

A&T TODAY

Volume 4 • Number 3 • SUMMER 2001

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University



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2001 Commencement Exercises

May 12th
Spartanburg College
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North Carolina
Agricultural and Technical
State University

MAKING History

A New Point of View



First
Female Ph.D.

First
Provost

4.0
Grads

Historic
Golf Exhibit

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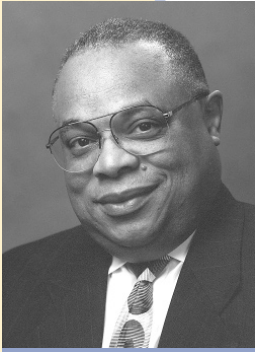
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From the National Alumni Association President



John A. Petty

Greetings Fellow Aggies:

As another chapter in the history of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University closes, I am elated to report that 2000-2001 was an exciting year.

Last year, we witnessed the completion of numerous construction projects that added to the development and beautification to our campus. The University built the 400-space Obermeyer parking facility, renovated and expanded Memorial Student Union, installed stadium lights and completed the Fitness and Wellness Center.

This fall, our students will have new housing options with the opening of Aggie Suites – a state-of-the-art facility for undergraduates – and Aggie Terrace for graduate students. The renovation of Williams Cafeteria is ongoing.

The University is embarking on a planning process called FUTURES, which is already changing the way the campus community approaches academics. In past years, A&T positioned itself to be appropriately competitive and responsive to the needs of students and the community. Now it is time to move the University beyond its current status and into strategic visioning and implementation of new goals and objectives. I encourage you to become an active part of this exciting process by visiting the FUTURES website, www.ncat.edu/futures, and by providing input via email to futures@ncat.edu.

I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities that will propel our University and the Association as I begin my second term as National Alumni President. Our organization's mission is to encourage and promote involvement of alumni by meeting their needs for alumni services; creating opportunities for participation in the life of the University; and developing and disseminating information that communicates the academic excellence of North Carolina A&T State University. Some of our accomplishments in 2000-2001 include:

- Enhanced communications between our National Alumni Association, its members and friends.
- Forged a partnership with the University to implement a new fund-raising effort now known as the Annual Fund.
- Co-hosted with the University one of the best homecoming weekends ever for alumni and friends.
- Educated voters in the State of North Carolina of the importance and the need to pass the North Carolina Higher Education Bond, which provided N.C. A&T with \$154 million in new capital project money.

Aggies, we are proud that we were able to meet many of our goals last year, but the journey is far from over. The National Alumni Association and N.C. A&T still need your assistance. I invite all Aggies to support our University through a commitment of time, talent and dollars through the National Alumni Association.

Aggie Pride!

Respectfully yours,

John A. Petty



Yaxi Shen (center) is the first female to earn the Doctor of Philosophy degree at N.C. A&T. Also pictured are Chancellor James C. Renick (left) and Dr. Abdollah Homaifar, Shen's advisor.

First Female Ph.D. Candidate Graduates

By NETTIE COLLINS ROWLAND '72

When Yaxi Shen came to North Carolina A&T State University in 1997, she had no idea that she would make a mark in the university's history. On May 12, at the 110th annual commencement, Shen became the first female to receive a doctorate at N.C. A&T.

"I am excited and happy about receiving my Ph.D. degree but I didn't know I was the first female," said Shen, who received the degree in electrical engineering.

Shen was working as an assistant professor at the University of Science and Technology in China when she decided to pursue her doctorate.

"I knew I wanted to get my Ph.D. in the United States, so I went to the library to find a university that would fit my area of study – fuzzy logic and control systems design," she said. "I came across A&T and saw that they offered a degree in my field of study."

Shen emailed A&T professor, Dr. Abdollah Homaifar, who later became her advisor. Homaifar called and offered her an assistant research professor position.

In January 1997, Shen came to A&T, leaving behind her husband Da and other family members. Da joined his wife two months later and enrolled in the same doctoral program the following semester.

"Da and I met and got married when we were working on our master's at the University of Science and Technology," 30-year-old Yaxi Shen said. "We both have the same goals. He has encouraged me throughout my schooling."

"I am very proud of my wife," said Da, who is currently working on his dissertation.

The couple now have an 8-month-old daughter, Laurel, who keeps them busy.

Yaxi Shen said that when she came to A&T, she found the culture to be quite different from her native China. The first thing she experienced was the language barrier.

"I learned to speak English from reading books in China," she said. "But actually hearing someone speak it ... is quite different. At first I had a hard time understanding my professors and colleagues and they had a hard time understanding me."

Although she had to make an adjustment with textbooks, technology and the weather, Shen said that she was impressed with A&T professors and her colleagues.

"They helped me tremendously. When I first came to A&T and couldn't rent an apartment because I didn't have any credit, Dr. Homaifar wrote a letter on my behalf. Colleagues drove me around because I didn't have a car, and they also took me out to eat."

"I am going to miss Greensboro," Shen added. "I consider it to be my hometown now. The people at A&T and in the city have been so nice to me. I especially want to thank Dr. Homaifar, because he gave me the opportunity to come to the United States."

The Shens are working at General Electric Medical Systems in Milwaukee, where she is a design engineer. They plan to return to China, eventually. ■



Yaxi Shen, Ph.D.

By MABLE SPRINGFIELD SCOTT '99

As the new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Dr. Carolyn W. Meyers is doing what she has been doing for years – making history.

Meyers is the first provost in the university's 110-year history. She is also the first female to ever be named vice chancellor for academic affairs at A&T.

Chancellor James C. Renick continued his theme of "New Beginnings" when he promoted Meyers in March to his second-in-command.

"Dr. Meyers was named provost in recognition of the centrality of academics, the high quality of her work and because of the confidence I have in her ability," Renick announced.



Carolyn W. Meyers, Ph.D.

Provost Makes History as *University's "First"*

Meyers was appointed vice chancellor for academic affairs last September after serving as interim vice chancellor since January 2000. She replaced Dr. Harold Martin Sr. '74, who resigned to become chancellor of Winston-Salem State University.

Ralph Shelton, chairman of the board of trustees, thinks Renick made a wise decision in recruiting Meyers because she has been an asset to the campus. "We are fortunate to have such a talented, charismatic person in this leadership role," said Shelton.

A native of Newport News, Va., Meyers brings a love for learning and an appreciation of real Aggie Pride to the job.

"Since my father and a number of my relatives are Aggies, A&T has always just been part of our family," she said. "It has been wonderful making Greensboro my home again. I am excited to be part of a team preparing students for 21st century opportunities."

Faculty members see Meyers as being part of the team, too. According to Dr. Gilbert Casterlow Jr., mathematics professor and mathematics education coordinator, Meyers gives a clear message that she is a team player. Casterlow said,

"She is easy to talk to and supportive of faculty. I see her as being extremely fair and open to sharing critical information that empowers faculty. She recognizes excellence, but discourages complacency."

Along the same lines, Dr. Joseph Monroe, dean of the College of Engineering, called Meyers "a tremendous servant leader who delegates and empowers."

Meyers works closely with academic deans on a daily basis.

"She is an extremely motivating leader, and she challenges each of us to be better than our best," said Dr. Elazer Barnette, dean of the School of Technology.

Dr. Alton Thompson, dean of the School of Agriculture and Allied and Environmental Sciences, pointed to the provost's "keen insight to problems, issues and trends facing both students and educators," while Dr. Quiester Craig, dean of the School of Business and Economics, characterized Meyers "as a colleague and a supervisor who works with you ... communicates well, is accessible, invites input, and respects that feedback."

Interim dean of the School of Nursing, Dr. Patricia Price-

Lea, said that a clear, concise statement of expectations are reflected in Meyers' decision-making, and that she is fair and decisive.

Meyers has been a mechanical engineering pioneer for several decades, receiving commendations never before awarded to black women by the National Science Foundation, the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Foundry Educational Foundation.

"She is a highly technical person, who is dedicated to helping others," explained Dr. William J. Craft, who chairs the department of mechanical engineering. "You can see that the first time you look at her resume and see she has advised students from all over the world."

Meyers received her B.S.M.E. degree from Howard University, and her M.S.M.E. and Ph.D. from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to her most recent appointments at A&T, she was a program officer for the National Science Foundation, dean of A&T's College of Engineering and a professor of mechanical engineering. At Georgia Institute of Technology, Meyers was an associate professor of mechanical engineering, associate dean for research of the College of Engineering and director of the SUCCEED Coalition Center for Professional Success.

She also was an engineering instructor at Atlanta University Center Corporation, a faculty research fellow in the Air Force Materials Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB and systems analyst with General Electric Company. She also has done engineering consulting with the U.S. Army Materials Laboratory, Georgia Dome, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Neodyne Corporation.

Meyers has an impressive list of awards, honors, presentations, technical journals and publications to her credit. Her papers have been presented across the United States as well as Canada, England and Sweden. She has been instrumental in securing millions of dollars in research grants from the National Science Foundation, TRW Corporation, General Motors, General Electric Foundation, United Technologies, and EXXON Corporation.

Meyers is viewed as a "shero" by her office staff.

"I see her as one of the most influential women in my life," said Nina Ingram, executive assistant, who also said that Meyers is a joy to work for because she allows growth and she encourages creative thinking."

Vanessa Bullock describes working as Meyers' assistant as a learning adventure. "You know she's the provost, but you feel

comfortable with her. She has a natural generosity that motivates (you) when she says 'thanks.'"

Although she could use several clones to maneuver around the university's 188-acre campus, Meyers finds time and energy

"It has been wonderful making Greensboro my home again. I am excited to be part of a team preparing students for 21st century opportunities."

to say thanks for jobs well done, to share a bit of humor and to sponsor collegial chat sessions while initiating change. The new provost, who is an avid reader and world traveler, has not been timid about transition or blending the old with the new in order to strengthen A&T.

Realignment has been a key word for Meyers, ensuring that resources across the university are coordinated and maximized. But, whatever has transpired, Meyers' bottom line has always been to benefit the students.

Under Meyers' leadership, the Division of Academic Affairs continues to make progress in many areas. Several significant points of pride include receiving reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; being ranked by *Black Enterprise* magazine as the No. 1 university in North Carolina for African Americans; being the No. 1 producer of minorities with degrees in science, mathematics, engineering and technology; and being the top producer of African American certified public accountants, landscape architects and veterinarians.

Meyers is active with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, recently completing a term of vice president of the Board on Minorities and Women. Last month she was elected vice president for public affairs of the American Society of Engineering Education.

In case you are wondering, Meyers does have a life outside of work. She has three adult children: a pediatrician, a television executive producer and a professional choreographer and dancer. And, she finds time for civic involvement such as the Piedmont Triad Council of International Visitors, Links, Jack and Jill of America, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. ■

did
you
know?

N.C. A&T has a state-of-the-art campus library that includes new technologies, a print collection of over 500,000 volumes, and memorabilia from the Woolworth's sit-ins of 1960. Notably, F.D. Bluford Library was featured on C-SPAN, which broadcasts to 72.1 million households.

N.C. A&T's Richard B. Harrison Players won first place for the play, "David Richmond," in the Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival.

N.C. A&T promotes globalization with students and faculty in overseas ventures in Costa Rica, South Africa, Senegal, Hong Kong, British Columbia and China.

A&T TOPS

in North Carolina

Number
1
Aggies

By MABLE SPRINGFIELD SCOTT '99

The January 2001 edition of *Black Enterprise* magazine affirms what Aggies have known all along – we're No. 1!

Black Enterprise compiled a nationwide listing of America's top 50 colleges for African Americans, and A&T received the highest ranking of any school in North Carolina.¹ Notably, A&T ranks 13th overall.

According to David Hoard, vice chancellor for development and university relations, "This is a real plus for A&T as we show key corporate supporters the real value of our university. This was an independent analysis that verified what we have already known."

John Petty, president of A&T's National Alumni Association, was enthusiastic about the ranking. "This is a wonderful way for alumni to sell the university to prospective students and to national funding sources," Petty said.

A&T is strategically marketing itself across North Carolina. Mary Mims Correll, the university's director of enrollment management services, sees the magazine ranking as another way to encourage high school students to seriously decide to become Aggies.

"As leader of the university's enrollment management team," Correll said, "it was a very fair rating. We have a good academic program supported by student service units."

Harry L. Williams, interim director of admissions, thought the ranking was objective.

"This shows A&T is a first-class university and that we are perceived in a positive light."

For more information regarding *Black Enterprise*, visit the Web site at www.blackenterprise.com. ■

Did you know that North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is North Carolina's No. 1 ranked school for African Americans? N.C. A&T has the highest ranking of any North Carolina school in *Black Enterprise* magazine's national listing of the best 50 colleges for African Americans.

¹ Whigham-Desir, Marjorie and Thomas A. LaVeist, Ph.D. "Making the Most of Freshman Year," *Black Enterprise Magazine* (Jan. 2001).

As each generation
inspires the next,
so our success and
joy pass from
one to another.

Bank of America proudly supports
North Carolina A&T State University
as North Carolina's number one college
for African Americans as selected by
Black Enterprise magazine.

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David Hoard
Vice Chancellor
for Development
and University
Relations

Financed Philanthropy

The North Carolina A&T University Foundation, Inc. is sponsoring a new planned giving program called Financed Philanthropy to help build the endowment and other programs of the university. What makes the program so appealing is that donors can participate without incurring costs or financial risks.

Financed Philanthropy at A&T is based on three separate programs that have a 40-year history of predictability, stability and profitability. *Key Person Insurance* provides an avenue for businesses to insure key individuals – such as CEOs, presidents, vice presidents and other chief executives – while naming the University as beneficiary. *Gifted Life Insurance* affords individuals the opportunity to bequest their life insurance policy to an organization such as N.C. A&T. And, *Premium Financing* is a means of financing the purchase of insurance.

Each year, a limited group of A&T supporters will have an opportunity to sign up for gifted life insurance with premium financing at no cost to them. Donors must be between 65 and 75 years of age and in reasonably good health.

The insurance policy provides the collateral for the premium financing. As policy benefits are paid to the university, a portion can be used to offset the interest on the financed premium. The remainder of all policy benefits is income for the university's mission.

As of May 1, a total of 53 individuals joined the program, with the average gift being \$100,000, and three individuals have pledged million-dollar gifts.

For a more detailed explanation about Financed Philanthropy, contact the N.C. A&T Office of Development at (336) 334-7600, or e-mail your inquiry to gwash@ncat.edu. ■

Industry Cluster Meeting

Representatives from 40 companies across the United States participated in the semi-annual Industry Cluster Meeting, March 27-29.

While on campus, industry professionals provided expertise in the areas of curriculum development, current needs and expectations in business/industry. They also visited classrooms and advised students on career opportunities and the world of work.

The Cluster concept, which includes corporations and federal agencies that serve as a resource for the University, was initiated in 1968 as a combined effort of the National Alliance of Business (NAB), corporate America and a group of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

For information about joining the Cluster, call (336) 334-7582, ext. 2233. ■

Thanks!

Many thanks for making the first Piedmont Jazz Festival a tremendous success. The event attracted music lovers from as far away as Japan!

For those who missed the event, North Carolina A&T State University joined forces with arts community leaders, businesses, educators and city officials to bring foremost jazz artists – such as GRAMMY-nominated vocalist Nnenna Freelon, saxophonists Ravi Coltrane and Kenny Garrett, and vocalists Eve Cornelious and Rachelle Ferrell – to Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem.

Jazz enthusiasts spent five days enjoying the sounds of national and local talent in a variety of indoor and outdoor venues. Several workshops also were held to educate audiences about the genre.

The Festival was conceived by A&T Chancellor James C. Renick; however, its success was due to the enthusiasm and support of patrons and the hard work of volunteers. The grand hope of festival organizers is that the event eventually will draw a national following. If you missed the Festival, visit our Web site, <http://web4.ncat.edu/pr/hotnews/jazzfest>. ■

Aggie-Eagle Classic

Once again, the annual Aggie-Eagle Classic will be held Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, in the Raleigh-Durham area. The N.C. A&T "Aggies" will meet the N.C. Central "Eagles" on the gridiron at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1, at Carter-Finley

Stadium in Raleigh. For ticket information, contact the A&T Ticket Office, (336) 334-7749, after July 15. Raleigh Marriott-Crabtree Valley is the host hotel for Aggies. For reservations call 1-800-228-9290. ■

National Publisher Explains A&T Advantage

By MABLE SPRINGFIELD SCOTT '99

"North Carolina A&T State University has three strong attributes. You're the No. 1 producer of black engineers and technologists in the world. You have a first-rate business school. And, you have a rich civil rights legacy!"

That is how Frank L. Matthews described N.C. A&T during a strategic conversation/luncheon held on campus in April. Matthews is publisher and editor-in-chief of *Black Issues In Higher Education*, a nationally circulated news journal that provides America's comprehensive coverage of black and other minority participation in higher education.

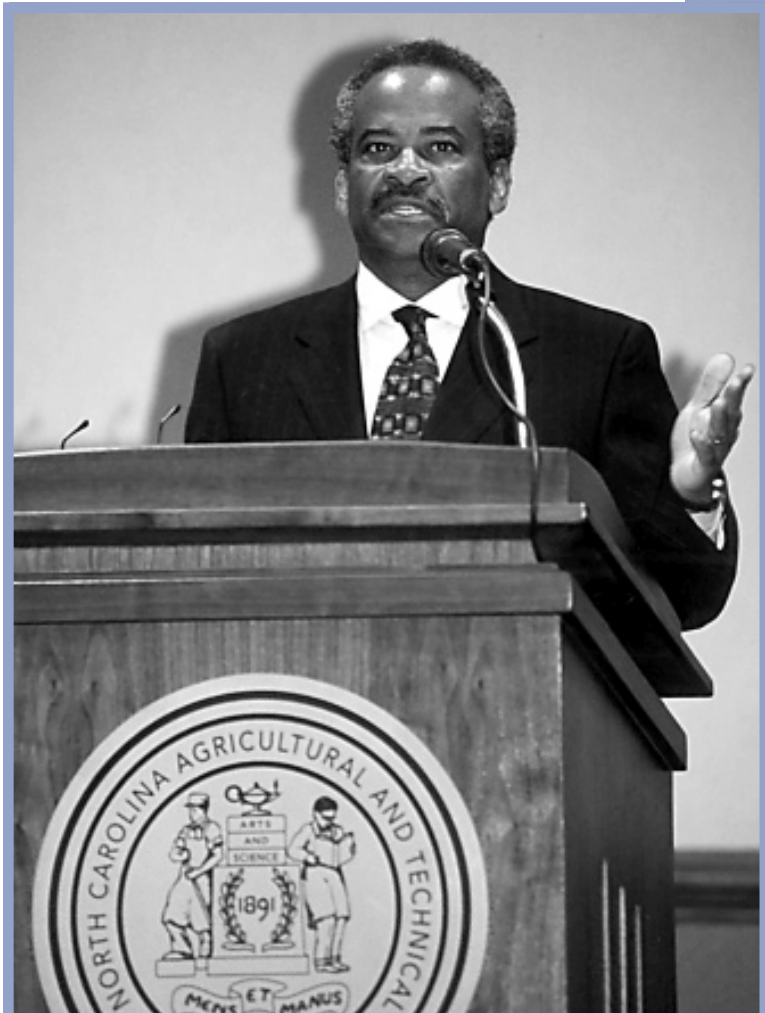
Matthews called A&T's combination of technology and business a strategic combination that positions the university. He recapped the 1960 Sit-in Movement, which originated at F.W. Woolworth's when four A&T students requested service at a segregated lunch counter in downtown Greensboro.

"Look back at your successes and see where you came from as far as your legacy is concerned. The sit-ins affected the Civil Rights Movement, student activism, women's rights and American history," Matthews said.

Faculty, administrators and students listened attentively as Matthews chronicled how 21st century technology is affecting universities around the world. From his unusual vantage point, Matthews discussed how schools of higher learning are evolving to meet global demands.

"A&T has a tremendous advantage when you look at technology, entrepreneurship and business savvy," Matthews said. "You must distinguish yourself and make things happen. Converge your three attributes of high tech, business and civil rights and build on that."

The Matthews lecture was part of an ongoing series of strategic conversation/luncheons presented by Chancellor James C. Renick to acquaint university leaders with a cross-section of distinguished national experts.



Frank Matthews, publisher and editor-in-chief of *Black Issues In Higher Education*

"Frank Matthews is an example of the kind of talent we want to bring to campus to facilitate our thinkers," Renick said. "I have much respect for the tremendous work Frank has accomplished with black and minority issues affecting higher education."

Matthews is co-founder of *Black Issues In Higher Education* and co-founder of Cox, Matthews and Associates, Inc., a Virginia-based communications company. He also publishes *Community College Week* and *Black Issues Book Review*. He is a George Mason University faculty member, teaching both in the Law School and the School of Business Administration.

Matthews has been active in many professional, civic and scholarly organizations, including past president of the American Business Law Association (Mid Atlantic Region) and the National Association of College and University Attorneys. He has conducted workshops, given lectures and presented scholarly papers to numerous local, state and national higher education, civic and professional organizations. He received his B.A. degree in political science from Clemson University and his juris doctor and master of business administration degree from the University of South Carolina.

Find out more about *Black Issues In Higher Education* by checking the Web site @ www.blackissues.com.



*SGA President Gregory Drumwright and
Miss N.C. A&T, Jeanelle Feimster*

New SGA President and Miss A&T

Team Together

By JASON BOYD
Student Contributor

Gregory Drumwright and Jeanelle Feimster agree that together they can have a strong, positive influence on North Carolina A&T State University.

Drumwright is the new president of the Student Government Association (SGA) for 2001-02, and Feimster is the new Miss N.C. A&T. Since their election in the spring, the two have realized that it would be beneficial to help each other.

"I think it is my job to help her in her duties anyway I can," Drumwright said. Feimster later added, "We all have to work together to be successful."

Success is something both students know a little something about, as both were able to manage a strong enough campaign to win the school-wide popular vote. When asked about his campaign strategies, 21-year-old Drumwright, who hails from Burlington, N.C., explained, "I targeted my campaign to students who did not usually vote in student elections. To win these students, I merely had to communicate with them and make myself known. They admitted that past candidates never took the time to approach them."

Feimster, a 21-year-old who graduated from Greensboro's Dudley High School, credits her success to applying the marketing skills she learned in class.

"Proper planning prevents poor performance. I learned to use all avenues and be consistent. Consistency promotes student support and loyalty," Feimster said.

Drumwright proclaims that the new SGA staff is dedicated and motivated to provide fresh ideas. He said that staff members are "itching" to get involved in something and make a difference on campus.

Feimster believes that diversity is the key when selecting members for her committees. She admits that she cannot reach everyone, so she surrounds herself with people from various backgrounds and majors in order to receive a wide range of campus feedback.

Feimster is poised and ready to make a difference at A&T. She says that she wants to play a vital role in bringing the city of Greensboro and A&T together.

"It is stated in the school's constitution that Miss A&T is merely a ceremonial position to represent the university at public functions." She added, "I am not just a pretty face. I want to do something to help the community."

Feimster plans to achieve this through campus programs such as an area college consortium, which will join Greensboro's colleges and universities so students can network and communicate on a professional level. She also plans to maintain the adopt-a-grandparent program where senior citizens will have the opportunity to meet and socialize with young people in a casual setting – a program she has chaired for the past two years.

Change is a fact of life, and it is necessary in order to make way for progress. Drumwright and Feimster are making strides to bring the A&T family closer together as well as closer to the community. ■

**Drumwright and Feimster are
making strides to bring the
A&T family closer together as
well as closer to the community.**



2001-2002 Student Government Officers

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Gregory Drumwright

Miss A&T

Jeanelle Feimster

Vice President of Internal Affairs

William A. Dudley Jr.

Vice President of External Affairs

Chester Williams

Secretary

Mia S. Ross

Treasurer

Wanda Hunter

Chief of Staff for Presidential Affairs

Hector Williams

Chief of Staff for Governmental Affairs

Jameka Pankey

Parliamentarian

Thomas Clements

Acting Attorney General

Latarsha Casterlow

The N.C. A&T Student Government Association officers for 2001-02 are (left-right) Mia Ross, Latarsha Casterlow, Jameka Pankey, William A. Dudley Jr., Gregory Drumwright, Thomas Clements, Hector Williams, Jeanelle Feimster, Wanda Hunter and Chester Williams.

did
you
know?

N.C. A&T is ranked among the top three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the nation for cumulative federal obligations for research and development in science and engineering.

N.C. A&T is one of the largest producers of certified public accountants among HBCUs.

The N.C. A&T Office of Career Services hosts one of the largest career fairs in North Carolina, attracting managers and recruiters from Fortune 500 companies, federal and state agencies and public school districts.

N.C. A&T's marching band, the Blue and Gold Marching Machine, is the official band of the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

N.C. A&T has Ph.D. programs in mechanical, electrical and industrial engineering.

Jason Levister's goal was to aim for the stars and reach the top when he came to N.C. A&T.

"You must motivate yourself to do the best you possibly can," the business management major said.

Levister, who was an honor student and president of the student body in high school, does not have any particular study habits. He also says he did not face any outside pressures to make all A's.

"I planned my day and managed my time," he said. "I am motivated from within to do the best that I can do. I think pressure is natural anytime you are in an atmosphere of achievement," the 21-year-old said. "But the key to success is to make sure the pressure is coming from you."

Levister credits his grandfather Lawrence A. Fuller with providing him the drive to achieve.

"My grandfather taught me a lot of things including how to play ball and ride a bike. He had only a fourth-grade education, but he was very business-minded. He truly touched my life."

A native of Fayetteville, N.C., Levister said he also received a lot of encouragement from his parents, Joseph and Martha Levister.

Jason Levister is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta. He received his barber's license last October, and he has accepted a job with SuperValue in Atlanta. His long-range goal is to own a chain of barber and beauty salons.



Jason Levister

Lanise Long came to A&T with a desire to excel. Although she was an honor student in high school, she was surprised when she made all A's her first semester in college. From that point on, making A's became the 22-year-old finance major's goal.

"Most of the pressure of making A's came from me," she said. "I wanted to make my parents and professors



Lanise Long

happy."

The Charlotte native admits to having good study habits. She attended all of her classes, outlined her class notes and read her textbook. She said having a good memory also helped.

Long's parents, Larry and Sandra Long, encouraged her throughout her college career, but her faith in God is what kept her going.

"It is the grace of God that has brought me this far," the gospel choir member said.

Lanise Long is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society and Toastmasters. After graduating, she returned to her hometown to take a job with Andersen Consultants.

Elementary education major **Teketa Mitchell** graduated second in her high school class. She credits God for her high achievements.

"Whatever God has in store for you, it will happen," said the Wilson, N.C., native.



Teketa Mitchell

"I feel I am just blessed."

Like Levister and Long, Mitchell had good study habits, attended all of her classes, outlined her class notes, reviewed them immediately after class and studied her text.

"I asked questions whenever I needed clarification," said the 21-year-old. "I have asked a zillion questions in my classes, and my teachers have answered all of them."

Mitchell graduated after just three years of college. She set high standards for herself when she came to A&T, and she surrounded herself with students who had the same goals.

Mitchell is the daughter of Rosa Monk and Arthur Mitchell. She credits her mom with encouraging her to have good character, confidence and determination — all of the ingredients she says are necessary to excel.

At A&T, Teketa Mitchell is a member of Kappa Delta Phi and Psi Chi honor societies, and she was an Aggie Ambassador. This fall she plans to pursue an M.S. degree in instructional technology at A&T.

Deryck Raymond, a manufacturing systems technology major from Trinidad and Tobago, said that he was an average student in high school.

"But when I came to A&T after graduat-

Doing Their BEST Pays Off for 4.0 GRADS

All five of North Carolina
Agricultural and Technical State
University's 4.0 honor graduates
agree that there is no set formula
for making all A's, but doing their
best work is how they were able to
become the top achievers.

By NETTIE COLLINS ROWLAND '72

ing from a trade school, I was focused," Raymond said. "I didn't concentrate on being the top student but on learning."

He spent his first semester in engineering, then transferred to technology.

"When it came to my class assignments, I did what the professors wanted me to do — no less, but sometimes more," the 34-year-old said. "I struggled in some of my classes, but that final exam got me an A."

Raymond feels that sometimes having all A's can be burdensome.

"People expect you to prove yourself when you have all A's. You set the curve in your classes and some of the students resent you. Your reputation precedes you."

Excited about graduating, Raymond says A&T is a special place for him because it is the place where he met his wife Kim, an honor student from Bermuda who also received her degree at the May 12 commencement.

Raymond is a member of Epsilon Pi Tau, Society of Manufacturing Engineering and the Fluid Power Society. He plans to pursue a master's degree in industrial technology from Purdue University in the fall.

Diane Wilson was reared in New Jersey but moved to Greensboro at age 21. She came to the university with an associate degree.

"When I came to A&T, I started out trying to beat my husband, who graduated from High Point College with a 3.9," said the 43-year-old. "I also wanted to demonstrate to my children the importance of getting good grades."

It took Wilson four and a half years to graduate from A&T because she was working full time at AT&T and only taking two or three courses a semester.

"I spent a lot of time studying on weekends and early in the morning," the electronic computer technology major said. "I always rewrote my notes before taking exams, making sure I understood the information. I also



Diane Wilson

practiced solving problems."

Wilson explained that the road to making A's was not always easy and sometimes she wanted to make a B to take the pressure off herself.

"In the four and a half years I attended A&T, I can count on one hand the number of classes I missed," she said. "Being an older student, I understood the value of a good education."

Wilson explained that there were some advantages to being an older student.

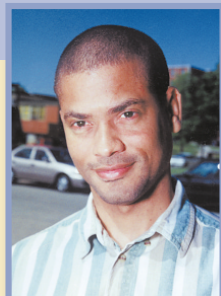
"I wasn't afraid to ask questions in class like some of the younger students," she said. "They often asked me to ask questions for them."

Wilson advises all students to make sure their teachers know their names.

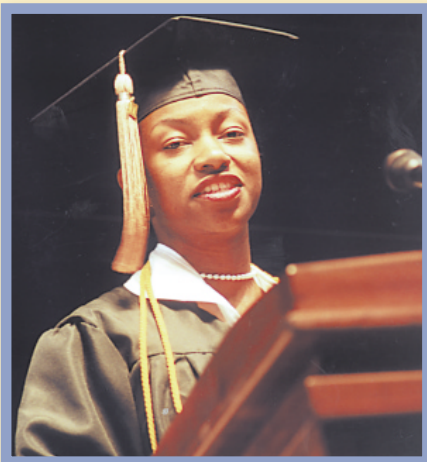
"Some students are sharp, but they sit so quietly in their classes, they go unnoticed by their teachers."

Wilson said that her family was very supportive of her during her tenure at A&T and that she was promoted twice on her job while enrolled in school.

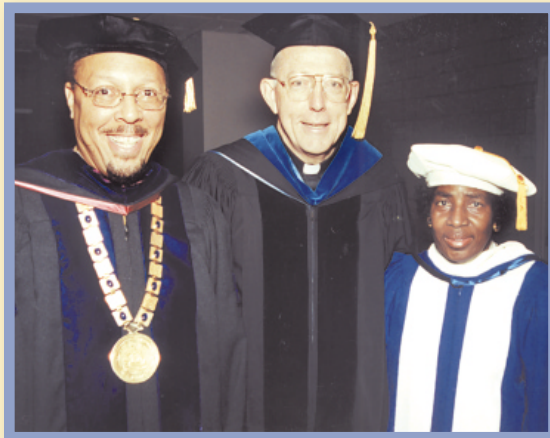
"I know my promotions have been because of the education I received from A&T."



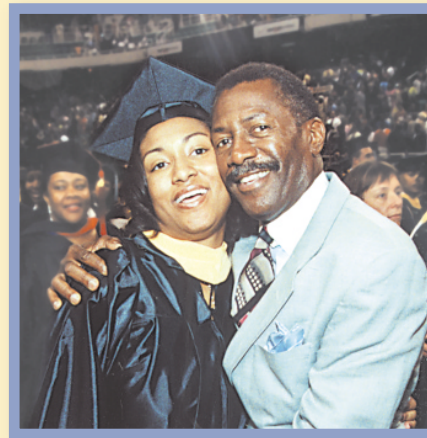
Deryck Raymond



Senior Class President Binta Speaks gives her final address.



N.C. A&T Chancellor James C. Renick, University of Notre Dame President Edward A. Malloy (commencement speaker) and Bennett College President Gloria R. Scott



April Y. Ruffin celebrates receiving the M.S.W. degree with her father Ben Ruffin, chairman of the UNC Board of Governors.



Four generations of the Buster family celebrate the graduation of Pamela Buster (far left). Pictured in front are (L-R): Mary Buster, 100, great aunt; Julia Hankins, 106, great aunt; Emma Buster, 84, paternal grandmother; Gail Buster, mother; and Keisha Buster, sister. In the back are Claude Buster, uncle; James Buster, 98, great uncle; Mary H. Buster, aunt; Chester Buster, father; and Mary E. Buster, aunt.

Commencement Highlights May 12, 2001



Computer science major Eric Waddy



Nursing majors Natalie Pass and Shana Wilson



Ph.D. candidate Yongkab Kim (left) and his faculty advisor, Dr. Chung Yu.



Aggies are all in the family for siblings David L. Mallette III (Class of '96), Janelle Mallette, Michele Mallette and James Callaway, who come from three generations of A&T graduates on both sides of the family.



Construction management major Christopher J. Nance takes a moment to reflect.



Visual arts/design majors Michael D. Pullum, Afeefah Y. McCleary, Melissa Taylor and Ryan Watkins

Chancellor James C. Renick and legendary golfer Charles Sifford
test a pair of clubs once used by Althea Gibson.



GOLF LEGEND

TOURS HISTORIC EXHIBIT AT A&T

By NETTIE COLLINS ROWLAND '72

Charles Sifford's passion for golf is indescribable. The 78-year-old, who was the first African American to play in a PGA Tour in the South, has a great love for the sport and displays it whenever he talks about it.

In 1961, a friend invited Sifford to play in the Greater Greensboro Open (GGO). Being from the South and knowing the conditions that existed in the region for blacks, Sifford was very hesitant to accept the invitation, which would make him the first black to play in the tournament – a move that could prove life-threatening. But, with inspiration from his wife, Sifford played in the April 13 opening game and broke golf's color barrier.



Charles Sifford views the "Epochs of Courage" exhibit
with guest curator, Ramona Merriwether.

This year, Sifford was honored at the 40th anniversary celebration of the GGO – now known as the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic. It was during his visit to Greensboro that N.C. A&T Chancellor James C. Renick extended an invitation for him to see "Epochs of Courage: African Americans in Golf," a multimedia traveling exhibit that was on display at the university April 24 through June 15. This also was the first time the exhibit had been on a historical black university campus.

Gazing at the exhibit, which featured him and other African American golfers, Sifford reminisced about his golfing career.

"Since I served in the military in Okinawa, Japan, I felt that I should be able to play golf," Sifford said. "I wanted to prove that a black man could do anything he wanted to do. There is no such

thing as 'I can't.'"

Sifford does not hesitate to express himself, and his drill sergeant often called him "Big Mouth Charlie" because he talked so much.

Still an energetic golfer, Sifford also gives golf lessons and he has a yearning desire for more blacks to participate in the sport.

"A lot of blacks think that golf is an expensive sport and that they cannot afford it," he said. "But golf is no more expensive than basketball or football. If you really want to do something like Tiger Woods, work hard and you can do it."

Along with images of himself at the exhibition, Sifford saw the Greensboro Six (Phillip Cooke, Samuel Murray, Elijah Herring, Joseph Studivent, George Simpkins, and Leon Wolfe), a group of men who went to jail to fight for the rights of blacks to participate in the game of golf. He saw Paris Brown, the first woman to hold an executive office in the United Golfer Association (UGA) and the first woman UGA tournament director. And he saw Joseph Bartholomew, a black who built several golf courses in the New Orleans area, but was not allowed to play on the courses because they were for whites only.

He also saw a display of the golf tee invented by Dr. George Franklin Grant; exhibits featuring Peter Brown, the first African American to win a PGA Tournament; Lee Elder, the first black to play on the U.S. Ryder Cup Team who, in 1975, was the first black to play in a Masters tournament; and Tiger Woods, the youngest Masters champion.

In addition, there were many books exhibited including *Uneven Lies, A Heroic Story of African Americans in Golf*, by Peter McDaniel; *African American Golfers during the Jim Crow Era*, by Marvin P. Dawkins and Graham C. Kinloch; and *Clearview: America's Course*, by Ellen Susan Nosrer.

Ramona Merriwether, guest curator for the exhibit who gave Sifford the tour, said, "The astounding images in this exhibit tell a moving story describing the frustrations and achievements of African Americans in golf. The memorabilia and custom designed figurines bring it even closer to life."

Upon looking at a pair of golf clubs and shoes that belonged to Althea Gibson, the first black to play on tour, Sifford remarked, "Gibson and I were both too old when we first started playing golf. Parents should start their kids playing golf when they are very young." ■

A&T Awards Four Honorary Degrees

A former state commissioner, two administrators and a university chancellor received honorary degrees from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University during the 110th annual commencement on May 12.

The Doctor of Humanities degree was presented to James A. Graham, James F. Gwaltney and George D. Peterson. The honor was bestowed upon Julius Chambers at the university's Honors' Day Convocation in March.

Graham served as North Carolina



James A. Graham

Commissioner of Agriculture for 36 years. As commissioner, he was in charge of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which consists of 15 divisions and over 1,400 employees.

Graham also has been a teacher of agriculture, superintendent of Upper Mountain Research Station, manager of Winston-Salem Fair, secretary of N.C. Hereford Association, and general manager of the State Farmers Market.

Gwaltney is vice president-general sales manager for Lincoln and Mercury divisions of Ford Motor Company, a position he has held since May 1998. His responsibilities include developing and implementing worldwide sales, production, incentive, distribution and field marketing strategies for Lincoln and Mercury cars and trucks, as well as supervising the 17 regional offices across the United States.

Gwaltney joined Ford Motor Company in 1971 as a statistician in the Washington,



James F. Gwaltney

D.C., district sales office, where he held various analytical and managerial positions in Ford Motor Credit Corp., The Associates Corp., First Nationwide Bank and USL Capital Inc.

Peterson is the executive director of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. He is the former section head of faculty and teacher development at the National Science Foundation (NSF), Division of Undergraduate Education, in Washington, D.C. He also served as program director in the Undergraduate Science, Engineering and Mathematics Education Division.



George D. Peterson

Peterson served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force for over 21 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel. During his military career, Peterson was awarded The Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service

Medal (with Gold Star Device) and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Chambers has been chancellor of North Carolina Central University since 1993. Under his leadership, the university launched a \$50 million capital fund-raising campaign and established its first 10 endowed chairs.

An attorney, Chambers has held numerous positions including director/counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and



Julius L. Chambers

Educational Fund; senior partner and founder, Chambers Ferguson Watt Wallas and Adkins, PA; and adjunct, Columbia University, University of Virginia, University of Pennsylvania and University of Michigan law schools. He plans to practice law in Charlotte upon retiring in June 2001. ■

did
you
know?

Among HBCUs, N.C. A&T had the first nationally accredited accounting program in the country.

N.C. A&T was one of the first two historically black Division I universities to become NCAA certified.

Students

Norma L. Houston, Shanita W. Wooten, Cassondra L. Gainey, and Ryan D. Kinloch earned the coveted Derieux Award, and **Chavon R. Wilkerson** won honorable mention, for oral presentations made at the 98th Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science (NCAS), which was held at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in March. Wilkerson also won first place at the 58th Joint Annual Meeting of Beta Kappa Chi/National Institute of Science/Brookhaven Semester Program in Atlanta. The five students are participants in the N.C. A&T Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Undergraduate Training In Academic Research (U* STAR) Honors Program.

field. The professional services firm KPMG LLP awards annually \$1,000 to Beta Alpha Psi chapters that achieve superior status, the highest rating, based on chapter-sponsored activities such as professional seminars, workshops and community service. Zeta Sigma Chapter has received superior recognition for the last 16 years.

Political science major **Michael Hawkins**, and economics majors **Armand Swain** and **Tereance Parks**, participated in the McNair National Conference for Undergraduate Research. Hawkins, Swain and Parks are Ronald E. McNair Scholars at A&T. The program is part of a national program funded by the Dept. of Education that provides experiences to prepare students for graduate school enrollment.

Mu Tau Chapter-Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society has inducted 13 new members, officers and community leaders from the N.C. A&T School of Nursing. Student inductees included **Sameeya Ahmed, John Ali, Lakisha Allen, Leah Baker, Erica Burns, Linda Filler, Crystal Grant, Susan Henderson, Kimberly Jeffries, Ann Joyner, Shimesa King, Lisa McCaskill, Joy McNeil, Jennifer Melton, Diane Rogers** and **Tammy Thomas**. Community leaders inducted were **Katrice Moore** and **Zula Price**. Officers for the 2001-02 school year are **Dr. Patricia Price-Lea**, treasurer, **Cathy Marie Badgett**, vice president, and **Linda McIntosh**, counselor.

Eighty-three students received certificates after successfully completing the Waste Management Certificate program, which highlights training in environmental and waste management issues.

Candidates who completed the program include **Brian Keith Alexander, Keino Kip Armstead, Robert Ashby, Thomas Patrick Bradley, Carl E. Brinkley III, Cherie Dawnessa Brown, Patrice D. Cagle, Thasya Khamese Campbell, Angela Dawn Cheek, Dondrae J. Coble, Andrea Lynn Coley** and **Wilfred DeShon Cromartie**.

James K. Davis II, Jerry Lee Davis Jr., Coletta Larissa Edwards, Patrice L. Farmer, Damian Fleming, Kim Floyd,

Timothy Michael Andre' Friday, Barbie J. Gadsden, LeShanda N. Gibbs and **Gowon Lateef Goode**.

Ronald N. Goodson, Eric L. Gulley, Joseph C. Hampton, Melissa Rena Hargrove, Jennifer Michelle Harrington, Cyrstal Miel Harris, Anthony D. Harvey, Robert Benjamin Hayes, Jewun L. Hazel, Brande Levette Hazelwood, Amorie E. Hill, Tamara A. Hill and **Angela Michelle Hines**.

Crystal Hooker, Mario D. Ingram, Malveata Sinyona Johnson, Portia Lyn-dell Johnson, Phedra Lynette Kee, Balla S. Keita, Channte' J. Keith, Tevis J. Kirkling, Ashley K. Kornegay, Je'Velle Bonique Leavens, Lakisha Danielle Lee and **Antoinette Nicole Liggians**.

Wesley Warren Linton, Terome Alexander Mapp, LeShundra Tonee Marks, Chadd Matthewson, Jibri R. Mayo, Michelle Denise McCallum, Decatur Antionette McMillian, Corey Jermaine Moore, Celeste T. Morehead, Erin Janelle Owens, Nicole Pulliam and **Katonda LaChelle Rainey**.

Lakeisha Ann Reaves, Kimberly Ruth Love Reese, Jessica G. Rich, Tyrone Robinson, Sammie Lee Rogers III, Anikka C. Ruffin, Sherrod C. Schofield, Chameeka Nichelle Smith, Leila Elie Simaan, Clinton David Stackhouse II, Joseph LaMont Stanford and **Jamar LaDell Stroud**.

Jennifer Shaunte Suitt, A. Bernard Tucker, Edward James Turner, Keisha Turner, April LeShawn Vann, Eric C. Waddy, Ayinde Wagner-Simpson, Nakeisha S. Watson, Shenekia Weeks, Shana Wilson, Sondra J. Wright and **Melissa Yvonne Wyatt**.

Faculty & Staff

Visual arts faculty and 34 visual arts and theatre students from N.C. A&T participated in Generations: Teaching, Nurturing and Appreciating A Visual Aesthetics, at Morris Brown College in April.

Business professor **Dr. Chi Anyansi-Archibong** is one of 19 teachers from 16 programs across the country to receive the Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education for inspiring the next generation of business leaders through an innovative education program. Anyansi-Archibong received the honor for her project, "Business in a Bag - A SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) Program," that teaches the basic fundamentals of the free enterprise system through invaluable hands-on

did
you
know?

N.C. A&T is the nation's No. 1 producer of minorities with degrees in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

N.C. A&T will receive approximately \$154 million for capital construction and renovations as part of the \$3.1 billion North Carolina Higher Education bond referendum passed by voters in November 2000.

N.C. A&T was reaffirmed for accreditation in 2000 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for another 10 years.

A&T has one of two Schools of Technology in North Carolina.

N.C. A&T offers the only architectural engineering degree in North Carolina.

N.C. A&T spearheaded the Piedmont Triad Center for Advanced Manufacturing (PTCAM), a partnership with local public schools, industries and A&T to promote manufacturing technology.

Clarence Clayton and **Karen Gal-loway**, senior accounting majors, received KPMG LLP scholarships at the Beta Alpha Psi-Zeta Sigma Chapter luncheon last spring. Selection was based on character, outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership in the Chapter and in other extracurricular activities.

Beta Alpha Psi is a national honor society for accounting and information systems majors that encourages and gives recognition to scholastic and professional excellence in the business information

experiences. Each winning program receives a \$7,500 cash award with one meritorious program receiving \$15,000.

The scientific article entitled "Far-wing scattering studies on the reaction

$\text{Li}(2p,3p) + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{LiH}(\nu'' = 1, 2 \text{ J''}) + \text{H}^+$ by **Solomon Bililign, Ph.D.**, associate professor of physics and others, has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Chemical Physics*. This experimental and theoretical work done in collaboration with Dr. Gwang-Hi Jeung, a theorist at the Laboratoire Aimé Cotton, Orsay, France, was performed in the physics laser lab at A&T. The other authors are Tito L. Robinson, a former physics graduate student and research assistant (2000 graduate), and Brian C. Hattaway, an undergraduate senior and current research assistant. The paper also is available on JCP-Express, a free service for electronic distribution of preprints of accepted manuscripts, <http://jcp.uchicago.edu/express/122>.

An article by **Dr. Basil G. Coley**, professor of economics, appears in *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review* (Volume 10, No. 1). "Economic Factors Associated with the Growth and Development of Agricultural Cooperatives" examines various economic theories on which co-operatives are based and their growth and development from the Rochdale pioneers to the new generation co-operatives of today. The article also explores their roles in our economic system and the implications of various Federal laws on their successes.



Dr. Basil G. Coley

Dr. Marihelen Glass, professor of horticulture, has won a Great American Gardeners Award from the American Horticultural Society. She is among 17 national award winners, including entertainer Bette Midler. She received the award in the teaching category.



Dr. Marihelen Glass

Dr. Vallie W. Guthrie, associate professor of chemistry and director of the Greensboro Area Mathematics and Science Education Center (GAMSEC) at A&T, was one of the more than 100 outstanding graduates of historically black colleges and universities honored as Distin-

guished Alumni by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). Guthrie was recognized at NAFEO's 26th National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education, March 19-24, in Washington, D.C.

Drs. Randolph Hawkins and Ernest Morant of the department of sociology/social work made a presentation at the Fifth Annual National Conference on Family and Community Violence Prevention on April 5 in Los Angeles. Their session was entitled "Can We Talk? Can We Get Along? Media Literacy for Young African Americans."

Artwork by **Vandorn Hinnant**, curator of H.C. Taylor Gallery, **Dr. Willie Hooker**, professor of art, and other artists from



Dr. Willie Hooker

North Carolina and Virginia, are on display at the Art Atrium II Arts Center (Portsmouth, Va.) in an exhibit entitled "Art from the Black Historic Colleges: A Contemporary View." The exhibit closes July 22.

Hooker's work also was exhibited at the America Association of Museums Conference, May 6-10, in St. Louis, Mo.

David W. Hoard, vice chancellor for development and university relations, was among the key national and international executives representing 30 nonprofit organizations selected to participate in the eighth Texaco Management Institute (TMI), May 7-10, in Houston. TMI is a management development workshop that aims to strengthen leadership in the nonprofit sector.



David W. Hoard

Dr. Ewuok Lomo-David, department of business education, collaborated on seven projects that were published or presented last year. One of them – "Evaluation of basic software competencies among corporate Nigerian information systems professionals" – a collaboration with **Dr. Frederick Ferguson**, NASA-Center for Aerospace Research (NASA-CAR) at A&T, appears in *Issues in Information Systems* (Vol. 1).

Minnie Battle Mayes, interim director of the Office of International Programs, spent one week in the Republic of

South Africa laying the foundation for three new international initiatives between A&T and the University of Natal (NU) that will begin as soon as this summer. The new programs include a pilot six-week summer program at NU, a semester direct exchange program, and opportunities for joint research and multi-disciplinary studies in population as they relate to social and demographic analysis in AIDS/HIV and subsequent policy issues.

Dr. Conchita Ndege, director of the Mattye Reed African Heritage Center, participated in a workshop, entitled "Context and Significance of West African Film: A Curriculum Workshop for HBCU Teachers," in Dakar, Senegal, June 17-27. The workshop was supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and sponsored by Howard University in conjunction with the West African Research Center.

Dr. Morris C. Peterkin, associate professor of special education, presented a paper on "Successful Strategies for Studying In College" at the National Scholars Conference held in Fayetteville, N.C., March 23-24. The paper was based on Peterkin's research on students' study habits and learning habits and their instructors' suggestions for academic success.



Minnie Battle Mayes



Dr. Conchita Ndege



Dr. Morris Peterkin

Two articles written by **Dr. Yongmei Wang**, assistant professor of chemistry, have been published this year. "Lattice Monte Carlo simulation for the partitioning of biomodal polymer mixture into a slit," collaboration with Drs. Iwao Teraoka and Peter Cifra, appears in *Macromolecules*. "Simulation of random scission of C-C bonds in the initial stage of thermal degradation of polyethylene," a collaboration with Drs. Pemra Doruka and Wayne Mattice, appears in *Computational and Theoretical Polymer Science*. ■

- The School of Agricultural and Environmental and Allied Sciences will lead "Enhancing Economic Opportunities of Tobacco-Impacted Communities through Alternative Agriculture Enterprises and Business Management," a project granted \$250,000 through the Golden LEAF Foundation to help tobacco farmers in North Carolina's northern piedmont and eastern regions.

N.C. A&T will work with Operation Spring Plant and the North Carolina Coalition for Farms and Rural Communities, two agriculture-focused nonprofit agencies, to enhance economic opportunities for small-scale farmers in tobacco-dependent communities. Central to the project's objectives is a database of research related to alternative agricultural enterprises. A&T researchers will build this database with both campus-based research and through experiments in alternative enterprises in the targeted areas. Among the anticipated areas of research are medicinal herbs, specialty crops and livestock and aquaculture.

The Golden LEAF Foundation is a nonprofit organization that is based in Rocky Mount, N.C. It provides economic impact assistance to economically affected or tobacco-dependent regions in North Carolina.

Graduate Student Wins \$10,000 for Research

Imagine being invited to attend an award presentation only to find out that you are the guest of honor who would receive a \$10,000 prize. Environmental engineering graduate student Rebecca Cramer was surprised when she learned she had won Keep North Carolina Clean and Beautiful's Gov. and Mrs. Daniel K. Moore Fellowship.

The award recognizes students working to solve environmental problems, and the prize money is for continued research.

A straight-A student from Flynt, Mich., Cramer will use the funds for her research project that involves working on ways to protect water sources from animal waste contamination. She has been studying at A&T for 3 1/2 years.



Rebecca Cramer

- "A Portable Parallel Debugging Tool for Java MPI," a project being led by **Dr. Kenneth Williams**, associate professor of computer science, recently received \$120,000 from Logicon Inc. and the United States Naval Oceanographic Office. The goal of the project is to create a portable Java debugging tool.
- **Steven Smith**, a Ph.D. candidate in mechanical engineering at N.C. A&T, is a research scientist for the Army Research Laboratories' Vehicle Technology Directorate where he is developing methods that will improve the way in which the preliminary design of high-performance structures is approached.

Smith and his group, based at NASA's Langley Research Center, are developing a new design program that assesses structural reliability through high-fidelity analysis and design methodologies that incorporate probabilistic and other non-deterministic techniques. Prior to his position at Langley, Smith was the laboratory manager of the Center for Composite Materials Research at A&T, where he was involved in developing cost-effective processes for the manufacture of high-performance materials.

A native of Detroit, Smith holds an M.S. in mechanical engineering from NASA's Joint Institute for the Advancement of Flight Sciences and a B.S. in aerospace engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

- Thanks to \$275,000 from **Syngenta Crop Protection**, N.C. A&T has two new programs designed to enhance the academic offerings of the School of Agriculture and Environmental and Allied Sciences. With \$150,000, A&T will equip a new soil laboratory in Carver Hall, establish a fund for future growth and create the Syngenta Scholars Program, which will offer top merit awards for students studying agribusiness. The remaining \$125,000 will be used for A&T to offer paid internships at Syngenta's Greensboro office, in the areas of agriculture, business and economics, engineering, and the arts and sciences.

Syngenta was created in November 2000 from the merger of Novartis Agribusiness and Zeneca Agrochemicals. Syngenta and its predecessor companies (Ciba-Geigy, Ciba and Novartis) have been in Greensboro for 27 years.

- **Dr. John C. Kelly**, interim chairman of the department of electrical engineering, is leading a project to develop technology that recognizes and interprets speech. "The Use of Multi-Model Technology to Advance Automatic Speech Recognition," has received \$250,000 from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of the U.S. Dept. of Defense.
- A team of energy specialists at A&T is helping the United States Army reduce its energy consumption, using buildings at Fort Bragg as a basis for their research. **Dr. Peter Rojeski** leads the team from the university's Center for Energy Research and Technology. Their mission is to develop procedures that the Army can use to determine which buildings have heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems needing improvements in order to conserve energy. The U.S. Dept. of Defense, Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, funds the project.
- Working under a grant through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, **Drs. Harmohindar Singh** and **Shamsuddin Ilias** will evaluate and characterize the Southeast's chemical industry and identify companies to participate in the Industries of the Future (IOF) program. IOF is an initiative of the Office of Industrial Technologies in the Dept. of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The program seeks to significantly improve the efficiency of energy use in nine major U.S. industries: aluminum, steel, metal casting, glass, mining, agriculture, chemicals, forest products and petroleum. The Dept. of Energy will then form a "virtual laboratory" to provide the best expertise available to work with industries on high-priority research, development, and demonstration activities.

Professors, Administrator Receive Top Honors



Patricia E. Bonner, Ph.D.



Eleanor Gwynn, Ph.D.



Beryl C. McEwen, Ph.D.



Devdas M. Pai, Ph.D.



Russell Rankin Jr.



*Jagannathan Sankar,
Ph.D.*



Chung W. Seo, Ph.D.



*Musibau A. Shofoluwe,
Ph.D.*



Susan Wilson, Ed.D.



Guochen Yang, Ph.D.

Nine faculty members and one administrator received North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's highest teacher, researcher and administrator awards for 2000-2001 at the annual Honors' Day Convocation, March 22.

Receiving University Outstanding Teaching Awards were Drs. Patricia E. Bonner, associate professor of English, College of Arts and Sciences; Devdas M. Pai, associate professor of mechanical engineering, College of Engineering; Chung W. Seo, professor of human environment and family sciences, School of Agriculture and Environmental and Allied Sciences; Beryl C. McEwen, professor of business education, School of Business and Economics; Eleanor Gwynn, professor of health, physical education and recreation, School of Education; Susan Wilson, associate professor, School of Nursing; and Musibau A. Shofoluwe, associate professor of construction management and safety, School of Technology. Colleagues from the respective schools and colleges selected the teachers.

Drs. Jagannathan Sankar and Guochen Yang were honored for their research. Sankar, a professor of mechanical engineering, received the Outstanding Researcher Award. He was recognized for his work in materials engineering, notably, for helping to establish and now leading the Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures. Yang, an associate professor in the department of natural resources and environmental design, received the Outstanding Young Investigator Award for his work in plant micropropagation.

The University Outstanding Administrator Award was presented to Russell Rankin Jr., interim chairman of the department of manufacturing systems in the School of Technology.

Each award included a plaque and a stipend. ■

Shofoluwe Is UNC Teacher of the Year

Dr. Musibau A. Shofoluwe, associate professor of construction management and safety in the School of Technology, is a recipient of the University of North Carolina's Awards for Excellence in Teaching for 2001.

On April 12, The Board of Governors of the 16-campus University of North Carolina honored teachers from across the state during a recognition luncheon held at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center in Chapel Hill. A faculty member from each UNC campus received a commemorative bronze medallion and a \$7,500 cash prize.

The 16 recipients, representing an array of academic disciplines, were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Teaching Awards, chaired by Patsy B. Perry of Durham. The awards were presented by UNC President Molly Corbett Broad and Board of Governors Chairman Benjamin S. Ruffin.

A member of the NCA&T construction management faculty since 1992, Shofoluwe is admired for his efforts to help his students find internships while at A&T and jobs after they graduate, many of them with Fortune 500 companies. He structures his courses to encourage collaborative learning and solicits feedback throughout the semester to monitor students' learning and continuously improve his teaching.

Shofoluwe, who directs an innovative project in southeastern Greensboro to provide basic education and job training to low-income citizens, has been honored by the City of Winston-Salem for his service to the community. This project not only aids participants, but also provides opportunities for service and learning for A&T students.

"Education is the centerpiece of our civilization," he says. "To this end, the education of young college students must be well-structured to prepare them for their lifelong professional careers.

"An effective teacher is not the one with the world's best academic qualifications only, but one who can disseminate ideas and generate feedback from students for continuous teaching improvement."

Established by the Board of Governors in April 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching across the University, the Awards for Excellence in Teaching are given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus. Winners must have taught at their present institutions at least seven years. No one may receive the award more than once. ■

Willingness to Learn Nets Couple Farmers Award

By MITCH ARNOLD

Burnice and Bonnie Blanks value the rural lifestyle they lead on their Robeson County farm, but they do not isolate themselves from their community or the programs available to them, and this has made them successful small-scale farmers.

Recognizing this success, the Cooperative Extension Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University honored

they are quick to assess it for their needs and enthusiastic to accept new and better ways of doing things."

Recently, the Blanks became part of the Farmers Adopting Computer Training project coordinated by the N.C. A&T Cooperative Extension Program. Through this program, they have access to a computer and software tailored to their needs, and they have been trained on how to integrate this technology into their farm management practices.

"The computer helps us keep organized," said Mr. Blanks. "We appreciate the opportunity to learn something new and to improve our farming operation by having a better sense of crop and financial management."

Prior to enrolling in the computer project, the Blanks participated in several other programs coordinated by the

A&T Cooperative Extension, including the Small Farmer Outreach and Technical Assistance Project. Through this project, the Blanks participated in several workshops designed to introduce them to farm record keeping and management.

Reflecting the lessons they learned through this project, the Blanks now produce over 35 kinds of fruits and vegetables on their 29-acre farm. Among their produce offerings are cabbage, okra, watermelons, turnips and tomatoes. Markets for the produce include the local farmers market, area restaurants, consumers of their produce gift package and residents of the Robeson County area, where Mr. Blanks is known to deliver produce to elderly people unable to travel.



Small Farmer of the Year, Burnice Blanks

The Blanks also used another A&T program, Ways to Grow, to enhance their farming operations. Through this W.K. Kellogg program, the Blanks received training on small farms management and a grant to add an irrigation system to their farm, which they estimate has increased their yields 100 percent on the irrigated land.

Also involved with the North Carolina Coalition of Farm and Rural Families, they lead local and statewide efforts through this organization to promote small-scale agriculture. Recently, through their work with this organization, they were integral in initiating discussion with Glory Foods to establish production and marketing contracts for leafy greens and sweet potatoes.

"Small-scale farmers have to know where their markets are, and they have to figure out a way to meet the market demand while not ignoring their bottom line," said Mr. Blanks. "If you want to make money, you have to save money where you can."

The Gilmer L. and Clara Y. Dudley Small Farmer of the Year Award is presented annually by the N.C. A&T Cooperative Extension Program to a small-scale farmer who exemplifies prudent stewardship of the land while optimizing resources and enhancing farm operations through Cooperative Extension programs. N.C. A&T alumnus Joseph L. Dudley Sr. '62, president of Dudley Products, Inc., established the award as a tribute to his parents' commitment to higher education and appreciation of farming. ■



them with the 2001 Gilmer L. and Clara Y. Dudley Small Farmer of the Year Award, on Small Farms Day, March 28.

The award and cash prize was presented during the Small Farmers Recognition Luncheon held on campus, during Small Farms Week, the 15th annual statewide celebration of small-scale agriculture.

"Burnice and Bonnie are innovators on the small-scale agriculture scene," said Nelson Brownlee, an area farm management agent with Robeson County Cooperative Extension. Brownlee has worked with the Blanks for the past eight years, introducing them to a number of programs designed for small-scale farmers.

"When a new opportunity arises,

Counseling Programs and Health Lab Accredited

Two master's degree counseling programs at North Carolina A&T State University have been accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Sebastian Health Center Laboratory Services met all criteria for laboratory accreditation by the Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA), a national healthcare organization.

The community counseling and school counseling programs have been approved for accreditation for a two-year period through June 30, 2003. The programs were reviewed under the 1994 CACREP Standards.

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) was formed in 1981. Criteria for evaluation utilized by CACREP are the result of extensive input from educators, practitioners, and the public-at-large.

Schools with programs accredited by CACREP have accepted their responsibility to provide quality training programs. Accreditation is a powerful tool for self-evaluation and improvement. The Council remains responsive to the changing needs of society and those persons serving as counselors. CACREP accredited programs are encouraged to make continual evaluations and revisions to remain current.

Dr. Wyatt D. Kirk, professor, is chairman of the department of human development and services, which houses the counseling programs.

Accreditation is given only to health laboratories that apply rigid standards to quality in day-to-day operations, demonstrate continued accuracy in the performance of proficiency testing, and pass a rigorous on-site laboratory survey. Earning COLA accreditation is a result of the Sebastian's commitment to providing quality service to its patients.

COLA is a nonprofit, physician directed organization that promotes quality and excellence in medicine and patient care through programs of voluntary education,

achievement and accreditation. COLA is approved by the federal government and sponsored by American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association, American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine, College of American

Pathologists, and American Osteopathic Association.

Barbara Gravelly, M.D., is laboratory director and Adedotun Adekunle, M.T., A.S.C.P., is laboratory manager for Sebastian Health Center. ■

Recruiting Tips for North Carolina Aggies

It's that time of year again! Applications are pouring in from prospective Aggies, and A&T family members, especially those in North Carolina, may join the recruiting team by taking a few simple steps to connect with future Aggies. Listed below are tips for recruiting some of the best and brightest students.

- Make sure prospective students complete and mail alumni waiver application forms as soon as possible.
- Encourage prospective students to contact the Office of Admissions by phoning (336) 334-7946 or 1-800-443-8964, or emailing uadmit@ncat.edu for undergraduate studies. Graduate information may be received at (336) 334-7920 and gradsch@ncat.edu.
- Share A&T's good news with family, neighbors and colleagues! Also, promote A&T within youth groups, houses of faith, PTAs, social, civic and community groups, fraternal organizations and businesses.
- Utilize the A&T admissions speakers bureau for presentations about the university. Contact Harry Williams at (336) 334-7881 or email willhl@ncat.edu.
- Seek answers to your questions, concerns or issues regarding A&T by contacting Mary Mims Correll at (336) 334-7085 or mims@ncat.edu.
- Give prospects information and materials on A&T. Contact the N.C. A&T Admissions Office for brochures, catalogues and mini-CD-ROMs at (336) 334-7555, 1-800-334-7582, or www.ncat.edu.
- Talk to guidance counselors, teachers and principals regarding A&T's strengths.
- Establish an endowment, scholarship, stipend, or donation to assist students. Sponsor a student for a year or a semester. Buy books or lab supplies for a student. Complete and mail the attached contribution envelope.
- Be available to answer questions for prospective parents and guardians.
- Get involved with the local A&T Alumni Association chapter and support recruiting efforts.
- Share the tremendous impact A&T has made on your life and career.
- Suggest that prospective students communicate with department chairs and deans within their areas of interest or possible majors.
- Invite prospective students to visit A&T.
- Stay familiar with A&T information on the Web site, www.ncat.edu.

Compiled by Mary Mims Correll, Mable Springfield Scott and Harry L. Williams

By DONAL O. WARE AND TYLER A. BALL

North Signs Free Agent Contract with Bengals

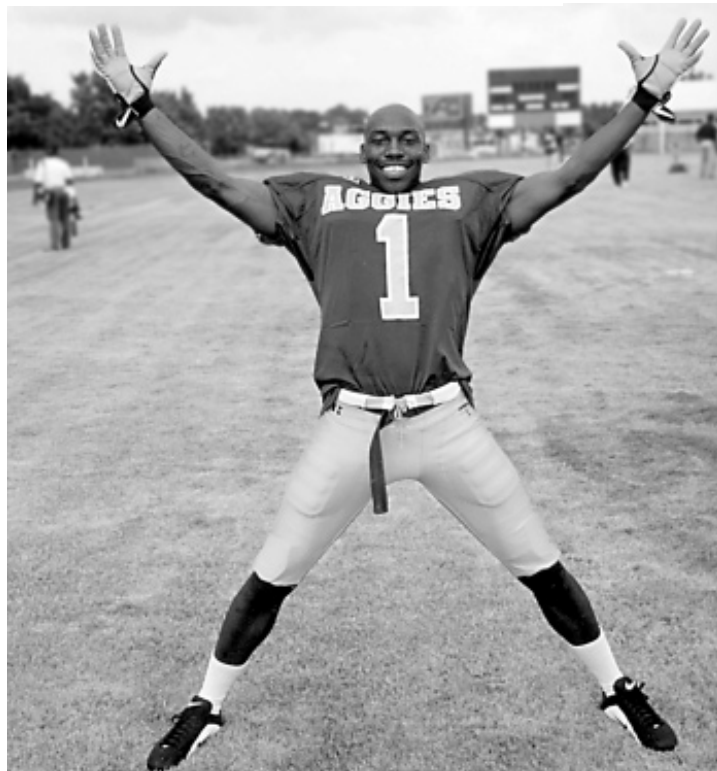
North Carolina A&T wide receiver/kick returner **Ramondo North** has signed a two-year contract with the Cincinnati Bengals of the National Football League (NFL).

North (6'2", 180 lbs.) was fifth in the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 28.4 yards per return. His longest return was an 85-yard touchdown at Howard University last October. He also caught six passes for 161 yards and two touchdowns.

A native of Charlotte, N.C., North finishes his Aggie career with 27 carries for 272 yards, 20 receptions for 313 yards and three touchdowns, and 54 kickoff returns for 1,455 yards and three touchdowns for a total of 2,040 multi-purpose yards with six touchdowns. He began rookie camp for three days in Cincinnati starting May 4.

"I am expecting to open some eyes and turn some heads," North said. "I am going to give it my all." ■

Ramondo North



Miller Drafted by Mustangs



J.J. Miller

North Carolina A&T star point guard **J.J. Miller** was drafted in the sixth round (56th overall) by the Maryland Mustangs of the United States Basketball League (USBL).

Miller, a 5'11" senior from Chinquapin, N.C., led the Aggies in scoring this season, averaging 16.1 points per game.

"I really gave it all I had this season," said Miller. "I am really excited about the opportunity to play pro basketball for the Maryland Mustangs."

The 2000-01 season was Miller's best season in his four-year career at A&T. He was selected second team All-MEAC, and he played in the Black College All-Star Classic in Baltimore. He also had a career high 34 points against Duke University at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Dec. 30, 2000.

Miller finishes his Aggie career with 969 points, 286 assists and 232 rebounds in 105 games.

"It was an honor for all the hard work he has gone through," said A&T head coach Curtis Hunter. "We know he is going to give 100% at whatever he does. His best basketball is ahead of him." ■

Men's Relay Team Rewrites Record Books

What do Titus Haygood, Gerald Wright, Montay Wilds and Timothy Walls have in common? They spend constant hours on the 1600-meter track at Aggie Stadium each day, tuning their performance in order to prepare for their shining moment ... to run a perfect race.

The foursome has come pretty close to perfection this season in the 4x100-meter relay, winning four of five races this season and setting the school record three times. At press time, their top time of 39.80 seconds ranks them 10th nationally, which would qualify them for the 2001 NCAA Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Ore.

The team knows that it is very close to reaching the NCAA automatic qualifying standard at 39.20 seconds and All-American status. Haygood, who runs the lead leg, is optimistic about the team's ability to lower their time. "With smooth baton exchanges and everybody running strong from start to finish, we can take off 1.2 to 1.5 seconds off each leg," he said.

Coach Roy Thompson knew he had something special when two athletes from Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., decided to transfer to



*The Magnificent Four:
Timothy Walls, Montay Wilds, Gerald Wright and Titus Haygood*

A&T. Walls, who runs the anchor leg, set an individual school record in the 100 meters with a 10.20 at the Duke University Invitational. Wright, who came in as an indoor specialist in the 60-meter dash, runs the second leg. All four athletes competed in the finals of the 60-meter dash at the MEAC Indoor Championships.

"I am very proud of our team's performance," said Thompson, who is in his 22nd year of coaching track at the university. "These gentlemen have given an outstanding effort, while running with injuries. They have shown a lot of heart and courage, which makes them the finest 4 x 100 team I have coached in a long time." ■

did
you
know?

The North Carolina A&T University Foundation's new housing initiative – Aggie Suites – features a state-of-the-art 804-bed facility with private and semi-private suites.

N.C. A&T's Mattye Reed African Heritage Center has one of the nation's largest collections of recognized African and Caribbean artifacts, valued at more than \$4 million.

N.C. A&T is a top producer of African American veterinarians.

WNAA-FM 90.1, the No. 1 collegiate African-American radio station in the Carolinas, can be heard around the world via the Internet at www.wnaalive@ncat.edu.

More than 95 percent of N.C. A&T's full-time tenure track faculty have doctorates.

“New” Faces on Campus Our Adult Population Continues to Grow

BY PHYLLIS OWENS COLE (COLEP@NCAT.EDU)



Phyllis Owens Cole

There are many changes on our campus today. Some of the changes involve infrastructure and direction, while others are more aesthetic, such as new parking lots, signage and the state-of-the-art technology building.

Another, more subtle change is the face of our student body. I am referring to that segment of the student population that is comprised of more mature students who do not fit the profile of the typical recent high school graduate. I am referring to our nontraditional students or adult learners.

What is a nontraditional student? Each university has its own description, but there are some basic criteria that are included in each definition. These students are generally 24 years of age or older, married or divorced, parents, employed full-time, commuters, and have been out of school for several years. Some may be returning to college after an extended absence to complete a degree for career advancement or to secure a promotion. Some are entering college for the first time. Currently, over 2,200 undergraduate students at North Carolina A&T State University are over the age of 24.

The requirements and needs of nontraditional students often are not considered because many traditional institutions are focused on serving undergraduate students who attend classes and conduct business during the course of the regular work day – between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The influx of this “new” student requires expanded programs and services to meet their special needs.

The Office of Evening/Weekend Programs at N.C. A&T serves as an advocate for nontraditional students, and it is even considering a name change to better reflect the services it provides. One continuing goal is to promote awareness of the needs of the nontraditional population and to make sure students are aware that the office is here to assist them.

By serving as the initial contact for many adult students at A&T, The Office of Evening/Weekend Programs is in a position to collect important data needed to support requests to deans and chairpersons to offer classes and entire curriculums at alternative times (nights and weekends) and formats (longer periods for fewer days). Many academic departments have been very supportive in extending their program offerings to evening hours to provide greater and better services to this population. In addition, various administrative offices remain open until 6 p.m. several days during the week, and Bluford Library maintains evening hours.

Entering college is a major transition for most students; however, for the nontraditional student this transition can be traumatic. One of the more important aspects of our office is our commitment to provide the support needed to help our nontraditional students make that transition to college life. Many are entering or re-entering with feelings of inadequacy and incompetence and are unsure of their ability to compete academically. In the Office of Evening/Weekend Programs, we try to provide the encouragement and support that is needed to overcome these negative feelings through personal counseling. Oftentimes, just listening is enough.

The Office of Evening/Weekend Programs does not provide academic counseling, but our staff makes sure that students meet with academic advisers to receive important guidance. Appointments are scheduled at the convenience of students, usually after 5 p.m., as department chairs and faculty are very cooperative and supportive in accommodating our adult students' schedules.

Although we have no specific scholarship dollars to assist adult students, the Office of Evening/Weekend Programs helps by helping students identify possible funding sources and contacts for financial assistance. Hence, while many adult students do not qualify for federal financial assistance because of their income levels, they also do not earn enough to pay the cost of tuition and fees.

The Office of Evening/Weekend Programs collaborates with other offices on campus, such as Admissions and School of Graduate Studies, to recruit students and to sponsor special programs designed to reach this adult population. For instance, on June 2, we co-sponsored (with the Office of Admissions) an open house for transfer and adult students. Our office also hosts an information session each semester and one in the summer for prospective adult students.

We also offer workshops on stress management, study skills and test-taking skills that are designed to help nontraditional students make the transition to college life. These workshops usually are scheduled during the months of June and July.

With our focus on the future direction for North Carolina A&T, it is important that we consider the needs of our entire student body, relative to scheduling courses, designing curriculums and developing/ implementing new policies and procedures. We can all share in motivating and supporting students to achieve success. ■

Phyllis Owens Cole is director of evening/weekend programs.

FUTURES Retreat

Yields Interdisciplinary Centered University

By SANDRA M. BROWN

Teams assigned to refine scenario, goals

Over 200 faculty, staff, administrators, students and members of the community actively participated in charting a new course for North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University at the FUTURES Strategic Visioning Retreat, April 19-20, in Webb Hall.

Edward M. Penson, president of Penson-Strawbridge, a research and consultations firm in Tallahassee, led the retreat.

On the first day, participants were charged with the arduous task of selecting one of the three scenarios that had been constructed and presented to the campus community prior to the retreat.

Scenario I – Doctoral Research Institution

The university uses its energy and resources to become a distinctive doctoral research institution.

Scenario II – Interdisciplinary Centered University

The university is a flat/horizontal organization that facilitates collaboration and fosters integrated learning – interdisciplinary studies and 24-hour service.

Scenario III – Learner Centered Communiversity

The university's mission is driven by excellence in teaching, particularly at the undergraduate level, service and applied research.

"The chosen scenario should be the most effective and appropriate for the university while being transformational or directional in its scope," Penson said. "It should not maintain the status quo, yet it must not commit the university to try to become all things to all people."

Following a two-hour discussion of the pros and cons of each scenario, the group voted. Scenario II emerged the winner by an almost 2:1 margin.

The second day of the retreat was spent identifying barriers to Scenario II, crafting goals and timelines, then merging and refining goals. Twelve teams crafted 26 goals.

Goals with similar elements were discussed further then merged into new goals, maintaining the tone of the original goals. The result was nine goals that cover research activity, pilot/new programs, professional development, funding/fund-raising, program development, student development, experiential learning and transformation.

The FUTURES Planning and Resource Council met April 26 to discuss the next steps in the strategic visioning process.

During open dialogue, council members agreed that there was still some lack of clarity relating to the scenario and its barriers and goals. The group also decided to refine the wording of these items named by participants at the retreat.

Dr. Samuel Moseley and Rodney Harrigan will lead the team to refine the selected scenario. Drs. Willie Willis, Sanjiv Sarin and Colleen Grotzky will lead the team refining the barriers; and Drs. Peter Meyers and Quiester Craig will lead the team refining the goals.

The Planning and Resource Council met again on June 13 to review the refined scenario and goals and to assign priority ranking. The revised scenario and goals are posted on the FUTURES website, www.ncat.edu/futures. Renick announced that FUTURES would be the main topic of his fall address.

The campus and community are invited to continue emailing comments to the FUTURES page, futures@ncat.edu. ■

N.C. A&T was the first and only black university in the country to receive a NASA-funded Mars Space Research Center. The university has received more than \$25 million in funding from NASA.

N.C. A&T engineering students are making history with NASCAR and auto racing.

N.C. A&T's women's bowling team won the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championship (2001).

A top producer of African American landscape architects, N.C. A&T is the only HBCU in the nation with a landscape architecture program, and it is the only university in North Carolina with an undergraduate landscape architecture program.

N.C. A&T is the only HBCU in the U.S. to have an accredited program in agricultural and biosystems engineering.

The International Association Economics for Management Education (AACSB) reaffirmed accreditation of A&T's undergraduate degree programs in business and accounting (2000).

N.C. A&T has a Master of Social Work degree. It is a joint program with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

N.C. A&T's Fort Interdisciplinary Research Center is the only interdisciplinary research center in North Carolina.

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know?

SUITE LIVING

A New Tradition at North Carolina A&T!

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University is pleased to bring you Aggie Suites, a brand new housing complex for students. Aggie Suites is only a few minutes walking distance from most buildings on campus.

Apply Today... Suites Are Going Fast!

Forget about your typical apartment. Move to where it's happening - the brand new Aggie Suites! But you better hurry. With limited space, a place like this will fill up fast! So fill out and send in your application today!



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