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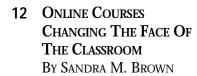
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## Greetings From The National Alumni President

#### Fellow Aggies:

am delighted to greet you as president of the National Alumni Association. This is an exciting time for the Association and the University as we work diligently with our new leader, Chancellor James C. Renick, to continue A&T's traditions and remain in the forefront of education.

As we look back on our many accomplishments with pride, we must also look forward to the future

with purpose. This is a new era for A&T and many changes are taking place at our beloved University. The University held its first winter commencement in December; the UNC Board of Governors approved the establishment of a doctor of philosophy program in industrial engineering, the third Ph.D. program in engineering at A&T; and our bowling and football teams became MEAC champs. Our pride continues to grow as we continue to spread the good news about North Carolina A&T State University, its pro-

grams and the top-notched students being educated and graduating from our University.

As your National Alumni President, I eagerly await the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead for us. I meet regularly with the chancellor, and the vice chancellor for development and university relations, to look for opportunities to keep alumni involved in the life of the University. We are all committed to doing all we can to make this one of the best universities in the country.

I am appealing to all Aggies to commit some of our time, talent and dollars to our university by becoming actively involved in the life of our Association, and ultimately the university.

Our mission is to encourage and promote involvement of alumni by meeting their needs for

alumni services; creating opportunities for participation in the life of the University; and developing and disseminating information that communicates the academic excellence of our university.

In order to help carry out our mission, we have developed numerous goals for the Alumni Association for the next two years. They include enhancing communications between the National Association and its members and fellow alumni,

working with the university to implement a formal fundraising plan, developing a Long Range Fundraising Plan to raise a Million Dollars + Annually by year 2003 and empowering our Alumni and student leaders for upward mobility in the Alumni Association and the community in which they reside through a mentorship/leadership program to be named "Leadership A&T."

Our plans also call for the establishment of a membership Outreach Campaign entitled "I Told Ten," and the development of an alumni career placement

web page and job skills bank. We plan to strengthen the political influence of alumni by developing a grassroots effort working with the community at —large, and create additional opportunities for alumni to serve and participate in the life of the Association as well as the University.

The Alumni Association needs your help in obtaining our goals. We welcome any suggestions you may have concerning ways and means by which we can continue to enhance upon the course, which we have followed over the years. You may e-mail me at PettyJAggie@worldnet.att.net.

Aggies, there is much to be done and by working together we can move this university forward.

John a. Key

National Alumni President

## A GLANCE AT OUR NEW CHANCELLOR:

# James C. Kenick

By Nettie Collins Rowland

illboards are often used to advertise products, promote political candidates, and once in a while to introduce new leaders to Greensboro. In July, a colorful billboard appeared in the center of downtown Greensboro that posed the question: Who is Jim Renick?

Greensboro residents and others visiting the city glanced at the sign but very few could answer the question. Now, six months later, just about everyone in Greensboro, the state and the nation who has any affiliation with North Carolina A&T State University knows that Jim Renick is our new chancellor at the institution.

ately called Jim by most of his family, friends and colleagues, joined the Aggie family on July 15 at a changing of the guard ceremony.

the former chancellor of the University of Michigan at Dearborn said. "It's more than just happenstance - too many things are coming together."

The chancellor and his wife, Peggy, actually visited the campus four years ago with their daughter Karinda when she was trying to decide which college to attend. Although she was impressed with A&T, she decided on her father's alma mater, Central State University. She is currently a senior majoring in marketing.

Renick, a very focused person who tries to get at the heart of issues, says that when the search firm contacted him about the chancellorship at A&T, he wasn't looking for a job.

"I was doing quite well at Michigan when I received the call." he said.

Because he had a desire to lead a historically black institution, Renick put his hat in the ring.

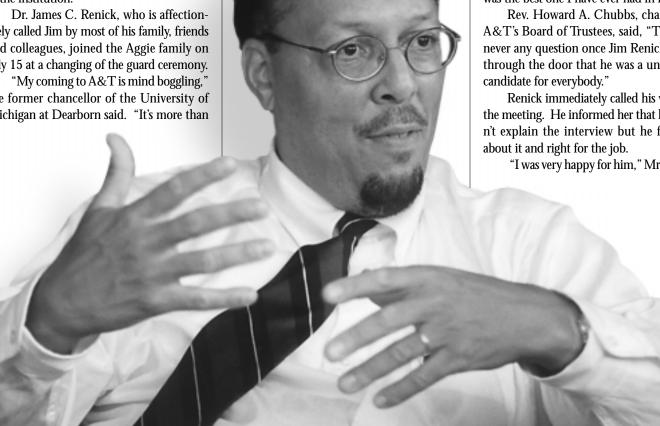
"The interview was unbelievable," the personable Renick said.

"I have had a zillion interviews during my career but the interview I had at A&T was the best one I have ever had in my life."

Rev. Howard A. Chubbs, chairman of A&T's Board of Trustees, said, "There was never any question once Jim Renick walked through the door that he was a unanimous

Renick immediately called his wife after the meeting. He informed her that he couldn't explain the interview but he felt good

"I was very happy for him," Mrs. Renick



said. She was even more elated when he was named chancellor.

"Since I have known Jim, one of his life's ambitions has been to become chancellor of an HBCU," A&T's first lady said. "So when he became chancellor of A&T, it was a dream come true."

When Renick talks about the University, the smile on his face and the excitement in his voice let you know immediately that he is enjoying his days at A&T and is looking forward to leading the institution, which he refers to as "one of the best historically black schools in the country."

He explains that as chancellor of A&T, he will let his performance and actions speak for him.

"I am very direct," Renick said. "You won't have to second guess me. I have very high standards and expect others to also perform at high levels."

A hard worker, Renick says he doesn't expect anyone to work any harder than he does.

Renick was born December 8, 1948, in Rockford, Ill. When he was eight-monthsold, his father died, leaving his mother, Constance, with two children to raise. His mother moved the family in to live with her mother.

Renick has nothing but admiration for his mother. He dons a boyish grin whenever he talks about her.

"My mother is the most phenomenal person I know," he says. "Here is a woman whose husband and father died in the same year, yet she was able to raise me and my sister and still have a professional career."

His mother remarried when he was about 14 years old.

An alumna of West Virginia State, Renick's mother graduated first in her class. She has had several professions in the education field including teacher, principal and assistant superintendent.

Although Renick credits his mother and other family members with being great role models, he has had many others during his lifetime.

"I had the good fortune to be named chancellor for the first time at age 43, that is the result of lots of good mentors, schools and teachers," Renick said.

He often seeks advice from retired college presidents and has a powerful network of people around the country, including educators and CEOs of Fortune 100 companies.

"I have been fortunate to have a broad array of friends and colleagues," Renick said. "They are all willing to share their knowledge with me."

Acquiring knowledge was something Renick readily sought when he enrolled at Central State University. "I got turned on to learning," he said. Renick received his degree in sociology from Central in 1970. It was there that he realized the power of education and its impact on society.

During college, Renick met renowned African American authors Ralph Ellison and LeRoi Jones and boxer Muhammad Ali. "He is a caring, giving person who is very adamant about what he likes and doesn't like," the Pensacola native said. "He believes in getting things done."

She adds, "He is an all around good guy. And, I am not just saying that because he is my husband."

An avid golfer who has played in two A&T golf tournaments (the Aggie Eagle Classic and the Annual Richard E. Moore Memorial Homecoming Golf Tournament), Peggy says what impressed her the most about her husband when they met was his work ethic.

When they met, he was working two



Chancellor and Mrs. Renick with family pet, Koko

After graduating from Central, he continued his education at Kansas University where he received his masters in social work in 1972.

"While at Kansas, I discovered that it was pretty neat to get paid to think," Renick said.

After graduate school, Renick became an ombudsman for a Rockford public school. A year later, he moved to Pensacola, Fla., where he accepted a job at a community mental health center.

That same year, Renick began teaching at the University of West Florida, where he met his friendly and warm wife, Peggy. They were introduced by one of her college roommates.

"Right away we connected," said Peggy.
"We developed a real friendship before there was a loveship."

When Peggy, who is the oldest of seven sisters, talks about her husband there is a sparkle in her eyes that reflects the admiration she has for him.

jobs.

"He reminded me of my father," said Peggy who loves to cook southern dishes. "My father, who raised seven children and took care of a wife, always worked very hard. He worked two jobs and sometimes more."

When she met her husband, Peggy said, he didn't have any money but she knew eventually he was going to go places.

Her intuition proved to be correct. Renick did excel. However, in 1981, he surprised his colleagues by resigning from his position at the University of West Florida shortly after being named faculty member of the year and receiving tenure.

Some of his colleagues thought that he had lost his marbles. However, Renick was thinking about the future. "Tenure is significant," he said, "but my feeling was that if I received tenure there, then I ought to be able to receive it some other place."

Things continued to flourish for the mid-westerner.

Continued on page 5

# MEYERS BECOMES A&T'S INTERIM VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

orth Carolina A&T
State University
Chancellor James C.
Renick has named
Dr. Carolyn W.
Meyers interim vice chancellor for
academic affairs. Meyers replaced Dr.
Harold L. Martin Sr. who resigned
from A&T in December to become
chancellor of Winston-Salem State
University. Meyers was a program
officer with the National Science
Foundation.



Renick said Meyers is an excellent choice to lead A&T's academic division because of her distinguished career record. "In recruiting Carolyn as our chief academic officer, we were fortunate to attract an intellectual who is well-grounded in academia and professionally connected to national agencies and corporations," Renick said. "She has many impressive, leadership experiences with the National Science Foundation, Georgia Institute of Technology, plus she previously served as dean of our College of Engineering."

"I am happy to make Greensboro my home again," Meyers said. "A&T has such a rich tradition and a talented chancellor. I have respect for the faculty and students and I'm excited to join a team working hard to prepare A&T students for the new millennium."

A former program officer for the National Science Foundation, Meyers was dean of A&T's College of Engineering and a professor of mechanical engineering. While at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Meyers was an associate professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering and associate dean for research in the College of Engineering. She was also director of the Center for Professional Success at SUCCEED Coalition. Meyers was a summer faculty research fellow in the Air Force Materials Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB. She was an engineering instructor at Atlanta University Center Corporation; a systems analyst and a steam generator analyst with General Electric Company.

She has done engineering consulting with the U.S. Army Materials Laboratory, the Georgia Dome, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Neodyne Corporation.

Meyers received her B.S.M.E. from Howard University, and her M.S.M.E. and Ph.D. from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her thesis was *Microstructure-Mechanical Properties Interrelationship in A357-T6 Alloys.* ■

## MARTIN NAMED CHANCELLOR OF WSSU

r. Harold Martin Sr., an alumnus of North Carolina A & T S t a te University, has been named chancellor of Winston-Salem State University. Martin served as A&T's chief academic officer for five years. He replaced Dr. Alvin Schexnider who resigned to accept an administrative post at Wake Forest University.



"Martin has given many fruitful years of service to A&T," said A&T Chancellor James C. Renick. "We are proud of him. He is highly regarded professionally as an engineer and as an academic administrator."

The 1973 engineering graduate joined the Aggie family in 1980. Since that time he has held numerous positions at the university including assistant professor of electrical engineering, associate professor of electrical engineering, chairperson of the electrial engineering department and dean of the College of Engineering.

When asked how he felt about his new position, Martin said, "Words cannot express my feelings right now. I am very enthused about this enormous opportunity at Winston-Salem State because this university has a great history of graduates making significant contributions to society."

Martin's appointment runs through June 30, 2002. According to Martin, if at the end of the term he and the trustees are pleased with the way things are going he will move into the job permanently.

Martin received his bachelor's and master's from A&T and his Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

His wife Davida, is a county attorney for Forsyth County. They have two children, Harold Jr. and Walter. ■

#### Renick Continued from page 3

His attention turned from teaching to administration in 1983, while he was serving as special assistant to the university's president. That was the same year he received a fellowship from the American Council on Education. As special assistant to the president, he was given the opportunity to work on several significant projects. The job also allowed him and his wife to get firsthand knowledge about the role of the chancellor and first lady.

Additionally, the fellowship allowed Renick to travel around the country and meet many of America's leading educators. It was at that point that he decided he wanted to lead a historically black institution.

"Leading is not the easiest thing in the world to do," says the energetic Renick. "I knew I was going to have to have a set of experiences that was going to allow me to lead."

To reach his career goal, he began to work in jobs where he could get an abundance of administrative responsibilities. He became active at the national and international level. His experiences have included serving as leader for Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc., in Ghana, West Africa; director of the public administration program and institute of government at the University of South Florida; associate provost and director of the Early Identification Program at George Mason University; and later as vice provost for Academic Initiatives and External Affairs at George Mason.

In 1993, he became chancellor and professor of public administration and education at the University of Michigan at Dearborn.

All of these experiences paved the way for him to become chancellor of A&T.

"This has been an 18-year odyssey for me," Renick said. "I am exactly where I want to be. I am a product of a historical black college and I owe so much to what happened to me there - I got a serious education."

Student involvement is a top priority with Renick, who often walks around the campus and chats with students, faculty and staff. He also invites the University family to interact with him via e-mail.

The students have nothing but praise for the new chancellor.

"He is very enthusiastic, concerned and seems to have the students at heart," says sophomore class vice president, Joseph Frierson. "It's good to have a chancellor that is visible and still working behind the scenes to continue to bring funds, notoriety, and distinction to A&T."

Kendra Hill, A&T's student government president, says that she is thrilled by the enthusiasm and motivation that Chancellor Renick and Mrs. Renick have brought to A&T.

Not only does Chancellor Renick relate well to the students, but his wife does also; she was right by his side, helping to move freshmen into the dormitories at the beginning of the school term.

"My wife is going to be a great asset to the university," Renick said. "She gets along well with people and doesn't take herself too seriously."

When he talks about his wife, one hears nothing but admiration in his voice.

"She is a people person as well as smart and beautiful," he said.

Mrs. Renick earned a B.S. degree in management from the University of West Florida and decided to give up her career when her husband became chancellor in Michigan.

"It gave me the opportunity to be more supportive of him and his job and to do volunteer work," she said.

The first lady, who jogs a mile a day with the family's black Labrador, Koko, says she plans to be quite visible on A&T's campus and in the community.

"I haven't decided which role I will take on campus," she said. "I need to learn more about A&T and the Aggie Family. I need to find out where I can best be utilized."

The Renicks said that they hope their work at A&T will impact society and that "We are just regular people who have a glorious opportunity to make a difference - in our lives, the students we serve, and the future of this country."

## A Message From The Chancellor

The last six months as Chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University have been the pinnacle of my professional career. The warmth, the sharing and the support my wife Peggy and I have received have been overwhelming. You have truly made us feel a part of this great Aggie family.

I am deeply touched to have the opportunity to serve at the helm of an institution that has been led by such distinguished leaders in education as John O. Crosby, James B. Dudley, F. D. Bluford, Warmoth T. Gibbs, Samuel D. Proctor, Lewis C. Dowdy, Cleon F. Thompson, and Edward B. Fort.



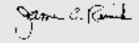
The challenges facing us are enormous but together we can continue to make this one of the best universities in the nation.

A&T has such a rich tradition and history — one that has been nurtured for more than 100 years. The A&T family working in unison can take this wonderful legacy, build on it and create a spectacular future. We can display our Aggie Pride, follow our 1999 Centennial theme, "No Steps Backward," and press even harder to move this university forward. Obviously some things such as quality will remain the same but we must stay on the cutting edge of science, technology, the arts and humanites in order to ensure our students will be globally competitive.

In order for us to advance our beloved institution, we need your continued support. You are our best ambassadors. You must continue to tell the story of A&T in your own passionate way, identify potential students and keep us aware of the career opportunities in your various localities. I invite you to visit the campus as often as possible, organize alumni chapters in areas where we have a small or large cadre of alumni residing and support the university financially.

This is your institution and we need your ideas and feedback on what we are doing. I will be traveling around the country meeting with many of you — getting your input and letting you know what is going on at this dynamic institution.

I look forward to many years of service to A&T and living in the Greensboro area, pointing the way toward educational opportunities for young people, as well as carrying out A&T's public service mission as servant to the people of North Carolina, the nation, and the world.



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## A&T Salutes Henry E. Frye

By Mable Springfield Scott

e always wanted to give something back for the good of society. He wanted to make a difference. He wanted to make things better for the next generation.

Henry E. Frye's dreams have unfolded over the years as he has motivated many with his successes, his lifestyle, his honesty and his poems.

Earlier this fall, Chancellor James C. Renick announced the Henry E. Frye Honors Program Endowment. "It offers an exciting, stimulating academic program for students who want rigorous, challenging courses," Renick said. "Henry Frye is the kind of role model our students need to see and emulate."

As a member of A&T's Class of '53, Frye has become a household name in North Carolina. On a sultry summer day several months ago, Governor James B. Hunt, flanked by many of the state's judicial and political leaders, explained why he chose Frye as the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

"Henry E. Frye was the best qualified person for the job," Hunt told a jam-packed audience with viewers also watching the ceremony on closed circuit television screens in several downtown Raleigh locations.

The national press pushed the fact that Hunt's appointment made Frye the first African-American to serve as Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. But Frye's life has been a constant string of firsts as his career has crisscrossed from the military, banking and law to the legislative and judicial branches of state government.

Amid all the cameras, reporters and microphones, Frye gave a moving speech and offered a memorable story about the importance of supporting others. "I am at this point in my life because many people helped me to get here," Frye said. The entire audience was brought to tears as Frye reminisced about his early days growing up in rural Ellerbe, N.C., where he was the eighth of 12 children.

Frye talked more about those years during a recent interview. "I was one among many," Frye said. "With such a big family, we had to look out for ourselves, survive, get along, give and take."

Living in Richmond County, Frye became an active part of the farming community. He helped his father with tobacco, cotton and a sawmill business. "We worked



Mrs. Shirley Frye holds the Bible as her husband, Chief Justice Henry E.Frye, takes his oath.

starting at sunrise," Frye said. "We had mules ... no tractors ... but real sweat. We got up with the chickens, did our chores, and we studied."

Hard farm work kept Frye focused in school. He was always at the top of his class. "I liked school, did well, stayed out of trouble and was active in church," Frye recounted. "We had the same principal, Mr. S.B.T. Easterling, from first through the 12th grades. He brought in grads who had done well to talk to us and set examples. Mr. Easterling used to say 'winners never quit and quitters never win.'"

Although Frye is an excellent conversationalist, he prefers not to talk much about himself. One nugget he did share was this impressionable quote from his former principal, "You never know when fate has chosen your name for a higher place."

Fate chose Frye's name following his formal educational foundation at A&T and from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law. Then, he spent a lifetime searching for ways to make things better.

"I knew that things could be better for me and for others," Frye said. "I had to ask myself what can I do to change things? My education was the beginning in order to prepare to do that."

Coupled with his impressive career has been a well-balanced life where family and friends are a must. Frye married his A&T sweetheart, the former Edith Shirley Taylor, in 1956 and they have two sons and three granddaughters. Shirley, also a member of the Class of '53, is vice president for community affairs at WFMY-TV, the CBS affiliate in Greensboro. The eldest son, Henry, is a judge and the youngest son, Harlan, is an administrator in state government.

Shirley said she was attracted to Frye because he was respectful, smart and had purpose. "Since our college dating days, Henry never broke a promise. You can bet on him because he will always follow through."

Dependability is what Shirley loves about her husband. "Henry is very family oriented. No matter what he has to do, he never forgets us."

Shirley said their relationship started in September 1950 with A&T's debate team in Harrison Auditorium. "Even then, I knew Henry worked hard and did not seek rewards. We started working together and we've been a team, complementing each other ever since. We are still best friends!"

Through all of his mountaintop experiences, Frye has stood out from the crowd because of his humor and his humility. He is a warm, personable man with a strong, confident spirit. He could make potentates and paupers feel at ease in his court. He has allowed his lessons from his days as a Sunday school teacher help shape his day-to-day interactions with people from all walks of life. Even on big publicity days with the press, he takes time to invite children in the audience to join him in the photographic sessions.

As Frye moved into his new role as Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, he discussed new initiatives, Power Point presentations, and electronic filing of briefs. Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and utilizing computer technology to strengthen his work is what Frye realizes is a necessity. "Staff development and continuing education is very important for all of us," Frye emphasized. "You are never too big to learn." ■

## A&T Gets Ph.D. Program In Industrial Engineering

he UNC Board of Governors has approved the establishment of a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) program in industrial engineering at North Carolina A&T State University.

This will be the third Ph.D. program at A&T and the second Ph.D. program in industrial engineering in the state

of North Carolina. The program began January 2000.

The Ph.D. in industrial engineering program is designed to prepare

students for
highly specialized positions, research and consulting
in industry, government and
service organizations, and for
teaching and research positions in
colleges and universities. It emphasizes three areas of specialization: humanmachine systems engineering, production systems engineering and management systems engineering.

Research activities in humanmachine systems engineering include the development of models to characterize the human operator interacting with complex systems such as modern aircraft and manufacturing systems, humanmachine interaction, quantitative human factor models, cognitive ergonomics, human reliability and safety, and intelligent teleoperation. In addition, decision aiding, intelligent supervisory control, and the application of artificial intelligence to real-time planning and simulation of behavioral-based problem solving. The human-machine systems specialization track will involve interdisciplinary cooperation between faculty in industrial and electrical engineering, computer science and psychology.

Production systems engineering research activities will include planning, design, implementation, operation, control and audit of

involve interactions with electrical and mechanical engineering through projects and course work.

Research activities in management systems engineering will be the application of mathematical sciences and engineering tools to the management of organizations in the areas of finance, insurance, health care, transportation, distribution, hospitality, entertainment, retail, education and government.

Among all of the universities in the United States, A&T holds the lead in graduating African Americans at the bachelor's and master's degree levels in industrial engineering.

Department chair Dr. Eui Park, said that the industrial engineering faculty at A&T has a strong record of scholarly achievement.

"The faculty has a demonstrated record of obtaining research contracts and grants," said Park. "The level of research funding for the department exceeded \$1.2 million, which was about \$200,000 per faculty member, during the 1998-99 school year."

Park added that the research expenditure per faculty at A&T has been rated as the eighth best among all industrial engineering programs in the nation by the American Society of Engineering Education in its most recent report.

For more information about the industrial engineering programs at A&T,

production and manufacturing systems; tools and methodologies from systems analysis and design theory, as applicable; and the use of computers and computer-based automation. This specialization track will

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## **Professor Finds Niche in Teaching and Research**

By Sandra M. Brown

R. Guochen Yang is the quintessential science teacher.
An award winning plant biotechnologist, Yang loves teaching others about work that is near and dear to his heart: nurturing cultures of different plant species – a process called plant micropropagation.

For Yang, an associate professor in the school of agriculture's department of natural resources and environmental design, the teaching part fulfills a lifelong dream.

"I enjoy teaching and research," he said. "I've wanted to teach since I was in kindergarten. My teachers were my role models."

Yang teaches undergraduate and graduate courses, advises graduate students, trains technicians, conducts workshops for high school teachers and confers with scientists from other countries about plant tissue culture. When he is not teaching, Yang spends a great deal of time in his laboratory, where he has such an intimate relationship with the specimens that he refers to them as his "test tube babies."

Yang has had documented success



with tissue culture, being able to mass produce good quality alfalfa and other plants (in vitro) that are disease resistant, weather tolerant and reproduce in record time. It was Yang's successes with alfalfa and other plants that earned him international recognition as a recipient of the 1999 U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary's Honor Award for Professional and Personal Excellence. He received the award for his pioneer contributions to the sustainability of agriculture.

Yang hopes that his pioneer work in alfalfa tissue culture will benefit mankind someday. He envisions disease and insect resistant crops that pose no danger to humans and other animals. Currently, he is content using biotechnology techniques to rescue endangered plant species, to mass propagate rare plant species and to multiply those plant species that are important for phytoremediation.

"I've had numerous opportunities to work in private industry and to earn much more money, but the university setting offers challenges, flexibility and the opportunity to help students."

A native of China, Yang has worked in higher education since 1982 — his entire professional career — spending the last five years at A&T. Over the last 10 years he has published 14 referred papers and 34 abstracts, with one manuscript under review. He earned his Ph.D. in horticulture and forestry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. ■

# CLASS OF 1952

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#### **Employee Giving Exceeds Goal**

North Carolina A&T State University exceeded its 1999-2000 State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) goal of \$60,000.

Thanks to more contributions at a higher level of giving, the campaign raised \$86,423.

The SECC allows state employees the opportunity to contribute to charitable organizations in an orderly and uniform process through one annual campaign. The combined effort enables over 1,200 charitable organizations to provide valuable services internationally, nationally, and statewide within all North Carolina communities.

Dr. Etta Gravely, chemistry professor, and Harriet F. Davis, director of development, served as campaign chair and co-chair, respectively.

## Jordan Returns to A&T Eager to Share Her Knowledge

By Nettie Collins Rowland

f you want to get chemistry professor Lynda Marie Jordan roused, just ask her about the students she teaches at North Carolina A&T State University.

The energetic Jordan returned to the University this fall after serving as a Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"I am on a mission," the award-winning biochemist said. "I am determined more than ever to teach my students that they are scholars who have a great deal to contribute to society."

Jordan was the first woman to be selected for the five-year-old MLK visiting professorship at MIT where there are no women professors of African descent with tenure or on a tenure track.

While teaching and conducting research at MIT for two years, Jordan says her creative juices started flowing again.

"I revalidated my brain," said the 42-year-old, who has been employed at the university since 1987.

"I was able to see what's on the cutting edge of all aspects of science and tap into my creativity."

A 1978 A&T graduate, Jordan points out that she has returned to her alma mater because she wants to give back to the university that nurtured and helped develop her into the person she is today.

"When I was an A&T student, the faculty saw my infirmities — they helped me overcome them and provided me with the knowledge I needed to compete in society," the warmhearted Jordan said.

Jordan, who admits to being outspoken and non-traditional, says she wants her students to know that they are unique individuals.

"I want them to feel good about who they are and not try to emulate anyone. I want them to be trailblazers, to know that it is all right to take a stand - even if they stand alone."

Jordan's students have nothing but praises for her.



"Dr. Jordan is a positive role model for minority women in science," said June Kearney, a 1991 A&T graduate who teaches chemistry at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount, N.C. "She is dedicated to her students. She inspired me to learn about research and to become an educator."

"Dr. Jordan is a powerful mentor that inspires many students across the United States, whether they are high school, undergraduate or graduate students," adds George Crawford, a 1995 A&T biology major who is currently pursuing a master of science degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. "Her tough love strengthens students and pushes them to work hard and to do their best, so that they will be leaders in their respected fields."

Jordan, who is in a male dominated profession, credits her grandmother with teaching her to be courageous and proud to be a woman.

"My grandmother was a very strong woman," said the down-to-earth Jordan.

In 1993, when Jordan was selected to appear in a series of one-hour television documentaries on notable women scientists, she consulted her grandmother before making the decision to participate in the project. She received her approval mainly because the project involved helping women. Jordan was the only black woman

selected for the series, which aired in the fall of 1994 on PBS.

The Boston native, who grew up in the inner city, traces her interest in science back to her high school days when she was in the federally funded Upward Bound Program. Joe Warren, an A&T graduate who worked for the Upward Bound Program, convinced her to sign up for the program. Through his mentoring and encouragement she decided to attend A&T.

The first of an extended family of 18 siblings to graduate from college, Jordan's degree was a tremendous accomplishment for her and her family. She went on to pursue a master's degree from Clark-Atlanta University. While acquiring her degree, her grandfather became deathly ill. He explained to Jordan that he could die now because the one thing he wanted in life - for one of his grandchildren to graduate from college - had been accomplished.

He told Jordan, "You go as far as you can and don't let anyone stop you in life."

The talented Jordan went on to complete her master's degree from Clark-Atlanta and earned her doctorate from MIT.

But Jordan's life was almost shortened in 1994 when she nearly died of high blood pressure, pneumonia, asthma and diabetes. The illnesses attacked her body at the same time. That was the same year that Jordan regained her faith in God. Prior to that time, she had turned from Christianity to Buddhism after being raped by a family acquaintance.

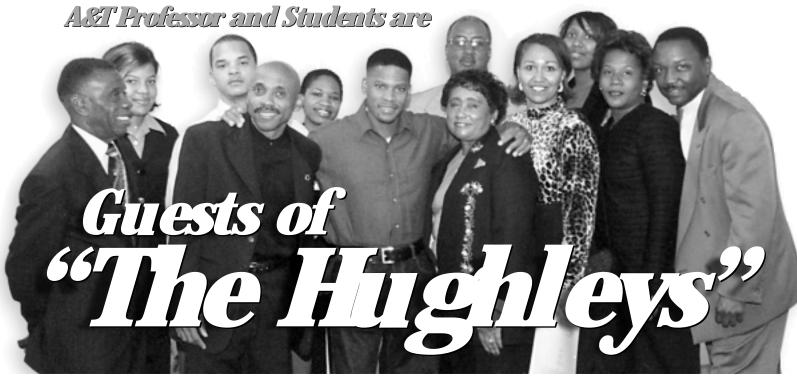
"I am very, very blessed," says Jordan who is now a Pentecostal minister along with 10 other ministers at Holy Temple United Church in Roxbury. "During my illness, I knew I was being called to the ministry. "I tried to resist it, but that didn't work. God had work for me to do."

Jordan, who calls herself an ambassador for Christ, says she wants her students to strive for excellence and be the best that they can be.

"Her words of encouragement are powerful for she has been through several storms and survived," Crawford said. "This lets students know that if she can make it, so can they and that through Christ all things are possible."

Jordan says her greatest joy comes when a student gets a degree and accomplishes the things he or she set out to do. ■

F E A T U R E



By Sandra M. Brown

our North Carolina A&T State University students recently accompanied their art professor on a trip to Los Angeles and had an opportunity to witness the taping of a popular sitcom, see a multi-million dollar art collection, attend a NBA game and meet a few celebrities.

Art education majors Kai Felder, Afeefah McCleary and Michael Pullum, and art design major Rashida Brandt, are still thanking Dr. Willie Hooker for the experience.

Hooker was invited by Warner Bros. to view a taping of "The Hughleys" because his painting, "Queen of Africa," appears on the set. The half-hour family show, which stars stand-up comedian D.L. Hughley as an African American entrepreneur who has achieved the American Dream, is broadcast on the ABC network on Fridays.

Hooker told his students about the trip and extended an open invitation to travel with him.

"Initially, I just wanted to support Dr. Hooker and travel because I had never been that far away from home," said Pullum, a 22-year-old senior art education major from Sanford, N.C.

The foursome, three of whom had never flown, said the trip evolved into an educational experience they will never forget.

Pullum and Felder, a 20-year-old sophomore and native of Asheville, N.C., said they didn't know it took so long to tape a half-hour show. "We were there about four hours, and they still weren't finished," Felder exclaimed.

In addition to visiting Universal Studios, the group toured the Getty Museum where they saw fine art worth millions of dollars, they attended a Clippers and 76ers game at the new Staples Center, they strolled down the Hollywood Walk of Fame and they visited Beverly Hills and Malibu. They even had chance meetings with R&B singer Jesse Powell, rapper Heavy D and actress Marla Gibbs.

Durham, N.C., native Brandt, 21, said that now she is even more confused about what to pursue after graduation in May. "There are so many options for visual artists ... I'm considering graduate school," said Brandt.

Hooker's work has gained national and international recognition, having exhibited in the United States, Central America and Europe. He has completed paintings for businesswoman Oprah Winfrey and entertainer Bill Cosby, and Front row, left to right: Willie Hooker, Jr., Dr. Willie Hooker, III, actor/comedian D. L. Hughley, Gladys Hooker, Pamela Swett, Marsher Boyd, Raymond Boyd. Back row, left to right: Afeefahy McCleary, Michael Pullum, Rashida Brandt, Terry Barksdale, Kai Felder.

he is producing works for comedians Steve Harvey and Cedric "The Entertainer."

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Hooker studied art and received degrees from Tennessee State University (B.S.), George Peabody/Vanderbilt University (M.A.) and Illinois State University (Ed.D.).

All of the students agreed that they have a renewed respect for Hooker. McCleary said that the professor has inspired them to work harder.

"Dr. Hooker leads by example," Pullum added. "He wants us to work hard, but he also spends long hours in the studio. In California I observed the way he interacted with other professionals, and I've made mental notes on how to conduct myself in the future."

In February, Hooker will take eight students to an art show at Yale University where he will be a featured artist. In April, Hooker and 20 students will participate in a faculty/student show at Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Fla. ■

Members of the Class of 2000 Define

# Aggie Pride

### And Their Reasons for Attending A&T

By Vonetta A. Lilly (Senior Public Relations Major)

roud, confident and boastful, the class of 2003 explains their ideas of what "Aggie Pride" means to them and why they chose to attend A&T.

The freshman class has hit the ground running with an overwhelming idea of what "Aggie Pride" actually means. In such a short time being on the campus of A&T, this class has received the hospitality and warmth of the Aggie family and has responded wonderfully. The A&T experience, thus far, has given these freshmen the proof they needed to confirm they made the right decision.

When asked why they chose to attend A&T, there were various responses such as "They showed me so much love and comfort when I came for orientation," said Sha-Quana Carter, a psychology major from Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I know A&T is one of the best colleges academically. I like the professors

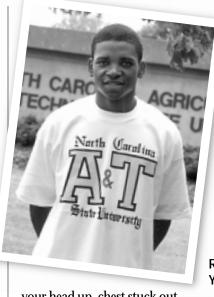
and class size because you get all the help and attention you desire," said Ronnell Yadkins, a graphic communications systems major from Burlington.

Although some students choose A&T for its atmosphere some choose it for other reasons. "I chose to come to A&T because of its marching band," said Queen Laster, a music major from Wilmington. "I saw the Blue and Gold Marching Machine once in 1992 and again in last year's Aggie-Eagle Classic. Being a music major, I knew that A&T was the way to go."

"Aggie Pride" is a term that we all use, but do we know what it really means? Well, the new freshman class has more than proven they know what it means and portrays it when given the opportunity.

"Aggie Pride means you accept and acknowledge A&T, its administration and students even if you do not know them," said Trina Logan, a broadcast production major from Durham.

"To me, Aggie Pride is walking with



Ronnell Yadkins

your head up, chest stuck out, and loving every minute of being an Aggie," said Sherard Cohen, business management major from Wadesboro. "There is so much love and unity here, you could not pay me to leave. I feel blessed to be a student at A&T."

These students show their pride whether they are on campus, at an event or in their home towns by acknowledging one another and the fact that they attend a "world class university."

One thing all classifications need to remember, "Aggie Pride" is a wonderful thing, but the only way you can be a true Aggie is to walk out of A&T with a degree. Carter gave the best explanation of "Aggie Pride."

"I am an Aggie in training. By the time graduation rolls around, I will be a true Aggie." ■

## **Zeta Sigma Chapter Recognized**

orth Carolina A&T State University's Zeta Sigma Chapter of the national accounting fraternity Beta Alpha Psi was recognized as a "Superior" chapter at the 1999 National Meeting in San Diego, Calif.

The chapter has received this rating for 15 consecutive years, a feat unequaled by any other school in North Carolina. The Zeta Sigma Chapter begins every year with a plan of activities that detail the chapter's goals. At the end or the year, the chapter assesses whether or not the planned goals and activities were accomplished. The annual evaluation report typically summarizes over 80 activities that were performed during the year. Along with receiving the superior rating, two members of the chapters are awarded \$500.

The recipients of the scholarships this year are two senior accounting majors, LaDania McCaskill and Cassandra McSwain. McCaskill, a native of Toms River, N.J., is the current president of the

organization. She is the daughter of Johnnie McCaskill. McSwain is a former president of Toastmasters and is the current reporting secretary of the chapter. She is from Shelby N.C., and is the daughter of Thomas McSwain and Peggie McSwain.

The scholarships are sponsored by KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP, and were awarded by Kimberly Johnson, manager in the Atlanta Office. She is an A&T alumnae and former Zeta Sigma president. Along with presenting the scholarships, she presented a program entitled "The Importance of Communication Skills in Corporate America."

Beta Alpha Psi was founded in 1919 on the campus of the University of Illinois. Only accredited business programs can have Beta Alpha Psi chapters. Although there are more than 250 chapters in the nation, A&T is only one of three historically black colleges and universities who have a Beta Alpha Psi chaper. ■

A&T TODAY/WINTER 2000 11

magine being able to take courses and communicate with an instructor without leaving the comfort of your abode. For some 90+ students at North Carolina A&T State University, that dream is a reality thanks to the Internet and the availability of online courses.

Distance education and virtual classrooms are growing trends on campuses across the nation with over 100 institutions offering coursework online. The trend caught on at A&T last spring, and over the summer 10 courses were developed for the fall 1999 semester. Brandon Hall" to assist faculty and staff. Hall is editor and publisher of *Multimedia & Internet Training Newsletter*.

Will online courses and virtual campuses have an impact on traditional education and the quality of instruction?

"Virtual campuses will definitely have an impact on traditional education, if only in the expansion of possibilities brought about by the technology," said Patricia O'Connor, coordinator of distance learning at A&T.

"Already, this campus is experiencing the change through the expansion of research possibilities with the NC Live library linkage among the UNC system and beyond, which allows access

nity to register for courses taught totally online and participate in classes broadcast to off-campus sites through interactive television."

O'Connor said the quality of education could be enhanced through the use of technology in the ways referenced above and through the introduction of the uses of technology in educational settings.

"The exchange of information with persons other than on-site classmates and instructors, with other experts in the field of study, and with the expanded access to source materials through Internet connections also has great potential to enhance the quality of education on campus," O'Connor said.

# Online Courses

## **Changing the Face of the Classroom**

During the fall semester, A&T had 92 students enrolled in online courses in five disciplines (computer science, electronics and computer technology, graphic communications systems and technology education, and adult education).

"I love online courses and the independence they allow," said Sheay Simmons-Lott, a junior business administration major from Summerville, S.C., whose entire course load is being taken online this semester.

"As a 25-year-old nontraditional student, I don't need the structure of a classroom setting," she explained. "I'm free to read and learn at my own pace as long as I meet the requirements and deadlines set by my professors. Furthermore, there isn't the hassle of getting to and from classes."

Online courses at A&T are made possible in part with a partnership with eCollege, which is the leading provider of the Internet teaching platform. eCollege was contracted by A&T last spring to assist in the design, management and launching of online courses, and it continues to serve the university in that capacity. This fall, eCollege sponsored "A Dinner Discussion with



to a mass of educational materials outside the campus library.

"There is also the use of technology in the teaching of on-campus courses such as video streaming, CD-ROM, combining face-to-face instruction with online instruction. Additionally, on-campus students have the opportu-

Online coursework is just one of many viable solutions to problems facing students and campuses nowadays. Individuals who must fit classes in between work, family and other activities, as well as those who want to avoid the hassles associated with commuting might consider online courses in the future.

## Development Corner



I am honored to have this opportunity to work for such a distinguished university. The students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends and the Greensboro community take great pride in the institution. 'Aggie Pride" is very special and was built upon outstanding

individuals and achievements that came well in advance of my arrival.

I'm very impressed by the current leadership of Chancellor James C. Renick and his team, Reverend Howard Chubbs, chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. John Petty, president of the Alumni Association and Mr. Obrie Smith, president of the North Carolina A&T University Foundation. They all have welcomed me with open arms and support. Other individuals also have been extremely supportive of me since I arrived at the University.

What I foresee for the Division of Development and University Relations is fairly simple. I believe in the "3 A's" – accountability, accessibility and assertiveness. For every dollar and gift received we must be accountable and recognize quickly our appreciation. We will be accountable for each event, activity or correspondence so that a state of excellence exists. Accessibility involves openness and a supportive environment for all that emphasizes communication. I will need your thoughts and ideas, as will everyone in the division, to move to a higher level of activity. We will be more assertive in asking for your advice, support and, yes, monetary gifts and other resources to achieve our goals.

This will require a little time and reorganization of current staffing. I need your thoughts about where we should be going in three areas: public relations/marketing, alumni services and programming and fundraising. Advisory committees will be formed soon to develop a strategic plan for each of the areas. I seek your input.

Finally, a big thanks to the Alumni Association for establishing the Down East Scholarship Fund to assist students affected by Hurricane Floyd. A&T has 1,250 students whose families were affected by the flood. Some students have had to withdraw from the University and many of their families lost everything, including their place of employment. These factors make it difficult if not impossible to pay tuition. So, for some, a degree looks like a luxury item. We need your financial support for the Down East Scholarship Fund. Use the envelope attached and support the Henry E. Frye Honors Program Endowment or the Down East Scholarship Fund. Both are exciting projects that need your monetary support.

I look forward to working with you and I can be contacted by e-mail at: dhoard@ncat.edu, or call me at (336) 334-7600.

Let's work together to move our mutual interests forward.

David W. Hoard

## Hoard To Lead Development And University Relations Division

avid W. Hoard, former vice chancellor of development at North Carolina Central University (NCCU), has been named vice chancellor for A&T's development and university relations division. He started his new role at A&T on Nov. 15. Hoard replaced Dr. Robert Shepherd who had served as interim vice chancellor since August 1998.

"David's stellar track record and proven leadership ability will help us build a productive development office that is so vital to our future growth," A&T Chancellor James C. Renick said. "We are very fortunate to have recruited such a talented professional."

Hoard joined NCCU in 1995 and directed a \$50 million capital campaign with more than 70 percent of the goal raised. He created structure and synergy for a successful campaign by raising \$26 million in three years without using any outside counsel. The campaign is scheduled to end in 2000.

His tenure as head of the development office at NCCU represented the largest growth in fund raising in the school's history. It also represented the largest campaign ever for a public, liberal arts, historically black university.

Under Hoard's leadership Central's annual fund grew from \$80,000 to \$1.3 million; annual scholarships increased from \$200,000 to \$2.3 million; and the endowment increased from \$3 million to over \$16 million with gifts and marker growth. Hoard created a non-profit organization devoted to community development involving the university and community residents living within a one-mile radius of the campus; established a Parent's Association; and supervised the university's overall development operations, alumni affairs, community relations, marketing, public relations, and foundation. In addition, he established a 10 percent capital campaign fee to create a self supporting operating budget for the development office.

#### DAVID W. HOARD

Hometown:

Philadelphia, Pa. Married to Sharon Saylor One daughter, Taylor Marissa

Family:

#### **Education:**

Completed course work towards Master of Arts, history degree, University of Maryland, Baltimore campus with the thesis pending: CASE's Minority Institutional Advancement Fellowship Program, 1990; George Washington University, Executive Management Certificate Program, Fund Raising Administration concentration, 1986; Oberlin College, B.A., 1981

#### **Employment History:**

Washington Center, Program Associate, Washington, D.C., 1982-1985; Washington Center, Director of Seminar Division, Washington, D.C., 1985-1989; Towson State University, Associate Director of Alumni Services, 1989-1991; Towson State University, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, April –August 1991; Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement –State System of Higher Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA 1992-1995; and Vice Chancellor of Development, North Carolina Central University 1995–1999

By Mable Springfield Scott

ore than 40,000 people spent over \$10 million during North Carolina A&T State University's

Homecoming Celebration.

Although the War Memorial Auditorium could accommodate only 2,500 fans, 10,000 folks camped out Friday before dawn in an attempt to attend *Tom Joyner Sky Show's* live, syndi-



Left:

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Jr., '64, poses with Miss North Carolina A&T State University, Gabrielle Hurtt, at A&T's Homecoming Game.

Below:

Golden Delight Dancers jam with Tom Joyner and the Tom Joyner Sky Show.

in 99 markets across America. Hundreds were registered to vote and people came from as far away as London, England, for America's hottest radio show that raises

million of dollars for historically black colleges and universities.

cated broadcast promoting Greensboro

While the A&T football team competed against Howard University before a capacity crowd, international ambassador Rev. Jesse Jackson circled the football field like an Olympic gladiator carrying his alma mater's blue and gold banner as supporters applauded. Jackson also motivated A&T football players by visiting the Aggie locker room and giving a pre-game pep talk.

Rapper Big Joe and his entourage, along with The Terror Squad, grabbed attention walking around the stadium while casually waving to rap enthusiasts and hip hoppers. But people really pumped A&T's award-winning band when the Blue and Gold Marching Machine moved into a rocket formation while dedicating the halftime show in memory of astronaut Ron McNair, an A&T alumnus.

UNC Board of Governors Chairman Ben Ruffin, Chancellor and Mrs. James C. Renick, Judge Lawrence

### hit the Piedmont last October

McSwain, and A&T Trustees Ralph Shelton and Michael Suggs led a delegation of Triad business, educational and civic leaders in the annual Richard E. Moore Memorial Aggie Homecoming Golf Tournament at Bryan Park.

Students packed Corbett Sports Center for the mesmerizing Greek Show featuring fraternities and sororities stepping their stuff.

Splendor, grace and beauty reigned during the magnificent coronation of Miss A&T, Gabrielle Hurtt, and many other queens representing campus organizations.

Streets in East Greensboro were jammed with traffic during the two-mile long Homecoming Parade filled with floats, cars, politicians, entertainers, the Aggie bulldog, and bands from North Carolina and adjoining states.

Old schoolers reminisced to One-ofa-Kind Love Affair" with The Spinners; students sang during a midnight gospel musical; and some stayed up till dawn at a gospel lock-in at Wells Memorial Church of God in Christ.

Dozens lined up to participate in the annual Aggie Scholarship Bowling Tournament at Buffaloe Lanes.

Aggies celebrated a 51-0 victory over the Howard University Bison with parties at The Depot, the Greensboro Hilton, Koury Convention Center, Greensboro Coliseum, Winston-Salem Coliseum, on campus, and in hundreds of homes.

The alumni worship service was inspiring and uplifting thanks to the A&T Fellowship Gospel Choir and Rev. William Wright, an A&T alumnus and Greensboro Pulpit Forum chair.

Representatives from many local churches joined students and staff for the gospel concert featuring award-winning gospel great, The Richard Smallwood Singers.

Amidst the throngs, tents, tailgaters, soul food vendors, and East Market Street banners, we witnessed a diverse crowd excited about A&T and fired up with Aggie Pride! ■

## FOUR A&T GRADUATES PROMOTED TO COLONEL

or the first time in North Carolina A&T State University's history, four alumni in the same graduating class have been promoted during the same year to the rank of colonel by the Air Force. The 1977 graduates are Thurmon L. Deloney II, Daniel A. McFadgen, Russell G. Richardson and Wilma F. Slade.

"We are very proud of our graduates," said Dr. James C. Renick, A&T chancellor. "This is quite an accomplishment for our University. These officers received their basic training from our ROTC program and have gone on to have successful military careers."

Maj. Gen. Donald A. Lamontagne, Commander, Air Force Personnel Center, also gave accolades to the officers.

"My thanks and congratulations go out to North Carolina A&T State University for producing such a large, competitive group of Air Force officers," Lamontagne said.

"The resulting 57 percent promotion rate was above the board average of 41 percent and placed Detachment 605's graduates in the top 20 percent of all ROTC detachments. Looking at just absolute numbers, four selects from one university was unusually high and placed Detachment 605 in the top 6 percent of ROTC detachments."

A native of Riverside, Ca., Deloney grew up in Greensboro. He graduated from A&T at the top of his class with a 4.0 G.P.A. and was the first student to graduate from the University with all A's.

Deloney is chief of the Systems **Engineering and Space Environmental** System Division at the Los Angeles Air Force Base. He is responsible for developing and implementing common engineering and operational standards for weather satellites, and managing the space environmental program. He worked on the development of the space based laser, which is first of the Ballistic Missile Defense Program (formerly known as 'star wars').



Deloney



McFadgen





Richardson

Slade

Deloney received his M.S. degree electrical engineering Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

He is the son of Lt. Col. Thurmon Deloney (USAF, ret.) and Mattie Deloney.

McFadgen is the deputy chief of the Saudi Arabia Division of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs in Washington, D.C.

He manages the Department of Defense's largest security assistant program with \$34 billion in foreign military sales and assists in the management of all USAF international programs for the country of Saudi Arabia.

His division develops implementation strategies for coalition defense supporting the United States national security objectives and recommends courses of action to USAF leaders who shape the United States Government policy in the Gulf region.

He received his masters in business administration and management from Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.

McFadgen and his wife Pamela, have four daughters, Dawn, Brianna, Miaisha, and Hali.

Richardson is deputy commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group in the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C. He provides leadership to six squadrons of more than 1,600 military and civilian personnel in support of the 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing's 92 F-15 E and 916th Air Refueling Wing's 10 KC-135 aircraft.

He also directs maintenance, training, plans, mobility and Gold Flag functions to solidify the global capabilities of the 4th FW's F-15 E and 916 ARW's KC-135 assets.

A native of Raleigh, N.C., Richardson has held a variety of assignments in the missile operations munitions and aircraft maintenance career fields.

Richardson received his master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University.

Richardson is married to the former Toussaint Saunders. They have three children, Stacia, Marcus and Jasmine.

Slade was the first female Cadet Wing Commander, which is the highest cadet rank, at AFROTC Detachment 605.

She is the director for Space Based Infrared Systems Contracts in the Space and Missile Systems Center at the Air Force Material Command at the Los Angeles Air Force Base in California.

Slade leads a 28-person contracting office that negotiates and administers 31 major development and procurement contracts to develop, deploy, and sustain space-based surveillance systems for missile warning, missile defense, battlespace characterization, and technical intelligence for space launches and global and theater ballistic missile attacks against the United Sates and its allies. The 27 billion portfolio of space and ground systems includes the Defense Support Program, Shield/Attack and Launch Early Reporting and the next generation Space Based Infrared Systems.

She received her master of science degree in contracting and acquisition management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. ■

## Aggies On The Move

#### Reginald Reeves '47

was featured in the Wood River Journal for having donated blood for the 176<sup>th</sup> time. Reeves whose blood type puts him in the 15 percent of the population category, gives blood several times a year. He has been donating blood for more than 40 years.

#### Annie Marable Brown '53

received the 1999 Eugene T. Carothers Human Relations Award. The award is given to leaders who foster justice and equal opportunity for all people, regardless of race, religion, national origin, economic status, sex or age; and who develop respect, mutual understanding and civic cooperation among people of all backgrounds.

#### Edwin Crocker '64

attended the swearing-in ceremony of Bismarck Myrick as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia, July 23, at the State Department in Washington.

#### Ronald Harris '69

has been promoted to manager of R. J. Reynolds Facility Maintenance and Grounds. He will be responsible for RJR facility maintenance crew, grounds maintenance and elevator maintenance and inspection program.

#### Reginald L. Brown Jr. '70

vice president of U.S. solutions sales for Oracle Service Industries, an \$8 billion California-based supplier of software for information management was featured in the August edition of Ebony Magazine.

#### Rosalind Speight Cleveland '74

received Vice President Gore's prestigious National Partnership for Reinventing Government's Hammer Award for reinventing government to make it operate more efficiently and effectively. She also was selected to participate in a 15-month Leadership 2000 training institute, which

will prepare her to assume a high-level management government job for the new millennium.

#### Linda Mayhand '74

president and CEO of Mayhand Industrial Sales, received the 1999 "Atlanta Firm Pacesetter of the Year Award" at the annual Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week awards luncheon in September. MED Week observes and promotes the accomplishments of minority-owned firms under the direction of the U.S. Small Business Administration for their accomplishments of the nation's minorityowned business.

#### **Bonnie Newman Davis '79**

has been elected Region 3 director of the National Association of Black Journalists. Region 3 includes Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C.

#### Dr. Hilton Maria Shaw Gilbert '84

has been named to the executive board of directors for the South Carolina Council on Adoptable Children (COAC). COAC works to find permanent homes for children who are currently in foster

#### Andrea Turnage Walbrook '85

a recipient of the Howard University/ Purdue University Doctoral fellowship in Communication Science and Disorders, recently completed the requirement for the Ph.D. In defense of her dissertation, her research was "An Examination of Language Outcomes for Pre-school Age."

#### Vicki Hinton McCain '87

has been promoted to executive assistant to the vice-president for General Dynamics.

#### Franklin McCain Jr. '87

has been promoted to assistant vicepresident, financial advisor of Paine and Webber:

#### Thomas Stanley '88

has been named commercial sales manager for the southeast department for Silicon Graphic, Inc., in Atlanta, Ga. Stanley is overall commercial sales activity for Silicon from Maryland to Florida, including Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

#### **Anzio Williams '94**

an assistant news director at WCNC-TV in Charlotte, N.C., was featured in the July edition of the Communicator, the magazine for electronic journalists.

#### **Gregory Williams '96** Cedric Sapp '96

Williams directed a music video for Platinum Entertainment recording artist Rudy. The song was titled "Do It Like" Us." Sapp was the artistic director for the video. Williams and Sapp can be spotted working the cameras behind the scenes on the Kings of Comedy Tour that is presently the largest grossing black comedy tour.

#### Keidre L. Jenkins '97

a medical student at the Medical University of South Carolina has won a \$2000 Medical Association Scholarship.

#### Omarr E. Tobias '98

received his commission as a naval officer after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Naval Aviation Schools Command, Naval Air Station, Pensacola,

#### Desmond T. Sharpe '99

has become the first undergraduate admitted into North Carolina State University's Biological and Agricultural Engineering Graduate School as a doctoral candidate.

#### Lakesha Dunbar

has joined the engineering staff at Kubilins Transportation Group, Inc. Greensboro branch. Dunbar will serve as an engineer technician assisting with transportation projects.

L. Jarrett, a native of Neptune, N.J., has written her first fictional novel entitled, Sunday Brunch.

Sunday Brunch is about five African-American female attorneys who are at different stages professionally, socially and spiritually. Every Sunday they meet at

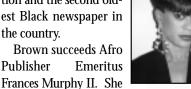


Etienne's Café for brunch to discuss their careers, romances, marriage, life and spiritual issues. The book retails at \$15.95. It can be ordered through your local bookstore or directly from Jarrett, email address, nljarrett@hotmail.com. The book also is available on the internet at www.barnesnoble.com. In addition to Sunday Brunch, Jarrett has written a nonfictional work, Coffee Table Quotes for the Contemporary Christian.

Jarrett received her undergraduate degree from A&T in1997 and law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1999.

Janice Frink Brown, a native of Southport, N.C., was recently appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Washington Afro-

American newspaper, a 107-year-old publication and the second oldest Black newspaper in the country.





has been with the company for six years, serving in the capacity of fashion, entertainment, health, city and education reporter. In her present position, she directs the editorial department, inclusive of reporters, correspondents and the editorial content of the newspaper.

In addition to her duties at the Afro, Brown works as a morning traffic reporter for Pacifica Radio, WPEW 89.3 FM Jazz and public affairs station. She is also employed with Fox Television, WTTG Channel 5 as a weekend field reporter and is a freelance writer for Heart & Soul, a national health, fitness and beauty magazine published by Black Entertainment Television.

Brown received a fashion merchandising degree from A&T in 1980.

**George A. L. Gant** was awarded the coveted Adhesive and Sealant (ASC) Award for his outstanding achievements as a scientist,

manager, educator, author and volunteer. The Adhesive and Sealant Council serves as a leading marketplace for the exchange of

information about products and services and interfacing among manufacturers, suppliers and others in the industry.

The award was presented in October during the ASC Award



Dinner at the Pittsburgh, Pa. Hilton and Towers. Gary Anderson, president of Dow Corning was one of three guest speakers at the event.

A native of Greensboro, N.C., Gant joined Dow Corning in Midland Michigan in 1965. Optimism is his gift. His enthusiasm and passion for life serves an inspiration to all. While working at the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society he coined the phrase, "P.A.C.E." - Positive Attitude Changes Everything. This phrase is inscribed on awards named in his honor. Gant is the past recipient of the MS Achievement Award and the Hope Award.

He received his B.S. in 1962 and M.S. degree in 1963 in chemistry from A&T.

**Betty Howell Gray** received the National Lifetime Achievement Award and was inducted into the National Alliance of Black

Schools Educators (NABSE) 1999 Hall of Fame. The award is presented to persons who have exercised exceptional leadership qualities and who through their talents



have made systemic impacts at the local, state and national levels in the field of education.

Gray has received numerous awards including the 1996 Christa McAuliffe Award in School Administration and the "Washington Woman '98 Power of One"

Gray is the founder and president of the Seattle Alliance of Black School Educators which was organized in 1995 as an affiliate of NABSE to fulfill the needs of Black Educators and students in the greater Seattle

Gray received her B.S. degree from A&T, M.S. degree from the University of Washington and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. degree.

#### **Memorials**

"Aggies We Will Miss You"

Harold Vincent '39 Juanita M. Moore '40 Daniel R. Ray '46 Edward D. Clark '48 Ernest Pinckney Robinson '48 John "Gip" Gibson '49 Henry Bryant '51 Mattie Barnes Harris '53 Roger Norris McKee '53 Archie Smith Jr. '59 Doris White '61 Gloria Rankin '75 Eric Crump '93 Doris Vaughn Eric Wooten Deborah J. Dew Felicia Minor Robert Willis Gordon Walton

### **Aggie Note**

A&T Today encourages the submission of articles and information concerning the alumni of Carolina A&T State North University.

If you have material that you feel would be an addition to this publication, please forward to:

**Nettie Rowland** 

**Development and University Relations** North Carolina A&T State University 1601 East Market Street Greensboro, North Carolina 27411 (Email to rowlandn@ncat.edu)

#### **AGGIES We Want** To Keep You Informed.

Please mail or email us the following information: Name **Address** 

Telephone Number **Email Address** 

(Email to harrelsc@ncat.edu)

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## Campus TidBits

Items of News, Facts and Interest to help keep all Aggies in the know!

Pr. David Boger, dean of the School of Education, has been appointed to serve on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. ■

The Association for Business Communication has selected an article by A&T business professors Frank Griffin and Lillie Anderton-Lewis as the 1999 article of the year for Business Communication Quarterly. The article, "Enhancing Connections Between Students and Instructors: African-American Students Use of Computer-Mediated Communication," explores the use of e-mail and the Internet to bridge the language barriers between students and their teachers.

Pr. Beryl McEwen, chair of the business education department, has been elected president of the Office Systems Research Association, a professional organization that pursues research and education in information technology and user information systems. ■

**Beverly Wallace**, director of A&T's Upward Bound program, has been elected president of the North Carolina Council of Educational Opportunity Programs. ■

A paper written by **Dr. Jerry Thorne**, assistant professor of accounting, was selected by unanimous vote for the 1999 Government and Non-Profit Best Annual Meeting Paper Award at the American Accounting Association's annual meeting in San Diego.

Dr. Linda Florence Callahan, chair of the department of speech communication and theatre arts, has been elected secretary of the board of directors of the Black College Communication Association. ■

A&T, is among four universities, to receive an \$18 million grant from the National Science Foundation to establish a new Science and Technology Center. This is the largest grant ever received by the University of North Carolina System. The other universities participating in the project are UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University and the University of Texas-Austin. ■

**D**r. Lorna H. Harris, professor and dean of the School of Nursing, has been appointed by James B. Black, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives to serve as a member of the North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control. ■

The North Carolina A&T State University
Center for Aerospace Research is the recipient of a second \$200,000 National Aeronautics
and Space Administration (NASA) Partnership
Awards for Innovative and Unique Education and
Research Projects. ■

**D**r. Robert Davis, director of institutional assessment and professor of sociology, has been appointed by the North Carolina Social Services Commission to serve on the Guilford County Board of Social Services. ■

Pr. Fasih Ahmed, professor of sociology, has been elected chair of the Piedmont Interfaith Council Board of Directors. ■

A&T is one of six minority universities awarded Partnership Awards to conduct education and research projects with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Marshall Center is NASA's premier organization for developing space transportation and propulsion systems and for conducting microgravity research. ■

A profile of **Joyce Johnson** director of A&T's Transportation Institute, will be featured in the May/June issue of Transportation Research News.

**D**r. David Bellin, associate professor of computer science, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to assist in research at the University of Kathmandu, Nepal. ■

**Dr. Teresa Styles**, associate professor of mass communications, served as producer, writer and reporter for a UNC-TV North Carolina Now feature entitled "African American Watermen." ■

Street and Smith's Black College Football ranks the North Carolina A&T State University Marching Band No. 7 among the best black college bands, The Sizzlin' Seven. ■

Dr. Christopher Cobitz, instructional technology specialist, and Lucy Miller, 1997
National Technology Teacher of the Year, have produced a guide to assist teachers and other educators in implementing the nationally recognized (Students Working to Advance Technology) program. ■

Dr. Celestine Ntuen and Dr. Eui Park, professors in the industrial and systems engineering department, have been selected by the American Council for Education to serve as evaluators for college credit distance learning courses proposed by business and industry, labor unions and government agencies. ■

Indicate L. Suggs, senior director of public affairs, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; Henry H. Isaacson, attorney, Isaacson and Isaacson and Kendra J. Hill, president, A&T Student Government Association have been named to the university's Board of Trustees. ■

The School of Business and Economics has achieved reaffirmation for its baccalaureate degree programs in business and accounting by AACSB - (American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business) The International Association for Management Education. ■

Patricia Shelton, an associate professor in the School of Nursing, published an article entitled "Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screening in African American Men" in the Journal of National Black Nurses Association. ■

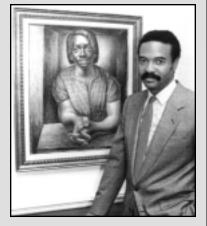
The World Famous

## Walter O. Evans Collection of African American Art

on exhibit at NC A&T State University, in the H.C. Taylor Art Gallery

April 19 - July 9, 2000

For additional information Call 336-334-3209



## 1999-2000 Freshman Scholars



Vaché N. Blagmon



**Ellis Cozart** 



James Mason



Jermal Miller

## North Carolina A&T State University National Alumni Scholars



NAME	CLASSIFICATION	MAJOR	HOMETOWN
Judith Archie	Senior	Electrical Engineering	Indianapolis, IN
Deana Marshall	Senior	Accounting	Kinston, NC
Candice Coltrane	Junior	Electrical Engineering	Yanceyville, NC
Tnitra King	Sophomore	Computer Science	Wilson, NC
Alejandro White	Sophomore	Engineering Science	Greensboro, NC
Dana Moore	Sophomore	Computer Science	Fayetteville, NC
Shakira Sumpter (Ron McNair)	Senior	Architectural Engineering	Monks Corner, SC
Brandy Beasley (Special )	Senior	Industrial Engineering	Randallstown, MD
Fenia Moore	Junior	Accounting	Philadelphia, PA
Ian Bridgers	Sophomore	Business Management	Virginia Beach, VA

### Mark Your Calendar!!! **COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND**

Chancellor's Inauguration April 20, 2000 1:30 p.m. Corbett Sports Center Alumni Association Annual Meeting Friday, May 12, 2000 Holiday Inn Four Seasons 6:00 p.m.

Commencement
Saturday,
May 13, 2000
9:00 a.m.
Greensboro Coliseum





February	1			
Wed.	2	UNC-C	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sat.	5	VMI	12:00 Noon	Greensboro, NC
Sun.	6	VMI	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Wed.	9	UNCG	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Fri.	11	MARYLAND	3:00 p.m	Greensboro, NC
Sat.	12	UMES	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sun.	13	UMES	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Wed.	16	CAMPBELL	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sat.	19	RADFORD	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sun.	20	RADFORD	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Wed.	23	DAVIDSON	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sat.	26	HIGH POINT	12:00 Noon	High Point, NC
Sun.	27	HIGH POINT	1:00 p.m.	High Point, NC
March				
Wed.	1	@ELON	2:30 p.m.	Elon, NC
Sat.	4	@MARSHALL	1:00 p.m.	Huntington, WV
Sun.	5	@ MARSHALL	1:00 p.m.	Huntington, WV
Wed.	8	WOFFORD	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Thurs.	9	DELAWARE STATE	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Fri.	10	DELAWARE STATE	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sat.	11	NORFOLK STATE	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sun.	12	NORFOLK STATE	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Wed.	15	@UNC-C	6:00 p.m.	Charlotte, NC
Sat.	18	@FAMU	1:00 p.m.	Tallahassee, FL
Sun.	19	@FAMU	1:00 p.m.	Tallahassee, FL
Wed.	22	DUKE	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sat.	25	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sun.	26	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Wed.	29	HIGH POINT	3:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
ADDII				
APRIL Sat.	1	FAMU	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Tue.	2	FAMU	1:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Thur.	4	@DUKE	3:00 p.m.	Durham, NC
Wed.	5	@HIGH POINT	3:00 p.m.	High Point, NC
Sat.	8	COPPIN ST.	12:00 Noon	Greensboro, NC
Sun.	9	COPPIN ST.	12:00 Noon	Greensboro, NC
Wed.	12	@UNC-G	6:00 p.m.	Greensboro, NC
Sat.	15	@BETHUNE COOKMAN	1:00 p.m.	Daytona, FL
Sun	16	@BETHUNE COOKMAN	1:00 p.m.	Daytona, FL
Wed.	19	@CAMPBELL	6:00 p.m.	Boies Creek, NC
Sat.	22	@NORFOLK ST	1:00 p.m.	Norfolk, VA
Sun.	23	@NORFOLK ST	1:00 p.m.	Norfolk, VA
Wed.	26	@DAVIDSON	3:00 P.M.	Davidson, NC
Fri-Sun	28-30	MEAC TOURNAMENT	TBA	Ormond Beach, F

10-11	FriSat.	Florida A&M Tournament	Tallahassee, FL	TBA
14	Tuesday	Elon College	Greensboro, NC	2:30 p.m.
17	Friday	Winthrop Invitational	Rock Hill, SC	TBA
18	Saturday	Winthrop Invitational	Rock Hill, SC	TBA
19	Sunday	Winthrop Invitational	Rock Hill, SC	TBA
20	Monday	Maryland Eastern Shore	Greensboro, NC	5:00 p.m.
22	Wednesday	Radford University	Radford, VA	2:00 p.m.
24	Friday	SC State Tournament	Orangeburg, SC	TBA
25	Saturday	SC State Tournament	Orangeburg, SC	TBA
27	Monday	UNC-Wilmington	Wilmington, NC	2:00 p.m.
29	Wednesday	Norfolk State	Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m.
_,	recurresaug			
	Friday	Florida A&M	Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m.
31 April	Friday		Greensboro, NC	,
31 April	Friday Saturday	Bethune-Cookman	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.
31 April 1 3	Friday  Saturday  Monday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
31 April 1 3 5	Friday  Saturday  Monday  Wednesday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
31 April 1 3 5	Friday  Saturday  Monday  Wednesday  Friday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University Hampton	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Hampton, VA	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.
31 April 1 3 5 7	Friday  Saturday  Monday  Wednesday  Friday  Saturday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University Hampton Norfolk State	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Hampton, VA Norfolk, VA	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
31 April 1 3 5 7 8 11	Saturday Monday Wednesday Friday Saturday Tuesday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University Hampton Norfolk State Elon College	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Hampton, VA Norfolk, VA Elon College, NC	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
April 1 3 5 7 8 11 13	Saturday Monday Wednesday Friday Saturday Tuesday Thursday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University Hampton Norfolk State Elon College Hampton	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Hampton, VA Norfolk, VA Elon College, NC Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
April 1 3 5 7 8 11 13 15	Saturday Monday Wednesday Friday Saturday Tuesday Thursday Saturday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University Hampton Norfolk State Elon College Hampton SC State	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Hampton, VA Norfolk, VA Elon College, NC Greensboro, NC Orangeburg, SC	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
April 1 3 5 7 8 11 13 15 18	Saturday Monday Wednesday Friday Saturday Tuesday Thursday Saturday Tuesday Tuesday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University Hampton Norfolk State Elon College Hampton SC State SC State	Greensboro, NC  Greensboro, NC  Greensboro, NC  Greensboro, NC  Hampton, VA  Norfolk, VA  Elon College, NC  Greensboro, NC  Orangeburg, SC  Greensboro, NC	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
April 1 3 5 7 8 11 13 15	Saturday Monday Wednesday Friday Saturday Tuesday Thursday Saturday	Bethune-Cookman Liberty University Winthrop University Hampton Norfolk State Elon College Hampton SC State	Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Greensboro, NC Hampton, VA Norfolk, VA Elon College, NC Greensboro, NC Orangeburg, SC	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m.

LADY AGGIE SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

lowuom. O	Father Diamond Institutional	Coorne Mason University
January 8	Father Diamond Invitational	George Mason University
		Fairfax, VA
January 14-15	TBA	
January 21-22	UMES	
	Invitational	UMES Princess Anne, MD
January 28-29	IKON Invitational	ETSU Johnson City, TN
February 4-5	Clemson Classic	Clemson University, Clemson, SC
	West Virginia Tech Invitational	West Virginia University
		Morgantown, WV
February 11-1	Virginia Tech Invitational	Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA
February 18-19	TBA	
February 25-26	MEAC Coference Indoor	UMES Princess Anne, MD
	Championships	
March 3-4	United States Track	
	Championships	TBA
March 10-11	NCAA Indoor Championships	TBA

March 17-18	University of SC Invitationa	University of SC
		Columbia, SC
March 24-25	Aggie Relays	High Point, NC
April 1	Raleigh Relays	NC State University
		Raleigh, NC
April 8	Duke Invitational	Duke University
		Durham, NC
April 13-15	MEAC Conference	FAMU Tallahassee, FL
	Championship	
April 22	Virginia Tech Classic	Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA
April 27-29	Penn Relays	University of Pennsylvania
		Philadelphia, PA
May 13	UNC Twilight	UNC Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, NC
May 20	North Carolina Invitational	NC State University
		Raleigh, NC
May 27	Georgia Tech Invitational	Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA

# Congratulations!



MEAC Football
Championship and
first-round winner of
the NCAA Division
1-AA Playoff

And

# MEAC Women's Bowling Championship

More than 400 Aggie supporters attended a city-wide celebration in downtown Greensboro on Dec. 9 to recognize A&T's bowling and football teams for their winning seasons. City, county, state and A&T officials were on hand to congratulate the two teams. Greensboro Mayor Pro Tem Yvonne Johnson proclaimed Dec. 9, 1999, "N.C. Aggie Football Day."



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Helen Butler-Duncan '73
Parliamentarian
Eugene Preston, Jr. '57
Historian
Louise Murrill-Graves '73
Immediate Past President

Lillie Robbins '66

Rev. Irvin Moore '72

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Dr. David Boger School of Education Dr. Quiester Craig

School of Business and Economics

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North Carolina A&T State University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability. Moreover, North Carolina A&T State University is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of white students.



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F E A T U R E



By Sandra M. Brown

our North Carolina A&T State University students recently accompanied their art professor on a trip to Los Angeles and had an opportunity to witness the taping of a popular sitcom, see a multi-million dollar art collection, attend a NBA game and meet a few celebrities.

Art education majors Kai Felder, Afeefah McCleary and Michael Pullum, and art design major Rashida Brandt, are still thanking Dr. Willie Hooker for the experience.

Hooker was invited by Warner Bros. to view a taping of "The Hughleys" because his painting, "Queen of Africa," appears on the set. The half-hour family show, which stars stand-up comedian D.L. Hughley as an African American entrepreneur who has achieved the American Dream, is broadcast on the ABC network on Fridays.

Hooker told his students about the trip and extended an open invitation to travel with him.

"Initially, I just wanted to support Dr. Hooker and travel because I had never been that far away from home," said Pullum, a 22-year-old senior art education major from Sanford, N.C.

The foursome, three of whom had never flown, said the trip evolved into an educational experience they will never forget.

Pullman and Felder, a 20-year-old sophomore and native of Asheville, N.C., said they didn't know it took so long to tape a half-hour show. "We were there about four hours, and they still weren't finished," Felder exclaimed.

In addition to visiting Universal Studios, the group toured the Getty Museum where they saw fine art worth millions of dollars, they attended a Clippers and 76ers game at the new Staples Center, they strolled down the Hollywood Walk of Fame and they visited Beverly Hills and Malibu. They even had chance meetings with R&B singer Jesse Powell, rapper Heavy D and actress Marla Gibbs.

Durham, N.C., native Brandt, 21, said that now she is even more confused about what to pursue after graduation in May. "There are so many options for visual artists ... I'm considering graduate school," said Brandt.

Hooker's work has gained national and international recognition, having exhibited in the United States, Central America and Europe. He has completed paintings for businesswoman Oprah Winfrey and entertainer Bill Cosby, and Front row, left to right: Willie Hooker, Jr., Dr. Willie Hooker, III, actor/comedian D. L. Hughley, Gladys Hooker, Pamela Swett, Marsher Boyd, Raymond Boyd. Back row, left to right: Afeefahy McCleary, Michael Pullum, Rashida Brandt, Terry Barksdale, Kai Felder.

he is producing works for comedians Steve Harvey and Cedric "The Entertainer."

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Hooker studied art and received degrees from Tennessee State University (B.S.), George Peabody/Vanderbilt University (M.A.) and Illinois State University (Ed.D.).

All of the students agreed that they have a renewed respect for Hooker. McCleary said that the professor has inspired them to work harder.

"Dr. Hooker leads by example," Pullum added. "He wants us to work hard, but he also spends long hours in the studio. In California I observed the way he interacted with other professionals, and I've made mental notes on how to conduct myself in the future."

In February, Hooker will take eight students to an art show at Yale University where he will be a featured artist. In April, Hooker and 20 students will participate in a faculty/student show at Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Fla. ■