

Media Contacts:

Marcie Gordon, Director, Community Engagement and Marketing
919-807-7995, marcie.gordon@ncdcr.gov

Elizabeth Beal, Press Release

919-807-7943, elizabeth.beal@ncdcr.gov

Suzanne Golden, Publicist for Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc.
(919) 302-4629, goldenrelations@gmail.com



The Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc. Celebrates 80 Years of Scholarship and Sparkle with Summer Case Exhibit at the N.C. Museum of History



RALEIGH, N.C. – The **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh welcomes the Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc. as it celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant. In its eighty-year history, the pageant has crowned the state’s ambassadors of goodwill, who are also its annual Miss America Pageant contestants.

The museum will have a summertime lobby-case exhibit from June 13 through September 4, 2017. The case exhibit will honor the memories and legacies of more than 27,000 young women who have competed for the title at the local and state level and feature mementos and clothing, a video, and awards from several pageant winners.

Objects on display will include:

- a gown and crown worn by Miss North Carolina 1965, Penelope Clark, of Sanford
- a lapel pin that Miss North Carolina 1966, Nannette Jackson Minor, of Charlotte, gave out to thousands of people during her reign
- an evening gown, scepter and Miss America USO Troupe badges from the reign of Miss North Carolina 1977, Kathy Fleming, of Hamptonville
- props used by Miss North Carolina 1994, Dana Stephenson, of Garner, in her statewide tour for the D.A.R.E. drug-abuse prevention program
- a gown and two-piece swimsuit worn by Miss North Carolina 1997, Michelle Warren, of Gastonia—this was the first year that rules for Miss America allowed two-piece swimsuits to be worn
- a gown and crown worn by Miss North Carolina 2007, Jessica Jacobs, of High Point

- never-before-exhibited photos, biographies, pageant history and historical articles, including the Miss America finalist trophy of Miss North Carolina 1991, Jennifer Smith, of Mt. Airy

“This pageant has launched thriving careers,” said David Clegg, President of the Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc., the alumnae and historical association for the pageant. “It is remarkable, when you go across the state, to see the depth of attachment people have to the Miss North Carolina program.”

Discover the glamour of this remarkable pageant and its long history in North Carolina’s small towns and big cities. This year’s queen will be crowned on live television June 24, 2017, in Raleigh’s Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call 919-807-7900 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

IMAGE LINK: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9m9q0n47nhobgzk/AABbFjEFz8W-9eTANIDHZpuFa?dl=0>

IMAGE CAPTIONS

First on left: Jessica Jacobs, Miss North Carolina 2007. Credit: Joshua Hardesty, Wikimedia Commons.

Second: Deneen Graham, Miss North Carolina 1983, the only African American to be awarded the state title to date. Credit: Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc.

Third: Miss North Carolina crown. Credit: Lenn Long, PageantPics.com.

Fourth: Kathy Fleming, Miss North Carolina 1977. Credit: Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc.

About the N.C. Museum of History

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc.

The Sisterhood of Miss North Carolina Inc. began as an annual reunion of former Miss North Carolinas in 2007 and has grown to include friends, coaches and mentors who have shaped the lives of former winners. This organization is dedicated to becoming a professional resource for women across the state, sustaining heritage and history, seeking to promote personal and career development, and serving as a bridge for educational endeavors and ambassadorship for the many geographical regions of the state. The Sisterhood supports vocational and workplace

training, mentoring, community outreach, leadership, and scholarship for women who have served as ambassadors of the state.

About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.