

N.C. A&T



FALL 2018

MARCHING ON BAND CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

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AGGIES CELEBRATE

GRAND OPENING

On Sept. 20, Aggies from near and far attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a first look inside the new Student Center. The 150,000-square-foot LEED Silver facility is located on John Mitchell Drive.

N.C. A&T Magazine

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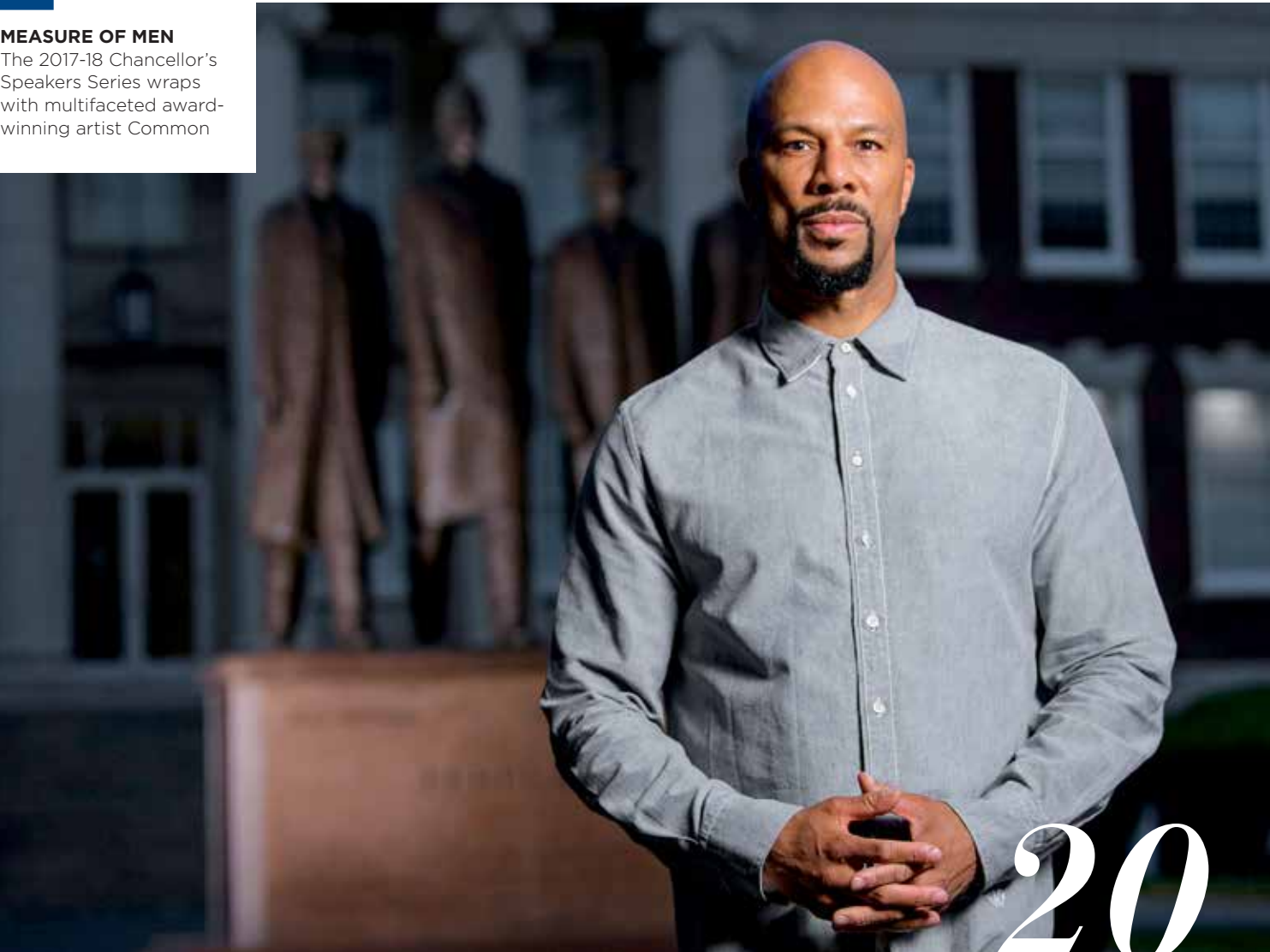
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MEASURE OF MEN
The 2017-18 Chancellor's
Speakers Series wraps
with multifaceted award-
winning artist Common



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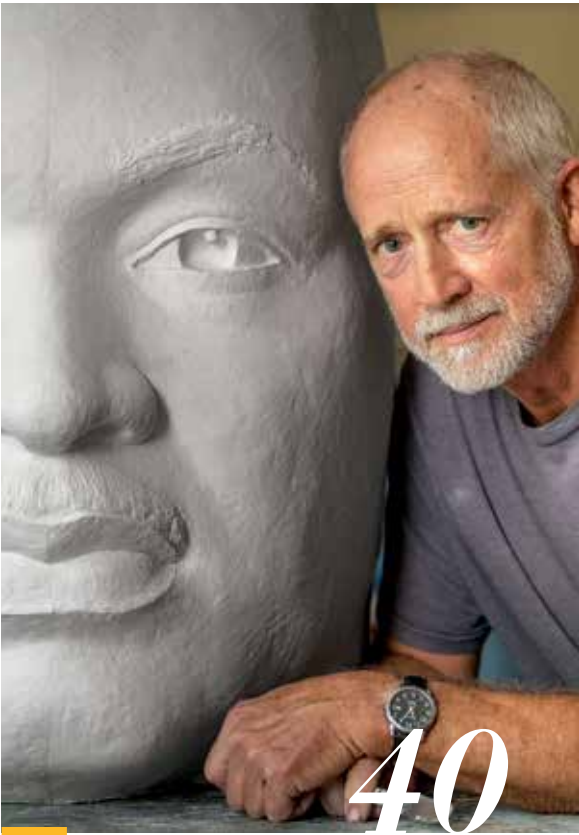
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MARCHING ON
Band celebrates 100 years



ARTFUL CONNECTIONS
Three artists connect their craft to students, community

Making News

STRATEGIC PLAN ‘REFRESH’ ENVISIONS N.C. A&T IN 2023

With the launch of the 2018-19 academic year, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University began the implementation of “A&T Preeminence: Taking the Momentum to 2023,” the ambitious successor to the visionary strategic plan that has propelled the university’s development and national rise over the past seven years.

The strategic plan “refresh” seeks to build on the extensive progress charted under “A&T Preeminence 2020: Embracing Our Past, Creating Our Future,” establishing new objectives and goals to guide the university over the next five years. The new plan is the product of a broad range of input and discussion by university leadership, faculty, staff, students, community and local government leaders, and University of North Carolina System leaders.

“Our disciplined implementation of ‘A&T Preeminence 2020’ led to early fulfillment of a range of goals in mission-critical areas,” said Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. “We took advantage of the opportunities created by that success to revisit our planning and establish new expectations for our future that will serve our students and our university well for generations to come.”

Among the successes of the initial plan:

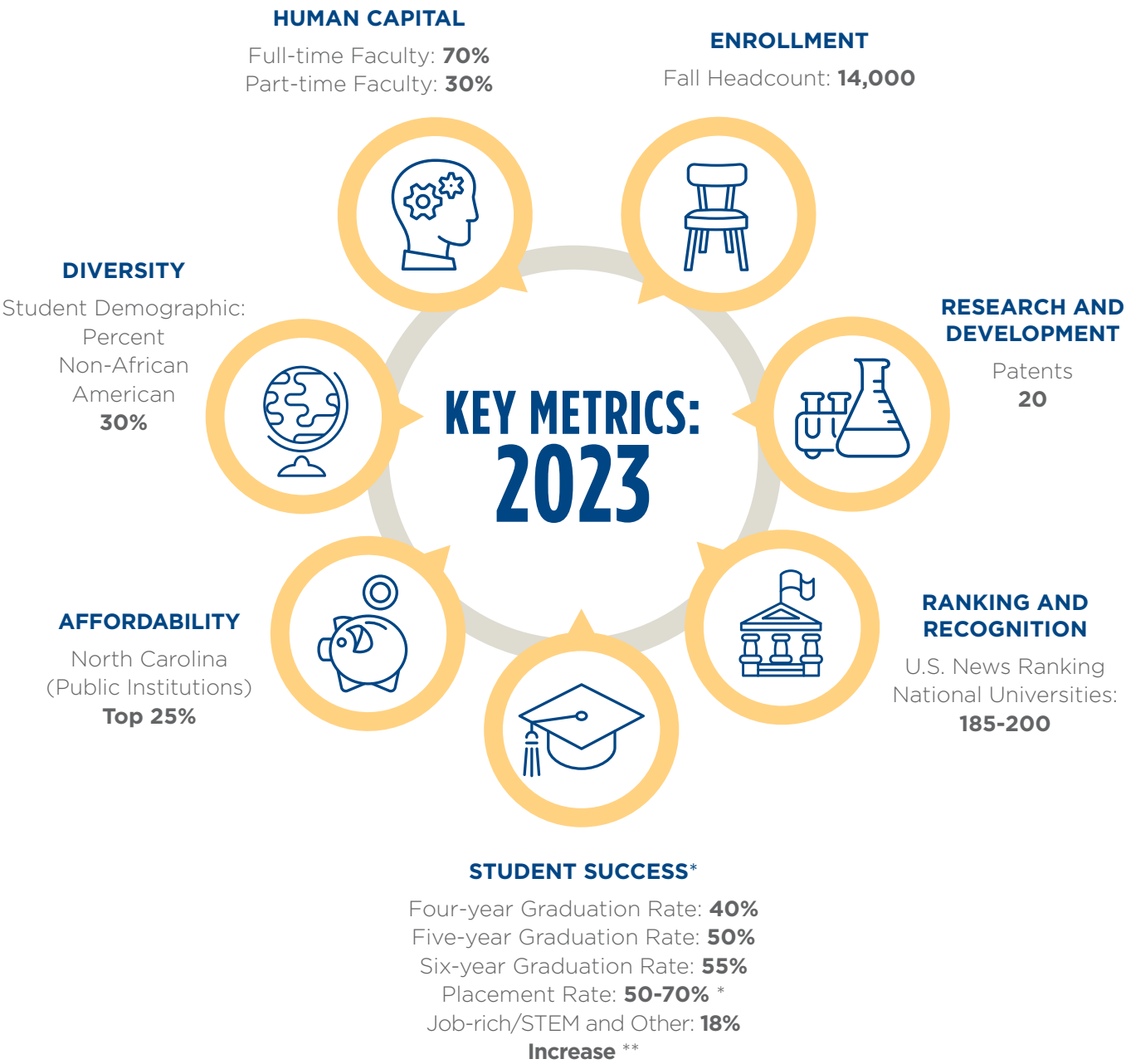
- Undergraduate enrollment that surged past the 2020 goal of 10,000 three years ahead of schedule;
- New freshman average GPA that grew from 3.04 to 3.51 last fall, eclipsing the goal of 3.4;

- Graduation rates for student athletes and conference championships, which exceeded goals in 2017 and 2014, respectively; and
- Significant progress toward goals in such areas as research contracts and grants, endowment growth, student body diversity and doctoral and transfer student enrollment.

Preeminence 2023’s new key performance indicators call for the university to stretch further in these areas and more, including:

- N.C. A&T’s overall enrollment goal has been expanded from 13,500 to 14,000. Commensurately with that, the university is expanding on-campus and off-campus housing options to accommodate an overall student body with about 3,300 more students than when the initial strategic plan was put into place.
- Four-, five- and six-year graduation rates, as well as graduation of students in STEM disciplines and overall diversity of the student body.
- Boosting the number of full-time faculty, as well as patent activity emanating from faculty research, and growth in national rankings and recognition of the university’s academic strengths.
- Expansion of public service and community engagement, including economic development, partnerships with business and industry and creation of programs that meet the evolving needs of the global workforce.

No. **1** PUBLIC HBCU IN THE NATION
(U.S. News & World Report, 2019)



Key components of the plan were approved earlier this year by the N.C. A&T Board of Trustees and the UNC Board of Governors. The complete plan was introduced to A&T employees during the Faculty and Staff Institute in August.

As with Preeminence 2020, the university will publish annual reports on its implementation progress, in a spirit of transparency and accountability. The reasoning behind such an aggressive strategic planning process is expressed in a brochure being distributed to every A&T employee in concert with the plan rollout:

“Our aspirations are too valuable to our many constituents in the Piedmont Triad region, the state of North Carolina and the nation to allow our pursuit of them to be guided by chance,” the brochure reads in part. “A&T Preeminence is a roadmap of our collective intentions that will alight our efforts with our vision for the future.” ■

* Placement rate is defined as employment, graduate school or military: 50% placement 30 days after commencement; 60% placement 60 days after commencement; 70% placement 90 days after commencement

** Other - Teacher education and health professions

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH FUNDING SURGES TO \$64.26 MILLION

Faculty researchers at North Carolina A&T earned \$64.26 million in contracts and grants in 2017-18, an increase of nearly \$2 million over the previous year.

The university has been on a steady trajectory of growth over the past two decades, adding nearly \$46 million in annual research funding since 2001. Those contract and grant monies, which come largely from the highly competitive federal funding sector, support a wide range of projects in areas ranging from food security to bioenergy to computer science and many points in between.

“Our faculty continued to demonstrate a high level of curiosity and innovation during the past year as they explored solutions to a variety of complex problems impacting society, creating new technologies, building new financial models, or developing new

techniques to improve food production and safety or human health” said Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. “Our continued growth as a research university is a testament to their outstanding work.”

As a land-grant, doctoral university, N.C. A&T is one of 107 U.S. universities ranked as having “higher research activity” in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. That second-highest designation among research universities is determined by measuring the aggregate level of research activity and the amount of activity divided by the number of full-time faculty.

A&T is one of the state’s three most productive public research campuses, along with NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill. ■

Boeing, TMCF to Invest in Scholarships

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) has announced that a portion of a \$6-million investment from Boeing will directly benefit students at North Carolina A&T.

N.C. A&T is one of eight institutions that will receive a yet-to-be-determined amount of funding for scholarships, internships, on-campus engagement and immersive “boot camp” programs to introduce students to The Boeing Company’s culture and career paths. Boeing is interested in developing students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in aerospace careers.

“This investment is another example of how we are building a diverse pipeline of future talent,” said Michael Ford, vice president of global diversity and inclusion at Boeing. “We hope to inspire and enable (historically black college and university) students to pursue careers in the aerospace industry.”

Other HBCUs benefitting from this investment include Alabama A&M, Clark

Atlanta, Morehouse, Spelman, Howard, Morgan State and Tuskegee.

A&T currently offers a B.S. degree with an aerospace option for students who are interested in aerodynamics, aero-propulsion, avionics and aero-structures. Last spring, seven mechanical engineering students competed in an international aero design competition and placed No. 1 in the United States and No. 2 in the world.

“The support from Boeing is more than a gift,” said Harry L. Williams, TMCF president and CEO. “It is the manifestation of a long-term strategic partnership that will change the trajectory of so many innovative, intelligent and deserving students.”

To date, TMCF has awarded more than \$300 million in assistance to HBCUs. As the nation’s largest organization dedicated to exclusively representing the HBCU community, TMCF provides programmatic, capacity building, public policy and advocacy for its 47-member institutions and the nearly 300,000 students who attend them. ■

No. **2** MOST
AFFORDABLE
ONLINE
MASTER’S
IN BIG DATA
(College Choice)

N.C. A&T TO JOIN CGS’S PH.D. CAREER PATHWAYS PROJECT

North Carolina A&T has been selected to join the Council of Graduate Schools’ (CGS) Ph.D. Career Pathways Project coalition.

The coalition gathers data regarding careers of Ph.D. students and alumni, specifically those in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The NSF-funded project currently includes 33 universities as grant recipients as well as an additional 31 affiliate partners.

In addition to N.C. A&T, three other federally-recognized, minority-serving institutions (MSIs) will participate: Howard University, University of Arizona and University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Over the course of the multi-year project, universities will collect data through surveys that were developed by CGS in consultation with senior university leaders, funding agencies, disciplinary societies, researchers and Ph.D. students and alumni.

The resulting data will allow universities to analyze Ph.D. career preferences and outcomes at the program level and help faculty and university leaders strengthen career services, professional development opportunities and mentoring in doctoral programs.

The data will provide universities from across the country with beneficial comparison data for Ph.D. career preferences and outcomes with CGS’s national dataset helping

students and alumni make more informed selections of Ph.D. programs.

A&T currently offers nine doctoral degree programs; seven are STEM related.

The CGS is an organization of approximately 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. ■

No. **3** ONLINE
MBA IN NORTH CAROLINA
(Online MBA Today)



N.C. A&T, AT&T COLLABORATE FOR ONLINE MASTER’S FOR EMPLOYEES

North Carolina A&T is collaborating with AT&T, a global leader in telecommunications, media and entertainment, and technology, to provide AT&T employees access to online master’s programs.

The collaboration is designed to help working professionals acquire the tools critical to advancing in the competitive workforce.

“This program presents a significant opportunity for AT&T employees to gain the information and skills necessary to become leaders and change agents in their industry,” said Clay Gloster, interim vice provost for research, graduate programs and extended learning and dean of The Graduate College. “This is a model corporate partnership for The Graduate College that we hope to replicate in the future.”

In June, AT&T announced to its more than 250,000 employees that these three programs can be completed exclusively online in one and one-half or two years. Enrollment for AT&T employees began this fall.

“N.C. A&T’s program is a great fit for our culture of continuous learning,” said Scott S. Smith, chief human resources officer, AT&T Communications. “Outstanding relationships like this one help us deliver training to our global workforce, and help our employees continue to develop their skills to ensure they’re equipped for the jobs of the future.”

AT&T has been widely recognized as an innovator in providing learning opportunities for employees, and is in the midst of what Fortune Magazine last year said “may be the most ambitious retraining program in corporate American history.”

“I’m excited that N.C. A&T is joining universities like Georgia Tech, Notre Dame and the University of Oklahoma in this initiative,” said Venessa Harrison, president of AT&T North Carolina “And I’m proud that educational resources found here in North Carolina will be making a difference in the lives and careers of my AT&T colleagues around the globe.”

Business administration will be administered in the College of Business and Economics while information technology and technology management will be administered in the College of Science and Technology. In total, A&T offers 29 master’s programs with 46 concentrations across eight colleges; eight of those programs are available in the online environment.

In addition to this announcement, the telecommunications giant will also make a donation to the Cheatham-White Scholarship.

The Cheatham-White Scholarship is a merit scholarship program at A&T and North Carolina Central University established by the state legislature that gives recipients a fully funded four-year award that covers the cost of tuition, student fees, housing, meals, textbooks, a laptop, supplies, travel and personal expenses along with funded enrichment and networking opportunities. To receive state funds for the scholarship, A&T must raise matching funds. ■



N.C. A&T AMONG RECIPIENTS OF \$9M NSF GRANT FOR STEM LEADERSHIP RESEARCH

National Science Foundation Enables HBCU Study by CASL

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a grant of \$9 million that will allow the Center for the Advancement of STEM Leadership (CASL) to widen and deepen its work to advance and accelerate diversity and inclusion in the nation’s STEM higher education enterprise.

CASL will examine how leadership at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) has played a role in broadening the participation of African Americans in STEM. The

results of this work are expected to aid HBCUs and other institutions of higher learning in developing a new generation of leaders to broaden participation in STEM.

Funded by the HBCU-Undergraduate Program at NSF, the project involves four partner institutions in higher education: University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), Fielding Graduate University, North Carolina A&T State University (N.C. A&T) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

UVI, which houses several other NSF-funded projects, will lead the research component of the project. The research will focus on studying the nature of the leadership styles and strategies associated with the stellar record of HBCUs in graduating African Americans in STEM and in being national leaders in preparing African Americans for doctoral study in STEM.

N.C. A&T, a leading HBCU research university in the STEM fields, will team with Fielding Graduate

University, long known for its leadership studies programs, to conduct leadership development programming in broadening STEM participation for emerging academic leader. Based on CASL’s research findings, this effort will seek to establish the foundation for informing HBCUs and all of American higher education on the research-based strategies for producing new leaders to broaden STEM participation.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities, recognized nationally and internationally as the leading association dedicated to advancing the quality, vitality and public standing of liberal education and inclusive excellence in higher education, will lead the knowledge transfer and outreach efforts of CASL. It will leverage its research findings to rightfully place HBCUs at the center of our nation’s effort to produce a more diverse and competitively trained STEM workforce.

CASL’s administrative offices will be housed in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill and headed by the center’s executive director, Orlando Taylor, who is also vice president for strategic initiatives and research at Fielding. ■

No. **11** IN THE NATION
FOR BEST ONLINE SCHOOLS
FOR WOMEN IN STEM
(Guide to Online Schools)

SUMMIT BRINGS TECH NATION, HBCU LEADERS TO N.C. A&T



North Carolina A&T's reputation as a national intellectual hub for critical STEM dialogue took on new visibility Aug. 8-9, when some 200 leaders gathered in Greensboro for the first HBCU Bipartisan Caucus Diversity in Tech Summit.

Organized and hosted by U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, co-founder of the caucus, the two-day event drew senior administrators from 25 HBCU campuses, dozens of federal

and state elected officials including N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper and U.S. Rep. David Price and representatives of 45 tech industry concerns, such as Google, Apple, Intel, HP, Facebook, Nielsen and many more.

"This summit is a landmark convening," Adams told attendees and media assembled for an event-opening press conference. "The tech community has led the push to innovate

and elevate mankind, and HBCUs have led the charge to produce great African-American talent. Both sectors have broken tremendous barriers individually. Just imagine what we can do when we work together."

Minority representation in tech industries lags behind their representation in the overall economy. A study released by the Brookings Institution earlier this year shows African Americans make up about 12 percent of all workers, but only about 8 percent of employees in computer and math occupations. The gap is bigger for Hispanics, who account for 16.7 percent of all workers, 6.8 percent in computer and math fields.

There is concern in many quarters that those numbers are trending in the wrong direction. And tech companies working to address those gaps also face an overall shortage of more than 1 million workers for STEM jobs.

As part of the summit, dozens of companies shared their own efforts to address those workforce needs in partnership with HBCUs, which contribute significantly to the number of African American graduates in STEM fields. North Carolina A&T, for instance, produces more African American engineers than any other university in America and more African American master's grads in mathematics and statistics.

Summit attendee Danny Allen, vice president of tech diversity and inclusion at German business software giant SAP SE, told a news outlet covering the event that "it doesn't make sense" that the tech industry lags behind on hiring people of color.

"Who knows who's going to come out of North Carolina A&T or any other HBCU and develop something we've never even thought about," he said. "You have to have an opportunity. You have to have a place at the table." ■

ENROLLMENT SURPASSES 12,000

For the third consecutive year, North Carolina A&T has enrolled its largest student body in university history, as well as what is likely its most academically accomplished.

On the strength of an entering class of 2,201 first-year students, N.C. A&T's student body has expanded to 12,142—a 2.2 percent increase over last year's enrollment. The entering class has an average high school GPA of 3.61, average SAT score of 1040 and ACT score of 20.

Counting the increase in headcount this fall of nearly 300, A&T has now added close to 1,600 students over the past five years, a 15 percent expansion of its student body. That includes growth at nearly every

student level and racial/ethnic demographic group. A&T is expected to remain the nation's largest, four-year historically black university for the fifth consecutive year.

The intentional, steady growth in enrollment is the direct result of a strategic plan put in place in 2011 that envisioned a bold future for A&T by 2020, including a total enrollment of 13,500 and 10,000 undergraduate students. A&T surpassed the latter goal last year, and undergraduate enrollment this fall exceeds 10,600.

Refreshed over the past year, the university's new strategic plan, A&T Preeminence: Taking the Momentum to 2023, projects a student body of 14,000 by its conclusion. The plan's

key performance indicators also include even more emphasis placed on student success, affordability, diversity and recognition.

This fall's new enrollment report comes on the heels of new rankings from Money magazine, which named A&T North Carolina's most affordable university and ranked its alumni third in the University of North Carolina system in early career earnings.

The university is also making preparations to open its new \$90-million Student Center this month while breaking ground on a new residence hall and the \$90 million Engineering Research and Innovation Complex later this fall. ■

STEM Early College at N.C. A&T Earns Three National Recognitions

The STEM Early College at N.C. A&T has earned three prominent national recognitions of school quality and character across the country.

First, the STEM Early College at N.C. A&T is among the 300 public and 49 private K-12 schools named as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2018 by the U.S. Department of Education on Oct. 1. Recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. STEM was recognized in the award category of Exemplary High Performing Schools.

Second, in its annual report on the top U.S. public high schools, U.S. News & World Report has ranked STEM third among Guilford County high schools and eighth among all North Carolina high schools. The report evaluated high schools based

on performance of state-required tests and college readiness. More than 20,500 public high schools were accessed nationally. The school placed 179th in national rankings and earned a gold medal for being among the top 500 schools.

Third, STEM was also named a 2018 National School of Character by Character.org, a non-profit organization that validates character initiatives in schools and communities around the world. It was one of only 73 U.S. schools in 17 states to receive the designation.

The STEM Early College at A&T is part of the Guilford County School System. ■

THE MOST AFFORDABLE
CAMPUS IN NORTH CAROLINA
(Money Magazine's Best Colleges for Your Money 2018)

GOOGLE IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM PLACES VETERAN ENGINEER AT N.C. A&T THIS FALL

A Google engineer with 28 years' experience will teach classes, share insights with students and trade ideas with faculty as part of the Google in Residence program that debuted this semester at North Carolina A&T.

Launched in 2013, the Google in Residence program aims to improve diversity in the tech industry by embedding engineers at historically black colleges and universities and Hispanic serving institutions. Expanding the pool of technologists is core to Google's strategy to have representation of black and Latinx Googlers in the United States reach or exceed the available talent pool at all levels of the company and is one way the company is looking to attract and hire more diverse Googlers to truly reflect the diversity of their users.

Dave Foulser usually leads a team of more than 25 engineers at Google's office in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but has taken a leave of absence and is now leading undergraduate courses at N.C. A&T. He is also holding office hours where he meets one-on-one with students and plans to take up tutoring and career counseling, including helping students prepare for internship interviews.

"N.C. A&T's reputation for excellence is strong, and I look forward to inspiring students there to go even further in their understanding and love of computer science and software development. I also want to open doors to opportunity in the tech job market to these students who are from underrepresented groups in tech, whether African American, women or Latinx," said Foulser, who joined Google in 2007.

"N.C. A&T's reputation for excellence is strong, and I look forward to inspiring students there to go even further in their understanding and love of computer science and software development." — FOULSER

A&T's Robin Coger, dean of engineering, said, "While every discipline has key fundamentals students must master, the speed in which industry moves constantly evolves how those fundamentals are applied. We are looking forward to the examples and experiences Dave brings to our computer science department, and the value of those perspectives to the education of our students.

"In today's world, the complexities of the problems we solve require partnerships between universities, companies and governments. The Google in Residence program is an example of that.

"We're working together on problems that are important today even as we prepare to take on the problems of tomorrow."

While Google has made strides in improving the diversity of early pipeline talent—this year, its summer internship program welcomed the largest-ever cohort from underrepresented backgrounds, with 49 percent of Google's global interns identifying as black, Latinx and/or women, the company knows it is important to continue to invest in tomorrow's talent, which is why programs like Google in Residence continue to be critical to making the tech industry more diverse. ■

CAES Breaks Ground on \$5M Farm Pavilion

The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina A&T broke ground July 11, for a \$5 million pavilion at the University Farm, which is located at 3136 McConnell Road in Greensboro.

The CAES Extension and Farm Pavilion will expand the farm's capacity for education, research and outreach. Funded by USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture, the 17,000-square-foot structure will include an auditorium, laboratories, a demonstration kitchen, a 50-person classroom and a 400-person conference room.

USDA-NIFA will provide financial support for three additional projects in the next four years. The subsequent projects are an amphitheater, student and community gardens, and a community and urban food complex with a dairy, research labs, classrooms and a small business incubator.

The University Farm was created in 1904 to provide food to the fledgling university's cafeteria. The 492-acre farm is now the largest classroom on campus, a laboratory for agricultural research and a showcase of the latest farming resources and technology.

Continued development at the University Farm is in keeping with strategic goals of the university and the CAES to promote excellence in research, strengthen community engagement and outreach, and foster entrepreneurial success. The expansion also portends economic and development benefits for the East Greensboro corridor where it is located.

One of the farm's greatest advocates is its superintendent, Leon Moses, who started working at the farm when he was an undergraduate. ■

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECURES COMPETITIVE \$1M NSF S-STEM GRANT

The College of Science and Technology (CoST) has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation under the Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program (S-STEM). The grant will fund the college's SciTech Scholars Enrichment project: Advancing Academically Talented Students in Science, Technology and Mathematics Degree Programs.

The project will award 100 scholarships over a five-year period to support undergraduate students in the national need disciplines of chemistry, electronics technology, mathematics and physics. Scholarships will be awarded to high-achieving students with a demonstrated financial need.

"We are very much excited about this opportunity to recruit outstanding and talented students to join our CoST's community of scholars. The SciTech Scholars program will increase the number of students majoring in four STEM areas of national need," said Abdellah Ahmidouch, dean and principal investigator for the project. "One of the goals of the project is to make sure that these students graduate in a timely manner and are very well prepared for and succeed in graduate studies and/or gain immediate placement into the STEM workforce."

Ahmidouch added that N.C. A&T's status as a historically black university places this project in a unique position to make a significant contribution to diversity in higher education and the STEM workforce.

The institutional goal of the SciTech Scholars project is to develop and test a model for student success that can be duplicated across the university to mentor underrepresented minority and economically underprivileged students in STEM disciplines. The program seeks to diversify the STEM workforce, develop an understanding of the challenges that low-income STEM students encounter at historically black colleges and universities, and build upon the teaching skills of underrepresented minority faculty members.

SciTech Scholars will be immersed in CoST's active learning environment while residing in a living-learning community and receiving guidance from mentors and participating in other proven community-building activities, leadership development, and student persistence initiatives. ■

Faculty and Staff



Professors **SOLOMON BILIGN** and **MARC N. FIDDLER**, along with doctoral student Jaime Green, collaborated on a study led by researchers at the University of Washington. The team's research explored the

formation of pollution particulates containing sulfate and nitrate in the wintertime, when they are produced more slowly but spread over larger geographic areas. The research was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. ■

SUNG-JIN CHO, an assistant professor in the Department of Nanoengineering, is developing a new generation of solid-state lithium batteries that will enable electrical vehicles to basically do more with less. Current battery models are heavy, adding significant weight to the vehicles, and don't allow for driving very far on a single charge. Cho's work focuses on two specific areas: high-performance, hetero-structured cathode material and the fundamental study of rotating molecules for polymer electrolytes. ■



ETTA GRAVELY, an associate professor of chemistry in the College of Science and Technology and a recent inductee into the American Chemical Society Fellows Program, delivered the keynote address to the inaugural North Carolina Community Colleges Chemistry Consortium in July. ■



SAMEER HAMOUSH's project, "Pipeline Development of Skilled Workforce through Research in Advanced Manufacturing," was awarded \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Energy. The funds will be used to fabricate metal

test parts and determine material properties using a metal 3D printing machine, train students in the use of 3D printing, collaborate with other research hubs on fabrication and metal properties and develop a workforce pipeline by offering outreach and education workshops targeting secondary education students. Hamoush is a professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering. ■



SHIRLEY HYMON-PARKER, a professor and associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, accompanied North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler on a trade mission to Brazil, studying

the South American country's farms, factories and other agriculture-related industries. Brazil is a leading exporter of some of the same commodities for which North Carolina is known—poultry, tobacco, cotton, soybeans—and Hymon-Parker came away from the tour with impressions on how agriculture in Brazil and North Carolina can be mutually beneficial. The trip also included discussion about Brazil's role in addressing global food security. ■



MARANDA MCBRIDE, an associate professor of management and director of the Transportation Institute in the College of Business and Economics, was awarded \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The institute educates students

and professionals from diverse populations to provide qualified transportation professionals in the workforce. Institute activities are designed to provide ongoing initiatives in the areas of education, research, and workforce development. It serves as a national, regional and local clearinghouse for transportation education, research and outreach. ■



RADIAH C. MINOR, an associate professor of animal science in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, was chosen for the 2018 Excellence in Teaching Award for N.C. A&T. The prestigious annual award recognized Minor, along with

faculty representing each of the other 16 campuses in the UNC System, for bringing innovative and creative teaching methods and approaches, which make a real difference in how students learn. ■



SHENGMIN SANG's "Nutrimetabolomics Approach to Identify the Biomarkers of Whole Grain Intake" project was awarded \$2.8 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The research will identify novel bioactive natural products that can be used in

functional foods and dietary supplements to prevent chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes. Sang is a professor of family and consumer sciences in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. ■



The CREST Center for BioEnergy, directed by **ABOLGHASEM SHAHBAZI**, received \$2.1 million from NSF. The center aims to make biomass a more viable source of renewable energy, conducting fundamental research toward the development of advanced thermochemical

biomass conversion technology for the efficient, economic production of liquid transportation fuels and hydrogen. Shahbazi is a professor in the Department of Chemical, Biological and Bio Engineering. ■



LEONARD WILLIAMS is among the group of researchers who took part in the exhibition in the District of Columbia to help demonstrate how multiple types of U.S. Department of Agriculture funding (intramural, extramural, competitive, and capacity) work together to bolster American

innovation. Williams, a professor and researcher in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and director of the Center for Excellence in Post-Harvest Technologies, presented "Developing Agricultural Products with Health Benefits while Supporting Small and Limited Resource Farmers." ■



GUOCHEN YANG and **LU ZHONGGE**, researcher and research assistant, respectively, in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Design, have received a U.S. Patent for research that will help ensure a more plentiful and reliable source of Alexandrian

laurel (*Danae Racemosa* L.), an evergreen shrub in high demand in the agricultural marketplace, particularly in the landscape and nursery industries. Yang and Zhonggee have found that germinating seeds in the presence of cytokinnis and/or auxins increased in vitro shoot multiplication and seedling quality in the shrub. Ordinarily, the seed germination of Alexandrian laurel often takes up to 12-18 months with a germination rate of only about 20 percent, taking up to six years to produce a saleable one-gallon size plant. ■

Students



THE AUTONOMOUS AUTO (A3) TEAM recently completed the first year of the three-year SAE International and General Motors (GM) AutoDrive Challenge, walking away with an overall score landing them in top 10 standing. The team placed third in the straight-line challenge, autonomously following a two-mile track in the shortest timeframe while appropriately following stop signs and general traffic obstacles. Held in Yuma, Arizona, the competition required teams to operate and successfully navigate their transformed autonomous cars through three main dynamic challenges: straight line, lateral and object detection and avoidance.

More than 30 undergraduate and graduate students are involved in the project with different backgrounds and disciplines in Image Processing and Learning; Software Architecture and Functional Safety Analysis; Sensor Integration; CPU/FPGA; Control and Dynamics; Mechanical Design; Social Responsibility; and Social Media and Outreach. The second leg of the competition is scheduled for May 2019. Mid-challenge targets will focus on enhanced autonomy levels of the self-driving cars by avoiding dynamic obstacles and safely passing through intersections, challenging road conditions and multiple lane changing. ■



SHIOBAHN DAY successfully defended her dissertation to become the first woman to graduate A&T's computer science doctoral degree program. Day began work on the faculty at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro this fall. She will continue her research of the authorship of tweets on Twitter. ■



Junior journalism and mass communication multimedia student **DENVER LARK** spent approximately two months traveling the country as a 2018 Chevrolet and National Newspaper Publishers Association "Discover the Unexpected" Journalism Fellow. Lark is among six students chosen from historically black colleges and universities for the fellowship. In two groups of three, the students will explore and share positive, inspirational and relevant stories from African-American communities. ■

TONY WATLINGTON JR., senior economics student and SGA senator, is helping to close the diversity gap on Capitol Hill. Watlington was a summer intern for the third class of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, which was launched in 2016 by co-chairs, U.S. Rep. Alma Adams and U.S. Rep. Mark Walker. The first of its kind, the program gives two interns the opportunity to spend four weeks in the office of both a Republican and a Democrat. ■

A team of seven A&T students traveled to Van Nuys, California, to compete at the SAE International Aero Design West competition. They returned home the best team in the country. **NATHAN BLAKE, JHALYN DAVIS, SIMON ESAU, XINRU NIU, CHRISTOPHER PLOTT, JASMINE SHAW** and **CHAD STAPLES** worked together on the NC(AT)2 Team to create and operate an aircraft. Their work earned second-place overall in the regular class—the Elliott & Dorothy Green Overall Regular Class Award—behind a team for Politechnika Poznanska (Poland), with Universidad Aeronautica en Queretaro (Mexico), Ningxia University (China) and Warsaw University of Technology (Poland) rounding out the top five. ■

Students, *continued*

North Carolina Department of Transportation HBCU Summer Interns—**DOMINIQUE PARRISH**, **MORGAN CROWDER**, **TEON PARKER** and **ERICA BATTS**—were the first HBCU students to experience a week-long immersion at the international headquarters and test site of Virgin Hyperloop One in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Virgin Hyperloop One is a new mode of transportation that will move people and freight in pods through a low-pressure tube at speeds up to 600 miles an hour or more. ■

DELANEY P. VANDERGRIFT (right) is president of the student government association (SGA) for the 2018-19 academic year.

A senior majoring in political science with a minor in multi-journalism, the Raleigh, North Carolina, native's love of the political arena is evident in her choice of extracurricular activities while matriculating at N.C. A&T. In 2016, Vandergrift co-founded a political education organization, Black University, that highlights the importance of HBCUs and reminds students of the power of their voices in North Carolina. She has completed two social justice fellowships,

has facilitated political education workshops and spearheads civic engagement initiatives on campus. She has completed fellowships with NC Ignite, an internship with The African American Policy Forum and currently serves as a Democracy Fellow for Campus Vote.

The Vandergrift Administration stands on the platform of "The Family Plan," hoping to continue to uplift the spirit of community, advocacy, family and student power throughout her presidency. Upon completion of her studies, Vandergrift plans to continue social justice and advocacy work domestically and globally.

Other SGA officers include **DARIAN THOMPSON**, vice president of internal affairs; **JULIAN CUFFIE**, vice president for external affairs; **ARLETTE HAWKINS**, secretary; **JAMIE WOMACK**, treasurer; **TYRA SLADE**, attorney general; **KALIAH CORBETT**, chief of staff; **KAYLA CURRY**, parliamentarian; **JADA BROWN**, Miss N.C. A&T; and **DEREK EDWARDS**, Mister N.C. A&T. Class presidents include **CORTINA MICHELLE MOSLEY**, senior class; **ALLISON GILMORE**, junior class; and **EDDIE DICKERSON**, sophomore class. ■



Seven A&T scholars experienced unique development opportunities this past summer through the university's partnership with the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute (BHLI).

As members of the 2018 BHLI Cohort, **ELIJAH EVANS**, a junior finance student; **NASSIR HOLDEN**, sophomore, economics with law concentration; **ALEXANDRIA STANTON**, junior, biology; and **SAKILAE WHITE**, junior, chemistry with minor in psychology, all spent two weeks in Kansas City, Missouri, for a comprehensive overview of healthcare leadership from leading executives in the field.

Three additional Aggies from previous cohorts continued their professional development while serving in internships coordinated by the BHLI: **KAILYN PRICE**, junior bioengineering major, student-interned at Duke University Hospital in ambulatory and emergency services; **TEEGHAN WIGGINS**, junior bioengineering major, Cone Health's Innovation and Transformation Department; and **JAMES WASHBURN**, senior business management major, John Hopkins All Children's Hospitals (St. Petersburg, Florida) under the direct supervision of the vice president of human resources.

BHLI was program developed by current Board of Trustees member John W. Bluford III to cultivate the next generation of healthcare leaders. Bluford is a national, innovative leader in the healthcare field whose career has spanned four decades in executive leadership. Twenty A&T scholars have participated since the initial 2013 cohort. ■



MEASURE of MEN

By Tonya D. Dixon '04

Larenz Tate, Joseph Sikora, Michael Rainey Jr. and Rasheed Ali Cromwell discuss issues facing men today

Men of “Power” and Common headline spring Chancellor’s Series

The spring 2018 editions of the Chancellor’s Town Hall and Speaker Series continued the university’s commitment to creating an intellectual climate that encourages the creative exchange of ideas. Both events bring nationally distinguished guests to Greensboro for campus dialogue on matters of current and abiding importance to the university community and the world beyond.

THE POWER OF MEN

On March 21, a panel discussion on “The Power of Men” was the focus of the Chancellor’s Town Hall Series, featuring actors Larenz Tate, Joseph Sikora and Michael Rainey Jr. Former A&T Student Government Association President Rasheed Ali Cromwell ’97 moderated.

Tate, Sikora and Rainey co-star in the critically acclaimed Starz! network television show, “Power.” Then in its fifth season, the show has become a fan favorite, garnering three NAACP Image Awards this year. Their discussion looked at the development of men and expectations of male identity, as well as ways men discover and define individual purpose. Manhood, respect and what they mean for men proved

to be significant themes throughout the discussion.

“If a man doesn’t respect himself, he won’t make respectful choices with others,” said Tate. He added, “When I think of manhood, I think of accountability and responsibility.”

According to Sikora, recognizing some of those same traits in another man is one of the best ways to propel personal growth and maturity. “A wonderful thing is to look up to men you believe are in a place you want to be.”

With over 50 years’ combined experience in the entertainment industry, the actors have collectively explored a wide range of male roles. They’ve also used their visibility to focus attention on social and health challenges.

Tate was introduced to “Power” audiences in the fourth season of the show as Councilman Rashad Tate. His film career includes roles in “Menace II Society,” “Dead Presidents,” “Love Jones,” “The Inkwell,” “Why Do Fools Fall in Love,” “Ray” and, most recently, “Girl’s Trip.” In addition to his acting career, he works with The Tate Bros. Foundation, a nonprofit that raises awareness of children living with sickle cell anemia.

Known on “Power” as Tommy Egan, Sikora has acted for nearly 30 years in film and on Broadway. His movie credits include “Shutter Island” and “Safe,” and he has appeared on such television shows as “Boardwalk Empire,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Criminal Minds” and “White Collar.” An Ovation Award recipient, he recently starred in the short film, “The Coworker,” part of a high-profile PSA campaign from the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network and the National Women’s Law Center titled, “#ThatsHarrassment.”

Rainey’s “Power” character, Tariq St. Patrick, appeared sparingly in the first two seasons, but became a series regular by the third. His credits include roles in “Lee Daniels’ The Butler,” the third installment of the “Barbershop” franchise and the Netflix series, “Orange is the New Black.” Rainey is also involved in homeless feeding programs and participates in the New York-based “Shoot 4 Success” organization, which focuses on education through sports for boys and girls.

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GREATNESS

Emmy, Golden Globe, Academy Award and three-time Grammy-winning artist, Common took the stage for the Chancellor’s Speaker Series on April 26.

Common discussed “Greatness,” which drew upon his own hard work and path to success, as well as his deep interest in helping others strive for and achieve greatness by making a commitment to a greater cause.

“How do you achieve greatness?” he asked the crowd. “Find your path, believe in your path and live in your path ... to greatness.” “The beautiful thing about working in your path and purpose is that it’s really not work.”

During his talk, Common performed impromptu and well-known raps, shared lessons learned from personal experiences and fielded questions from the audience.

Perhaps one of his most thought-provoking comments of the evening was “What are you willing to die for? Then live for that.”

Prior to the public event, he met with select male students (members of Aggie Prep, Men on the Move and fraternal organizations).

Known for his politically and socially conscious perspective and introspective rhymes, Common has successfully navigated the music industry and made a splash on the small and silver screens by taking strategic risks and an innovative approach to his craft. His underground and mainstream appeal has crossed musical genres and generational boundaries.

“The King of Conscious Hip Hop” has produced multiple acclaimed studio albums, including his latest, “Black America Again,” that push the boundaries with raw, yet thoughtful social commentary.

Common’s philanthropic efforts are consistent with his political and social work, much of it conducted through his Common Ground Foundation, which focuses on nutrition, healthy living, financial literacy, character development and creative expression. ■



Award-winning artist Common with male N.C. A&T students

MEASURE
of
MEN



SELF- EXPRESSION AND SPORTS

By Tonya D. Dixon '04

Student-athletes, communications students and others from the university and local communities welcomed veteran sports journalist and correspondent Jemele Hill to North Carolina A&T as the first speaker of the Chancellor's Speaker Series for the 2018-19 academic year.

Focusing on self-expression and sports, the conversation was perfectly suited for Hill to lead. From her days as a student journalist at Michigan State University until her recent departure from ESPN, Hill's career has extensively focused on sports.

Topics from the hour-long event ranged from the lighthearted—knowing your significant other's Chipotle order (by memory)—to the controversial—the conscious role of athletes, the boundaries or lack thereof of social media and life after sports.

True to her "tell it like it is" personality, Hill tactfully touched on the recent narrative surrounding Nike's partnership with NFL activist Colin Kaepernick. In summation, she considers it just as much a business move as a moral one for both parties. She also said more athletes are understanding and leveraging the influence they have for positive impact.

"What we don't talk about enough is how you can parlay your former time as an athlete into a professional career. Think, 'Who am I outside of this sport?'"

— JEMELE HILL, sports journalist and correspondent

"People think that just because he (Kaepernick) is woke he needs to be broke. It doesn't work like that," said Hill.

"The two most respected athletes today are Colin Kaepernick and LeBron James. Athletes feel more encouraged to have a voice."

When moderator and N.C. A&T alumnus and Hall of Famer Darryl Klugh '00 read a few of Hill's recent tweets, she extended the conversation and elaborated on her views. Regarding her tweet "heard around the world," accusing the president of the United States of being a bigot, Hill explained her rationale and regret.

"I never thought the tweets about Donald Trump would become a news story." However, she added, "If you're serving in the role of a journalist, you have to watch it. I'll be the first to say it's not what I should have done as a journalist."

Personal opinions aside, Hill continued to bring the conversation back to the students and encouraged them to "get the full college experience." For journalists, they should use their reporting as a form of activism and come to grips with the fact that social media won't make you famous.

"Do the work," she said. "What we don't talk about enough is how you can parlay your former time as an athlete into a professional career. Think, 'Who am I outside of this sport?'"

The overarching theme for the evening encouraged students to examine themselves, learn the best avenue for personal expression and use it to the best of their abilities. ■

Former N.C. A&T athletes
get physical as pit crewmen

NASCAR AGGIES

By Scott W. Pastorick

Creating a multicultural environment allows people from different ethnic groups, religions and races to share their various experiences and ideas to accomplish a common goal within an organization. It also gives groups of people opportunities they normally would be unaware of.

This is the case for NASCAR's minority career opportunities.

North Carolina A&T graduates and former student-athletes are playing a major role in NASCAR's diversity programs such as Drive for Diversity Driver, Pit Crew Development Program, NASCAR Diversity Internship Program, Opinion Leader Initiative and NASCAR Scholarships. These programs are designed to attract minorities and females to the sport as

drivers, owners, sponsors, crew members and corporate workers with intent to create a more diverse audience.

Coach **PHIL HORTON '83** heads the Pit Crew Development Program, NASCAR's newest diversity program that is now in its third year.

Horton received his master's degree from Michigan State before becoming an athletics trainer at Florida A&M and the University of Memphis. He also worked for the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks as an athletics trainer and strength and conditioning coach. In 1989, Horton established Athletic Training Concept Inc. He left the Bucks in 1996 and started working at ATC Inc., which led him to become the personal trainer for former NASCAR driver Ernie Irvin.

Horton's clientele expanded to include pit crewmen, as well as eight other NASCAR drivers and 12 racing teams over the span of seven years. In 2016, he was hired by Rev Racing to be the pit crew coach for the Drive for Diversity Crew Member Development program during its inaugural year.

Two of Horton's fellow Aggies—recent graduates **KEISTON FRANCE '17** and **JOSHUA PATRICK '18**—did well at the Pit Crew Combine that was held earlier this year at the NASCAR Research and Development Center in Concord, North Carolina. France, a former men's tennis player at A&T, and Patrick, a former football standout for the Aggies, were selected for the Pit Crew Development Program.



Keiston France '17

Joshua Patrick '18

Whitney Martin '17

In May, France and Patrick endured a four-hour skills competition to test their fitness and agility. They were among a group of 10 competitors who started the day with warm-up drills before taking a physical assessment test that included 100 single-under jump ropes, 25 lateral-cone high knees, five speed-ladder drills, 25 push-ups, 25 ab-mat rollouts and 100 medicine-ball sit-ups. They were then put in a live pit-stop situation where they changed and carried tires in a mock pit-stop set up.

France crushed the competition with the fastest physical-assessment test time (4:17) followed by Patrick in third (5:07). The Aggie pair started the six-month program in September 2018 and will then receive a pit crew job with the NASCAR Xfinity Series.

France says he is a longtime NASCAR fan and has always wanted to work on a pit crew. After finding out about the program from his father, he contacted Horton to get more information. France was eventually informed of his selection to the combine.

"I was elated when I received the call inviting me to the combine," said France, who is training to be a tire changer. "Working for a pit crew has been a dream of mine since middle school."

Patrick learned of the program through friend and former teammate **COURTNEY EDMONDS**, who learned about the program from another former Aggie football player, **CORBIN MARTIN**. Patrick also contacted Horton and received a call two weeks later that he had been selected to train as a tire carrier.

"My experience so far has been very eye-opening to see the different possibilities for African Americans in the sport of NASCAR," said Patrick. "I never really thought I would be in this position, but I am enjoying myself and hopefully in the near future I can make some big things happen in the sport."

Edmonds and Martin did not go through the Pit Crew Combine or development program but were hired by Richard Childress Racing's Diversity Development Program in Welcome, North Carolina. Edmonds is looking to get into the 2019 Pit Crew Combine and hopes to be selected for the development program.

Another Aggie, former women's basketball player **WHITNEY MARTIN '17**, also has worked with NASCAR. In the summer of her junior year, Martin used

the Diversity Internship Program to work at NASCAR's corporate office in Daytona Beach, Florida. Martin met an array of people who helped her throughout the internship. After graduating, Martin in 2017 interned at Integrated Marketing Communications before landing a job with the company as senior coordinator in racing communications.

"At the time, I was searching for an internship and as an athlete, I knew I wanted to be involved with sports," said Martin. "I didn't know what to expect because this was my first NASCAR experience, but I could not have asked for a better internship."

And she could not have asked for a better opportunity thanks to the willingness of a company to promote diversity. ■



Aggies Win MEAC Baseball Championship

In the summer of 2014, the baseball program hired an assistant coach named Ben Hall. Two months later he was N.C. A&T's interim head coach. His team included a few freshmen he recently met named **MYLES SOWELL**, **ADAN ORDOÑEZ**, **MILTON RIVERA**, **A.J. HUNT** and **K.J. MCALISTER**.

Hall and those players experienced a 10-win season in 2015 and did not qualify for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship (MEAC) Baseball Tournament. They won 13 games in 2016 and did not qualify for the tournament. In 2017, they reached the tournament and were one win shy of making the championship game.

On May 20, 2018, the senior group of Sowell, Ordonez, Rivera, Hunt and McAlister along with Hall and the rest of the Aggies baseball program won the 2018 MEAC championship with a 12-9 win over their longtime nemesis in the tournament, the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats.

Four years removed from that 10-win season, the 2018 Aggies broke the school record for wins (32-23) and won the program's fourth MEAC title and the first since 2005. Sophomore **ZACH MCLEAN** was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player and McLean, junior **DAWNOVEN SMITH**, Rivera, and Sowell were named to the all-tournament team.

"First off, those young men are quality people," said Hall, who won the title in his hometown of Daytona Beach, Florida, after leading the Aggies to a school-record 16 conference wins.

"They trusted we would put good players around them. Leadership is important. Senior leadership is imperative," Hall continued. "Those guys getting tournament experience last year for the first was important because we learned from it and grew from it. So, what happened is we returned a team full of hungry kids who wanted to do nothing but win. They had one purpose and that's not to leave Daytona Beach without a championship." ■

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Football's Broadway Retires, Washington Named Head Coach

By Brian M. Holloway '97

North Carolina A&T head football coach **ROD BROADWAY** announced his retirement from coaching January, after completing the Aggies' best season ever.

Broadway retired after seven seasons with the Aggies. He then served as a special assistant to the athletics director for six months.

During the 2017 season, Broadway led N.C. A&T to a 12-0 finish with accolades that included winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title, the Celebration Bowl game and the HBCU national championship. In the process, the Aggies broke school and conference records for wins and became the first MEAC and HBCU Division I-AA team ever to finish undefeated and untied.

In 15 seasons as a head coach, Broadway amassed a 127-45 (.738) record with four HBCU titles and six conference championships. In January (2018), his .737 winning percentage was the best winning percentage among active FCS coaches. In the history of FCS play, he also has the third-highest winning percentage. Broadway spent four seasons apiece at North Carolina Central (2003-06) and Grambling State (2007-10).

"I am grateful to this great and historic university, North Carolina A&T State, for the opportunity to be its head football coach for seven years," said Broadway. "I am grateful to two men I hold in high esteem, Chancellor Martin and Athletics Director Earl Hilton, for believing in me and the direction I wanted to take this program. I am grateful to the players, they have made this a wonderful experience for me and my family.

"I am grateful to what I consider a great coaching staff. They have conducted themselves with the upmost integrity and professionalism. And I am grateful to the very hardworking support staff we have here at North Carolina A&T."

Hilton said, "I love the man not only for what he has accomplished during his time as our head football coach at North Carolina A&T, but also for who he is as a person."

"... He got to go out on his own terms, a luxury not afforded to most coaches. He took our football program from being the laughing stock of the (Football Championship Subdivision) to being the envy of black college football and one of the premier programs on the FCS level. He did it with class and intelligence. He held everyone within his program

to the highest standards of accountable. Rod's work ethic is unmatched. I will miss him as a colleague but will always consider him a friend and a confidant."

Aggie Athletics held a press conference Jan. 9, to announce the appointment of **SAM WASHINGTON** as the 19th head coach in A&T history. Washington previously served as assistant head coach, defensive coordinator and secondary coach.

"Coach Washington holds many of the same characteristics as Coach Broadway. We have believed for some time that coach Washington has the skills, temperament and leadership qualities to be a collegiate head coach," said Hilton. "We are confident the trajectory of the football program will remain on a winning path with coach Washington at the helm. We are eager to see him do well in a position he richly deserves."

Under Washington's leadership as the Aggies defensive coordinator for seven seasons, the Aggies have consistently produced one of the best defenses in the nation. The Aggies have been the MEAC's No. 1 total defense and scoring defense four times in the past seven years.

The Aggies have had the No. 1 total defense in the conference three straight seasons. A&T has also had the No. 1 rush defense in the conference six times in seven years. Nationally, the team's defense has never ranked lower than 20th under Washington, including a No. 4 ranking in 2017. The Aggies had the nation's best run defense in 2012.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve under Coach Broadway both at Grambling State and North Carolina A&T," said Washington. "I could not ask for a better friend and mentor than Rod Broadway. What I saw him accomplish at North Carolina A&T is nothing less than remarkable.

"Following a legend is never easy, but coach Broadway taught me so much over the years, I am poised to continue having success in Aggeland. I thank Chancellor Martin and Mr. Hilton for what is an awesome opportunity"

In September, Aggie football earned its highest national ranking in the school's history—No. 4 in the country according to STATS FCS's media poll. ■

AGGIES BASKETBALL

2018-19

MEN'S SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (ET)
Nov. 6	UNC-Greensboro	Corbett Sports Center	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 10	Wake Forest	Winston-Salem, N.C.	TBA
Nov. 12	Maryland	College Park, Md.	7 p.m.
Nov. 14	Hofstra	Hempstead, N.Y.	7 p.m.
Nov. 19	Marshall	Huntington, W.Va.	TBA
Nov. 21	Mount St. Mary's - MD	Emmitsburg, Md.	TBA
Nov. 29	Central Connecticut State	Corbett Sports Center	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 1	Presbyterian	Corbett Sports Center	4 p.m.
Dec. 8	Greensboro College	Corbett Sports Center	4 p.m.
Dec. 15	Tennessee State	Nashville, Tenn.	4 p.m.
Dec. 19	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Va.	7 p.m.
Dec. 21	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	7 p.m.
Dec. 28	ECU	Greenville, N.C.	TBA
Jan. 5	South Carolina State *	Orangeburg, S.C.	4 p.m.
Jan. 8	Mid-Atlantic Christian University	Corbett Sports Center	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Delaware State *	Dover, Del.	4 p.m.
Jan. 14	Maryland Eastern Shore *	Princess Anne, Md.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Morgan State *	Corbett Sports Center	4 p.m.
Jan. 21	Coppin State *	Corbett Sports Center	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	North Carolina Central *	Corbett Sports Center	4 p.m.
Feb. 2	Florida A&M *	Tallahassee, Fla.	6 p.m.
Feb. 4	Bethune-Cookman *	Daytona Beach, Fla.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Delaware State *	Corbett Sports Center	4 p.m.
Feb. 11	Maryland Eastern Shore *	Corbett Sports Center	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	Howard *	Washington, D.C.	4 p.m.
Feb. 18	Norfolk State *	Norfolk, Va.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	South Carolina State *	Corbett Sports Center	4 p.m.
Feb. 25	Savannah State *	Corbett Sports Center	7:30 p.m.
March 2	Florida A&M *	Corbett Sports Center	4 p.m.
March 7	North Carolina Central *	Corbett Sports Center	7:30 p.m.

* Conference Games

MEAC CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

March 11-16 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Norfolk, Va.

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (ET)
Nov. 9	Morehead State	Corbett Sports Center	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	Akron	Corbett Sports Center	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 16	Winston-Salem State	Corbett Sports Center	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	Virginia	Charlottesville, Va.	11 a.m.
Nov. 24	Maine ^	Annapolis, Md.	3:15 p.m.
Nov. 25	Navy ^	Annapolis, Md.	1 p.m.
Nov. 29	Western Carolina	Cullowhee, N.C.	TBD
Dec. 10	Johnson C. Smith	Corbett Sports Center	Noon
Dec. 13	East Tennessee State	Corbett Sports Center	7 p.m.
Dec. 18	Elon	Elon, N.C.	7 p.m.
Dec. 21	VCU	Corbett Sports Center	2 p.m.
Dec. 28	Florida Atlantic +	Boca Raton, Fla.	Noon
Dec. 29	Yale or St. Louis +	Boca Raton, Fla.	Noon or 2:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	S.C. State *	Orangeburg, S.C.	2 p.m.
Jan. 12	Delaware State *	Dover, Del.	2 p.m.
Jan. 14	Maryland Eastern Shore *	Princess Anne, Md.	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Morgan State *	Corbett Sports Center	2 p.m.
Jan. 21	Coppin State *	Corbett Sports Center	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	N.C. Central *	Corbett Sports Center	2 p.m.
Feb. 2	Florida A&M *	Tallahassee, Fla.	4 p.m.
Feb. 4	Bethune-Cookman *	Daytona Beach, Fla.	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Delaware State *	Corbett Sports Center	2 p.m.
Feb. 11	Maryland Eastern Shore *	Corbett Sports Center	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	Howard *	Washington, D.C.	2 p.m.
Feb. 18	Norfolk State *	Norfolk, Va.	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	S.C. State *	Corbett Sports Center	2 p.m.
Feb. 25	Savannah State *	Corbett Sports Center	5:30 p.m.
March 2	Florida A&M *	Corbett Sports Center	2 p.m.
March 7	N.C. Central *	Corbett Sports Center	5:30 p.m.

* Conference Games

^ Navy Thanksgiving Tournament

+ FAU Post-Christmas Tournament





MARCHING ON

BAND CELEBRATES 100-YEAR LEGACY

By Jordan M. Howse

The Blue and Gold Marching Machine (BGMM) is the heartbeat of North Carolina A&T, and Aggie Pride runs deep through the veins of every musician who graced the field at BB&T Stadium in the illustrious uniforms and shined white spats.

Kenneth Ruff '90 has led the BGMM since 2003. He leaves a lasting impression on his students but insists that his students leave a lasting impression on the band.

"Dr. Ruff always tells us that we set the standard and that we're ambassadors of the university," said Chalay Horne, a junior clarinet section leader from Delaware. "People are looking at us, so we have to always be our best."

Being a part of the marching band isn't just an extracurricular activity, Horne said. Some students come to A&T just to be a part of it like sousaphone section leader Darius Smith, a senior music education major from Georgia.

"After watching the band and doing some research on the program, I knew I wanted to be a part of the Blue and Gold Marching Machine," he said.

For some alumni, the love for the university and the band is bred in them. Terrell Morton '11 was born into A&T's band, literally.

"My mother and father met at A&T in the band, and many of the students in A&T's band during that time (1988-1990) helped raise me, including my uncle Nian Avery, who marched in the band; Dr. Ruff, who was a drum major at the time; and the then-band director, Dr. Johnny Hodge."

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Morton said he always knew that he wanted to march in A&T's band after growing up around the band, listening to his uncle's stories about marching in the band and watching old band tapes. Marching in A&T's band is a family legacy for Morton. In addition to his mother and father, maternal and fraternal uncles and two younger sisters marched in blue and gold.

Andre Winstead '93, president of the Alumni Band Association, said that seeing people like Morton is one of the beauties of marching in A&T's band as a student and as an alumnus.

"When we march down the street in the homecoming parade, year after year you see families grow and appreciate the band," he said. "You see toddlers grow to adults and see alumni band members have kids who then become alumni band members. It really is a beautiful thing about our band."

Winstead said he had no intention of marching when he came to A&T 30 years ago. But when he started, he never stopped.

"I worked with Dr. Hodge when I was a student and just always helped where I could," Winstead said. "Now I'm a gold coat staff member and was voted president of the alumni band. My love for the band is because I've worked with every part of it. I've never really left."

Past and present BGMM members say that being a part of the band changes you and helps you become who you want to be.

Jonasha Green, a junior piccolo player, said band changed her from the shy girl to a confident woman.

"The BGMM has most definitely helped me in the area of confidence in my academics, future career, and personal life. I have used that confidence to be my best self at all times," she said.

In its 100th year, A&T's marching band will embark on renovations for their new facility. The building will be next door to the current facility on East Lindsey Street.

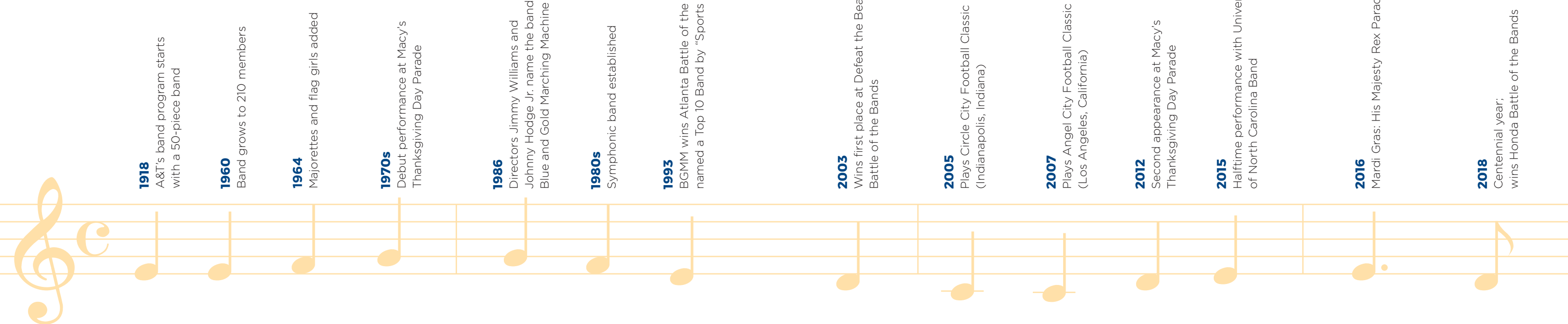
In addition to a new home, an endowed scholarship is being established by the children of the late Johnny Hodge Sr., who directed the band for nearly 20 years.

The band continues its centennial celebration by calling on former members to help collect needed scholarship dollars to guarantee the directors can recruit the finest musical talent.

"BGMM is an integral part of Aggie Pride," Morton said. "(It) is an excellent recruitment tool for the university, showcasing the talent of students from all backgrounds and experiences on multiple platforms and stages. I am truly grateful for band and I wish the Marching Machine 100 x 100 more years." ■



**BLUE AND GOLD MARCHING MACHINE:
SELECT TIMELINE**





THE ART OF TEACHING

By Tonya D. Dixon '04



Set designer David Tidwell learns as much as he teaches.

Ranked nationally by Black Broadway as one of the top five theatre arts programs for African-American students, the North Carolina A&T Theatre Arts Program is one of the best in the country, and David Tidwell is proud to contribute to its success.

In the four years he has been on campus, Tidwell, an assistant professor, has enjoyed seeing the growth in students and the comradery throughout the department, but says the real story lies in the totality of education that's given and received.

"Theatre is accepting of everybody, regardless. I'm learning this more and more. This school has such a rich history that I was unaware of. It's been an educational experience. I think if more people had this experience they would understand better. I teach my students and my students teach me," said Tidwell.

Handling theatre design, scenic design, aspects of stage management and more for the theatre program, his days are busy alternating and balancing classes, committees and other academic obligations with his responsibilities for play productions.

He teaches everything from scene and stage design to drafting and computer aided design. Even regarding the many aspects he doesn't teach, Tidwell is intricately involved in the development and production.

"Part of the process of designing is not just creating a pretty picture. It requires a great deal of literal background research, an analysis of the show at hand and speaking with the director because it is a collaborative process. There are many heads involved," said Tidwell.

"I spend time reading the script. I try to understand the characters and the world in which they live, including the historical setting, society and even the architecture of the time. By putting those bits and pieces together, I can bring a total package (of images, renderings, sketches and drawings) to the director and we will determine if it's the right direction."

It's not always cut and dry in the theatre business, and while directors and production personnel often have differing viewpoints regarding the direction of a play, Tidwell says it's like production magic when everyone is on the same page.

"The last production we did was 'Detroit 67.'" The director and I both agreed and understood it should look like a bunker or underground world. Basically, it was a basement," he said. "We talked about the approach. Eventually, we came up with the floorplan and everything else."

One of the interesting aspects of theatre is that it can be interpreted differently. That facet is one of the parts of theatre that interests Tidwell the most.

"Something like 'The Lion King,' which has been done quite beautifully on Broadway, is something that influences me design-wise, but at the same time it may not be the statement that the director wants viewers to leave with," said Tidwell.

A member of the USA 829 Professional Designer Union, Tidwell says that while delivering audience satisfaction is important, his primary motivation is to provide a good high-quality piece for the students to learn their craft as they operate in their craft. It is, in fact, educational theatre.

When it comes to teaching students theatre production, Tidwell is hard-hitting. He says it's a tough profession and students should get that tough love from him—someone who cares—so they can handle it when it comes from others in the professional world. When he scolds students for being late to

class—the one thing he despises—it's only because he wants them to be the best they can be. Because according to him, punctuality is an important facet of excellence.

Even when students think they are having "light work" days in class, Tidwell is still teaching. He and his wife developed card games that directly relate to the themes that anyone working in the theatre profession should have a firm grasp and knowledge.

"We created the games to help teach students theatre and about the theatre house," he said. "One is a series of tasks, and players have to review everything related to theatre, including the front of the house, staggers, props, actors and everything else and make sure everything and everybody works properly and together to make sure the theatre is run correctly. It's called 'Break A Leg.'"

He adds, "It is very interactive, but at the same time the students are subliminally learning. Most universities don't realize and recognize that this is a great way to teach students. It's a whole different level and layer of applied research for students."

Tidwell also developed the game Inch by Inch, which teaches students to better understand fractions, a skill they can use in great detail, particularly for building sets.

There are more games on the way and an app is in beta testing.

"It's trying to find other ways to teach. You can slip that in on them and teach them stuff without them recognizing it, and it's fun," says Tidwell.

The work and research required for the game designs are quite tedious, but there's just as much work and study required on the students' part to win the game.

Tidwell isn't only interested in preparing his current students; he's also interested in piquing the interest of potential students. He and members of the university theatre program are looking to institute a program called Backstage Pass. High school and community college students will be invited to view a university technical theatre rehearsal, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and provide insight about the university's program.

"It's a recruitment tool, obviously, but at the same time it gets the community interested and aware of our program, what we are doing and the quality of work that we do," says Tidwell.

Self-described as having an "eclectic artistic style," Tidwell says, he begins every design project on the basis of realism and expands from there. ■

FOLLOW YOUR ART

Gregory Horton's colorful journey

By Jordan M. Howse

Gregory J. Horton has attended the National Black Theater Festival every year since its inception, so it took him by surprise in 2017 when he was chosen as a guest of honor for his outstanding work in costume design.

"I never thought that in my lifetime I'd win an award there," said Horton, interim chairman of North Carolina A&T's Department of Visual and Performing Arts. "You never (know when) people are watching you, so you have to make sure you're doing the work and doing it right."

It was a long road back to North Carolina for the Durham native. He graduated from Hillside High School, then North Carolina Central University with a degree in clothing and textiles, then Michigan State University with his master's in costume design. After some teaching gigs, he landed at St. Louis University.

"I was very happy at St. Louis," he said. "I was tenured, and I was next in line to become the chair of the department."

But one summer, Horton ran into students from N.C. A&T at a trade conference. They mentioned how much they would love to have him as a costume design and construction professor.

Horton didn't think anything about it for years and one day he got a phone call from the late Frankie Day, then-director of the theatre arts program.

"She said the students had told her all about me and the position was finally open," he said. "We scheduled an interview around Mother's Day and I was here the next fall."

And he's been here for 14 years, leading students in costume design and construction, makeup and set design, and working tirelessly for the success of the program.

"It's not easy work," he said. "It's crazy and it doesn't end."

Horton has always known who he was and what he wanted to do. He has an intense process of researching, designing and constructing costumes that will do each character in each show justice.

"It's about the integrity of the work," Horton said. "Knowing your character, their motivations and purposes help you know the nuanced things like the kind of cufflinks a character would wear."

He also connects with his students.

Horton said that many of his experiences as a gay man in the arts and as a costume designer helped him relate to and mentor students with similar situations.

"In the arts, we accept people for who they are," he said. "It's about having the talent to do the work. We've had students come through who were transitioning and because I am a costume designer and the interim chair, I have to work with those privacy and respect issues while still abiding by university policies."

Derrick Batten, a junior theater arts student, said Horton made him feel accepted at a time when he was experiencing some tension about his sexuality.

"He brings comfortability to all of us," Batten said. "He's accepting of us and makes us feel comfortable enough with ourselves to keep moving forward even when it's hard to."

Horton's understanding has been a huge asset to the team, said Donna Bradby, who has worked with Horton in the theatre department for several years.

"He'd never say it about himself, but he is a voice for our LGBT students," Bradby said. "He's equipped for that in a way that the rest of us aren't. He's helped us through ... the bathroom bill and equal rights."

About five years ago, Horton began an assignment for students in his acting for non-majors class that requires them to write a personal monologue.

"These monologues have provided real insight into what our students are going through and dealing with," he said. "It can be intense sometimes, but it's often the things they needed to share."

Horton's stage makeup class has made him popular across campus. It is always a high-enrollment elective. His professional experience and the hands-on work make it a fun and educational elective for non-majors as well.



"We used to have makeup either in the fall or spring," Horton said. "It's gotten so popular that now we offer it both semesters. Students love that it's a working class."

Mashawna Peterson, a theatre arts performance major from Baltimore, Maryland, has had Horton as an adviser since she transferred to A&T last fall.

"He's so supportive of us," she said. "I was having a hard time getting used to North Carolina and he would check up on me to make sure I was doing well academically as well as my mental state. He goes above and beyond and really believes in his students."

Horton displays his students' work of aging makeup, scars and wounds, and prosthetics on the "makeup wall of fame" in the common area of the VPA department.

"It gives the students a sense of accomplishment that they can see their progress and other students can see the work they do," Horton said. ■

N.C. A&T art professor, Willie Hooker (right), and Wiley Elementary principal, Tavy Fields '03 (second left), with Wiley fourth and fifth graders Dexter Kouame, Elijah Jones, Alison Mendoza, Jessica Villafane-Nieto, Le'Ayja Raleigh, Nahomi Sanchez-Guadalupe and Jah-mez Wilson



CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY IS ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF VISUAL ART. MAKING THE VIEWER FEEL SOMETHING IS IMPORTANT TO ARTISTS.

Involving the community is fulfilling an even greater importance. North Carolina A&T art professors Willie Hooker, Jim Barnhill and Amy Schwartzott use their respective mediums of paint, sculpture and recycled materials in different ways to connect to the community.

VALUABLE EXPOSURE

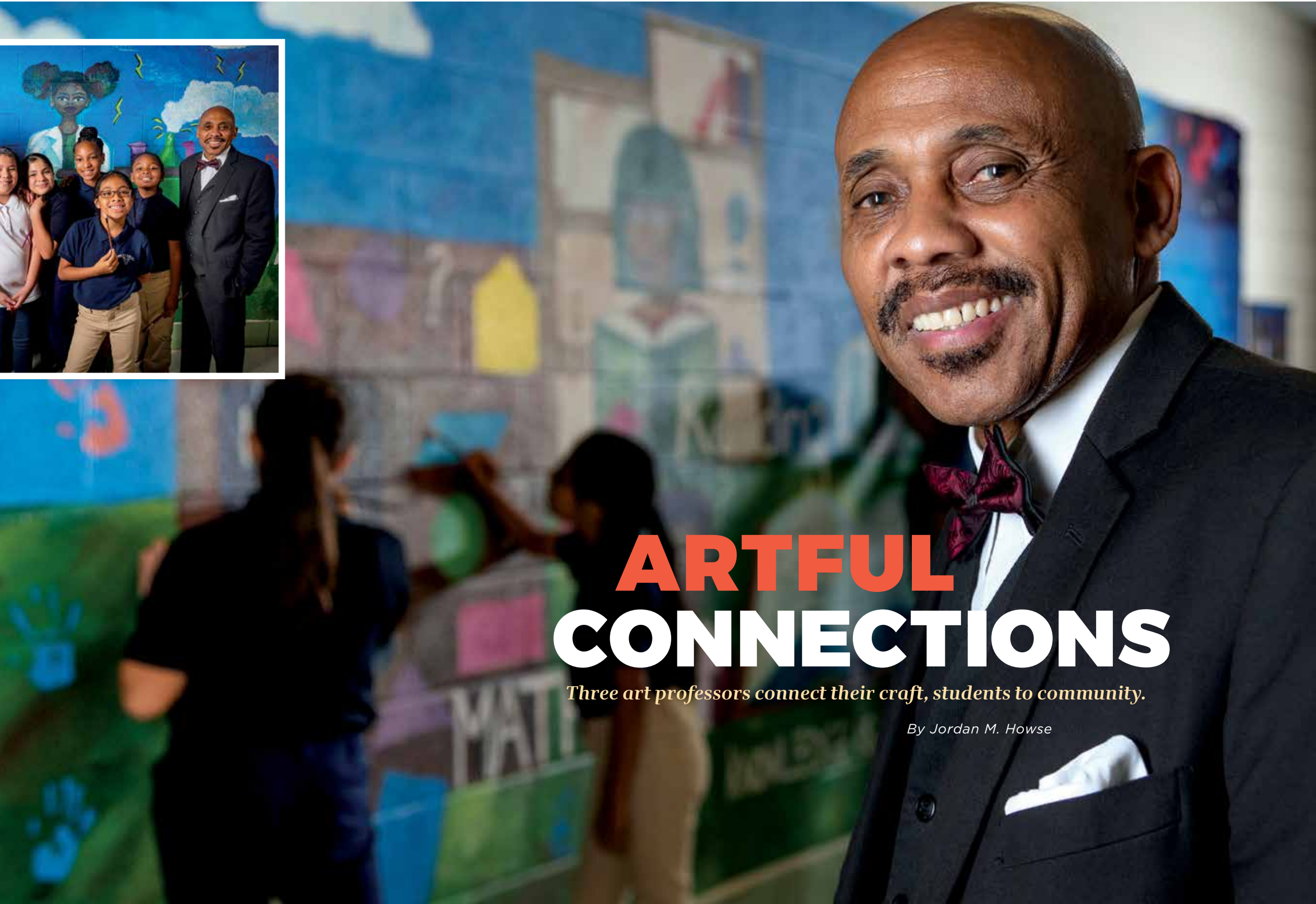
In spring 2018, Hooker connected with Wiley Elementary School principal Tavy Fields '03, and the school's former art teacher Brittany Jones '12, to paint two murals to educate the students through art. The students painted one in the cafeteria that speaks to nutrition and one in the breezeway that illustrates STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

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ARTFUL CONNECTIONS

Three art professors connect their craft, students to community.

By Jordan M. Howse



Hooker, Fields and Jones sat down early in the 2017-18 school year to map out what they could do together in the arts. In the spring, Hooker brought some of his university students to Wiley to help the elementary students complete the murals.

Hooker said, “It speaks volumes to A&T’s reach and reputation to develop these relationships with Guilford County Schools.”

Both the university and elementary school students get valuable experience when they work together, Jones said.

“A lot of times our students aren’t exposed to college,” Jones said. “It’s very beneficial to my students to see artists of color doing what they love and making an honest living from it. It opens their minds to something different.”

Fields said that the project has boosted confidence and pride among students who worked on the mural project.

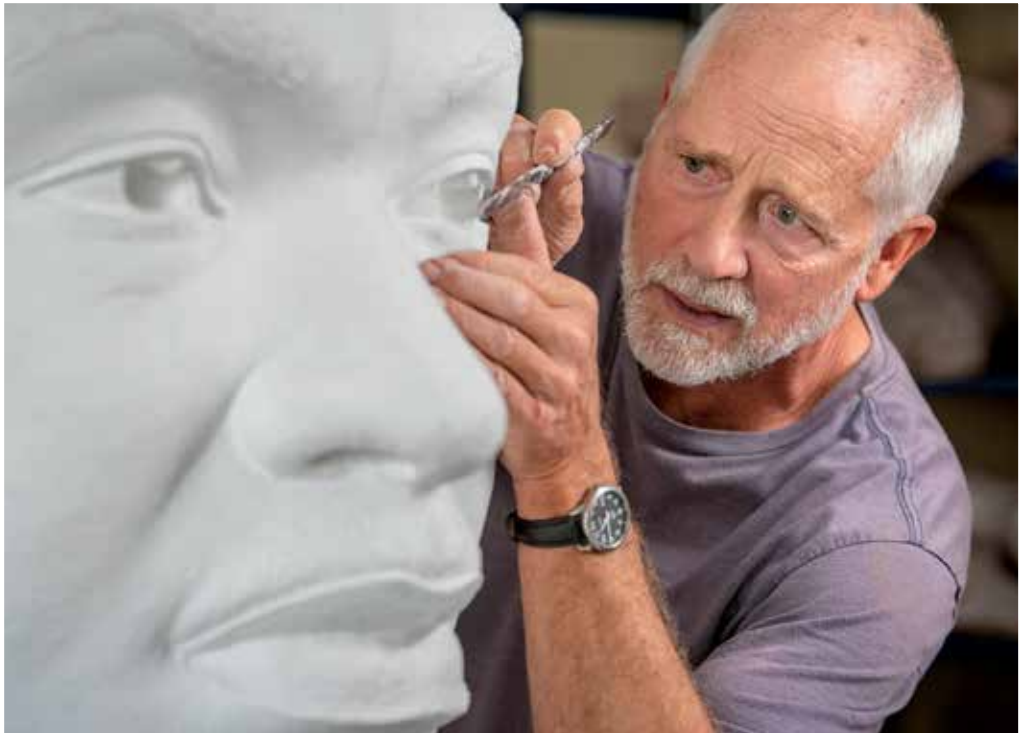
“One of my students said to me that when he leaves Wiley, there will always be a piece of him here,” she said. “Every time they walk past this section of the wall they get to see a little of themselves and that’s such a strong impact.”

ENGINEERED PERFECTION

Barnhill’s interaction with the community begins in the studio but the results can be seen throughout the city and country.

He is the sculptor who created the famed “February One” monument in front of the Dudley Building on A&T’s campus as well as “Minerva” at University of North Carolina at Greensboro and “General Nathaniel Greene” in downtown Greensboro.

Currently, Barnhill is working with his classes to integrate sculpting and engineering. He sculpted a model of Martin Luther King Jr.’s head using clay and then cast it in plaster. The model will be scanned by engineers to create the template for a larger version of the bust.



ARTFUL
CONNECTIONS
CONTINUED

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Kyla Hemmans, a junior media design major, said that Barnhill always appreciates student input and their thoughts on visual art.

“He likes to hear younger opinions from us because he knows how much we mean to the art world,” she said. “Visual art is really important to the art world, too, because it can represent a community and is really worth more than words.”

**CONSTANT
REINCARNATION**

Schwartzott, art professor and curator of University Galleries, has expanded her artistic reach to the global community. She has spent 10 summers in Mozambique, a country in southeastern Africa, working with artists who pursue their art regardless of circumstances.

Mozambique continued to be war-torn even 43 years after gaining independence from Portugal and the internal conflict between the Marxist government and anticommunists. When Schwartzott first traveled there, she was sparked by an effort to recycle war machines into something beautiful and dedicated to peace.

“After the conflicted formally ended, weapons literally started piling up,” she said. “Bishop Dom Dinis Sengulane challenged artists to use the weapons to create monuments of peace by collecting and destroying left over artillery.”

The idea of using recycled materials to make art stuck with her. Schwartzott’s research looks at the biography of an object and the use of recycled materials. Mozambican artists use discarded materials as media like an old pair of jeans used as canvas or a broken record to make a mosaic.

“They improvise to keep them creating art,” Schwartzott said. “They’re giving these objects a new life and that constant reincarnation is really interesting.”



When she returns to campus, Schwartzott teaches her students about the value of recycling as well as being appreciative of the access to art supplies.

“It’s a valuable lesson,” she said. “If you have the passion, you can create with anything.” ■



**ARTFUL
CONNECTIONS**
CONTINUED

A portrait of Donna Bradby, a Black woman with short, curly dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark, textured turtleneck sweater. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting. Overlaid on the right side of the image are several white, concentric, swirling lines that resemble a stylized spiral or a series of overlapping circles.

FULL “STEAM” AHEAD

**DONNA BRADBY '84 USES PASSION, STEAM
AND EXPERIENCES TO CULTIVATE NEW
ARTISTS, LEADERS IN THEATER.**

By Jordan M. Howse

Donna Bradby is Aggie born and Aggie bred. She grew up in Greensboro and came to North Carolina A&T in 1980, for the same theatre arts program in which she now works.

Bradby, director of marketing and publication for the theatre arts department, is a multitasking force. She is an adjunct professor, choreographer and researcher, as well as the executive director of Touring Theatre of North Carolina.

She's always been an artist and now uses her talents to help others develop theirs.

"The arts world was very different when I was a kid, especially being an African-American woman in the South," she said. "It was tough finding your way and I was often the only African-American girl in drama club. I make sure our students know what it's like out there, know their stuff and do great work."

Bradby's experiences as a child fueled her passions as an adult. After graduating from A&T, she worked with kids to understand the effect the arts can have on core curriculum, a conversation continued today in the STEM vs. STEAM debate. STEAM is the acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts and music.

In her research, Bradby studied children in her arts programs when she worked at Touring Theatre in the 80s and led Caldcleugh Multicultural Arts Center in the late 90s.

“She saw something in me that made her think I would be a good stage manager and now I’m one of four African-American men in the business.”

— STANLEY RALPH '08

"Dance helped me with math and acting helped me with physics," she said. "I was a smart kid but those concepts in my body made more sense to me than learning it at a desk. I took those math and science concepts and helped children learn how they are connected to artistry."

Bradby has an undeniable influence on her students.

Stanley Ralph '08, graduated with a theatre performance degree but found his passion for stage management in Bradby's classes. He stage-manages Broadway Tours, including "Motown" and "The Bodyguard."

"Ironically, I was failing my stage management class," he laughed. "Ms. Donna had me stage manage a show, so I could pass the class, and putting that classwork into practice was the exciting part. She saw something in me that made her think I would be a good stage manager and now I'm one of four African-American men in the business."

Bradby also makes sure she gives a realistic, blunt outlook of the theater world to her African-American female students.

Monet Marshall '11 said that once she graduated, she finally knew why Bradby put so much emphasis on aspects of theater in addition to performance.

"She helped me understand that we have to know all sides of this business to be successful," Marshall said. "The more information you have, the better off you'll be in this business."

Marshall's degree is in theater performance. but she said because of Bradby and A&T's preparation, she was prepared and is now the founding artistic director of MOJOAA Performing Arts Company, founder and lead consulting artist for BaD Arts Consulting as well as a director at VAE Raleigh, a non-profit visual arts organization.

"Ms. Donna taught me that you have to form relationships in your community and with other artists," Marshall said. "You can't just think about theatre and performance. You have to expand your scope to be a success." ■



ANGEL INVESTORS

By Jordan M. Howse

Season subscribers are the mainstay of N.C. A&T's successful theatre arts program

Support for N.C. A&T and its students comes from all around the world, but the Theatre Arts Program gets most of its support from audiences right here in the Triad.

Each year, students in the program participate in several exhibitions and shows that would be next to impossible to produce without the support of season subscribers.

"Our season subscribers are like family," said Tina Liggins, theatre manager in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. "They're like mothers, grandfathers, brothers all here to support our students and watch them flourish and grow."

Season subscribers can purchase one to eight tickets for each show of the season and get advance ticket reservations, preferred seating and their names printed in each of the season's playbills. They are also honored as special guests at events, receptions and the campus version of the Tony Awards, the Robeys.

"A lot of our subscribers want to feed into these students' lives," Liggins said. "They aren't necessarily buying into our season but into our students. They come to the black box theater and see the student-directed performances. They're so supportive of them at every level, not just the main stage."

Theater arts students take part in several national and international programs supported by subscribers.

Clemente McWilliams '88 has been a season subscriber for nearly 15 years.

"I wanted to expose my kids to the performing arts and what better way than to start at A&T," he said. "(The Theatre Arts Program) puts out top-notch performances and at the end of the day, it's about the support and impact it has on these students. It gives them confidence and inspires them to do what others thought they couldn't."

Liggins works hard to ensure audiences—new and old—feel welcome at Paul Robeson Theatre.

"Art is a feeling, an emotion, a love, especially for our season subscribers," Liggins said. "Some have been around since I was a kid and we sometimes capture new subscribers through them. There are many people out there who love the arts."

One of those people is Cathy Kea, professor of special education at A&T. She has been a patron of Paul Robeson Theatre since 1986, before she worked at the university.

"I was employed at Salem College in Winston-Salem, but I lived in Greensboro and have loved theater all my life," she said. "Our program's shows cover many issues and topics that are relevant and timely. It helps one to reflect and think of how to utilize the concepts from on stage in the classroom."

"It helps our students grow emotionally and socially and gives them the lifelong tools to collaborate with others," she said. "We should certainly continue to support that."

Kea also supports the program by requiring her own students to see at least one show.

Theater arts students take part in several national and international programs supported by subscribers. Students and faculty have worked with Guilford County Schools and Triad Stage to participate in the August Wilson Monologue Competition in New York City, study abroad in Britain to learn some of the classics like Shakespeare, as well as travel for workshops and intensives.

A&T's theatre arts program wins national awards and was recognized as the top undergraduate theater program for African Americans.

The investment the season subscribers are making does not go unnoticed by theater peers or the program's students.

"It's uplifting and encouraging to know that no matter what show on what day, somebody is going to be there," said Alexander Albritton, a senior in the program. "As students we don't always acknowledge it, but we definitely know how important season subscribers are to us and the program. It's them saying, 'We believe in you.'" ■

OSCAR- WORTHY

**SHORT FILM BY ALUMNUS KEVIN WILSON JR. '11
NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY AWARD**

By Alana V. Allen '07

W

When nominations for the 90th annual Academy Awards were announced on Jan. 23, Kevin Wilson Jr.'s life changed before his very eyes. His "My Nephew Emmett," was given a nod in the Short Film (Live Action) category.

The 20-minute film takes place on the night of Aug. 28, 1955, when the 14-year-old Emmett Till was abducted, tortured and murdered in Money, Mississippi. The film was written, produced and directed by Wilson as a curricular project at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts' Graduate Film Program, where he is currently a student. The project was supported by the help of private donors, GoFundMe contributors and the Spike Lee Fellowship.



"I am extremely grateful for the support I received to produce this film because majority of the donors were Aggies who lived in Greensboro," said Wilson. "It really showed me the true meaning of Aggie Pride and the importance of supporting our own."

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As a child growing up in Durham, North Carolina, Wilson was always fascinated with the story of Emmett Till. He remembers visiting family in the south and rural areas of North Carolina seeing the Confederate flag and he was always reminded of Till's story.

While Wilson attended North Carolina A&T as a broadcast production student, he was given an opportunity in 2009 by then-staff member Ryan Maltese to produce the play, "The Emmett Till Story," at Harrison Auditorium. The success of the play fueled his desire to bring the story to film.

After graduating A&T, Wilson worked as a production assistant for NBC Universal in New York and as a cameraman on the set of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." Even though the work helped him to hone his skills and taught him about the industry, he wasn't being fulfilled artistically. Film school was something he desired, but when he applied for the first time he was rejected by NYU; nevertheless, he didn't give up.

"It was heartbreaking finding out that I didn't get into film school on my first attempt," said Wilson. "I realized with the whole situation that it takes a certain type of maturity and growth to be serious about making movies, and I gained that perspective from being a husband and father."

When Wilson started film school in 2015, he knew that he wanted his project to be about Emmett Till. As a husband and father of two sons with a daughter on the way, he wanted to use a perspective that is not explored in the story. He wanted to give a cinematic voice of Mose Wright, Till's uncle, and show the intense agony behind the decision to hand over a child in the middle of the night to his abductors.

"As an African-American father, you worry about keeping your children safe and telling your sons about Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Tamir Rice," said Wilson. "These stories affect our communities and it's my contribution as a director to produce films about our justice and equality."

Wilson gained support from two fellow Aggies, who served as co-producers on the film: former Miss A&T, TaNisha Fordham '09, and former Mister A&T, Austin James '11. These two were instrumental on campus when he first produced the play and he knew that he needed them along the journey.

"Kevin is the most humble person I know, and seeing him in action showed me that it's okay to dream big and achieve your goals," said Fordham. "This journey tested him a lot and he was pressed on every side, but he never gave up and that's what I admire most about him."

The production of the film took 11 days to shoot in Money, Mississippi, and every day of production counted due to budget restraints. In addition, the majority of the film was shot in slave quarters on the Whittington Plantation at night between midnight and 5 a.m.

"When you are producing a short film, there is no second wasted and every moment has a purpose," said James. "It is my hope that the audience connects with the film and grasp the true story of Emmett Till."

Before the film was completed, the lead actor who played the uncle of Till, L.B. Williams, passed away in July 2017.

Wilson plans to start production on a full-length feature film and use the momentum from the Academy Award nomination to direct and produce more movies, plays and commercials. ■

OSCAR-
WORTHY

KEVIN WILSON JR.

Writer, Producer, Director
www.directedbykevin.com

Kevin Wilson Jr. is an Oscar-nominated and Student Academy Award-winning filmmaker based in New York City. His first works as a filmmaker came shortly after directing a sold-out play as an undergraduate student in North Carolina. Since that time, his short films have screened at film festivals all over the world, including the New York Film Festival, Telluride Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival and HollyShorts Film Festival where he won Best Director.

In 2017, he won the Gold Medal at the 44th Student Academy Awards for his short film, "My Nephew Emmett," a 20-minute short film based on the true story of the 1955 murder of Emmett Till. Months later, "My Nephew Emmett" was nominated for an Oscar for BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM at the 90th Academy Awards. "My Nephew Emmett" also won Wilson a Directors Guild of America Student Film Award and a BAFTA Student Film Award.

Having just received an M.F.A. in film production from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, he is in development for his debut feature film. ■





SECOND SIGHT



Once shy and overlooked, Zonya Love's star shines on stage

By Jordan M. Howse

Zonya Johnson '03 could feel that North Carolina A&T State University was going to change her life when she stepped on campus as a callow freshman.

While she grew up in the church, Johnson was not into theater until her last year of high school. She came to N.C. A&T to major in music, but when she realized she was behind on sight reading she changed her major to theater.

"There was a stigma about not declaring a major, so I thought that I could major in theater to help bring me out of my shyness and take some sight-reading classes on the side and then I'd switch to music," Johnson said.

In her first semester, Johnson, who performs under the stage name Zonya Love, was cast in the department's competition piece for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and the annual holiday performance of "Black Nativity."

"Once I got in (the theater department), Frankie Day, Miller Lucky, Jeff Richardson, Donna Bradby and Tina Liggins took me under their wings and didn't let me go. They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself," she said.

After leaving A&T, Johnson landed a few roles but ultimately decided to pursue her Master of Fine Arts at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



"Be so good they can't ignore you."

— STEVE MARTIN

Johnson said that graduate school really taught her about herself, and she learned more about her will and endurance to live her dream.

"I've always had to work hard, but in grad school I felt like I was overlooked and often ignored by the program," she said. "So, I had to have a strong will and be okay with my individuality."

One of her professors, Glenn Casale, did not overlook the talented young woman and gave Johnson her first performing opportunity after grad school. That opportunity allowed her to become a professional actress, join the union and move to New York.

Her breakout performance was as Celie in the Broadway production of "The Color Purple," replacing Fantasia Barrino in the Oprah Winfrey-produced musical.

Johnson went on to travel in the first national tour of the Tony Award-winning musical, "Avenue Q." Her other theater credits include playing Bessie Smith in "The Devil's Music," "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and "The Wiz."

She sang at the famed Carnegie Hall with Broadway Inspirational Voices, which afforded her opportunities to sing background vocals for TV shows "America's Got Talent," "Smash" and "The David Letterman Show."

Johnson said she believes it is especially important now to have spaces like A&T that build up, encourage, nurture, challenge and develop black youth.

"For some people, it will be their first and only experience being surrounded by people who look like you," she said. "It's vital that we have that foundation so that we are able to strut through this world knowing our greatness, our diversity, our achievements and contributions to this world."

Johnson said her experience at A&T gave her the confidence that is needed as a black woman in professional theater.

"Being on a campus where the majority looked like me exposed me to a plethora of black folk," she said. "A&T, specifically the theater department, was where I really learned myself. I grew to love myself because I was in an environment that catered to being black, proud and the best person I could be." ■



1980s

STEPHANIE G. ADAMS '88, dean of the Batten College of Engineering and Technology at Old Dominion University, received the American Society for Engineering's 2018 Harriet Tubman Award for Advancing African-American Women in Academic Engineering in June at the annual conference of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) in Salt Lake City. The honor recognizes an individual who has fought to increase gender and racial diversity within the 350 accredited engineering schools that operate in the United States. African-American women account for just 0.54 percent of the nation's 28,000 engineering faculty members and fewer than 1 percent of engineering students.

Adams has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from A&T. Her M.S. in systems engineering and Ph.D. in interdisciplinary engineering are from the University of Virginia and Texas A&M University, respectively. ■

DWAYNE PINKNEY '85 is senior vice president for operations and administration at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Pinkney oversees all aspects of the financial and operational enterprises of the university, including financial affairs, human resources, policy and governance, and planning and facilities management. He brings 23 years of financial and administrative management in higher education and state legislative experience to Virginia Tech, spending the last 14 years in progressively higher-level management positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, most recently serving as senior associate vice chancellor for finance and administration. Prior to UNC-Chapel Hill in 2004, Pinkney was an associate vice president for finance at the University of North Carolina General Administration.

Pinkney received his Ph.D. in political science at UNC-Chapel Hill and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. His bachelor's degree in English and journalism is from A&T. ■



1990s

NATASHA YVETTE WILLIAMS '92 is an American actress, singer and all-around entertainer. Williams began singing at the age of 3, in the Tiny Tot Choir at her church. Since then she has been performing everywhere—from the subway to Broadway.

In her most recent Broadway show, "A Night with Janis Joplin," she wowed audiences with her portrayal of Aretha Franklin. She also has been seen in "Chicago," The Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," and Oprah Winfrey's "The Color Purple." Other stage credits include "All Shook Up," "Godspell," "Abyssinia," "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Parade." Her television credits include "Orange Is the New Black," "The Wiz Live," "Odd Mom Out," "Love to Gregory" and "BRS/Gage."

Williams is a recording artist and has a current project called "How Deep Is the Ocean," a collection of standards, and a gospel project mixed with hymns and originals called "Songs the Get Me through." She was the first Kraft Foods New Voice of Gospel winner and has toured with theatrical productions and musical groups. Williams has been a featured vocalist at Carnegie Hall and with The New York Pops Symphony Orchestra, The Naples Philharmonic, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Omaha Symphony, Pittsburgh and Indianapolis symphony orchestras, and The Edmonton Philharmonic. She has performed in Canada, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, London and Switzerland. ■

ANTHONY TAYLOR '98 is a system coordinator for the Department of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. Taylor has over 12 years of military service. He has received numerous commendations including Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service; Army Meritorious Service Medal (3); Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; Field Artillery Honorable Order of St. Barbara; NATO and Kosovo Ribbons for Operation Joint Guardian; and Federal Executive Board Excellence in Federal Career Bronze. In March, he completed the Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellowship, a three-year developmental program that provides members of the Army Acquisition Workforce with expanded training through educational, leader development and broadening assignments.

In addition to his B.S. in mechanical engineering from A&T, Taylor has an M.S. in engineering management from Missouri University of Science and Technology and a master's certificate in program management from Villanova University. ■



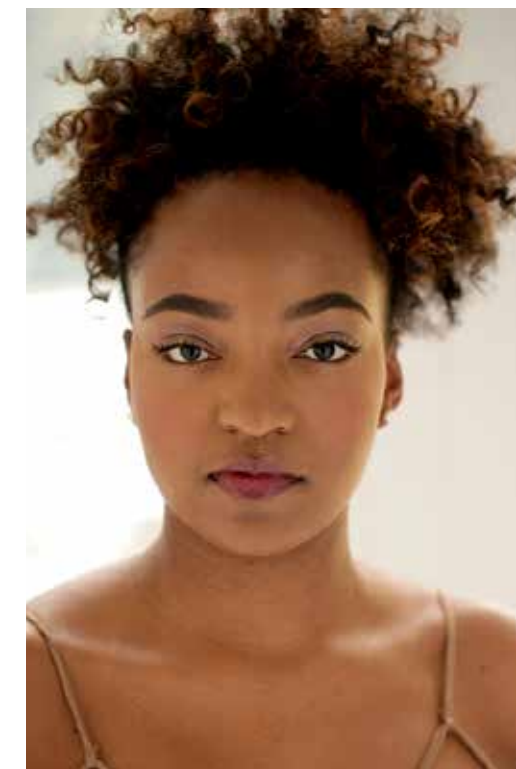
2000s

CHRIS BERRY '08, an actor, director, educator and producer from Long Island, New York, is vice president of the Black Theatre Network, the Irene Ryan Scholarship co-coordinator for Region 4 of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and co-creator of We Are Soul Nerds, a multimedia production company dedicated to the production of new work and collaborations. Professionally, Berry is an assistant professor of stage voice at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

In addition to earning a BFA in acting from N.C. A&T, Berry has an MFA from Brown University/Trinity. Berry maintains an active relationship in the regional and New York theatre communities where he maintains professional relationships as a director and voice coach with several companies. He can most recently be seen in the web series, "Hampton 10-10," and has been featured as an actor at Playmakers Repertory Company, Trinity Rep and The National Black Theatre. He is a proud member of Actors Equity Association. ■



JEFFREY RONEY '08 has been promoted to associate in the Raleigh, North Carolina, office of Dewberry. Roney is a project manager and electrical engineer. He earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (2008), and is a professional engineer (PE) in multiple states. Dewberry is a privately held professional services firm based in Fairfax, Virginia. Roney's promotion coincides with Dewberry's ongoing expansion of engineering, architectural and consulting services in the southeast region, where the firm has practiced since 1984. ■



2010s

KALILAH BLACK '11 began humming songs in her crib as early as seven months old. She was enrolled in dance classes at age 8, while simultaneously starring in all of her church's youth productions. She then landed a childhood television and commercial agent at 10 and began auditioning and working. Although she was enrolled in the Exceptionally Gifted and Talented Program for Math and Sciences in elementary and junior high school, she was convinced that she should audition for the major performing arts high schools in NYC. Not only was she accepted into all of her high school choices, she was accepted into Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts (also known as "the F.A.M.E. school") for both the vocal and drama programs.

During her undergraduate years as an Aggie, she performed in many educational theatre productions—like "The Wiz" and "Dance on Widow's Row"—and some of the great regional theaters in North Carolina in shows like "Chicago" and "Black Nativity." Within months of obtaining her B.F.A. in professional theatre, she landed a performance gig in Singapore. Since then has traveled the world and the states performing in theme parks, cruise ships and regional theaters and even Greensboro's own, The Barn Dinner Theater. Her biggest career highlight to date was making her Broadway debut in Disney's "The Lion King." ■

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

John A. Best '63
Thomas L. Boone '72
Barbara W. Breeden '61
James E. Browne '62
Betty J. Byrd '69
Margaret C. Chesney '56
Lonnie L. Cockerham '60
Cabell W. Daniel '63
Ernest Davis '77
Essie L. Everson '51
Flossie P. Fisher '52
William O. Francis Jr. '69
Georgia C. Frye '55
Diana M. Gardner '98
Pamela W. Graves '68
John R. Griffin Jr. '57
Jessica S. Guter '00
William H. Harrell '50
Robert J. Hill Jr. '71
Felicia S. Hooper-Donnell '90
Dorothy T. Jordan '57
Daniel Lanier Jr. '55
Phyllis H. Latta '76
Travis E. Long '94
Otis McMichael Jr. '75
Robert L. Moore Jr. '69
Donald W. Morgan. '65

Dorian W. Powell '96
Thoms A. Rawdanowicz '98
Tylea D. Sides '66
Anthony M. Skinner Sr. '66
Louise P. Slade '44
Elliot D. Smith Sr. '50
Emmerson R. Smith '68
Tommy B. Spivey '86
Robert A. Taylor '55
Franklin M. Thomas '52
Karla R. Thomas '90
Lennard D. Tucker '75

STUDENT

James Kulii, *senior*

FACULTY & STAFF

Kristen Brown, *adjunct professor*
Don Corbett, *former basketball coach*
Kenneth Flurchick, *assistant professor*
Lennette Goggans, *technology support technician*
Calvin "Cal" Irvin, *former basketball coach and athletics director*
Jilan Li, *assistant professor*

PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCHOLARSHIPS

INSPIRED GIVING

Greensboro couple endows \$500,000 scholarship for local students to pursue degrees in STEM disciplines

By Jordan M. Howse

Linda and John Englar value nothing more than education. That is why they created an endowed scholarship in their name at North Carolina A&T.

John is a graduate of Duke University, something he says would not have been possible without the help of scholarships.

"We've been supporting other people's opportunity because I was inspired by what was given to me," John said. "We are firm believers that education is the only stepping stone for any young person."

N.C. A&T will match the \$250,000 from the Englars to create a \$500,000 scholarship. It can be awarded to students from Guilford County Schools to study STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines at A&T.

"We've lived in Greensboro for 40 years and we know A&T is an important part of our community and STEM is where A&T is excelling," said John Englar, who retired as general counsel from Burlington Industries. "We need those jobs in STEM and A&T does such a great job preparing its students."

John and Linda, who is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and retired as an industrial engineer at Burlington Industries, started a similar endowed scholarship at his alma mater where nine students have benefitted in the 25 years since its endowment.

The Englars' commitment to education is evident in their three sons—Kevin, Scott and Brian. All three boys attended Our Lady of Grace through grade 8 and then attended Grimsley for high school.

"Whether it's a private Catholic school or a large public school, we were always around for the need for volunteers," he said. "We know what success can come from our great public schools."

Kevin attended University of Michigan and Wake Forest Medical School and is in a six-year residency in reconstructive surgery at UC San Diego. Scott attended University of Texas and is a manager for digital advertising for the TV streaming service, Hulu. Their youngest son, Brian, is pursuing his master's degree in public policy at Duke.

As further testament to John Englar's commitment to education, he taught courses in MBA programs at UNC Greensboro and Duke.

"Because of the success our kids had coming from Guilford County Schools and our love for our community, we want to

give other students from our great public schools this opportunity for higher education," he said.

The scholarship will be available beginning the 2019-2020 academic year. ■



John and Linda Englar



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Nominations are now open for the prestigious **CHEATHAM-WHITE SCHOLARSHIP** at North Carolina A&T State University for rising freshmen.

Applicants can be nominated by their respective high schools or through self-nomination. Recipients of the scholarship are awarded a fully-funded, four-year scholarship covering the costs of full tuition, student fees, housing, meals, textbooks, a laptop, supplies, travel and personal expenses. Each recipient receives four summers of fully funded enrichment and networking opportunities that may include international travel and study.

Nominations are open through Nov. 1.

The merit scholarship was established at N.C. A&T and North Carolina Central University by the state legislature to provide an outstanding educational experience for students who are exceptional scholars, versatile and well-rounded individuals.

For more information and to nominate, visit Cheatham-White Scholars online at <https://www.ncat.edu/academics/honors/cheatham-white/index.html>. ■

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