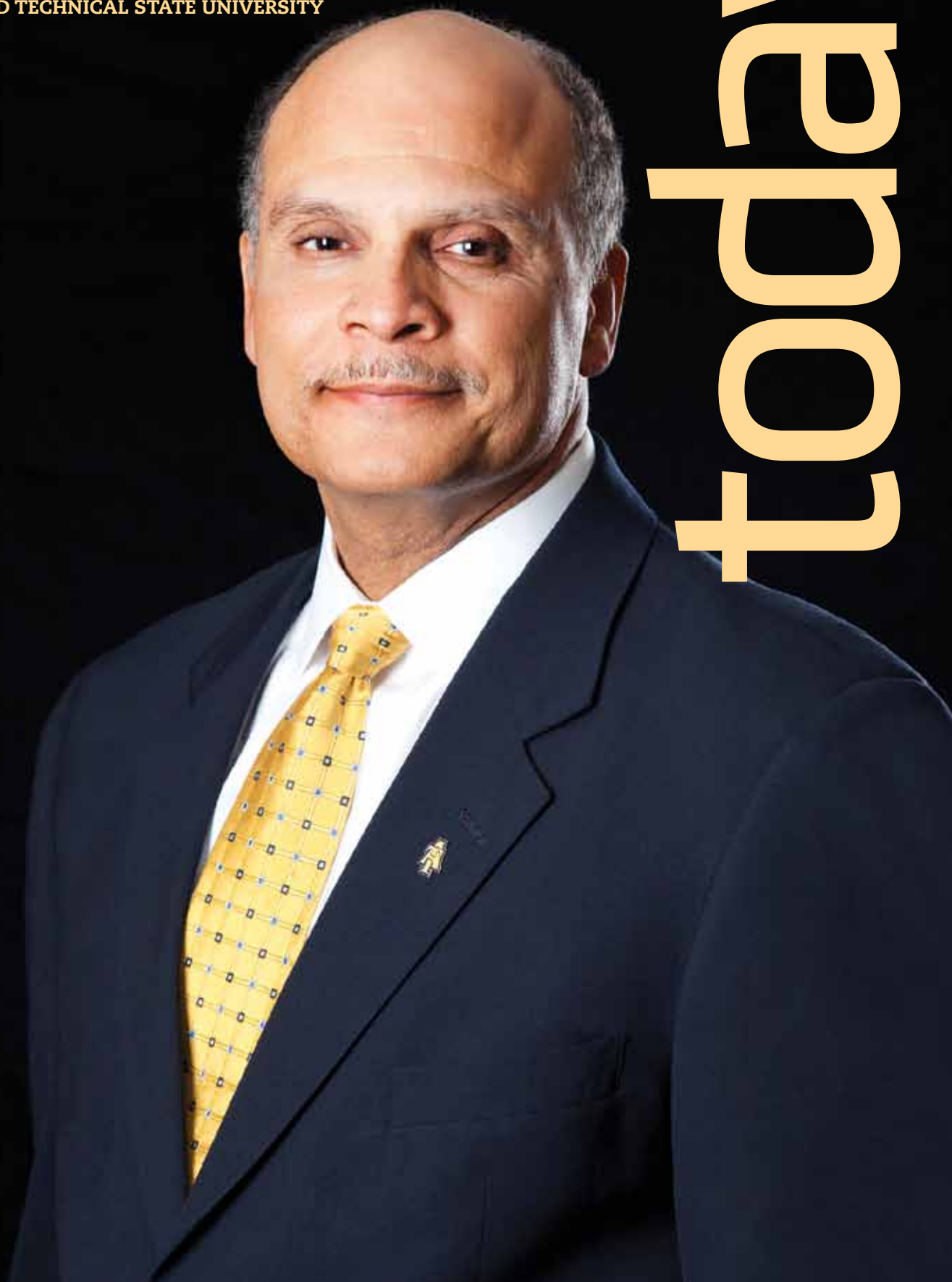




NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL
AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY



today

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is an 1890 land-grant doctoral research university dedicated to learning, discovery, and community engagement. The University provides a wide range of educational opportunities from bachelor's to doctoral degrees in both traditional and online environments. With an emphasis on preeminence in STEM and a commitment to excellence in all its educational, research, and outreach programs, North Carolina A&T fosters a climate of economic competitiveness that prepares students for the global society.

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North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Spring 2016

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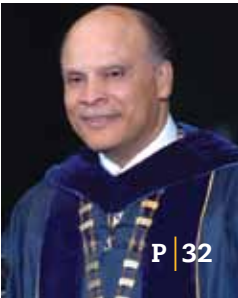
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REMEMBERING THE PAST

N.C. A&T is Top Ranked Public HBCU

North Carolina A&T State University is the No. 1 public historically black university in the nation, according to the U.S. News & World Report's 2016 Best Colleges rankings.

The multi-platform news provider ranked N.C. A&T No. 9 out of 72 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), up one spot from the previous year. A&T last ranked as the top public HBCU in 2014. To qualify for ranking, a college or university must be designated an HBCU by the Department of Education and be a baccalaureate-granting institution that enrolls primarily first-year, first-time students. The college or university had to have also taken part in the 2016 Best Colleges survey and ranking process.

"For 125 years, N.C. A&T has maintained a rich tradition in academics, research, discovery and outreach. It gives us great pride to be recognized as the No. 1 public HBCU in the nation and ranked among the top 10 of the nation's outstanding historically black institutions," said Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr.

"As we pause to celebrate this university's dynamic resilience from humble beginnings, there is still much work to be done as outlined in our strategic plan, A&T Preeminence 2020."

For this ranking, U.S. News & World Report compared HBCUs using the key measures of graduation and retention rates; peer assessment; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; and alumni giving to calculate each college or university's rank.

The university was also ranked among the top half of the Best Online Degree Programs for undergraduate degrees, in the second tier of Best National Universities and among the top of the nation's Best Undergraduate Business Programs, Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs as well as the graduate industrial/manufacturing/systems engineering, mechanical engineering and rehabilitation counseling programs.

Established in 1891, A&T is a land-grant doctoral, higher research activity university dedicated to learning, discovery, and community engagement. This is the fourth consecutive year the university has been ranked as the top HBCU in North Carolina.



MONEY Magazine Ranks N.C. A&T as One of Top 10 Best Colleges in the State

North Carolina A&T State University was ranked among North Carolina's top 10 by MONEY magazine's Best Colleges.

In a special report MONEY determined the best four-year colleges and universities that offer the most value. In this report, value equals a great education at an affordable price that helps students launch promising careers.

The methodology uses 21 factors including six-year graduation rate, peer quality, instructor quality, net price of the degree, debt, affordability for low to moderate income students and others, across three categories—quality of education, affordability and outcomes—each equaling one-third of the overall weight.

"It is encouraging to have N.C. A&T be ranked among the top of North Carolina's 56 four-year institutions," said Provost Joe B. Whitehead, Jr. "We strive daily to create learning opportunities that will position our students for success after graduation."

MONEY initially assessed approximately 1,500 of the United States' colleges and universities. In an initial cut, the magazine screened out the schools with graduation rates below the median and those facing financial difficulty. That left 736 institutions to rank, 24 of those are in North Carolina.

A&T is a land-grant, doctoral, higher research activity university that offers 59 undergraduate degrees with 96 concentrations, 31 master's degrees with 49 concentrations, and nine doctoral degrees.

For additional information about the university and options for post-secondary education, visit the university's website at www.ncat.edu.

MBA in HR Management Ranked One of Most Affordable

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in human resource management at North Carolina A&T State University has been ranked No. 3 as one of the most affordable by Human Resources MBA.

Using the most recent information available from the National Center for Education Statistics, Human Resources MBA ranked the top 50 colleges and universities that offer the most affordable human resources programs in the United States.

"Students today are rightly concerned with the increasing cost and accompanying debt of graduate education," said Dr. Roger J. Gagnon, director of the MBA program at N.C. A&T.

"Selecting a high quality, MBA program that will provide you with both a sound human resource management education and a promising career, while not plummeting you into burdensome debt, is a wise long-term decision.

"Our MBA program is distinct for it will help you achieve your educational and career goals, while remaining truly affordable."

A little more than a year old, the Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business (AACSB) International-accredited MBA program at A&T enhances managerial decision-making in three areas: accounting, supply chain systems and human resources management.

Human Resources MBA identified the colleges and universities in the country that offered an advanced degree in human resources. From that list, 110 universities were identified and narrowed to 50 which offered the MBA for less than \$13,000 per year—making them an excellent choice for students interested in pursuing this challenging and rewarding career path. The School of Business and Economics, accredited by the AACSB International, has been committed to educational excellence and the development of business leaders for more than 30 years.

Human Resources MBA was founded in 2011 with the mission to provide the latest expert information about the best human resources degrees available in the traditional, on-campus setting as well as online.

N.C. A&T Remains a Top Producer of Engineers

For the sixth consecutive year, North Carolina A&T State University has been ranked the No. 1 producer of undergraduate level engineering degrees awarded to African Americans in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine's Top 100 ranking.

N.C. A&T was also ranked the No. 1 producer of African American degrees in parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies on the undergraduate level, up eight spots from the 2014 ranking.

"We are delighted with this year's rankings in *Diverse's* Top 100 lists," said Provost Joe B. Whitehead Jr., "North Carolina A&T State University is committed to providing students with the knowledge base required for initial and long-term success in the global market place."

Each year, *Diverse* ranks the Top 100 colleges and universities across the country on the number of degrees awarded to African American, Native American, Asian American and Hispanic students across 43 categories.

No. 1 producer of African American undergraduate level engineering degrees

No. 1 producer of African American undergraduate level degrees in parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies

No. 2 in degrees awarded to African Americans in agriculture, agriculture operations and related sciences; engineering technologies and engineering-related fields; and mathematics and statistics

A&T was ranked No. 2 in degrees awarded to African Americans in agriculture, agriculture operations and related sciences; engineering technologies and engineering-related fields; and mathematics and statistics.

The university is also a Top 5 producer of degrees awarded to African Americans in communication, journalism and related programs; and all disciplines combined. A&T is a Top 10 producer of degrees awarded to African Americans in visual and performing arts; liberal arts and sciences, general studies and humanities; marketing; family and consumer sciences/human sciences; psychology and physical sciences.

The university was ranked a top producer of degrees to African Americans in the categories of accounting and related services; biological and biomedical sciences; business administration, management and operations; business, management, marketing and related support services; computer and information sciences and support services; education; finance and financial management services; history; and homeland security, law enforcement, firefighting and related protective services.

A&T also ranked No. 3 in doctoral degrees awarded to African Americans in engineering and No. 3 in master's degrees awarded to the same group in physical sciences, mathematics and statistics. The university ranks No. 4 in graduate degrees awarded to African Americans for master's degrees in engineering and engineering technologies and engineering-related fields.

The university is a Top 5 producer of master's degrees to African Americans in English Language and Literature/Letters and is ranked as a top producer of master's degrees in education, biological and biomedical sciences.

A&T is ranked No. 40 as a producer of African American doctoral degrees and No. 43 as a producer of African American master's degrees.

NBCUniversal Establishes Multi-year Partnership with JOMC



N.C. A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. (left) observes as alumnus Terrence Jenkins '04 signs check representing a \$100,000 endowed gift to the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

NBCUniversal has extended a partnership with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (JOMC) at N.C. A&T, to further develop initiatives to direct graduates of historically black colleges and universities into media careers.

During the department's 2015 Media Week celebration, representatives from NBCUniversal including Craig Robinson, executive vice president and chief diversity officer; Sal Mendoza, vice president of diversity and inclusion; James Seldric Blocker, talent acquisition lead-campus programs; and A&T alumnus Anzio Williams '94, vice president of news at NBC10 in Philadelphia, joined alumnus, television host and actor Terrence Jenkins '04 to celebrate Terrence J Day and to announce the partnership.

"We are proud to join Terrence on this special day and continue our partnership with N.C. A&T State (University), to help prepare and equip students with the necessary tools to succeed in the competitive media industry," Robinson said.



In March 2015, NBCUniversal established a partnership with JOMC in which the media giant donated \$50,000 to JOMC to sponsor the department's annual National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Multimedia Short Course. NBCUniversal will continue that partnership with the university for four years as well as provide internship and recruitment opportunities in the areas of news, research, TV programming and public relations to JOMC students via its program, Campus 2 Career.

NBCUniversal is recognized as one of the industry's leaders in developing new talent and pursuing comprehensive, multiyear plans to recruit, retain and develop diverse employees and executives in every area of its business.

Jenkins spent the day on campus engaging with students, faculty, staff and donors after announcing a \$100,000 endowment for the department.

"The reason why I have the career I have is because of the four years I spent here," Jenkins said in his announcement.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Makes Four-Year Contribution to Sustain and Improve Health of State’s Residents

Leading health care provider Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross) has committed to making a four-year, \$1 million contribution to support North Carolina A&T State University.

The contribution will significantly and directly impact the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES), the School of Education and the Student Health Center, where funds will benefit established programs, professorships and scholarships mutually agreed upon by Blue Cross and the university.

This contribution agreement helps N.C. A&T and Blue Cross promote a lifetime of healthy behaviors. It aims to create lasting change within the scope and reach of the recipients and their respective communities.

“This gift allows faculty and students in the School of Education to engage in the critical research necessary to ensure people from diverse backgrounds receive the valuable information they need to live long, productive, healthy lives,” said Dr. Anthony Graham, professor and interim dean of the School of Education. “We are thankful Blue Cross has chosen to partner with us on this initiative.”

Dr. Shirley Hymon-Parker, interim dean of the SAES, said the grant award significantly aids in the delivery of food-systems outreach to the public.

“This is an investment that ultimately helps us in the SAES at A&T to sustain and improve the health of North Carolina’s residents,” said Hymon-Parker. “Through food-based research, outreach and education conducted by our faculty and students, the SAES addresses such issues as obesity, nutrition and local foods that affect the health and vitality of our communities. This level of sustained support from the state’s largest insurer is a perfect fit for what our land-grant institution is created to do: use education to benefit and improve its communities.”

As a leading healthcare provider, this gift from Blue Cross is particularly important to the university’s Student Health Center and demonstrates the company’s dedication to truly supporting well-being initiatives of the future.

“Investing in programs that educate students and the general public about health and wellness benefits all residents of this state,” said Kathy Higgins, vice president of corporate affairs for Blue Cross. “This contribution also supports local and minority farmers. We couldn’t be more proud to be part of the great work A&T is doing for North Carolina’s agriculture.”

“The Student Health Center recognizes that health education is a mandate that rivals our obligation to deliver quality clinical treatment to our students,” said Dr. David Wagner, director of the center. “The donation to our Health Resource Center supports this didactic imperative. These funds will assist us toward our goal of molding vigorous, well informed, health sensitive graduates who, in turn, will promote these values to future generations.”

N.C. A&T and Verizon Select 400 At-risk Students to Explore STEM Fields

Through a pioneering mentorship program developed by Verizon, 400 at-risk middle school boys in Greensboro are working with top, local innovators to develop high-level technology skills that will lead to a brighter future in the classroom and beyond.

The Minority Male Makers Program is a two-year program that gives African-American middle school students hands-on technology experience in a range of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines: mobile app design, coding, computer programming, robotics, and 3D printing. Professors at North Carolina A&T State University instruct the students during intensive, all-day classes on campus.

“The Minority Male Makers program offers the 400 student participants from Greensboro a level of access to technology, mentors and N.C. A&T that they have never had,” said Dr. Benjamin Obinero Uwakweh, dean of A&T’s School of Technology.

This past summer, the students worked with team leaders and mentors who happen to be alumni of the School of Education and learned from professors from the School of Technology. Drs. Clay Gloster (School of Technology) and Lory Floyd (School of Education) led the effort, and Shaw Tuck (School of Education) is the project director.

“It is our hope that the students’ experience with Minority Male Makers will pique their interests in not only technology but other STEM-related disciplines as well,” said Uwakweh.

Verizon saw a troubling trend: African American males account for just five percent of college students. Additionally, African American men are more likely than any other ethnic group in the U.S. to not complete high school on time, become unemployed or incarcerated.

The wireless carrier developed the Minority Male Makers program to help provide a solution by investing in the futures of African American men as early as middle school. The program seeks to inspire students to explore the types of high-demand STEM fields that will enable them to make technology concepts a reality.

The intensive program is using technology to foster skills and attitudes in these boys—including curiosity, critical thinking, creative problem solving, and confidence—that will help them throughout their lives.

The summer portion of the program lasts four weeks with all-day workshops. During the 2015-16 school year, students will participate in check-in sessions for ongoing mentoring and academic support.

“Through the Minority Male Makers program, Verizon wants to see a new generation gain a passion for science and technology related fields, and as a leading technology company we are in a unique position to demonstrate to students the types of impacts technology can have on the world around us,” said Jerry Fountain, Verizon Wireless president for the Carolinas and Tennessee.

When Verizon set out to develop the Minority Male Makers program, A&T was one of four historically black colleges and universities across the country selected by the company to help develop and carry out the program. The other colleges include Jackson State University in Mississippi, Morgan State University in Maryland and Kentucky State University in Frankfort.

“The City of Greensboro is glad to have an opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the program. Local educators at N.C. A&T have worked closely with Verizon to develop curriculum that will give Greensboro middle school minority boys the promise of a brighter future,” said Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan. “This program demonstrates how technology and entrepreneurship education can help young African-American men achieve success in school and in the jobs of tomorrow.”

insideaggieland continued

Food Access Program Funded

A \$750,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is helping to get to the root of food-system inequities influenced by structural racism, in a project being led by The Cooperative Extension Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in conjunction with the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS).

A racially diverse team of experts is working with grassroots groups in Nash, Edgecombe and Scotland counties throughout the two-year span of the grant to assess how racial barriers can influence access to food. The project will also address ways to remove those barriers.

Leading the team is Shorlette Ammons-Stephens, N.C. A&T-based community food-systems outreach coordinator at the CEFS, a partnership of A&T and N.C. State University—the state’s two land-grant institutions—and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. CEFS has a statewide focus on research, Cooperative Extension and education in sustainable agriculture and community-based food systems, and operates a 2,000-acre research program at Cherry Research Farm in Goldsboro.

Ammons-Stephens has a background in food-justice issues and the work she administers through the Kellogg Foundation-funded initiative will help create a national model that other communities can apply to their problems with food access.

“It’s a very complex problem and it will take a variety of different approaches,” Ammons-Stephens said of the initiative. “We chose to work with community organizations that live these conditions every day and to let them be experts in their own realities and experiences.”

Among the most limited-resource challenged areas in the state, Nash, Edgecombe and Scotland counties have high incidences of food insecurity, unemployment and poor health. North Carolina is the fifth most food insecure state in the nation according to USDA reports; one of every four children is food insecure; and eating nutritiously is particularly burdensome for low-income residents in food deserts, who can have limited transportation access to areas to buy fresh fruits and vegetables.

“We’re looking at how we can support communities in developing more equitable sustainable, local-food systems that create access to opportunity for all people,” Ammons-Stephens said. “Creating a better food system involves creating better access to opportunities for underserved farmers, building career ladders in the food system for youth, increasing wages for farmworkers, decreasing chronic health conditions in low-income communities and communities of color. So this effort should involve a wide range of our community.”

For more information about the project, contact Ammons-Stephens at sammonss@ncat.edu.

North Carolina is the fifth most food insecure state in the nation according to USDA reports.

Partnership Formed with Elon Law for New Juris Doctorate Program

North Carolina A&T State University and Elon University School of Law have announced the new Accelerated Pathway to Law School (APLS) Program partnership.

The APLS program creates an opportunity for N.C. A&T students to earn a law degree in five and one-half years—attending three years at A&T and two and one-half years at Elon Law. Students participating in the program will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies with a concentration in pre-law from A&T and a Juris Doctorate from Elon Law.

“We are delighted to build upon the relationship with Elon University School of Law to provide expanded opportunities for North Carolina A&T graduates,” said Dr. Joe B. Whitehead Jr., provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at A&T.

Initially, admission to the new program will be limited to six to nine students per year. A junior A&T student who has followed the unique accelerated liberal studies curriculum, earned at least 60 credit hours, and met all other additional entrance requirements stipulated by both schools, can apply to enter Elon Law as a first-year law student, beginning the senior year at Elon Law.

Although the program will be conducted through partnership and mutually agreed upon stipulations, the application process was managed through A&T’s Pre-Professional Scholars Program (PPSP) Office. The application period for fall semester 2016 admission ended May 1.

“Students participating in the APLS program will benefit from a strategic and innovative approach in higher education that dramatically reduces the time and costs associated with becoming a lawyer, while enriching learning through recurring and immersive practical experiences,” said Andy Haile, Elon Law associate dean for academic affairs and associate professor of law.

The pre-law concentration at A&T fosters the skills designated by the American Bar Association as ideal for providing a “sound foundation for a legal education.” Elon University School of Law is nationally recognized for its rigorous curriculum, innovation and groundbreaking model for legal education taught by highly accomplished faculty.

For more information about the Accelerated Pathway to Law School Program visit the N.C. A&T Pre-Professional Scholars Program or Elon Law Articulation Agreements online.

North Carolina A&Teach Receives \$1.19 Million NSF Grant

The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1.19 million grant to support the North Carolina A&Teach STEM Scholars Program, which aims to produce and support highly qualified K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics educators (STEM) who can effectively deliver inquiry-based instruction that is concurrently culturally relevant to students in high-need schools.

Funding is over a period of five years. Dr. Anthony Graham is the principal investigator (PI), and Drs. Tyrette Carter, Ereka Williams, Sayo Fakayode and Cailisha Petty are the co-PIs.

This collaborative project between North Carolina A&T State University, Guilford County Schools, Guilford Education Alliance and the Elimu Learning Center for Refugee Newcomers will recruit high-achieving undergraduate STEM majors at N.C. A&T and prepare them to concurrently earn baccalaureate degrees in a STEM discipline and an initial teacher certification in the state of North Carolina. The program will subsequently assist STEM Scholars with gaining employment as a secondary STEM teacher in a high need school and will supplement the district’s induction support services, ensuring the employment retention of newly certified STEM Scholars.

North Carolina A&Teach is designed to achieve the following objectives: (1) recruit 25 high-achieving undergraduate STEM students to attain teacher licensure and baccalaureate degrees in a high need STEM discipline; (2) engage STEM Scholars in a preparatory curriculum and professional development that enhance their STEM content knowledge and expertise with inquiry-based learning and culturally relevant pedagogy in STEM courses; and (3) prepare STEM Scholars to positively impact K-12 student learning through early field experiences with diverse students, community-based activities with families and non-profit organizations, clinical practice in high need schools, mentoring relationships with master classroom teachers, apprenticeship experiences with University STEM faculty, and internships in STEM businesses.

\$2.4 Million Received for Teacher Preparation, Scholarships



The School of Education at North Carolina A&T State University has been awarded two grants to enhance efforts to recruit students into teacher education and to prepare them to integrate culturally relevant teaching practices into special education.

The Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education awarded Drs. Cathy Kea and Gloria Elliott \$1.2 million each for their work on Project CREED (Culturally Responsive Exceptional Educators for Diversity) and Project PAPERS (Preparing Adapted Physical Educators to Render Services), respectively.

“Each of these projects demonstrates our faculty’s commitment to improving teachers’ preparedness to engage students from diverse backgrounds through high-quality instruction,” said Dr. Anthony Graham, interim dean of the School of Education. “Immersing candidates in innovative, research-verified instructional practices that leverage K-12 students’ cultural backgrounds as tools for engagement in the classroom rather than tools for exclusion will certainly have a positive impact on their learning experiences.”

Kea, a professor of curriculum and instruction, will use the funds to produce and support well qualified, culturally competent pre-service general and special

educators who can effectively deliver data-based intensive intervention instruction in high need school districts, high poverty and low performing schools in diverse communities for Project CREED.

Elliott, an assistant professor of human performance and leisure studies, will use the funds over a five-year period to recruit and prepare highly qualified adapted physical education teachers at the master’s level who will be able to render high quality physical education services for diverse learners with disabilities in public school settings so they may safely and successfully engage in physical activities in the least restricted environment in rural, suburban, or urban settings with Project PAPERS.

N.C. A&T to Get New Engineering Complex

After the March 15 state primary election, North Carolina A&T State University stakeholders have a reason to celebrate. With nearly 66 percent of the vote, North Carolina voters overwhelmingly approved the \$2 billion Connect NC bond. The bond will bring \$90 million to the university.

“North Carolina voters reaffirmed their commitment to improve the quality of life for all residents in our state by approving the \$2 billion Connect NC bond referendum,” Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. said in a statement to the campus community. “The bond will provide critical investments in North Carolina’s university system, community colleges, the National Guard, state parks, and water and sewer systems.”

N.C. A&T’s \$90 million-share will fund the Engineering Research and Innovation Complex (ERIC) that will serve as a catalyst for short- and long-term economic growth and development. The ERIC will help the university foster partnerships with local and regional industries and create job opportunities that directly benefit the entire community as companies seek to meet the global demands of the future.

N.C. A&T’s \$90 million-share of the \$2 billion Connect NC bond will fund the Engineering Research and Innovation Complex (ERIC).

The bond positions the state to finance much-needed capital and infrastructure improvement projects across 76 counties. The day after the monumental vote, Governor Pat McCrory visited A&T on the second stop of his three-stop “Thank You Tour” to express gratitude to voters.

“I’m here to thank the citizens of North Carolina for recognizing the importance of investing in the next generation and the generation after that and the generation after that,” McCrory said at A&T. “If we don’t invest in the next generation, we will no longer be competitive, not only with our neighboring states but the rest of the world.”

This is North Carolina’s first bond since 2000, when voters approved a \$3.1 billion bond for construction on the University of North Carolina system and community college campuses. Over the last 16 years, the state’s population has grown by 2 million.

Traditionally, bond referendums are financed by tax increases. Connect NC has come at a time when the state is experiencing strong revenue growth with an ample debt service capacity. This bond will allow the state to pay for 50-year assets with 20-year financing and will not require a tax increase.

For additional information about A&T’s ERIC facility, visit the university’s website.



Partnership Formed with Duke to Fill Gap in Bioinformatic Training

North Carolina A&T State University and Duke University have been awarded a \$3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Traineeship grant to develop a program for graduate students who are interested in microbiome research.

Designed to transcend communication barriers between disciplines and promote team science, the five-year grant will enable project leaders across both institutions to create an interdisciplinary educational platform for biologists, engineers, computer scientists and biostatisticians. The new training program will address current training gaps by creating an educational model where microbiologists, engineers, statisticians and other empirical scientists will be cross-trained with theorists, model builders and computational scientists. They will also learn to engage with the community through outreach activities aimed at promoting science and engineering to the general public.

The project is a collaboration between N.C. A&T (nanoengineering, natural resources and environmental design, biology and computer science) and various entities of Duke's campus, including the Pratt School of Engineering, the Nicholas School of the Environment, Trinity College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine.

The new training program will address current training gaps by creating an educational model where microbiologists, engineers, statisticians and other empirical scientists will be cross-trained with theorists, model builders and computational scientists.

The program will have an emphasis on the recruitment of minority students and women in fields in which they have been severely underrepresented. It presents an opportunity to bring students together who do not typically interact to open their eyes to other activities or careers that they might not have otherwise heard about. The desire is for the program to better prepare students to meet future research needs and accelerate research innovation.

"A unique feature of our team is the presence of women and underrepresented minority faculty in the core leadership of the project. This is usually not the case in these fields," said Joseph L. Graves Jr., associate dean for research at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, A&T and UNCG, who is a co-principal investigator on the grant.



Marching Band Performs at Mardi Gras

The N.C. A&T Blue and Gold Marching Machine performed in the famed Rex Parade and participated in Mardi Gras activities in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Feb. 9. The band was formally invited by the organizers of the parade to participate in this year's festivities.

"It is a tremendous opportunity for the A&T Blue and Gold Marching Machine to perform on another world class stage. These performances reflect the talent, style and overall coordination of the band under the excellent leadership of Dr.

Kenneth G. Ruff and his senior team," said Dr. Melody Pierce, vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

More than 200 band members, accompanied by staff and chaperones, traveled to New Orleans to explore the historic city and perform.

Since its inception in 1872, the Rex Parade has been considered a highlight of Mardi Gras daytime festivities.



campus briefs

Faculty and Staff



Dr. Chi Anyansi-Archibong, professor of strategic and global business management in the Department of Management, School of Business and Economics, was part of a local team of educators and business professionals awarded \$500,000 for first place in the City of Greensboro’s Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Challenge prize competition. Their strategic economic development plan proposal for a Global Opportunities Center was one of six to make the final round of consideration.



Dr. Robin N. Cogger, dean of the College of Engineering, has been named to the board of directors of FIRST, an international nonprofit that promotes K-12 students’ interest and participation in science and technology. N.C. A&T is the North Carolina Operational Partner for FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST® Tech Challenge. The university manages state competitions for both programs. FIRST is based in Manchester, New Hampshire.



Dr. Linda Silver Coley, associate professor of marketing and supply chain management in the Department of Marketing, Transportation and Supply Chain, School of Business and Economics, has co-authored the book, “Supply Chain Management for the Curious: Why Study Supply Chain Management?” The book is designed to increase global awareness of supply chain management careers, promote undergraduate and graduate interest in the major and enhance enrollment among the featured universities. Professors in the United States, Australia, Canada and Europe collaborated on the work. Coley is first author and a member of the advisory and editorial board.



Dr. Salil S. Desai, associate professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and director of the

Integrated Nano and Bio Manufacturing Laboratory, is one of 17 faculty members from across the University of North Carolina system chosen for the UNC Board of Governors 2016 Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Desai was nominated by an N.C. A&T special committee and selected by the Board of Governor’s Committee on Personnel and Tenure. He has been a faculty member at A&T since 2004.

Desai’s expertise covers the areas of multiscale-multiphysics modeling, direct-write technologies, nanoimprint lithography, and combinatorial additive manufacturing with applications in biomedical implants, semiconductor electronics and energy devices. His work and research has netted more than \$5 million from various public and private agencies including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy to develop innovative courses and programs in advanced manufacturing.

Each of this year’s winners will receive a commemorative bronze medallion and a \$12,500 cash prize. A Board of Governors member will present the award to Desai during the spring commencement ceremonies.



Erin Hill Hart is the associate vice provost for enrollment management. Hart has 14 years of leadership experience as a higher education

administrator, most recently serving as assistant vice president for enrollment management at Delaware State University. The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, native earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication and a Master of Science degree in higher education administration from Appalachian State University.

The associate vice provost for enrollment management serves as the chief enrollment officer with principal responsibility for developing a comprehensive enrollment management plan that fosters an integrative recruitment and admission effort consistent with the university’s strategic goals and direction. This position has direct managerial responsibility and oversight for the Offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, the Registrar and New Student Programs.



Dr. Terry Ward is the interim dean of the School of Nursing. Ward previously served as an associate dean since 2013. Prior to N.C. A&T, she served as an assistant

professor in the Duke University School of Nursing. She earned her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and her master’s and bachelor’s degrees in nursing from the University of Mobile in Alabama, and is certified as a nurse educator and mental health aide instructor.



Dr. Cindy K. Waters, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, was one of four delegates chosen to attend the Gender Summit 7 (GS7) in Berlin, Germany. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

awarded Waters and three female faculty researchers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from minority-serving institutions funding from the National Science Foundation to travel to Europe for one week. GS7 Europe 2015 was designed to advance understanding of when, how and why gender issues in research can produce different outcomes for women and men. The idea is to demonstrate the important intellectual, societal and economic benefits of gender mainstreaming in research.



Charles E. Wilson Jr. is the police chief at N.C. A&T. Wilson brings with him more than 25 years of law enforcement experience. Prior to A&T, Wilson served the Hickory Police Department for 12 years, first as a supervisor for patrol

and investigations as well as lieutenant, later as commander of the Police and Communities Together (P.A.C.T.) program. Most recently, he spent seven years with the Morrisville Police Department as captain and director of support services. He also served in the U.S. Army.

Wilson holds certifications in computer voice stress analysis as well as law enforcement and advance law enforcement, both in the state of North Carolina. He earned his associate degree in applied science in criminal justice from Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, North Carolina, and his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk. He has also received some education and training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, the FBI Carolina Command College in Myrtle Beach, as well as his basic noncommissioned officer course and primary leadership development course at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, and Ft. Lewis, Washington, respectively.

campus briefs

continued

Students



Junior computer science major **Angelica Willis** was one of nine individuals from across the country honored as a White House Champion of Change in January.

“Being selected as a Champion of Change for Computer Science Education is an amazing honor that celebrates my accomplishments thus far, but I also see it as a call to action to continue working toward my goals for my education, research and community outreach surrounding computer science,” Willis said.

As an honoree, Willis participated in a panel discussion on computer science education beyond the classroom as well as a roundtable discussion in the West Wing, which included the United States Chief Technology Officer, Megan Smith.

Willis currently oversees an initiative to develop an entrepreneurship, design and computer science-centered Makerspace for at-risk youth and underrepresented communities in Greensboro. Relatively new in concept, a Makerspace is a do-it-yourself space that gives individuals access to various hardware, software, electronics, supplies and tools to be able to create, invent and learn collaboratively.

The Champions of Change for computer science program honors everyday Americans doing extraordinary things in their communities including outstanding students who demonstrate creativity in their applications, or a high proficiency in computer science and leadership both inside and outside of the classroom. It is also a result of President Obama issuing the challenge to help win America’s future by out-educating, out-innovating and out-building the nation’s competitors in the 21st century.

Willis is also a 2015-2016 Student Ambassador through the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCUs) All-Stars program, and a 2016 CODE2040 Fellow, Apple HBCU Scholar and Stanford University Epicenter’s University Innovation Fellow. In addition, she interned with NASA, working on ecological forecasting research with space satellites to support reforestation in Rwanda.

Willis’ profile can be viewed on the Champions of Change website at www.whitehouse.gov/champions.

Paul Hammond, Zanetta Tyler and **Angelica Willis** were among 31 other recipients from participating historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) for the newly created Apple HBCU Scholars Program—a partnership between Apple Inc. and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. The program is the first of its kind to utilize the nearly untapped pool of exceptional students and resources of HBCUs. Recipients must have at least a 3.3 GPA to participate, gaining unprecedented access to different departments within the company.

Each student will be awarded \$25,000 during their senior year of study. Additionally, recipients will be paired with an Apple employee for three months. They will also participate in a 10-day, see-it-all visit to the company headquarters in Cupertino, California, prior to the internship.

Zeta Sigma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, The International Honor Organization for Financial Information Students and Professionals, competed at the 2015 Beta Alpha Psi Annual Meeting that convened in Milwaukee. **Ashley Patterson**, senior accounting major, and **Payton Sartin**, senior accounting major, won first place in the International Impact Category of the Best Practices competition. The pair presented information about the chapter’s partnership with the Doris Henderson Newcomers School. (During the 2014-15 academic year, chapter members volunteered at the school every other Friday.) The chapter competed against and triumphed over nine regions nationwide for the opportunity to compete at the annual meeting.



Madeline N. Keefer, senior biological engineering student from Morehead City, has been awarded a Netherland-America Foundation (NAF)-Fulbright Grant to conduct research in flood/water management at Delft University of Technology (Delft, Netherlands), Aug. 26 through June 5, 2017.

Set to graduate in May, Keefer has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and is a Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Scholar. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and she is a mentor in the University Honors Program.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries. The program was established in 1946, under legislation introduced by then-Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Approximately 318,000 “Fulbrighters” from the U.S. and other countries have participated in the program since its inception. Approximately 8,000 grants are awarded annually. Participants are awarded on the basis of their academic merit and leadership potential. Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

As the result of a cooperative venture among the NAF, the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York and the Fulbright Center in Amsterdam, the NAF offers a limited number of NAF-Fulbright Fellowships annually. The program brings Dutch scholars to the U.S. and American scholars to the Netherlands to pursue opportunities to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

The National Association of Women in Construction has awarded scholarships to three undergraduate students in the School of Technology: **Nzinga Hawkins**, senior construction management major; **Antonio Sanchez**, junior construction management major; and **Wasilat Usman**, sophomore construction management major. College of Engineering graduate student Rand Talib also received a scholarship. Each student received \$1,500.

SERVANT LEADER

Erskine Bowles Award winner is inspired
to protect and grow the community.

By Phillip Ramati

Taking a cursory look at his neighborhood of Warnersville in Greensboro, it's very easy to see why James Griffin has had a lifelong passion for serving his community.

It's a passion for which Griffin, 50, who serves as the special purchasing agent for North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, has been awarded the 2015 Erskine Bowles Community Service Award.

"It means a great deal to me, because a lot of times I do things for the community and for the university. I just do them; to be recognized by my peers is just tremendous," said Griffin, a graduate of North Carolina Central University. "You don't do it for the recognition."

At the end of the Civil War, some 35 acres of land was purchased south of Greensboro as the first African-American neighborhood in the state. Griffin's family owned land in the neighborhood for a century, and growing up in Warnersville shaped him in a variety of ways.

Griffin learned to have a passion for serving the community through his mother, Constance, who served as a community leader for decades. She worked as an assistant director with the city's parks and recreation department until her retirement, and the community center served not only as a place for meetings and recreation, but also where a sense of unity was fostered. Today, a softball field in the community is named in her honor.

"I pretty much watched her all my life, taking all that in," Griffin said. "In college, I noticed I began to take a leadership role, be involved in community service events. And from there it just grew. Whenever I worked somewhere, I'd always take on that extra role for involvement in the community. It was prominent to me at a young age from my mother's activities."

That sense of community prospered even as Warnersville underwent massive changes during the 1960s as part of forced urban renewal by the government. Griffin and his family were forced to move from the house he grew up in to a different residence located on the same street.

That experience continues to have a profound effect on Griffin, whose job it is to acquire land to help North Carolina A&T grow its footprint in Greensboro. Sometimes, doing his job means acquiring property from a family still living in a residence in an area where the university hopes to expand, and Griffin said he's very sensitive to the needs of that family.

"When I'm buying real estate sometimes, I think about that," he said. "I'm more sensitive to people's needs and concerns, because I never force or try to get anybody to do anything that they don't want to do."

MAN WITH A PLAN

Griffin often is able to convince his colleagues and administration to go along with his plans and ideas because he spends so much time preparing to make his case. Once he commits an idea to paper, he sets about getting it accomplished.

"If I write something down, it has to be done," he said with a laugh.

North Carolina A&T Chancellor Harold Martin said it's that sense of determination that has made Griffin so effective in his duties and such a leader on campus. In addition to his regular job and his volunteer work, Griffin currently serves as chairman of the staff senate.

"James rarely takes no for an answer," Martin said. "He's pretty persistent, quite honestly. In all of our meetings, he would always have an agenda. He's always organized. He's very clear about what he's trying to accomplish, and I like that about him. I'd say he borders on the side of pushy and demanding, attributes I like very much in a leader."

Not only does Griffin use that side of his personality for work projects, but also to convince fellow staff to work within the community.

"He utilizes those talents and that leadership to connect our university as chair of our staff senate, and utilizes the talents of our staff senate to volunteer extensively in this community," Martin said of Griffin's work with parents, students and teachers in the Greensboro school system. "He also works very closely with our staff to give of their time and their treasure in collecting food and money to invest in those communities for those who are hungry, those who are homeless—again to help support this community in general. James brings the very best of values and experiences to our community and university."

Shalane Griffin (no relation to James), service contract manager at the university, is one of the staff members who nominated him for the Erskine Bowles Award.

"I saw that his passion for giving back and community service spilled over in the workforce," she said. "When I heard about the Erskine Bowles Award, knowing you have people who do great things in the community, I thought that's a great fit. ... I didn't see how they could choose anybody else with his name (on the ballot)."

SERVANT LEADER

Shalane Griffin and James Griffin grew up together in the Warnersville neighborhood as children, and she knows where he gets his sense of community spirit.

“I knew his mother, and I knew how she worked in the community, and I see her in him every time he’s talking and striving toward something,” she said.

In her nomination letter, Shalane Griffin wrote: “... that those leadership attributes were ingrained in James because he has continued to render exceptional service to that same community today.”

She said James Griffin is clear when he wants the staff to know his expectations of them.

“He’s one of those leaders who can motivate,” she said. “He can give (an assignment) to you to do, and he expects it to be done. As far as it being in a leadership capacity, I see it carrying over to his job. ... He makes his goals very clear. You want to do what he says, because he has a purpose behind them. He’s not doing stuff to be seen, he’s doing stuff to lead to something bigger.”

PRESERVING HIS PASSION

Beyond the volunteer hours he gives to the community each year, Griffin was also instrumental in making certain that Warnersville gets its just due.

He founded the Warnersville Historical and Beautification Society to help maintain the neighborhood, and helped create an award-winning exhibit at the Greensboro Historical Museum.

Griffin and others helped establish the Shalonda Pool Memorial Site in the neighborhood, honoring the memory of a 7-year-old murder victim who lived in Warnersville. He also helped create a music festival for the community.

“James is obviously very involved in the Warnersville community,” said Jon Zachman, curator of collections for the museum. “There’s been a resurgence of interest in Warnersville because of James spearheading the effort.”

Zachman said Griffin was key in bridging the gap between the neighborhood residents and those putting together the exhibit, encouraging people to loan the museum old photographs and artifacts as well as share their stories.

Griffin learned to have a passion for serving the community through his mother, Constance, who served as a community leader for decades.

“I think the establishment of the Warnersville community museum to me is definitely one of the highlights,” said Griffin, the youngest of six siblings to grow up there. “The Warnersville community is 150 years old. It’s the first African-American community planned for the city of Greensboro. Eight years ago, I started the Warnersville Historical and Beautification Society with the goal of making Warnersville a nationally recognized community. This year, the city council approved Warnersville as the first heritage community in the state of North Carolina. So that was a big achievement.”

A GIANT FOOTPRINT

Under Griffin’s leadership, the North Carolina A&T campus has grown by about 35 acres over the past decade, with little plans to slow down any time soon.

To judge Griffin by the merits of how he does his day-to-day job would be impressive enough, but in fact he concerns himself in many different aspects of life at North Carolina A&T.

That includes everything from encouraging staff and faculty with music talent to participate in the music festival to coming up with ways to support the school’s student-athletes in sports that are less visible than the football and basketball programs.

“James has been involved in our staff for many, many years, but in the last six years or so, he has been a leader among members of our staff senate, now serving as chair of our staff senate,” Martin said. “For James to be recognized for his significant leadership role in community engagement, both in this community, our campus and through our system with the staff senate, it’s very meaningful to our campus, especially being a good example for our staff senators in the future.”

Griffin said he looks for ways to link the university’s Mission 2020 strategic plan with the Greensboro community.

“Part of the chancellor’s Mission 2020 was to engage the community,” he said. “I took that to heart. So just about in every way, I think of ways I can involve the university in some way.”

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people behind the scholarships



Shown left to right: N.C. A&T student Kayla Mayes; BHLI founder/president and A&T trustee, John W. Bluford III; and A&T students Carla Jones and Imanni Salters.

Carla Jones, Kayla Mayes and **Imanni Salters** were selected from a competitive pool of candidates to participate in the 2015 Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute (BHLI) Scholars leadership development program in Kansas City, Missouri. BHLI offers a unique opportunity to expose talented scholars to exceptional leaders with the goal of decreasing disparities in healthcare leadership by creating a pipeline of talented minority leaders.

The scholars made site trips to the corporate headquarters of the Cerner Corporation and the Kansas City Health Department. They were also exposed to expert presentations from representatives in the fields of finance, law, insurance and healthcare. Next summer they will be placed in internships across the nation.

BHLI was founded by John W. Bluford III, former chairman of the American Hospital Association and former president/CEO of Truman Medical Centers. Bluford is a member the N.C. A&T Board of Trustees. For more information about BHLI, visit the website at www.blufordinstitute.org.

The National Science Foundation
Engineering Research Center at N.C. A&T is

REVOLUTIONIZING BIOMATERIALS RESEARCH



By Tiffany S. Jones '03

For Dr. Jagannathan Sankar, having a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center (ERC) at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is like having the Academy Award for engineering.

“Winning an NSF ERC is a miracle,” he said. “N.C. A&T and its partners worked together in preparing and building this program.”

A&T is the lead institution for one of the NSF’s 19 ERCs across the country. A&T’s ERC for Revolutionizing Metallic Biomaterials (ERC-RMB) is pursuing innovative advances in biomedical and broad-based materials. The ERC-RMB was awarded \$18.5 million in funding over its first five years (2008–2013) to conduct research in biomedical engineering and nano bio applications. In 2013, after a major review, NSF approved funding for another \$12 million for years six to eight.

In 2008, A&T became the first historically black college or university (HBCU) to lead an ERC. This distinction for A&T was about 25 years in the making, Sankar said. Prior to the job search after earning his Ph.D. in advanced materials engineering, Sankar didn’t even know what an HBCU was. Thirty-two years later, he remains at A&T to continue making a significant impact on the university and its students.

“This has become my home,” he said. “You want to make your home look fantastic because it is a reflection of you.”

When he came in 1983 as a mechanical engineering professor, Sankar started to build the infrastructure that would create a research program that remains at the forefront of metallurgy and materials engineering.

In his first 25 years at A&T, Sankar worked with colleagues around the university community to build the necessary infrastructure to create the essential facility and to bring in the needed human resources, the proper intellectual climate, highly motivated students and the fusion of engineering, science and economic development.

“It all has to work together without boundaries,” Sankar said. “That is where innovation occurs.”

Those components, paired with a successful competition that lasted nearly 18 months, led to A&T being selected as the lead institution to partner with the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Cincinnati and the Hannover Medical School in Germany, to intertwine carefully planned, cutting-edge research, education and economic activities on a global level among partner institutions. Outreach institutions for the ERC include California State University Los Angeles, Edmonds Community College in the state of Washington, Guilford Technical Community College, and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.





Sankar Receives One of State’s Most Coveted Awards

North Carolina A&T State University Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Jagannathan “Jag” Sankar can add one more honor to his growing list of accolades – the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

“There is always more to accomplish. It’s a never-ending pathway,” Sankar said.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is an honor conferred by the governor of North Carolina to outstanding North Carolinians with a proven record of service to the state or some other special achievement, and to others as a gesture of friendship and good will. It is among the most sought after and valued awards in the state.

Sankar received his award in June during the annual site visit from representatives of the National Science Foundation to the Engineering Research Center for Revolutionizing Metallic Biomaterials (ERC-RMB) where he serves as director.

This award comes in Sankar’s 32nd year of teaching and research at N.C. A&T. In his years of service to the university, he has also received the O. Max Gardner Award and a White House Millennium Research award, and was named one of the Triad Business Journal’s Most Influential People for seven consecutive years. He also has generated more than \$55 million in competitive research funding and an equipment infrastructure in excess of \$12 million as a principle investigator.

Sankar has been a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) and the National Institute of Aerospace as well as an honorary professor for World-Class University, Chonbuk National University, South Korea.

“A&T is on the path where remarkable steps can be taken,” he said. “I have always been a team builder. Coming to A&T, I got a chance to build from the ground up.”

His honors are a by-product of more than three decades of work and that is part of what he wants to teach his students. While this honor is one of many, he says he will continue working.

“This is global. We are a Generation 3 ERC and that means you have to be a global leader,” Sankar said. “It’s like you are envisioning objectives and laying the five to 10 years ahead of time.”

To remain at the cutting edge, the ERC-RMB’s strategic plan includes three engineered systems: craniofacial and orthopedic applications; cardiovascular and thoracic devices; and responsive biosensors and neural applications. Within those systems, three research thrusts have been identified: new materials development; materials procession/characterization and modeling; and biocompatibility testing.

ERC-RMB researchers have continued to contribute to the knowledge base and gain invaluable experiences and expertise that have led to the development of magnesium-based alloys with tunable properties.

Sankar said these alloys would have a great impact on future medical and nonmedical devices and structural applications.

“Our researchers are doing work on bioreactor modeling for bone and vascular applications that will give new insights into designing the biomedical devices of the future.”

Second year master’s student Ashley Jackson has been working on a finite element analysis of bone remodeling around a biodegradable magnesium-based implant.

“The use of biodegradable metals for medical applications is, in my opinion, the future of medicine. These materials will be used to help the body heal,” she said. “The body has a natural ability to heal itself, but sometimes, it needs a little help. With the use of biodegradable materials, the surgeon places the material and as the body heals, the material dissipates, thus removing the need for a second surgery.”

Jackson said the work researchers are doing at the ERC-RMB can impact a broad range of people and patients.

“We are all working together to revolutionize the future of medicine and biomaterials, and I am extremely proud and lucky to be a part of the progress,” she shared.

In the 2014–15 academic year alone, the ERC-RMB has worked closely with six different industrial partners in pursuing translational opportunities. During this same time period, it has had 48 peer-reviewed publications resulting from ERC-RMB-supported projects. Of those, 38 were co-authored with ERC students.

Involving the students in the research process is necessary for the student and for the continuation of the center.

“Suppose I retire and everything collapses? Then we haven’t created the best possible operation,” Sankar said. “We’re grooming the next generation of researchers to think and carry on what they’ve learned through their work in the ERC.”

Students have also been a part of the ERC-RMB’s oversight function through their activities on the Student Leadership Council, which is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students from A&T and its partner institutions. The council advises the ERC in facilitating research, education and outreach programs.

“Students are involved in almost everything. They attend conferences, compete nationally and win some of the most coveted awards for students,” Sankar said.

“I want them to be superstars. They see that somebody cares and all the people working with me have the same thoughts. Expectations are extremely high, but for them it’s normal.

“As they graduate and move into their own careers, they serve as a dynamic network of emerging and innovative young scientists armed with the skills to successfully complete in the global workforce.”



“Collaborating to create one school enabled both universities to get the support they needed on the local and state levels.”

— DR. JAMES RYAN, DEAN

Big On Creativity

The Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering fosters collaboration and innovation.

By Tiffany S. Jones '03

In his seventh year as dean of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN), Dr. James Ryan says that while the school has evolved from its first concept, it is fulfilling its intent.

“The intent was to increase the two universities’ investment within the community, to build a research infrastructure and to have another program dedicated to the jobs of the 21st century,” Ryan said.

The JSNN is just that—an academic collaboration between North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The school was created to build upon both universities’ strengths and offer innovative, cross-disciplinary graduate programs in nanoengineering from N.C. A&T and nanoscience from UNCG.

“Collaborating to create one school enabled both universities to get the support they needed on the local and state levels,” Ryan said.

Both established in 1891 with the help of local citizens, A&T and UNCG each has its own distinct personality, mission, vision and focus.

Initially created as the State Normal and Industrial School, a college for women by legislative enactment, UNCG first offered classes across the commercial, domestic science and pedagogy departments. UNCG has grown to become one of the largest institutions in the UNC System and currently holds two classifications from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching—research university with high research activity and community engagement.

A&T was established as the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race after the U.S. Congress passed the Second Morrill Act of 1890 mandating that states with land-grant colleges either integrate or create separate land-grant institutions to educate colored students. Instruction was offered in agriculture, English, horticulture and mathematics. A&T also holds two Carnegie classifications—doctoral higher research activity university and community engagement.

The Building

For all of their similarities and differences, both institutions have been committed to strategic collaboration from the very beginning. In fact, both universities gave 75 acres of land to create the Gateway University Research Park across two sites, North Campus off U.S. 29 and South Campus on East Gate City Boulevard near Interstate 40/85. North campus is home to the LifeBalance Employee Assistance Program, the A&T/UNCG Joint Master of Social Work Project, and UNCG’s The SERVE Center and Fibromyalgia Program.

“When I first got here, this building was a pasture,” Ryan said.

Now, the South Campus is home to the JSNN, a 105,000 square-foot facility that houses faculty and student offices, partner office and laboratory space, collaboration spaces, a 232-seat auditorium, 12 specialized research labs, two cleanrooms as well as facilities for visualization and computing, nanofabrication, etc.

A second building houses paying tenants: the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, the VF Global Innovation Center, Triad Growth Partners and Alrgn Bio.

JSNN Selected for National Nanotechnology Site

Through the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN), North Carolina A&T State University is part of a collaboration being funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to advance research, education and infrastructure in nanoscale science, engineering and technology.

NSF has selected the Southeastern Nanotechnology Infrastructure Corridor (SENIC), a collaboration between Georgia Institute of Technology's Institute of Electronics and Nanotechnology (GT-IEN), N.C. A&T and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), as a site for the prestigious National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure (NNCI).

Dr. Oliver Brand, executive director of GT-IEN will direct the SENIC program. The work at A&T and UNCG will be conducted at the JSNN.

Nationwide, NSF will provide a total of \$81 million over five years to support 16 NNCI sites, a network of user facilities to advance research, education and infrastructure in nanoscale science, engineering and technology. The SENIC program will receive a total of \$8 million in funding. JSNN's portion of this funding is \$1.8 million over five years.

"NSF's long-standing investments in nanotechnology infrastructure have helped the research community to make great progress by making research facilities available," said Pramod Khargonekar, assistant director for the NSF Directorate of Engineering. "NNCI will serve as a nationwide backbone for nanoscale research, which will lead to continuing innovations and economic and societal benefits."

"This grant will provide an affordable, open and one-stop-shop to leading-edge nanofabrication and characterization tools to a growing user community from academia, government, small and large companies across the southeastern United States" said Dr. Shyam Aravamudhan, co-principal investigator (PI) and assistant professor of nanoengineering at A&T. "This is the first time that the JSNN will be involved in this elite network of nanotechnology user facilities."

"This new award is a testament to the JSNN's core lab, open-use and shared user model that promotes access to its unique set of state-of-the-art tools, faculty and staff expertise," said Dr. James Ryan, founding dean of the JSNN.

Dr. Daniel Herr, co-PI and chair of nanoscience at UNCG said, "SENIC will strengthen and accelerate innovation in both traditional disciplines, such as electronics and materials, and newer areas, such as computational nanotechnology, biomedical and environmental sciences."



Dr. Joseph L. Graves Jr., associate dean for research at the JSNN, added, "SENIC will greatly aid our local economies. The 21st century will require a skilled workforce trained in the tools and techniques of nanotechnology. This grant will allow us to implement a comprehensive education and outreach program, embedded with lessons in socially and ethically responsible development and use of nanotechnology, designed to reach a broad and diverse audience of students, teachers and the public."

“Bringing smart people within close proximity helps with (job) placement. We have placed a number of our students with our partners.”

— DR. JAMES RYAN, DEAN

Having the businesses on site with the JSNN not only offers opportunities for innovation in research, it also offers the students and the businesses a unique opportunity to learn from each other.

“Bringing smart people within close proximity also helps with (job) placement. We have placed a number of our students with our partners,” Ryan said.

In addition to being near gifted researchers, the students have access to state-of-the-art equipment like several high-end microscopes including the only helium ion microscope in the Southeast.

Looking Ahead

Since 2008, the JSNN has grown to an enrollment of 101 students with 50 in nanoengineering and 51 in nanoscience. The goal has always been to have 50 students in each discipline. That was by design.

“We have the equivalent of about seven-and-one-half full-time faculty members on each side,” Ryan said.

That means, on average, each faculty member is advising at least five students and some as many as seven, all of whom are seeking a master's or doctorate in the highly specialized form of science or engineering. While the goal is to recruit more students to the nano disciplines, that will require the school to hire more faculty.

At this time, about one-third of the nanoengineering students are pursuing their master's degrees. The others are pursuing doctorates. While they are all pursuing diverse research interests, they have been deliberate about working with each other. The JSNN has found great success in interdisciplinary research.

“Every day is interesting,” Ryan said. “The creativity and newness of the process of learning are the things that surprise me. “People’s openness and willingness to break down silos and take calculated risks are things that impress me.”

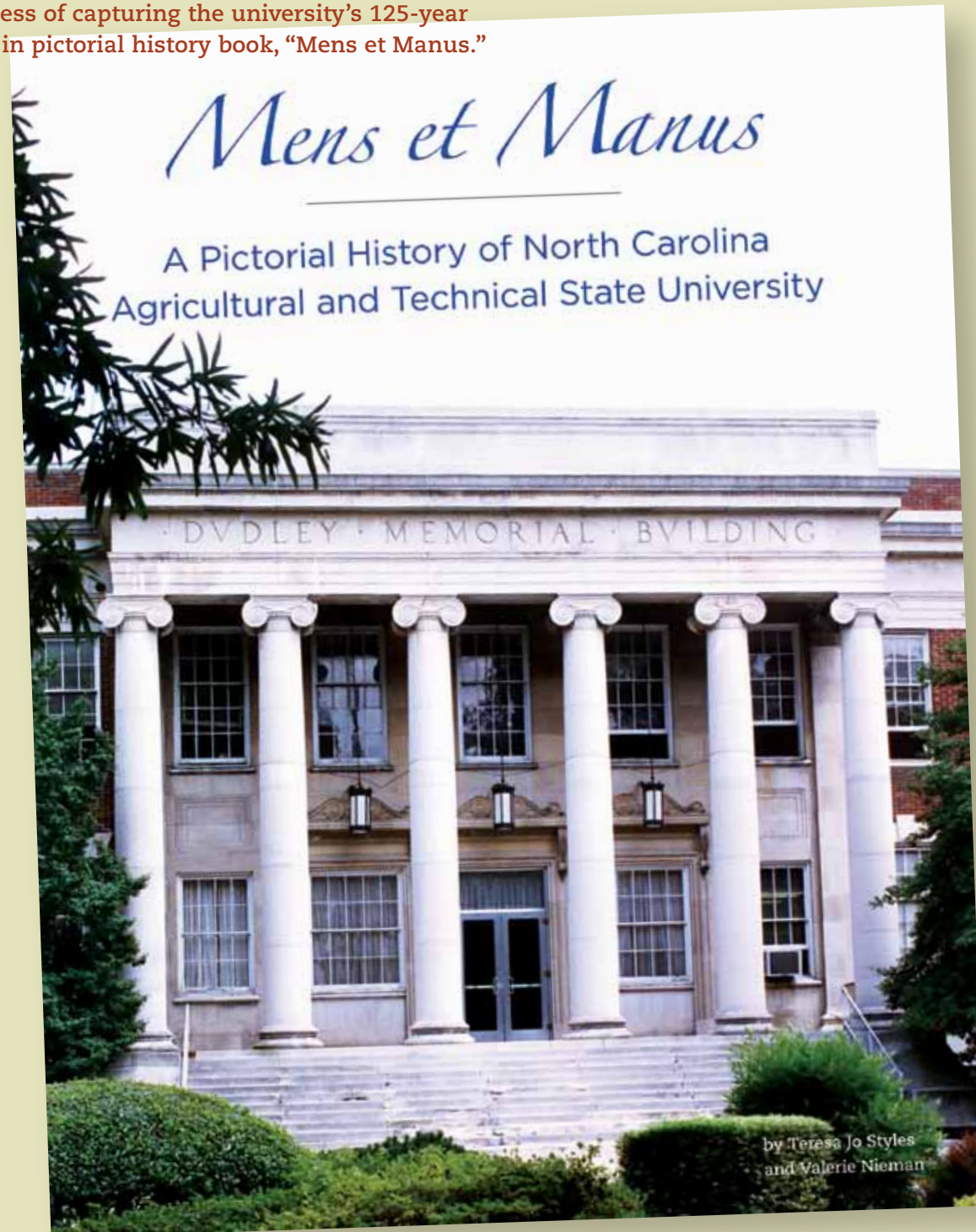
The creativity comes from the students and the faculty alike. Ryan said that many faculty members are great inventors who have patented multiple technologies and processes. This is a testament to their passion for their research and the experience many of them have gained working in industry. All of this works to make them excellent educators and advisors for their students.

“All of those experiences provide a certain flavor to the way they teach,” Ryan said. “There is an expectation that (nanoengineering and nanoscience) will be an applied science. We want our students to learn the fundamentals to promote creativity in solving global problems.”

Mind and Hand

By Tonya D. Dixon '04

Professors Teresa Jo Styles and Valerie Nieman share the process of capturing the university's 125-year journey in pictorial history book, "Mens et Manus."



Prior to kicking off the quasiquicentennial anniversary celebration of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, professors Teresa Jo Styles and Valerie Nieman took on the daunting task of compiling the university's history through pictures and prose. The result is "Mens et Manus: A Pictorial History of North Carolina A&T State University," 280 pages chronicling Aggie life juxtaposed against the winds of time and change.

"We didn't really have specific direction except that it needed to be a 125th pictorial history, which leaves a lot of open territory," Nieman said.

It was over a casual breakfast meeting at local favorite Smith Street Diner that the duo fleshed out the framework for the book, deciding on a chronological format.

"I was very much in favor of what we did do, which was to frame the book according to African American and American history," Styles said. "We looked at it from the perspectives of W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington, to help guide us through the decades in terms of what they did in the educational process."

Approaching N.C. A&T's history in 20- or 30-year time frames, they began with the university's formative years, continued with growth of the university, the war years, the civil rights and black power movements, the technological age and finally the new millennium—shaping each era into chapters for the book.

Four days a week for three semesters, Nieman and Styles huddled in a second-floor conference room adjacent to the university archives in Bluford Library. The two poured over past issues of the student newspaper, university annuals and reports and clippings from other media outlets.

"We divided up the responsibilities. Dr. Styles' background is in history as well as journalism so she wanted to do the big picture of what was going on nationally and internationally at the time," Nieman said. "Meanwhile I was reviewing documents in the archives."

Given the significant role that A&T played during the civil rights movement and so many other milestone events throughout history, it was vital that Styles and Nieman detail the university's reaction and response to national tragedies such as the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Dr. Styles would finish a section in terms of the national; that gave me a time frame and I would start weaving in what was going on at A&T at the same time."

Despite being veteran A&T professors familiar with the university's rich heritage, Nieman and Styles became wide-eyed students, captivated by the treasure trove of information they discovered.

"The professors and students in the beginning made the bricks and built the buildings that they then studied in. They never let their dream go. They kept going and going and working, and they saw it bear fruit," Neiman said.

Styles considered A&T's involvement with DuBois' Paris Exhibit impressive and pivotal to the university's acclaim.

"There were so many positive things about North Carolina A&T and the A&T family that reinforces for me the understanding of Aggie Pride," Styles added.

The sheer magnitude of information deserving of inclusion in the anniversary book often provoked spontaneous and good-natured debate, but Nieman said they would just work it out together. "We wished we could have had a book that was 400 pages long. There's so much to say about A&T."

After an award-winning career as a newspaper reporter and editor, Nieman came to A&T in 2000 to teach journalism and work with the student newspaper. She currently teaches creative writing in the Department of English and is an award-winning author of poetry and short stories. Nieman received her MFA from Queens University of Charlotte and her B.S. from West Virginia University.

Styles is a retired professor and former chair of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. She has published and presented internationally, has received the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Teaching Excellence Award (2012) and was once an award-winning journalist with CBS News in New York. Styles received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, M.A. from Northwestern University and B.A. from Spelman College.

"Mens et Manus" is on sale at the Barnes and Noble bookstore on campus and online.



Styles



Nieman

Leadership, The Aggie Way

For alumnus Harold L. Martin Sr. '74,
leadership and commitment go hand in hand.

By Tiffany S. Jones '03

As North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University commemorates its 125th anniversary, and after being named to EBONY magazine's Power 100 list and the Triad Business Journal's list of Most Influential People, Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. is poised to celebrate his seventh year as the institution's top administrator.

Martin's appointment as chancellor was a homecoming celebration. He made history becoming the university's first alumnus to serve as chancellor, and he returned to lead the very institution where he began his career in academia.

"It has been such an honor for me to serve as chancellor of the institution that has had such an incredible impact on my life," said Martin. "The experiences at each of these levels over the years have exposed me to the rich history and traditions of the institution on one hand and convinced me on the other of the incredible opportunities available to us, opportunities that we must commit to taking advantage of."

Growing up in Winston-Salem, Martin was educated, coached and mentored by a number of N.C. A&T graduates in middle and high school who pushed him to succeed.

"As (my classmates and I) made decisions about our futures after high school, they strongly encouraged us to go to college and to consider N.C. A&T."

With a brother and sister already enrolled, he made the decision to attend A&T and hasn't looked back.

"I was a very serious student," Martin shared. "I realized I could not afford to lax in my studies because our parents did not have the resources to assist us beyond basic necessities, so I worked hard."

He found additional motivation in the form of the woman who is now his wife, the former Davida Wagner. The two married as undergraduates at the university. He also credits the engineering, math and science faculty members who mentored him and genuinely cared about his success.

Inspired largely by those faculty members, Martin went on to earn his doctorate at Virginia Tech.

"During my undergraduate experiences, I had a number of African American engineering faculty members; however, none of them had had the opportunity to pursue the Ph.D. in engineering," he said. "Things were beginning to change in American higher education, and many of the faculty members were strongly encouraging those of us who demonstrated an interest and aptitude to pursue the Ph.D. The expectation was that once we completed the degree we would consider returning as engineering faculty members at A&T."

And that is precisely what he did.

Martin returned to A&T in 1980, as an assistant professor of electrical engineering. A few years later, Dr. Jagannathan Sankar joined the College of Engineering in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Since then, Sankar has watched Martin's rise as an educator and says there is inspiration for all in his story.

“I am driven by my commitment to A&T and my desire to ensure that A&T remains a top institution among our peers.”

– Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. ’74

“All can learn from his sheer tenacity to excel backed by incredible hard work,” Sankar shared. “He makes people dream and makes us all feel the ‘impossible’ is ‘possible.’”

School of Business and Economics dean, Dr. Beryl McEwen agrees and says the chancellor encourages the faculty simply by being himself.

“Every time he separates himself from his very long list of things to do and spends an evening with us as we celebrate our students or dines with our Executive Advisory Council, or attends one of our Closing Bell lectures, he inspires us to work hard, to give more, and to achieve at our highest levels,” she said. “He inspires us by his example and by his feedback.”

Over the first 19 years of his career, Martin managed to climb the ranks from professor to department chair to dean before becoming the vice chancellor for academic affairs. He spent nine years away from A&T serving as the chancellor at Winston-Salem State University and as the senior vice president at the University of North Carolina General Administration.

When Martin returned to A&T in 2009, he came with high expectations for his alma mater. With so many changes in higher education, the competition for the most experienced and credentialed administrators, faculty, staff and academically prepared students of all ethnicities is at an all-time high, he said.

“This means that top African American professionals and academically

prepared students, who have traditionally been a primary focus of historically black colleges and universities like A&T, now have many opportunities and options,” Martin said. “Hence, it has been my expectation since my appointment as chancellor at A&T, for the sustainability of our university well into the future, that we must reaffirm our commitment as a university to a culture of relevant change and competitiveness.”

Born of that expectation was the collective vision outlined in the strategic plan, A&T Preeminence 2020. Adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2011, the plan set a long-term strategic course for the university upon the core values of learning, excellence, integrity, respect, creativity, engagement and service.

A&T Preeminence 2020 lays out six specific goals, strategies and metrics to measure progress all aimed at student success, institutional effectiveness and properly positioning students and the university in the global market place.

The progressive plan has been met with an overall positive response from alumni, faculty, staff and students. And, for the last three years, the university has met or surpassed the goals set for student success and diversity, and grown in the areas of enrollment, research and development, athletic success, financial resources, human capital, ranking and recognition.

“Overall, I am pleased with the progress we’ve made toward realizing the goals of A&T Preeminence 2020,” Martin said. “Given the bold and

aggressive framework defined in the plan for the future of the university, I knew it would be difficult to realize all of the goals of the plan but expected that we would create important work around each goal, see significant progress for most of them, realize a cultural shift in expectations about our university and its affiliate entities, and in the end see evidence of a positively changed university.”

“The transformation of the university will certainly be ongoing; A&T Preeminence has set us on a remarkable course.”

Under Martin’s leadership, A&T has become the largest historically black college or university (HBCU) in the nation and ranked the No. 1 public HBCU in the nation while consistently producing the largest number of African American and African American women engineers on the undergraduate level.

With 2020 just four years away, the chancellor is fully aware that the university still faces significant challenges that include the need for significant investment of new resources, the sustainability of competitive faculty and staff during a critical time of significant retirement over the next decade, and successfully managing the pending academic restructuring at the university.

While it can all seem overwhelming, Martin remains motivated by focusing on those things he is most proud of that include the widespread recognition of the university’s land-grant and doctoral mission; the stability of enrollment and the significant opportunities for growth; the continued enhancements of campus infrastructure to support the university’s expanding educational and research mission; as well as the continued recognition by university peers, business and political leaders.

“I believe the challenges before institutions of higher education in America—today and in the foreseeable future—are daunting and will require the very best efforts of leaders to sustain a position of competitiveness and success,” he shared.

“I am driven by my commitment to A&T and my desire to ensure that A&T remains a top institution among our peers. I recognize that there will be times that are particularly challenging; however, with the successes we are experiencing today, I am inspired to remain focused on the long term view.”

McEwen joined the university as a department chair during Martin’s tenure as vice chancellor. In her first meeting with him, McEwen says she was impressed by the attention he showed the faculty and the value he placed on those who accepted the challenge of leadership.

“He has always been committed to students, to faculty, to staff, to all those who work together to make this institution great,” she said. “As a leader, he is focused, he is realistic, he is ambitious, he is intentional, he translates dreams into goals, and then he sets a strong example of how to achieve them.”

Moving forward, the chancellor will remain focused on achieving the goals outlined in the strategic plan and the goals ahead that will build upon A&T Preeminence 2020.

“What drives me is a desire to see continuous improvement in the university, significant evidence of competitiveness with relevant peers, and ultimately to leave the university in a much better place than it was when I arrived,” he said.



Chancellor Martin, second row from the top, third photo from the left, appears in a screen shot from www.ebony.com/power100-2015.

Martin Named to “EBONY Power 100”

When Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. was named to the 2015 “EBONY Power 100” list, he joined the ranks of some of the most influential African Americans in the world.

Each year EBONY magazine and Johnson Publishing Company celebrate 100 of the world’s most influential African Americans who lead, inspire and demonstrate through their individual talents the best in Black America. Martin was selected for his outstanding vision, wisdom and dynamic leadership at North Carolina A&T State University and his life-long commitment as a game-changer in higher education. He was honored along with the 99 other awardees Dec. 2, in Los Angeles.

The list includes the likes of corporate leaders such as Coca Cola Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Kathy N. Waller and J.C. Penny CEO Marvin Ellison; U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch; journalists NBC’s Lester Holt and BuzzFeed News’ Shani O. Hilton; actors Viola Davis and Jada Pinkett Smith; activists Bree Newsome and Jesse Williams; and musicians John Legend, Prince and J. Cole.

In 2009, Martin became N.C. A&T’s first alumnus to serve as the institution’s chief administrator. Drawing from his experiences as a student, educator and administrator, he has brought to the university visionary leadership and a commitment to build upon the university’s 125-year legacy of excellence in academics, research and outreach by establishing and cultivating a culture of innovation and preeminence.

Our Pride, Our Future

N.C. A&T celebrates 125 years of excellence, innovation and pride

In 1890, the framework for a university dedicated to the advanced education for the African American was established, which over time would develop into a legacy deeply rooted with excellence, achievement, advancement, discovery and engagement.

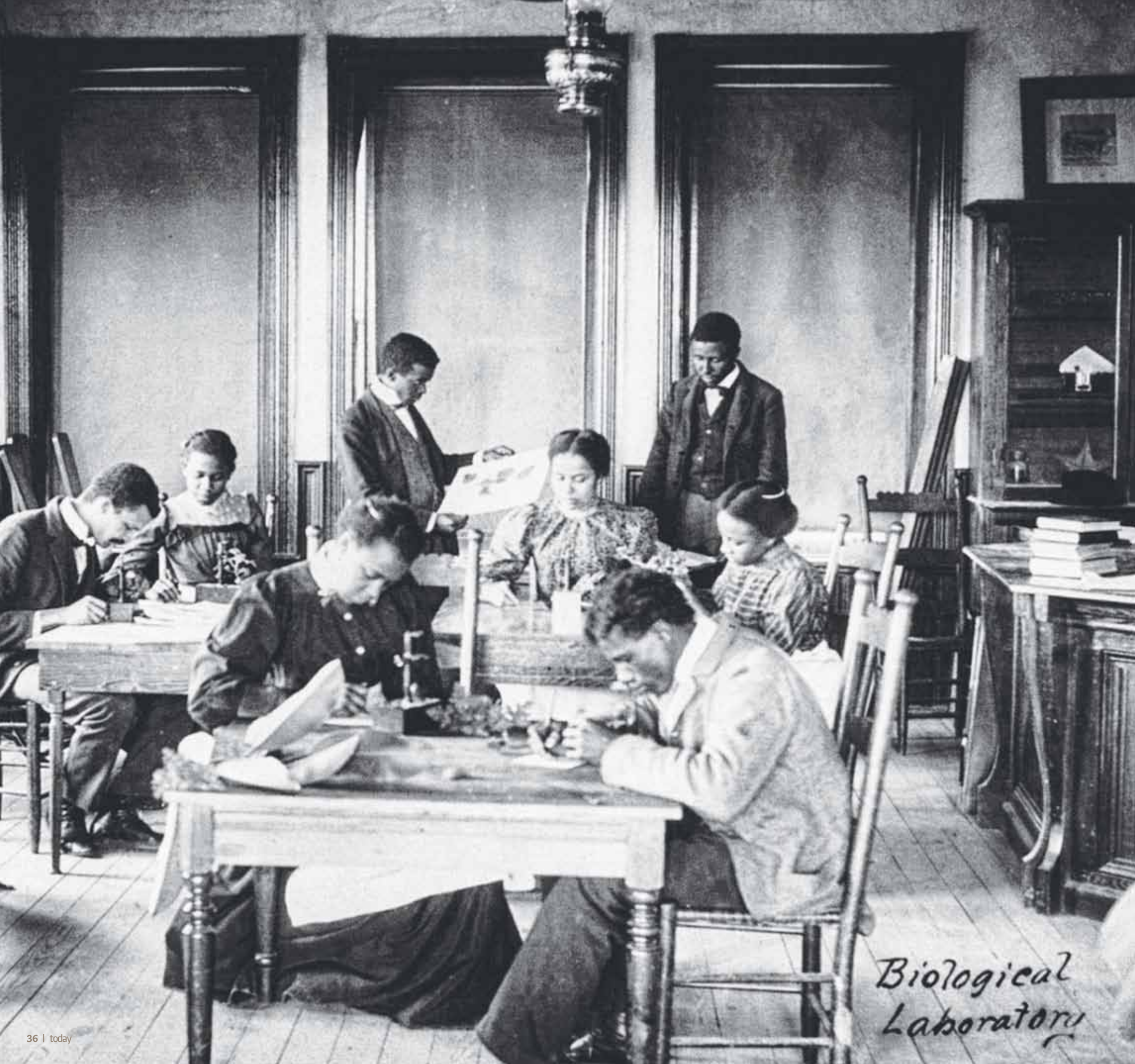
From an annex at Shaw University in Raleigh to permanent facilities in Greensboro, North Carolina, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University has provided students the best possible preparation for the challenges of the times since its establishment as a land-grant college in 1891.

The university’s early years were wrought with many firsts, including the conferring of the first degrees, but the college also had to reconcile many dilemmas. Chief among them were the questions of what and how to educate: Provide practical skills for African Americans from primarily agrarian backgrounds or prepare them to reach intellectual heights through a classical education? Having a difficult time convincing parents of the importance of going to college to learn farming and mechanics vocations, which they had learned without college, N.C. A&T decided on a combination of the two schools of thought.

The 1906 catalog states that “brains and hands are here educated together.” Students worked in the college dairy or the kitchen by day and took classes in the evening.

As the years progressed and the period of industrialization emerged, the world was quickly becoming a society of manufacturing and mass production. The school saw a marked increase in selection and a shift in focus. In 1911, the mechanical engineering department added courses in electrical engineering, hydraulics, power plant design and house planning. The shift was recognized with a new name: A. and M. College became Negro Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina.

The middle of the 20th century marked one of the greatest social changes in United States history when nonviolent protest became the vehicle for correcting institutionalized racial and social injustices. A&T led the way and left its indelible footprint throughout the turbulent time as students made history when four freshmen stood their ground and requested service at the segregated lunch counter of the downtown Woolworth’s store.





Members of the Class of 1900



B1 Navy Band, 1944



Professor John O. Crosby,
president (1892-96)



Dr. James B. Dudley,
president (1896-1925)



Dr. Ferdinand D. Bluford,
president (1925-1955)

While changes in society have always been the precursor to advancement in education, A&T has always been in the position of preparedness; quick to adapt and steadily move forward as well as being on the front line in concept, innovation, invention and idea development.

Throughout the 1980s and 90s the university experienced stable enrollment with annual increases. The decades marked the beginning of the technological age and of A&T's national recognition as a powerhouse for producing the largest number of exceptional minority engineers in the United States.

Having progressed into a new millennium with social, economic and educational concepts that change quicker than ever before, A&T has placed extensive emphasis on preeminence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and a renewed commitment to excellence in all its educational, research and outreach programs. A global strategy has been embraced that will allow the university to be a major factor in worldwide economic and educational competitiveness.

TIMELINE

1862

The First Morrill Act is passed by Congress, giving each state and territory a certain amount of land to establish land-grant institutions.

1890

The university is conceived as a result of The Second Morrill Act, which corrected discriminatory practices of southern states barring African Americans entry into previously established land-grant universities.

1891

The university is officially established as A. and M. College for the Colored Race.

1892

The A. and M. Board of Trustees votes on March 3, to locate the college in Greensboro. Citizens contribute 14 acres of land and \$11,000. Professor John O. Crosby of Salisbury becomes the first president on May 25.

1893

The main multipurpose "college building" used for dormitories for men and women, food service, classrooms and offices is completed. It was destroyed by fire in 1930.

1894

The first college catalog is published showing photographs of the main building, a dormitory and the names of the five teachers, the steward and the nine departments.

The student newspaper, "The Register," is first published.

1895

Governor Ellis Cobb becomes the first governor of the state to visit the campus.

The Mechanical Building (Crosby Hall), designed by President John O. Crosby, is completed in the summer.

1896

Dr. James B. Dudley, principal of the Peabody School in Wilmington, North Carolina, is selected as the second school president, serving until 1925.

1898/99

The college confers its first degrees.

1902

Enrollment is restricted to males only.

1904

The college develops a 100-acre farm equipped with the latest in farm machinery and labor-saving devices.

1915

By act of the General Assembly, the name of the college becomes Negro Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina.

1925

Dr. Ferdinand D. Bluford is elected third president and serves until 1955.

A&T becomes a member of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

1926

The National Alumni Association is organized.

1928

The college returns to coed status.

The North Carolina Department of Education grants A&T an "A" rating.

1930

The New York Department of Education and the American Medical Association grant A&T an "A" rating.

1936

A&T is granted an "A" rating on the approved list of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

1939

A&T is authorized to grant the Master of Science degree in education and certain other fields.



Drawing class, 1950



Sit-in demonstration, 1960



Dr. Warmoth T. Gibbs,
president (1956-1960)



Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor,
president (1960-64)



Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy Sr., president (1964-1972)
and chancellor (1972-1980)

1941

The first Master of Science degrees are awarded.

1942

The Senior Army ROTC Program is instituted.

1946

The Board of Trustees establishes the College Foundation on March 4.

A&T acquires the 96-acre land tract known as North Campus.

1951

The Senior Air Force ROTC Program is instituted.

1953

The School of Nursing is created by order of the governor.

1955

Dr. Warmoth T. Gibbs is appointed acting president in December.

1956

Gibbs is elected the fourth president and serves until June 30, 1960.

1957

The first class in the School of Nursing graduates.

The North Carolina General Assembly redefines the purpose of A&T.

The name of the college is changed to Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina.

1959

A&T College is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

1960

On Feb. 1, four freshman students initiate the lunch counter sit-in demonstrations at the downtown Woolworth's store.

Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor is elected fifth president.

1964

Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy Sr. is named sixth president (later becoming the first "chancellor") of A&T.

1965

A&T acquires East Campus, the former Immanuel Lutheran College.

1966

The A&T Foundation Board of Directors is appointed.

Membership of the board increases from five to 24.

1967

Diamond Anniversary

Four new buildings are named: B.W. Barnes Biology Building; Edward Richard Merrick Building; G.M. Vanstory Hall and Memorial Union of A&T College.

By act of the North Carolina General Assembly, the college is designated a Regional University as the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and establishes two academic divisions.

1968

On Sept. 1, the university is organized into seven academic areas: School of Agriculture; School of Arts and Sciences containing the Division of Humanities, the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Division of Social Sciences; and the School of Education containing the Division of Industrial Education and Technology, School of Engineering, School of Nursing, School of Graduate Studies and the Division of Business Administration.

1969

The School of Engineering is accredited by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development.

The Department of Speech and Drama is created in the School of Arts and Sciences.

History and political science are separated into two departments.

1970

The School of Business and Economics is created by trustee board action.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirms A&T's full membership.

The Paul Robeson Little Theatre opens.

"The Register" acquires IBM equipment enabling the staff to perform functions of newspaper production, except printing.

1971

On Oct. 30, the General Assembly ratifies an act to consolidate the institutions of higher learning in North Carolina.

A&T leaves the CIAA and helps form the Mid-Eastern Athletic Association.

The School of Engineering attains membership in the Association of Schools of Engineering.

The School of Nursing is accredited by the National League for Nursing.

1972

A&T becomes a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina system.

1974

The Social Work Program receives approval from the Council on Social Work Education.

1977

The Teacher Education programs are approved by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The undergraduate industrial technology programs are accredited by the National Association of Industrial Technology.

1978

The Graduate School is approved as a member of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States.

The Industrial Technology Program is accredited by the National Association of Industrial Technology.



Dr. Ronald E. McNair '71, alumnus



February One Monument, February 2002 (pictured L-R: David Richmond Jr. and then-surviving members of the A&T Four, Franklin E. McCain Sr., Jibreel Khazan and Joseph A. McNeil)



Dr. Cleon F. Thompson Jr., interim chancellor (1980-81)



Dr. Edward B. Fort, chancellor (1981-1999)



Dr. James C. Renick, chancellor (1999-2006)



Majorettes, circa mid-20th century

1979

The undergraduate Business Program is accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

Dr. Ronald E. McNair '71 is selected for the U.S. astronaut program.

1980

Dr. Cleon F. Thompson Jr. serves as interim chancellor, Nov. 1, 1980, until Aug 31, 1981.

1981

Dr. Edward B. Fort's tenure as chancellor begins Sept. 1.

1984

Alumnus Jesse L. Jackson Sr. '64 seeks the Democratic nomination for U.S. President.

1986

Alumnus Ronald E. McNair '71 and six other NASA astronauts die in an explosion aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger on Jan. 28.

1987

The School of Technology is established.

The Ronald E. McNair Engineering Building is dedicated.

1988

A&T breaks ground for a new \$16 million library.

NASA provides funds for A&T to operate a Mars Mission Research Project with North Carolina State University.

1990

The university dedicates a multi-million dollar center for composite materials research.

1991

A&T celebrates its centennial year.

1995

A&T graduates a record 1,248 students.

1998

A&T is ranked the No. 1 producer of minorities with degrees in science, mathematics, engineering and technology (STEM).

The first Ph.D. degrees are conferred.

1999

Dr. James Carmichael Renick becomes chancellor on July 15.

A&T holds its first winter commencement.

2000

Voters of North Carolina approve a \$3.1 billion Higher Education Bond issue. A&T is slated to receive \$153 million for capital improvements.

2001

Dr. Carolyn W. Meyers is named the first university provost.

A&T launches online degree programs.

Future planning initiative begins

2002

The February One Monument commemorating the Greensboro Four (A&T Four) is unveiled on Feb. 1.

A&T launches a \$100 million capital campaign, the largest for a public HBCU.

First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama is awarded an honorary degree at the 2012 commencement



Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley, interim chancellor (2006-07)



Dr. Stanley F. Battle, chancellor (2007-09)



Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr., chancellor (2009-present)

2003

A&T unveils new logos.

A&T and The University of North Carolina at Greensboro announce the creation of The Greensboro Center for Innovative Development, a Joint Millennial Campus.

A&T begins the Text-in-Community Series with W.E.B. DuBois' "The Souls of Black Folk" as the text.

2004

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and A&T form a partnership resulting in NRCS relocating one of its technology centers and a remote sensing lab to Greensboro.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching qualifies A&T for the doctoral/research intensive category.

2005

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication receives accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

The Alumni-Foundation Event Center is dedicated.

2006

Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley becomes A&T's interim chancellor on May 1.

2007

Dr. Stanley F. Battle becomes A&T's 11th chancellor.

2008

A&T is awarded an \$18 million grant from the National Science Foundation for an Engineering Research Center, becoming the first HBCU to be a lead institution for such a center.

2009

Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr. is elected 12th chancellor of the university.

2010

A&T marks the 50th anniversary of the Greensboro Four (A&T four) sit-in with several events and contests throughout Greensboro, Jan. 28 through Feb. 1.

In the fall, the first classes are held at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN), a collaboration between A&T and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). JSNN is the only program of its kind operated collaboratively by two universities.

2012

On May 12, First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama is the university's commencement speaker and recipient of the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

President Barack Obama appoints Chancellor Martin to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD).

2013

A&T is the top public HBCU in the nation and is ranked among the top in three online degree programs, according to U.S. News & World Report.

2014

U.S. News & World Report ranks A&T as having the best online education program among HBCUs.

A&T becomes the largest HBCU in the nation.

The Association of Public Land-Grant Universities honors A&T as co-winner of the 1890 University of the Year award.

2015

A&T receives the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The university begins its quasiqucentennial celebration in August.

A&T maintains its designation as the No. 1 public HBCU in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report rankings.

Chancellor Martin is named to the EBONY Power 100 list.

2016

A&T turns 125 on March 9.



The next issue of A&T Today will feature highlights from the yearlong quasiqucentennial celebration.

aggie athletics



By Brian M. Holloway '97

Aggie Football Has Historic, Winning Season

All the football experts have voted in the final polls. The television ratings are in and the social media data is clear. They all point to one conclusion: The North Carolina A&T State University football team had one of the most historic seasons in its 92-year history and in the 123-year history of black college football.

N.C. A&T as an entity was placed on a huge national stage. Aggie legends were formed as running back Tarik Cohen became recognizable not only among black college football fans, but the nation at large.

He ran for 295 yards and three touchdowns, the fifth highest rushing total in Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) postseason history. He was also featured on ESPN's popular segment Sports Science and was the main focus of an ESPN SportsCenter highlight following the game. Earlier in the year, ESPN flew him out to Bristol, Connecticut, to be featured three times on their three-hour Saturday morning SportsCenter.

"We can't afford the type of publicity that Tarik has brought not only to this football program but to our great university," said A&T head coach, Rod Broadway. "He's just a special talent, he is a special person, and he has done a wonderful job representing North Carolina A&T and its ideals of hard work and determination paying off."

Not to be lost in all the commotion is the fact the Aggies defeated Alcorn State 41-34 in the inaugural Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta to finish the season 10-2. It marked just the third time in school history the Aggies finished with double-digit victories. The win happened in front of a national television audience watching on one of America's four major networks—ABC.

The win essentially gave the Aggies their third Black College National Championship in school history and their first since 1999. But of course the pollsters wanted to weigh in and it was unanimous. The Sheridan Broadcasting Network, the organization that normally crowns the Black College National Champion, voted the Aggies No. 1 in their final poll. The BOXTOROW Black College poll did the same as well as the Heritage Radio Sports Network poll.

A&T was also recognized beyond the non-historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) world. The Aggies finished the season ranked 21st in the final NCAA FCS Coaches' Poll and the STATS FCS Top-25 Media Poll. It marked the first time since 2003 that the Aggies finished the season nationally ranked.

To cap it all off, punt returner Khris Gardin broke the NCAA FCS record for punt return yards in a season. He needed two yards for the record going into the Celebration Bowl contest. He made it a little more dramatic than that. On the first punt return of the game he went 74 yards for a touchdown to not only break the record but to put the Aggies ahead 7-0 early. For his efforts this season, Gardin earned All-American honors from three different national organizations.

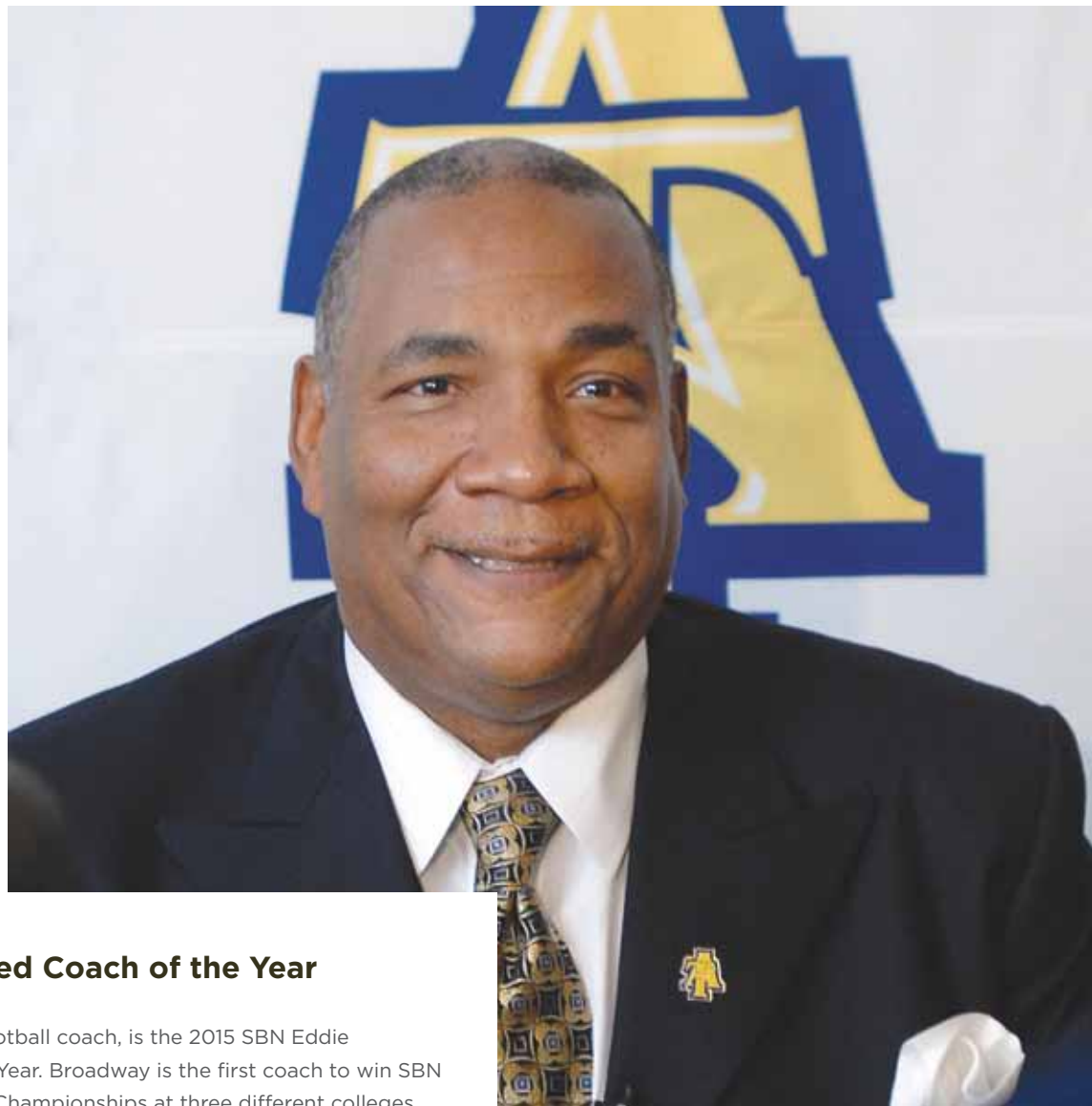
"We knew this season was going to be a special season back in June," said Cohen. "We started putting in the work over the summer when almost everyone on the team stayed in town instead of going home. We all wanted to get better. We did this as a team because everyone sacrificed something to become a champion."

There were people other than Aggies who noticed how Cohen and his teammates' preparation paid off. The Celebration Bowl drew a rating of 1.7 and attracted 2.5 million television viewers. That was a better viewership than 15 FBS bowls played during the 2015-16 bowl season.

The attendance was also better than other FBS bowls. The announced attendance was 35,528 with many of those fans wearing Blue and Gold. Eleven bowl games had been played between Dec. 19 and Dec. 24, and the Celebration Bowl still had the second-highest attendance. Twitter also took notice as the @celebrationbowl feed was the second-highest trending on the ESPN Twitter platform on Dec. 19.

Now that all the numbers are in, they tell what we already knew—when the Aggies get an opportunity on the national stage, they put on an outstanding performance.

Pictured on page 46 (L-R): Earl M. Hilton III, athletics director; Denzel Jones, Celebration Bowl Defensive MVP; Rod Broadway, head football coach; Tarik Cohen, Celebration Bowl Offensive MVP, MEAC Offensive Player of the Year and SBN National Player of the Year; Davida W. Martin, First Lady; and Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr., chancellor



Broadway Named Coach of the Year

Rod Broadway, head football coach, is the 2015 SBN Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year. Broadway is the first coach to win SBN Black College National Championships at three different colleges.

In 2015, Broadway earned his 100th career victory when the Aggies defeated Norfolk State, 27-3, at William “Dick” Price Stadium in Norfolk, Virginia. He led the Aggies to a 10-2 mark overall and a 7-1 finish in the MEAC to win their second consecutive co-MEAC title. He also led the Aggies to a 41-34 win over Alcorn State in the inaugural Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl.

Broadway received SBN's award at the Black College Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony on March 19, in Atlanta. His other coach of the year awards include CIAA (2005 and 2006, N.C. Central), Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C. (2005, 2006 and 2008) and SWAC (2008, Grambling).



AGGIE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 6 p.m.	St. Augustine’s	Aggie Stadium
Sept. 10 TBA	Kent State	Kent, Ohio
Sept. 17 TBA	Tulsa	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Oct. 1 1 p.m.	Hampton *	Aggie Stadium
Oct. 8 1 p.m.	Norfolk State *	Aggie Stadium
Oct. 15 4 p.m.	Bethune-Cookman *	Daytona Beach, Florida
Oct. 22 TBA	Howard *	Washington, District of Columbia
Oct. 29 1 p.m. (Homecoming)	Florida A&M *	Aggie Stadium
Nov. 5 1 p.m.	S.C. State *	Aggie Stadium
Nov. 12 2 p.m.	Delaware State *	Dover, Delaware
Nov. 19 2 p.m.	N.C. Central *	Durham

* Conference game



Lady Aggies Basketball Wins 2016 MEAC Championship

The Lady Aggies basketball team won the 2016 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Basketball Tournament Championship with a 65-46 win over Coppin State at the Norfolk Scope Arena. It was the Lady Aggies' third MEAC title, the team's first in seven years.

"Those ladies believed in me and in my coaching staff. They believed in the program, and I can't thank them enough," said A&T head coach Tarrell Robinson, who won his first conference title in his fourth year as a head coach. "The decisions they made put us in this position."

April McRae was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament; McRae and teammate Dana Brown made the all-tournament team. McRae joins Nisha Watson and Amber Bland as Aggies who have won MOP at the MEAC tournament.

"Words can't explain it for me because we've put in so much work to get this," said McRae. "It's not like we came to the tournament and just tried to turn it on. We've had to get up early in the morning a lot this season to practice It's not like we can practice in the evening. People can't see how much sacrificing we've done to get here."

Christina Carter led the Aggies with 14 points, four assists and four rebounds. Brown and sophomore Kala Green each had 12 points. McRae had nine points and finished the tournament with a combined 40 points and 20 rebounds over three games.

But the shot of the game belonged to a player who had played a total of 23 minutes in her previous five games. Coppin State was in the midst of a 6-0 run as Keena Samuels netted a 3-pointer to pull the Eagles to within three, 44-41, with 2:22 to play in the third quarter. Michelle Fitzgerald had the Aggies response as she calmly took a pass from Adriana Nazario at the top of the key, set her feet and swished what was only her fourth 3-pointer of the season.

"I thought that shot really ignited us," said Robinson.

The Aggies closed out the quarter with a 50-41 lead. The Eagles never got any closer than nine in the fourth quarter. Carter's 3-pointer with 2:45 remaining in the game ignited the chants of Aggie Pride from the Aggie faithful as N.C. A&T took a 62-46 lead.

As a result of winning the MEAC championship, the Aggies (19-11) made its third National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) appearance. This time around the Aggies went up against the No. 1 seed Notre Dame in a first round game at Purcell Pavillion. The Aggies' season came to an end with a 95-61 loss to the Fighting Irish.



Strombeck, Robinson Earn All-American Honors

Two Aggie bowlers were named to the National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) All-American team for the second consecutive year.

Senior Emily Strombeck and junior MacKenzie Robinson both received honorable mention honors for their performances throughout the 2015-16 season.

Strombeck finished her career at N.C. A&T as a three-time All-American, being named to the third team last year and honorable mention as a sophomore. She was named Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Bowler of the Year twice, and she is a four-time, first-team, All-MEAC selection.

Strombeck was second on the team in total pinfall (12,718) and averaged 195.66 this year. She bowled the highest scoring game of her career at the Stormin' Ladyjacks Classic in February, posting 287 and averaging 225.67 throughout the tournament.

Making huge strides as a leader on the Aggie squad, Robinson continued to improve her bowling over the course of the season. She led the team in total pinfall (12,805) with a 200.08 average.

Robinson was crucial to A&T's success, averaging 216.7 during the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament. In addition to her accolades in 2015-16, she was a member of the NTCA Honorable Mention Team last season.

Both Strombeck and Robinson were named first-team All-MEAC for the second consecutive year and are members of the MEAC All-Academic team, awarded to athletes maintaining a 3.0 grade point average or better.

A&T finished the season with an 86-46 record and earned its first NCAA tournament appearance, where the team advanced to the semi-final round. The Aggies also qualified for the United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Team Championships (USBC ITC) in Wichita, Kansas, as the defending champion but were eliminated at the championships in April. The team also won the Stormin' Ladyjack Classic and Brunswick Invitational.

alumni news

AGGIES ON THE MOVE



The New Jersey Alumni Chapter of North Carolina A&T State University National Alumni Association received the fourth Annual Legacy of Leaders Small Alumni Chapter of the Year Award from the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation Inc. The award was presented Sept. 25, 2015, at the Legacy of Leaders Alumni Awards Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta during the 30th Annual Alumni Hall of Fame Weekend.

1930s

■ **Dr. Everett B. Ward** is the 11th president of Saint Augustine's University, where he had served as interim president. Previously, Ward was director of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions of Higher Education program for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He served as chair of the board of trustees at Saint Augustine's from 2009 to 2011.

Ward is a graduate of Saint Augustine's University. He earned a master's degree at North Carolina State University and a doctorate in leadership studies from N.C. A&T.



Veda Spellman Stroud '39 served as grand marshal of N.C. A&T's 2015 Greatest Homecoming on Earth. The 99-year-old has strong ties to A&T. Her first appointment after graduation was as secretary to Dr. Warmoth T. Gibbs Sr., then-dean of the college. In addition to receiving her undergraduate education at A&T, she also met a lifelong friend in Virgil Stroud who later became her husband. After working for Gibbs, Stroud later received her master's from Columbia University and returned to A&T to teach in the Department of Business, now the School of Business and Economics, for 42 years until she retired in 1981.

Stroud was the first of several members of her family to be initiated into the Alpha Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Her daughter Crystal Stroud McCombs '68 and granddaughter Cornelia McCombs '04 also followed her footsteps through Aggeland.

1970s

■ **Willie A. Deese '77** is a 2015 recipient of The 1890 Universities Career Exemplar Award given by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The award recognizes alumni from the 19 historically black land-grant universities who have made outstanding advancements in STEM and/or related careers and have provided exceptional mentorship to other talented, aspiring students in similar career fields. The award was presented during the APLU Annual Meeting in November at the J. W. Marriott in Indianapolis, Indiana. More than 1,200 university leaders, including presidents and provosts, attended the annual meeting.

■ **Dr. Freddie Williamson '78**, superintendent of Hoke County Schools (North Carolina) since 2006, was a finalist for the 2016 National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), The School Superintendents Association. Williamson has more than 30 years of service in public education, with the past nine years as superintendent of Hoke County Schools. He is known for his transformational leadership style, no-excuses philosophy and innovative approach to addressing challenges.

Williamson also has served in several leadership roles for organizations such as the North Carolina School Superintendents Executive Board, North Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Board of Directors, Sandhills Regional Education Superintendents Council, FirstHealth of the Carolinas Advisory Board and Fayetteville State University Educational Leadership Advisory Board. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Williamson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture education and educational leadership, respectively, from N.C. A&T, an education specialist degree in educational leadership from East Carolina University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Fayetteville State University.

1980s

Kerry and **Glenda Eans** received the 2015 Virginia Education Association's Fitz Turner Award for Outstanding Contributions in Intergroup Relations, which honors individuals/groups "for their positive contribution to human and civil rights in the commonwealth." The Eanses reside in Wytheville where Kerry is a regional engineer for American Electric Power and Glenda is a teacher at the Minnick School, which provides specialized education and services for children and youth with special needs. An article about the award and the couple's community service can be read in The Wytheville Enterprise (May 20, 2015) at www.swvatoday.com.



■ **Dr. Stephanie G. Adams '88** has been selected as the seventh dean of Old Dominion University's Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology. Adams, who grew up in Hampton Roads and attended Old Dominion's child care center, will be the first female engineering dean at the University.

Adams previously served as professor and chair of the engineering education department at Virginia Tech (2010-2016). Prior positions include associate dean for undergraduate studies in the School of Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University (2008-2010), and faculty member and administrator in the College of Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She also served two years as a program officer at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Adams has won more than \$12 million in research grants as principal investigator or co-principal investigator and authored more than 20 peer-reviewed articles, more than 30 conference proceedings publications, five book chapters and two edited books. Her research interests include broadening engineering participation; faculty and graduate student development; international and global education; teamwork and team effectiveness, and quality control and management.

She is an honor graduate of N.C. A&T, where she earned her B.S. degree in mechanical engineering, and she has a master's degree in systems engineering from the University of Virginia (1991) and a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary engineering from Texas A&M University (1998). She is a fellow of the American Society of Engineering Education.

1990s



Dr. Hassan R. Al-Derham '90 became president of Qatar University in June. Prior to this appointment, Al-Derham served in several positions at the university including vice president for research, associate vice president for research and head of civil engineering. Al-Derham earned his Ph.D. in construction management from the University of Glamorgan (United Kingdom), M.S. degree in civil engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and B.S. degree in architectural engineering from N.C. A&T.

Jannine Allen has been hired as the new director of safety and risk management for S&N Communications in Kernersville, North Carolina. Allen most recently served as the lead health and safety professional at Oconee Nuclear Station’s Major Projects organization in Seneca, South Carolina. Prior to that, she was a safety consultant for Khemet Construction in Columbia, South Carolina. In both roles, she provided safety expertise to major construction projects, worked with OSHA and MSHA and implemented safety-training initiatives.

S&N is a provider of wired and wireless infrastructure construction, electric and gas construction, professional services, site development and underground utility locating, with more than 1,250+ employees nationwide, operating out of 60 field offices in 38 states. Allen will immediately focus on policies and procedures to streamline the safety process.

The Brooklyn, New York, native obtained her bachelor’s degree in occupational safety and health from N.C. A&T and her master’s in occupational safety and health from East Carolina University. In addition she holds designation as a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) issued by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

Seth Bennett '93 is in his ninth season with the National Basketball Association (NBA) Charlotte Hornets. Bennett currently serves as senior vice president of marketing, entertainment and interactive media for Hornets Sports and Entertainment. He has more than 25 years experience in a variety of areas across sports and entertainment.

2000s

Lenard D. Moore '97 was a recipient of the 2014 North Carolina Award in the category of Literature. Moore received his master’s in English at N.C. A&T. Currently, he is a professor at the University of Mount Olive where he also organizes the university’s literary festival and teaches and mentors young writers. Moore is founder of the Carolina African American Writers Collective and co-founder of the Washington Street Writers Group. He writes in more than 25 poetic forms and has become a master of the Japanese poetry form haiku, having once served as president of the Haiku Society of America—the first African American to hold that office. He also has been a winner of the Haiku Museum of Tokyo Award and served as chairman of the North Carolina Haiku Society. His writing has appeared in more than 350 publications.

This year on April 25, Moore was featured in a segment on National Public Radio (NPR), “Mastering the Art of the Haiku: Meet North Carolina Poet Lenard Moore.

The North Carolina Awards is the highest civilian honor the State of North Carolina can bestow. Up to six awards may be presented each year. Past recipients have included Maya Angelou, Romare Bearden, David Brinkley, Gertrude Elion, John Hope Franklin, William Friday, Billy Graham, Branford Marsalis and James Taylor.

Diatra T. Langford '04 is Ms. Black NC USA 2015. Since winning the crown, Langford has been traveling the state with her platform, “B.Aware,” which brings awareness to invisible illnesses such as lupus, fibromyalgia and depression. The Rich Square, North Carolina, native has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from N.C. A&T and a graduate certificate in worship studies from Liberty University. She is currently employed at A&T in the Office of the Dean of Students.

The Triad Business Journal has honored three alumni who were named to its 2016 “40 Leaders Under 40” list: **Nafeesha Irby '08**, **Jeremicus Porter '03** and **Michael T. Silver '01/'03**.

Irby is the executive director for the North Carolina Piedmont Triad corps of Teach for America where she manages daily regional operations that help to build a pipeline of local leaders in education while building partnerships between schools, parents and their respective communities as well as cultivating public, private and foundation support. She also oversees 25 teachers who work in high-need schools across Guilford County. The publication cites her fund-raising of more than \$1.7 million and work that doubled the size of the regional teacher corps as well as her service as a guardian ad litem and board member of SciWorks Museum as reasons she was named to the list.

Porter is the executive director of the Office of New Student Programs at A&T where he provides leadership for undergraduate new student orientation along with transitional, family and student leader programs. It was through his systematic overhaul of the program that the university has earned two national awards and the freshman leadership academy was created. Porter was also cited for his service with the Greater Greensboro Crop Walk and the Foothills Alliance.

Silver is the deputy commissioner of the North Carolina Industrial Commission where he acts as the commission’s trial-level judge in contested workers’ compensation cases, state tort claims and other matters. According to the publication, he was selected for his service with the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the RiverRun International Film Festival.

2010s



■ **Dr. Jeremy C. Ferrell** was awarded the 2016 Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award at the 46th Annual Conference of the Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools in Charlotte. Ferrell received his Ph.D. in energy and environmental systems, sustainable bioproducts concentration, from N.C. A&T in 2014. His research focused on distributed biorefining systems through industrial ecology exchanges and the utilization of landfills as centers for resource recovery and renewable energy production. His dissertation analyzed life cycle assessment and economics of biofuels production at the North Carolina EcoComplex in Catawba County.

He is an assistant professor in the Department of Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment at Appalachian State University.

Charles Melvin '10 has been working at ExxonMobil for the past five years and now holds the role of reservoir engineer. In 2014, Melvin was spotlighted in Universum Top 100 magazine, which is sent out through the Wall Street Journal each year and highlights the nation's best employers for the emerging workforce.

Celena Alford '15, who has a degree in biological engineering, is a Fulbright Scholar in the Philippines for the 2015-16 academic year. Alford is conducting research on conservation agriculture and soil quality at the University of the Philippines-Los Banos on a Fulbright Study/Research Grant, a connection facilitated by Dr. Manuel Reyes of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Design in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at N.C. A&T. After the completion of her Fulbright grant, Alford plans to pursue a master's degree in biological engineering, with an ultimate goal of working with water resources and agricultural in developing countries.

After a little more than seven months as the reigning Miss Black North Carolina, **Madison Gibbs '15** competed against 36 women in the Miss Black USA scholarship pageant and won. While matriculating at N.C. A&T, Gibbs, the great granddaughter of A&T's fourth president, W.T. Gibbs, was a Wabash-Provost Scholar, a National Alumni Scholar and a member of Toastmasters, A&T Mock Trial Society, Model UN, the Student Union Advisory Board, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and Delta GEMS (Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully). Currently, between classes at Howard University School of Law, she is working to raise awareness about heart disease and reducing the stigma of mental illness.

IN MEMORIAM

2014 ALUMNI

Raleigh Otis Bryant Jr. '78, Greensboro, Nov. 16
Tanisha Dominique Lee Byrd, Greensboro, Dec. 8
Lethia Mae Sherman Hankins, Wilmington, Dec. 29
Syrena Hudson, High Point, Dec. 12
Khristina M. Smith '14, Greensboro, Oct. 31

2015 ALUMNI

William Frederick Armstrong, Winston-Salem, March 7
Stephanie R. Balaam, Syracuse, New York, April 2
Kenneth Bellemey, Bolivia, North Carolina, Aug. 31
Percy E. Bigelow Sr. '78, Greensboro, Feb. 16
Gertrude Chambers '57, Greensboro, Sept. 19
Calvin Coolidge Crawford, Reidsville, Nov. 22
George Frank Evans Jr., Sanford, Florida, Feb. 12
Richard James Harris II, Salisbury, Jan. 9
James E. Hawkins '59, Oxford, Aug. 10
Otis Hawkins '59, Winston-Salem, Aug. 3
James Hefner '61, Nashville, Tennessee, Aug. 27
William Holt '50, Hervey, Illinois, Oct. 18
Ida Freeman Jenkins '37, Greensboro, April 10
Carrie Elizabeth Johnson '34, Hickory, Feb. 16
Lillie Madison Jones, High Point, Oct. 27
Michael G. Jones '76, Durham, Oct. 28
Rosamond Jones '47, Asheville, Aug. 1
Robert Lee Kinley, Florence, South Carolina, March 28
Mark B. Lloyd '95, Asheboro, Feb. 12
Richard Martin '10, Statesville, Oct. 13
William Eugene Mebane '77, Greensboro, March 20
Mary Ingram Metvia, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 1
Barbara A. Miley '63, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Nov. 8
Harry Edward Millner '69, Winston-Salem, April 29
Robert Eugene Mills, High Point, July 7
Gerald Robert Morgan, Huntsville, Alabama, March 3
Alice Faye Oliver '54, Burlington, Feb. 21
Dinah "Sue" Parker '84, Durham, March 5
Jonathan K. Parsons, Greensboro, March 20
Benjamin Franklin Poole '39, Greensboro, Aug. 31
Gloria Ramsey, High Point, Aug. 24
Gwendolyn Scott, Greensboro, March 4
Jonah Smith Sr. '57, Greensboro, Oct. 6
Rodney Sumler '63, Winston-Salem, March 7
Kathleen Thompson, Greensboro, Aug. 6

2016 ALUMNI

Earl Thomas Brown, Greenville, Feb. 20
Ralph C. Johnson '78, Greensboro, March 15
Ralph K. Shelton '64, Greensboro, Feb. 19
Darryl A. Williams '87, Charlotte

2014 STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS

Dorian Tawan Edwards, freshman chemical engineering major, Wilson, Oct. 19

Cynthia Denise Throckmorton '87, Durham, Oct. 22
Felicia "Pris" Walton, High Point, June 20
Robert Wilkins Washington '78, Chicago, Illinois, March
Fannie Mae Bolden Weatherly, Greensboro, Sept. 12
Jacqueline Veronica McDonald Williams, Greensboro, March 19
Jerome N. Williams, Greensboro, April 2
James H. Worrell '51, Columbia, South Carolina, June 11

2015 STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS

Walter Emmett Blue, former faculty (architectural engineering), Greensboro, July 12
Michael Allison Bowens, doctoral student, leadership studies, Winston-Salem, May 9
Peggy Lancaster Cantrell, Greensboro, April 8
Howard Allen Chubbs, past chairman, N.C. A&T Board of Trustees, Greensboro, March 12
Frankie Dawkins, building and environmental services technician, Facilities Department, Greensboro, Dec. 6
Frankie Day, director, Theatre Arts Program/Department of Visual and Performing Arts, Greensboro, Oct. 22
Durand Lamont Dulin, former officer, University Police Department, Greensboro, Dec. 5
Henry S. Fennell Jr., HVAC maintenance technician, Facilities Department, Greensboro, Nov. 30
Barbara James, Des Moines, Iowa, April 2
Steven L. McAuley, electrician, Facilities Department, Greensboro, Feb. 21
Jonathan Martin Riddick '10, technology support technician, Greensboro, Sept. 22
Henry Harris Savitz, former trustee, High Point, Aug. 8
Claiburne B. Thorpe, former faculty, Greensboro, Jan. 20
Angelia Johnson Williamson, administrative support specialist, Agricultural Research Program, Greensboro, Sept. 15

mixed bag

Your Legacy, Their Future

By Nafeesha Irby '08

One afternoon during my senior year in high school, I was called to the guidance counselor's office. He wasn't someone I knew well—we'd exchanged only administrative forms up to that point. So when he told me it was time to talk about college, I was taken aback. My parents didn't go and, to be honest, the whole thing wasn't much on my radar. But the man behind the desk told me I should explore it. And so, I filled out a few applications.

Months later I received my acceptance letter to North Carolina A&T State University. I wish I could say I'd made an intentional choice—that I'd been drawn to the school by all the things I now know make our alma mater incredible. In reality though, I'd gone into the process blind. And it wasn't until I landed on campus that I began to understand how my life was about to change. N.C. A&T would stretch me, challenge me, inspire me. It would allow me to find myself and my calling—all without forgetting who I'd already become.

As Aggies, we're asked often to consider our legacies; it's one of the great gifts of our institution. During my freshman year, as I started to ponder mine, I thought about my own, less-than-assured path to college and my thoughts turned beyond campus. So I started volunteering in schools here in Guilford County. I was floored. Despite the hard work of so many educators, advocates and administrators, students right beyond Market Street must navigate systems rooted in deep inequality and fundamentally not designed to set them up for success.

Before long, the journalism degree I'd been planning faded into the rearview. I would use my personal experience and now world-class education to stand with students.

By senior year, I had joined Teach For America to continue down this path. As I became a teacher, there was so much I didn't understand. I couldn't wrap my mind around why a group of kids that can actually see the entrance of A&T, Bennett, and UNCG from their front doors are the least likely to ever have the chance to attend. I couldn't reconcile the tacit acceptance of zip code as educational destiny. I was sure I must be missing something. Why wasn't education on every public and private agenda? Why was change so hard to come by?

Over the last six years, I've found only partial answers—first as teacher, then as school administrator, now as founding executive director of Teach For America's newest region right here in Greensboro. Regularly, I still struggle to understand the lack of urgency, the piecemeal progress. But, along the way, much has also become clear. Our students are capable of extraordinary things. Now, we have to fight to give them the high expectations, responsive schools, and equitable systems designed to let them soar.

As Aggies, we have the privilege of representing a university known for producing game changers, from the Greensboro Four to the thousands of others who have worked tirelessly for justice, just beyond history's spotlight. I feel deeply blessed to have found my calling in the fight for educational equity for which so many of those before us fought first. I'm sure I would have enjoyed being a journalist. But I'm also sure that nothing could compare to the daily inspiration and invigoration that comes from working closely with and on behalf of kids, students who belong in A&T's freshman classes to come.

As we ponder our own legacies, this is one to think about—whether in Greensboro, in the towns that raised us or the ones we've always wanted to see. From what I've experienced, you'd be hard-pressed to find another avenue that will stretch you so quickly, offer such an opportunity for direct impact, or position you to truly live into the values of this university. As teachers, this is what we learn.

A&T turned me from a lost and confused young girl into a determined, purpose-driven woman. Every day, I'm grateful for this community and the one just beyond its gates I now am blessed to call home. I can't wait to see what's next.

Nafeesha Irby serves as the executive director of Teach For America-North Carolina Piedmont Triad. To apply to teach, visit www.teachforamerica.org/apply.

“As I became a teacher, there was so much I didn’t understand. I couldn’t wrap my mind around why a group of kids that can actually see the entrance of A&T, Bennett, and UNCG from their front doors are the least likely to ever have the chance to attend. I couldn’t reconcile the tacit acceptance of zip code as educational destiny. I was sure I must be missing something. Why wasn’t education on every public and private agenda? Why was change so hard to come by?”

— Nafeesha Irby '08



TEACHFORAMERICA

remembering the past

AGGIES CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND MORRILL ACT



N.C. A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. (seated second left) with other 1890 land-grant university chancellors/presidents who convened in the nation's capital to address the United States House Committee on Agriculture and commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Second Morrill Act



This past spring and summer, Aggies celebrated 125 years of providing access and enhancing opportunities for all through education, research and Cooperative Extension outreach, which began with the Second Morrill Act that was passed by Congress in 1890.

This landmark legislation stipulated that, for the first time, African Americans were to be included in the U.S. Land-Grant University System without discrimination. Its intent was similar the First Morrill Act of 1862, which established a public land-grant university in every state, “accessible to all, especially to the sons of toil.” Southern states, however, refused enrollment to African American citizens. Hence, Congress allowed these states, through the Second Morrill Act of 1890, to establish separate institutions. The result is the legacy of achievement, equal opportunity, and emphasis on service to the underserved that continues today by the community of 1890 historically black land grant universities, known collectively as “the 1890s.”

The School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences organized a celebration. A highlight event was 1890 Day (April 23) which included a 1.890-mile wellness walk/run and community health fair, to underscore A&T’s ongoing commitment to community service. The celebration mirrored similar ones taking place on the other 1890 campuses.

The national celebration culminated in July, when the 1890 community came together in the nation’s capital with an exhibition in the Madison Building and a convocation at the Library of Congress. The convocation featured remarks by congressional leaders, including A&T alumna Rep. Alma Adams (D-N.C.), U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack and 1890 representatives.

Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. had an opportunity to address the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture during the historic visit to Washington. He was one of six university chancellors/presidents invited to testify on behalf of the 1890 community during the two-day observance of the Second Morrill Act.

Martin asked that Congress provide additional oversight for agricultural research funding to ensure that states meet their obligation for providing one-to-one match requirements, and that states provide equitable formula funding to all land-grant universities. He also asked that funding for USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture remains a high priority in alignment with President Obama’s 2016 fiscal year budget request.

The U.S. Senate unanimously approved a resolution designating Aug. 30, 2015, as “1890 Land-Grant Institutions Quasiquicentennial Recognition Day,” in honor of the nation’s 19 historically black land-grant institutions that includes A&T. “The 1890s” also designated Aug. 30 as a Day of Prayer to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the signing of the legislation that created them. Aug. 30 was the official conclusion of the celebration.



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