



FIRST THURSDAY

OCTOBER, 2007

Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students



Davis' Africa Trip Proves Fruitful

FHS' Media Specialist Spends Two Weeks in South Africa

Doris Davis-Williams has spent her working career as a librarian, and as one might imagine, she's visited many interesting places and met many wonderful people through her work.

But her latest experience, which led her to South Africa for two weeks in August, is now at the top of her favorites list.

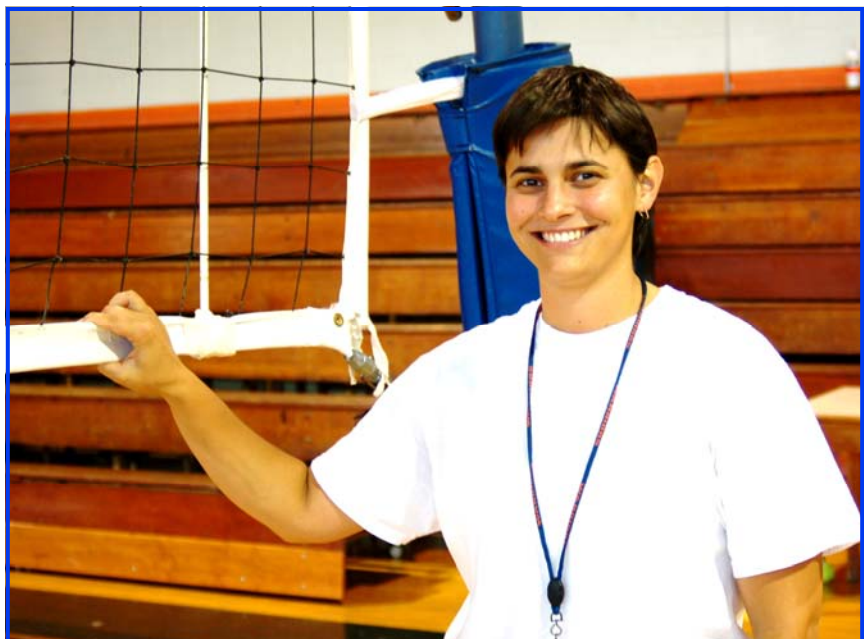
The Franklinton High School Media Specialist had always hoped to visit the country at some point in her life, and the opportunity to go to the National Librarian's Conference held there was one she certainly was not

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Look Inside!

[Read about Diana Perry—2007 NC School Nurse of the Year on page 2.](#)

A True Warrior



LHS Physical Education Teacher and head coach Erica Wammock has enjoyed strong success early in her career as a coach at her high school alma mater.

Wammock's Return to LHS Yielding Huge Results

Seven years removed from high school, Erica Wammock finds herself in familiar territory – competing for greatness in both volleyball and softball.

The third-year Louisburg High School teacher and coach was a standout athlete at LHS during her playing years and now finds herself just as competitive and driven as a head coach and physical education teacher.

“This has been a great time – really, even better than I thought it would be,” Wammock said. “I wasn't sure how I would be with the students, but it is awesome. Louisburg is an awesome place.”

The LHS physical education teacher graduated from the same school in 2000 and then went on to play softball at Louisburg College for

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Top Nurse



Diana Perry took the leap from hospitals to schools and is pleased with her decision.

Diana Perry—NC School Nurse of the Year

After 17 years of working in hospitals Diana Perry decided she wanted a change of pace and a different atmosphere – one in nursing but one that was a little more predictable and one that would allow her to spend more time with her family.

Eleven years later, Perry remains the head nurse at Bunn High and Bunn Middle, and her passion and enjoyment are at an all time high.

The School Nurse Association of North Carolina recognizes that as it named Perry School Nurse of the Year. She will be formally recognized on October 19th in Greensboro.

“To be nominated by a peer is a great honor, I really

didn't see this coming,” Perry said.

Perry was nominated by fellow Franklin County Schools nurse colleague Lisa Morris.

The School Nurse of the Year graduated from Youngsville High School and went on to graduate from the Duke University School of Nursing before working for two years at Northern Wake Hospital and then 15 years at Rex Hospital.

The hectic scheduling and intense hours, coupled with balancing a family life with a husband and two girls, resulted in a change in place of employment but not in

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Hoops For A Cause



Louisburg College Men's Basketball Coach Aaron Denton showers Dale Byrns after Byrns led the blues to a five-point victory against the Bananas. In the foreground is Bananas head coach Wendy Watkins.

United Way Kickoff Game

Dale Byrns and the Blues will bask in their victory for the next year. The trophy for winning the annual United Way All-Star basketball game rests proudly on Byrns' desk. The annual event produced a record crowd at Louisburg College and marked the beginning of the Franklin County United Way's goal to raising \$115,000 for the year. More than a dozen FCS employees participated in the annual United Way event.



Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students

Restaurant Makes Big Difference

Brewer's Warm Experience Sparks Letter to Editor of Franklin Times

Dear Editor:

As a teacher of special needs high school students, I am well aware of the misunderstanding or lack of acceptance by others that my students sometimes experience.

I do not feel these reactions are meant to be rude or hateful. I think that people just do not always know how to act around a special needs person, but this letter is not to scold anyone but rather to show appreciation to a very deserving local business.

On Thursday, Sept. 13, my teacher assistants and I took our students to eat a well deserved lunch to practice social skills at Wendy's in Louisburg. It is important for these children to experience real life situations in a public setting.

The students were very excited about the outing. They had even practiced placing their orders before our arrival so the cashiers would be sure to know exactly what they wanted to eat.

I was afraid the staff at Wendy's would feel overwhelmed by the unexpected visit of 11 special needs students and four teachers. I could not have been more incorrect!

The staff at Wendy's was wonderful. The young man who took our order was very patient as the class placed their orders. He was friendly and very attentive to their words. He really made them feel special.

The entire staff worked hard to prepare our large order without ever complaining. The manager and other employees made sure our every need was met.

They even brought our food to us as well as napkins. Staff members came over to us several times to make sure we had everything we needed. It was a wonderful experience for the class and the teachers.

We do so much appreciate the staff at Wendy's making us feel truly welcome.

We will definitely be back soon to visit you again.

Emily Brewer
LHS TMD Teacher

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LHS

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two years. She was a standout pitcher in both high school and college. From there, she continued her education at East Carolina University.

"I knew I wanted to coach, but I wasn't sure on what level," Wammock said. "I was fortunate to be able to come back home and coach. Everyone treats me really well here and makes me feel welcome."

Wammock originally came on to coach softball and continues to do so. She guided her troops to a conference title and the second round of the play-offs last year, in addition to taking over the head volleyball position.

Wammock led the Lady Warrior volleyball team to a conference title and the four of the 1A North Carolina High School Athletic Association state playoffs last year and appears to be just as strong this season.

Louisburg posted a 26-2 mark in 2006 and has won 12 of 13 contests in 2007 and remains undefeated in league play.

The LHS alum was one of the last players who was coached under the direction of Franklin County coaching legend Freddie Edwards. Edwards led the Lady Warriors to five state title appearances and an amazing 20 consecutive conference championships. The warrior program hasn't been as strong since Edwards left, but Wammock has the team back to a formidable strength.

"The kids really get excited about volleyball, and this school has always been known for that," Wammock said. "I'm trying to get volleyball back to the way Coach Edwards had it. He still comes to the games, and he still offers to help - it's very nice."

Wammock was fierce competitor in high school, earning all-conference honors in both volleyball and softball on multiple occasions.

"I still love to compete," Wammock said. "It's very satisfying to watch the kids succeed and to grow athletically."

The LHS standout enjoys her work, and don't look for her to be leaving anytime soon.

"I love Louisburg High School, and I have a very strong allegiance to it," Wammock said. "Coaching somewhere else would not be as fulfilling."

- Nathan Moreschi



Standing Tall

Erica Wammock helped Louisburg High School win conference titles and regional championships as a player and is enjoying much of the same success as a head coach for the Warriors. In her third year of coaching, Wammock has already led the softball team to multiple conference titles. Last year, she guided the volleyball team to the final four 1A squads in the state. Wammock hopes to repeat that success and more this fall.



YES 2nd Grade Donates to Local Safe Space

Franklin County Safe Space representatives Dawn Stallings (back left) and Colleen Barbieri (back right) visited Youngsville Elementary School in late September to pick up items collected by YES second graders. Students gathered various toiletry items to donate to the cause. Stallings and Barbieri explained the importance of Safe Space to the students.

PERRY

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profession.

"I've always wanted to be nurse since I was six-years old," Perry said. "I really care about people's health, and I want to do the best that I can."

Perry's daughters are also involved in the healthcare industry. One works for the Duke blood bank, and the other is a pharmacy technician. Her husband has his hands full as well – he runs the family farm.

"Working in Franklin County is wonderful," Perry said. "Our supervisors are very

good about sending us to conferences. You'll never learn new stuff unless you get out and see what is going on. This county is way ahead of a lot of larger counties because of that."

Perry has been involved, and still is involved, in a multitude of community organizations and has helped start several programs at FCS.

She found quite a bit of satisfaction in starting programs that have a lasting effect, including the S.O.S. suicide prevention program.

"This program has been very helpful, and I hope to continue to focus on mental health of students," Perry said.

Perry seems to have a knack for making students feel relaxed when they come

to visit her.

"I have the kids sit down, and I look them in the eyes and ask them what is wrong. I want to make them feel comfortable so I ask them basic questions and look for an opening. A lot of kids think they are the only person it (particular ailment) happens to, but really that is not the case."

Perry is elated about her honor and is looking forward to working with her colleagues in the future.

"The people are great to work with," Perry said. "We work as a team with the administrators, and I think they realize that we are all here to help."

- Nathan Moreschi

AFRICA

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going to pass up.

"It's an experience that is really hard to put into words – it was phenomenal – simply amazing," Williams said.

Williams found out about the conference through friends who work for the Library of Congress and decided this was her time to go.

She was particularly impressed with the cultural diversity and found the people very friendly.

"The people were very hospitable, and being that many of them spoke English, it made it much easier. Everyone seemed to get along so well – there may be discrimination still, but I really didn't see it."

Williams visited three provinces during her stay, including KwaZulu-Natal, Guateng and Western Cape. Cape Town, the largest city in South Africa, is located in Western Cape, while Durban is in KwaZulu-Natal and Johannesburg is in Guateng.

A nation in transition

South Africa is less than 20 years removed from the end of apartheid, and Williams was very impressed with how the nation appeared to have meshed together since that time.

Apartheid was a dark period in South Africa's history, and the movement to end it was guided by fearless leader Nelson Mandela, who was eventually jailed, only to later become president of the nation.

"We visited the Nelson Mandela museum and found it very, very interesting. He is an amazing person and to think about what he went through and how he handled it all is unbelievable."

In addition, Williams toured the Apartheid Museum and was moved by the experience.

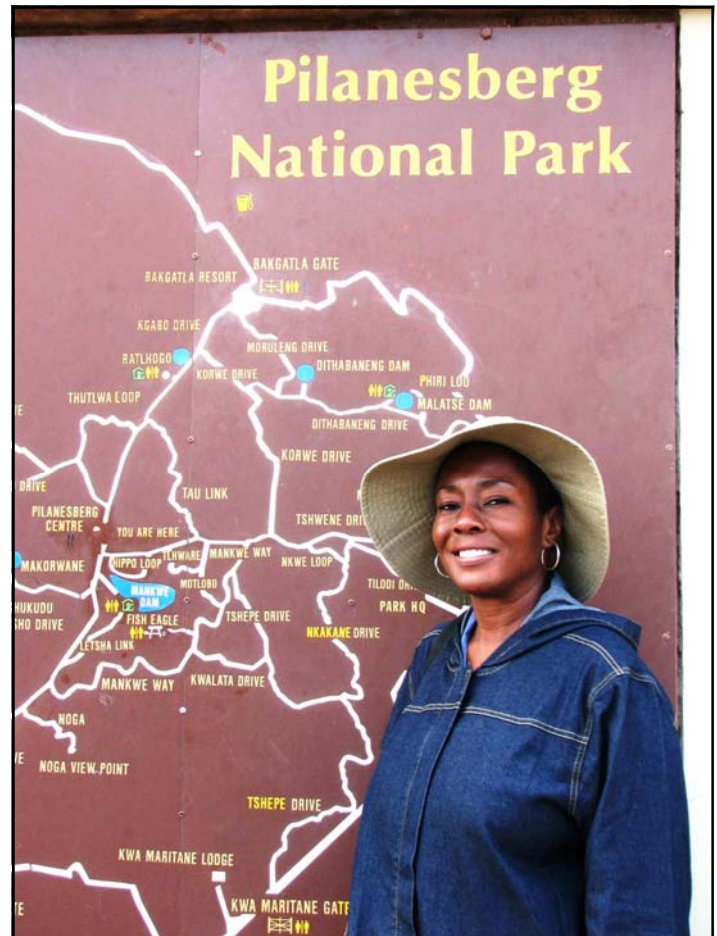
"When you go in that museum, you have a whole new view of mankind," Williams said. "There were so many atrocities during that time period. It wasn't that long ago, and it made it seem so real. It touches you – it is just so sad."

Schools

As an educator, Williams was particularly interested in visiting a few schools in the country and was impressed by how well the schools were run with very limited resources.

The schools she visited were small without the typical technology you see in the United States. There was only one computer, no paved grounds, no DVD players, just one TV, one copy machine, one fax machine – but they were all in uniforms.

"The grounds were very clean, and they made the best of what they had," Williams said. "The libraries were organized and books meticulously placed. Only small groups were allowed in the library, but there was wonderful lighting and col-



orful posters throughout the campus."

"There were 1200 students and 300 of them were orphans. Just as in this country, they have a tremendous teacher shortage. There are about 65 students to each teacher. Despite that, the students were very orderly.

"The smiles on their faces were amazing," Williams said. "They were very appreciative – but what really stood out was they were so very, very disciplined."

Safari

An African Safari was tops on Williams list, and she got to experience an event that she will never forget.

While touring the countryside on a tour bus, an elephant became quite angry and began charging the bus. They were in Pilanesberg National Park at the time and after seeing several animals in a resting state, the elephant captured everyone's attention.

"The ranger said the elephant was in heat, and he could be aggressive – the next thing we know we are speeding away

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WILLIAMS

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and many people were a little frantic," Williams said.

Among the animals Williams saw were rhinos, buffalo, lions and ostrich.

Cultural Village

Williams and many others took a two hour trip from Johannesburg to visit five tribes to get a sense of authentic African life.

They met the chiefs, viewed dances and really got a sense of the culture.

"The huts are so close together you can hear every word and sounds that goes on," Williams said. "The animals walk freely around in the huts.

"You are really sleeping in nature. Even though the huts look modest on the outside, they were very colorful and very sturdy. They had modern appliances, including air conditioning. It was really like a hotel room, but round."

Home Cooking?

Williams' trip even had a connection to Franklin County Schools. Joleen Jackson, who is the ESL teacher at Franklinton High School, is from South Africa and



Mrs. Davis Williams boards a truck in route on a Safari.

arranged for Williams to meet Jackson's family members in South Africa. The Bam Family prepared a braai (Barbecue) evening for Williams.

"It was a great night, and they made us feel so welcome," Williams said. "We got there at 5 (p.m.) and didn't leave until after 10 at night - it was very spe-

cial. They were so hospitable to me that I knew I was definitely among friends. I plan to keep in touch with them and hopefully visit them again someday."

Williams got a special tour of Cape Town when Jackson's sister-in-law and her nephew picked her up from the airport. The trip would get even more personal when she met Jackson's 90-year-old mother Maria Bam and her brother Phillip Bam. Phillip is the Director of the League of Friends of the Blind, and her other brother Casper is a community activist and was involved in the abolishment of apartheid. He is also a lecturer at Athlone Technical College. Jackson's sister Leah prepared the food for the braai.

Return trip?

Williams' trip left a lasting impression - even down to the TV programming which was similar, yet different than that in the United States.

Will she return?

"I really can't wait to go back," Williams said. "It's something I wish more people could get to experience."



A trip to the Apartheid Museum proved to be quite moving for Williams..

- Nathan Moreschi



Louisburg Elementary Students walk in a single-file line and quietly to the buses after school. This may seem basic, but it is the expected norm at area schools and outlined in the behavior model of Dr. Harry Wong.

Modeling Good Behavior at LES



There is no doubt that good behavior throughout a school can only help student achievement. After a trip to Greensboro to visit with education specialist Dr. Harry Wong, Louisburg Elementary Principal William Harris and Assistant Principal have begun working on a few new behavior plans throughout the school that are already showing positive results.

Stover pointed out that students are now lining up in an orderly fashion and are holding their voices to a reasonable level at appropriate areas in the school. Stover and Harris are examining a variety of different programs, including Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and Mentoring Minds. PBS is already being used at Cedar Creek Middle and Terrell Lane Middle, and the results are well received. The Mentoring Minds program starts with a flipchart that outlines many aspects of behavior and how teachers should handle them.

Birdman Dave

Storyteller Sends Message of Conservation



Bunn Elementary School students received a big treat when Birdman Dave came to visit. Birdman Dave brought Belle (Parrot), Sky (Parakeet) and Christopher Columbus (Owl) to put on a show full of tricks and humor. At the same time, Birdman Dave delivered a message stressing the importance of recycling and conserving the Earth's resources to ensure a healthier overall environment.

