

A&T TODAY

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Pursuing Success through Intellectual Property

- ▶ *Raising the Bar in Education*
- ▶ *Sculpture Reveals Soul of Civil Rights Icons*
- ▶ *September 11: The Aftermath*

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Mable Springfield Scott '99 MS

Editor

Sandra M. Brown

Contributing Writers

Mitch Arnold, Derran Eaddy, Nettie Collins Rowland '72, Mable

Springfield Scott '99MS, Linda R. Wilson '75

Photographer

Charles E. Watkins

Design and Printing

News & Record Direct

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All editorial correspondence should be directed to Sandra M. Brown at the address above.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Office of Alumni Affairs, North Carolina A&T State University, 1606 Salem Street, Greensboro, N.C. 27411. Phone: (336) 334-7583.

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Lelia Vickers



Dean Lelia Vickers (left) chats with North Carolina legislators, Rep. Alma Adams '68 (center) and Rep. Maggie Jeffus

Raising the Bar in Education

By MABLE SPRINGFIELD SCOTT '99MS

Dr. Lelia Vickers is making her mark on the School of Education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

Students quickly understood that this new dean meant business when she said "academic excellence." The May 2001 graduating class commissioned N.C. A&T artist Floyd Newkirk to illustrate Vicker's theme of raising the bar. Newkirk drew a humorous caricature of Vickers lifting a dumbbell to higher limits.

Vicker's PowerPoint presentation summarizing the new initiatives for the School of Education mirrors the caricature. She gave a moving speech during a reception hosted to present her to com-

munity, civic and educational leaders in October. Her charismatic, high-spirited speech caught the crowd's attention between several interruptions of rousing applause.

The reception was hosted by key community leaders who have made significant contributions to education including Dr. Alma Adams '68, Bennett College professor and state legislator; Dr. D. Ralph Davison Jr., headmaster, Greensboro Day School; Shirley Frye '53, vice president for community affairs, WFMY-TV/NEWS 2; Walker Sanders, president, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Inc.; Dr. Velma Speight '53, member, A&T Board of Trustees, and former president, A&T National Alumni Association; Melvin Swann Jr., retired deputy superintendent, Guilford County Schools, and Aggie football radio announcer.

"We will prepare students to be professional educators in a global society," is the mission statement for the School of Education per Vickers. "People want excellence and people like high standards," Vickers explained. "This is why

we are raising the bar and raising standards for everyone in the School of Education."

"We are going to start with ourselves to be more definitive about what we do. Our faculty cannot assume that students understand what is being taught just because students show up for class," Vickers emphasized. "So now our faculty will define the knowledge base, assess what students know and then evaluate what they have learned."

Vickers thinks that this formula should adequately prepare students with the skills and the disposition to succeed with vital tests, licensures and certifications.

"We will do everything that is necessary to ensure our students are ready as professional educators," Vickers said.

She commended A&T's present collaboration with 20 area public schools in Guilford and Alamance counties called Professional Development Schools. But Vickers is motivating faculty to do even more.

"We will be more engaged in classrooms and local schools by volunteering



and interacting with teachers and principals.”

Vickers received strong, positive feedback when she promised support from the School of Education for Dudley High School, which is close to the university campus. Dudley is a feeder high school that traditionally sends a sizable number of its graduates to A&T.

Vickers said expectations are also being raised in research to motivate her team to produce more proposals, grants, and publications. “I want to see us find ways to support our research and then publish.”

“Raising the bar will affect our entire School as we produce educators, school personnel, counselors and accomplished professionals. Whether they are teaching, counseling, or in adult education, they should be producing at a higher level.”

Dean Vickers has positioned the School of Education in a unique role that is very different from other universities.

“Our status as a land-grant university and an HBCU (Historically Black College/University) gives us a unique, distinct role,” she said. “We are a community of learners with high standards that no one else can duplicate. It is our job to work with the community, train the best educators to work with all kinds of children, and be a center for learning.”

When asked about her personal message she wants to share, Vickers - without pausing - enlisted support for alumni and community supporters to join her cause. “I invite the community to come in and join us to focus on being a community of learners. From children to senior citizens, we want the School of Education to be a beacon of learning. We want to attract people to learn new skills and to advance regarding global perspectives, technology, a second language, or life-long learning.”

Vickers envisions the School of Education as a catalyst or change agent. She said the initial change must occur with the way people view the learning process.

“As dean, I am the motivator who must articulate the vision as it become a



/// We will prepare students to be professional educators in a global society. ///

part of how our team thinks”

The dean is normally an upbeat person, but when questioned about at-risk children, her Richter scale soars.

“My ears hurt when people talk about children at-risk. I have a passion for learning and most of my experiences have been with minority learners. This is why our role is so important here at this land-grant HBCU.”

“Education is power. Education can lift you out. Remember how HBCUs opened doors for former slaves? I have had other career opportunities, but I feel my calling is to be at an HBCU. We have a moral basis to keep things moving.”



John Petty
National Alumni Association President

Alumni Association and University Sign Memorandum of Understanding

North Carolina A&T State University and the N.C. A&T National Alumni Association recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish guidelines for the development and execution of a mutually beneficial relationship in support and advancement of the University.

The MOU addresses the annual giving program, scholarship funds, alumni publications, class reunion and homecoming activities, and association operations.

According to the agreement, the Association and the University will conduct a combined Annual Fund Campaign with the University underwriting the expenses. An appointed committee will be responsible for developing strategies for the cultivation and solicitation of target groups including alumni.

All contributions to the Annual Fund will be received and processed by the Office of Development. The Association will be listed as a designated recipient on all Annual Fund solicitation appeal letters and other communications sent to solicit contributions.

The Office of Academic Affairs Scholarship Committee will select National Alumni Scholarship recipients using the criteria established by the Association. The chair of the Association's scholarship committee will serve on the University's scholarship committee. Funding for national and regional scholarships will be paid from the unrestricted proceeds of the Annual Fund.

The Association will retain ownership and control of independent scholarships currently established under similar agreements. Those scholarships will be underwritten with funds held in endowment by the Association.

Two publications will be produced and distributed with alumni as the key audience. A&T Today will focus on the University and its activities, with distribution to all alumni of record. Aggie Pride will focus on the Association and its activities, with distribution to members of the Association. Both publications will be published quarterly.

The class reunion program will remain intact as an Association program, with the Association being held responsible for coordinating all class reunion activities including the recruitment of class reunion coordinators.

A University Homecoming Committee will coordinate all homecoming activities with the Association Homecoming Chair serving on the committee. The University will have complete discretion and responsibility for the official Friday night events to include – but not limited to – financial support, management, procurement, advertising and promoter negotiations, while the Association will have complete discretion and responsibility for Saturday night events, vendors and the Sunday worship service.

Last, the University will provide the Association with access to the Office of Alumni Affairs for conducting the business of the Association, and the Association will be responsible for any direct expenses incurred while conducting business including postage, printing and supplies.

The MOU will be reviewed at least biannually or more often at the request of either party. At the conclusion of the review, the agreement will be reaffirmed, with the appropriate modifications, for another two-year period or terminated at the end of the next program year. Either party in writing must agree upon all changes to the MOU.

Alumni, What Have You Done Lately? Let Us Know!

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____ Telephone (Office) _____

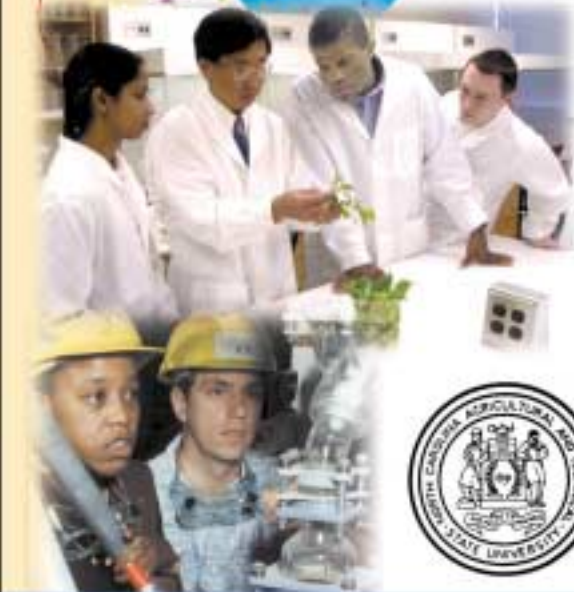
Email Address _____

What I've Been Doing

Send email to: smbrown@ncat.edu
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Mail to: A&T Today Magazine
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Researchers Pursue Success through Intellectual Property

By MITCH ARNOLD

Research scientists at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University are developing innovative technology with the potential to stimulate economic development through new products and processes.

Drs. Mohamed Ahmedna, John Allen, Karen Guy, Thurman Guy, Shamsuddin Ilias, Kunigal Shivakumar, Ellen Smoak, Mannur Sundaresan and Robert Williamson, and graduate student Leonard Testa were the guests of honor at a campus luncheon held in the fall to recognize those pursuing intellectual property protection. Anthony Junior, program manager for the Department of the Navy's Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions Program Office, was keynote speaker.

"We have extremely dedicated faculty who spend countless hours developing technology through sponsored programs," said Dr. Earnestine Psalmonds, vice chancellor for research. "The end result often has potential market applications, and to capitalize on those opportunities, faculty work must be protected as original and innovative."

That protection comes in the form of intellectual property status, such as patents, trademarks and copyrights. These tools establish legal ownership over technology or products developed by either individuals or institutions. Such protection is a necessary step before commercialization



*Dr. Earnestine Psalmonds,
Vice Chancellor for Research*

strategies can be pursued, said Psalmonds.

"Taking technology or other products to the marketplace is not a quick and easy process," said Psalmonds. "The competition in bringing innovations to market is intense, so you must make sure that you have established every competitive advantage possible, including intellectual property protection."

Handling that responsibility for A&T is its Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization, which is a branch of the Division of Research. Clyde Higgs recently assumed leadership, and he has made identifying and protecting the university's intellectual property a priority.

"Recent developments, such as our involvement in a multi-institution technology transfer effort, have made it important that we actively and aggressively capitalize on the work our faculty are doing," said Higgs, who expects that the university will triple the number of patents it holds in the next couple of years.

The multi-institution technology transfer effort is called "North Carolina Technology Development Initiative: A Novel Approach to Assess, Disseminate and Test a University/Venture

Current Patents Held

Inventor: Dr. John Allen

U.S. Patent No.: 5,128,451 (Issue date: July 7, 1992)

Title: Development of a Novel Bacterial Fc Receptor

Summary: Protein V is a bacterial cell wall protein that has unique and superior binding characteristics to any antibody-binding protein yet reported. The Protein V discovery holds importance as a biological research immunoreagent. Protein V's superior binding capacity promises significant commercial importance. Unlike the limited (and relatively universal) laboratory technique applications' utility of Protein A and Protein G (reagents routinely employed in immunoglobulin-binding reactivity), Protein V is a unique antibody-binding protein because it binds



"We are consistently ranked near the top of minority institutions and state universities... Now, we want to go to the next step."

Capital/Incubator Partnership Model for Technology-Based Business Development to Enhance Innovation Infrastructure in North Carolina." It is funded by the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Innovation Program.

A goal of the project is the development of a training program in intellectual property management and technology transfer, which will help universities move their innovations from the laboratory to the marketplace. Another goal is optimizing the capacity of each UNC campus to work with the state's science and technology infrastructure, and to better manage the intellectual property from the campuses for the economic development of North Carolina.

In addition to A&T, the effort involves East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, Pembroke State University, the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Wake Forest University and Western Carolina University.

Higgs says that institutions stand to gain much through technology transfer and commercialization.

all four subclasses of human immunoglobulin with strong affinity.

Inventors: Dr. Shamsuddin Ilias, Sirena C. Hargrove, Miles E. Talbert
U.S. Patent No.: 6,168,714 (Issue date: January 2, 2001)

Title: Flux-Enhanced Cross-Flow Membrane Filter

Summary: To overcome the problems associated with sub-optimal concentration and separation of desired chemical processes. Researchers led by Dr. Ilias have developed a flow flushing filtration process that greatly improves the concentration and separation of desired chemical agents. The proof of concept of the process has been successfully demonstrated in the laboratory.

continued on page 9

Patents Pending

Inventor: **Dr. Kunigal Shivakumar**

Patent Application Date: May 17, 1999, Serial No. 09/313,232

Title: **Apparatus and Method for Forming Densified Carbon-Carbon Components**

Summary: Based on contract research with a US Air Force Research Laboratory, researchers have filed a patent application for a carbon composite process innovation. Through the use of improved impregnation procedures which contain no solvents and employ a closed mod resin transfer molding process, carbon-carbon composite materials have been shown to be able to be manufactured in an innovative way that greatly reduces cost and production times, and produces quality yields for various potential carbon-carbon composite materials manufacture applications.

Inventors: **Dr. Mannur J. Sundaresan**, Dr. Anindya Ghoshal and Dr. Mark Shulz

Patent Application Date: June 13, 2000, Serial No. 09/592,884

Title: **Sensor Array System (Smart Sensors)**

Summary: Using NASA funding, these researchers have discovered a way to reduce -- by an order of magnitude -- the complexity and cost of detection of structural material failures, such as those due to acoustically induced high frequency crack growths. The result is a detection system that enjoys the sensitivity required to allow commercially viable structural integrity control systems for state-of-the-art materials.

Inventor: **Leonard Testa** (graduate student)

Patent Application Date: June 23, 2000, Serial No. 09/602,515

Title: **System for Scheduling Multiple Time Dependent Events -- Scheduling Algorithm**

Summary: The team has developed a dynamic programming heuristic that has been successfully coupled with an algorithm that displays superior solution convergence over very large sets of tasks. The software embedded innovation has been shown to outperform previous optimization solution convergence schemes. The application is embedded in a Java coded web-based demonstration program.

New Disclosures

Inventor: **Dr. Mohamed Ahmedna**

Title: **A Fiber-Optic Biosensor for the Rapid Detection of Pathogens in Poultry Products**

Disclosure Date: May 11, 2001

Summary: A multidisciplinary research team is developing a portable (real time) rapid analytical technology for detection of food pathogens, using state-of-the-art biosensor technology. The technology is expected to give food inspectors means for rapid and objective early detection of common food pathogens, thereby helping safeguard public health and enhancing food quality and acceptability. The proposed biosensor has excellent commercial potential in the food industry and the military.



The N.C. A&T Division of Research recently honored those on campus who hold patents, trademarks and copyrights. Pictured (l-r) are guest speaker Anthony Junior and the honorees: Drs. Thurman Guy, Shamsuddin Ilias, Karen Guy, John Allen, Kunigal Shivakumar, Mohamed Ahmedna, Mannur Sundaresan, Ellen Smoak and Robert Williamson.

“The financial and professional rewards of successfully marketing an innovation provide powerful motivation for faculty and students alike,” said Higgs. “This helps the university recruit quality students and researchers, as well as providing a potential revenue source for the university.”

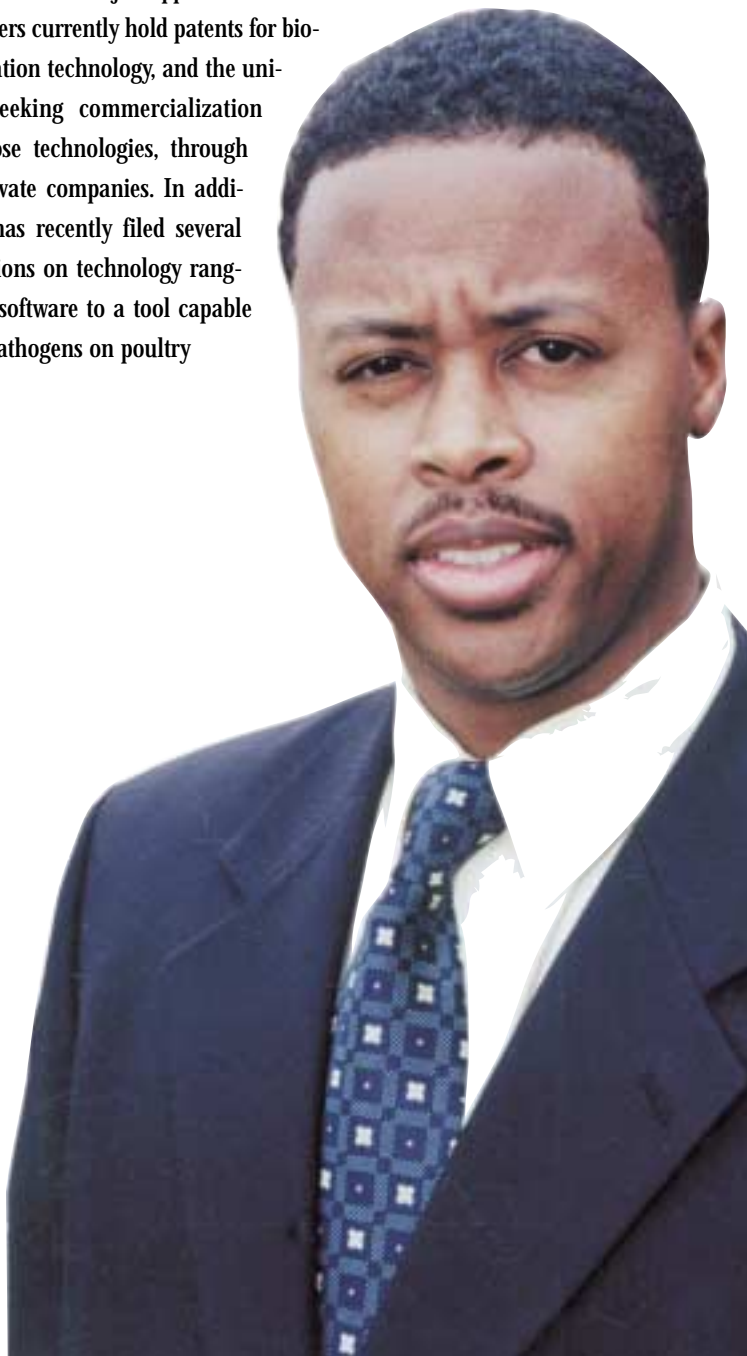
The university and its faculty work together in exploring and pursuing commercialization opportunities, said Higgs. Once opportunities are identified, all involved parties are involved in negotiations of ownership, management and compensation.

According to Psalmonds, the technology transfer and commercialization steps are logical outgrowths of what the university has always done, applied research.

“We are consistently ranked near the top of minority institutions and state universities in sponsored program funding, so our history of production has been recognized and rewarded with continual funding,” said Psalmonds. “Now, we want to go to the next step, by helping faculty take full advantage of the commercial potential of those projects. Not only will faculty and the institution benefit, our business partners and the community as a whole stand to gain through the development of new businesses and new job opportunities.”

A&T faculty members currently hold patents for bio-engineering and filtration technology, and the university is actively seeking commercialization opportunities for those technologies, through negotiations with private companies. In addition, the university has recently filed several more patent applications on technology ranging from scheduling software to a tool capable of rapidly detecting pathogens on poultry products.

Clyde Higgs, interim director of technology transfer and commercialization.



Inventor: Dr. John Allen
Title: Recombinant Protein V
Disclosure Date: August 17, 2001

Summary: This innovation is a natural progression from the previous patent (Development of a Novel Bacterial Fc Receptor). It describes the genetic engineering and cloning of Protein V. The cloning of Protein V into a high expression vector is integral to attracting potential licensees.

Trademarks

Authors: Drs. Thurman and Karen Guy
Title: Thurm the Germ
Trademark Number: 75906704
Registration Date: January 2, 2001

Summary: Thurm the Germ is a character upon which a number of original stories are based. Thurm promotes reading for young children, and provides adults an avenue for communication on sensitive issues, such as death, divorce, child abuse and racism.

Copyrights

Author: Dr. Kunigal Shivakumar
Title: mmTEXlam: Micromechanics and Laminate Analysis of Textile Fabric Composites (GUI Laminates Analytical Software)
Disclosure Date: June 2000

Summary: Based on sponsored research with National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), researchers have developed and copyrighted the mmTEXlam software. This software is based on the Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 Object Oriented Programming concept and comes with a user's manual included on the CDROM. The mmTEXlam application software is a graphic-user-interface program that assists the research community with its need for performing micromechanics and laminate analyses used commonly in textile fabric composites development.

Authors: Drs. Robert Williamson and Ellen Smoak
Title: Down-to-Earth
Disclosure Date: August 2001

Summary: Inside, outside, makes no difference where you are, this is a curriculum that will grow on you. Down-to-Earth helps you – the teacher, the project leader, or the youth educator – use gardening as a means to explore plant growth and development. Through this hands-on, minds-on program, youth get the basics of botany, the gist of gardening, the essentials of ecology, and much more. By gathering data via the scientific method, youth feel a sense of pride, responsibility, and the pleasure of nurturing life.

STUDENTS

Tatangla Coleman, a Ph.D. candidate in the department of electrical engineering, is one of 20 Harriett G. Jenkins Predoctoral Fellows selected nationwide. The award, made through the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation in conjunction with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, includes a \$16,000 per year stipend for three years and an annual hands-on research experience at one of NASA's national centers. Named in honor of the former assistant administrator for Equal Opportunity Programs at NASA, the fellowship program offers financial support for full-time graduate students who are underrepresented minorities in science, technology or engineering.

Sophomores **Laveda Casterlow**, **Howard Conyers** and **Roy Melton** presented their freshman calculus research projects at the 31st Annual Conference of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics that was held in Greensboro in October. Topics included: "The Patterns of Growth and Decay as they Relate to Food-Borne Microorganisms, the Radioactivity of Elements, and Newton's Method of Cooling," "Hyperbolic Functions and Their Various Relationships" and "Parametric Equations and Their Applications in the Real World," respectively. A fourth student, **Kambale Musavuli**, provided technology support for the presentations. Their professor was Dr. Gilbert Casterlow Jr.

Jeanelle Feimster, Miss North Carolina A&T State University, was second runner-up in the 2001 National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Queens Scholarship Competition held in Atlanta. The national scholarship pageant is held annually to highlight the talent, personalities, and intellect of students attending historically black colleges and universities from across the nation. Feimster competed with 31 contestants. She recited a monologue titled "A Room Full of Sisters."



FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. David W. Aldridge, professor and interim chair of biology, and **Dr. Barry S. Payne** of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., have published a paper. "Effects of Temperature and Aerial Exposure on the BOD of Waste Zebra Mussels Removed from Navigational Locks" appears in the international journal *Water Research* (Vol. 35, No. 12, pp. 2970-2974).

Dr. Joyce Dickerson, associate professor of sociology and social work, presented a paper at the International Family Violence Conference held in San Diego. The paper, "Advanced Clinical Training: Using Grant Writing Opportunities to Develop Partnerships and Innovative Field Internships," describes the development and first four years of implementation of the domestic violence internship program at N.C. A&T. Dickerson recently published a chapter ("Margaret Murray Washington, Rural Woman Organizer") in I. Carlton-LeNey's book *African American Leadership: An Empowerment Tradition in Social Welfare History* (NASW Press).

Former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice **Henry E. Frye** is now on the faculty as a distinguished professor of political science and criminal justice.

Dr. Cynthia Gillispie-Johnson, assistant professor of graphic communication systems and technological studies, has been elected to the board of directors for the International Graphic Art Education Association. She also is serving a two-year term as secretary of the association.

Dr. William A. Amponsah, an associate professor in the department of agribusiness, applied economics and agriscience education and the International Trade Center, participated in the Africa Knowledge Networks Forum/African Development Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Oct. 16-19. During the plenary session, Amponsah presented a paper, "African Regional Integration: A Pre-Condition Toward Multilateral Liberalization."

He also chaired the deliberative session of the committee to review the potential framework and protocol for the emerging African economic and monetary union. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission invited Amponsah to participate in the forum.



Dr. Conchita Ndege, associate professor of history and director of the Mattye Reed African Heritage Center, is a Fulbright Scholar in Nairobi, Kenya. Ndege is lecturing and conducting research at the University of Nairobi and the National Museum of Kenya through Feb. 28, 2002.



Dr. Abolghasem Shahbazi, associate professor in the agricultural and biosystems engineering program, gave a presentation at the Rural Electrification Workshop in Dakar, Senegal. The presentation covered the use of agricultural byproducts, such as sugarcane stalks, as sources of fuel to produce electricity. Conversion processes discussed by Shahbazi included direct combustion, thermal gasification, and anaerobic digestions or biological gasification.

Dr. Lelia Vickers, dean of the school of education, participated in the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Training for Chairs of NCATE Teams. Vickers also chaired a NCATE Team at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Dec. 1-5.

A paper written by **Dr. Shih-Liang "Sid" Wang** titled "Motion Simulation with Working Model 2D and MSC.visualNastran 4D," has been published in the second issue of *Journal of Computing and Information Science in Engineering*, a new journal published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). An associate professor of mechanical engineering and his department's graduate program coordinator, Wang is an expert in motion simulation with Working Model 2D and MSC.visualNastran 4D. He has given tutorial workshops on these software packages in ASME Design Technical Conferences, and McGraw-Hill released his courseware based on the software packages last year.

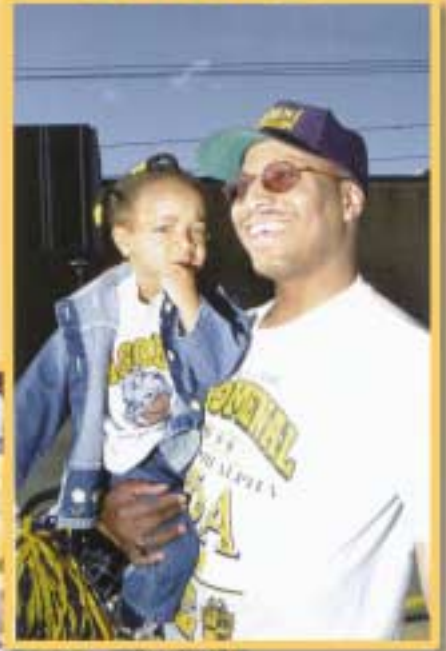
Articles on **Dr. Guochen Yang's** work in plant propagation are in two international publications. "In Vitro Axillary Shoot Proliferation of Alfalfa," appears in the *Proceedings of Plant Growth Regulation Society of America*. The article was co-authored with **Dr. Marihelen Glass**, an A&T horticulture researcher. The second article, "Forcing Solution Technology Generates Quality Propagules," will appear in *The North American Regions Plant Propagator*. Yang is an associate professor in the department of natural resources and environmental design.

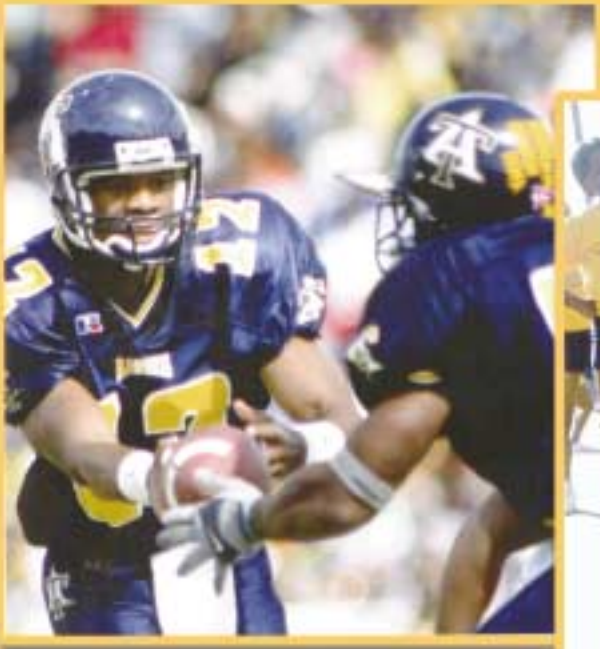


Dr. Ewuuk Lomo-David, associate professor of business education, along with **Drs. Robert Beasley** and **Virginia Seubert** of Franklin College, published a research article titled "Character Traits and Basic, Cognitive, Social, and Technological Skills for Telecommuting: Implications for the Computing Curriculum" in the *Journal of Computing for Small Colleges*, Volume 17, Number 1, pp. 117-126 (October 2001).

- Through a new research grant funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Fossil Energy, **Dr. Shamsuddin Ilias**, professor of chemical engineering, will develop a new type of alloy-based membrane that he hopes will improve the production of high-purity hydrogen for use in fuel cell-powered vehicles. The 36-month project received \$199,981. It was one of 400 projects nationwide led by professor-student research teams. The British Petroleum Research and Development Center in Naperville, Ill., will collaborate on the project with N.C. A&T.
- **Drs. Dhananjay Kumar and Kenneth Roberts** spent 10 weeks participating in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Oak Ridge Associate Universities Summer Faculty Research Program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge Tenn. Kumar, a research scientist with the Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures (CAMSS), conducted a project titled "Synthesis and Atomic Level Characterization of Functional Nano-Magnetic Thin Film Composites" in collaboration with Dr. Steve Pennycook at Oak Ridge's Solid State Division. Roberts, an assistant professor in the department of chemical engineering, collaborated on "Synthesis, Characterization, and Kinetic Analysis of Molybdenum Nitrate Nanocatalysts for Energy and Environmental Applications" with Dr. Michael Hu at the lab's Chemical Technology Division.
- **Dr. Gary Lebby** of the department of electrical engineering is leading a research effort whose goal is to improve the capacity of artificial intelligence systems by giving computers the ability to make plausible inferences even if no, or too much, or incorrect information is provided. "Investigating an Artificially Intelligent Complex Adaptive System Proof-of-Concept Design to Aid the Intelligence Analyst" has been awarded \$160,000 from the National Security Agency.
- **Dr. Mohamed Ahmedna**, assistant professor of food chemistry and biochemistry, is leading a study to create and assess the potential of alternative forms of peanuts as protein sources. At the center of his research is a byproduct of peanut oil – a cholesterol-free flour, the taste and texture of which can be altered. Peanuts are not just for snacks and peanut butter anymore, says Ahmedna. The peanut is so versatile that we have only begun to tap its potential." He believes that the product will appeal to vegetarians and those who want diets with lower cholesterol levels, as well as to the West African nation of Senegal, where meat sources of protein are scarce and where aflatoxin associated with peanuts is a particular health problem. "The goal is to create an affordable and acceptable food product from an agricultural byproduct with little current value," he said. "If we can do this efficiently, we can provide an accessible food source for disadvantaged people, while creating a value-added market for our farmers." The Peanut Collaborative Research Support Program, which is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development and located at the University of Georgia, is providing funding for Ahmedna's work.

“The Greatest Homecoming on Earth”





Aggie Homecoming 2001

A It Professor Captures Essence

The sculpture is a marvelous piece of art, one that will add to the history of A&T.

By NETTIE COLLINS ROWLAND '72

James Barnhill was only 4-years-old when four North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University students sat down at the segregated F.W. Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro to take a stand for justice and equality. The A&T art professor had no idea that 41 years later he would symbolically acquaint himself with those four brave men – Jibreel Khazan (Ezell Blair Jr.), Franklin Eugene McCain, Joseph Alfred McNeil and the late David Leinail Richmond – by recreating their images.

“I was excited and nervous when Chancellor (James C.) Renick approached me last fall about creating a sculpture of the Greensboro Four,” Barnhill said. “It was such an honor to be chosen for such an historic piece. It is humbling to have the opportunity to do something this big.”

Renick asked Barnhill about executing the artwork after reading an article fea-

turing him in the alumni magazine, *A&T Today* (Fall 2000).

“I was really impressed with Barnhill after reading the article,” Renick said. “The feature included several photographs of his various sculptures that displayed his great talent.”

Barnhill was given the task of creating a sculpture to represent the sit-in event. The chancellor had no preconceived ideas of what this should look like.

The Asheville native was so elated about the news that he could not wait to share it with his two best friends and prayer partners, Robert Core and Eric Phillips. He showed them a picture of the Greensboro Four leaving Woolworth's along with a drawing of what the sculpture might look like. They joined in his enthusiasm and encouraged him to go forward with the project.

“After talking with my friends, I got really pumped up,” Barnhill said.

“I went home that evening and immediately set out to work on the maquette (model) and roughly completed it in two hours.”

He did not wrestle with what the sculpture would look like.

“It just came to me. I knew sitting at

the lunch counter was not going to work. It just wouldn't carry a visual impact.”

Barnhill was familiar with the Greensboro Four, and he was always drawn to their photographs whenever he walked through the Division of Development and University Relations in the Dowdy Building on campus. He figured a sculpture of the four heroes walking forward would better capture the essence and power of the movement.

When Barnhill presented the maquette to the chancellor, he was enthusiastic and ready for him to get started. Work on the piece began in April. In June Barnhill took a couple of weeks off to attend a conference, teach a course and visit Italy.

The trip to Italy inspired him. He admired Michelangelo's *David*, Cellini's *Perseus* and many other sculptures. Barnhill realized that one day others would be looking at his sculpture in like manner.

Aside from teaching four classes a week, Barnhill worked on the Greensboro Four diligently – at least three hours daily and a full day on Saturdays.

He worked on the four men individually, molding and shaping each one.

Each figure has its own personality.

▶
*Aratures
for the
Greensboro
Four
figures.*



▶
*Sculptor
James Barnhill
applies clay
to Franklin
McCain's
figure.*



▶
*Barnhill uses
rake tool
to establish
the form of
Franklin
McCain's face.*



of Civil Rights Icons

Franklin McCain, the largest at 10 feet, is the most formal looking. Ezel Blair, on the other hand, is more relaxed, and the other two figures have a distant, more intense feeling about them.

As Barnhill worked with the 6,000 pounds of clay, Renick frequently came by to see the progression, oftentimes praising the artist and lifting his spirits with encouragement.

Barnhill admits that while sculpting he often talked with God.

"I would ask him to help me," he said. "I knew that I was gifted, but I questioned whether I could get the essence of the piece."

There is no doubt that Barnhill has succeeded.

Rodney Harrigan, vice chancellor for information technology and telecommunications, describes the sculpture as being larger than life.

"It captures the moment," Harrigan said. "The four young men look like heroes, but they are also just ordinary people."

Ralph Shelton, chair of the university's board of trustees, compliments Barnhill on his capture of Blair, who is his former classmate and fraternity line brother.

Everyone agrees with Chancellor Renick that the sculpture is a marvelous piece of art, one that will add to the history of A&T.

As of this writing, the clay sculpture is being cast in bronze. It is scheduled to be unveiled Feb. 1, 2002.



Greensboro Four figures ▶

By SANDRA M. BROWN and NETTIE COLLINS ROWLAND '72

Professor Jagannathan Sankar has won the venerated Millennium Award for Teaching and Research Excellence in Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Technology at Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the area of research.

Sankar is a professor of mechanical engineering and director and principal investigator of the multi-million dollar National Science Foundation Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures (CAMSS) at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He will be honored in February.

The award is sponsored by the Science and Technology Cluster of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). The Cluster was established to address the national priority of developing and maintaining human capital for scientific, technological, and professional expertise in mathematics, science, engineering and technology. It consists of representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

“Dr. Sankar typifies all of the attributes for this prestigious award,” said N.C. A&T Chancellor James C. Renick. “He is an educator, innovator, mentor and an exceptional role model. In addition to his scientific prowess, he is responsive to the needs of society, while concomitantly conveying knowledge to new and seasoned learners alike.”

Renick said that Sankar has been consistently productive since arriving at A&T in 1983, focusing his technical expertise on a highly competitive and marketable discipline that would establish a Center of Excellence for the university.

“Through his leadership as director of the Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures, A&T has been able to develop a premiere multidisciplinary research center,” Renick said. CAMSS is a collaboration of academia, industry and government that is designed to enhance the curriculum through the integration of research and education, conduct basic and applied research programs, support undergraduate and graduate student training and generate commercially relevant technological innovations.

Sankar has eagerly published the results of his work. From “Finite Element Analysis of Biaxially Loaded Composite Laminates With a Central Hole” to “High Temperature Mechanical Behavior of Silicon Nitride Materials,” he has produced over 200 peer-reviewed articles, proceedings, and published reports.

D. Ray Johnson, manager of the transportation technologies program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn., said that the cooperative relationship that ORNL has had with Sankar – as well as Sankar’s leadership in the collaboration – has resulted in numerous students and faculty members developing very strong research with ORNL staff over the years.

“Due to Professor Sankar’s hard work and dedication, North Carolina A&T State University has been transformed from an HBCU with a small materials program to a powerful material engineering research and educational resource for the nation,” said Johnson.

Sankar has a B.E. degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Madras, a M.S. in materials engineering from the McGill-Concordia Co-op Program, and a Ph.D. in materials engineering from Lehigh University.



Jagannathan Sankar, Ph.D.

Sankar Receives National Award for Teaching and Research Excellence



*David W. Hoard
Vice Chancellor for
Development and University
Relations*

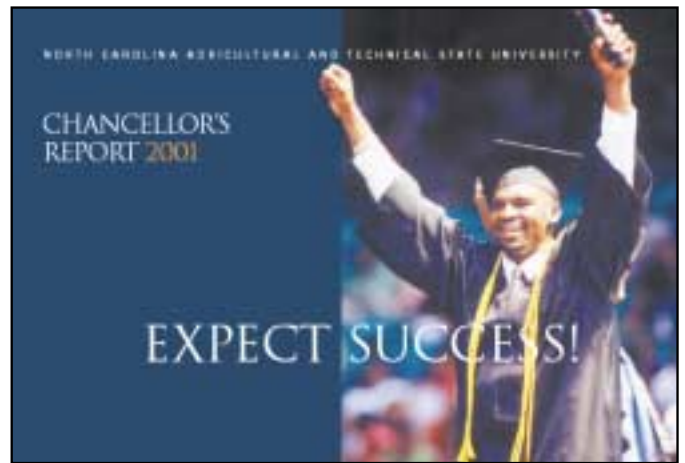
Thank you very much for the generous contributions last academic year 2000-2001, as published in the 2001 Chancellor's Report. Because of your unprecedented support, we experienced a 100 percent increase in university fundraising over the previous year with nearly \$20 million in cash and pledges for scholarships and educational needs.

There has been tremendous growth in the Office of Development, which has had a positive impact on many of our current fundraising projects. Our new development officers and their current areas are

Pat Brown, school of technology; Rodney T. Cohen, college of engineering; LaDaniel "Danny" Gatling, school of agriculture and environmental sciences; Anthony Holloman, planned giving; Millicent Lee, annual fund; Joanne C. Morgan, college of arts and sciences; and Adrienne Witherspoon, school of education. Other members of the team include Greta Carter, information processing assistant and Cluster manager; Harriet Frink Davis, special projects director; Mary Pardue, program assistant; Catherine Perry, Aggie Call Center manager; and Gerald Washington, associate vice chancellor for development.

Our fundraising goals for 2001-2002 include increasing the number of contributors, increasing alumni giving by approximately 2.5 percent to 15 percent, increasing the overall Annual Fund goal to \$2.5 million, and increasing the total dollars raised to \$20 million.

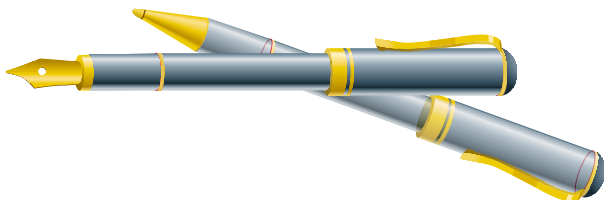
In recognition of the September 11 and subsequent tragedies that have occurred in this country, we understand that discretionary funds are being allocated to numerous other charities. However, North Carolina A&T State University still needs your financial support. Please consider making a financial gift to North Carolina A&T State University. Remember, your gift to the university is tax deductible. A postage-paid envelope is included in this publication for your convenience.



Aggie Authors' Corner

Are you the author of a book that has been published? Send your name and class, the title of your book, the name of the publishing house and the publication date so that we can include it on a website we are creating that will feature Aggie authors. Donated book jackets and books will be placed in a special designated area in F.D. Bluford Library on campus.

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Greensboro, NC 27411



The Aftermath

By MABLE SPRINGFIELD SCOTT '99MS

The September 11th attack on America is one of those days we will never forget. The tragic incidents in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., deeply affected Americans in unique ways.

Since the tragedy occurred, many faculty members at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University have seen a more mature, enlightened student body.

"Our students are more intellectually curious," said Dr. Fasih Ahmed from the department of sociology and social work. "Since September 11, I have seen a tremendous amount of growth in students. They are questioning, they are curious and they are skeptical. These are healthy signs because that is what education is about."



Dr. Samuel Mosley

Dr. Samuel Moseley, of the department of political science, made a similar assessment about students in his classes.

"They are more concerned now," Moseley said. "I've seen students who did not have the foggiest idea about the draft. Unlike those of us who were in school during the Vietnam War, students today

have had the luxury of never even thinking about the draft until now."

Moseley is motivating his students to critically analyze and evaluate what the government is doing and how it affects their lives.

"We are telling students to look at public policy closely and see what people like Maxine Waters and Charles Rangel are saying. What will a heightened engagement mean? What about foreign policy? Now our students realize we actually do live in a global community."



Dr. Claude Barnes

Dr. Claude Barnes, interim chair of the department of political science, worked with colleagues to provide as much information about the attack on America as possible. He said, "Right after the event, we tried to give students reliable material plus alternative perspectives. We suggested students search the Internet for background details on Afghanistan, the politics, the history and the geopolitical aspects. Students researched these issues, found maps and went to another level beyond what they were seeing on CNN and the national networks."

A Brown Bag Teach-In was held at N.C. A&T to discuss "Why Would Anyone Violently Attack America?" Featured speakers included Ahmed, Dr. Alvin Keyes, of the department of psychology, and Dr. James Steele, from the department of political science. Another program called "Attack on America: Reflections and Discussion" was held with Ahmed, Dr. Basil Coley from the department of economics and Dr. James Wood from the department of history.

Both forums were packed with students, faculty, staff and community participants. Another follow-up session was held due to rave reviews and deep concerns.

Professor Velma Pyrance Harris said her senior social work students looked at how the tragic events impacted everyone's life.

"We talked about religion, ideologies, crisis intervention, and how all of these fit in with what social workers do. People's lives changed forever, so you could see the renewed interest in our discussions. One student even asked, 'Am I going to have to go to war?'"



Dr. Sarah Kirk

Following September 11, a large number of those involved in crisis intervention, counseling and social work may be needed. Dr. Wyatt Kirk, chair of the department of human development and services, said some individuals might need ongoing counseling and support for some time. This is why Dr. Sarah Kirk, chair of sociology and social work,

explained these needs in regards to graduate social work students already working in agencies.

"Those of us in the helping professions have to stay strong to help others," she said. "We are having ongoing discussions with students to provide an open atmosphere where they feel free to talk, to vent, and to let out fears. We must be prepared to provide the support."

She said challenges like September 11 illustrate how social workers respond and offer necessary assistance. One colleague, Pauline Brown '70, supervises 38 social workers in Guilford County Schools. Brown said school personnel listened to students, answered questions and tried to provide as much normalcy in routines as possible.

"Social workers and psychologists were dispatched to schools to assist guidance counselors," Brown said. "We have been trying to ensure that youngsters do not internalize their feelings but talk with us."

Brenden Hargett '91 gave comparable comments about his class at A&T. As an adjunct instructor in sociology and social work, and program manager at Guilford County Area Mental Health Facility, Hargett's students discussed current events and how they related to their class.

"Students verbalized how they felt," he said. "You get more clarity in thought by just letting things off your chest. We tried to help students validate their feelings and concerns and help them feel secure."

ROTC Professor Loses Friends at Pentagon

By *NETTIE COLLINS ROWLAND '72*

Like many of us, North Carolina A&T State University military professor Lt. Col. Larry Burnett was devastated when he heard the news about the country's tragedy Tuesday, Sept. 11. He had no idea that once the disaster was over, eight of his friends would be listed among the casualties.

Burnett heads A&T's Army ROTC program. He was attending a minority college relations conference in San Antonio, Texas, when he learned of the World Trade Center disaster.

"My immediate reaction was that an aircraft flew off its course and into the World Trade Center," Burnett said. "But when the second plane hit, I knew it was an act of terrorism."

What Burnett did not know was that within minutes another aircraft had hit the Pentagon, where he worked for seven years prior to coming to A&T in 1999.

Upon hearing about the Pentagon attack, Burnett immediately wanted to know which section had been hit. He soon found out that the personnel administration section where he worked had been among those areas attacked.

"After receiving the news, I began to pray," he said. "I soon discovered eight of my friends were among the casualties. It was devastating to see their names listed among the dead."

Burnett recalls talking to one of the former co-workers about enrolling her son in A&T's ROTC program.

"We kept in close contact. I called her husband after hearing of her death, but he was too emotional to talk."

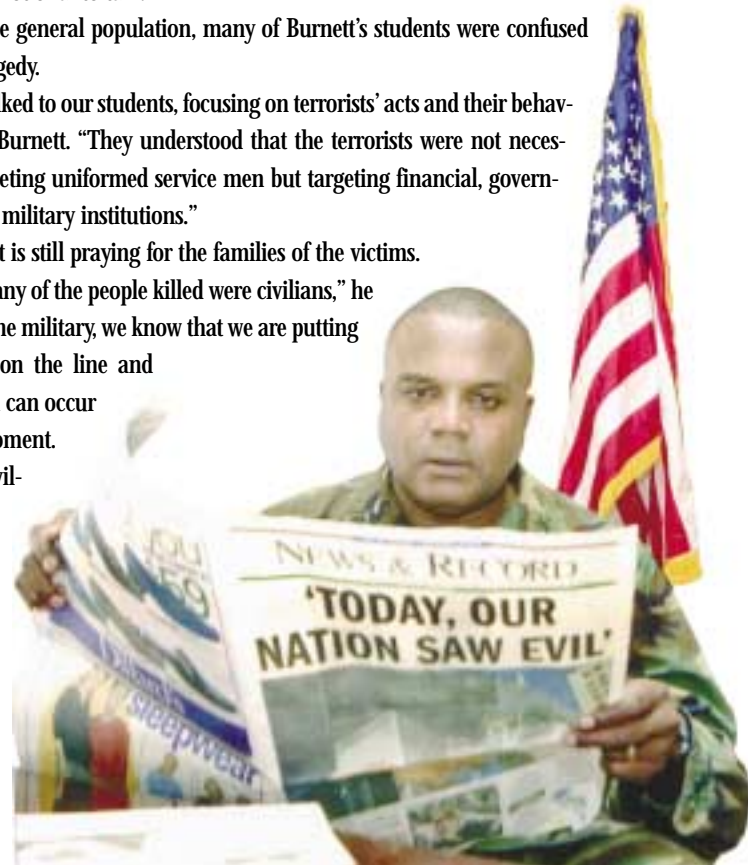
Like the general population, many of Burnett's students were confused by the tragedy.

"We talked to our students, focusing on terrorists' acts and their behavior," said Burnett. "They understood that the terrorists were not necessarily targeting uniformed service men but targeting financial, government and military institutions."

Burnett is still praying for the families of the victims.

"So many of the people killed were civilians," he said. "In the military, we know that we are putting our lives on the line and that death can occur at any moment.

But for civilians, it is very different."



National Tragedy Brings unity to the Aggie Community

By MABLE SPRINGFIELD SCOTT '99MS

Patriotism, love and concern were seen on the campus of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University on September 11. All felt a sense of community as everyone pulled together as one.

An all-campus community meeting was called by Chancellor James C. Renick a few hours following the tragic events in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. Students, faculty and staff packed Harrison Auditorium, eagerly awaiting an update.

Words of comfort and prayer were given by Greg Drumwright, president of the Student Government Association, and Lesley Renwick, special assistant to the chancellor for legal affairs.

"We did not cancel classes because we need to maintain as close to a normal routine as possible," Renick said. "We asked our faculty to use the events as a teachable moment to discuss, reflect and interact with students."

"Counseling was available in Memorial Student Union, Murphy Hall and residence halls after the campus community meeting," explained Dr. Roselle Wilson, interim vice chancellor for student affairs. Wilson said that the SGA held a candlelight vigil, group exchange sessions were held, television coverage of current events was broadcast in Stallings Ballroom, and updates were coordinated through the information desk in Memorial Union where staff members were available for questions.

Wilson instructed the Division of Student Affairs to work closely with all students and to investigate how the university could help those from New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. The offices of International Student Affairs and Minority Student Affairs connected with foreign students since the A&T student population originates from over 55 different countries.

The Development Office utilized the Aggie Call Center to contact several chapters of the National Alumni Association in the northeast. According to the Advancement Services Office, there are 632 Aggies in New York,

336 in Pennsylvania and 501 in Washington, D.C.

Kay Harris '88, assistant director of the counseling center on campus, discussed how crisis intervention groups were established at the student center following the chancellor's meeting and remained past midnight.

"During that whole week, we had counselors available for students, even after hours," Harris said. "The main issues were grief and the inability to communicate with loved ones due to telephone tie-ups. We were available for students to come and talk and work through this. Our office is still communicating with those who came in."

Linda Wilson '75, director of Sebastian Health Center, said the medical team saw a few students due to the emotional turmoil from television.

"Our staff treated some students with mild abdominal pains, uneasiness, headaches and fear of the unknown," Wilson said. "We successfully treated them on a medical level and most of them have not returned for additional treatment."

Wilson said that some of the same symptoms are displayed right before exams.

The campus Employee Assistance Program through HR Partners provided individual assessment and group debriefing sessions to assist employees and their immediate family members deal with stress related to the tragedy.

A&T and the local American Red Cross sponsored a blood and bone marrow drive on campus at the end of September. The original goal of 60 pints of blood was exceeded with 72 pints (or 120%) according to Melonie McDonna, associate director for public support, Greensboro Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, Aggies continue to give selflessly. Dr. Etta Gravely, Region 7 chair of the State Employees Combined Campaign, said there are a number of agencies helping people in the affected areas like the American Red Cross. Gravely said that Aggies are donating funds to those agencies and pledging monies to be collected next year.

Students remember the victims of the Sept. 11 tragedies at a candlelight vigil.



Group gatherings such as this helped Aggies cope with the tragic events.



SGA President Gregory Drumwright provides the campus community with comforting words at an assembly held shortly after the terrorist attacks.



Journalist Learns Lesson about Mankind While Covering Tragedy

By SANDRA M. BROWN



Ballard

In the days following the events of Sept. 11, many Americans found themselves glued to their televisions, radios and computers and carried out their activities in a dazed state of disbelief. For North Carolina A&T alumna Tanya N. Ballard, those horrific events became material for her next assignment – to cover the tragedies' impact on federal employees.

A 1995 graduate, Ballard is an online reporter/producer for *Government Executive* magazine. Her article, "Horror, Then A Helping Hand," appeared online on Oct. 1.

The article chronicles the events through the eyes and ears of individuals who supervised and worked with those who had offices at the ill-fated facilities. Ballard reported that nearly 28,000 federal employees working in offices leased in Buildings 6 and 7 at the World Trade Center and

four other nearby office buildings were impacted.

Ballard traveled to New York by train, armed only with the telephone number of a friend. She said that she was very "stressed" when she arrived, but was surprised to see that most parts of town seemed to flow as usual.

"Reporting that story was hard," Ballard revealed. "So many people were missing, and I kept bumping into people coming from Ground Zero who were not very optimistic about folks being found alive underneath the rubble.

"I spent the bulk of my time trying to find out about federal employees -- several government agencies leased space in Buildings 6 and 7 at the World Trade Center, which fell down later in the day after the two towers collapsed, and there were also thousands of federal employees working in nearby buildings."

Ballard said that information was hard to come by and that she was overwhelmed at times.

"Despite my personal feelings, I had a job to do," said Ballard. "While other media outlets were doing a great job covering the tragedies,

ours was the only one that would hone in on the federal employee angle, so my job was an important one.

"The one thing I took away from the experience was how helpful and friendly people were in New York. A cab driver turned off his meter when we got lost; a bus driver let me ride for free when I didn't have the correct change; people gave me directions and helped me get to where I was going; and police officers found phone numbers for me. People really reached out and helped me while I was there stumbling around."

Ballard said that she approaches her stories a little differently now. Rather than focusing on process and policy, she is more interested in the human face of the federal government.

She also is approaching life differently.

"I do think more now about what will really make me happy and fulfilled," she said. "I began volunteering with some teen-aged African American girls who are interested in journalism. I am more aware of my parent's aging and try to reach out more often to my family and friends."

Newest Mascot has Familiar Name



For years, the resounding chant among students, staff and alumni of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University has been "Aggie Pride." Now, a member of the A&T family wears that chant as a name and stalks the sidelines at football games.

"Aggie Pride" is the name of A&T's newest mascot, a registered Old English Bulldog and the nephew of the retiring Aggie, who has faithfully served as the university's mascot since 1990.

"Aggie had many good years representing A&T," said Dr. Tracy Hanner, coordinator of A&T's Laboratory Animal Science Program. "Because he frequently appeared at university sporting events and other important functions, many have associated him with the university. That is why we wanted a close relative to carry on his legacy. Aggie Pride was a natural choice."

Hanner and Steve Hurley, a facility manager with the department of animal sciences, are responsible for the day-to-day care of both Aggie and Aggie Pride. With the help of students from the department, both dogs receive top-notch care with frequent cleanings and check-ups.

Like his uncle, Aggie Pride also will be part of the A&T recruiting team, visiting schools around the state in hope of recruiting future Aggies. In the meantime, Aggie will live out his remaining days being pampered by the A&T family.



Dr. Solomon Bililign

A&T Researcher Works at JILA Home of the 2001 Nobel Prize Winners in Physics

The 2001 Nobel Prize for Physics might have been awarded to Carl Wieman and Eric Cornell, but N.C. A&T professor Solomon Bililign considers himself a winner just for having an opportunity to work at the facility where the pair conducted research.

“I was fortunate to work with a group of scientists who are the best in the fields of atomic, molecular and optical physics,” Bililign said. “Even though my research involved ultra-fast laser probing of wave packet dynamics, I was fortunate to attend seminars and group meetings and visit the labs of the award-winning group.”

Bililign was a visiting fellow (April-August) at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, which is located on the main campus of the University of Colorado (CU) in Boulder. CU and the National Institute of Standards and Technology operate the lab jointly. Wieman and Cornell are JILA Fellows who were awarded for their work on Bose-Einstein condensates, a new state of matter that promises far-reaching consequences in technology.

Examples of cutting-edge technologies developed in the JILA laboratories include the world’s most precise laser, the coldest place in the universe, tools for manipulation of some of the smallest human-made objects in the world, ultra-sensitive methods for vibration isolation and state-of-the-art computer modeling of the sun’s turbulence.

Much of the science being conducted by JILA research groups is interdisciplinary, encompassing areas such as atomic and molecular interactions, new states of matter (Bose-Einstein condensates), cooling and trapping of matter, optical and laser physics, nonlinear optics and optical techniques, chemical physics, materials processing and semiconductor fabrication, nanometrology, precision measurement, gravitational physics, stellar atmospheres, interstellar astrophysics, solar physics, and extragalactic astronomy.

“Since the founding of JILA in 1962, JILA Fellows have conducted a JILA Visiting Fellows Program that encourages established scientists to work at the laboratory,” said Bililign, an associate professor of physics. “These appointments allow recipients to engage in active programs of research in areas of interest to JILA.

“Professor Wieman gave me a two-hour tour of his lab, which left a deep impression. My frequent chats with him on the elevator showed me the character of great men: humbleness and gentleness.”

Bililign also said that the award adds value to his visit and his fellowship.

Lambda Chi Alpha Comes to A&T



Seated (l-r) are George McHugh, Corey Spratt, Ryan Peterson and Nick Gonzales. Standing are Michael Darcey, Brandon Bristow, Daryl Cullins, Mookesh Dhanasar, Jamaal Cox, James Wilkerson and Dr. Cliff Lowery.

For the first time in its 92-year history, a chapter of the national, social, historically white fraternity of Lambda Chi Alpha is being established at a historically black university.

Currently, 20 students – nine black, eight white, two Asian Americans and one Hispanic – are developing the organization at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity's vision is to prepare and encourage collegiate men of good character, high ethics and noble ideals to contribute positively to the world in which they live. The fraternity's mission is to offer the best fraternal experience,

Historically white fraternity is organizing first chapter on HBCU campus

focusing on personal character development through leadership, scholarship, community service and positive social experiences.

The sole vision of Boston University student Warren Albert Cole, Lambda Chi Alpha was founded in November 1909 at a time when the prestigious fraternity world already boasted 46 well-established organizations. Cole was able to form chapters primarily through a letter writing campaign to college students and groups across the Northeast. By 1913, seven chapters had been chartered.

Today, Lambda Chi Alpha is one of the largest men's general fraternities in North America with more than 227,000 initiated members and has chapters at more than 300 universities. It was the first fraternity to eliminate pledging and remains a leader in the fight against hazing, alcohol abuse and other challenges facing college students.

Prominent Lambda Chi Alpha members include Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States; Harry A. Blackmun, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice; Will Geer, Emmy Award winning actor; Paul Harvey, radio broadcaster; John F. Tesh, musician; William F. Rasmussen, founder of ESPN; and B.F. Skinner, psychologist.

Colony 332 at N.C. A&T should receive its charter in the spring. Officers include: Ryan Peterson, High Alpha (president); Corey Spratt, High Theta (external vice president); Lance Lightfoot, High Beta (internal vice president); and Greg Williamson, High Epsilon (social chairman). Other members are Charlie Aman, Brandon Bristow, Daryl Cullins, Michael Darcey, Lakhdeep Deol, Mookesh Dhanasar, Ben Edwards, Chris Murphy, Lennon Parson Jr., Mohan Sethi and Byron Summers. Dr. Cliff B. Lowery, director of minority student affairs at A&T, is colony advisor.



Ellis Selected to Head Business and Finance



The UNC Board of Governors has approved the appointment of Willie T. "Tommy" Ellis Jr. as vice chancellor for business and finance at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

Ellis served in an interim capacity for about one month. Prior to becoming interim vice chancellor, he served as the university's budget director for four years.

The Greensboro native began working at N.C. A&T in 1979 as a research analyst. In 1985 he left the university to take a job with Coopers and Lybrand in Charlotte. Since returning to the university in 1986, Ellis has held several positions including supervisor of general accounting, assistant director of auxiliary services and university treasurer.

Ellis is affiliated with numerous professional and community organizations including the Triad Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Piedmont Center for Advanced Manufacturing, National Association of College and University Business Officers and University of North Carolina Budget Officers Roundtable.

Ellis received a B.S. degrees in accounting and business administration from A&T and an M.B.A. in general management with an emphasis in strategic planning from Wake Forest University. He is a participant in the Harvard University Management Development Program and a graduate of the Greensboro Education and Development Council Leadership Program.

Ellis and his wife Yvonne have a daughter Brittany and two sons, Wesley and Corvin.

WANTED *Aggies of Distinction*

The Office of Alumni Affairs is seeking nominations for Aggies of Distinction. The nomination process is very simple. Just send the name and class of the nominee along with 100 words or less about why that individual should be an Aggie of Distinction. Nominators, don't forget to include your name, address, telephone number and email. Self-nominations will be accepted. Profiles and photographs of selected Aggies of Distinction will appear on an exclusive website as well as in future Aggie publications.

Send email to: smbrown@ncat.edu

Fax to: (336) 256-0862

Mail to: A&T Today Magazine

University Relations Office – The Garrett House

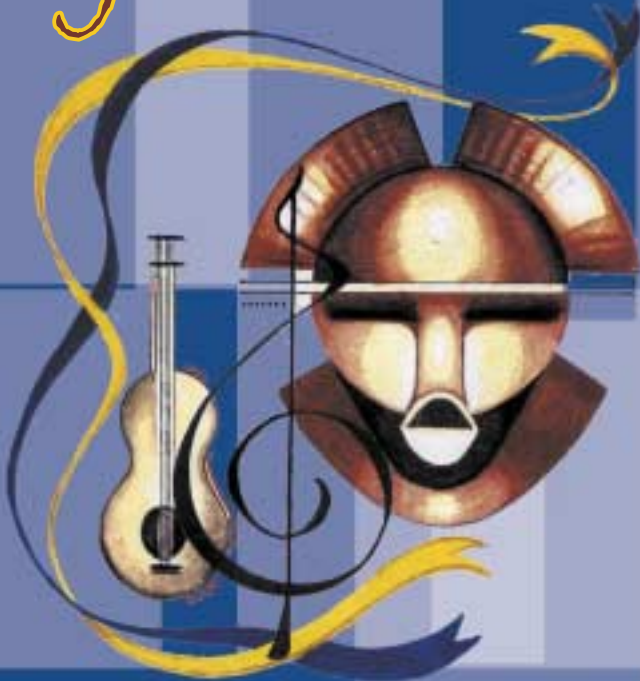
North Carolina A&T State University

1601 E. Market St.

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Timeless Truths, Unforgettable Visions

Lyceum Series



2001-2002

The E. Gwynn Dancers of North Carolina A&T State University will feature a variety of African and South American cultural dances. Come celebrate with us.

February 2002

The Meeting: In this moving and thought-provoking work, playwright Jeff Stetson imagines for us what a clandestine meeting might have been like between two of the most influential men of our times: Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Thursday, February 21, 2002

Robeson Theatre 8:00 pm

Directed by Ralph Paul Thomason
*****Admission*****

The Marion Anderson String Quartet, named for the noted soprano, seeks to enrich the musical and cultural life of communities through personal interactions with musicians of the highest caliber.

Saturday, March 9, 2002

Harrison Auditorium 8:00 pm

"Catch a Rising Star" at the N.C. A&T Annual Spring Student Art Exhibition.

March 22, 2002

Dudley Art Gallery 6:00 pm

David Burgess, guitarist, will perform "500 Years of Spanish Music in the Americas" featuring Spanish music from the time of Columbus, Inca Indian melodies, Argentine tangos, Brazilian sambas and Caribbean merengues.

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Memorial Union Ballroom 8:00 pm

Under the direction of Dr. Johnny Hodge, the N. C. A&T Symphonic Band will present a varied program of classical and contemporary music.

Harrison Auditorium April 2002

All lyceum events are free of charge to all North Carolina A&T State university students, university community and general public except where noted*****

For more information on the Lyceum Series, please contact: 336-256-0863.

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University
1601 East Market St. • Greensboro, NC 27411



Aggie Receives National Awards for Teaching

*Milken Family
Foundation and
USA Today honor
Patricia Legrand*

By *DERRAN EADDY*

In October, North Carolina A&T alumna Patricia Legrand was recognized by two national organizations for her dedication to teaching. Legrand received the prestigious 2001 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and she was named to one of USA Today's All-USA Teacher Teams.

The Milken award honors and rewards outstanding educators for the quality of their teaching and their professional leadership. This award carries with it an unrestricted financial award of \$25,000 and membership in a network of more than 1,700 past recipients from around the nation. She will join 119 other educators in 44 states who also will receive an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles in June 2002 for the annual Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference.

Four times a year, USA Today honors outstanding students and educators with the All-USA Academic and Teacher teams. Legrand was named to the second team along with 20 other teachers from across the nation. Her name and a quote were printed in the Oct. 11 edition of USA Today, and she received a certificate of achievement.

Legrand teaches in North Carolina's Guilford County School System. She is currently in her first year as a chemistry and earth science teacher at Middle College High School, a new, non-traditional high school for students who do not acclimate well to a traditional high school setting. Previously, Legrand taught chemistry at Dudley High School in Greensboro for 10 years.

While at Dudley, Legrand used a variety of teaching methods to promote critical thinking. For students who needed additional help, she often provided tutoring in the early morning, during lunch and after school. When students were absent due to illness or injury, Legrand went to their homes to tutor them, without additional pay.

A National Board Certified teacher, Legrand has coached other teachers pursuing certification. She has worked closely with initially licensed science teachers, and she recently received training in Performance-Based Licensure Product Assessment, which has enabled her to work with second-year, initially licensed teachers on preparation of their portfolios.

Her teaching career began in 1968 with a position in the Asheboro City (N.C.) Schools. She also has taught in Greensboro (N.C.) City Schools, Alabama, Kentucky and Ludwigburg, Germany. In 1999, Legrand was named Guilford County's CCB Gold Star Teacher of the Year. As a nominee for the award, she said that teaching requires a delicate balancing act ... "being careful not to intrude in privacies of our young people but being available when they request our help." She also said that helping students to become life-long learners is her mission statement and much class discussion revolves around this theme.

Legrand was named Chemistry Teacher of the Year for the Central Carolina Division in 1990. With Enterprise City Schools in Alabama, she served as the Science Department chair and served on a committee to write statewide science course objectives. While teaching at Dudley High School and with Greensboro City Schools, Legrand taught academically gifted science and Advanced Placement chemistry in addition to general chemistry.

As a teacher, Legrand has inspired students to go on and become teachers, successful physicians, chemists, research scientists and allied health specialists. Legrand says she keeps focused by the words of Dr. James Comer, which say:

"Nothing is more important to success in schools than the quality of the relationships between and among students, teachers and parents. Adult involvement with children will either help or thwart children's development, whether we like it, intend it, or not."

As the 1999 Teacher of the Year, Legrand said that she believes persistence is the key to success, and she tries to help her students internalize this philosophy.

Legrand received her B.A. and M.S. degrees in biology from N.C. A&T in 1968 and 1978, respectively. In 1994, she received an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her doctoral research involved reaching and teaching capable, yet poorly performing students.

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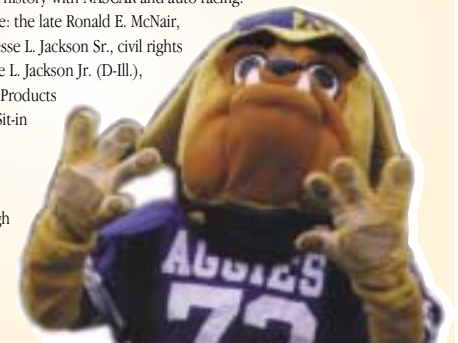
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Get a Flu Shot... Not the Flu



By LINDA R. WILSON,
wilsonl@ncat.edu

The flu. Those two-words spell misery for millions of Americans each year and death for thousands more. Also known as influenza, the flu is an acute respiratory disease caused by a variety of influenza viruses. It is a potentially serious, extremely contagious viral disease that spreads through the upper respiratory tract and sometimes goes into the lungs.

Flu sufferers experience headache, fever, chills, dry cough and body aches. Despite advances in prevention and treatment, influenza and its complications cause approximately 20,000 deaths in the United States each year.

There is something you can do on the front end to protect yourself from the illness caused by influenza – get a flu shot. The vaccine prevents illness in 70 to 90 percent of young healthy adults. It is less effective in seniors, whose immune systems have weakened with age, but is still effective in reducing the severity of illness and the risk of serious complications.

Side effects from the shot are minimal. Some persons experience soreness at the injection site, a slight fever or minor muscle aches. Individuals allergic to eggs should not have a flu shot because the vaccine's viruses are grown in eggs. Those persons who cannot have the vaccine should check with their doctor about antiviral drugs for prevention.

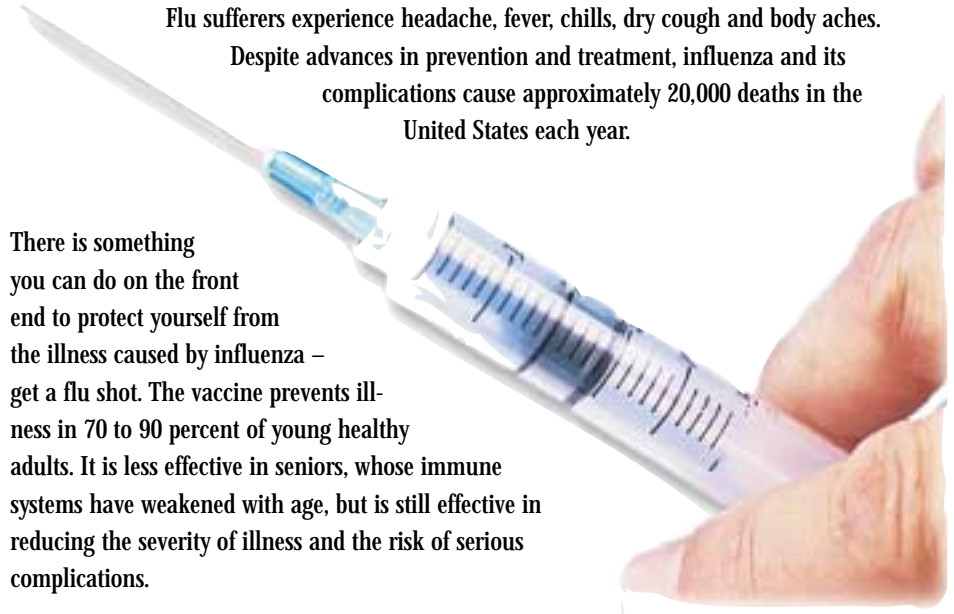
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) specifically recommends the flu vaccine for the following people: persons age 65 years or older, persons of any age with chronic diseases of the heart, lung or kidneys, diabetes, immunosuppression, or severe forms of anemia. Other high risk groups for which vaccination is specifically recommended are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities housing patients of any age with chronic medical conditions, women who will be more than 3 months pregnant during the influenza season, and children and teenagers receiving long-term aspirin therapy and may be at risk for developing Reye's syndrome after an influenza virus.

Beginning in the year 2000, all persons aged 50-64 years were added to the high-risk groups because approximately 30% of persons in this age group have at least one high-risk medical condition.

Flu shots are available at physicians' offices, community health clinics and health fairs. Flu shots are free to Medicare members who receive them through their doctor's office. Also, many health plans cover the flu vaccine.

Flu shots are safe and effective. Protect yourself and those around you this flu season. Get a flu shot and have an enjoyable, flu-free winter.

Linda R. Wilson is director of health services at N.C. A&T State University.



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