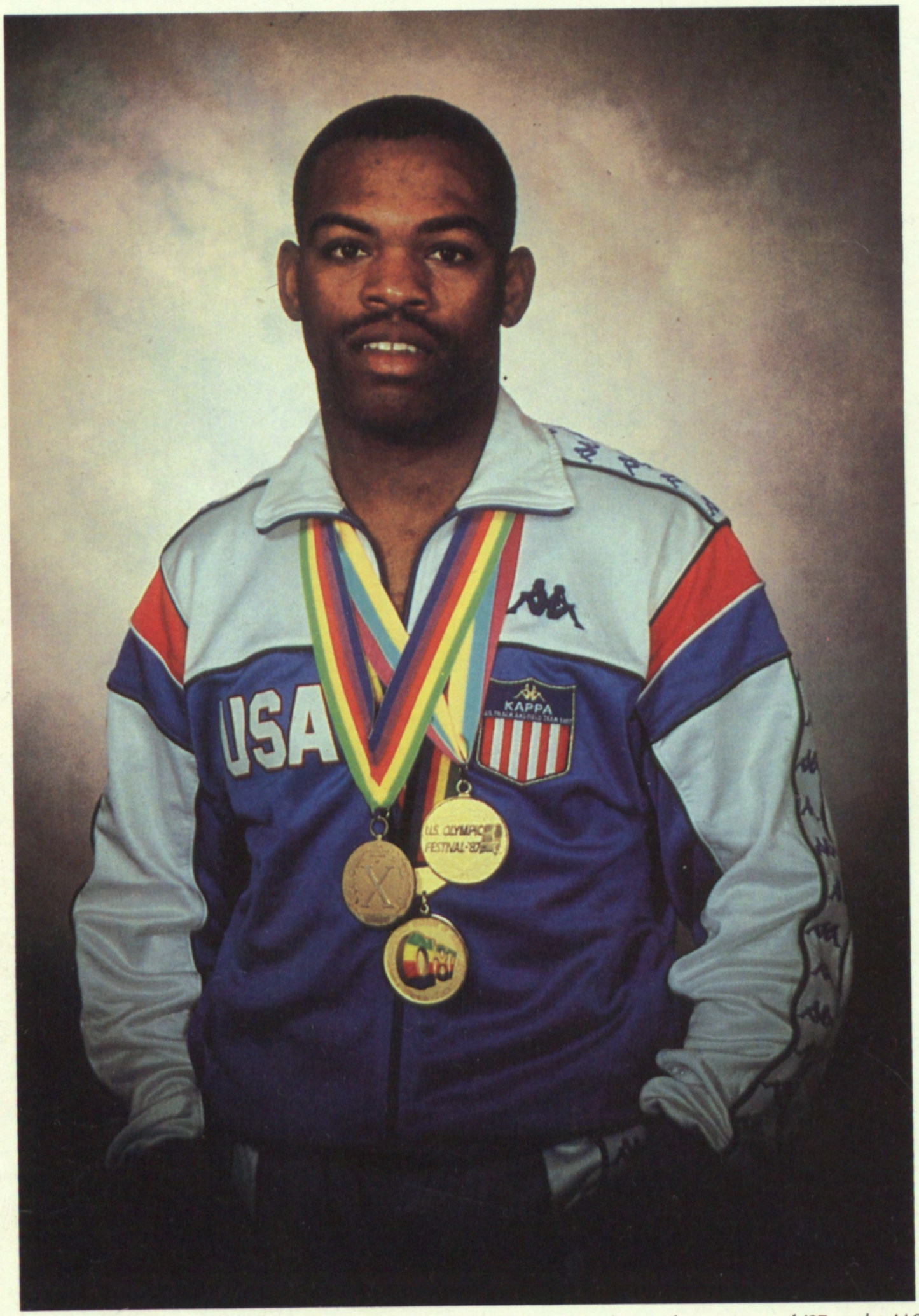
"Mr. Pierce will be remembered for his beautiful prose, his haunting descriptions of North Carolina landscapes and his wonderful characters," said Sparrow. "His other colleagues and I as well as countless numbers of students and fans will miss his presence, though we will continue to enjoy the timeless style and themes of his fiction."

- FPR

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NCAA All-American Lee Vernon McNeill won three gold medals during the summer of '87 at the U.S. Olympic Festival, the Pan American Games and the World University Games. (Contributed photo)

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