

Mrs. Claybrook inducted into Educators' Hall of Fame



CHARLES L. McLAWHORN WITH MRS. VERA CLAYBROOK

AYDEN — Mrs. Vera Claybrook, former English teacher at Ayden and Ayden-Grifton High Schools, was inducted into the Educators' Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 8, 2005, at East Carolina University.

The event was held in Fletcher Hall and was following with a reception at the Speight Building on the ECU campus.

The Educators' Hall of Fame recognizes and highlights the service of those whom East Carolina alumni and friends are most grateful. This permanent recognition was inaugurated in the fall of 1999, and is displayed prominently in the Speight Building.

A minimum gift of \$1,000 is required in order to recognize a professor, teacher, counselor or school

board member in the Educators' Hall of Fame. Money contributed to the Hall is used in an endowment and the interest goes to support

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—**Sonny McLawhorn**
Former Student

scholarships for aspiring teachers.

Charles (Sonny) L. McLawhorn Jr., one of her former eighth grade

students, acknowledged Mrs. Claybrook for this special recognition.

McLawhorn, a practicing attorney in Greenville, said, “I wanted to honor Mrs. Claybrook, not only for the tremendous contributions she made to my academic development, but for her indelible impact on the tradition of the Ayden school system and all of the children who were lucky enough to be in her classroom.”

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A plaque was permanently mounted on the Educators' Hall of Fame wall. Honorees graduating from ECU are identified with the

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(Continued From Page A1) university logo on their plaque. Any educator whose name is honored with more than one \$1,000 gift will have a star placed on the plaque. A commemorative directory also features a brief biographical sketch of each honoree and the donors' names. The information is also made available on the College of Education's web site.

Mrs. Claybrook's plaque was aptly inscribed with the following wording beneath her name, Vera Loftin Claybrook: “Setting the highest standards of probity, proficiency and professionalism, she opened the windows of grammar and let in the fresh air of literacy. She was a world class teacher.”

McLawhorn added, “In rec-

ognizing Mrs. Claybrook, I hope that others who have been a part of the Ayden community will pay their respects by nominating our former teachers. What we are today in our careers, we owe to them. In our recognition of their excellence, we simply make restitution.

“I hope that every teacher will recognize the importance of setting high expectations and demanding respect. Mrs. Claybrook was indeed the master of that.”

Wendy Miller, 2005-06 North Carolina Teacher of the Year and graduate of ECU's College of Education, was the guest speaker for the event. Miller is a K-2 elementary teacher at James W. Smith Elementary School in Craven

County. She is a self-described risk taker. She enjoys taking her children back in time by decorating her room with a theme. One of her most recent classroom creations involved dinosaurs, an active volcano, lagoon with live fish and a water fall. “Everyday should be an adventure ... students should be as excited to come to school as they were the first day of kindergarten,” says Miller.

Miller graduated from the College of Education last May. She said the college played a big role in helping her achieve her goal of earning her MAEd. The college met her needs as a mother of two with a full-time job; this in turn made her a stronger teacher which is reflective in her practice.