Jag Sankar

HAS FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

PLUS
Alumni-Foundation
Event Center opens
Ventured & Gained — Successful Aggies
Destined to Lead — First Alumna Chairs Trustees Board
explore. discover. become.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Winter 2005-2006
IN SIDE AGGIFLAND

EVENT CENTER OPENS

The new Alumni-Foundation Event Center is open and ready to host your next event.

With more than 15,000 square feet of flexible space, the event center is a great venue for meetings, conferences and special events. The facility can accommodate an 800-seat dinner, it is equipped with the latest in lighting and audio-visual components, the meeting spaces and ballrooms can be arranged in a variety of configurations, and a catering service provides a full complement of food and beverages. In addition, over 600 parking spaces are available for meeting and event participants.

The Alumni-Foundation Center officially opened Dec. 16, 2005. North Carolina A&T University Foundation, Inc. provided funds for the building, which also houses the offices of the Foundation, Alumni Affairs and Advanced Services.

Since opening, several high volume events have been held in the center including The Gathering: A Conference for HBCU Institutionally Related Foundations and the Sixth Annual HBCU Think Tank with guest lecturer Cornel West.

The Alumni-Foundation Event Center is located at 200 N. Benbow Rd. on the N.C. A&T campus. For information about using the facility, call (336) 433-5566.

A&T IS NEW HOME OF THE NEGRO EDUCATIONAL REVIEW


Mr. A. Stewart, editor-in-chief, and members of the journal’s national editorial board joined university officials for the announcement at a reception held in the Dudley Building Multipurpose Room.

“We are excited about the relocation of the journal to North Carolina A&T,” said Lelia Vickers, dean of the School of Education and chair of the A&T Advisory Board for The Negro Educational Review.

“The Negro Educational Review has been the premier refereed journal for faculty in this country’s historically black universities, colleges and public schools. As we transfer the physical location of the journal to Greensboro, we will work with the national editorial board to build upon its longstanding and well respected record of publication.”

The publication, previously located at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, is a scholarly journal of African American issues that is published quarterly and has both national and international readership.

“This move,” said Chancellor James C. Renick, “is positive for both entities. It is a collaborative effort that allows the journal and North Carolina A&T to strengthen their influence on scholarly materials about the African American community while simultaneously engaging the broader community of higher education. By having the journal on this campus we reaffirm A&T’s role as a national leader as we address issues affecting African Americans and minority populations.”

“With ties to the Underground Railroad and the sit-ins of the Civil Rights Movement, our community’s history uniquely positions North Carolina A&T as an environment where The Negro Educational Review can maintain its heritage while further expanding and developing intellectual capital,” Renick added. “We believe Greensboro is a great location for the future of The Negro Educational Review.”

MICHAEL ERIC DYSON SPEAKS AT MLK JR. CELEBRATION

Author, scholar and critic Michael Eric Dyson was the keynote speaker for the University’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration.

According to Essence magazine, Dyson is one of the 50 most inspiring African Americans and one of the nation’s most renowned controversial intellectuals. He is the author of 10 books, including Bill Cosby Right? Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost its Mind? and Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster.

Dyson’s literary efforts earned him the 2004 NAACP Image Award for outstanding nonfiction literary work for his national bestseller, Why I Love Black Women, and the 2005 BET General Motors Black History Makers award. Nearly all of his books have landed on bestsellers lists, including Mere, Mere E: The Art, Loves and Demons of Marvin Gaye, which was recently selected for review as a major motion picture.

ENTERPRISE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OFFERED

The Interdisciplinary Center for Entrepreneurship and E-Business (ICEEB) in the School of Business and Economics has joined with the Department of Construction Management and Occupatioanl Safety and Health, Office of Sponsored Programs, to offer the Minority Enterprise Training and Development Program (META). META is designated for aspiring entrepreneurs who have a solid business idea and a strong desire to start a business. The program consists of:

• Entrepreneurship Training. Twenty-five hours of training in nuts and bolts of starting a business, business plans, loan application packages, licenses and permits, etcetera.

• Counseling and Technical Assistance. One-on-one counseling to help participants evaluate their business concepts and develop their business plans.

• Business Skills Training. Twenty-five hours of management training, e-commerce training and technical assistance.

Each session will be taught by experienced entrepreneurs and educators. In addition, guest entrepreneurs and local business experts will share their experiences with the class.

The program is planned so that participants will leave the class with a completed business plan, a business license, and access to follow-up assistance to help with the challenges young entrepreneurs face.

To receive an application or more information, contact the Department of Construction Management, Office of Sponsored Programs, at (336) 256-0344, ext. 2272, or tindv@ncat.edu. Enrollment is limited. Funding for this program is made possible by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NEW PARKING DECK UNDERWAY

Construction of a three-story, 514-car parking deck began Jan. 5. The parking deck is being built over half of the existing Obermeyer Street surface parking lot.

Donley Construction Company of Richmond, Va., is building the parking deck at a cost of $6.3 million. The Obermeyer parking area directly behind Curtis Hall and Bluford Library will not be available through the end of the spring 2006 semester. A temporary parking is available in the Benbow Road parking area that is adjacent to the new A&T-Foundation Event Center. Temporary parking is available in the area off Daniel Street directly behind Webb Hall and adjacent to the Webb Hall parking area facing Benbow Road.

A costless to the Obermeyer Parking area directly behind Holland Hall will be available for parking throughout the construction project.

The new parking deck will open in the fall. For more information about A&T construction projects, visit http://fac.ncat.edu/engineer.
CAMPUS BRIEFS

STUDENTS

Shannon Banks, a senior chemistry major from Goldsboro, N.C., and a member of the University’s Honda Campus All-Star team, is featured in Honda’s “The Power of Dreams” ad campaign. The print ad featuring Banks will run for one year. She appears in the February 2006 editions of Black Enterprise, Ebony, Essence and magazines.

Shayla Savage, graduate assistant and North Carolina Principal Fellow, and five undergraduate education majors — Desqueta Chapman, Schinnia DeGourville, Luke Neal, Elisha Williams and Roger Williams — served as volunteers during the opening night festivities of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction’s Division of Exceptional Children’s 55th Conference on Exceptional Children that was held Nov. 7-9 at Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Loury Floyd, an assistant professor in the School of Education, provided assistance to conference organizers.

In December, Niels Erik Andreason and Jasmeet Singh graduated with perfect grade point averages. Origin native Andreason received a B.S. in architectural engineering. He currently is working on a master’s degree in civil engineering at A&T. India native Singh received a B.S. in computer science. He is working at IBM in Rochester, Minn., and he plans to attend graduate school.

STUDENT PARKING POLICY AMENDED

The University Parking Review Committee has amended the student parking policy to prohibit incoming freshmen from bringing their automobiles to campus their first semester of enrollment at North Carolina A&T State University.

Freshmen will be eligible to bring vehicles in the second semester if they have achieved a 3.2 grade point average at the end of the first term. All students will be eligible to bring vehicles in the second year of enrollment.

The amendment was approved Dec. 14, 2005.

“We believe that this change will foster academic achievement and a sense of community among first-year students,” said Akua Matherson, committee chair.

FACULTY & STAFF

C composite program manager Ron Bolick and mechanical engineering professor Ajit D. Kelkar presented a paper titled “Interlaminar Shear Strength Comparison of Stitched, Unidirectional and Braided Composites” at the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering Technical Conference in Seattle, Wash. Over the past four years, Bolick and Kelkar have conducted joint research with NASA Langley Research Center and the United States Air Force Research Laboratory Materials and Manufacturing Directorate (AFRL/MM) in the areas of polymer and ceramic and polymer composites.

The editors of U S Black Engineer & Information Technology featured Rodney E. Harrigan, vice chancellor for information technology and telecommunications/chief information officer, as one of the “100 Most Important Blacks in Technology” for 2006 in the November/December 2005 edition of the magazine. On Feb. 17, Harrigan and the other honorees were recognized at the 20th Annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference. Harrigan has been an innovative leader in the field of information technology and telecommunications for nearly 30 years, including more than 23 years at IBM.

C. Marlow Hinton, director of research computing, campus labs and student technology services in the Division of Information Technology and Telecommunications, is the 2005 North Carolina A&T State University Employee of the Year. Hinton has received numerous awards for his work in the field of information technology; however, the Employee of the Year honor recognizes his public service to the community. As a volunteer for Greenboro U urban Ministry for over 15 years, Hinton has served meals, built homes and counseled those in need. For the past three years, Hinton has served as chair of Greenboro Urban Ministry. He is also an active volunteer at Pathways, Weaver House, Potters Soup Kitchen and the chaplaincy program.

Rita Lamb, director of the Center for Student Success, and chair of the academic advising team at A&T, presented a workshop, “Academic Advising for Student and Institutional Success,” at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., Nov. 18. Lamb also met with the Southern University Retention Committee as a follow-up to her two-year retention consulting with the university.

Cathy Kea, a professor in the department of curriculum and instruction, has been invited to serve as a member of the professional advisory council of the National Association for the Education of African American Children with Learning Disabilities. The NA EA A CLD’s mission is to link information and resources provided by an established network of individuals and organizations experienced in minority research and special education with parents, educators and others responsible for providing a quality education for all children. The Professional Advisory Council will be made up of educators and researchers whose work the NA EA A CLD will rely on for accuracy and documentation in representing African American families nationwide in the public policy arena and providing these same individuals with the tools and information necessary for their children to be successful in school.

continued, page 6
**FACULTY & STAFF continued from page 5**

**Shona Morgan**

is featured as an “Emerging Scholar” in the Jan. 12 edition of Diverse magazine, formerly Black Issues in Higher Education. Morgan is an assistant professor who teaches operations management in the School of Business and Economics.

**Sharon Neal**

director of EPA salary administration and personnel, has been selected as a fellow for National African-American Women’s Leadership Institute, Inc. Class of 2006. Neal is also on the Student Residency Classification Appeals Board and co-leads the Human Resources Banner Implementation Team while also serving on the Retiree Recognition and A ggie Family Remembrance Committee, Staff Senate, and Human Resources System Task Force. She is also an active member of the Brown Summit, N.C., community.

**Miriam L. Wagner**

associate professor and director of GEA R UP, and Tyra Turner Whittaker, associate professor and program coordinator of the M.S. degree in human resources (rehabilitation counseling) program, have been awarded a five-year $1.1 million dollar Rehabilitation Services Administration Capacity Building Grant by the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will be used to develop a certificate program in the rehabilitation of racial and ethnic minorities with behavioral addictions (RE MBA ).

**Manuel Reyes**

associate professor of bioenvironmental engineering in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, will lead a team of scientists from several prestigious U.S. and Southeast Asian universities as well as from the World Vegetable Center based in Taiwan and Mars Inc., a U.S. candy and food company.

Their aim is to alleviate poverty, address food scarcity, and reduce environmental degradation by combining economically viable, resource conserving farming techniques with socioeconomic policies that will benefit small-scale farmers. The project will continue through September 2009, with research sites located in Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Many of the men and women who stand to benefit are desperately poor, living on less than one dollar a day, Reyes said.

In addition to agroforestry – which is the planting of income producing trees – other techniques that will be presented are improved and indigenous vegetables, conservation tillage, integrated pest management and drip irrigation. The economic viability and environmental impacts of these technologies will be studied.

A nother goal is to study mechanisms to improve the socioeconomic well-being of women in small-scale farms, because while both genders participate in agricultural production the role of women has largely remained invisible, underestimated or under reported, said Reyes.

To achieve its goals, Reyes added, the project will take a ground up versus top down approach:

“... We will not dictate,” Reyes said. “We will ask, listen and present a menu of technical options that have been requested. We know these technologies work here, and then present a menu of technical options that have been requested. We know these technologies work here, but they are unproven there. So we have a lot to learn from the farmers, and we hope they will learn from us as well.”

*— Manuel Reyes*
Lee Fobbs Jr. was appointed head football coach at North Carolina A & T State University Dec. 2 during a press conference at the Bryan Fitness and Wellness Center.

The appointment ended Fobbs’ three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ running back coach to become the 16th three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ head football coach. The appointment ended Fobbs’ three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ running back coach to become the 16th three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ head football coach. The appointment ended Fobbs’ three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ running back coach to become the 16th three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ head football coach. The appointment ended Fobbs’ three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ running back coach to become the 16th three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ head football coach. The appointment ended Fobbs’ three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ running back coach to become the 16th three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ head football coach. The appointment ended Fobbs’ three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ running back coach to become the 16th three-year stint as the Texas A&M Aggies’ head football coach.

Fobbs has coached running backs at three different Division I-A schools over the last nine seasons, and was drafted in the eighth round of the NFL draft in 2004.

In 1997, Fobbs’ first year as the running back coach at Baylor, running back Darrell Bush averaged a school record 6.73 yards per carry. He has coached defensive tackles, outside linebackers, offensive tackles, tight ends, defensive ends and wide receivers.

Fobbs’ experience coaching a variety of positions has led to many different players achieving NFL success once leaving the leadership he exhibited. A mong those players are former San Francisco wide receiver Odessa Turner, former Arizona Cardinals tight end Terry Hardy and former Indianapolis Colts running back Roosevelt Potts. Fobbs has helped five other players enjoy NFL success including Kenny Mixon, Dwight Johnson, Gabe Northam, Santonio Beard and A hmad Galloway.

Fobbs is a 1973 graduate of Grambling University. He played for the Tigers under Robinson from 1966-72. He was an All-SWAC performer his junior and senior seasons, and was drafted in the eighth round by the Buffalo Bills in 1973.

Fobbs also played professionally with the Canadian Football League’s Ottawa Rough Riders and Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and the World Football League’s Toronto Argonauts and Birmingham Stallions.

Fobbs is a Monroe, La., native. He and his wife Sheila have three children – Broderick, Jamaal and Chelsea.

AGGIE SPORTS

FOBBS NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

WINTER 2005-2006

When anyone thinks of N.C. A & T basketball, two names come to mind – former head men’s basketball coaches Calvin “Cal” Irvin and Don Corbett.

For their success and tremendous accomplishments, Irvin and Corbett were honored before the Aggies’ nationally televised (ESPN2) game Jan. 30 against Bethune-Cookman at Ellis F. Corbett Sports Center by having the court named in their honor, Cal Irvin-Don Corbett Court.

A mong the former players in attendance was A I A titles, vice president of the Golden State Warriors, and a player under Irvin. “It’s so great to be back here and see these men honored,” said A I A titles. “They made an honor to put on a North Carolina A & T jersey. Guys are still proud today to say they played basketball at North Carolina A & T State University.

Coach Irvin not only helped you as a basketball player, but he made you a better person.”

Irvin came to A & T in 1954, and in 18 seasons his teams never finished below .500. His success would carry the Aggies over into the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference where he won the school’s first league championship in 1972. His name is listed on the A & T, MEA C (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference), CCAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) and N C A D A (National Association of College Directors of Athletics) Hall of Fames.

Eighteen players under his tenure played professionally, including A I A titles, the only HBCU graduate to coach a NBA championship team. Hugh Evans, another star in the Irvin system, has served in the NBA as an official for 35 years.

By Brian M. Holloway ’97

Western Michigan transfer becomes third Aggie to play in contest

Three seasons ago, Walter Stith began his collegiate career as a 265-pound tight end at Western Michigan University. Now, he stands as a 6-foot-8, 230-pound National Football League prospect at N.C. & T. Stith played in the 60th annual Hula Bowl Jan. 21.

The Hula Bowl, played at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, is an environment that showcase talent in front of scouts from every NFL team. The head coaches for the two teams were Tyrone Willingham of Washington and Tommy Tuberville of Auburn, two of the top coaches in N C A A Division I-A football.

The game was televised on ESPN2 and broadcast worldwide on the Westwood One CBS radio network.

Stith transferred from Western Michigan last spring and has had an immediate impact this season on the offensive line at the right tackle spot. He was honored as the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Offensive Lineman of the Week after opening holes for a 252-yard rushing performance by the Aggies in a win over Norfolk State.

He also had outstanding performances against N.C. Central, where he recorded six pancake blocks while leading teamate Brandon Sweeney to 150 yards rushing on 12 carries. He had a major role in Sweeney’s 205-yard rushing day in a 40-33 overtime victory at FedEx Field.

Stith becomes the third Aggie player in eight seasons to play in the Hula Bowl, joining A I A Americas Chris McNeil (1997) and Curtis Deolath (2002).
Junior outfielder Jeremy Jones has been named a candidate for the 2006 Brook Wallace National Player of the Year Award. Jones is one of 120 players across the country named to initial watch list.

Jones also has been named to the 2006 preseason National College Baseball Writers Association of America (NCBWA) All-America Third Team.

Jones batted .402 last season and broke the school’s single-season record for hits, when he became the first Aggie ever to compile more than 80 hits, finishing the season with 82. He led the MEAC in batting average, hits, doubles (20), runs scored (53) and was second in RBI (46) on his way to winning MEAC Player of the Year honors in 2005.

Jones also was named blackcollegebaseball.com’s Player of the Year as he led the Aggies to the site’s No. 1 ranking on three different occasions during the season. He also led the Aggies to their first MEAC Championship since 1993.

“I think these are great honors for not only Jeremy but for our baseball program, the A&T athletics department and the University as a whole,” said Aggie baseball coach Keith Shumate. “We’re lucky to have a young man like Jeremy playing in an Aggies uniform. He has done nothing but represent the name on the jersey with honor.”

The Wallace Watch will be trimmed to 12 semifinalists by late May. Then the selection committee will narrow the list to three finalists following the NCAA Super Regionals at a press conference in Omaha, Neb. The award is dedicated to the memory of former Texas Tech shortstop and assistant coach Brook Wallace, who played shortstop for the Red Raiders (1977-1980) and was a four-year starter. After a two-year career with Texas Rangers organization, he was diagnosed with cancer and fought it courageously until his death in 1985.
Representatives from North Carolina A&T recently traveled to India to form educational research partnerships and to participate in international conferences. These activities are more examples of the University’s commitment to forming global strategic partnerships, thus enhancing international service learning programs and experiences for faculty and students.

The delegation led by Chancellor James C. Renick visited in late November through early December, 2005. Accompanied by First Lady Peggy Renick, the chancellor’s delegation included Carolyn W. Meyers, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; N. Radhakrishnan, vice chancellor for research and economic development, and Colleen P. Grotsky, executive assistant to the chancellor. While in India, the delegation was joined by several A&T professors – Jagannathan “Jag” Sankar, Ajit Kelkar, G.B. Reddy, Devdas Pai, Kunigal Shivakumar and Mannur Sundaresan – at various campuses where they were presenting papers and participating in international conferences.

Provost Meyers led the first group visiting Bharati Vidyapeeth Engineering School in Pune, RMK Engineering College in Chennai, the National Aerospace Laboratories in Bangalore and the Bharati Vidyapeeth University in Delhi. Meyers gave presentations on A&T’s academic programs with emphasis on implementing the University’s interdisciplinary vision. She also signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) in Pune and Chennai.

Chancellor Renick signed MOUs with six Indian universities and centers including the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay in Mumbai; National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Bharati Vidyapeeth University System, Mumbai; and RMK Engineering College, Chennai. He also began negotiations for additional agreements with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in Chennai and the Composite Materials Center, Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.

The purpose of these agreements is to facilitate the exchange of faculty between the institutions, to attract to A&T’s programs faculty who have not completed their doctorates, to recruit graduate students to A&T and to provide opportunities to share research and write joint research proposals.

North Carolina A&T co-sponsored two international conferences during the time of the delegation’s visit including the International Conference on Advances in Materials, Product Design and Manufacturing Systems, where Renick gave the keynote welcome at the Bannari Amman Institute of Technology in Coimbatore. Meyers represented North Carolina A&T at the International Conference on Computational and Experimental Engineering and Sciences. A&T faculty presented 17 papers at the two conferences.

Other highlights of the trip included a meeting between Renick, Radhakrishnan and the Honorable Elangovan, the Indian Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, at the capital in Delhi where they discussed globalization and economic development; dinner with A&T master’s alumnus Subodh Sankar and his wife Lakshmi; and visits to the Sankara Eye Clinic where doctors perform almost 1,000 eye surgeries a week on patients that otherwise could not receive this care and to a village adopted by physicians where the school children performed for the delegates. The group also attended a reception for conference attendees at the International Conference on Advances in Materials, Product Design and M manufacturing Systems where a program of traditional Indian dance was performed.

This spring A&T anticipates hosting several delegations from the universities and centers with whom MOUs have been signed.
A director of the Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures (CAMSS), Sankar feels he is at the top of what many educators would consider to be career-achieving status. He also considers that level to be just a beginning for what he wants to achieve. “I think we are at the stage where I have created a true nucleus of success at CAMSS. Not success itself, but a nucleus from which great things are about to happen,” Sankar said.

And many of them could begin happening very quickly. “People understand the team we have built here,” he added. “They understand how the team can go to a level of giving and taking from each other with the end result being much greater than individuals can accomplish. We may need a little more polish, but I believe we are right at the cusp of breaking out and achieving enormous strides in new technology.”

Sankar said that his goal is to achieve globalization of the system at A&T. For him, the ultimate success would be to have top researchers take sabbaticals and come to A&T to work. “I used to ask if I could join with big universities on projects. Now they are asking if they can come here. In the real world there are a lot of small labs working independently, often on the same concepts. Here we have a place where all want to come and work together,” he said.

Sankar is confident in his vision of a global attraction of scientists to A&T and that his team has taken CAMSS to an international level. “We have something that is not an educational institution so much as it is a service for education. We are fourth in the nation in research, but (we need to gain momentum) in research and development. That is because research is not being converted to development. However, we are about to change that.”

The entire mechanical engineering department had one materials research contract and a small laboratory when Sankar came to A&T in 1983 after earning his doctorate in materials engineering. Since joining the small facility, he has been routinely involved in organizing nine major international conferences (including a recent one with NATO) and four major symposia, producing two special journal issues and authoring more than 360 articles and three book chapters.

One of A&T’s first two Distinguished Professors, Sankar received the 2004 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Mentor Award from the editors of Science magazine. He also received the White House Millennium Research Award and is a multiple winner of the University’s Teacher of the Year Award and is a multiple winner of the AAAS Mentor Award from the editors of Science. His philosophy of education is - like everything else - not unique. “I like to teach the seniors because they are going out into real life. I try to teach them with humor, because it sends a message. When a person is laughing, he or she is opening the mind and relaxing to accept information. This lowers the barriers to learning.”

“Every year, M concept, students and faculty must produce quality work.”

Sankar’s view to the future is exciting, both for him and for his colleagues. They are on a course to lead the way in creating new sciences and new products through interdisciplinary programs that will link engineering and biosciences. This will happen, partly because Jag Sankar will inspire the cooperation among scientists, educational institutions, the private sector and government to make it happen.

When asked about the future, Sankar said, “I do not teach my students to be an engineer,” he says. “I teach them to be a person who is an engineer and a leader. I prepare them to be a person everyone wants to emulate. I teach them how to be a true leader. I have only two conditions for my colleagues: they must pass the baton by encouraging their students to reach for success, and everyone must produce quality work.”

Sankar began the process more than a year ago, traveling to universities and manufacturing companies in his native India, and to China, South Korea and Italy to form new alliances for A&T. “I am a university person, a university person, a university person. It all seems so simple when he says it. Simple and believable.”
The Alumni-Foundation Event Center ...

- Has more than 15,000 square feet of flexible space, making it a great venue for meetings, conferences and special events
- Can accommodate up to 800 seats for dinner
- Is equipped with the latest in lighting and audiovisual components
- Meeting and ballroom spaces can be arranged in a variety of configurations
- Grand ballroom offers an elegant setting for formal and informal meetings, weddings, parties and banquets
- Features "Graduation," a 20x30-foot mural by Joseph Holston
- Has more than 600 parking spaces adjacent to the building
- Catering service provides a full complement of food and beverages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>SQ FT</th>
<th>BANQUET</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>THEATRE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAND BALLROOM</td>
<td>11,253</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MID BALLROOM</td>
<td>4,347</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGGIE 101</td>
<td>2,061</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUE 102</td>
<td>1,392</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIDE 103</td>
<td>2,061</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLD 104</td>
<td>1,392</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOARD 602</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFERENCE ROOM</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rooms accommodate up to 20
Velma Speight-Buford is the first alumna elected chair of the N.C. A & T Board of Trustees.
Speight-Buford's ability to love, give and prepare others for successes are values she exemplifies as wife and mother. Her daughter and husband, William M. Buford, continue to be amazed by her accomplishments, especially her election as chairman of A&T’s trustees.

“M y mother is my role model,” said Davis. “I think that sometimes when we are growing up we don’t realize that we are learning our parent’s behavior. I am happy that I have learned them.”

She and Buford agree that home life with her is hectic but there is always time for them and her grandchildren, Kelli and Lindsay.

Chuckling, Buford said, “It’s quite interesting, to say the least, but we enjoy the time we share together whether it’s at home or in conjunction with her outside activities.”

How can one person achieve so much?

John A. Petty ’70, immediate past national alumni president, says, “Velma’s leadership values are reflected in her character.”

What does Speight-Buford say?

“Speight-Buford is simply fulfilling the prediction made in 1979 by one of her mentors, William “Bill” Friday, who said, “T he day will come . . .”

“I know about time management,” she said. “My mother taught me all about it. She would get up at 4 a.m., clean our house, cook three meals, wash clothes, get her three children off to school and was out in the field helping my father by 7 a.m.”

Twenty-six years after Bill Friday’s prediction, Speight-Buford’s day has come and the avid historian is also making history.

“I am particularly honored to lead this board at this time, for it has the greatest number of women members in its history – four of us,” said Speight-Buford. “In this board’s existence of 114 years, only 11 women (including the four) have served on the board.”

In her official speech, Speight-Buford challenged the members to become knowledgeable about Futures, the strategic vision plan for A&T and to fulfill the University’s mission by staying abreast of emerging trends, changing cultures, and engaging in all aspects of policy-making that affects it.

Her final challenge for them will be the same one that she has impeccable demonstrated for over five decades, giving generously to A&T.
A great study habits and hard work pay off for Sentel president and co-founder James F. Garrett

Entrepreneur James F. Garrett’s journey to success is a powerful example of an A&T graduate who possesses the acumen to turn a vision into reality and the faith to pledge $250,000 to his alma mater’s $100 million capital campaign.

The 1964 graduate is president and co-founder of Sentel Corp. (No. 82 on Black Enterprise’s Industrial/Service 100 list), an engineering and computer software company founded in 1987 with three employees and one $33,000 subcontract for the Navy.

Sentel, recently acquired by Dimensions International, Inc. operating as a wholly owned subsidiary, is located in Alexandria, Va. It has more than 350 employees, $49 million in annual revenues and has won numerous awards for its innovative technology, ability to find solutions to highly complex problems, client-driven commitment and team concept for getting the job done.

In April 2005, the BIO IT (Bioscience Information Technology) Coalition awarded Sentel the Innovation of the Year Prize at its first awards for best practices in BIO IT. The company is also a finalist for the 2005 Alexandria Technology Achievement Award.

Under Garrett’s leadership, it provides engineering services in software development, electromagnetic environmental effects test and evaluation, and chemical/biological agent detect for the Department of Defense, NASA, FAA, the Department of Homeland Security and the cellular wireless industry.

One of eight siblings, Garrett was born in Reidsville, N.C. He learned about the “real world” working beside his mother and stepfather in tobacco and cotton fields.

Young Garrett’s journey to entrepreneurship began on those fields and continued in A&T. A&T

Acumen is key element to Elijah and Marilyn Thorne’s success

Alumni Elijah W. Thorne ’64 and his wife Marilyn ’63 are excellent models of good will and thoughtful reflection, innate sensitivities that are the roots of philanthropy.

“We believe it is the responsibility of our generation to lead and educate the next generation in giving,” said Mrs. Thorne, the daughter of Mack and Hilda Wilder, sharecroppers.

In 2004, the couple lived up to what they believe is their responsibility. They gave the University an outright gift of $100,000. Along with James F. Garrett ’64, the three represent the first time in A&T’s history that living alumni made an outright gift of cash at this level.

The Thorne’s gift is not from inherited money but profits from their company, Grayhound Trash Removal, Inc. (named after the fleet dog and fleet of buses known for speed), started in 1968 by Elijah.

Headquartered in Upper Marlboro, Md., it employs about 19 people and provides refuse collection/recycling, street sweeping, and equipment leasing/rental/leasing of portable toilet services for universities, governmental agencies and private enterprises.

As a lad, Thorne began to dream about owning his business as he worked side by side with his uncle in the building trade and observed how hard his father and mother worked to support their three offspring.

“I liked the building trade with my uncle, so when I entered high school, I enrolled in bricklaying,” said Thorne. “I soon found out that I had great talent in that area.”

While in high school, he attended vocational competitions held at A&T and liked the warm atmosphere of the campus. Adept in bricklaying and other skills related to construction management, he enrolled in the School of Technology.

continued, page 25
sedalia public high school where he was at the top of his class, having a keen interest in math and science. it was at a&t, however, where the electrical engineering major received a firm, solid background in the benefits of studying and working hard. "i learned that if you study and work hard, you can see the results," he said.

while he studied hard and worked to support himself at a&t, garrett also found time to learn leadership skills. he was involved in fraternities, served as head of the pan-hellenic council, elected vice president of his senior class and commissioned an officer in the army rotc.
garrett's good study habits, work ethics, sound teaching from his professors and leadership skills have paid off for him over and over again since his graduation 41 years ago.

in the 1960s, very few blacks supervised whites. but, the fruits of his labor and his preparation at a&t were evident when he was assigned by the army to an environment where he supervised 20 officers and 3,000 civilians.

"all of them were white but i was the only black officer," garrett said. "i was 23 years old and placed in charge of other engineers because of my engineering degree and i was military."

a fler he retired from the military and began working for the navy with engineers from georgia tech, ohio state and mit, garrett learned for the second time that not only had a&t prepared him to compete but to excel. his professors had taught him to think analytically but also insisted that his writing, presentation and oratorical skills be top notch, too.

those skills and working as a civilian director of the systems electromagnetics division at the naval sea systems command, where he was responsible for topside design of all navy ships, set the stage for garrett's climb to a successful 21st century award winning entrepreneur.

"garrett is often called upon to share the secrets of his success. while employed with the navy, garrett was u.s. representative to nato as chief technical spokesman on electromagnetic interference in navy ships. on sept. 19, 2005, he was interviewed on tomorrow's business, an acclaimed radio show in washington, d.c., that invites guests who are leaders in their fields.

garrett is a family man, and his wife joyce and their two children rodney and melanie support and understand the sharecropper's son's vision. as a deacon in his church, he is developing an entrepreneurship program for young people who want to start their own business. a long with sentel, he has given more than $100,000 in scholarships to help inner-city youth, mainly african americans, desiring to attend college.

his penchant for entrepreneurship and community involvement, however, does not transcend the vision he embraces for giving back to his alma maters, a&t and southeastern university (m.b.a.), especially a&t.

"i feel that i could do well, so i quit my teaching position, withdrew my retirement, purchased a used truck and immediately began bidding on trash contracts," he said.

"a lot of my giving is wrapped up in the future as well as the past," he said. "i credit a lot of my experiences at a&t to my accomplishments in life."

in 2005, garrett's vision and faith in a&t's future inspired him to make an outright gift of $100,000 toward his pledge of $250,000 to support the students and academic programs in the college of engineering.
His gift is historic. Garrett, along with Elijah and Marilyn Thorne, are the first living alumni to make outright gifts of $100,000 to the University.

“Jim Garrett represents what is best about A&T and is indeed historic!” Garrett also gives of his time and talent. He co-chaired the University’s February One Monument campaign with the Thornes. Using traditional and innovative fund raising ideas, they gained the support of alumni and business sources, raising $200,000. The money helped sponsor the sculpture in honor of the four A&T freshmen who dared to sit down at the whites-only lunch counter at the F.W. Woolworth’s and asked to be served.

“Garrett feels good about that campaign and would do it again,” he said.

Garrett has a very aggressive belief regarding giving to A&T. It should not be confined to just alumni but administration, faculty, staff and students.

Garrett said, “If A&T had 100 percent in giving it would demonstrate to prospective students that we are a place where people who care about education, we care about other people, we care about knowledge and we care about ourselves.

“When you give, you can not just look at the money. You must look at the whole experience of what your giving means. It means that you have given of yourself and when you do that, you encourage and help other people. That’s what giving is about.”

“A scholarship donor(s) is required to sign a Deed of Gift (pledge statement) and document the desired scholarship designation and criteria. A donor (or donors) may suggest a designation and associated criteria for an endowed scholarship. For example, the John Doe Endowed Scholarship Fund may be designated for a student in the College of Engineering who demonstrates financial need and who is from North Carolina (or a specific county or region of North Carolina). A scholarship donor(s) is required to sign a Deed of Gift (pledge statement) and document the desired scholarship designation and criteria.

To accomplish this, they have diversified their giving to support three endowed scholarships.

A gift of $25,000 was given to the School of Technology and another $25,000 to the School of Nursing because they are grateful for the nurturing and sound education that they received as students which prepared them to become successful entrepreneurs and citizens. They also have established the Thorne Emergency Fund with a gift of $25,000 to assist students during difficult times, an area familiar to both.

“When we were in school, we had periods of great need and there was no place for us to go for help other than family, friends or ‘set’,” said the couple.

Five years ago, Marilyn convinced her oldest sister Annie Henderson, she was 79 at the time, to participate in A&T’s Financed Philanthropy Fund. In order to pay for the cost of Annie’s life insurance – A&T is the beneficiary – the T homes have given $25,000.

Many people might feel that $100,000 is enough.

“Five years of hard work!” said Marilyn Thorne.

“An endowed scholarship strengthens the long-term financial underpinnings of North Carolina A&T State University. Endowed Scholarships provide a base of support for generations of students in perpetuity. An endowed fund, often named in honor of an individual, created for the purpose of leaving a legacy to current and future students.

The principal, or corpus, of an endowment fund is never spent. Only annual earnings, or a portion of annual earnings, are awarded for scholarships. In this way an endowed scholarship provides annual income to be awarded to deserving students forever.

Typically, annual awards equal no more than 5 percent of the principal balance (depending on investment performance). Thus, a $25,000 scholarship would pay out $1,250 (5%) each year in the form of a scholarship. Annual earnings above the payout amount are reinvested in the principal of the scholarship fund. This builds the principal of the endowment fund over time, allowing for larger scholarship awards in future years.

Historical evidence proves that tuition typically increases. Reinvestment also serves as a hedge against inflation.

A donor (or donors) may suggest a designation and associated criteria for an endowed scholarship. For example, the John Doe Endowed Scholarship Fund may be designated for a student in the College of Engineering who demonstrates financial need and who is from North Carolina (or a specific county or region of North Carolina). A scholarship donor(s) is required to sign a Deed of Gift (pledge statement) and document the desired scholarship designation and criteria.

A&T students will benefit from this gift, too. The scholarship is held by the Education Advancement Fund, the non-for profit arm of the A T iPhi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In 2009, members of A & T’s A T iPhi Chapter will be eligible to receive scholarships.

Chancellor Renick is very pleased with their gifts.

“The Thornes are deeply loyal Aggies who have placed the face, the face of giving to their alma mater. “So, to whom much is given, much is expected in return,” said Marilyn Thorne.

It is not just the dollars that are important, the impact is also significant. The Thornes are truly visionary and demonstrate their commitment to the University.

“Jim Garrett represents what is best about A&T. He is an entrepreneur, a leader, a thoughtful citizen and his generosity to A&T is indeed historic!”

When we were in school, we had periods of great need and there was no place for us to go for help other than family, friends or ‘set’,” said the couple.

A&T TODAY · W INTER 2005-2006
26
27
hen he entered A&T in the late 1970s, Detroit native Chuck Burch wasn’t sure if he wanted to study accounting or journalism. Thanks to the nurturing environment he found at A&T, Burch ditched journalism and concentrated on accounting— a move that has served him well since he graduated in 1982.

Burch eventually settled in Dallas, Texas, where the CPA and certified financial planner owns a firm, The Burch Financial Group.

Five years ago, he decided the time had come to repay A&T for all it has given him. He established the Charles Burch Scholarship that is given to Texas students heading to A&T.

“I was the recipient of a scholarship when I came to A&T,” Burch says. “Someone or a group of people helped me get from Detroit to North Carolina, and I want to do the same because I know how valuable it is to receive funding when you need money to fulfill your dream.”

Burch believes his scholarship gives recipients the chance to attend a school that encourages them to find their life’s calling.

“I run into a lot of students who don’t know what they want to do but want to be in an environment that nurtures them and encourages them to find out what they want to do,” Burch explains. “That’s why I’m so big on A&T.”

The financial planner sees the scholarship as a top-notch investment in the future.

“I’m investing in children so that someone will look out for my children when they are of age,” he says.

Burch and his wife Jennifer have two children, Charles III and Jenna. For him, there’s only one university for his children – A&T.

“For more information about these activities and the Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies, contact TERRI LONG at (336) 256-2261.
A&T TODAY
ALUMNI NEWS
by African Americans in Corporate America named one of the 75 Most Powerful
A&T State University's fall commencement Excellence Award during North Carolina
Insurance Company, received the Alumni a division of Nationwide Mutual
Nationwide Strategic Investments,
Donna A. James '79
Black Enterprise
magazine.

1970s
G. attorney and entrepreneur Merrill F. Code '70 has joined Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. (Ogletree, Deakins). Code will concentrate his practice in the areas of positive employee relations and diversity. In addition to his legal practice with Ogletree Deakins, Code serves on a number of boards of directors including Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina, BB&T, The

1980s
Wayne Turnage '80 has been appointed deputy chief of staff for Virginia Governor Tim Kaine. Turnage previously
served in a dual capacity as advisor to the governor for special projects and director of policy and research at the Virginia Department of Medicaid Assistance Services.

AGGIES ON THE MOVE continued, page 32

Goldboro, N.C., native Tyrone Stanley '95 recently performed in "The Color of Our Music," a concert held at Loyola College. Stanley is a musician, dancer and actor who has been seen in musicals such as "Once on this Island," "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "God's Trombones." He also has made appearances on "The Dave Chappelle Show," "Sex and the City" and "All My Children." Stanley presently performs in New York City and in May he will appear as Marvin Gaye in the story of Gaye's life and music.
AGGIES ON THE MOVE continued from page 31

John Williams Jr. ’95 has been the director of strength and conditioning at Baylor University since 2002. Prior to joining the staff at BU, Williams was an assistant strength coach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Stefanie B. Lomax ’96 has been hired as director of human resources for The W.C. & A N. Miller Companies, one of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area’s oldest real estate services companies. Lomax comes to Miller with a high-tech and medical human resources background, most recently serving as the human resources administrator for Quality Technology, Inc. in Large, Md. Lomax has a M.S. degree in human resource management from the University of Maryland.

Tameka Vance ’99 has completed the requirements for the M.B.A. degree at High Point University and she plans to graduate in May. In A pril, Vance will present her paper, Wil I Wal-Mart’s Use of RFID Technology Sustain Their Supply Chain Dominance,” at the 2006 Society for A dvancement of Management International Business Conference in Orlando, Fl.

Aaron N. Taylor, an admissions officer at Harvard Graduate School of Education, has been chosen as a Harvard University Administrative Fellow for 2005-06. The fellowship program is targeted at those committed to addressing the under-representation of people of color in higher education administration. Fellows are assigned to an academic administration position within the university for one year. A nother A jjie, Jabbah R. Bennett, was a fellow during academic year 2004-05.

In Memoriam

Rose M ary Allen, Nov. 13, 2005
Andrew A. Best, ’47, Dec. 7, 2005
Evelyn M. Butler ’40, Aug. 26, 2005
Yohane Noel Alexander Daise ’05
Charlise Runnels Atwood ’78 M.A., Nov. 16, 2005
Samuel B. Ford Jr., Feb. 23, 2005
Clarence Harper ’58, Oct. 26, 2005
Robert V. “Bob” Harris ’49, Oct. 22, 2005
Alfred H. Jones ’80, Sept. 18, 2005
James D. Morgan ’41, Aug. 1, 2005
Lindell P. Parr ’49, Sept. 22, 2005
Clara Brown Prigger, Aug. 15, 2005
Helen A Spears Shankle ’02, Oct. 8, 2005
John Southtolland ’50, Sept. 1, 2005
Robert A. Williamson Jr., Sept. 28, 2005

Others

Alberta Jones Dalton, former director of staff development, Jan. 3
Sandra M. Hicks, retired assistant professor, Sept. 3, 2005
Richard A. Jackson, Ph.D., adjunct assistant professor, Dec. 14, 2005
Tiffany H. Kittredge, student, Nov. 15, 2005
Carla M. Marshall, student, Nov. 15, 2005
Joseph R. Sidlovsky, Ph.D. candidate
Jabari Stewart, student, Jan. 8
Lynai B. Thorne, student, Nov. 15, 2005

Ithemba Foundation Helps South African Youth

In its short existence, Ithemba has under- written four core programs in South Africa: • Leadership Camps - Biannual camps expose youth to challenging outdoor activities that reinforce team building, conflict resolution, effective communication and problem solving skills. • School Meals - Provide supplemental meals to impoverished school aged children who may not receive adequate nutritional meals due to home conditions. • Computer Training - A annual six- week computer training course exposes youth in grades 4-12 to Microsoft applications, enhancing their opportunities for advanced education and/or professional employment. • Psychologist - Employment of a psychologist to help youth cope with poverty derived issues.

Visit Ithemba Foundation’s website to learn more about its mission and to view post- event photographs: www.ithembafoundation.org.

In Memoriam


AGGIES PRIDE and achievement were evident at the Ithemba Foundation’s premiere charity event, “A Taste of South Africa,” which was held last fall Aug. 20, 2005, in Washington, D.C., at the residence of the deputy ambassador of South Africa, the Hon. Derrick Moyo. Attendees included South African Ambassador to the United States, Her Excellency Barbara J. Masakela; former U.S. Ambassador to Botswana, the Hon. Horace G. Dawson, and a wide array of international, national and local politicians. Judy Rashid ’74, dean of students at N.C., A&T, addressed the audience, highlighting the importance of Ithemba’s efforts and her very own experiences in South Africa.

The Ithemba Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that was chartered in 2002 by A&T graduates who personally saw the ravaging effects of apartheid. The name Ithemba was chosen because it means “hope” in Xhosa and Zulu, two of South Africa’s official languages. Thus, the foundation serves to instill hope by exposing under-privileged youth to empowering educational and social programs, which all proceeds from the charity event served to support.

Five A&T alumni are members on the current board of directors: Laurie Scott ’96, executive director; Torree Harris ’96, director of operations; Ashley Simon-Scott ’97, information officer; Candice Drummond ’97, financial officer, and Tonya Saddler ’97, internal correspondence secretary.

Visits Ithemba Foundation’s website to learn more about its mission and to view post- event photographs: www.ithembafoundation.org.

Judy Rashid ’74, dean of students at N.C., A&T, greets Hon. Barbara J. Masakela, South African Ambassador to the United States. Laurie Scott ’96 is in the background.
2006 CLASS REUNION COORDINATORS — CLASSES ENDING IN 1 AND 6

1946
Hattie Ambrose
436 Southgate Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-2015
(757) 499-2116

1956
Ruth Carter Wallace
5529 30th St., NW
Washington, DC 20015 2020
(202) 363-2913
wracwall@aol.com

1961
Agnès E. Maske
8601 Stacked Stone Trail
Winston Forest, NC 27507
(919) 761-9253
amaska@nc.rr.com

1971
Diane B. Piggott
3855 Northampton Dr.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27105
(336) 725-9611
Diane_ppiggott@biad.com

1966
Carolyn Yancy Harper
Forestier Pine Cir.
Sarasota, FL 34243
(941) 355-4385
(941) 376-4385
yancy30@netzero.net

1976
Mary Tyson McCray
8924 Milton Morris Dr.
Charlotte, N.C. 28227-1877
(704) 545-2647
marymc@yahoo.com

1981
Jacquelyn Dobson
80 Beresford Rd.
Rochester, NY 14610
Terri_baskin@hotmail.com

1986
Phyllis J. Thompson Flowers
6111 Richmond Ter.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
(301) 599-8116
(301) 503-174
Floweph@yahoo.com

1991
Juan Tillman
5818 Erwin Ct.
Bowie, MD 20716
(301) 860-0364
juant@erols.com

1996
Taril Gravely
5328 W. Market St. #6-E
Greensboro, NC 27409
(336) 297-4224
tmgravely60@yahoo.com

2001
Ed Moore
2903 Erie St., SE #89
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 584-7948
ee_moore@yahoo.com

May 12-14, 2006
Alumni Weekend festivities will be held for classes ending in 1 and 6. Contact information for class coordinators is available on the Alumni Affairs website, www.ncat.edu/~alumni.

Activities planned for the weekend include the following:
- Graduates Breakfast - All candidates who have completed requirements for spring 2006
- Alumni Association Annual Meeting
- Society of Golden Aggies Luncheon - 50+ years as a graduate
- Chancellor’s Recognition Reception - Invited and special guests
- Alumni Association Reception
- Alumni Awards Gala

For more information about these events and more, visit the Alumni Affairs website, www.ncat.edu/~alumni, or call 877-2AT-ALUM (877-228-2586).
North Carolina A&T has a new graduate certificate concentration in transportation/supply chain management, and the School of Business and Economics invites individuals who need training or have responsibilities in this area to consider this option.

With the increase in global sourcing, manufacturing and distribution, there is an increasing demand for trained professionals in transportation and supply chain management. The U.S. Department of Transportation has noted that in the next five years, 50 percent of the transportation workforce will be eligible to retire. Thus, this country faces a looming shortage of transportation professionals.

Locally, with the added presence of Federal Express and Dell Computers, the Triad area will become a major North Carolina transportation hub and will be in particular need for more professionals in the transportation and supply chain management arena.

The graduate certificate concentration in transportation/supply chain management program empowers professionals to integrate suppliers, supply management, transportation or logistics and operations to efficiently serve their domestic or global customers with the appropriate goods and services. Professionals enrolled in the Graduate Certificate Program in the N.C. A&T School of Business and Economics are prepared to enhance their career opportunities and options both economically and personally. The program has been designed to add substantial value to its participants, as they continue their professional employment and enhance their career prospects.

The graduate certificate can be particularly useful in the following situations:
• Mid-level employees who are being asked to assume responsibilities in logistics/supply chain who have little or no experience or training in the field
• Employees who have a low level of responsibility in the transportation/logistics field who need additional training to broaden their understanding and managerial perspective of the logistics/supply chain
• Employees who feel that a better understanding of logistics/supply chain will prepare them for advancement as they gain more responsibilities within their function
• Managers who are responsible for improving the company’s response to customer demands, competitive challenges, and the need for business continuity in case of unforeseen interruptions such as security breaches, natural disasters, etcetera.

The School of Business and Economics is fully accredited by the AACSB - International, the primary accrediting agency for business schools. In addition, N.C. A&T is the only four-year university in North Carolina that offers a graduate certificate in transportation and supply chain management – a program that is unique nationally.

The graduate certificate requires only five graduate courses or 15 credit hours. Courses are offered Monday through Thursday evenings, 6-9 p.m., to accommodate working professionals. Class sizes are kept small to assure learning progress and individual attention.

The School of Business and Economics also houses The Transportation Institute. Founded in 1970, this institute provides a source of job information opportunities (particularly with federal, state and municipal governmental), interdisciplinary education and funding for research in transportation.

Certificate graduates can apply for the M.S. in Management degree program, which has a concentration in transportation/supply chain management. With 15 credits hours already completed, these graduates have satisfied a substantial portion of the course work needed for the master’s degree. Work on both the certificate and master’s program can be accomplished simultaneously.

Career opportunities are available in transportation planning, purchasing, merchandising, quality control, materials management, warehousing, inventory management, distribution, e-commerce, operations and traffic management in manufacturing and service companies and in the private and government sectors.

Graduates also may become certified in transportation and logistics through the American Society of Transportation and Logistics, and in supply chain management through the Institute for Supply Chain Management (ISM).

Individuals who are interested in entering this certificate program must have an undergraduate degree and one year of professional experience. To graduate, all requirements must be completed in six semesters. For more information, contact Roger Gagnon at (336) 256-2277 or gagnonr@ncat.edu.

Roger Gagnon, Ph.D. is an associate professor and director of the master of science in management program at N.C. A&T.
On Jan. 28, 2006, North Carolina A&T State University and the nation observed the 20th anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion that claimed the lives of seven crew members, including A&T alumnus Ronald E. McNair. McNair graduated from A&T in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in physics. He went on to receive a doctorate in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 1978, McNair was selected by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) for astronaut training. He had flown in one other mission before the Challenger mission.

This year, the University hosted its 20th Annual Ronald E. McNair Commemorative Celebration and Fifth Annual Research Symposium, Jan. 26-28. McNair’s brother Carl, also an alumnus of A&T, was among the special guests and presenters.