

## APPENDIX V

### **Karen Sue (Lowry) Sampson**

Karen Sue (Lowry) Sampson was born and raised in Pembroke and graduated in 1974 from Pembroke Senior High School. She went on to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (then Pembroke State University) in 1976, finishing *cum laude* with a bachelor of science in early childhood education. While at UNC Pembroke, Karen was active in various student activities, such as the Indianhead Yearbook and marching band, and was named to the Who's Who in Colleges and Universities list.

After graduation, Karen was a kindergarten teacher at Southside-Ashpole Elementary School in Rowland, NC, and then taught first grade at Tanglewood Elementary School in Lumberton, NC. In 1979, Karen married Kelvin Sampson (current head men's basketball coach for the University of Houston). The two then moved to East Lansing, MI, where Kelvin was enrolled in graduate school.

Karen has been involved with P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) for over 25 years. In 1993, Karen chaired the committee for the Washington State Games opening ceremonies, which featured Dan O'Brien, 1996 Olympic gold-medalist in men's decathlon, as the keynote speaker. She was also a member of the Assistance League in Norman, OK. At UNC Pembroke, the Sampsons helped establish the John W. (Ned) and Eva B. Sampson Endowed Men's Basketball Scholarship for deserving young basketball players.

Karen resides in Houston, TX with her husband, but frequently visits North Carolina. They have two adult children, Kellen and Lauren.