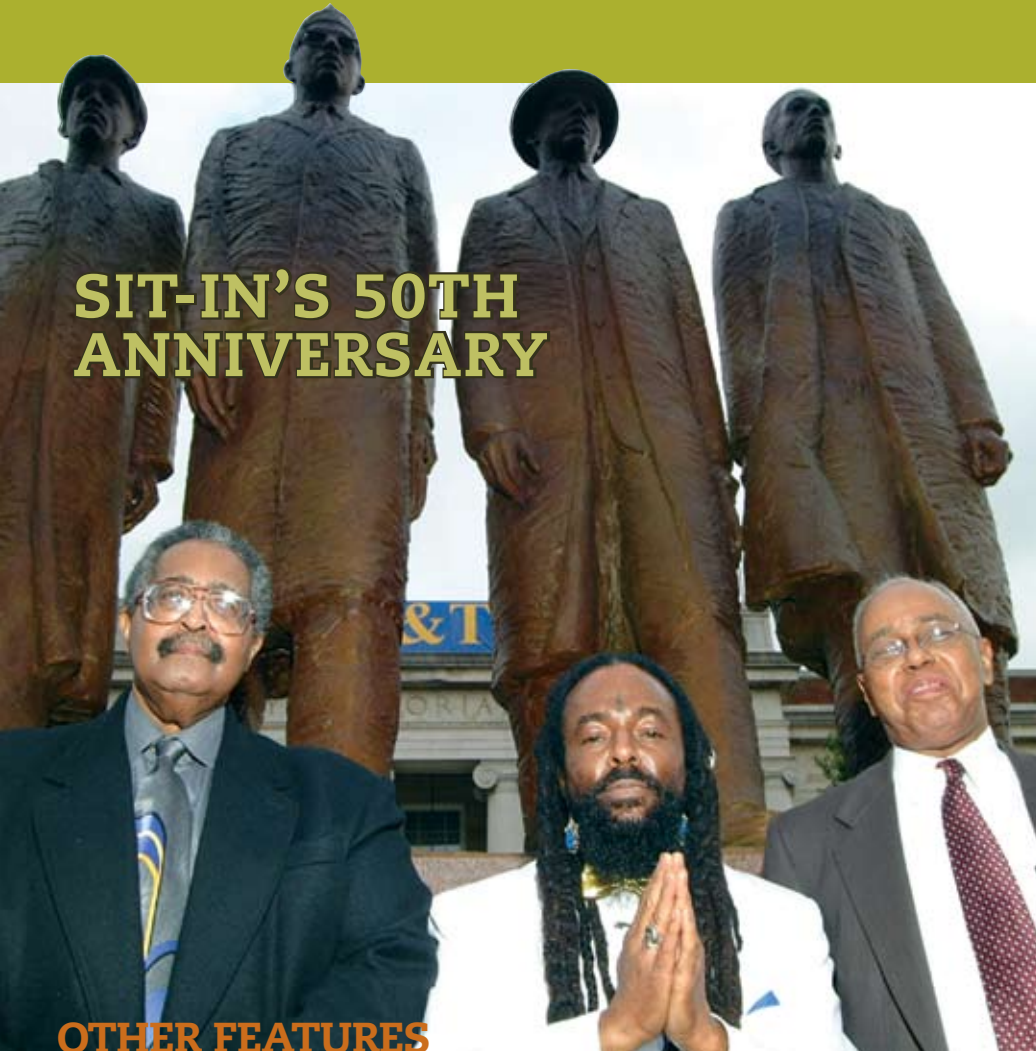




NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL  
AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

report  
today

# SIT-IN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



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Green Seas

Recipe for Life

A Friend, Indeed

SPRING

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North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is a learner-centered community that develops and preserves intellectual capital through interdisciplinary learning, discovery, engagement, and operational excellence.

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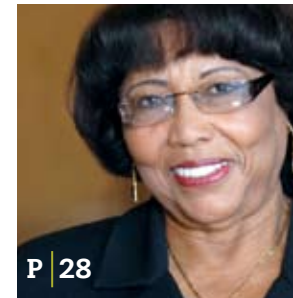
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**A&T TODAY**  
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University  
Spring 2010

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## Education building named



The School of Education building is named Samuel D. Proctor Hall, in honor of the University's fifth president. Pictured are education majors Janay Wilson and Blayre Penn, Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr., Herbert Samuel Proctor and his wife Patricia Proctor, School of Education Dean Ceola Ross Baber, and education major JaVon Robinson.

The new School of Education building has been named Samuel D. Proctor Hall, in honor of N.C. A&T's fifth president.

The award-winning 56,150-square-foot edifice, located on the corner of Benbow Rd. and Bluford St., was dedicated Nov. 19.

Proctor served as president of A&T from 1960-1964. He is most remembered for his loyal service to higher education, his leadership role in service to the United States and his impact as a theologian. He was serving as professor emeritus at Rutgers University and pastor emeritus of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem when he died in 1997, at the age of 75.

Greensboro attorney and A&T alumnus Walter T. Johnson Jr. was the keynote speaker for the occasion. He was president of the freshman class and treasurer then president of the Student Government Association during Proctor's tenure.

Herbert Samuel Proctor and his wife Patricia represented the Proctor family at the dedication. The former also brought remarks that included fond childhood memories of campus life during his father's presidency.

The School of Education prepares students for careers in PK-12 schools, industry, government and other agencies.

## A&T to offer Ph.D. in computational science and engineering

North Carolina A&T State University has received approval from UNC General Administration to establish a Ph.D. program in computational science and engineering (CSE) this fall.

"The proposed Ph.D. in computational science and engineering is consistent with North Carolina A&T State University's vision, and it will impact – in very positive and significant ways – the Triad and the state's economy, as well as serve as a catalyst to attract new high industries to the Triad and the state," said Alton Thompson, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Ajit D. Kelkar, director of computational science and engineering, said, "This program will strengthen our other graduate and undergraduate programs in the areas of physical and life sciences, mathematics, technology and business. It will also help us recruit additional well-qualified faculty and students, stimulate and enhance access to federal research funds and programs that are specifically tailored for doctoral level education.

"The doctoral program – along with the faculty it attracts, infrastructure resources and new courses – will strengthen undergraduate education and training by providing students with access to and experiences with these resources, research and educational activities," Kelkar added.

In its first four years at A&T (2005-2009), research in the master's level CSE program attracted more than \$4 million. Today, the program draws expertise and resources from various disciplines across the university, and it is currently one of three programs within the School of Graduate Studies.

The master's curriculum combines applied mathematics, high performance parallel and scalable computing, scientific modeling and simulation, data visualization with the domain areas such as physical sciences (physics and chemistry), mathematics, life sciences, technology and business. In addition, the curriculum stresses not only the science of discovery but the application of science to technology and implementation. Hence, there is a component of engineering science, engineering applications, and technology, which is missing in the pure sciences.

For information about the Ph.D. program in computational science and engineering at A&T, call Kelkar at (336) 334-7437, ext. 2001, or inquire via email at [kelkar@ncat.edu](mailto:kelkar@ncat.edu).



## CNN journalist addresses MLK celebration

Award winning journalist Roland S. Martin spoke at the University's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration, which was held Jan. 21. The theme was "The Dream — No Longer His, Now Ours."

Martin is a commentator for TV One Cable Network, a contributor for CNN, a nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate and author of *Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith and Speak Brother! A Black Man's View of America*. He can be heard daily on "The Roland S. Martin Show" on WVON AM/1690 in Chicago.

Known mostly for his provocative and insightful analysis in the political arena, Martin has appeared on MSNBC, FOX News, Court TV, BET Nightly News, BBC News, National Public Radio, The Word Network, America's Black Forum and the Tom Joyner Morning Show, among others. He once served as executive editor/general manager of the *Chicago Defender*, the nation's largest Black daily newspaper, and as a news editor for both *Savoy* magazine and *BlackAmericaWeb.com*.

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## Cole receives honorary degree



Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. presents the Doctor of Humanities degree to Johnnetta B. Cole, director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art.

Johnnetta B. Cole, director of the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African Art, received a Doctor of Humanities degree during the 2009 fall commencement ceremonies on Dec. 14, where she delivered the commencement address to more than 750 students receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Cole oversees 34 staff members and a collection of 9,100 objects in the only national museum in the United States dedicated to the collection, exhibition, conservation and study of the arts of Africa. She is board chair of the Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute, which was founded at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro.

The Jacksonville, Fla., native served as president of Bennett College for Women from 2002-2007. In 2002, she was co-curator of the exhibition, "Wrapped in Pride: Ghanaian Kente and African American Identity," at the Carlos Museum at Emory. She also has served as president of Spelman College in Atlanta.

Cole has served on the Scholarly Advisory Board of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture since its inception and she has worked with a number of Smithsonian programs since the mid-1980s. She is also on the Toni Morrison Society Board of Directors. She served on former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's Committee on Transformational Diplomacy, President Bill Clinton's Transition Team for Education, Labor, the Arts and Humanities, and was chair of United Way of America.

She has conducted research in Africa, the Caribbean and the United States and has authored several books and scores of scholarly articles. She has been awarded 54 honorary degrees from colleges and universities, including Princeton, Yale, Fisk, Smith and Columbia, and she has won numerous awards.

Cole received her master's degree and doctorate in anthropology from Northwestern University and her bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in Ohio.

## Chancellor's installation planned for April

A weeklong celebration is being planned for the installation of Harold L. Martin Sr. '74 as the 12th chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, April 19-23.

The events include a lyceum series, community forum, ladies luncheon, reception, and black tie gala. For a listing of events and requirements, see page 23 of this publication or visit [www.ncat.edu/~install](http://www.ncat.edu/~install).

Martin's term as chancellor began June 8, 2009. Prior to this appointment, he was the senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina (2006-2009), where he led the development and implementation of the academic mission of UNC, he advised the president, and he provided leadership for the president's council. Martin was chancellor of Winston-Salem State University (2000-2006).

Early in his career, Martin served in various positions at N.C. A&T including vice chancellor for academic affairs (1994-1999), dean of engineering (1989-1994), and chair and acting chair of electrical engineering (1985-87 and 1984-85, respectively).

Martin received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from A&T and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is married to the former Davida Wagner '75, county attorney for Forsyth County, N.C. They have two sons: Harold Jr. and Walter.

## Sociology/Social Work honors department pioneer



Will B. Scott, the man who organized and developed what currently is the Department of Sociology and Social Work, now has a permanent campus memorial to his life and service.

Former students, colleagues and others in the field gathered Nov. 28, 2009, the fifth anniversary of Scott's death, to remember him and the invaluable contributions he made to the University, his field, and the hundreds of students

he encouraged to pursue graduate study.

"He really was an inspiration ... and he got A&T on the map nationally for sociology and social work. But very quietly," said one colleague who also was his wife over four decades: Gloria R. Scott, former president of Bennett College for Women. She traveled from her home in Texas to be among the participants who named a bench and planted a watermelon red crape myrtle tree, which is native to Texas, near Gibbs Hall.

Former A&T President Lewis C. Dowdy brought the Scotts to A&T in 1967. Dowdy hired Gloria as his special assistant and Will to chair and gain accreditation for a then new department called Sociology and Social Services. Will succeeded in establishing a department that became a model he later shared to help 15 or 16 other schools, including UNCG, get their programs accredited, too.

Robert "Bob" Davis, chairman of the department and host of the "Bottom Line" talk show on WNAA 90.1 FM, remembers Will Scott hiring him "sight unseen." He praised his former mentor for his devotion to helping develop students and young faculty.

"He was all about students," Davis said, and "he was all about faculty development."

## IFAJIS has series on educational gap

The Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies at North Carolina A&T State University has begun a four part series depicting the ever-growing educational gap between white and black students in America's public school system.

Under the direction of DeWayne Wickham, distinguished professor at A&T and columnist for *USA Today* and Gannett News Services, the project, "The Black-White Achievement Gap," took a look at the many factors that have contributed to the varying methods of educating today's students. For several weeks, professional reporters and students from IFAJS interviewed dozens of education proponents, experts and school officials across the country to try to define the achievement gap and to ferret out solutions to the problem.

Nationally, black students are three times more likely than white students to be placed in special education programs and half as likely to be in gifted ones. Just 14 percent of black fourth graders are proficient in national reading assessments compared with 43 percent of white students. And by the eighth grade, there is a 30-point gap in math scores between black and white students, according to the IFAJS researchers.

IFAJIS journalists also traveled to Cuba and Barbados – both countries with exceptionally high literacy rates – to compare its educational systems to that in America. To read their stories visit the IFAJS website at <http://ifajs.org/index.html>.

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the project is still in its first phase. The project should culminate with the production of a book, scheduled for November 2010.

The Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies is a university-based program that provides professional development opportunities for mid-career, black journalists and practical news gathering experiences for black journalism students.

## IMLS Bookshelf comes to A&T

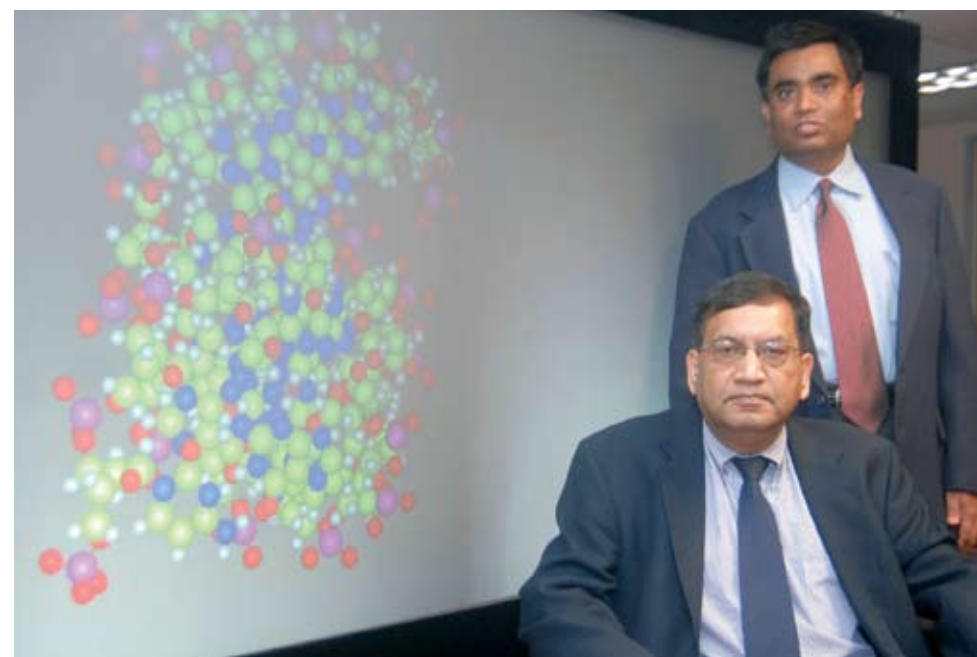
Treasured objects and artifacts held by North Carolina A&T State University will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of conservation books and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

IMLS has awarded nearly 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

Shawnya Harris, director of University Galleries explains: "The permanent collections at North Carolina A&T State University, the Mattye Reed Collection of African Art and the H.C. Taylor Collection of American Art, contain important artistic objects that must be preserved for years to come. This gift of resources from the IMLS will provide the first step toward ensuring that we are able to educate both ourselves and the campus community about the importance of conservation care and training."

IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens and nature centers. It addresses topics such as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness and culturally specific conservation issues.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.



**Kenneth Flurchick, Ajit Kelkar (front) and Ram Mohan (back), three professors in the new computational science and engineering interdisciplinary doctoral program, have received research funding totaling over \$2.5 million from NASA Kennedy Space Center, the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Science Foundation.**

Flurchick is the principal investigator for the "Consortium for Research Computing for the Sciences, Engineering and Technology (CRCSET)" grant from the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$384,330. Kelkar, director of computational science and engineering, is the principal investigator for "Integrating NASA Science, Technology and Research in Undergraduate Curriculum and Training (INSTRUCT)," funded by NASA in the amount of \$1,048,573. Mohan is the principal investigator for "Computational Modeling and High Performance Computing in Advanced Material Processing, Synthesis, and Design," funded by the DOD Office of Naval Research in the amount of \$1,156,000.

**Frankie Day, associate professor of visual and performing arts and director of the theatre program,** was a 2009 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region IV Teaching Artist for directing. Started in 1969, KCACTF is a national theatre program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide that has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theatre in the United States.

**North Carolina A&T has received a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation** to support the University's role in a national consortium studying "Evolution in Action," or BEACON (Bio/computational Evolution in Action CONsortium), which focuses on joining evolutionary biology and high performance computing as a tool for modeling and analyzing the process of evolution as it changes living organisms and artificial systems. **Gerry Dozier,** chair of the department of computer science, is the lead researcher for BEACON. Researchers from the departments of biology, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, industrial and systems engineering, and university studies, along with Secure Designs, Inc., are participating in the program. A&T is one of five universities involved in the consortium.

# campus briefs

## Faculty and Staff

**Salil Desai, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering,** was awarded the Dr. Hamed K. Eldin Outstanding Young IE in Education Award by the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE). This award recognizes individuals in academia who have demonstrated outstanding characteristics in leadership, professionalism and potential in industrial engineering. The award also recognizes engineering contributions in application, design, research or development of IE methods by young IIE members.

Desai specializes in nano, micro and bio manufacturing. He is the recipient of several federal awards from DoD, NSF and ORNL for his research in direct-write technologies and hybrid nanomanufacturing. He also has expertise in multiphysics and multiscale modeling, product design, CAD/CAM and statistical optimization.

**David King, operations and systems technician in the department of accounting,** received the 2009 State Employees Association of North Carolina Membership of the Year Award. He has served as treasurer of SEANC District 17 for the past two years.

SEANC is a membership-run organization made up of 55,000 state government employees and retirees who advocate for its members in the North Carolina General Assembly, the Office of the Governor, the Office of State Personnel and all other state agencies. SEANC also represents its members before state boards and commissions, including the Retirement Systems Board of Trustees and the State Health Plan.

**Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. has been named chairman of this year's March of Dimes March for Babies campaign in Greensboro.** The event will be held Saturday, April 24, at Center City Park. It is the largest fund raiser for the March of Dimes.

**Celestine Ntuen was honored as a Fellow of the Institute for Industrial Engineers (IIE)** during the organization's annual meeting that was held in Miami, Fla. The highest classification of IIE membership, the honor recognizes outstanding leaders of the profession who have made significant, nationally recognized contributions to industrial engineering. Ntuen is interim vice chancellor for research and economic development. He previously served as a Distinguished University Professor and director of the Center for Human-Machine Studies.

**J. Charles Waldrup has been named general counsel,** effective Feb. 22. He was selected following a national search.

Since August, Waldrup has spent several days each week as interim general counsel at A&T while also serving as associate vice president for legal affairs for The University of North Carolina General Administration. He served in the UNC General Administration's Legal Affairs Division since 2002.

**Xiaohong Dorothy Yuan, associate professor in the department of computer science,** College of Engineering, has been awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program. The \$582,738 award will be used to establish a secure software engineering program.

# campus briefs

## Students

**Jasmine Johnson, a junior journalism and mass communication major,** was selected as a scholar to attend the Campus Coverage Project at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications by Investigative Reporters and Editors, Jan. 7-10, in Phoenix, Ariz. The scholarships cover travel, lodging and a stipend for meals. Student scholars must have had experience reporting for a campus-related news outlet.

**A play written, produced and directed by junior journalism and mass communication major Kevin Wilson,** was showcased during the 50th anniversary celebration of the A&T Four's sit-in at F.W. Woolworth in downtown Greensboro. "The Emmett Till Story" is about the teenage boy who was murdered in Mississippi for allegedly whistling at a white woman, and the resulting events.

"After speaking with Mr. Jibreel Khazan (one of the A&T Four), he told me that one of the things they talked about the night they were planning the sit-in was Emmett Till ... it was frustrating to them that this young guy could be killed and the nation could look the other way," said Wilson, who wrote the play when he was a 15-year-old high school student studying theatre in Durham, N.C. "Telling this story and knowing how it correlates to the A&T Four was just confirmation to me how important (this is)."



**North Carolina A&T's College of Engineering ECO Team recently traveled to Taiwan** as guests of MingDao University at the 2009 MingDao International Fuel Cell Car Demonstration Event. The team is an international leader in alternative/renewable energy and future engineering solutions for the environment. Messiha Saad, assistant professor in the mechanical engineering department, and Jamelaa Jones, a senior and member of the ECO Team, participated in the 2nd National Fuel Cell Car Racing Competition and fuel cell car demonstration event.

# GREEN SEAS

**Ag professor spends semester traveling and teaching sustainability on the high seas.**

By Joya Wesley

John O'Sullivan's office isn't in an ivory tower; it's located in one-story Coltrane Hall. Plus, as a faculty member in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES), he regularly gets out – literally – into the field.

Last fall, however, he took the concept of anchoring academia in the real world even further afield – all the way out to sea. During a sabbatical approved by Alton Thompson, A&T's interim provost and former SAES dean, O'Sullivan took part in the University of Virginia's Semester at Sea program, traveling around the world while teaching aboard a floating mini-university.

While O'Sullivan is no stranger to international travel, this program is special.

“Traveling around the world by ship helps us to position ourselves in our place in the world,” he says. “Travel by ship, to me, deepens the travel experience because it really connects us historically.”

UVA launched the program in 1963, allowing students, faculty, and a full complement of other university personnel and crew an innovative opportunity for study abroad. On O'Sullivan's cruise there were 650 students and 30 faculty and staff members.

O'Sullivan taught economic history during the trip, which he made along with his wife Rita, who also joined the shipboard faculty on a break from her position at UNC Chapel Hill. Their voyage included ports in the Bahamas, Brazil, Namibia, South Africa, India, China, Japan and Costa Rica.

The ship was at sea about half of the semester and in ports the other half. O'Sullivan, whose classroom was in a corner of the student union, integrated into his curriculum what students saw when the ship docked.

“While we were visiting the ports,” he said, “we would talk about how it fit.”

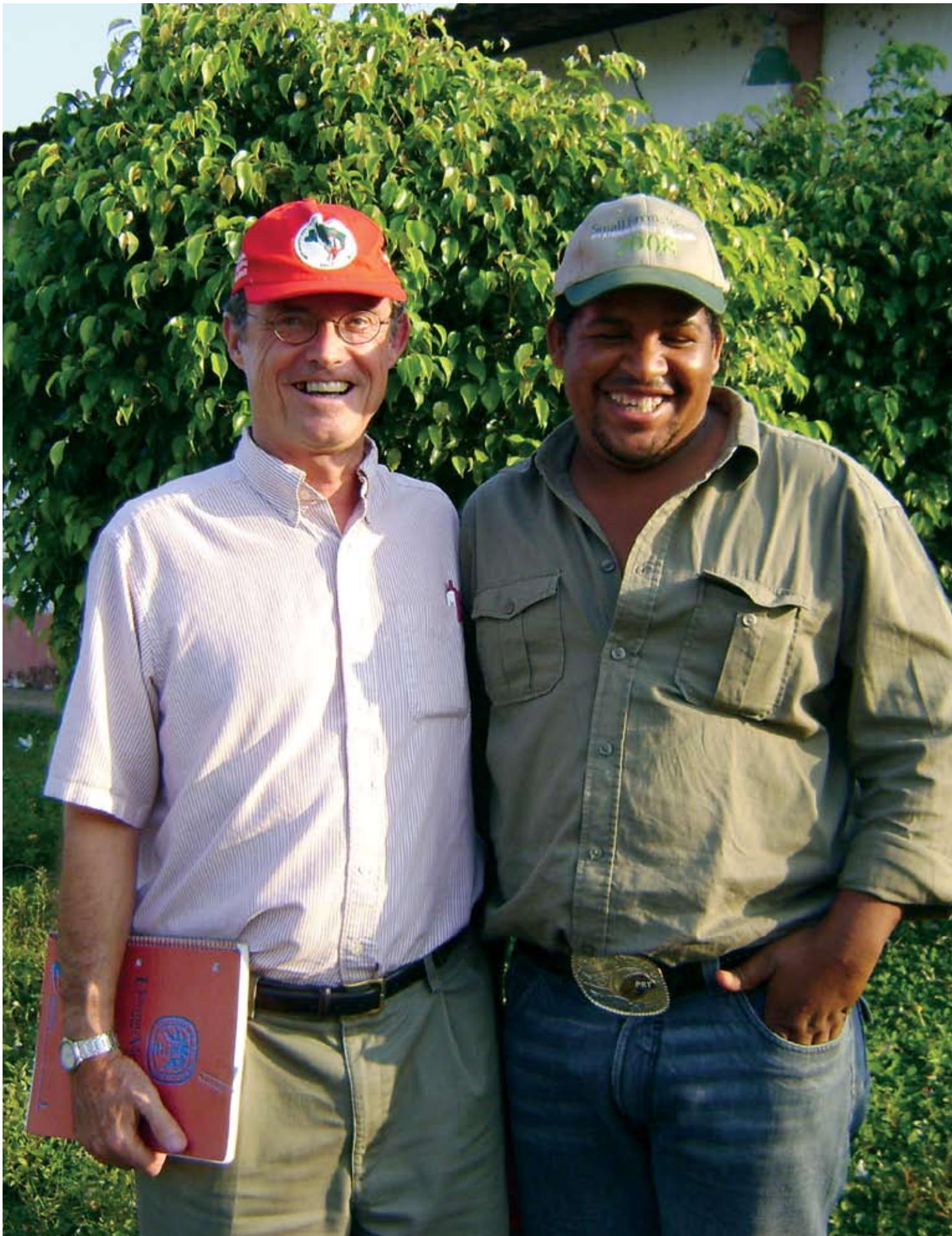
For example, during the stop in Salvador, a city of 2.5 million on the coast of Brazil, they visited a 70-year-old “favela,” or illegally built shanty-town community.

*continued, page 12*



Above: In Cape Town, South Africa, O'Sullivan and his students visit a market where women sell produce from their community garden.

Left: O'Sullivan meets and temporarily switches caps with a local farmer in Salvador, Brazil.



“These are squatters who have taken the land back,” O’Sullivan said, sharing photographs during an interview in his office. “We were talking about land issues, market issues ... that’s what I do here.”

O’Sullivan, who came to A&T in 1983, is a professor, farm management and marketing specialist for the Cooperative Extension Program at A&T, and the A&T liaison for the Center for Environmental Farm Systems, a joint venture in Goldsboro with SAES, N.C. State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

In addition to enriching his understanding in general, his Semester at Sea prompted a new A&T course: “Sustaining Agriculture, Nutrition and Community for Humanity’s Future.” The stop in Brazil was the first of many opportunities the voyage offered for rooting the lessons of his courses – on the ship and back at A&T – in the real experiences of real people:

In South Africa, they visited a market where poor women sold produce they had grown.

“What they’re doing is building community gardens,” O’Sullivan said. “We talked about economic development and the role of women. They’re working to make it happen, and it’s not easy.”

In Japan, they visited a Harvest Festival outside Kobe, where they tasted sample food products at an event sponsored by a Japanese extension service very much like North Carolina’s.

In China, they rode 250 kilometers per hour on a brand new railroad, witnessed colossal building projects and noted the difference in economic climate.

“The Chinese are not sweating at all,” O’Sullivan said. “They’ve got all this money because everybody’s buying ... from them.”

In the Panama Canal, they passed a massive ship called a Panamax, designed to fit through the canal with just 10 inches of clearance.

“We are losing dairies every day here in North Carolina,” says O’Sullivan. “They’re going to be bringing milk on these ships from New Zealand. ... It’s about our choices. You can buy local, or you can add to the global economy.”

For O’Sullivan and students alike, circumnavigating the globe puts the global economy into clearer perspective. He’s given numerous presentations and slide shows about his voyage.

“We’ve got ourselves a big problem and you see that as you travel,” O’Sullivan said, noting that the problem is largely one of communication. “What is the language that makes sense so people will see how their choices, their values, their use of resources impacts things? We really need to be deep with our questions and patient with our answers.”

O’Sullivan attends an agricultural extension program that features samplings of local foods outside Kobe, Japan.



# O’Sullivan’s Semester at Sea Blog

Dr. John O’Sullivan, who had traveled extensively before his Semester at Sea, maintained a blog during his time on the ship. Here are some excerpts.

## Thursday August 21, 2008 — The Journey Begins

Where should this journal start? ... The week in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in November 2006, when we visited Libby on her Semester at Sea trip? ... Our trips to Africa, El Salvador, Puerto Rico? Our Peace Corps acquaintance with villages in Ivory Coast beginning in 1968? Meeting in December 1968 in Yamousoukro? Our promise to African friends to pass on what we learned about Africa?

Do we go back even further to find the beginning?

My first trip to Gaspé and Bermuda on the M.V. Gripsholm in 1960, and subsequent cruises with Fella to the Baltic, to Buenos Aires to the Caribbean on the Brasil, Argentina, Coronia and Ocean Monarch?

A new adventure begins. ...

## Wednesday, October 8, 2008 — Life at Sea

Right now we are sitting a short distance off of Port Louis, Mauritius. It is warm and sunny with a calm blue sea. Mauritius is famous (in my eyes, anyhow) as the home of the now-extinct dodo bird. They were wiped out by early Dutch sailors who clubbed them to death because they had no fear of humans and would stand around when the men approached. Mauritius is an island of volcanic origin with sharp mountain peaks across the backdrop behind Port Louis. Its agricultural base was sugar for several hundred years and its population is largely Indian now, descendants of people brought over here by the British to work the cane.

Since we left Durban the sea has been rough and the sky gray. We have had a consistent wind on the Beaufort scale of force 5 or 7, with sea swells of 2 or 3 meters- rough but not seriously so. It is good to be back to warmer air and calmer water. We are here to refuel so are anchored off Port Louis and will proceed on our way in several hours. ...

## Saturday, October 25, 2008 — Penang, Malaysia

Penang is an island a half a km from the mainland. The British East India Company established two forts, one on each end of the Straits of Malacca to control trade from the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea. At the south end, Singapore. At the north end, George Town on the island of Penang (1768). At that time there was nothing here. Lord Cornwallis (of Guilford County House Battle and Yorktown in U.S. history fame) came here and built a fort, still here, Fort Cornwallis, immediately to our starboard side.

As a result George Town is a very cosmopolitan city with a majority of the population being Chinese and Indian. The town itself now sprawls across the north end of the island and across the bridge to the mainland and the entire area is now a major center for international production and trade; rubber, palm oil being prime ingredients for many plastics and components of high technology machinery. It is very hot and humid here. We have had rain showers and very warm afternoons. ...

## Opportunities for International Study and Work

A&T believes study abroad is a crucial ingredient in the success of future leaders. The Office of International Programs provides information and assistance to faculty and staff interested in gaining international experience themselves through the following opportunities:

**The Fulbright Scholar Programs.** These programs offer U.S. faculty, administrators, professionals, and independent scholars numerous opportunities to study and work abroad, in a wide variety of disciplines and sub-disciplines.

**The Council on International Educational Exchange.** This organization offers educators the opportunity to participate in International Faculty Development Seminars. The seminars are hosted by prestigious academic institutions abroad and focus on internationalizing the curricula.

**Brethren Colleges Abroad.** This program also offers a series of seminars each year for college and university faculty and administrators. These theme-based seminars, held at study centers around the world, give participants insight into a specific theme or topic, as well as help in understanding the host country and its culture.

**International Research.** By engaging in research outside the United States, faculty and staff make connections in other countries while enhancing their own professional qualifications. Connecting with peers in other countries offers a way to network, find resources, and partner on research.

**Faculty-Led Programs.** International Programs has an “Experience Abroad Proposal Form” that guides faculty through the steps of designing, teaching and/or participating in international programs for A&T students.

For more information about International Programs at A&T, visit <http://ncat.abroadoffice.net>.



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIT-IN BRINGS “A SPIRITUAL THANKSGIVING”



Joseph A. McNeil '63 (3rd left), Jibreel Khazan '63 (6th left) and Franklin McCain Sr. '63 (far right), the surviving members of the Greensboro Four (A&T Four) celebrate the 50th anniversary of their fateful stance at the annual Sit-in Breakfast with (l-r) Bishop Cecil Bishop, retired bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church and keynote speaker; Rev. William J. Barber II, pastor, president of the North Carolina NAACP State Conference of Branches and N.C. A&T Human Rights Medal recipient; Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. '63, human rights activist; David “Chip” Richmond, son of the late David L. Richmond, one of the A&T Four; Melvin L. “Skip Alston, chairman of the Guilford County Commissioners and co-founder of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum; and Harold L. Martin Sr. '74, chancellor of N.C. A&T.

The theme of N.C. A&T’s annual Sit-In Anniversary Breakfast, “A Spiritual Thanksgiving,” set the tone for a weekend-long celebration in Greensboro, marking the 50th anniversary of a pivotal moment that brought a school, a community and a people together for an action that changed the world. By Joya Wesley

It was a weekend that brought Aggies and others together across imagined lines including those of generation, race and politics to celebrate the history, reflect on the past, present and future, and offer thanks to the men whose courage made it all possible 50 years ago.

The always-moving commemoration took on an even greater significance this year because it coincided with the long-awaited opening of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in the old F.W. Woolworth’s building where Aggies Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair Jr. (now Jibreel Khazan) and the late David Richmond sat down Feb. 1, 1960 – in open defiance of Jim Crow laws – and ordered a cup of coffee.

While the community offered its usual gratitude to the Four, with David “Chip” Richmond standing in for his late father, they shared the spotlight this year with Guilford County Commissioner Skip Alston and N.C. Rep. Earl Jones, the museum founders who withstood much in their 17-year effort to preserve the historic site by making the museum a reality.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony opening the museum was a major production with

Right: Students and emerging leaders participate in one of two town hall discussions on “21st Century Activism and Protest: The State of the Civil Rights Movement,” the first in a series of events commemorating the opening of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro. Panelists pictured with N.C. A&T Student Government President Syene Jasmin (3rd left) are Gary Brown, student government chief of staff at A&T; Denyqua Rodriguez, student government president, Bennett College; Stephen A. Smith, award-winning journalist and former ESPN sports analyst; Inga S. Willis, consultant, The Mogul Group LLC; and Warren Ballentine, attorney and radio host. Emmy Award-winning journalist Ed Gordon was the moderator.



### PANELISTS PONDER 21ST CENTURY ACTIVISM

Hundreds of Aggies and community supporters attended the event that began the weekend-long countdown to the opening of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum: a town hall meeting at A&T’s Alumni-Foundation Event Center on “21st Century Activism and Protest: The State of the Civil Rights Movement.”

The event, hosted by Emmy Award-winning journalist Ed Gordon, featured two panels. The first featured “elders” including N.C. A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. '74, Bennett College President Julianne Malveaux, human rights activists Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. '63, M&F Bancorp, Inc. President/CEO Kim D. Saunders and Benjamin Chavis Muhammad, former executive director and CEO of the NAACP and current head of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network.

The second panel was comprised of “emerging leaders” including former ESPN sports analyst Stephen A. Smith, attorney and radio host Warren Ballentine, Bennett College Student Government Association President Denyqua Rodriguez, University of North Carolina at Greensboro student Zim Ugochukwu and A&T SGA Chief of Staff Gary Brown.

Speakers from both panels stressed the importance of connecting intergenerationally to fight injustices that persist in the legal and economic systems.

“The onus is on us to make sure that our students know that there really is something to still fight for,” said one panelist, A&T political science and criminal justice faculty member Derrick K. Smith.

Added Ballentine: “Jim Crow may be dead, but his son, Jim Crow, Esquire, is alive and well.”

jumbotrons, the closure of the city’s main downtown street and national media coverage. A&T’s Peay Brothers sang the national anthem at the ceremony, which attracted just about all of the area’s local, state and national elected officials, including Gov. Bev Perdue, U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, and U.S. Rep. Mel Watt. Representing The White House was Assistant Atty. Gen. Thomas Perez, who heads the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

Many others offered eloquent tributes to the A&T Four, whose action involved other campus activists including Lewis Brandon III and the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. on the front end, and students from Bennett College for Women and masses of the local black community on the back end.

“I am a student of the Civil Rights Movement and it is such an honor for me to be here in the presence of the foot soldiers and the majors and the generals of that movement,” Perez said.

Purdue offered a personal tribute: “Were it not for the decisions they made as young people not to accept the status quo, I would not be standing here as the first woman governor.”

Julianne Malveaux, the economist and national commentator currently serving as Bennett’s president, raised up the “audacity” of the A&T and Bennett students during a Town Hall Meeting at the Alumni-Foundation Event Center that launched the weekend’s activities.

“No one gave those brothers and sisters permission to sit down at that lunch counter,” Malveaux said. “They just decided. They gave themselves an upgrade.”

It also was a time for laughter.

*continued, page 16*

## A FATEFUL FRIENDSHIP – 50 YEARS LATER

One of the stories told in the new International Civil Rights Center & Museum is the central one of the four N.C. A&T freshman and their heroic act.

During a news conference at the museum an hour after the ribbon cutting, Franklin McCain told how it went down with his three buddies, Joseph McNeil, the late David Richmond and Ezell Blair Jr. (now Jibreel Khazan): “Joe and I voted yes; David said, ‘I’ll go along with the group,’ and Jibreel said, ‘I guess I have no choice.’ And he didn’t.”

Fifty years later, the three surviving Aggies graciously – yet with their own individual styles – accepted the gratitude offered directly to them during the triumphant anniversary celebration/museum opening weekend. David “Chip” Richmond, the same age – 49 – at which his father passed, valiantly stood in for him, saying he felt “like a substitute teacher, trying ... to do a good job.”

McCain, the former chairman of the A&T Board of Trustees, admonished students to do better about taking up the torch; Khazan, Greensboro born and raised but now residing in New Bedford, Mass., characteristically mixed humor and complex teachings from sources including his sociology degree and his Christian and Islamic studies, into his messages; McNeil, who grew up in Wilmington, N.C., before his family moved to New York, then returned south to attend A&T on a full scholarship, was reflective and hopeful.

“I would say we need to be very careful and not short change the capability of young people. That’s the main thing we learned from the sit-ins,” he said, noting that the store manager initially underestimated the staying power teenagers would have, but ended up being surprised by their fortitude.

“If we expect good things from them,” he said of the youth, “sometimes they deliver.”

“I have to change my line now. I’ve been telling people I’m 49,” McCain quipped at the annual breakfast, which was moved this year from Williams Cafeteria on A&T’s campus to the Empire Room, a downtown venue that could accommodate the 900-person crowd and was conveniently located across the street from the new museum.

Among those attending the breakfast was the recipient of the 2010 North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Human Rights Medal, the Rev. William Barber, president of the NAACP’s state council of branches and an activist who said he was inspired by the A&T Four and others who came before him.

Retired AME Zion Bishop Cecil Bishop, who offered the breakfast address, congratulated the Four for deciding, “No matter what happens to us, we will put our lives on the line for what we believe.”

“They looked at a situation and knew that it needed changing,” Bishop said. “And as they looked at it, they did not just say why, but they asked the why not. Why not try to make a difference? ... God had touched their hearts and left something burning on the inside.”

Among the honors and tributes the Four accepted was the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the State of North Carolina’s highest honor. In response, they were thankful and reflective.

“I can see progress, yes,” McCain said, “but I also see that we have miles to go and promises to keep before we even think about sleeping.”

Khazan, who took his present name in 1968 when he joined the New England Islamic Society, was characteristically funny and confounding at the breakfast.

“This year is the 517th year since 1492. The phoenix rises every 500 years. A&T, we are that phoenix and we’re on the rise. That’s why we’re here today,” he said, weaving more complicated philosophical teachings that he eventually broke down to the simplest terms: “This is the greatest commandment,” he said, then broke into singing, “Love, love, love.”

McNeil said the celebration truly was for him a time of spiritual thanksgiving.

“We have so much to be thankful for,” he said, listing among them the fact that “somebody taught me that we could use a tool like non-violence for social change.”

Taurean Walston, a senior elementary education major from Hartsville, S.C., asked in his breakfast invocation that God “bind us together now, with cords that cannot be broken,” and speakers at the breakfast and other weekend events sought to do just that.

“We have spent enormous amounts of our time engaging our students here,” said A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. “Many are drawn here because of the history and traditions of our student activists, and we’re charged to continue making a difference in the world.”

Jackson appealed for the community to “dispel the notion of ‘back in the day.’ God has not missed a day since he started making days,” he said, noting that the Jewish people gain strength from embracing 5,000 years of continuity.

“Let’s not look for another reason to divide and subdivide,” he said at the Town Hall meeting, “because we all need each other intergenerationally.”

## MARCHING ON

More than 1,000 Aggies and other activists took part in a commemorative march designed to reflectively and silently retrace the steps of the A&T Four on the 50th anniversary of their momentous trek.

The march was capped by a drummed sendoff by N.C. A&T’s drum line at the February One Monument. Greensboro’s Cakalak Thunder Radical Drum Corps welcomed marchers as they passed the historic Woolworth’s building (now the International Civil Rights Center & Museum) on the way to the Governmental Plaza.

It was one of several events students and other members of the Aggie family organized on campus in conjunction with the events coordinated by the International Civil Rights Center & Museum.

Pamela McCorkle Buncum, chair of the A&T Board of Trustees, was one of those affected by the moving nature of the activities.

“I’ve been here since Thursday,” she said, unable to describe her feelings at the brief ceremony where portraits of the A&T Four by artist Charles E. Watkins were unveiled and a wreath laid in the courtyard of the four residence halls named for each of them. “I just don’t have words.”

Student Austin James, the campus’ first Mister A&T, used poetry to capture the moment: “A race for equality,” went his repeated refrain. “Read. Get set. Pow!”

Said Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. to students at the burial of a time capsule near the Monument, “Accept the torch of freedom, equality and justice being passed to you.”



A&T students, employees, alumni and others retrace the steps of those who marched from the campus to downtown Greensboro in February 1960, in protest of Jim Crow laws. The present day march culminated at Governmental Plaza.



Spectators gather around the February One Monument to witness the burial of a time capsule on Feb. 1. Pictured in front are (l-r) Pamela McCorkle Buncum '81, chair of the board of trustees; Harold L. Martin Sr. '74, chancellor; Jibreel Khazan '63, one of the A&T Four; and Joseph A. McNeil '63, A&T Four; David “Chip” Richmond, son of the late A&T Four member David L. Richmond '63; and Franklin E. McCain Sr., A&T Four.



International Civil Rights Center & Museum is a victory for founders, city and state.

By Joya Wesley

# A Grand Opening

It was a long time coming, but Franklin McCain knew that Guilford County Commissioner Skip Alston and N.C. Rep. Earl Jones ultimately would make the International Civil Rights Center & Museum a reality.

"I saw in the character and the vision of Skip and Earl a long time ago that this museum was going to happen," said McCain, one of the Greensboro Four (A&T Four). "I knew in my heart because I saw that they were committed to this museum."

With a series of challenges and setbacks along the way, it was an uphill battle for the two founders, whose heads, Alston said, were "bloodied but unbowed." In the end, they were able to claim victory in the national spotlight as the new museum took its place among North Carolina's top tourist attractions on a most auspicious day, the 50th anniversary of Feb. 1, 1960.

"I prayed a lot about this museum and I asked the Lord to let his will be done," Alston said. "I think that this date and time was ordained and decided by God when he put this thing in our heart to save this building. He knew that this was the day that he wanted this museum to be opened - the 50th anniversary of the modern day Civil Rights Movement's start - it can't be anything but God himself decided that this day would be the day."

Created to tell an uncompromising story of the A&T Four and other aspects of civil rights struggles, the Museum features state-of-the-art exhibits, a gift shop and spaces for educational activities and special events.

"As a design person, I can tell you that these exhibits are top of the line," said Bill Russ of the state's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development.

Russ visited the museum opening week as he escorted journalists from around the world on a tour of all the attractions the State Department of Commerce is promoting through the division.

The founders and others stressed that the museum will be an active facility rather than a passive one featuring, among other things, lectures on contemporary issues.

"This museum will be very successful if it inspires the young people of today to take up their responsibility to humanity," said lifelong social justice activist Richard Koritz, a board member of Sit-In Movement Inc., the organization Alston and Jones founded in the early 1990s to make the museum a reality.

In addition to Chairman Alston, Vice Chairman Jones and Koritz, the board of directors also includes Jibreel Khazan,

A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr., A&T Chancellor Emeritus Edward B. Fort (secretary), Carole Bruce, CPA (treasurer), Doug S. Harris (counsel), Ronald Milstein, James N. Smith, James C. Johnson, Gladys Shipman, Deena Hayes, Henry H. Isaacson, Hurley W. Derrickson and Michelle Gethers Clark.

During the anniversary weekend, Jones repeatedly and pointedly referred to the new tourist attraction as "your" International Civil Rights Center & Museum.

"If it wasn't for this community, it never would have happened," he said. "We had two bond referendums to fail, but many people went to the polls and put their hopes and dreams into the opening of the Civil Rights Museum.

This is your museum. You own this museum and you will be proud of it. I do want to thank you all for supporting us over the years, and I hope that you would continue supporting us in the future."

Above: Participating in the ribbon cutting for the opening of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum are (l-r) Franklin E. McCain Sr. '63, one of the Greensboro Four (A&T Four); Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. '63, human rights activist; Melvin L. "Skip" Alston, museum co-founder and chairman of the Guilford County Commissioners; U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan; Yvonne Johnson, former mayor of Greensboro; Joseph A. McNeil '63, one of the Greensboro Four (A&T Four); Gov. Bev Perdue; William H. Knight, mayor of Greensboro; N.C. Rep. Earl Jones, museum co-founder; U.S. Rep. Mel Watt; and U.S. Assistant Atty. Gen. Thomas Perez, representing The White House.

# people behind the scholarships

## A Friend, Indeed

As an educator, counselor and model of academic and professional success, Myrtle Sampson – the North Carolina A&T State University Teacher of the Year for 1984-85 – has long set an example for A&T students.

By Joya Wesley

One of the founders of the Friends of the School of Education, Myrtle Sampson is among the university’s donors who are setting examples. Her \$25,000 gift, matched by the federal government’s Title IX program to bring the total to \$50,000, will provide much needed scholarships.

She understands how important scholarship funds are to students who don’t have what they need to go to school. Despite their success in high school, Sampson and her twin sister Bertha were forced to spend two years working on their family’s farm near Parkersburg, N.C., before enrolling as undergraduates at N.C. Central University.

“I was valedictorian and my sister was salutatorian,” Sampson recalls. “We had an older brother and sister in school at the time, and our parents could not afford to send all of us to school at one time. There wasn’t any such thing as financial aid.”

It was a circumstance that delayed but didn’t stop the two future educators, who entered NCCU as pre-med students and earned bachelor’s degrees in biology before a lack of funds prompted them to change course.

“We had pretty good averages – we graduated with honors – but we still didn’t have any money,” she says. “We stayed on and got our master’s degrees in library science before we went into the world of work. The field for librarians was very wide open.”

Sampson’s path eventually brought her to Greensboro, where in 1958, she and her husband, pharmacist Robert Sampson, were married at Providence Baptist Church where they still are active members. After a stint at Bennett College for Women, she joined A&T’s School of Education faculty in 1972, where she pursued her long-held interest in psychology.

“I’m a twin and I wanted to know how twins operated, plus I was interested in why people make the decisions that they do,” she said, adding that her interest was piqued even further after she and her husband adopted their son Ricky in 1965 and discovered that he was autistic.



For information about joining the Friends of the School of Education at North Carolina A&T, contact Mary Purnell at (336) 272-2795.

Contributions can be sent to the N.C. A&T University Foundation, 1601 E. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27411. Make checks payable to the N.C. A&T University Foundation and write “Friends – The School of Education” in the memo line.

While at A&T, she taught and mentored students including a host of current A&T employees Miriam Wagner, interim chair of human development and services; Vivian Barnette, director of counseling services; Marvin Hall of psychology, and Stephen McCary-Henderson of curriculum and instruction.

Also during those years she became the first African American to earn a doctorate from UNCG. She followed that up with a second doctorate in clinical psychology from Heed University. She also opened G&S Associates, becoming the first African American woman with a formal psychotherapeutic agency in the Piedmont.

“Dr. Sampson was and still is a stellar teacher,” Wagner said. “Her counseling acumen was evident in everything she did in the classroom.”

Sampson credits her philosophy of teaching with being named Teacher of the Year in 1984-85.

“I had the basic idea that everybody can learn – Ricky taught me that – if they’re motivated to learn,” she says. “I motivated my students with that basic belief that they could make a contribution. ... I believe it raised the self concept in order to help them learn.”

Through it all, she had a great time.

“I enjoyed teaching,” she says. “It was almost like play. I enjoyed it to the extent that I did not think of it as work.”

Barnette, who says Sampson “loves a good laugh,” feels fortunate to be one of her favorite people and students, and to have grown up to be her colleague in organizations including the American Psychological Association and the Friends.

“We all feel special in her presence,” Barnette said. “I felt special many times but the two most vivid were whenever she attended my presentations at our national APA conferences in Chicago and San Francisco. My colleagues were just as surprised and excited as me and they still ask about her to this day.

“She is one of the main reasons that I’m a psychologist,” Barnette says. “It is almost impossible to sit with her and not make needed changes in yourself. That’s what makes her an exceptional professor, an exemplary therapist, and an awesome mentor.”

In addition to Sampson’s involvement with numerous professional organizations, she also has been active in the Greensboro community, where her husband operated Sampson’s Pharmacy for 52 years. She has received WFMY’s 2 Those Who Care Award for her work administering mental status exams to elderly people in nursing homes.

Her commitment to A&T, which she also has included in her will, extends back to the 1950s, when she took three courses under Chancellor Lewis C. Dowdy and applied them to her master’s degree in psychology from

**“I enjoyed teaching; it was almost like play. I enjoyed it to the extent that I did not think of it as work.”**

— Dr. Myrtle Sampson

the University of Michigan. It continued through her time as a faculty member – years of service for which she was honored by about 200 people at a retirement luncheon in 1995.

It was in 1987, while she was editor of the School of Education’s newsletter, that the dean, Albert Walker, approached her.

“He asked me if I thought we could find some people to help the School of Education when it came to crisis situations, such as students stuck without money for books or to go home for breaks, she recalls. “I told him I thought we could.”

So, Walker, Sampson and former Dean S.J. Shaw founded the group and drew in a range of supporters including the late Ann Kornegay and former Greensboro Mayor Carson Bain. Among the early triumphs was a \$20,000 gift made by Greensboro businessman Michael B. Fleming in honor of his late housekeeper, Emma Wilson.

After a period of inactivity, the organization was reactivated by recently retired Dean Lelia Vickers. School alumna Mary Purnell has been chair since that time.

“She’s doing an excellent job,” Sampson said of her friend Purnell, noting that the group is currently engaged in a brick campaign.

Sampson, too, still actively engaged with the organization, still seeing a few clients and working on a book. She and her sister turned 80 in March.

“None of my family got to be this old,” she said, “but Bertha and I are still hanging.”

## Chancellor Renews Eaves' Contract By Brian Holloway '94



Jerry Eaves

Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. has announced a three-year employment contract renewal of head men's basketball coach Jerry L. Eaves. The contract renewal, beginning July 1, 2010, and ending May 31, 2013, was confirmed Feb. 19, by the North Carolina A&T Board of Trustees during its regular meeting.

"Jerry Eaves inherited a program that was far from meeting the expectations of Aggie fans and supporters," Martin said. "His leadership has progressively helped our team turn the corner to move in the right direction."

**"I am pleased with how Coach Eaves has affected our young men's performance on the court and in the classroom."**

— Chancellor Martin

"My expectations for coaches emphasize both athletics and academics, so I am pleased with how Coach Eaves has affected our young men's performance on the court and in the classroom. He has graduated 20 out of 30 players; two are currently enrolled; two are playing professionally overseas. In addition, he has brought in \$2,089,500 to the athletics department by playing guarantee games over the past six years."

Eaves took over a one-win program with only four returning players and two scholarship players and turned it into a team consistently contending among the top teams in the MEAC. Over the last three seasons, his teams have finished above .500 in the conference. The Aggies' program has not had three straight winning seasons in the MEAC since they had three seasons above .500 since the early 1990s.

The Aggies constantly improved under Eaves. He won 15 games over the first three years of his tenure at A&T. In the last three seasons, the Aggies have won 46 games, becoming one of the most prolific three-point shooting teams in the nation and have finished top four in the conference each of the last three seasons.

Eaves' 15-win total in 2006-2007 was the program's best season in 10 years. He repeated that feat in 2007-08. A year ago, the Aggies reached the 16-win plateau. It was the most wins the Aggies have had since the 1993-94 team that won 16 games.

His hard work in turning around the Aggies' program earned Eaves the 2008-09 National Association of Basketball Coaches District 15 Coach of the Year. He led the Aggies to a 16-16 mark overall and the Aggies 9-7 record earned them third place in the MEAC after being picked eighth in the preseason.

Two years ago, Eaves defeated DePaul University on his way to a 15-16 overall mark and a 9-7 record in the conference. DePaul was the highest ranked RPI team the Aggies have ever defeated.



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*The Installation of Harold L. Martin Sr., Twelfth Chancellor of the University*

## Installation Events

**MONDAY, APRIL 19**  
**Faculty/Staff Floating Reception**  
3 - 5 p.m.  
Proctor Hall Atrium

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**  
**Lyceum Series**  
**International Black Film Festival: Telling Our Story through Film**  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Memorial Union, Stallings Ballroom  
Open to the public

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**  
**Lyceum Series**  
**North Carolina Higher Education in the New Millennium**  
9 - 11 a.m.  
Harrison Auditorium  
Open to the public

**Points of Pride: A Forum for University-Community Engagement**  
5:30 - 8 p.m.  
Alumni-Foundation Event Center  
Business attire  
Invitation only

**THURSDAY, APRIL 22**  
**Ladies Luncheon**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Alumni-Foundation Event Center  
Business attire  
Invitation only

**Lyceum Series**  
**Cultural Influences of Jazz and Hip Hop Music**  
5 - 8 p.m.  
Harrison Auditorium  
Open to the public

**FRIDAY, APRIL 23**  
**Installation Ceremony**  
10 a.m. - noon  
Corbett Sports Center  
Business attire  
Open to the public

**Installation Reception**  
Immediately following the ceremony  
Alumni-Foundation Event Center  
Business attire  
Open to the public

**Installation Gala**  
6:30 - 11 p.m.  
The Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, Guilford Ballroom  
Black Tie  
Open to the public  
RSVP  
Call (336) 334-7600 x2248 to purchase tickets / tables

## AGGIES ON THE MOVE

### 1940s

**Leonard C. Cooper Sr. '43**, a retired administrator from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, is the recipient of North Carolina A&T State University's 2009 Alumni Excellence Award. He was recognized at the spring commencement ceremonies that were held last year in the Greensboro Coliseum.

A native of Oxford, N.C., Cooper graduated from N.C. A&T with a B.S. degree in horticulture. After graduation, he enlisted in the military and became a flight engineer assigned to B-24, B-25 and B-26 airplanes. His unit was the first bomber group using black pilots and airmen.

Cooper began his professional career in 1946 working with the N.C. Department of Agriculture in the "Training to Farm Program," which was designed to assist veterans with their farm enterprises. In 1954, he started working with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service as one of few Negro assistant county agents. In 1978 and 1979, he was promoted to county agent and extension chairman, respectively, and is credited with ensuring the survival and profitability of many small farmers, especially those in Warren County. While serving as an extension agent, he encouraged many students to attend A&T.

Cooper is most noted for his role in the Timothy C. Pigford v. Dan Glickman, Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture discrimination lawsuit, which received national attention and resulted in retribution for numerous minority farmers across the nation. He also was president of the North Carolina chapter of the Black Farmer and Agriculturalists Association during this period and was also a farmer, cultivating 800 acres of soybeans and peanuts.



Alumnus Leonard C. Cooper Sr. '43 receives the 2009 Alumni Excellence Award during the spring 2009 commencement exercises. Also pictured (l-r) are Pamela L. Johnson '91, then president of the national alumni association; Velma Speight-Buford '53, then a member of the board of trustees; and Leonora C. Bryant '99, director of alumni affairs.

Cooper is an avid supporter of A&T and the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES). He actively supports SAES's sponsored activities and is a charter member of its Alumni Society, the first for an A&T school or college.

More recently, Cooper donated \$100,000 to the University and SAES, establishing an endowment fund for student scholarships. The endowment honors his son who was killed in an automobile accident in 1982.

Cooper, 88, resides in Warrenton, N.C., with his wife of 61 years, Margaret.

### 1960s

**Winsor E. Alexander, Ph.D. '64** is interim dean of the College of Engineering. The University will conduct national search to permanently replace former Dean Joseph Monroe, who retired June 30, 2009.

Alexander most recently served as a full professor in the electrical and computer engineering department at North Carolina State University, a position he held since 1982. He was director of N.C. State's graduate programs, August 1988-May 1997 and June 2001-August 2002. In addition, Alexander has held positions at Sandia Laboratories and the U.S. Air Force.

Alexander received his master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from The University of New Mexico.

**Edward M. Anderson Sr. '68**, a retired lieutenant colonel (U.S. Army), has been appointed municipal court judge for the City of Washington, Ga. He is the first African American to serve as a judge in Wilkes County, Ga.

**Franklin E. McCain Sr. '64** currently serves on the University of North Carolina Board of Governors that oversees the 17-institution UNC System, of which N.C. A&T is a member. During academic year 2008-2009, McCain chaired A&T's Board of Trustees and the Chancellor Search Committee.

As a student, McCain was one of the four A&T freshmen who sat down and refused to leave the segregated lunch counter at the downtown Greensboro Woolworth's store on Feb. 1, 1960, inspiring similar sit-ins across the South.

**Henry McKoy '68** has been knighted by the Country of Benin. McKoy, Africa regional director for the United States Peace Corps, was recognized in September by Benin's president for his outstanding service to the country. His job frequently takes him to Africa to oversee the operations of 27 posts on the continent. McKoy is a former North Carolina State Senator, representing Wake County.

### 1970s

**Linda D. Coleman '71** serves on N.C. Gov. Bev Perdue's administration as director of the Office of State Personnel. Coleman is the first African American to serve in this position. Prior to this appointment, Coleman was the human resources management director at the N.C. Department of Agriculture and she was elected for three terms to the N.C. House of Representatives, representing Wake County (District 39).

**Eva Patterson-Heath '77** is head women's basketball coach at Fayetteville State University. Patterson-Heath previously served as the head girls' basketball coach at Red Springs High School in Red Springs, N.C., for the past 13 years. Under her leadership, the team had a 503-128 record, winning 17 conference titles, 11 conference tournament championships, 23 state playoffs and two state championship appearances.

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**Alumni from class years 1966 through 1971, along with other alumni and guests**, participated in the 11th Annual Homecoming Class Reunion during Homecoming 2009. For the second time during homecoming weekend Aggie Pride was shown by raising \$1,000 for the volleyball team.

Members of these classes and their guests had the opportunity to relax and reminisce, eat and party with classmates and friends, many returning to their alma mater for the first time in more than 35 years.

Among those celebrating were former football players **Merl Code '70, Eugene Harrison '70, Henry Hipps '69** and **Michael Johnson '68**. Harrison was signed by the Pittsburgh Steelers and Hipps was drafted by the LA Rams.

**Don't miss out on the fun and camaraderie this year.** Contact Jessie Barnes by email, [aggie6800@aol.com](mailto:aggie6800@aol.com), to obtain more details. A mini reunion is being planned for the spring.

## AGGIES ON THE MOVE continued

### 1980s

■ **Jimmy E. McMillian '81** was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force in the spring of 2009. He currently serves as director of Security Forces, deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support, at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

Before his reassignment, McMillian was commander of the 10th Air Base Wing, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., where he commanded more than 2,100 military, civilian and contract members who conduct all base level support activities for nearly 4,000 cadets and a total military community of about 20,000 service members. He was also the installation command center team director during Air Force Academy contingency operations.



### 1990s

■ **Jabbar R. Bennett, Ph.D. '96** is assistant dean for recruiting and professional development in Brown University's Graduate School in Providence, R.I. Prior to joining Brown, Bennett was on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and he directed the Office for Multicultural Faculty Careers at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a Harvard Medical School teaching affiliate. Bennett has a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from Meharry Medical College.

### 2000s

**Cory Adams** is a co-op/senior analyst for Nestlé USA. He is spending the first six months on assignment in ice cream facilities in Turenki, Finland, and Tavros, Greece. Adams joined Nestlé USA in 2007 as an operations management trainee in the beverage division in Waverly, Iowa. His second rotation was as a production facilitator in the confection's and snacks division in Franklin Park, Ill.

**Emilee Christopher '09** was the recipient of the 2009 Marva L. Watlington Award for Leadership and Service. The Raleigh, N.C., native was given the award by the N.C. A&T chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for First Year Students (ALD).

Established in 2007, the award recognizes a graduating senior who has given outstanding leadership and community service while a member of the campus chapter. The award is named in honor of A&T alumna and retiree Marva L. Watlington, a former long-time advisor of the A&T chapter who also served on the National ALD Board of Directors.

■ **Jennifer AlClaytese Davis '04** is the second African American to earn a Ph.D. in the field of cosmetic science. Davis completed the doctor of philosophy in pharmaceutical sciences with a concentration in cosmetic science from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. Her dissertation is titled "Role of TNF - alpha polymorphism - 308 in irritant contact dermatitis and neurosensory response."



*continued, page 31*

## Gate City Alumni Celebrate 100 Years

By Joan T. Fletcher '78

Gate City Chapter of the North Carolina A&T State University Alumni Association, Inc. celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2009, under the leadership of Joan T. Fletcher '78.

Founded in 1909, in Greensboro, under the leadership of B.W. Barnes, the Gate City Chapter is A&T's oldest and first viable chapter and the foundation for the nationally recognized national alumni association. The mission of the chapter in 1909 was to raise funds for needy, deserving students who desired to attend A&T College. This is still the mission today.

Gate City has provided a multiplicity of services to its alma mater and the greater Greensboro community. It was among the first chapters in the association to implement a scholarship program and to provide financial assistance for needy students. In addition to the Gate City Scholarship, in 2008 the chapter became the first to establish an endowed scholarship with the university.

The chapter consistently has served as a pacesetter chapter in annual giving and has provided a high degree of visibility for the university through its many fundraising activities, community service projects and cultural programs for disadvantaged youth, special assistance for senior citizens and genuine concern for the community at large. Notably, it has experienced outstanding success in areas such as student recruitment, alumni recognitions and volunteer leadership development.

Alumni Helen Butler-Duncan '73 and Pamlyn C. Stubbs '66 served as co-chairs of the anniversary committee. The yearlong anniversary celebration began with a kick off in March that was held on campus at the Alumni-Foundation Event Center. In 2008 the chapter presented the university with a check for \$25,000 to begin the Gate City Endowed Scholarship. As part of the kick off, Fletcher presented Vice Chancellor Mark Kiel and then Chancellor Stanley Battle with

another check for \$10,000 to add to the Gate City Endowed Scholarship fund. Velma Speight-Buford '53 presented the historical significance of the celebration.

**The mission of the chapter, founded in 1909, was to raise funds for needy, deserving students who desired to attend A&T College. This is still the mission today.**

Renowned artist Floyd Newkirk was commissioned by the chapter to create a work of art that was representative of the occasion. The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of his creation. (The chapter is selling limited edition signed prints.)

A "grand" centennial gala and banquet was held Nov. 14, on campus. For additional information on the 100th anniversary events or to donate to the scholarship fund, contact the Gate City Chapter, P.O. Box 20005, Greensboro, N.C. 27420.





## Recipe for Life

*Alumna Shirley Taylor Frye '53 says education is a key ingredient for a successful life.*

By Nettie Collins Rowland '72

### When putting your recipe of life together, A&T alumna Shirley Taylor Frye recommends education as one of your key ingredients.

“I look at education in the broad sense; no matter what you do, in order to participate in this world, you must be educated,” the 1953 graduate said. “Education is the foundation for any successful person.”

An advocate for equity and excellence in education, the 77-year-old has devoted over 40 years to public schools in Greensboro and to higher education. Because of her contributions to the field, The Shirley T. Frye Distinguished Professorship in Urban Education was established recently in A&T’s School of Education.

“I am humbled with the fact that former University of North Carolina President C.D. Spangler felt that my contributions in the area of education warranted the chair,” said Frye, a former teacher and higher education administrator. “I am pleased that it is in the area of education – for teacher education – because no matter what profession one chooses to enter, along the journey there was a teacher.”

Ceola Ross Baber, dean of education at A&T, is honored to have the esteemed chair in her area.

“I am professionally and personally delighted to have the Shirley T. Frye Distinguished Professorship in the School of Education,” said Baber. “It will enable the School to recruit and retain exemplary faculty who are able to model this commitment for undergraduate and graduate students as well as challenge them to become catalysts for learning and leading.”

Baber adds, “I am also thrilled beyond words to have the opportunity to honor such a phenomenal woman who over the past 20 years had a great impact on my professional development – from a junior faculty member to dean of the School of Education.”

Education always has been foremost in Frye’s life. At age 15, the Freemont, N.C., native graduated valedictorian from high school. She was accepted for admission at North Carolina Central University, but because of her young age, Frye’s parents would not allow her to leave home unsupervised; so she began working at a barbecue restaurant in nearby Goldsboro.

Frye moved to Greensboro when the restaurateur opened a restaurant there and asked her parents’ permission for her to join him as head waitress. They consented when he made arrangements for Frye to live with Mrs. Bessie Lee, an elderly woman who agreed to take care of her. Lee would later become a second mother to Frye and the person who encouraged her to attend A&T.

In 1950, Frye enrolled at A&T and majored in education and English. She fondly remembers the campus during her college days as one where the faculty and staff were nurturers.

“At that time, you knew most of the people on campus,” she said. “Direct relationships were uppermost.”

Frye acquired a solid foundation at A&T and learned many lifelong lessons that remain with her today. She vividly recalls one lesson that greatly impacted her life.

“While doing my student teaching, my cooperating teacher, Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy (who later became A&T’s sixth president/chancellor), was observing my performance,” she explains. “I was teaching reading to a small group, and Dr. Dowdy reminded me that I had called on all of the students except one. He told me that it was important to always be inclusive and allow everyone to participate.”

Frye has never forgotten his message and uses it in her day to day activities.

“I have taken that suggestion to another level, in that I have tried to always involve as many people as possible,” said the distinguished civic and community leader. “It surely helps not only in the classroom, but in developing effective relationships.”

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# alumni news

After graduating from A&T, Frye remained in Greensboro and started her professional career as a public school teacher. She taught second grade and exceptional children. She also taught briefly at Bennett College for Women, where she later returned to serve as a special assistant to the president and director of planned giving.

Frye has worked at her alma mater as assistant vice chancellor for development and university relations and most recently as executive assistant to the chancellor, a special assignment.

Throughout her career, Frye has been a great supporter of education. She has served on boards at the local, state and national levels. Just to mention a few, she has served as chair of the Human Relations Committee to the Greensboro School Board, as a member of the Greensboro City Board of Education, and currently as chair of the Guilford Technical Community College Board of Trustees and the North Carolina School of Science and Math.

Frye is the recipient of more than 25 honors and awards including the 1985 and 2003 Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award, 2003 WFMY-TV Community Champion Award, 2005 Honorary Doctor of Human Letters from Bennett College, 2006 American Judicature Society National Justice Award, 2006 Honorary Doctor Humane Letters from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the 2008 Greensboro Partnership Distinguished Citizen Award.

Over the years, Frye has had many role models, including parents who had a monumental influence on her life.

**“My mother instilled in each of us that good character and a good reputation were more important than any material thing one could amass. She taught us the value of giving and that many things could be given that did not cost anything.”**

Frye's mother, a high school graduate, stressed the importance of education to her and her four siblings. Her father, a farmer with a fourth-grade education, often read to her and helped her with algebra and homework.

“I often wondered what my father's life would have been if he had a better education,” Frye noted.

Frye keeps informed of the various changes taking place in the education field and points out the many challenges facing educators today including the lack of parental involvement, the amount of paper work required for teachers to complete,

the shortage of funds and the lack of good role models. She advises anyone entering the profession to make sure that teaching is what they want to do.

“Always be prepared to face a challenge and make sure that you have a love for children,” she said.

Frye's granddaughter Jordan is following in her grandmother's footsteps and credits her with helping her make the decision to teach.

“My grandmother influenced me in becoming a (kindergarten) teacher. She encouraged my sisters and me to never give up and always do our best.”

Frye, who went on to receive a master's degree in psychology from Syracuse University, attributes her success in education and other endeavors to the outstanding support of her family. If you want to see Frye's face light up, just ask her about her husband Henry, retired N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice.

“I am the luckiest person in the world! My husband has always been there for me, as well as our children and grandchildren. If I have been a success, it is because of the support, encouragement and love my husband has shared with me. He is my Rock.”

Frye loves to travel with her husband as well as spend time with her family: granddaughters Whitney, Jordan and Endya (a student at A&T), sons Harlan and Henry Jr., and daughter-in-law Angela (Henry).

As busy as she is, Frye finds time to volunteer and currently chairs the Joseph McKinley Bryan Foundation, serves on the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Board of Directors and is vice president of the N.C. A&T University Foundation.

Frye reiterates what President Obama said in a national address to America's school children on Sept. 8, 2009: “No matter what you want to do with your life, I guarantee that you'll need an education to do it.”

## AGGIES ON THE MOVE continued

Davis has published several peer reviewed journal articles. She is the primary author of “Role of TNF – alpha polymorphism – 308 in Neurosensory Response,” which was in press at the *International Journal of Cosmetic Science* when *A&T Today* went to press. From 2007-2009, Davis has presented countless oral and poster presentations at professional conferences. She also has received numerous honors and awards in her field of study.

**D’Jella A. Gray ’05** is a Nike field reporter. Her blogs for NikeWomen can be found at [www.nikefieldreporter.com](http://www.nikefieldreporter.com). Gray has a B.S. degree in music from N.C. A&T and an A.S. degree in audio and sound engineering. Currently, she is the director of marketing and promotions for a number one urban radio station.

**Alex Miller ’05** is a channel account manager for Cisco and chairman of the Chicago chapter of the Cisco Black Employee Network. Miller is featured in an article titled “Internships: Bridging Scholarship and Work,” in the summer/fall 2009 issue of *African-American Career World* magazine.

## IN MEMORIAM

### ALUMNI (2008)

**Effie Jane Elliott Miller ’52**, Sept. 1

### ALUMNI (2009)

**Jimmy “Jim” Allen**, July  
**Imade Mary Asemota**, April 11  
**Joseph Alphonzo Barnes Jr.**, May 18  
**Carlos Edwin Battle Sr.**, June 30  
**Howard Willis Belton**, July 1  
**Paul Venson Best ’70**, Jan. 29  
**Bonson White Brady**, Sept. 14  
**James Eugene “Gene” Bristow ’63**, Jan. 29  
**Valerie Johnson Brown ’67**, May 18  
**Archie Napoleon Cameron ’45**, April 20  
**Linda Mae Cummings**, July 4  
**Priscilla Mebane Cunningham ’47**, Feb. 22  
**Ruth Black Dailey ’45**, June 22  
**Edward Gene Dones**, May 17  
**Donald Jerome Earle ’69**, Dec. 22  
**Darlene Foster East ’04**, April 22  
**Ophelia Whisett Frink ’40**, May 24  
**James Norris Fullwood**, Aug. 5  
**Gladys Outlaw Gallop ’76**, Feb.  
**Brenda Anita Green**, July 28  
**Imani Muya Shelton Green**, June 5  
**Edwin Dennis Griffin ’51**, June 14

**Kay Myatt Harris ’88**, March 21  
**Dennis Stuart Hayle ’09**, Jan. 25 \*  
**Harriet Perkins Herndon ’82**, June 7  
**Kenneth G. Jones ’78**  
**Mary Y. Kelly ’72**, Jan. 2  
**William Joseph “Bill” Locke ’72**, Nov. 27  
**Andrew Barton Lucas Jr.**, August 9  
**Donald Franklin Martin ’69**, May 17  
**Dallas Wadell Miller ’79**, Feb. 5  
**Elana M. Muhammad ’94**, May 9  
**Johnny Henry Peterson Jr.**, June 11  
**Glenn Frank Rankin ’41**, April 11  
**Harold Kenneth Robinson**, July 23  
**Beatrice R. Scott ’56**, April 25  
**James Louis Self Sr.**, April 1  
**Imani Shelton-Green ’95**, June 5  
**Charleyne Smith ’90**, April 7  
**Alger F. “Pooh” Spruill Jr. ’97**, Aug. 9  
**Nina Bailey Steel**, July 13  
**Melvin Joseph Stokes**, June 29  
**Jasper Sturdivant**, May 2  
**Latham Wallace ’48**, Dec. 17  
**Howard L. Ward ’52**, Jan. 15  
**James Cornelius “J.C.” Watson ’70**, Jan. 27  
**Evelyn Oliver Whiteside**, Jan. 5  
**Marian Davis Whiteside ’62**, Jan. 14  
**Jeremiah “Je” Wills Jr. ’98**, May 16

### OTHERS (2009)

**Hennie Floyd**, retired executive associate to the athletics director, Dec. 21  
**Annie Sue Garland Foster**, former employee, Nov. 30  
**Clay Harris**, former comptroller for Division of Business and Finance, April 22  
**Alice Georgia White McElhaney**, Jan. 5  
**Doretha Louise Tyler**, administrative assistant for political science and criminal justice, May 5  
**Marian Lee Vick**, former professor and coordinator of the graduate reading program, Jan. 28  
**Marjorie H. White**, retired director of institutional research and planning, Aug. 19  
**Genevieve L. Cooper Williams**, retired assistant professor of education, July 29

\* Degree awarded posthumously

# mixed bag

## Blue + Gold = Green

By Godfrey A. Uzochukwu, PhD

North Carolina A&T State University is striving to become a green, environmentally conscious campus. Going Green means protecting and enhancing the environment through teaching, research, service and administrative operations.

Sustainable environmentally sound practices are being promoted as a core value of the University through the activities of the UNC Tomorrow Environment Work Group, the University Recycling Committee and the President's Advisory Council on Efficiency and Effectiveness (PACE) Committee. The use of alternative products, practices and procedures to reduce negative impacts on the environment is being encouraged by each of these groups.

The UNC Tomorrow Environment Work Group has recommended the establishment of an energy conservation program and the creation of a green campus. The University Recycling Committee has developed a campus-wide recycling plan which is in the process of being implemented in stages. And, the PACE Committee is looking for ways to increase efficiency, lower consumption and reduce waste and costs in all University operations, such as trayless dining in the cafeteria.

Going green deeply involves students who are actively engaged in creative green projects such as innovations in recycling, green living, waste

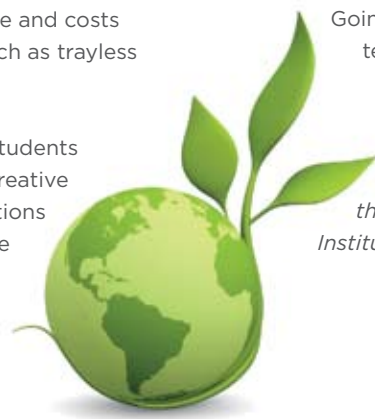
water treatment, environmental impact of biofuels, antibiotics in agriculture, sustainable designs, etc., as part of their course work in interdisciplinary problem solving of campus, public and private environmental sustainability issues.

The Interdisciplinary Waste Management Institute at N.C. A&T has completed a Public Environmental Campaign on Grease Reduction for Hardin County Water District 1 in Kentucky. The campaign's purpose was to enhance the education and training of current and future residents and employed persons on Fort Knox to protect the sewer system and the environment by not putting harmful chemicals - including grease - down the drains in their homes and places of business. The public environmental information campaign for current and future Fort Knox residents, including school programs for students, will result in the measurable decrease in grease and harmful chemicals accumulated in the sewer systems. This effort also will result in decreased operating costs and better water quality discharged into the environment.

A&T is complying with Executive Order 156, which recognizes that daily activities and routine operations of the State of North Carolina have a significant impact on environmental quality and use of natural resources. While maintaining a focus on waste reduction and recycling, the executive order directs all state agencies to develop and incorporate policies and practices into their daily operations that preserve natural resources, conserve energy, eliminate waste and emissions, and lessen overall environmental impact.

Going green is a commitment and team work!

*Godfrey A. Uzochukwu, PhD, is a professor, an Amoco Foundation Teacher of Excellence, and director of the Interdisciplinary Waste Management Institute at North Carolina A&T State University.*



## remembering the past

### THE UNSUNG HEROES

In conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Woolworth sit-ins, North Carolina A&T State University recognizes former students and community members who made a contribution to the social climate in the city of Greensboro.

Sixteen Unsung Heroes were selected by their peers through a nomination process: Ricky Bradley; Donald G. Brandon; Vernicia Hampton Hairston; Dorothy Harris; Sharon Mizzell Gallot (deceased); Rev. Nelson Johnson; John Kilimanjaro; Frances Herbin Lewis; Beverly Threat Mack; Wayland McLaughlin (deceased); retired District Court Judge Lawrence C. McSwain; Rev. Mark Anthony Middleton; Richard E. Moore Sr. (deceased); Ann Staples Shelton (deceased); Herman E. Thomas; and Assemblyman Darryl C. Towns.

The medals were presented to the "heroes" by students enrolled in the Journalism and Mass Communication Program at N.C. A&T.



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