

Melissa Lancaster is back at North Carolina State University studying psychology and applying to graduate schools.

Blair Milligan has been named the 2001 North Carolina Cherry Blossom Princess by the North Carolina State Society.

Caroline Owen has been named development officer with Peace College.

Emily Smith earned the title of Teacher of the Year at Carver Elementary School. She teaches 3rd grade.

Sarah Malen Sponenberg is presently a high school science teacher and will begin work on a master's degree in biology education in the fall.

1998 Jenny Beaver is currently attending the American Academy for Dramatic Art in Los Angeles, CA.

Valerie Cormani attended Southwest Texas State University where she majored in both mathematics and psychology. She graduated with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 and received an award for Top Undergraduate in the School of Science. She is now a graduate teaching assistant and has received a fellowship to fund her graduate studies.

Katherine Costa is currently a marketing consultant with Vitalink Communications.

Karen Oakley graduated from East Carolina University in December of 1999 with a bachelor of science in business administration with a concentration in management information systems. She has recently accepted a position with TITAN Technology Partners where she will be working as an e-commerce consultant. She is currently living in Greenville, SC.

Beth Shropshire graduated in December from James Madison University with a bachelor of arts in computer information systems. She is living in Richmond, VA working for Align360, an information technology consulting firm.

Catherine Sineath Warren recently earned a graduate degree as a physician assistant.

Jacqueline Williams recently became a certified professional in human resources.

Jennifer Woodyard was recently hired by Week Closure Systems as their contract/membership coordinator.

1999 Annya Broderick is employed with Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD, Inc.) as a clinical regulatory specialist. She has applied to UNC-Wilmington to pursue a master's degree in biology and to obtain another undergraduate degree in French.

Chantelle Haynie Charpentier is living in Milner, GA working for Faith's Home, Inc., which is a group home for teenage girls. She holds the position of housemother for 14 children, 12 of whom are wards of the state. She loves her job and plans on being there a while.

Carey Dawson has been accepted to the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York, NY.

Elizabeth Maynard is working at First Union National Bank in Charlotte.

Meredith Royall is attending graduate school at Appalachian State University, studying school psychology.

Dianna Marshall Scoggins will be celebrating her two year anniversary as advertising sales representative for Gold Leaf Publishers, the eastern Wake County newspapers owned by *The (Raleigh) News and Observer*. She has been named Mrs. Wendell International 2001 and in June, she competed in the Mrs. North Carolina International Pageant in Charlotte, NC.

Mary Stewart Turner is employed with the human resources department at IBM in Raleigh, NC.

2000 Jamie Averette Mitchell is employed by TradeMark Properties Inc. in Raleigh as a commercial marketing assistant.

2001 Caroline Boney has been accepted to The Julliard School for the fall. She has an appointment as an intern in theater and will be pursuing a degree in the area of stagecraft and technical theater. (See article on page 16)



Susan Markham '88

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

by Miriam Sauls

SUSAN MARKHAM'S GRANDMOTHER TOLD HER THAT BACK WHEN SHE WAS A GIRL she sold out for a Chrysler convertible. She had wanted to go to Meredith College, but her parents used the convertible to bribe her to stay in Durham for college. She always regretted her decision and encouraged her granddaughter not to sell out - to follow her dreams.

Her grandmother was not the last woman to influence Markham '88, a spunky native of Dunn and Wilson. "I've been fortunate to have been influenced by so many strong women," she says. "And Peace provided a lot of those. It was the first place where I saw a cross-section of women I admired. I found wonderful teachers and administrators. I found bright, articulate young women who were good athletes, dancers, actors, coming together and marching on without boys. I was intimidated at first, but I got up the nerve to find my own voice."

And she's been speaking out ever since—for those who are seldom heard, for the disenfranchised and overlooked. As president of NC Equity, a nonprofit organization based in Raleigh that works toward social change for women, Markham gives voice to women in North Carolina who need affordable, quality healthcare, equitable wages and employment benefits, and childcare options.

"A woman in North Carolina earns 78 cents for each \$1 earned by a man," says Markham. "And the low wages of many working women means one in five of our state's children live in poverty," she says. "We can do better than that."

Markham went on from Peace to UNC-Chapel Hill and after graduation took a job with the Methodist Children's Home. After a stint there, she sold everything and moved to New York City.

"I got a job doing social work in South Bronx. My boss took a real leap of faith hiring a naive Southern girl who majored in speech communications," she laughs.

But social work agreed with her, so she went to graduate school at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania for a master's degree in social work in agency planning and program development and then a second MSW in law and social policy. "I think of Peace and Bryn Mawr as two fantastic bookends in my education," she says. "No coincidence they're both women's colleges."

Markham shared her experiences in a public relations class at Peace last fall. She explained the process of lobbying at the legislature, something she does routinely for her job. "Once the process is demystified, people realize they have a voice," she says. "Besides your right to vote, your right to be a citizen lobbyist is important, too. There was an 'aha' moment when the students realized they had that power."

She would like to see young women move toward public service, toward seats on boards, toward owning companies. "Our best hope for social justice in our communities, in our state, and in our country is women's voices at levels of leadership. Students at Peace College can see state government out their front door. They need to take that vision back to their communities," she says with determination.

Susan Markham takes her vision of social and economic justice wherever she goes and makes sure she's heard along the way. "My grandmother said to be clear in what you want and go for it and without even knowing exactly what I was doing, I can see that my path has had a purpose."