Miss UNCP 2008 Jamee Hunt dedicates a song on stage to Brianna Hunt, Haley Hunter Oxendine and days prior. She was who had just competed in 2008 Amanda Watson, Alaina Bowden, Marion Victoria Bowden, Alaina Bowden, Marion Victoria Smith and Shalane Hare.

The emcees be mistress of ceremonies for the evening was Miss North Carolina 2008 Amanda Watson, who had just competed in the 2008 Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas five days prior. She was accompanied by master of ceremonies Gary Strickland, a resident of the town of Pembroke.

The two made a few occasional jokes but stuck mostly to the script prepared for them which was rehearsed at 5 p.m. on Jan. 28.

Competition

The areas of competition included swimsuit, on-stage question, evening gown and talent.

Although each young woman had her share of spots in the audience, Locklear’s final time on stage was at one point totally downing out Watson, who was announcing facts at the podium.

Joking around

Strickland is knoll-edged at the podium that his favorite area of competition was swimsuit, adding, “They should slow down,” sparking laughter throughout the crowd.

Watson and Strickland discussed how much confidence it took for the girls to walk on stage in a bathing suit.

“I wouldn’t want to be out there in a bathing suit promenading,” Strickland said, sparking Watson’s not so cleverly joking “and we wouldn’t want to see that.”

Emotions running high

Watson said on Jan. 28 that upon witnessing the young women rehearse, she was remembering when she competed in her first preliminary pageant and how nervous she felt. “I never dreamed I would be on the America stage,” Watson said.

The pageant also marked the end of a year-long journey for a familiar face around campus. Miss UNCP 2008 Jamee Hunt.

This year, Hunt placed first runner-up in the 2008 Miss North Carolina Pageant and immediately made the headlines. Hunt delivered an emotional farewell address, thanking every one from family members to University officials.

She concluded her farewell with a final walk around GPAC and a special vocal dedication to her pageant court, Brianna Hunt, Haley Hunter Oxendine and Shayla Hunt.

“I have no idea of a song yet [for Miss North Carolina],” Locklear said.

Locklear’s talent is vocal. As she embarks on a year of full of appearances, she will prepare to represent the University for the title of Miss North Carolina 2009 on June 23-27 in Raleigh.

Other entertainers

While waiting for the votes to be tallied, the audience was also entertained by 2008 UNCP Idol Preston Siler, Miss UNCP Outstanding Teen Brianna Hunt and Miss UNCP Princess Shayla Hunt.

Locklear, a sister of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, has the platform of breast cancer awareness/early detection is the best protection. During her on stage question, Locklear pointed out that men should be checked for breast cancer, as this is a growing problem.

“Of course. They should be checked and they should be checked early,” Watson added.

Watson had previously met her fellow Miss America contestants during the filming of the TLC reality show “Miss America: Countdown to the Crown” which ran on Friday evenings during the month of January.

“I think the most exciting thing was meeting all the girls for the second time – we’d spent so much time together on the reality show,” Watson said. “We all shared that common thread of wanting to Miss America and also wanting to be the best state representatives that we could possibly be.”

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Watson’s reign as Miss North Carolina ends in June when she crowns another young woman at the 2009 Miss North Carolina Pageant in Raleigh.