



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL  
AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

report  
today

# Presidential Conversation

Building on Community

Music Man

Bold Makeover

125th Anniversary

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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 2017

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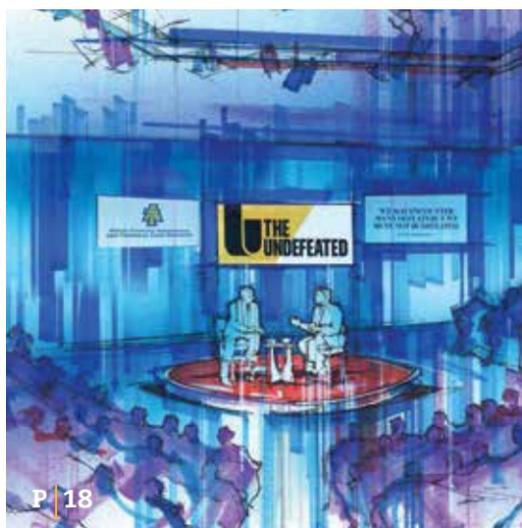
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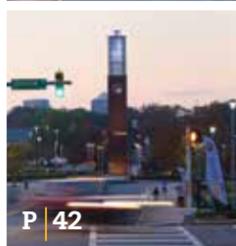
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Aggietoday

# insideaggieland

## Cross-Campus Collaboration Nets \$7.5 Million Contract with US Department of Labor

The Division of Research and Economic Development at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, in conjunction with lead principal investigator Dr. Cameron Seay in the College of Science and Technology, has secured a five-year federal contract through the U.S. Department of Labor, valued at \$7.5 million. The contract's goal is to increase the numbers of underrepresented minorities and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related fields and will focus specifically on information technology as it relates to talent development for mainframe computers, on which the global economy depends.

IBM, a key collaborator in the grant proposal and apprenticeship program, has pioneered the mainframe through various innovations over the past decades. The IBM z Systems mainframe is a secure, high-performing computer system that remains the backbone of the global economy. The mainframe handles the core business applications for 44 of the top 50 global banks, 21 of the top 25 insurers worldwide and 18 of the top 25 U.S.-based retailers. As the demand for mainframe skills remains high, grants like this that pair technology experts and educators are key to providing the talent to keep these essential systems on the leading edge of business innovation.



This contract has been named The LEAD-IT Project, which stands for Leadership, Empowerment, Apprenticeship and Diversity in Information Technology. The project will involve seven N.C. A&T faculty members including Drs. Gina Bullock, Maya Corneille, Loury Floyd, Karen Jackson, Anna Lee, Evelyn Sowell and Seay, as well as three full-time graduate students for the full five years. The contract will be completed in several phases supporting impactful outreach activities including the events and training necessary to rapidly fill a pipeline of mainframe computing talent.

A&T is the lead institution on this project, with a strong team of collaborators including industry leaders and community service organizations including the IBM Corporation, SHARE Association, IT-oLogy, Mobile Collaborative Education Consulting, Vets in Tech, Indiana University - Minority Serving Institution STEM Initiative, Mentor Services and Capital Area Workforce Development Board.

## Deese Gives \$1 Million to Support Alzheimer's Research, Student Success and Athletics

Once again, alumnus and retired pharmaceutical executive Willie A. Deese is generously giving back to his alma mater in ways that will provide critical, immediate and ongoing support for research, student success and athletics.

Deese's gift of \$1 million will be split five ways in areas of need and opportunity across the university. The 1977 graduate of the School of Business and Economics (now a college), is a strong supporter of N.C. A&T and a true believer in investing in its mission.

"This extraordinary gift is just the latest demonstration of Willie Deese's commitment to N.C. A&T, as well as his strong belief in our students and our success as a doctoral higher-research university," said Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. "We sincerely appreciate his enthusiasm for our university, as well as the great example his support sets for others interested in making a difference at N.C. A&T. This is exactly what leadership looks like."

Deese's gift will be invested as follows:

- \$150,000 for the Center for Outreach in Alzheimer's, Aging, and Community Health (COAACH), home to vital research focusing mostly on African Americans with Alzheimer's disease. The center regularly collaborates with other academic centers and institutes, as well as federal and state agencies, to further searches for a cure and new treatment options.
- \$350,000 to expand the Willie A. Deese Endowed Scholarship fund. Available to undergraduate applicants, this scholarship fund provides merit-based/need-based awards each year.
- \$200,000 to the College of Business and Economics in current-use scholarship funds. Rather than going toward an endowment, these monies will be used to support immediate student needs.
- \$200,000 to establish an unrestricted endowed scholarship that gives the university flexibility in providing financial aid to students in need, sometimes making the difference in a student's ability to continue his or her studies.
- \$100,000 to support an endowed scholarship for a student athlete in football. These funds will help ensure the continued success of the N.C. A&T football team.

Deese, who retired in June after 12 years as a senior executive of Merck and Co. Inc., a pharmaceutical and health solutions company (known outside the United States as MSD), has long been one of the university's most passionate and deeply involved alumni. Combined with his previous gifts, his overall financial support totals more than \$4 million.

"North Carolina A&T provided the educational foundation for the career I was fortunate to enjoy, and I will never forget the difference this amazing institution played in my life," said Deese. "From faculty who taught me enduring lessons to friendships that continue to this day, it made an enormous difference for me. I'm grateful to be able to support research and student success there so that it can be just as transformative in the lives of others."



## Celebrity Couple Exhibits Courageous Care

The Dan Gasby and B. Smith Alzheimer's Luncheon, hosted by North Carolina A&T State University's Center for Outreach in Alzheimer's Aging and Community Health (COAACH), Oct. 25, gained the attention and support of community leaders and partners, caregivers, university faculty and staff, and world renowned researchers. But it was the sincere words and interaction of Gasby and Smith that captured their hearts.

In 2013, celebrity lifestyle maven B. Smith was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Her husband Dan, a television executive whose contracts included "Jeopardy," "Wheel of Fortune" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show," is now her caregiver. Smith has been a model, actress, celebrity chef and owner of three B. Smith restaurants.

The luncheon was presented as a platform to increase awareness about Alzheimer's disease and care. Through Gasby and Smith's transparent and intimate discussion of her diagnosis and daily coping with the disease, attendees not only perceived the enormous love and dedication that Gasby has for his wife, they were given firsthand knowledge about the effects of Alzheimer's disease, the importance of maintaining good health and supporting research.

"It's not about me or my wife," said Gasby. "It's about the future and working with organizations like COAACH to make a difference. The greatest opportunity you have in your life is to be healthy. The only true wealth is good health."

Following the luncheon, Gasby, with Smith by his side, signed copies of the book he and Smith wrote, "Before I Forget," which chronicles the couples journey with the disease and features some of the vital work that COAACH is doing for Alzheimer's.

N.C. A&T is the birthplace and home to vital research, initiatives and outreach for African Americans with Alzheimer's disease through COAACH. The center regularly collaborates with external entities to further the cause of Alzheimer's treatment and search for a cure via research, education and awareness, community empowerment and advocacy. Through the unrelenting efforts of Dr. Goldie Byrd, principal investigator, the center has secured millions of dollars in funding to continuously work toward a cure.

"All of us can do something toward the cause of reducing the effects of this disease," Byrd told luncheon attendants. "(Alzheimer's) is not just about getting old; Alzheimer's is a very real disease."

Among COAACH's numerous efforts to bring awareness to Alzheimer's, the center also announced and played a snippet of "I Know It's You," a song recorded by Grammy-nominated R&B singer Reuben Studdard. The song is in tribute and appreciation of the selfless acts of caregivers.

## N.C. A&T Is Top HBCU in the State for Fifth Consecutive Year, No. 2 Public HBCU in the Nation

In its 2017 Best Colleges rankings release, U.S. News & World Report has ranked North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University as the No. 1 historically black college or university (HBCU) in North Carolina and the No. 2 public HBCU in the nation.

The multi-platform news provider ranked N.C. A&T No. 10 out of 80 HBCUs. To qualify for this 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 take part in the 2017 Best Colleges survey and ranking process. All but one of the institutions ranked ahead of A&T were private colleges/universities.



U.S. News & World Report ranked the colleges and universities based upon the key measures of graduation and retention rates; peer assessment; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; and alumni giving.

A&T was also ranked in the second tier of the Best National Universities and among the nation's best institutions in the High School Counselor, Business Programs and Undergraduate Engineering Programs (where the highest degree offered is a doctorate) rankings.

## N.C. A&T Recognized as a Social Mobility Innovator

North Carolina A&T State University has been named one of 10 leading "social mobility innovators" for 2017 by CollegeNET Inc., a leading provider of web-based on-demand technologies for higher education and creator of the Social Mobility Index (SMI).

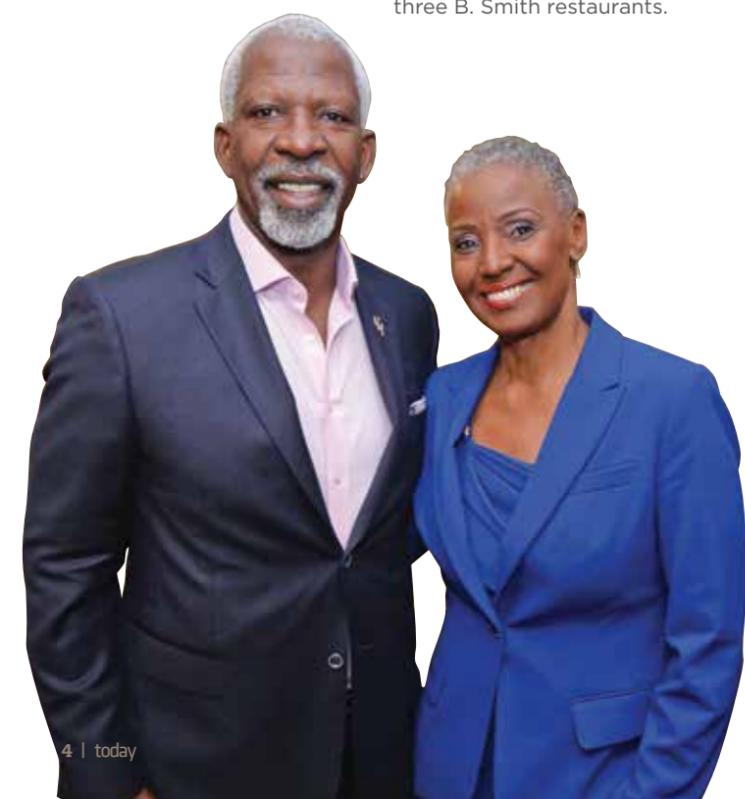
SMI is a data-driven system that ranks four-year U.S. colleges and universities according to how effectively they enroll students from low-income backgrounds and graduate them into promising careers. The goal of the SMI—now in its third year—is to help redirect the attribution of "prestige" in our higher education system toward colleges and universities that are advancing economic opportunity, the most pressing issue of our time.

N.C. A&T has ranked among the top 20 schools on SMI for three consecutive years, moving up from No. 13 in 2014 to No. 2 in 2016.

"The SMI helps policymakers, students and their families see which colleges and universities are addressing the national problem of economic mobility," said Jim Wolfston, CEO of CollegeNET. "Administrators in higher education will be more effective in strengthening U.S. economic mobility and restoring the promise of the American Dream if they can learn from colleges and universities like N.C. A&T."

A&T was selected as a Social Mobility Innovator because it has adopted data-driven policies and programs to reduce time-to-degree and keep students moving toward graduation. Students are now allowed to repeat no more than 16 credit hours during their undergraduate careers, for example. At the same time, A&T has reduced the number of credit hours required for graduation in some programs from 127-133 to 120-122.

"We have a top-to-bottom passion when it comes to student success," says Dr. Regina Williams Davis, assistant provost for student success and academic support. "Our chancellor has driven this conversation, and it's much more than talk for us. It's a real priority on our campus."



# insideaggieland continued



## College of Education Receives Nearly \$5 Million in Grants from US Department of Education

The United States Department of Education has awarded the College of Education (CEd) at North Carolina A&T State University two grants totaling \$4.8 million to improve teacher education.

A \$3.6 million grant from ED’s Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) will be used to increase the number of highly qualified teachers produced for high-need K-12 public schools in rural communities.

“This award will provide scholarship funds to highly qualified graduate candidates who pursue Master of Arts in Teaching degrees in high-need areas and who desire to positively impact student learning in our rural communities—areas of our state that are often under resourced,” said Dr. Anthony Graham, dean of the College of Education at N.C. A&T. “Our engagement with our rural school districts demonstrates the faculty’s commitment to equity, access and advocacy as we strive to prepare teacher leaders for the entire state of North Carolina.”

The goal of the “North Carolina A&T Rural Teacher Residency Program” is to increase the number of fully credentialed teachers who effectively address the needs of children in high-need rural public school districts in North Carolina.

Focusing on the teacher shortages in North Carolina, the project strengthens CEd’s Master of Arts in Teaching in special education, elementary education, biology education, chemistry education and mathematics education degree programs by establishing a teacher residency model. This approach uses an elongated classroom-based authentic immersion experience that emphasizes research-verified pedagogical strategies that will improve learning outcomes for students in rural communities.

TQP funds teacher preparation programs at the undergraduate or “fifth-year” level, or teaching residency programs for individuals new to teaching with strong academic and professional backgrounds. The central feature of all TQP grantees is a strong partnership between the teacher preparation program and the school districts they serve, which is often facilitated by mentor teachers that coach and train incoming educators.

A&T is one of two historically black colleges and universities that will serve rural and urban communities; the other is Coppin State University. In addition, grants were given to the University of New Hampshire and University of West Alabama.

Funding to A&T will be awarded over a period of five years. Drs. Kim Erwin, Nichole Smith, Alisa Taliaferro and Graham in the College of Education, and Dr. Cailisha Petty in the College of Science and Technology, are the principal investigators.

**“Our engagement with our rural school districts demonstrates the faculty’s commitment to equity, access and advocacy as we strive to prepare teacher leaders for the entire state of North Carolina.”**

— DR. ANTHONY GRAHAM

The second grant, \$1.2 million from ED’s Office of Special Education Programs, will be used to increase the number of highly qualified special education teachers produced for K-12 public schools.

The initiative, “Preparing Exceptional Teachers through Accountability and Collaboration,” has two primary goals: (1) to increase the number of fully credentialed teachers who effectively address the specialized needs of high-need children with disabilities, including persistent and severe learning and behavior disabilities, and (2) to improve the quality and capacity of the preparation of diverse highly-qualified teachers, immersing candidates in authentic engagement opportunities.

Designed to address the chronic shortage of special education teacher leadership in North Carolina, the initiative strengthens the college’s Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education degree program by enhancing emphasis on school-age children with persistent and severe learning and behavioral challenges.

Funding for the program will be awarded over a five-year period. Dr. Nicole Dobbins and Dr. Dawn Waegerle in the Department of Educator Preparation are the principle investigators.

“This grant award demonstrates the commitment of the faculty in the College of Education to our primary mission of preparing educational and human service leaders who are prepared to create, use and share knowledge on equity, access and advocacy,” said Graham.

## Security App Launched to Help Increase Communication, Safety



N.C. A&T is preparing to strategically harness the power of the mobile platform to increase, expand and advance safety and security options for students, faculty, staff and the university community through the LiveSafe mobile safety communications platform and app.

Through two-way communication options with campus security and safety officials, LiveSafe allows users to request help in an emergency, anonymously report safety concerns and request a virtual safety escort from a friend or family member or request an actual security escort. The platform operates in real time for immediate assistance.

“The safety of the N.C. A&T campus community is the top priority for university police. The university regularly assesses opportunities to increase its safety measures, techniques and protocols.” said Charles E. Wilson, chief of the University Police Department (UPD). “The LiveSafe app is another tool in our commitment to safety and we believe it to be a significant enhancement in not only how we respond to incidents on campus, but more importantly how we prevent them.”

UPD also will have the capability to proactively disseminate information, emergency alerts and warnings, and communicate with predetermined groups or locations via geofences through a LiveSafe central dashboard.

LiveSafe offers multiple layers of user initiated communication tools including the ability to attach photo, video and audio files as well as location coordinates in order to share info for safety and security concerns.

The app will not replace the AggieAlert! emergency alert system and blue light emergency phones, rather it will operate as a supplementary tool and work in tandem with security and emergency procedures currently in place.

In addition to its significant safety features, the LiveSafe app can be expanded and personalized to offer additional resources such as university virtual maps, tours and helpful tips. As the university progresses in its use of the app, it plans to add and offer additional features.

Co-founded by a survivor of the 2007 Virginia Tech tragedy, LiveSafe is utilized by many colleges and universities, including peer institutions in the University of North Carolina system as well as many malls, stadiums, movie theatres and businesses.

The LiveSafe app is available for download from iTunes and Google Play app stores.



## N.C. A&T’s Enrollment Continues to Grow

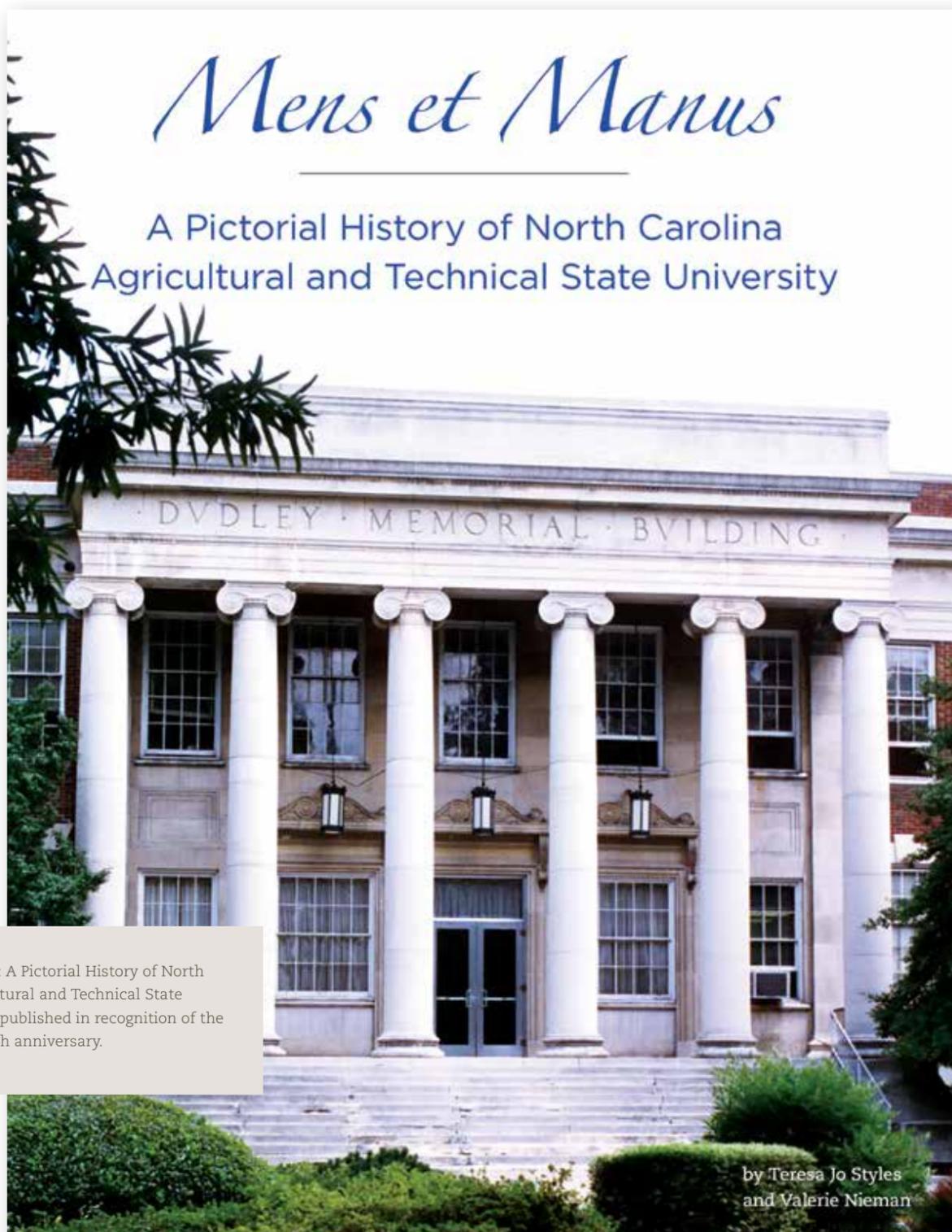
With total enrollment officially tabulated at 11,177 for the 2016–17 academic year, North Carolina A&T State University continues to experience growth both numerically and academically.

This year’s reported 3 percent increase over the 2015–16 academic year also marks an incremental 10 percent increase for the university over the last three years’ enrollment of 10,561, 10,725 and 10,852, respectively.

The university has experienced steady growth, with the current academic year being the most impressive. In addition to its notable enrollment growth, the university welcomed its most academically talented and robust freshman class in its 125-year history.

With an average grade point average of 3.48 and SAT score of 933, the new 2,931 Aggies who make up this year’s freshman class represents N.C. A&T’s steady progression toward the university’s goal of recruiting and retaining gifted students by providing an academically challenging environment, as outlined in the university’s strategic plan, A&T Preeminence 2010: Embracing Our Past, Creating Our Future.

“These are talented students (who are) attracted, I’m sure, to the vision, core values and opportunities that exist here,” said Erin Hill Hart, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management. “We are pleased that students and their families recognize what North Carolina A&T has to offer by way of quality preparation on their way to their desired career.”



"Mens et Manus: A Pictorial History of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University," was published in recognition of the university's 125th anniversary.

by Teresa Jo Styles  
and Valerie Nieman

### N.C. A&T, Bennett and Shaw Receive \$549,999 Consortium Grant

The Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) has awarded the offices of counseling services at North Carolina A&T State University, Bennett College and Shaw University a \$549,999 grant for their consortium project, "Be the Change: Resources, Intervention, Services and Education." This HBCU consortium is the first in the history of OVW.

The grant is funded for three years and will strengthen the response to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on our campuses and enhance collaboration among local law enforcement and victim advocacy organizations. It will focus on organizing and encouraging men and other marginalized groups to work as allies to prevent sexual assault crimes in the schools' respective communities.

Each campus will offer effective training, services, prevention strategies, culturally appropriate policies, and coordinated community response for victims of sexual assault. N.C. A&T is the lead institution.

### Pictorial History Awarded Willie Parker Peace Prize

In 2015, a compilation of history through pictures and prose, "Mens et Manus: A Pictorial History of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University," was published in recognition of the university's 125th anniversary. The book was honored recently with the Willie Parker Peace Prize in the History Book Category from the North Carolina Society of Historians (NCSH).

The award was presented at the NCSH's Diamond Jubilee celebration, Nov. 5, at the Stone Center in North Wilkesboro.

Co-authors Valerie Nieman, professor of English and creative writing, and Dr. Teresa Styles, retired associate professor of journalism and former chairwoman of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, were honored with certificates and membership into the NCSH.

Judges for the coveted award were enamored by the book and collectively commented, "This has got to be one of the finest publications we have ever been privileged to judge."

After citing the quality and diversity of featured photographs, the judges continued, "The rich, accompanying text begins at the moment this source of higher education was but a dream in the minds of many black Americans, and through their sheer determination and desire for an equal education for all, they forged

ahead until their dreams came to fruition. ... This book is a record, a testament, proof that the sky is the limit for anybody wanting to work hard, study earnestly, and graduate proudly. ... This volume is a feast for the eyes and food for the soul."

The creation of "Mens et Manus" was a team effort. Along with the authors, Vicki Coleman, dean of library services, directed the compilation project and attended the ceremony with Nieman, Styles and members of the library staff: Arneice Bowen, Gloria Pitts and John Teleha.

The Willie Parker Peace History Book award was established on Dec. 6, 1958, in honor of the late Mrs. Willie Parker Peace, a highly respected historian and philanthropist in the Henderson, North Carolina, community who left behind a historical legacy.

The NCSH was formed in 1941, for the purpose of collecting and preserving statewide and local North Carolina history, traditions, artifacts, genealogies and folklore.

## N.C. A&T Named to 2017 Military Friendly® Schools List

On the eve of Veteran's Day, North Carolina A&T State University was named to Victory Media's list of 2017 Military Friendly® Schools.

The Military Friendly® Schools list was first published in 2009. It remains one of the most comprehensive and powerful resources for veterans today. Each year, the list is provided to members of the armed services and their families, helping them to select the best college, university or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.

N.C. A&T's Office of Veteran and Disability Support Services (OVDSS) provides advice, counsel, programs, benefits and resources to students who are veterans, service members or veteran dependents. The office ensures military and veteran students and dependents are provided the assistance needed to make their university experience smooth and pleasant as well as offer opportunities for the university to show gratitude and appreciation for its valued veteran students.

Institutions designated as Military Friendly® were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media's proprietary survey. More than 1,600 schools participated in the 2017 survey, resulting in 1,160 being awarded the designation. Criteria and ratings were determined by the publisher with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining an institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence and loan default rates for all students, but particularly for veterans.

A&T will be showcased along with other 2017 Military Friendly® Schools in the annual "Guide to Military Friendly® Schools" special education issues of G.I. Jobs® and Military Spouse Magazine and on militaryfriendly.com.



## Faculty, Staff and Administrators

**Dr. Kelvin Bryant**, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering, is a recipient of Apple's HBCU Faculty Grant in the amount of \$100,000 for his proposal, "Creating a Culture of Success by Modeling Corporate Success Practices." Bryant is among the first recipients of this award as part of Apple's initiative with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. He competed in a field of over 125 proposals from 35 HBCUs.

"Water Sustainability in Cities," a teaching module developed by Steven Burian (University of Utah), **Manoj Jha** (N.C. A&T), Gigi Richard (Colorado Mesa University) and J. Marshall Shepherd (University of Georgia), has been published by InTeGrate. The module is designed to fuse geoscience elements of hydrologic science, atmospheric science and biological science with sustainability concepts, systems thinking, planning and engineering in a manner that illustrates the value of this diverse knowledge for urban water system planning. Lessons use data-driven exercises and the flipped classroom pedagogical approach, as well as provide a foundation in urban water systems, basic hydrologic and atmospheric processes, and sustainable and resilient infrastructure planning and decision making. Overall, the module highlights the benefits of the interconnections of geoscience, engineering, and other disciplines in the pursuit of water sustainability in cities.



**Dr. Cathy Kea**, professor of special education in the Department of Educator Preparation, College of Education, and Dr. Diane Rodriguez, associate professor of bilingual and special education at Fordham University, presented "Project CREED (Culturally Responsive Exceptional Educators for Diversity)" at the Urban Education 60th Annual Fall Conference sponsored by the Council of the Great City Schools in Miami, Florida, on Oct. 21.



**Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr.** began the new year by being named the most influential leader in the nation of any historically black university by HBCU Digest. The outlet cited A&T's "incredible gains in research" under the chancellor and his "vision for the institution," as well as its growth as the nation's largest HBCU.

And for the second consecutive year, Triad Business Journal included Martin among the 2016 Triad's Most Influential People. Each year the business newsweekly recognizes leaders in the Triad who help their organizations succeed, which in turn causes the region to thrive.

Under Martin's leadership, N.C. A&T has become the largest historically black college or university (HBCU) in the nation, has held the title of No. 1 public HBCU in the state, and is the No. 2 public HBCU in the nation. Martin maintains an active presence throughout the Triad with memberships to several boards, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Review Advisory Board, the Research Triangle Institute and the Piedmont Triad Regional Development Council.

# campus briefs

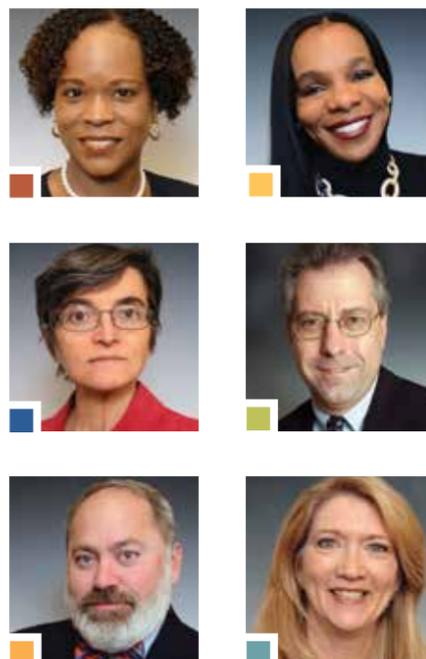
■ **Dr. Maranda McBride**, associate professor of management and director of the Transportation Institute, College of Business and Economics, is the principal investigator for a million-dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program, which awards and administers grants to consortia of colleges and universities across the nation.

The grant will be used to establish and manage the Center for Advanced Transportation Mobility (CATM), which will be led by N.C. A&T through the Transportation Institute with McBride serving as director. Consortium members include the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the University of the District of Columbia Community College. The first-year award is \$1,402,200 and the grant is renewable for up to five years and \$7.8 million, subject to availability of funds and compliance with grant terms and conditions.

■ **Nicole Pride**, chief of staff, has been named to national public relations trade magazine PR News' 2017 list of Top Women in PR. Pride is one of only 82 women from across the United States selected for this prestigious honor that is given to the most influential women in the nation who drive the agenda for the industry and their companies. Pride and her counterparts have been recognized for managing crises, developing brand messages, protecting and building brand reputations and creating content for digital platforms for their respective organizations or their clients.

Pride traveled to New York City for recognition at the magazine's awards luncheon (Jan. 24).

As chief of staff, Pride is the principal liaison and adviser to the chancellor, is a member of the executive cabinet and provides strategic and operational support for internal and external constituencies. She is responsible for planning, organizing and driving initiatives and activities of the Office of the Chancellor, and she also manages the Office of University Relations as well as Government and Community Relations. In addition, she serves as the liaison between the University of North Carolina General Administration and the campus community, is the point of contact for N.C. A&T's various constituent groups, provides leadership on administrative matters and continues to serve as the university's chief spokeswoman and crisis strategist.



■ **Dr. Kelly Rowett-James** has joined the N.C. A&T community as director of records and registration (registrar), effective Oct. 17. She succeeds Dr. Dawn Forbes Murphy, who served as interim registrar during the search.

Rowett-James previously served as university registrar at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and as an assistant registrar at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She began her career at The University of Texas at Austin as a records assistant. While at UNCG, she chaired the institution's Data Standards and Administrative Data Security committees, and served on the university's SACS accreditation team. At UNC-Chapel Hill, she was co-leader in a project that developed a homegrown degree audit system.

■ Faculty member and Teagle Assessment Scholar, **Dr. Scott Simkins**, along with undergraduate student Benjamin Johnson and alumnus Christopher Watkins '16, co-led a national workshop, "Students Engaging Students to Improve Learning: Using Student-Led Focus Groups to Gather and Make Sense of Assessment Evidence," Nov. 4-6, at the Center of Inquiry at Wabash College in Indiana where 10 institutional teams from across the nation participated in training sessions about developing and running student-led focus groups and building on the experiences of the N.C. A&T Wabash-Provost Scholars Program.

Both Johnson and Watkins have participated in the Wabash-Provost Scholars program, which trains N.C. A&T undergraduate students to conduct focus group sessions, surveys and other assessment activities aimed at improving the learning environment at the university.

The Wabash-Provost Scholars' work, along with student co-inquiry work at Western Washington University, is highlighted in a recently-published article, "Co-Inquiry with Students: When Shared Questions Lead the Way," in Teaching and Learning Inquiry: The ISSOTL Journal. The article is co-written by faculty and students at Western Washington University and A&T.

■ **Todd Simmons** has been appointed associate vice chancellor for university relations, effective Nov. 21. With more than 23 years' experience in higher education as a senior administrator and communications professional, Simmons also has worked extensively in news media, including the last two years as opinion editor and head of the editorial board for Civil Beat, an award-winning news outlet in Honolulu. Prior to that position, he was vice president of marketing and communications at Hawai'i Pacific University and associate vice president of university relations and marketing at Oregon State University.

Simmons has served five Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities, including three major urban institutions and one land-grant university. He is a leader in integrated and strategic communications, planning and execution, with proven innovative and award-winning success in media relations, brand management and marketing communications.

■ **Dr. Cindy Waters**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, College of Engineering, is part of a team of researchers that secured a \$1.6 million research grant through the University of North Carolina Research Opportunities Initiative (ROI). The awarded project, "Advancing the Science and Practice of Metal-Based Additive Manufacturing," is being led by Dr. Christopher Evans, professor of mechanical engineering and engineering science, and director of the Center for Precision Metrology at UNC Charlotte. North Carolina State University is also a partnering institution. Waters will offer extensive expertise in metallurgy and pre-and post-characterization.

The University of North Carolina General Administration has awarded grants totaling \$1.7 million to support faculty research in areas of strategic importance to the state. Each funded project involves faculty partners from two or more UNC institutions. In addition to spanning multiple UNC campuses, the funded projects will involve several private and public sector partners, including the General Electric Global Research Center, BlueSwarf, New River Light and Power Company, and Tetra Tech Engineering.

Research areas eligible for UNC ROI funding include advanced manufacturing; coastal and marine science; defense, military, and security; pharmacoengineering; energy; and data sciences. The grants are selected based on a rigorous review process led by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

# campus briefs continued

## Students

**L’Quaan C. Atkinson**, agricultural education major, is one of 21 students chosen to receive a 2016 National Black Farmers Association Scholarship. Scholarships of up to \$5,000 each were awarded on a competitive basis to students pursuing agriculture-related study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school.

**Jasmine L. Boles**, Miss A&T 2016-17, was a Top 10 finalist in the 2016 National Black College Alumni (NBCA) Competition of Black College Queens and was the winner of the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award. The competition was held during the 31st Annual National Black College Alumni (NBCA) Hall of Fame Weekend in Atlanta, Sept. 23-25.

For the talent portion, Boles sang a rendition of “Still I Rise” by gospel artist Yolanda Adams, performed an oratory titled “Black Colleges are the Roots of the Black Community, engaged in an interview session with a panel of judges and participated in the evening-wear competition. She also participated in various outreach activities, speaking to high school students and sharing her experiences.

While the program places emphasis on excellence, achievement and personal growth, it also provides for a fun and engaging atmosphere. The queens also participated in the Queens Luncheon, the Queens’ Tea, the Positive Image Program, and various self-improvement empowering workshops.

**Ny-Aja Boyd** is one of 19 student entrepreneurs selected from 16 universities for the prestigious 2016 Women’s Business Enterprises National Council (WBENC) Student Entrepreneur Program. The program fosters growth for the next generation of women-owned businesses through tailored entrepreneurial curriculum and mentoring from certified women’s business owners and Fortune 500 corporate members, while supported by title sponsor FedEx, pitch competition sponsor EY and student scholar supporters.



**Starr Reece King**, a master’s student in the clinical mental health counseling program, has received a \$5,000 scholarship from the NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors Inc., to support her counseling education and recognize her commitment to providing career counseling and guidance. The goal of the 2016 NBCC Foundation Global Career Development Facilitator Scholarship Program is to increase the number of available counselors providing quality career guidance and facilitation. In doing so, the program plays an important role in the Foundation’s mission to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

**Jonathan Alston** (Dowdy Scholar), **Maximilien DeLeon** (Dowdy Scholar) and **Mariah Franklin** are participants in the 2016-17 Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute. BHLI is a leadership development program based in Kansas City, Missouri, that 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 minority leaders.



A team of four N.C. A&T engineering students emerged from Silicon Valley as the winners of Black Enterprise’s TechConneXt Summit BE SMART hackathon. **Jean Olivier Beya**, **Ashana Evans**, **Brandon Long** and **Angelica Willis** won the highest honors after creating an app that helps anyone discover all-things relative to the black experience while located anywhere in the nation. The team examined various metrics including African American buying power and the number of road trips they take and asked the question: Have you ever wanted to go on a spontaneous road trip, but wanted opportunities to explore African American culture and history and at the same time support minority-owned businesses?

The team’s suggested solution was their winning app, “Let’s Go Black:” Where Culture Meets Adventure One Road at a Time. The iOS application helps users discover and devise a customized road trip experience and helps them support black-owned businesses by sending them push notifications when they are in the vicinity of an African American business. The app bases its suggestions on data input by the user and metrics involving distance and key words for trip themes.



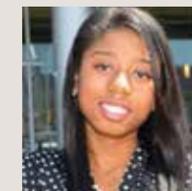
Beya



Evans



Long



Willis

Thirteen students from the College of Business and Economics competed for the first time in events at the 2016 National Black MBA Association Undergraduate and MBA Case Competitions during the NBMBAA conference in New Orleans, Oct. 11-15.

The Undergraduate Case Team—**Taylor Bruner**, junior, finance major; **Safiya Parker**, senior, marketing (sales); **Hunter Watson**, junior, marketing (sales); and **Lanisha Womack**, senior, accounting—won second place honors and \$10,000 for their analysis and presentation of a Darden Business Publishing (University of Virginia) graduate level case on Under Armour. **Alexandra Jackson**, junior accounting major, was the team alternate.

**Facial Amedja**, senior management information systems (MIS) major; **Ayanna Dawkins**, senior, economics; **Annell Gilot**, junior, accounting; and **Jamaal Washburn**, senior, accounting, participated in the conference’s first Undergraduate Hackathon Competition, winning first place and \$1,000 per student. The challenge was to create an app, a website or a program that would reduce average student debt from \$38K to \$18K per student by 2020. The students were given 24 hours to develop their idea, app and a presentation for a Shark Tank-like environment.

**Rebecca Bondima**, **Chinue Brown**, **Sobia Shaheen** and **D’Andria Gilmore** competed in the MBA Case Competition and completed a Harvard Business Review Case related to driverless automobiles.

Six computer science seniors—**Jean Olivier Beya**, **Yenny Dominguez**, **Ashana Evans**, **Paul Hammond** and **Kaleb Holley**—are among the 53 students that participated in the fourth annual UNCF HBCU Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (I.C.E.) Summit in Silicon Valley/Bay area, Nov. 16-19. The summit’s goal is to empower African American students, most of whom are computer science, engineering and information technology majors, to chart their career paths within STEM fields. Participants also had an opportunity to visit Adobe, eBay, Google, NetApp, PureStorage, Salesforce, Symantec, Visa and Veritas.

**WE MAY ENCOUNTER  
MANY DEFEATS,  
BUT WE MUST NOT  
BE DEFEATED.**

**MAYA ANGELOU**

## PRESIDENTIAL CONVERSATION



*President Barack Obama while taping ESPN's The Undeclared on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University*

The 44th president of the United States has thought-provoking dialogue with N.C. A&T students and others at ESPN's The Undeclared forum in Aggrieland.

By Tonya D. Dixon '04

It isn't often the nation's president visits a college campus to chat with students about issues of importance—to them. But President Barack Obama came to North Carolina A&T State University last fall to do just that.

On Oct. 11, Obama sat down with ESPN SportsCenter anchor Stan Verrett to tape a one-hour segment of ESPN's The Undeclared, A Conversation with The President: Sports, Race and Achievement, before a live, intimate audience of about 250 students and invited guests at N.C. A&T.

Dialogue during the student forum ranged from what it means to be "undefeated" to the importance of funding historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Relevant topics of the day were addressed by the president in his engaging, eloquent, intellectual, yet sincere style of commentary that resonated with the audience.

Several sports analogies were offered, but the heart of the conversation delved into complex and often controversial current issues. Students and guests asked tough questions, but there was one question that was most closely related to the president and his path to leadership: As a student organizer, what advice would you have for developing future activism and leaders?

In response, Obama said there are many ways to bring about change. But the overriding theme was to simply remain steadfast to the cause.



**Prior to the taping, Obama privately spent time with a few young African American men to discuss the issues that matter to them. He reiterated the necessity of the establishment and continued proliferation of his My Brother's Keeper initiative.**

“How you do it is less important than your commitment to use whatever platforms you have to speak to not just issues of racial injustice, but to speak to issues of discrimination against Muslims or sexual assault on college campuses or a whole host of issues that we confront on a day-to-day basis,” President Obama said.

He noted the approach will be different for each person. In response to a question from Sam Hunt, a member of the A&T basketball team, the president said, “The ability for you to mentor some 8-year-old or 10-year-old kid who lives right around here. Maybe he doesn’t have a dad, doesn’t have a lot. You paying attention to him and you’re a star guard on your team, you taking him to a ballgame and asking him how he is doing in school. That is revolutionary.”

While the audience was mesmerized by the president’s appearance at the event—which took place in the ballroom of the Alumni-Foundation Event Center—it was his thoughts and ideals that captured the hearts of the students and authored the dynamics of the room.

“Being a part of The Undeatable conversation with the president was amazing, not just simply being in his presence but the actual conversation itself,” said Naomi Nance, a senior journalism and mass communication major. “I enjoyed when the president spoke of service to others. As young people, we think it’s all about us. However, as the president brought out, when you exclude the vanity in your motives and substitute that with the willingness to serve others, that’s where your strength comes from.”

“Being a part of The Undeatable conversation with the president was amazing, not just simply being in his presence but the actual conversation itself,” said Naomi Nance, a senior journalism and mass communication major. “I enjoyed when the president spoke of service to others. As young people, we think it’s all about us. However, as the president brought out, when you exclude the vanity in your motives and substitute that with the willingness to serve others, that’s where your strength comes from.”

When you have that attitude, your individual victories and defeats are not so important compared to the bigger picture. That’s what resonated with me throughout, during and even after The Undeatable conversation with the president.”

There were a few lighthearted moments, as when Obama joked about teaching basketball superstar Stephen Curry how to shoot baskets; however, the president maintained his stance and mission to make sure that every socioeconomic issue is addressed and rectified for every individual—particularly young men of color—even beyond his presidential term.

Prior to the taping, Obama privately spent time with a few young African American men to discuss the issues that matter to them. He reiterated the necessity of the establishment and continued proliferation of his My Brother’s Keeper initiative, which has directly affected and positively impacted the trajectory of those young men’s lives.

Despite the varying negative issues that often arise for young African American students and professionals, the resounding theme for the conversation was to remain resolved and determined in the pursuit of passion and in the words of Dr. Maya Angelou that even though there may be defeats in life, “... you must not be defeated.”

Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. said it was a privilege to host the president at N.C. A&T for meaningful dialogue on a number of diverse and impactful topics that are critically important to address opportunities for growth for the young people in our nation.

“As the nation’s largest HBCU, it is our responsibility to ensure they have the support and resources they need to become global leaders,” said Martin.



Mark Zuckerberg, founder and CEO of Facebook, engages in an hour-long dialogue with A&T students.

# BUILDING *on* COMMUNITY

Chancellor's Town Hall series kicks off with Facebook founder and CEO, Mark Zuckerberg.

By Todd H. Simmons

From exploring the role social media can play in healing America's divides to increasing diversity in the tech industry to combatting Islamophobia online, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University students engaged Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg in a wide-ranging and thoughtful conversation as part of the inaugural Chancellor's Town Hall on March 13.

The new series was created to bring nationally distinguished guests to Greensboro for dialogue on matters of current and abiding importance to the campus community and the world beyond. Securing the leader of the platform that was the catalyst for the global social media revolution as the debut speaker made for an exciting start to what promises to be a consistently high-impact forum.

Zuckerberg spoke from a "theater-in-the-round" space in the Alumni-Foundation Event Center, with nearly 200 of N.C. A&T's best and brightest students seated around him. But thanks to Facebook Live and the archive of the broadcast, the event was seen by more than 3.65 million users around the world—and counting—as of this writing.

Zuckerberg started the Town Hall sharing a personal challenge he has undertaken this year to explore deeply the idea of community. An essay he published on the topic on Feb. 16, "Building Global Community," has received enormous international attention.

He recognized some of the prominent communities at A&T, calling out the university's nation-leading status in the graduation of African-American engineers and history of community around social justice and the A&T Four. He even offered a tentative "Agg-ie Priiiiide!" and a self-deprecating apology for "what must have been the worst accent that anyone said that in who has ever stepped foot on this campus."

Though there were plenty of lighter moments after that, the conversation took on a more serious tone with immediate questions about Facebook's responsibilities for identifying threats to community and for policing fake news propagated by many on the social media platform. Zuckerberg said despite Facebook's enormous reach of 1.86 billion users around the world, it can't solve such problems on its own. But that doesn't mean they're off the hook.

"I do believe we have a responsibility to do our best to help build some of that infrastructure that helps people come together, starting at the local level, building movements, doing good stuff and eventually making a difference globally," he said, calling "building tools that empower people around the world" one of the "next big things that we do."

**"I do believe we have a responsibility to do our best to help build some of that infrastructure that helps people come together ...."**

— ZUCKERBERG

Setting up that high-profile dialogue was one of the many big things that A&T leadership has undertaken this year. As a high-impact public research university that is also the nation's largest HBCU, A&T serves as an intellectual hub for exploration of issues of major importance to higher education, as well as concerns of ongoing importance to the African-American community.

President Obama famously took up many of those issues in his nationally televised forum with A&T students last fall on ESPN's "The Undeclared" platform, which the sports and entertainment network touts as the premier media space "for exploring the intersections of race, sports and culture." (See related article on page 18.)

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton followed President Obama with a surprise appearance at A&T in the final days of her 2016 campaign. (See related photo on page 46.)

Such high-profile campus visits make events like Zuckerberg's participation in the Chancellor's Town Hall more viable, as they underscore the singular setting that A&T provides for such discussions.

A&T's growing ties to Silicon Valley through a steady stream of interns, fellows and new alumni going to major tech concerns there, for instance, provided a substantial context for third-year doctoral student Zithobile Nxumalo's question on what students of color can do to better navigate the entrepreneurial world and be included in leadership in the tech community.

Zuckerberg appreciated the idea, but said tech businesses need to take primary ownership for that challenge.

"That responsibility rests on us," Zuckerberg said. "There's so much research that shows that you need diverse teams to do the best work. It's important that we do better on diversity not only because it's the right thing to do for the country and for people, but because it's the only way we're going to serve our community the best."

Media coverage of the event shined a global spotlight on the university. Zuckerberg's appearance not only drew coverage from every print and broadcast outlet in the Piedmont Triad, but from such well-known international media organizations as Fortune, CNBC, Entrepreneur and many more.

After the event, Zuckerberg met privately with student leaders of campus Greek organizations to learn more about their traditions of community service and lifelong relationships. And three days after his visit, he posted a group of photos from his time at A&T on his Mark's Year of Travel page on Facebook, so that his nearly 80,000 followers as well as the 87 million followers of his main page could learn more about his Aggieland experience.

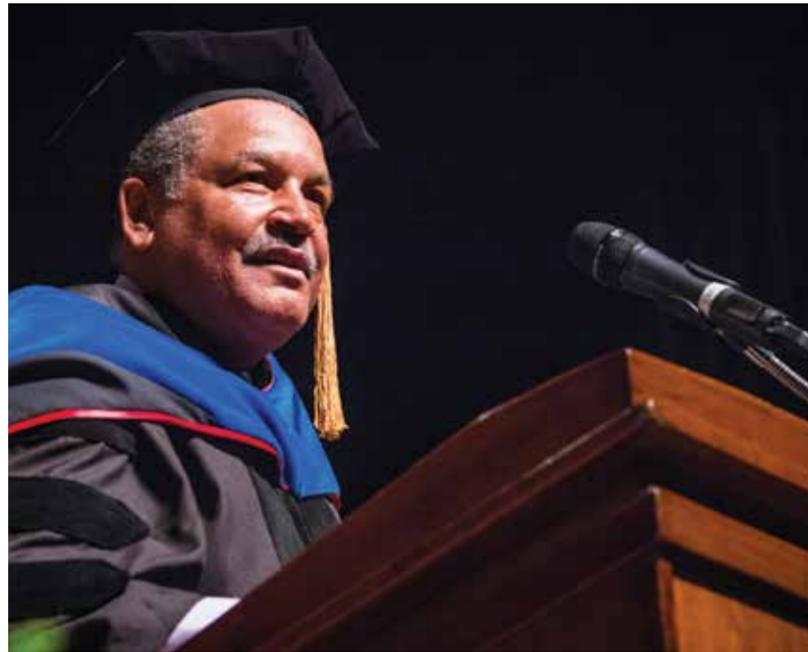
With the first installation of the Chancellor's Town Hall a rousing success, university leaders say to expect more high-profile participants in that series to be announced later this year.



The A. and M. College for the Colored Race was established March 9, 1891, as a land-grant institution through the mandates and provisions of the Second Morrill Act of 1890. During the 2015-2016 academic year, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) observed its quasiquicentennial—125 years of excellence, innovation and pride. Pictured are highlights from events and activities commemorating the milestone.

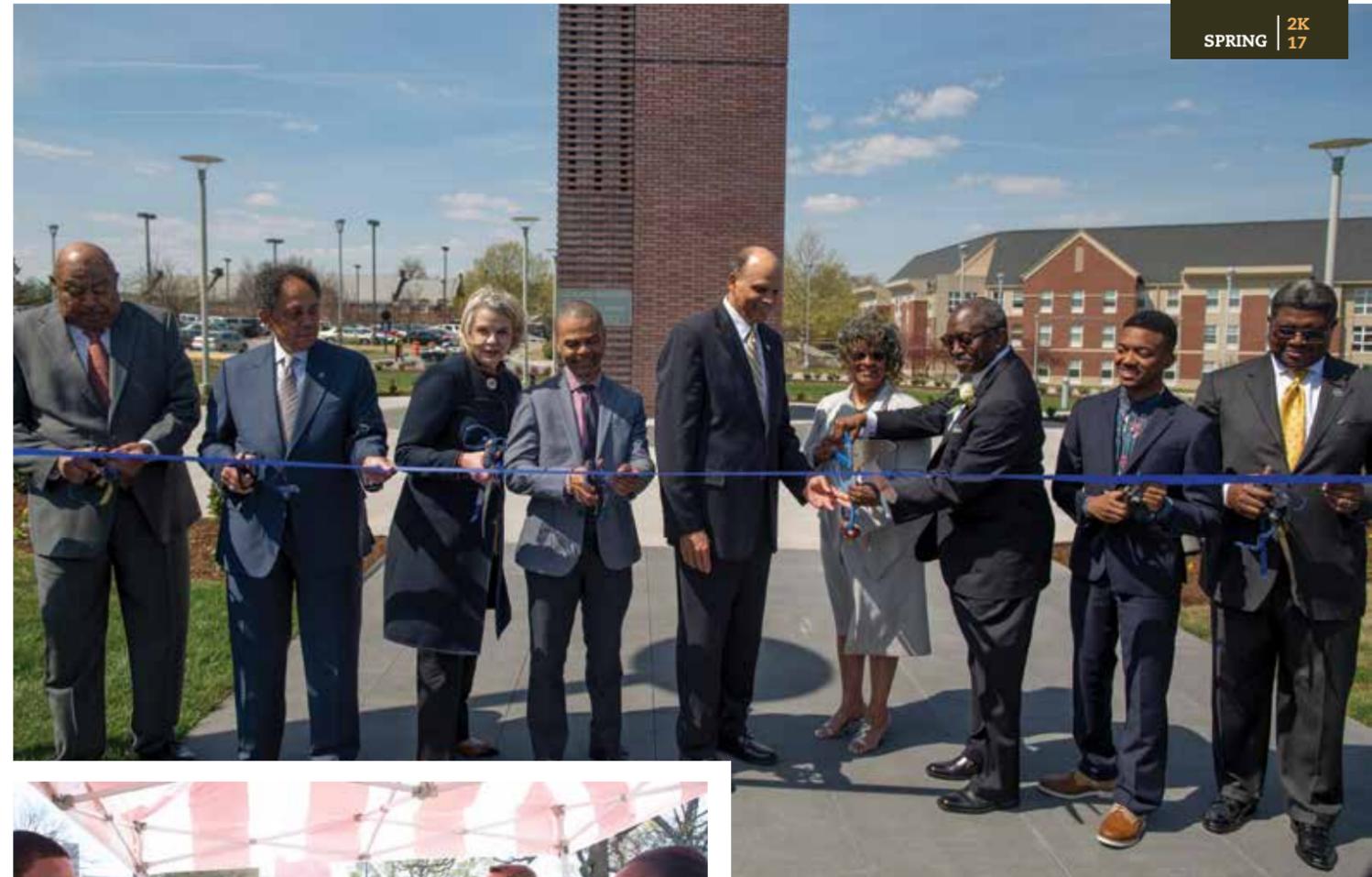
# N.C. A&T CELEBRATES

## 125 Years of Excellence, Innovation and Pride



### Faculty & Staff Institute (Kickoff)

N.C. A&T's 125th anniversary celebration kicked off on Aug. 14, at the Faculty and Staff Institute, an annual opening day program that includes a discussion of university goals, the introduction of new employees and the chancellor's state of the university address.



### Founders Day Observances

On March 24, then-governor Pat McCrory and UNC system president Margaret Spellings were among those who gathered in Harrison Auditorium to pay homage to N.C. A&T's history at the annual Founders Day Convocation. The keynote speaker was alumnus Blannie E. Bowen (pictured top right, opposite page), vice provost for academic affairs at The Pennsylvania State University. Seven individuals were presented alumni achievement awards from their respective colleges and schools.

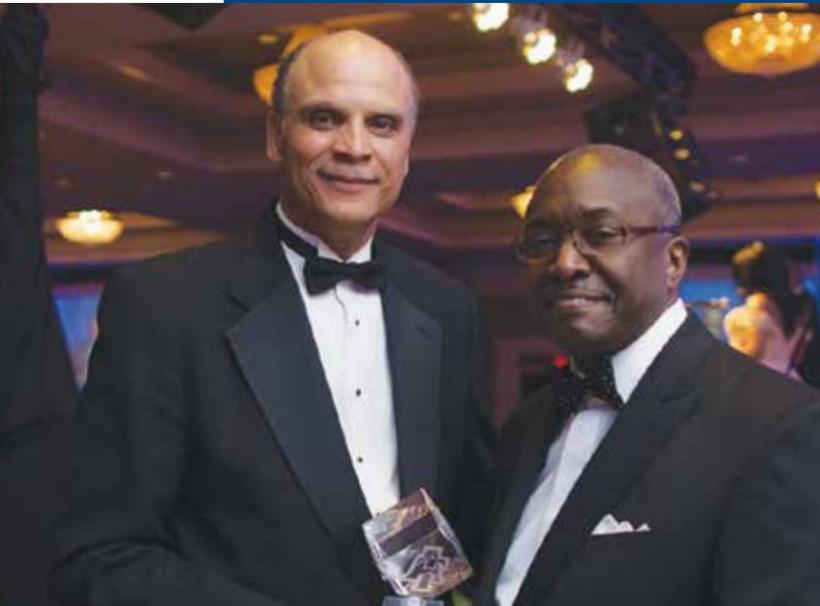
The Deese Clock Tower Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony (pictured top), immediately followed the convocation. Deese Tower is named for benefactors Willie A. and Carol C. Deese. The former is a past chairman of the university's board of trustees and is an alumnus of the now College of Business and Economics. At the time of the dedication, his lifetime gifts totaled nearly \$4 million.

What better way to end Founders Day than with a Birthday Bash. Thousands of Aggies and friends from across the Piedmont Triad visited Aggie Stadium to attend the free, pep rally-style celebration that included food, games and activities for every age, an appearance by the Blue & Gold Marching Machine and Aggie cheerleaders, and colorful fireworks.



### 125th Anniversary Scholarship Gala

Aggies donned their finest black-tie attire at the 125th Anniversary Scholarship Gala, which raised funds for scholarship dollars for deserving N.C. A&T students. The event was April 23, 2016, at the Grandover Resort and Conference Center. Highlights included three special legacy awards and live entertainment. Dr. Antoine Alston and Dr. Cathy Cornelius, (picture above left), associate and assistant deans, respectively, served as co-chairs for the 125th anniversary observance.



## LIVING LEGACIES HONORED DURING 125TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP GALA

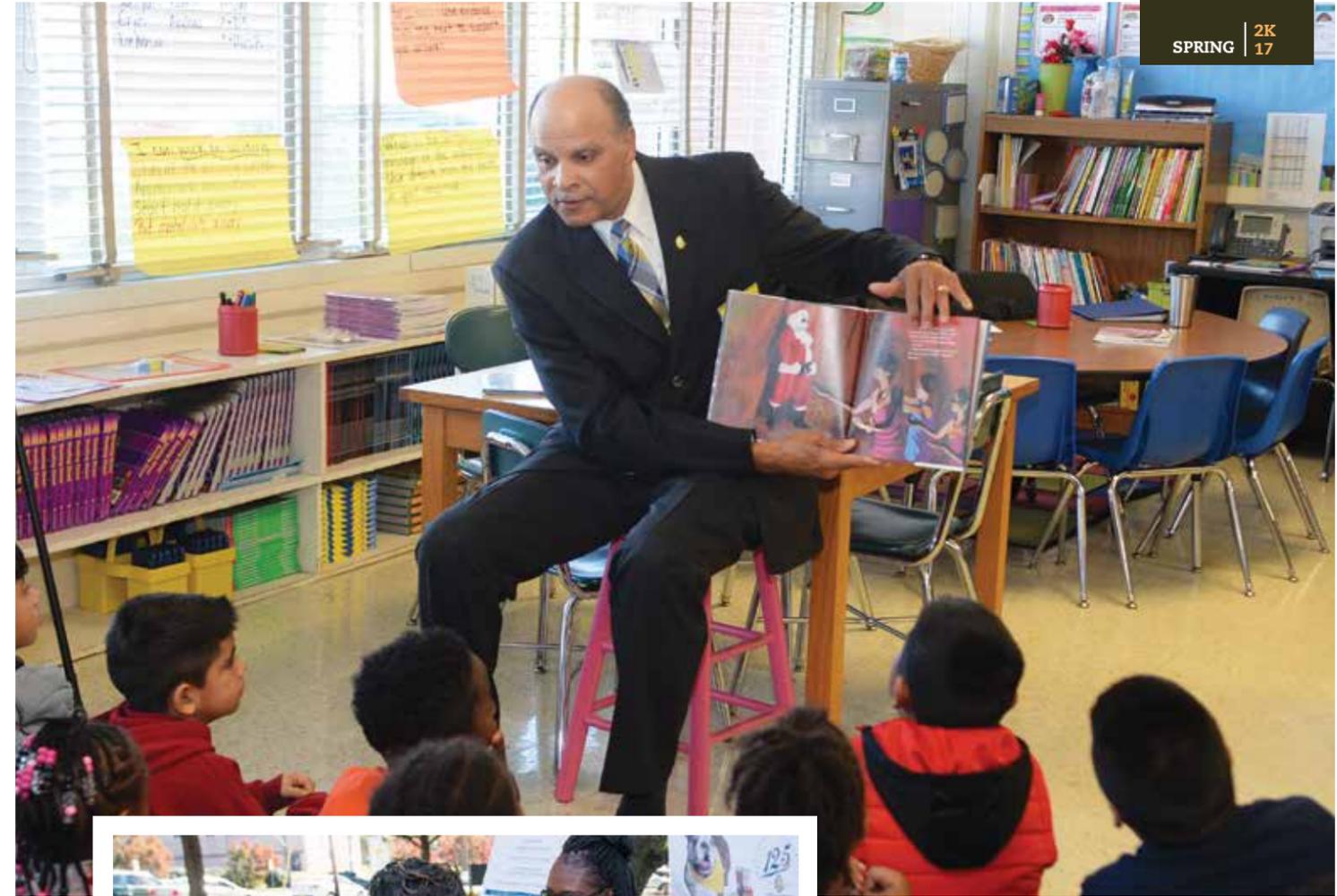
Left to right: Chancellor Martin poses with Willie Deese '77, Dr. Edward B. Fort and Dr. Velma R. Speight '53

Three outstanding individuals were honored with the first Chancellor's Legacy Award on April 23, during the university's 125th Anniversary Scholarship Gala. Willie Deese '77, Dr. Edward B. Fort and Dr. Velma R. Speight '53 were recognized for having demonstrated exemplary dedication to N.C. A&T in the areas of philanthropy, education and alumni service, respectively.

Deese successfully rose through the ranks of corporate America to become the executive vice president and president of the manufacturing division of Merck & Co., overseeing more than 80 manufacturing and distribution sites in more than 30 countries around the world. With more than \$4 million dollars in gifts to the university, his generosity has led to the funding of many students' education through the establishment of scholarships, support for enhanced faculty development and unrestricted support for various university divisions. Most recently he was honored as the benefactor for the Deese Clock Tower, which stands as the university's tallest and most iconic structure.

Fort served as the university's eighth chancellor (1981-1999). During Fort's tenure as chancellor, he guided the university to national prominence as a leader in engineering and technology education, expanded academic programs and enrollment, awarded its first doctoral degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering and completed more than \$50 million in new construction and \$30 million in renovations. The Edward B. Fort Interdisciplinary Research Center was named in his honor and houses research laboratories and offices of the Division of Research and Economic Development. Chancellor Emeritus Fort currently serves as a professor of leadership studies in the College of Education.

Known as "Miss Aggie Pride," Speight's relationship with the university began as a student when she was 15 years old, with only \$1.50 in her pocket and quite a bit of trepidation. She rose to the occasion, graduated with degrees in mathematics and French, and worked as a professional educator for more than 45 years. She served as president of the N.C. A&T National Alumni Association where she established a scholar's program. She also served as director of alumni affairs and executive director of the alumni association. Speight has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the university and directly to students, and continues to serve as a volunteer recruiter and mentor. The main lobby of the campus's Alumni-Foundation Event Center was named in her honor.



### COMMUNITY SERVICE: STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

As a land-grant university, and as a recipient of the 2015 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Community Engagement Classification and a land-grant university, N.C. A&T has a special responsibility to strategically partner with groups and individuals on a local, national and global level to create a lasting, positive impact on social and environmental challenges that proactively respond to the needs of others. The university challenged alumni, students, faculty and staff to participate in a combined 125 service projects.



### STATEWIDE FOOD DRIVE

The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T paid tribute to the state's small-scale growers, by expanding the scope of the 2016 Small Farms Week observance to include a food drive, Feb. 15-March 23. Twenty-nine counties collaborated, of which 15 collected a minimum of 125 canned or non-perishable food items per county. All donations were maintained in the respective counties where they were collected—4,720 food items (plus a semi-truck of food that provided grocery bags for 500 families) were collected across the state and donated locally to provide food for the food-insecure. At N.C. A&T, students collected 442 items and the Ag school collected 222.

### READING LESSONS

Leading by example, the chancellor (pictured above) and his cabinet partnered with the Guilford County Schools system to read a total of 125 books to students across 10 elementary schools. Their theme: Our Pride to Read, Your Future to Succeed. Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. is pictured reading to students at Bessemer Elementary School.

### CELEBRATING CHILDREN

The Division of Business and Finance partnered with Guilford County Department of Health-Foster Care and purchased thousands of toys for the "Stuff the Aggie Bus" campaign.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE: STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF *continued*



### SOUPS FOR SENIORS

Division of Research and Economic Development and the Child Development Lab partnered to collect 672 cans of soup for senior citizens of Guilford County. The employees exceeded their goal of 500 cans of soup, canned foods and non-perishable items.

### EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD

The HORT 334-Plant Propagation class in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Design collaborated with the Children's Museum in Greensboro for the latter's Edible Schoolyard, and then-School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, annual plant sale. Four hundred plants were produced by the students as part of their learning experience, and then donated to the Edible Schoolyard.



### SERVICE PROJECTS

- 125 Thanksgiving Food Drive • 2015 Young Leaders Trunk or Treat • A Rooftop Garden at the Greensboro Science Center • A Taste of Love • A Time for Giving • Adapt a Street • Aggie Heart of Love • Aggies Support the Babies • Aggie-Tiger Fun Day • American Red Cross Annual Holiday Blood Drive • American Red Cross Blood Drive (125 Employees) • Backpack Beginners • Bags of Hope • Bessemer Elementary School Service Project • Big Sweep Greensboro • Can Day @ the State Fair • Canned Food/Clothing Drive • Cardz for Kidz • Celebrate the Children • CEPHT and NC Agromedicine Institute Portable Garden Project • CEPHT Toy Drive • Cheers! A Toast to Children's Health • Children's Home Society "Hope for The Holiday's" • Christmas Cards for Children • Clothing and Toiletry Drive for Disabled American Veterans and the Salvation Army • Coats for Children • Community Housing Solutions • Cooperative Extension at N.C. A&T Food Drive • Covering the City Pink and Green • Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Fundraiser • Donate A Pair - Socks for the Homeless • Don't Hide the Beat • Empty Bowl Fundraiser • Every Little Aggie Has a Story • GCS Teacher Supply Warehouse • Grace Community Church CARE Ministry Community Dinner • Great American Clean Up • Greensboro Urban Ministry \* • Guided Reading • Habitat for Humanity \* • Hampton Elementary is Our Pride and Our Future • Healing Gardens Event • Holiday Book Drive • Honors Community Service: Meals and Hygiene Care Packets • Hope for the Holiday • International Civil Rights Center and Museum Community Wellness Fair • JDRC Walk to Cure Diabetes • Literacy Day at the Doris Henderson Newcomers School • Live Well Community Health and Wellness Fair • Making Cents Event - Financial Literacy for High School Students • Meals on Wheels • MLK Jr. Supply Drive • Our Pride to Read, Your Future to Succeed • Out of the Garden-Food Drive • Pack the Pantry \* • Packages for the Homeless • Popcorn and a Book - Teacher Appreciation • Reading Day at Gillespie Park Elementary School • Reducing Hunger through Service - Volunteer Center of Greensboro • Running of the Ball 5K Race • SAES 125th Food Drive Service Project • Salvation Army Christmas Program (Angel Tree Program and Toyshop Volunteers) • Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign • Santa for Seniors • School is Cool - Boys and Girls Club • Share the Warmth with a Child • Sharing the Melody • SME Holiday Canned Food Drive • Snack and School Supply Drive for Boys and Girls Club of Greensboro • Socks for Joy 2015 • SON Third Annual Diabetes Awareness Walk • Soups for Seniors • Special Olympics of North Carolina 2015 Fall Tournament • Student Center Puts the Golden Back in Living • Toiletry Drive • Toys for Tots • Trunk or Treat for Hampton Elementary University Partnership Magnet • United Way of Greater Greensboro 2015 Young Leaders Trunk or Treat • Valentine's Day Dance - Boys and Girls Club • YMCA Christmas Magic

\* Two or more projects



**WOMEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE**

Gate City Alumni Chapter, N.C. A&T Alumni Association Inc., sponsored the Women Enthusiastically Bring About Change (WEBAC) project to support women and provide a safe and supportive environment for them to “recharge.” The project was implemented in partnership with the Macedonia Family Resource Center in High Point, North Carolina.

**CHRISTMAS BUREAU AND CLASSROOM CENTRAL**

Salvation Army’s Christmas Bureau in Charlotte, North Carolina, benefited from Queen City Alumni Chapter volunteers during the 2015 holiday season. For another project, the chapter also donated school supplies and assisted with teacher shopping at Classroom Central, which provides free school supplies to teachers in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties. The chapter also served lunch, conducted a life skills session and fun activities, as well as donated toiletries, socks and paper towels at The Relatives Crisis Center in Charlotte.

**YOUNG ALUMNI**

Members of the Young Alumni Council (YAC) from three areas in North Carolina—Greensboro, Raleigh/Durham and Charlotte—along with the Office of Alumni Relations at N.C. A&T, hosted Days of Aggie Service. Greensboro YAC, in partnership with Gate City Alumni Chapter, assisted the Out of the Garden Project; Raleigh/Durham YAC aided the Durham Rescue Mission-Brier Creek Thrift Store #2 in Raleigh; and Charlotte YAC (pictured) helped out at the Sugaw Creek Recreation Center.



**COMMUNITY SERVICE: ALUMNI CLASSES AND ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS**

**CLASS OF '66**

The Golden Anniversary Class of 1966 provided the homeless men, women and children of Pathways Family Center and Greensboro Urban Ministry with 125 cosmetic bags filled with personal care items, toiletries and socks to help them feel special, healthy and alive.

**COLUMBUS (OHIO) AGGIES**

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio received bottle tabs and plastic sandwich bags from the Columbus (Ohio) Chapter. The bottle tabs were collected and weighed at a recycling center and the funds were donated to assist with utilities.

The chapter also contributed egg cartons and plastic bags to Mid-Ohio Food Bank Pantry for the distribution of eggs and food items to families. For job and reentry program interviews, men’s clothing items were given to My Brothers’ Closet and women’s clothing to Dress for Success.

**SERVICE PROJECTS**

- 125 Socks for Thrive D.C.
- April: 30 Days of 125 “Aggie Pride” Acts of Kindness
- Atlanta Community Food Bank Food Sort
- Celebration Bowl Community Service Project
- Classroom Central
- Columbus Ohio Aggies Give Back
- Donation Drive for Whatcoat Social Services
- Donations for a Homeless Shelter (Northern Delaware)
- Durham Rescue Mission-Brier Creek Thrift Store #2
- E.E. Smith High School “You Better Work” Culture Arts and PTSA Event
- Feeding the San Diego Homeless at Father Joe’s Villages
- Hands Against Hunger
- Helping 125 to Feel Special, Healthy and Alive
- MLK Day of Service - Covenant House Georgia
- Men on the Move Mentoring Program at Reedy Fork Elementary
- NYC A&T Alumni Toy Drive & Game Watch Party
- Out of the Garden Project
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio
- Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
- Salvation Army Christmas Bureau
- Serving Lunch at The Relatives Crisis Center
- Sugaw Creek Recreation Center
- Supporting Wiley Elementary School
- The Relatives Crisis Center
- There’s a RAM in the Bush: Helping Others throughout Service
- Women Enthusiastically Bringing About Change (WEBAC) Project

# people behind the scholarships

## Aggie Pride Runs Deep for Hilda Pinnix-Ragland '77



Pinnix-Ragland

"I just love A&T, love it immensely. It will hold a place in my heart for life," says alumna Hilda Pinnix-Ragland.

Pinnix-Ragland has channeled that love into two scholarships that benefit accounting students in the College of Business and Economics at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

The first of those, the Hilda Pinnix-Ragland Endowment, is administered through the North Carolina Community Foundation. Eligible students must be enrolled in the university and pursuing a degree in accounting. They must also have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Financial need is considered in the selection of recipients.

The second, the Hilda Pinnix-Ragland Endowed Scholarship, was established as a birthday gift by her husband Al and her sister Dr. LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey, who pledged to make five annual payments of \$5,000 each to total \$25,000. When the endowment is met, the scholarship will be awarded through the College of Business and Economics to accounting students who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need.

Recipients will have to be full-time students classified as sophomores or higher, be North Carolina residents and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Though both scholarships are named for her, Pinnix-Ragland says the spotlight should be on the recipients.

**"I believe in young people and that they can all learn. I am particularly interested in minority middle school girls. It is a vulnerable age group. I will never forget the great experiences I had in math during middle school and that is where I saw the division happen." — PINNIX-RAGLAND**

"This is not about me. It's about those students who will never know me. It is about educating beautiful minds, giving them an opportunity," she said. "I was afforded that opportunity and shame on me if I don't think about other people and pay it forward. I couldn't care less whether they knew me or not. My prayer is that they would do the same."

It was the support that she received from people like then-Dean Lucille Pickett, Shirley and Henry Frye and Dean Emeritus Quiester Craig that helped her during her time as a student and ultimately steered her toward success. Pinnix-Ragland wants current and future A&T students to know that they have in her what she had in them.

"There are graduates who believe in them even though they didn't know them, who believe in the value of education and that through education and continued education and lifelong learning, the world will be a much stronger place from an economic and an environmental standpoint," she said.

Pinnix-Ragland received her degree in accounting and spent her career in a number of capacities that included auditing, information technology, project management and even operations.

"I was a Colgate-Palmolive Scholar — I received an accounting scholarship and interned there for two years. Then, I started my career right (here) at A&T and went on to Arthur Andersen in New York for a couple of years," she said.

After that, she worked for Carolina Power & Light (CP&L) as a financial auditor and later in the utility company's treasury department, dealing with financial models, tax and financial planning and utilizing her information technology experience to analyze financial data. She later moved into management services and earned her Project Management Information certification.

She stayed with CP&L as it changed to Progress Energy and eventually Duke Energy, changing jobs to add economic development and customer service management to her list of skills and abilities. She also became head of CP&L's foundation.

"I worked all over that company," she said. "I stayed there because I was always challenged. I believe that as long as young people are challenged, they will continue to learn. I firmly believe that it is all about the learning process."

Pinnix-Ragland retired as the vice president of corporate public affairs of Duke Energy in June. She has moved full-speed ahead into her next career as a compensated member of the board for RTI International.

"There is so much we can do in all parts of the world," she said of her work on the boards. "It is incredibly rewarding as they try to eradicate infectious diseases. Whether it is to eradicate Ebola or the work we are doing now to eradicate the Zika virus."

She is also a member of the board for the North Carolina Services for Dentistry Inc. and the North Carolina Community Foundation. Pinnix-Ragland has the honor of having a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program for minority, middle school girls named after her.

"I must give Dr. Wandra Hill credit for that. It was such a dear honor for me when they bestowed that on me. I believe in young people and that they can all learn," she said. "I am particularly interested in minority middle school girls. It is a vulnerable age group. I will never forget the great experiences I had in math during middle school and that is where I saw the division happen."

Students at the Hilda Pinnix-Ragland STEM Academy in Wake County have already had the opportunity to work with robotics that could help people who have blood vessel blockages due to high cholesterol.

"I am just so proud of those young students and their work," she said.



## TONY WELBORNE: 50 YEARS LATER, HE'S STILL THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC

BEFORE THE RADIO VOICE FOR NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY WAS WNAA-90.1 FM, IT WAS WANT-620 AM. ANTHONY "TONY B" WELBORNE WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH.

By Tonya Dixon '04

The idea to build a radio station at N.C. A&T started out as a class project, but once Tony Welborne and three of his classmates resolved to do it, their initiative quickly turned into a historic moment for the university.

The students began by transforming an old inoperable audio board donated from WEAL-1510 AM into a fully functioning control system.

"We repaired the board and got it working, but of course we didn't know anything about running a radio station. Professor Thomas Avery and the late Mr. Melvin Alexander collaborated with us and taught us what to do—what techniques and procedures to follow and how to get an FCC license," said Welborne. "We were charged with making it work, and we did it. We got on the air."

Although the students were allowed to connect the transmitters through the existing electrical wiring in the building, that simply didn't provide enough firepower. So they put an antenna on top of Price Hall and built a more powerful transmitter so that the entire community could pick them up.

"We didn't get in trouble; we just didn't tell them," laughs Welborne.

It was a fairly big deal considering the students basically did it on their own. With the help of Dr. Jessie Marshall, who was dean of students at the time, they eventually got funding to acquire items like an Associated Press wire machine to receive incoming news and of course the latest music.

"Eventually, record labels started sending us music because they saw that we were touching an audience that wasn't there before," said Welborne. "Dr. Lois Kenny was director of the radio station, and students from the English department were announcers and did the news. She had weekly sessions about how to speak on the air and was adamant about being articulate. We hated that part at the time, but it was necessary."

"Dr. Kenny had lots of connections during the civil rights movement, so she brought a lot of people into the radio station. Stokley Carmichael and

several others did interviews on the station to offer something of substance other than music. The students learned to do these programs and met people they wouldn't have normally met."

Although he was intimately involved in developing the station's technology, Welborne also developed a keen interest in the overall function of the station, as well as its growth. Which is why he was a bit disheartened to discover after he graduated and returned from military service that the station was still in operation, but not nearly in the condition that he thought it deserved. So he took matters into his own hands and volunteered to repair malfunctioning transmitters and get everything in proper working condition.

Welborne has a personal mission of making sure the station remains relevant by delivering timely news and information about the world beyond their front door and issues of importance to its listeners—namely college-age young adults.

"During the time when we started the radio station, many of the other stations that catered to black people didn't put news on the air. I thought something was wrong with that," said Welborne. "I have always been adamant about having news on the air and information on the air. So during that time, we had a full news department and news director."

Over the years the station went through various stages of operation. From AM to FM, WANT to WNAA, low to high wattage, alternative to jazz then back to alternative music, Welborne has been there for it all. He says the station's current programming is more akin to its original format.

"People loved the station from the very beginning because it was an alternative to the commercial radio stations. We didn't have to worry about commercials. We could play a lot of the music they didn't play. We could play anything we wanted to play. So we played a lot of alternative cuts from albums that people wouldn't hear on other stations, and they loved it," said Welborne. "We basically stick to the same format. We provide the programming that people and students want to hear and get involved with."

*continued, page 35*



# SOLID GOLD

By Tiffany S. Jones '03

**Established first as WANT-AM, N.C. A&T's WNAA-FM 90.1 – The Voice now operates as a full-power, noncommercial FM stereo station serving the Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem metro radio market, no. 46 among the country's Top 100 markets.**

For listeners, it is a place to hear their favorite gospel, jazz, hip hop and R&B music, as well as public affairs programming that includes talk shows, “The Bottom Line,” “A&T Today” and “On Point with Chancellor Martin.”

For program director D. Cherie Lofton, it has been a calling.

“WNAA-FM has allowed me to use my God-given talent and assist others who have the passion for music and radio,” she said. “After a number of years in commercial radio and meeting students who wanted to learn, coming to A&T to work with future broadcasters was a blessing.”

Lofton began her first stint at WNAA when she was a student at Bennett College.

“I won a pair of tickets to see Public Enemy in Moore Gym, and when I picked up my tickets I also signed up the volunteer; that started my radio career,” she said.

As a volunteer, she was trained and mentored by Judith Malik, long-time general manager, Anthony “Tony B” Welborne and Yvonne Anderson. Lofton also credits fellow announcers for helping her grow – professionals like Houston-based radio morning show host Benjamin “Madd Hatta” Thompson, head of programming and strategy for Music Choice, Mic Fox, Philadelphia-based operations manager Derrick “DC” Corbett and radio personalities Marty Freeman and George Majette.

Thompson says he, too, received invaluable guidance from Yvonne Anderson, crediting her for not only for his professional foundation, but his on-air name. Anderson always pushed him to be better.

“She was the one who gave me my opportunity – taught me the ins and outs,” he said. “She threw me in there and let me do my thing, and she told me when it was time to go.”

Anderson told Thompson during his time as a student that he had gone as far as he could go in college radio, and that if he wanted to succeed, he would have to move on to commercial radio. He did exactly that when he went to work at 102 Jamz in Greensboro. On graduation day, Thompson said he participated in the ceremony and went to work.

“When most people graduate, they invite everyone. Not me. As soon as I got off that stage, I said, ‘I’ve got to go to work,’” Thompson said.

Thompson’s work ethic, along with all of the student and community volunteers who mirrored his passion for radio, are what Anderson said motivated her to volunteer and later work at the station.

“I would have worked at WNAA for free. At the time I was in charge of music and programming, we were blessed with a most talented, creative and knowledgeable group of student and community volunteers,” she said. “All were strong personalities who motivated me to find the best music, develop clean rotations and keep production at a high standard.”

Now, Lofton, one of Anderson’s protégés, is at the helm of programming and working to keep it fresh and new for listeners.

“That is a big task, but now that our students love technology, they have no problem sharing the latest music gems they have found online,” Lofton said. “I also spend time reading trades (magazines), doing research online, networking with a number of radio programmers, listening to Shazam or SoundHound music played during various TV shows, and enjoying various radio stations all over the country.”

In her time at WNAA as program director, Lofton has followed in Anderson’s footsteps to help shape and mentor young talent such as actor and television host Terrence Jenkins, Greensboro-based midday show host and music director Maurice “Big Mo” Mayer, as well as New York-based television producer Joseph Escobar.

Mayer started at the radio station as a freshman after a push from his grandmother.

“When I got to school, I didn’t really know what I wanted to do. I knew I liked music but I didn’t know how to play an instrument,” he said. “I spoke to my grandmother and she said, ‘Why don’t you try to do radio?’”

He went to the radio station, then located in Price Hall, and communicated his ambitions.

“The first day I went in there, I did a PSA and I just fell in love with it,” Mayer said. “I did some training and then D. Cherie told me she wanted me to work one Friday. I guess I did pretty good because she said she wanted me to do Monday and Friday.”

Since then, Mayer hasn’t looked back. He started working at 102 Jamz on the overnight shift after Terrence Jenkins and another former announcer fought for him to get an on-air slot. That is a job he kept for more than a decade before moving to the midday shift and assistant music director. He still has his midday shift and has been promoted to the station’s music director.

“Without D. Cherie and Mr. Welborne telling me the do’s and don’ts, I honestly don’t know where I’d be,” Mayer shared. “WNAA is a great stepping stone for any student trying to get into radio. It helped me really understand radio.”

This year, the station celebrates its golden anniversary and welcomes all of WNAA’s former announcers to stop by to see the new station, now located on the third floor in Crosby Hall.

“It is beautiful and our visitors are still amazed when they stop by,” Lofton said. “Our loyal listeners remember where we used to be in Price Hall. It was very small, but like Madd Hatta said, ‘We did some great things in Price Hall.’”

Welborne vividly remembers how the station has always been a trailblazer within its top-50 market. Many of the programming genres that other local stations currently thrive on, A&T was among the first to offer on the air. Believe it or not, not so long ago rap music was considered taboo, and few other FM stations dared to play it. But recognizing its audience, A&T gave it a shot and continues to explore uncharted musical territory.

**In 50 years, a 1966 class project created by electronics students has grown to reach hundreds of thousands of people within a 55-mile radius around the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University campus.**

“We are the first and only station in the area that has a full-time reggae show. It’s been on the air since 1983. And we are the only station in this market to have blues on air full-time since 1987,” he said. “To have programming on-air consistently is almost unheard of. Even through different changes, we know the audience will always be there.”

As the current general manager, and the no-nonsense man that he is, Welborne continues to encourage students, particularly communication students, to take a greater role and responsibility in the day-to-day operations of the station. He notes that they have a stake in it, whether they realize it or not. After all, it was started by students. His desire is for them to continue the legacy.

Why has he dedicated so much of his career to the radio station? It’s simple. He believes in the power of real radio. Students who have accepted the opportunities and lessons that the station, as well as Welborne, have offered have accessed an open door into the gigantic world of media and communications and a rich first step for their careers.

“Radio will be around when nothing else is here. If right now someone sent out a virus and turned off the Internet, every television and Internet station would be down. Yes, we depend on the Internet for sending music to our transmitter, but the big difference is, if it all fails, we can still operate,” he said.

“So when it’s all said and done, and one day it all goes dark, radio will be the only thing that is still around.”

Well, maybe not the only thing. Welborne is going to stick around as long as he can, too.



# Bold Makeover

## 'Aggies DO!' campaign gets exciting new look

By Tiffany S. Jones '03

When the academic year began in August, so did the newest phase of North Carolina A&T State University's branding campaign, Aggies DO!

During the annual Faculty Staff Institute, the university debuted the campaign's new look, showing the new word mark and preliminary designs for the new PowerPoint presentation template. New templates for newsletters, brochures and advertisements are in development.

N.C. A&T unveiled the Aggies DO! campaign in 2014, as a way to unify the university's integrated marketing and strategic communication efforts through consistent messaging.

"When we launched A&T Preeminence 2020, we immediately went to work on a brand campaign that would accurately define and tell the story of Aggie Pride," said Nicole Pride, chief of staff.

"We surveyed faculty, staff, students, alumni and other key constituents about their perceptions of N.C. A&T. We confirmed something we already knew—Aggie Pride reigns supreme in the hearts and minds of Aggies around the globe. What we learned is that Aggie Pride means different things to different people, and those meanings are rooted in all the dynamic things that Aggies 'do.'"

The university partnered with TWG Plus, a creative marketing agency for higher education that delivers branding, publications, research, student search and digital services, to design the new collateral that will illustrate the Aggies DO! brand and provide universal messaging on campus, in the community and around the globe.

"For more than 125 years, N.C. A&T has never stopped striving for excellence. Aggies have made things happen because we persevere," said Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr.

"That is why we must harness the love and passion of Aggie Pride to fuel our new brand. Aggies DO! is our clarion call to action that captures the essence of this institution and what it means to be a member of the Aggie family."

The Aggies DO! positioning statement encapsulates the university's strategic themes and marries them with Aggie Pride:

**We are proud. Our history is rich with achievement and tradition. Our university is a place where the dynamic and visionary challenge the status quo. We share a vision of preeminence; using our minds, our research and our passion, we engage the community and create positive, lasting global change. We are better than yesterday, but never as good as tomorrow. Because our excellence has no boundaries – and because that's what AGGIES DO!**



# Riding High

By Tiffany S. Jones '03

total enrollment  
for A&T this fall  
**11,177**

which maintains  
the university's  
distinction as the  
largest historically  
black college or  
university in  
the nation

## Its high academic profile sets the freshman class on a historic course toward achievement.

When he was a young boy, maybe 5 or 6 years old, Myles Ross had an important talk with his father about his future.

"He said, 'You're either going to be a doctor or an engineer,'" Ross said.

Fast forward approximately 12 years, and Ross is now one of 2,931 new first-year undergraduate students (freshmen) who started classes this fall. In addition to being the largest group of first-year students in the university's history, the class of 2020 is also the most academically accomplished, posting an overall GPA of 3.48 and an average SAT score of 933. These numbers are up from the previous year.

North Carolina A&T's history of academic excellence attracts many high-achieving students, but it was the opportunity to participate in research that piqued Ross's interest.

"I felt like there would be more opportunities here," he said. "I want to get a Ph.D. and do research with the government. I really want to work on cutting-edge technology that will shape how the world works in the future."

The chance to get involved in research also piqued the interest of Nalani Brown.

"When I was thinking of college and doing my visits, the two biggest things that were important to me other than academics were to study abroad and do undergrad research," Brown said. "Those schools that had both moved a little closer to the top of the list."

Brown and Ross are two of 21 Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Scholars in the freshman class. The Dowdy Scholars Program was established in 2008 and continues to produce some of the university's most academically talented students. Scholars receive a four-year renewable scholarship that includes tuition, fees, room and board, contingent upon scholars meeting the renewal requirements each year.

Ross, an electrical engineering major from Yorktown, Virginia, by way of Hampton, is considering adding a second major of bioengineering and joining some of the engineering-related organizations available to students on campus.

"I really just want to do research. You get to do things that shape the future of the world, even with little things. The person who made the pencil had a pretty huge impact on the world. I want to help people," he said. "Something engineers can say that doctors can't is that they continue to help and impact the lives of so many people even after they die. That is what I want to be. It would be cool to make something exciting."

The thought of being able to blaze trails excites Ross. In fact, he broke family tradition to make his mark in Aggrieland.

"Both my parents and my sister graduated from Howard," he said.

Ross was headed in that direction, too, but a campus visit to N.C. A&T changed his mind. He is glad he made the decision.

"I have been here since Summer Session II, and it's a lot of fun. It's been great to connect with all these people," he said. "You can talk to anyone and find out that they are doing something really incredible."

Like Ross, Brown came to A&T with a number of credit hours already completed, thanks to advanced placement and international baccalaureate (IB) classes in high school. While the classes were rigorous for a high school student, they prepared her for the things she would encounter in college.

"I knew IB was excellent preparation. The rigor of the course work is high, and if you do the diploma program, you have to do 150 hours of creativity, activity and service," Brown said.

That taught her effective time management and help to set her up for success before she set foot on A&T's campus. When Brown received notification that she would be awarded the Dowdy Scholarship, it was the confirmation she needed to know that she didn't waste her time in high school. "It showed me that people recognize that you've been working hard and that the two years I spent doing only work were not wasted," she said.

Brown is a bioengineering major who plans to pick up another major in biology on the pre-med track. She would also like to minor in Spanish.

"One of my goals is to learn all six of the official United Nations languages," she said.

As if learning five languages isn't ambitious enough, Brown also has a goal of earning her M.D. or Ph.D. before she turns 27.

"I can see myself becoming a surgeon or a neuroscientist and even as a practicing physician, there is so much room to research," she said.

Growing the enrollment and profile of the freshman class is only one step toward meeting the goals for student success outlined in the university's strategic plan, *A&T Preeminence 2020: Embracing Our Past, Creating Our Future*.

According to Erin Hill Hart, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management, the university also has to be strategic about recruiting academically prepared students.

"One of the strategies has been to build a pipeline of interested students beginning earlier in the K-12 cycle and continuing the engagement and maintaining contact with these students through to their senior year," she said.

"This keeps us on their radar, and informs them of the academic requirements to enroll and qualify for scholarships. Marketing efforts that include successes of our students have been helpful, as well."

The university has set a goal to grow its enrollment to 13,500: 10,000 undergraduate students and 3,500 at the graduate level.

"On the undergraduate side, our focus remains on recruitment and retention to help us realize this goal," Hart said. "There has been renewed focus for graduate students to identify specific programs for scheduled growth."

The total enrollment for A&T this fall is 11,177 students, which maintains the university's distinction as the largest historically black college or university in the nation.

**new first-year undergraduate students**

**3.48** overall GPA

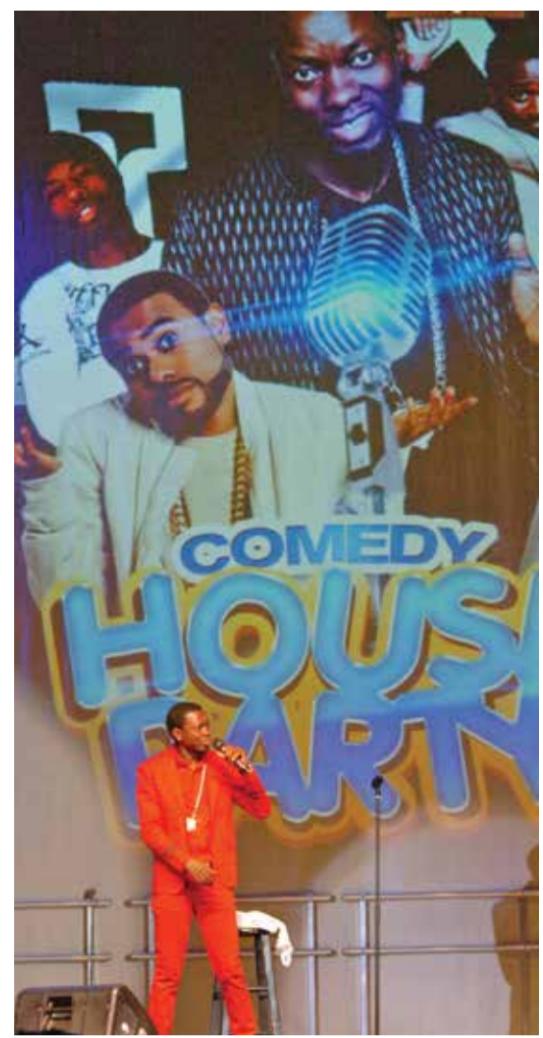
**21** Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Scholars in the freshman class

**933** average SAT score

**2,931**



# The Greatest Homecoming on Earth 2016



Clockwise from top: Homecoming Parade 2016; SGA president Jordan Greene and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton; golf tournament participants

Clockwise from upper right: Actor and activist Hill Harper (moderator, AT&T's "The Brand of You" panel discussion); Aggie cheerleaders and FOX 8 morning anchor/reporter Shannon Smith; comedian Michael Blackson; Fall Convocation speaker, Dr. Anthony Graham, dean of the College of Education at N.C. A&T



Clockwise from upper left: Aerial view of Aggie Stadium; alumni Jean Wilson, Jerry Kimbrough and Dorothy "Dottie" Moseley; Alumni Affirmation Service; Mister and Miss A&T 2016-17, Jeffron Smalls and Jasmine Boles; award-winning R&B and gospel singer Stephanie Mills; Aggie Athletic Foundation Inc.; running back Tarik Cohen

# aggie athletics

By Brian M. Holloway '97



Tarik Cohen set and broke several records during the 2016 football season to gain national attention.

## Cohen Ends N.C. A&T Career with Numerous Honors

Even after his collegiate football career at N.C. A&T came to an end in November, Tarik Cohen continued to receive accolades.

Four weeks after retiring his cleats in November, the senior from Bunn, North Carolina, earned several All-American recognitions. He was named a first-team All-American by the NCAA and BoxToRow, named to the 2016 Walter Camp Football Championship Subdivision All-American team and the second-team AFCA Football Championship Subdivision Coaches' All-American selection. (Teammate Brandon Parker of Kannapolis was named second-team All-America by the NCAA and was a first-team selection by BoxToRow.)

On Dec. 6, Cohen added to his legacy becoming the first player in Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference history to win offensive football player of the year three times. The conference made the announcement at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in partnership with the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame during the 59th NFF Annual Awards Dinner.

Cohen closed out his career at N.C. A&T with an exclamation point as his final rushing tally was 5,619 yards. In addition, he finished fifth in the national voting for the Walter Payton Award given to the top FCS offensive player in the country. The top three vote getters were invited to the awards banquet and presentation in Frisco, Texas (Jan. 6).

Cohen was one of only 14 players from North Carolina universities invited to participate in the 2017 NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis, a week-long showcase where college athletes show their best skills in front of NFL coaches, general managers and scouts. It's a point of prestige to be invited: Only about 335 players annually earn the privilege of participating out of 92,000 players in programs around the country.

The star back ran for a single-season school record 1,588 yards, breaking his own record from the previous season when he ran for 1,543 yards. He did not stop there, however, when it came to shattering records in 2016. In a nationally-televised game against Norfolk State on Oct. 6, Cohen broke the all-time MEAC rushing record on a 62-yard touchdown dart down the middle of the field to clinch not only the record but 200 yards rushing for the game.

Two hundred yards rushing would be a theme for Cohen in 2016. He ran for 200-plus yards in four games this season including three weeks in a row from Sept. 29–Oct. 15. Three consecutive 200-yard games are a school record.

There was also a period during the season where Cohen had a consecutive offensive player of the week streak going. He won the honor five weeks in a row (Oct. 3–31) and won it two other times including Sept. 12, following the Aggies' historic win over Division I-FBS Kent State when Cohen had 133 yards rushing and 125 yards receiving.

In the 46 weeks Cohen played for the Aggies, he won offensive player of the week 16 times. In two additional weeks, he was named rookie of the week by the MEAC.

But it is his many records that will have a lasting legacy for the running back who had only one scholarship offer (N.C. A&T) coming out of Bunn High School. Cohen broke the single-season touchdown record this season with 19, and he tied Stoney Polite for the single-season rushing touchdowns record (18). There are two other touchdown records he holds. His 56 rushing and 59 total TD's are both school records.

With two touchdown passes, Cohen was responsible for 61 touchdowns, which ranks him second behind Alan Hooker with 66. His 339 points scored is also tops in N.C. A&T history. Cohen also took over the school's career all-purpose yards' record with 6,564 (5,619 rushing, 945 receiving). His 868 carries are also a record, and his 98 receptions tie him for 10th all-time in school history.

"With all the talk about what a great player he is—and he is a tremendous player—he has also been a great representative for this university, and that's what I'm most proud of," said N.C. A&T coach Rod Broadway. "Our great university has received so much publicity because of Tarik Cohen, and he handled it with grace, humility and dignity and made the university proud. It's what you expect out of him because he is a great person."

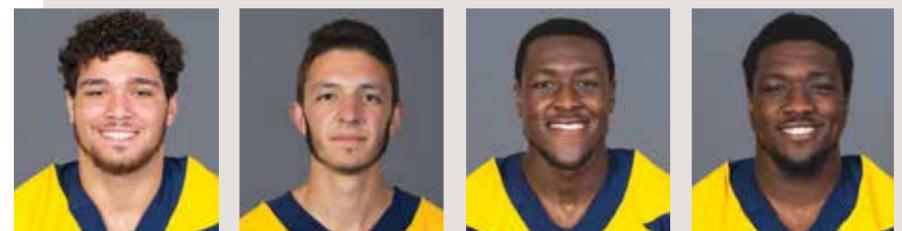
Cohen has been the subject of several SportsCenter highlights on ESPN. He also visited the ESPN campus in Bristol, Connecticut, to do three different live segments on a Saturday morning SportsCenter in May of 2015. He earned the opportunity after a video of him catching footballs while coming out of a backflip went viral. Cohen was also featured in a national video post by The Undefeated, ESPN's newest website.

### TARIK COHEN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

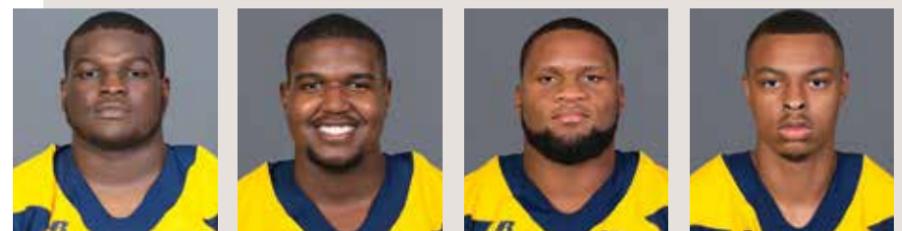
- Black College Football Player of the Year/Deacon Jones Trophy (inaugural recipient)
- 2016 STATS FCS Player of the Year Watch List (finished 15th)
- 2016 Second-Team STATS Preseason All-American
- 2016 BoxToRow Preseason-All-American
- 2016 MEAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year
- 2016 Preseason First-Team All-MEAC
- 2016 MEAC Offensive Player of the Year (first three-time winner)
- 2016 NCAA FCS First-Team All-American
- 2016 BoxToRow First-Team All-American
- 2016 Walter Camp FCS All-American
- 2016 AFCA FCS Coaches' Second-Team All-American
- 2015 College Sporting News Fabulous 50 FCS All-American Team (All-Purpose)
- 2015 SBN/Doug Williams Offensive Player of the Year
- 2015 Black College All-American Team
- 2015 STATS FCS Third-Team All-American
- 2015 Celebration Bowl Offensive MVP
- 2015 MEAC Offensive Player of the Year
- 2015 First-Team All-MEAC
- 2015 Preseason College Sporting News Fabulous Fifty FCS All-American (All-Purpose)
- 2015 Preseason MEAC Offensive Player of the Year
- 2015 Preseason STATS FCS All-American
- 2015 STATS FCS Offensive Player of the Year Watch List
- 2014 Black College All-American Team
- 2014 STATS FCS Third-Team All-American
- 2014 First-Team All-MEAC
- 2014 MEAC Co-Offensive Player of the Year
- 2014 STATS FCS Offensive Player of the Year Watch List
- 2014 STATS FCS Preseason All-American Team
- 2013 MEAC Rookie of the Year
- 2013 First-Team All-MEAC
- 2013 Jerry Rice Watch List for FCS Rookie of the Year (Finished 9th)



Bell  
Blake  
Cole  
Gardin



Hill  
Jones  
Keyes  
Keyes



Mack  
Parker  
Ragland  
Raynard

### Aggies Earn All-MEAC Honors

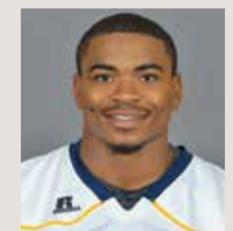
N.C. A&T head coach Rod Broadway's point that the Aggie football team had a good season despite coming short of winning their third straight Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) title will be furthered by the fact that 14 of his players were named to one of the three MEAC all-conference teams on Nov. 28.

Two Aggies earned top superlatives with another one potentially on the way. Left tackle Brandon Parker was named offensive lineman of the year for the second straight season, while wide receiver Elijah Bell was named rookie of the year. Bell is the third Aggie to be named the conference's top rookie in eight years joining Mike Mayhew (2009) and Tarik Cohen (2013).

Seven of the Aggies' 14 all-conference players are first teamers. The Aggies first-team all-conference selections were Cohen, right tackle Wes Cole, tight end Leroy Hill, defensive end Angelo Keyes, Parker, defensive tackle Marquis Ragland and linebacker Jeremy Taylor.

Bell, return specialist Khris Gardin, wide receiver Denzel Keyes, center Darriel Mack and quarterback Lamar Raynard were second teamers, while right guard Daquan Blake and place kicker Cody Jones made the third team.

The Aggies ranked first this season in total offense, rushing offense and third in passing offense. Cohen ended his career against Richmond with 5,619 rushing yards, the most in MEAC history.



Taylor

# aggie athletics continued



Aiken  
Barnes  
Butler  
Coleman



Greene  
Maddox  
McGee  
Mustafaa



Reid  
White

## Cross Country Teams Finish Second in Competitive MEAC

There were two conclusions the N.C. A&T cross country teams came away with after the 2016 MEAC Cross Country Championships at DSU Outreach and Research Center Saturday morning: (1) the competition in the MEAC is getting better each year, which is inspiring for the Aggies to get better as well, and (2) with the number of middle distance runners the Aggies had running cross country this season, it will only make A&T's indoor and outdoor track teams better.

Unfortunately, the Aggie men did drop off from their normal No. 2 perch they have held over the previous two championships to finish third. The women finished sixth.

Senior Darren White and sophomore Hakeem Mustafaa both earned another round of all-MEAC nods after finishing in the top 15. White closed out his A&T cross country career with his fourth straight All-MEAC selection by finishing fifth with a time of 25:40. Mustafaa ran a 26:11 for 11th as he earned his second straight All-MEAC honor. Assisting the duo, freshman Dequan Maddox placed 19th in 27:10, and freshman Mar'Quise McGee placed 24th in 27:38. Completing the top 5 for the men was junior Corey Aiken who found 25th in 27:40.

The women had an average runtime of 20:01 that garnered 126 points.

Freshman G'Jasymne Butler completed her brilliant first season with All-MEAC honors. Butler shaved 10 seconds off her previous personal record with a time of 19:09 which was good enough for 15th. Behind Butler was junior Miranda Green, landing 21st in 19:43. Running in the No. 3 position, freshman Kristoni Barnes saw her PR drop from 21:06, which she sustained two weeks ago on the same course, to 20:12. Freshman Khadijah Reid also had a major reduction in her PR after she ran the course in 20:36. Reid's previous PR was 22:04, which she earned at the start of the season. Completing the No. 5 position for the women was junior Imani Coleman.

## Robinson Named Preseason MEAC Bowler of the Year

Senior MacKenzie Robinson is a two-time All-American and a three-time first-team All-MEAC selection.

The one accomplishment Robinson has not reached is MEAC Bowler of the Year. However, she was named preseason MEAC Bowler of the Year based on voting from head coaches and sports information directors. Robinson also earned preseason all-conference honors.

The Aggies team is expected to win the MEAC Southern Division for the third straight season. The Aggies garnered 11 first place votes, with Norfolk State, Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M grabbing one first place vote apiece.

Last season, the Aggies won a school record 86 games on their way to an 86-46 overall record and a 22-10 mark in the MEAC, earned a bid to the NCAA Bowling Championship Tournament and qualified for the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships for the second straight year. The Aggies finished third at the NCAA tournament and won twice at the ITC tournament before being eliminated by Maryland Eastern Shore.



Robinson led the Aggies in bowling average with 200.08. She had a better than 200 bowling average at seven of the 11 tournaments she participated in. Her best game came at the NCAA tournament when she bowled a career-high 269 in a win over McKendree. Robinson has a career average of 195.1.

The Aggies began the 2016-17 season where they have been over the past few seasons—nationally ranked in the National Tenpin Coaches Association.

## Brown Named All-MEAC first-team



Junior outside hitter Samara Brown was recognized by the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference as a first-team all-conference volleyball selection after leading the Aggies in kills this season. The MEAC released its all-conference teams with teams selected based on votes from head coaches and sports information directors.

Brown has consistently been a leader for the Aggies both in enthusiasm and ability. She finished the regular season ranked third in the MEAC in kills per set (3.53) and totaled 304 kills. She also finished second in the conference in points per set scored (4.08) behind 2016 MEAC Player of the Year, Khalia Donaldson.

Brown was named MEAC Co-Player of the Week on Nov. 7, for her strong performances against Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M on the road. She had her fifth double-double of the season against the Wildcats and added 15 kills to her weekend total against the Rattlers.

# alumni news

## AGGIES ON THE MOVE



### Alumni Nurses

It's not uncommon for Aggies to reach out and extend a helping hand to other Aggies in need. It's the "Aggie way" of doing things.

Stepping up and helping is exactly what 125-plus Aggie alumni nurses did when they each pledged to donate \$125 toward scholarships for students in N.C. A&T's nursing program.

"This semester all of our (nursing) students were in need of financial support of some sort, and because of the scholarship donations and the financial support that we received from alumni, we were able to provide 100 percent scholarship support to all students enrolled in the nursing program in fall 2016," said Dr. Terry Ward, interim director and associate dean of the School of Nursing within the College of Health and Human Sciences.



**Janice Bryant Howroyd** has been appointed to serve on the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The board's role is vital to the proliferation and continued funding for HBCUs. It issues an Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to the president on participation of HBCUs in federally sponsored programs, provides advice to the secretary of education, and makes recommendations to the president on how to increase the private-sector role in strengthening HBCUs.

#### Atlanta Chapter, N.C. A&T Alumni Association

For its increased membership and participation, fundraising activities and cross-generational engagement, the Atlanta Chapter of the N.C. A&T Alumni Association Inc. has received the 2016 National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Large Alumni Chapter of the Year award.

Atlanta Chapter has experienced a tremendous year of growth. Under the leadership of Rosalind Mitchell, the chapter increased membership and participation by 40 percent through engaging programs and activities, and raised over \$64,000 for the university's annual fund. The chapter successfully exemplified its theme for the year, "We are a family. We are a family of grandparents, parents and young adults. We function as a family."

Additionally, the chapter enhanced networking opportunities, community outreach, member fellowship, personal and professional development, as well as increased its social media presence and began spotlighting and recognizing chapter members.

During the university's 2016 Homecoming celebration, the School of Nursing's Noble Hall was brimming with nursing students eager to share their appreciation and gratitude and alumni just as eager to encourage them in their pursuits.

The School of Nursing commemorated the event by taking a group photo (left) of alumni on the steps of the Dudley Building.

The call was issued and alumni of all types answered. According to Ward it wasn't a hard sell. Alumni nurses were more than eager to help their fellow up-and-coming Aggie nurses. In fact, she said some were not able to come for the photograph, but were committed to donating.

"For us to be able to continue to get that support from the alumni to be able to support book scholarships, tuition and other needs students have is such a wonderful opportunity and a great way to show Aggie Pride," said Ward.

Many alumni nurses discovered and agreed that the gift was in the act of giving.

### 1950s

**Annie Marable Brown '53** is a 2015 recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is among the most prestigious awards conferred by the governor of North Carolina. Issued by the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society, the award recognizes exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina.

As a lifelong educator and advocate, Brown became the first certified teacher in business education at the South Ayden School (Ayden, North Carolina), established the school system's first Jr. ROTC program, advocated for Ayden public housing for minorities living in deplorable conditions and, after leading a picketing protest, compelled businesses to abandon their discriminatory practices and hire African American workers.

## AGGIES ON THE MOVE

### 1960s



**Alvin "Al" Attles Jr. '60** has been inducted into the 2016 class of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame for athletics.

Beginning his basketball career at N.C. A&T, Attles led the Aggies to two consecutive CIAA championships in 1958 and 1959, and he maintains the first and only jersey number to be retired by the men's basketball team. In the world of professional sports, Attles' 50-plus years of continued service with the NBA's Philadelphia/Golden State Warriors organization represents the longest active streak of an employee in league history. He also is the winningest coach in franchise history, leading the team to seven consecutive winning seasons, two Pacific Division titles and one NBA title.

**Dr. Henry Neal Williams '65** (B.S. in biology), professor at Florida A&M University's School of the Environment, is serving a two-year term as an American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Distinguished Lecturer, effective July 1, 2016. ASM is the largest single life science society in the world. Through a competitive process, the American Society for Microbiology Distinguished Lecturer (ASMDL) program annually selects a scientifically diverse group of distinguished lecturers to be available to deliver lectures at meetings and events of any of the 35 ASM branches throughout the country.

Williams has been an active ASM member for 40-plus years and has been nationally recognized through several organizational awards and appointments. For more information on Williams, visit [www.henrynealwilliams.com](http://www.henrynealwilliams.com).



### 1970s



**Dr. Thomas Conway '71/'76** has been elected chancellor of Elizabeth City State University, where he also served as interim chancellor. Conway says his first priority is enrollment and to successfully enhance the university's key economic development engine for northeastern North Carolina.

Prior to these appointments, Conway served as vice chancellor and chief of staff at Fayetteville State University where his primary responsibility was to advance university priorities and to coordinate and implement the strategic planning process. Conway has also served as dean of undergraduate academic programs at North Carolina State University.



**Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey '72** has been named the Berg-Beach Distinguished Professor of Community Social Work at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Carlton-LaNey has served as a professor at the UNC School of Social Work since 1994.

An educator and researcher for more than 30 years, Carlton-LaNey has led research about African Americans (especially women) who are aging in the rural South, on African American social work pioneers and on analyses of the impact historical events have had on building and maintaining social structures that can block opportunities and deny access to individuals and groups. She has been named a Social Work Pioneer (National Association of Social Workers) and a Hero for Justice (University of Maryland School of Social Work). She is also a recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction (UNC-Chapel Hill) and a five-time recipient of the Teacher Appreciation Award (UNC School of Social Work).

**Dr. Betty Howell Gray '63** is a 2016 recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is among the most prestigious awards conferred by the governor of North Carolina. Issued by the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society, the award recognizes exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina.

Gray retired from Seattle Public Schools after working as a teacher, principal and director for over 35 years. She is the founder of Seattle Alliance of Black School Educators (ABSE) and, in her five years since relocating to Charlotte, North Carolina, she has organized three NABSE affiliates: North Carolina ABSE, Wayne County ABSE and a student affiliate, ABSE at UNCC. (Affiliates are organized to enhance and facilitate the educational and social development of all students, particularly students of African descent.) Currently, Gray is a consultant to the North Carolina NABSE, which offers assistance to the North Carolina and other affiliates throughout the country working in partnership with local and state superintendents.

# alumni news continued

## 1980s



**Bishop George W. Brooks Sr. '73** was inducted into the 2016 class of the National Black College Alumni

Hall of Fame for faith and theology. Brooks provides spiritual empowerment to A&T students through Bible studies, mentoring and retreats. He continues to make a broader impact as he serves on various advisory boards for the university, being a guest lecturer and partnering with the university to offer health education and leadership training for students.

Brooks has been a key pillar of faith in the Greensboro community for the past four decades. Currently serving as pastor emeritus at Mount Zion Baptist Church of Greensboro Inc., Brooks also served as the senior pastor of the same ministry beginning in 1975. Under his leadership the ministry grew from a modest 35 members to nearly 5,000. His influence extends beyond the pulpit as he sits on various boards throughout the community and is the co-founder of the Welfare Reform Liaison Project, a vehicle that helps empower welfare recipients to become self-sufficient.

**Greg Marrow '80/'82** is chief information officer (CIO) for Durham County (North Carolina) Government. Marrow is responsible for managing information technology across the county, supporting all internal agencies including the health department, social services and overall emergency management as well as setting technology direction and providing strategic guidance for the county.

With over 30 years of professional IT experience, Marrow has successfully established himself as an expert in the field. Prior to his current position he was the CIO for North Carolina Central University. Marrow earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering at A&T.

**Dwayne Pinkney '85** has been named chief financial officer and senior associate vice chancellor for finance and administration at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Pinkney will serve as the strategic advisor and principal deputy to the vice chancellor for finance and administration. Additionally, he will provide oversight of the university's financial, budget and accounting operations and will provide leadership for the division's shared administrative and business services functions. He also will collaborate with Information Technology Services and other functional divisions to optimize the financial component of ConnectCarolina and improve management reporting, and work closely with campus senior leaders, UNC Health Care Administration, UNC General Administration, and the greater campus community to improve the strategic management of the University's financial resources.

Prior to joining UNC-Chapel Hill in 2004, Pinkney was an associate vice president for finance at the University of North Carolina General Administration. He also has six years of experience as a fiscal analyst with the North Carolina General Assembly and served a short stint as the deputy secretary for administration with the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State.

## 1990s

**Dr. Sherrish Holloman '93/'95** is serving her new home and international community of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, as the first president of the Omega Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc.

Holloman and members of the chapter, formerly known as the Pearls of Arabia Interest Group, have provided programs of service in Abu Dhabi and Dubai including donating backpacks and other resources to the Special Care Centre, which provides support for special needs children from 14 countries, participating in the annual Diabetes Walk and joining with other community-based organizations to provide service to the communities. The chapter is also partnering with the Special Care Centre in Abu Dhabi to build a school for special needs children.

**Melody Chalmers '98** is the 2016 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year. She is the principal at Ezekiel Ezra Smith High School in Fayetteville (Cumberland County Schools).

Chalmers received a bachelor's degree in English education from N.C. A&T and a master's degree in school administration (2005) from Fayetteville State University. She has served her entire administrative career with Cumberland County Schools having been assistant principal at Ezekiel Ezra Smith High and Warrenwood Elementary (2004-09), principal at Cross Creek Early College High (2009-2011) and now principal of Ezekiel Ezra Smith High.

In addition to being recognized as the 2016 Sandhills Region Wells Fargo Principal of the Year, Chalmers received the 2016 Lewis Chapel MBC Black History Living Legends Award for Education, the 2015 Cumberland County Schools Principal of the Year, 2013 NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice, and one of the Fayetteville Observer's Top 20 Under 40 list in 2012.

## 2000s



**Charles Mainhart '09** has been hired as a survey project manager at DMP. Mainhart will manage production of the office survey staff, focusing on producing surveys and mapping deliverables. He brings to DMP experience in aerial photogrammetry, boundary surveys, ALTA surveys, construction staking, NCDOT surveys and GIS data collection. He is a licensed professional land surveyor in North Carolina.



**Bradley Phillips '09** has been named a principal of Davis Martin Powell & Associates Inc. (DMP), a leading Triad civil engineering and surveying firm based in High Point, North Carolina, that provides services in civil/site and municipal engineering, surveying, subsurface utility engineering and construction. Phillips leads DMP's land surveying and subsurface utility engineering divisions, overseeing crew coordination, project management and client relations. He is a licensed professional land surveyor in North Carolina and South Carolina.

# alumni news continued



**Dr. LaWanda McCullough Simpkins '01/'04** has been selected as the James Farmer Postdoctoral Fellow in Civil Rights and Social Justice at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. In this role, Simpkins is responsible for teaching two courses each semester and assisting with program planning and implementation of social justice initiatives for the university community. Simpkins is the first African American to serve as a fellow.

Farmer was a founding member of the Committee of Racial Equality, now Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and helped organize the Freedom Riders.

**Natalie Robinson '03** has served as the vice president of strategic sourcing and supplier diversity for CBS corporation since 2012. In this position, she provides access, growth and development opportunities for qualified, diverse suppliers who meet specific CBS requirements.

Robinson began her professional career working for IBM Business Consulting Services and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Her function has always been in the space of supply management and strategic sourcing. At CBS, she was able to expand her role to sourcing opportunities specifically for diverse suppliers.

## 2010s

**Kalilah Black '11** is a swing cast member of "Disney's The Lion King" touring Broadway show. She covers several chorus and dancing roles as well as understudies for the female hyena, "Shenzi," whose speaking and singing voice was performed by Whoopi Goldberg in the original motion picture.

**Joseph Daniels '12** is a recipient of the prestigious 2016 Dwight David Eisenhower Graduate Fellowships. He is pursuing a doctoral degree in engineering at the University of Arkansas. The objective of the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program is to attract qualified students to the field of transportation and research, and advance transportation workforce development. The program awards fellowships to students pursuing degrees in transportation-related disciplines, and it advances the transportation workforce by attracting the brightest minds to the field through education, research and workforce development.

Daniels is studying the use of heated pavement systems for airfield runways with Ernie Heymesfield, associate professor of civil engineering. Daniels explained that by heating runways by circulating either hot water or electricity through the concrete, airports can keep snow from accumulating and causing flight delays.

## IN MEMORIAM

### 2015 ALUMNI

**Dr. Samuel Turner '73**, Dec 13

### 2016 ALUMNI

**Charles M. Alexander '75**, Aug. 12  
**Carlos D. Baldwin '97**, Jan. 15  
**Barbara A. Batts '66**, Feb. 25  
**Arthur W. Blackstock Sr '60**, Oct. 11  
**Nathaniel Boney '53**, April 29  
**William N Boyers '53**, Feb. 29  
**James E. Bridgett Jr. '53**, Jan. 4  
**Ethel M. Brown '50**, Jan. 28  
**William C. Brown '58**, Feb. 16  
**Curtis C. Bryant Sr. '49**, Jan. 1  
**Theodore R. Bryant '48**, Oct. 25  
**Myrtis E. Burke '48**, Aug. 12  
**Marilyn B. Caldwell '73**, July 4  
**Virginia M. Clark '66**, Feb. 25  
**Estella H. Curry '49**, Aug. 7  
**Shelton L. Daye '76**, Nov. 12  
**Sharon V. Diggs '73**, Jan. 17  
**John D. Dillard '57**, July 29  
**Kathryn G. Epps '40**, Oct. 11  
**Roger K. Galloway '99**, Nov. 3  
**William H. Garland Jr. '57**, April 27  
**Charles Gilchrist '56**, Nov. 16  
**Cravane M. Givens '54**, July 22  
**Jogi C. Gowda '11**, July 20

**Charles L. Harbison III '93**, Oct. 23  
**Titus J. Harper '50**, Oct. 15  
**James R. Harris '55**, Jan. 4  
**William L. Harriss '00**, April 23  
**Arthur A. Henderson '69**, June 2  
**Lawrence D. Hester '69**, Sept. 28  
**Edwin C. Horne '45**, June 18  
**Marcus D. Jacobs '96**, June 24  
**Ferrens T. Jones '83**, Sept. 22  
**Loretta Jones '78**, June 18  
**William C. Keen '52**, Jan. 21  
**Arthur A. Keyes '57**, May 4  
**Mary R. Kimber '44**, May 14  
**Orson T. Kirk '71**, Sept. 10  
**Robert A. Kraay '70**, March 27  
**Catherine D. Martin '42**, Aug. 30  
**Polly A. Mattison '57**, Oct. 10  
**Herbert L. McDowell III '92**, Feb. 14  
**Ruben W. McElrath Sr. '51**, Aug. 28  
**Mary H. Mitchell '66**, Feb. 25  
**Millard C. Mitchell '51**, April 28  
**Ronald L. Montgomery '78**, Aug. 17  
**Walter A. Moore '93**, Jan. 4  
**William L. Moore '60**, Oct. 5

**Alfred W. Morgan Sr. '52**, June 11  
**India Nichols '74**, July 24  
**Paul E. Parker Sr. '61**, July 2  
**William M. Peace '50**, Jan. 27  
**Carol C. Pelt '94**, Sept. 8  
**James W. Rhodes '68**, Sept. 23  
**Howard Rouse Jr. '52**, Nov. 4  
**Brenda Y. Russell '69**, March 12  
**Grover H. Sanders '55**, April 16  
**Rosa J. Scarborough '66**, Feb. 25  
**Delores S. Shelton '66**, Feb. 25  
**Frances G. Short '66**, March 21  
**William A. Skelton '46**, Feb. 20  
**Addie L. Smith '66**, Feb. 22  
**Randy L. Smith '82**, Sept. 2  
**Irene L. Stephens '53**, Feb. 29  
**G.M. Stubbs**, Feb. 24  
**Coleman Thacker Jr. '58**, Oct. 10  
**Wesley Thorpe '70**, July 15  
**Richard C. Townsend '60**, Oct. 11  
**Bradford D. Watkins '94**, April 5  
**James W. Watson '52**, May 12  
**William J. Watson '52**, Nov. 11  
**Marolyn J. Wiggins '66**, Oct. 12

### 2016 STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS

**Ahmad Campbell**, junior agricultural and environmental systems major (Kittrell, North Carolina), Oct. 2  
**Kathryn W. Evans**, former employee, Oct. 19  
**Alicia Dieudonne**, sophomore computer science major (Homewood, Illinois), Oct. 2  
**Willie High**, retired employee, Jan. 10  
**Sharon S. Johnson**, retired employee, March 26  
**Franklin G. King**, former employee, June 7  
**Kiara McDaniel**, senior chemistry major (Suffolk, Virginia), April 15  
**David M. McIntosh**, retired employee, Sept 21  
**Candice Marcia Merritt**, senior chemical engineering major (Gainsville, Virginia), Dec. 17  
**Walter Moore**, senior general studies student (Greensboro, North Carolina)  
**Asante Parkins**, sophomore mechanical engineering major (Charlotte, North Carolina), June 7  
**Carson D. Roark**, retired employee, April 20  
**Clarence E. Robinson**, retired employee, Nov 9  
**Myrtle B. Sampson**, retired employee, Oct 1  
**Judy P. Sessoms**, former employee, Sept 11  
**Ji Yao Shen**, chairman of the Department of Applied Engineering Technology, June 4  
**Charles Stamey Jr.**, retired employee, Feb 14  
**Melvin C. Swann Jr.**, former sports announcer, June 4  
**Caledin Wylupek**, junior criminal justice major (Franklin, North Carolina), Nov. 11

# mixed bag

**TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS** and make sure graduates of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University enter the competitive global job market poised to succeed, the university has taken advantage of an opportunity to reorganize its academic enterprise.

“N.C. A&T has a responsibility to meet the demands of the global marketplace by offering challenging and relevant educational programs and innovative research opportunities that prepare our academically talented students,” said Dr. Joe B. Whitehead Jr., provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

The end result of the two-year reorganization process is the realignment of some departments, programs and colleges to enhance undergraduate and graduate enrollment; improve faculty research and scholarly productivity; increase external funding; increase the number of students receiving national fellowships; and improve program and university rankings, nationally and internationally.

During the process, a group of faculty, staff, department chairs and students, as well as an external group of current and former higher education administrators, were charged with providing recommendations for approval to the university’s Board of Trustees and ultimately the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

## Poised for Success

**N.C. A&T’s academic enterprise is reorganized with student and alumni success in mind.**

By Tiffany S. Jones '03

“We introduced three new colleges – Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Health and Human Sciences; and Science and Technology,” Whitehead said. “This focus on academics is expected to strengthen synergy among similar disciplines, increase the competitiveness of our academic programs, cultivate collaboration and interdisciplinary research and generate greater visibility for all programming. It will simultaneously build upon our strong foundation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics-related programming.”

Programs from the former College of Arts and Sciences and School of Technology make up the new colleges. The School of Nursing has maintained its name and now operates as an academic department in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Interim deans have been appointed to guide the colleges during this transition.

Dr. Gloria Jones-Johnson took the position for the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Before A&T, she was a professor of sociology at Iowa State University specializing in social psychology, social inequality, research methods and work and occupations. In her time at Iowa State, Jones-Johnson was director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program and the director of graduate education in the Department of Psychology. She earned her B.A. from Talladega College, M.A. from Bowling Green State University and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Lenora Campbell has taken the helm for the College of Health and Human Sciences. Prior to this appointment, she was an associate dean and professor in the Division of Nursing, at Winston Salem State University. Additionally, she was an associate professor in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Campbell was appointed to the Health Resource and Service Administration by former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius. Her research focuses on the health and well-being of children and grandparents in custodial grandparent families. Campbell received a B.S.N. from Florida A&M University, an M.S.N. from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

To lead the charge for the College of Science and Technology, Whitehead tapped into talent already present on campus in Dr. Abdellah Ahmidouch. He joined the faculty in 1998, after completing a postdoctoral research associate position at Kent State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ahmidouch has served as a professor and chairman of the N.C. A&T Department of Physics and has more than 25 years of experience as a researcher. He holds an M.S. from the University of Grenoble-France and a Ph.D. from the University of Geneva-Switzerland.

In addition to the new colleges, the university has transitioned to a uniformed naming convention for its academic units. Where there was previously a mixture of schools and colleges, now there are only colleges. The exception is the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering.

The College of Education has been reorganized to facilitate the increased production of higher quality educators. Licensure concentrations are now aligned under their respective bachelor degree programs, and a multi-college governance structure has been created to support enhancement of the master of art in teaching program—a path to graduate degree success for K-12 educators.

In addition to the college’s reorganization, Dr. Anthony Graham was named dean after having served as interim dean in the 2015-16 academic year. Prior to his work as dean, Graham was appointed chairman of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and was promoted to interim associate dean of graduate programs. Graham earned his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his M.A. and Ph.D. from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

“For N.C. A&T to build upon its designation as one of the nation’s most highly respected, higher research land-grant institutions, we must not only work from a sound academic structure, but maintain it by conducting ongoing program analyses based on productivity, relevance and student demographics,” said Whitehead.



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