Faculty & Staff Notes

Anthony Graham, assistant professor in the department of curriculum and instruction, has been invited to speak at the 18th Annual National Conference on Racial and Ethnic Higher Education (NCORE) in New York City, May 31-June 4, 2004. The purpose of the conference is to assist higher education institutions create inclusive higher education environments, programs and curriculum while simultaneously improving campus racial and ethnic relations.

Tamatre Mereba, professor of journalism and mass communications, has published an article titled “Building Cognitive Skills and Collaborative Partnership in a Problem Solving Task” in Feedback, the journal of the Broadcast Education Association. The article identifies a dynamic learning process that involves critical skills in information retrieval and the use of this knowledge during collaborative problem solving in a community based learning environment. The article highlights research findings on (1) information exchange and knowledge construction in a community oriented learning environment and (2) the quality of task performance skills students demonstrate when they work together to fulfill an assigned task.

Celineata N. Ntuen, professor of industrial and systems engineering and director of the Institute for Human-Machine Studies, has received a $200,501 homeland security contract from the U.S. Air Force to study how planning, logistics and decision making during an eventual emergency that require a coalition of various national agencies and those used for the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001. The project involves developing training software to support coordination and management of emergency resources. The second project outcome is the integration of social network theory and culture dimensions into military simulation that is distributive and heterogeneous. The third objective is to develop a computational model of how military commanders organize diverse information to plan logistics for asymmetrical crisis environments.

Artwork by Stephanie Santmyers, associate professor of art, was selected as the exhibition postcard for FABRICations: Art Quilts at the Page-Walker, Cary, N.C. The show, which ran Oct. 1-25, was organized by Professional Art Quilts South-Atlantic and is planned to travel to other venues. Also in October, Santmyers attended Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts for a workshop titled “Demystifying the Art Quilt.”

MCNC-RDI and N.C. A&T to Develop Innovative Flexible Display Technology for U.S. Army

$1.5 million project to enhance mobile electronics applications

MCNC Research & Development Institute (MCNC-RDI), a North Carolina based nonprofit research organization, announced last month that it has received approval from the U.S. Army Research Office to partner with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to conduct research related to technological advancements in flexible displays for U.S. Army mobile electronics applications. The $1.5 million award, spanning three years, establishes the Center of Excellence for Battlefield Capability Enhancements, focuses on developing technologies for environmentally stable flexible displays.

N.C. A&T and MCNC-RDI propose to develop a hybrid light-emitting device (HLED) to enable a superior display technology for mobile electronics and vehicle-based communications and weapons systems required by Future Force Warrior (FFW) – the U.S. Army’s flagship Science and Technology initiative to develop and demonstrate revolutionary support systems for soldiers. The technology will be used to create electronics that are more portable and better able to withstand environmental conditions, enabling a more efficient and reliable flow of information on the battlefield.

MCNC-RDI and A&T recognized the need for alternative approaches and identified the opportunity to develop a new kind of flexible display technology that would combine the benefits of organic and inorganic materials. “We are excited to be involved in this partnership with MCNC-RDI,” said N. Radhakrishnan, vice chancellor for research and economic development at A&T. “This research project will not only benefit the Army, but will also create great educational opportunities for our students. Involvement in this research program represents an important opportunity for A&T and showcases the type of cutting-edge research that takes place on our campus.”

In the last three years, with support from the Army, MCNC-RDI has expanded its research capabilities with regards to the fabrication and characterization of OLEDs on flexible substrates. To develop the HLED technology, MCNC-RDI will combine its extensive OLED experience with N.C. A&T’s expertise with narrow bandgap semiconductors composed of inorganic materials. Research facilities at both MCNC-RDI and N.C. A&T will be used throughout the project.

“By combining our experience in development of organic devices with N.C. A&T’s extensive experience with inorganic materials, we are confident in our ability to develop improved flexible display technologies that will support weapons and communications for the U.S. Army,” said Jay Lewis, co-principal investigator at MCNC-RDI.

In developing this research program, the Army Research Office was also aiming to create a research partnership that would benefit the community of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), including N.C. A&T. Through the program, graduate students at A&T will be invited to participate in the research program and will be enrolled in a collaborative course in Flat Panel Technology, which will also be created as part of the research contract.

Nine Honored for Excellence in Academic Advising

Academic advising is an essential part of the educational process and an important aspect of the teaching and learning process. Based on information submitted describing their contributions to academic advising within their areas, nine members of the faculty and staff were selected to receive the 2004 Academic Advising Excellence Award.

Each recipient of the award plays a vital role to the success of the advising component within their respective units. In recognition of their achievement, a reception was hosted by the The Center for Student Success and the Academic Advising and Retention Team in September.

The 2004 Academic Advising Excellence Award recipients are Cathy Badgett, clinical instructor, school of nursing; Eric A. Cheek, Sr., department of electrical and computer engineering, college of engineering; Phyllis Ford-Booker, department of psychology, college of arts and sciences; Cynthia Gillispie-Johnson, department of graphics communication systems and technological studies, school of technology; Tracy Hamner, department of animal science, school of agriculture and environmental sciences; Asha Khan (retired), department of economics and transportation/logistics, school of business and economics; Stephen McCary-Henderson, department of curriculum and instruction, school of education; Dawn Forbes Murphy, student services director, school of nursing; and Elaine S. Vinson, department of industrial and systems engineering, college of engineering.

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The unique blend of technologies provided by MCNC-RDI and N.C. A&T make this an ideal partnership,” explained Shanthi Iyer, principal investigator at A&T. “We are thrilled to work with MCNC to develop a novel HLED device that we believe will have a significant impact on making flexible displays for the U.S. Army a reality.”

MCNC (formerly the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina) is a private, independent, non-profit corporation established in 1980 to advance technology, led economic development and job creation throughout North Carolina. MCNC Research & Development Institute develops new technologies through its own initiatives and as a research partner for businesses and the U.S. government, conducting advanced and applied research across a broad technology spectrum. The MCNC family of companies is located in North Carolina’s Research Triangle Park. For more information, visit www.mcnc.org.

RTI International (www.rti.org) announced its intent to acquire MCNC-RDI’s research groups. RTI is a non-profit research organization also located in Research Triangle Park. The acquisition is expected to be completed later this year following completion of the acquisition, all research activities referenced in this announcement will continue with RTI International.

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Continued on back
North Carolina A&T State University has been awarded a three-year National Science Foundation grant of $187,457 for the project titled "Implications of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Disciplines Research for Instructional Innovation and Assessment in Economic Education." Led by Scott Simkins, interim director of the N.C. A&T Academy for Teaching and Learning, and Mark Maier, associate professor of economics at Glendale Community College (Glenclade, Calif.), the project explores a set of NSF-supported STEM discipline teaching innovations that have demonstrated success in terms of instructor use, student learning and professional research, and investigates its adaptability for economics education.

In addition to undertaking a comprehensive analysis of six well-developed teaching innovations in STEM disciplines, Simkins and Maier will utilize faculty from around the country as field testers of these pedagogical innovations. The field testers will assess the applicability of these innovations in economics, the linkages between modern learning theory and classrooms experience, and the incorporation of new assessment measures.

This project follows the successful completion of a $10,000 NSF grant, “Just-in-Time Teaching in Economics,” by Simkins and Maier in 2004. That grant adapted an innovative teaching pedagogy developed in physics education for use in economics instruction.

For further information on this topic, contact Simkins at (336) 534-7705, ext. 2237, or simkins@ncat.edu.

THRU DECEMBER 13
- The Robert E. Holmes Collection. Affirming a Legacy. H.C.-Taylor Gallery, Dudley Bldg., F (Call 334-3299 for gallery hours). NOVEMBER 20 - Living Your Are: Bridging the Gap between Arts and Technology, Facilitator: Hilda Willis (performing/artist/arts educator/artistic advocate and executive director of the Performing Arts Program for Youth), Roberts Theatre, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., L

- University Choir Holiday Concert, Harrison Auditorium, 5 p.m., F NOVEMBER 25-26 - Thanksgiving holiday observed

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 4 - Aggadah Festival of Lights (co-sponsored by GEJ), 6-9 p.m, F

DECEMBER 1 - University Choir Holiday Concert, Saint Mary's Catholic Church, 1414 Greer St., Greensboro, 7 p.m., F - The Joe Delamar Jazz Quinter, Memorial Union-Stallings Ballroom, 7:30 p.m., L

DECEMBER 3 - Classes end

DECEMBER 4 - Reading Day - PBS’s Blue Christmas Benefit Concert.

Calendar of Events

Expect Strict Enforcement of Policies from UEC

Due to an increase in enrollment and activities at North Carolina A&T State University, the University Events Center has received a very high volume of requests ... many at the last minute.

The overwhelming number of space requests has resulted in the events center not being able to honor requests that do not fall within the guidelines set forth on the Facility Reservations Request Form. In addition, the events center will no longer accommodate last-minute requests of any nature.

Remember,
- All forms must be completed and submitted to the University Events Center no less than ten (10) working days prior to any request/meeting.
- Any major event requiring extensive logistical needs, including but not limited to staging, audiovisual set-up and breakdown, security, furniture movement, musical or theatrical productions, etc., must have a form submitted no less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the event date.

Requests that fall outside the above-mentioned guidelines or any others stated on the Facility Reservations Request Form must be signed by the vice chancellor of the requesting parties division in order to be considered for processing.

Please remember that a Facility Reservations Request Form must be submitted for all university activities that require assistance, facilitation and/or participation of the University Events Center.

Inquiries regarding these procedures can be made by calling (336) 256-2058 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Faculty and Staff continued

Godfrey A. Uzochukwu, professor and director of the Interdisciplinary Waste Management Institute, and Ron Bailey, associate professor of architectural engineering, presented a paper titled “North Carolina Institutional Knowledge Partnerships for Sustainability” at the Monitoring and Science and Technology Symposium that was held in Denver, Colo., in September.

Erekia R. Williams, an assistant professor in the department of curriculum and instruction and Erin Alexander, a senior elementary education teacher candidate, presented with Juan H. Habel of Western Carolina University at the 14th Annual International Conference of the National Association of Multicultural Education in Kansas City, Mo. Their presentation, “The Rural Urban Exchange: Preparing Teacher Candidates for Culturally Responsive Teaching,” profiled the Rural Urban Exchange Program that schools of education at N.C. A&T and Western Carolina University have participated in for the past four years. Attendees learned of the framework, planning, and resources needed to successfully implement an intercultural exchange for teacher candidates.

Are your email messages overloading the system? Due to limits imposed on many email systems, email senders should limit the size and quantity of messages sent to other parties. This is particularly relevant when sending messages to mailing lists, e.g., supervisors’ inboxes. According to Maurice A. Tyler, director of systems and support, when messages are sent to large distribution lists, an individual copy of each message is created and delivered to every recipient. Message size can be drastically reduced by limiting the size of eliminating email attachments or by eliminating them altogether. Most email attachments (e.g., Microsoft Word documents and PDF files) can be eliminated by removing the contents of the attachment and pasting it directly into the body of the email message.

Be sure to check your pay stubs in January to make certain that the proper deductions have been taken out of your check. The providers are responsible for the deductions and sometimes make errors. It is oftentimes difficult to get mistakes corrected when you wait until you are ready to use your card and the proper deductions were not taken. Furthermore, it is everyone’s best interest to check each pay stub to ensure that deductions are always correct.

Once just isn’t enough! The University Choir, under the direction of Jerrye Mooring, will present its holiday music concert at two venues this year: at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, in Harrison Auditorium on campus and at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in Saint Mary’s Catholic Church, 1414 Greer St. in Greensboro. In addition to University Choir, performances will be given by the N.C. A&T Wind Ensemble and the Bennett College Sing Ensemble. Both performances are free.

Due to the overwhelming interest in the free blood pressure and cholesterol screening scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 23, another day has been scheduled to accommodate everyone that has signed up. The second day is Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Appointments are being taken to eliminate long lines. Those who submitted a form to register for the screening should call the Benefits Office at 334-7226 to make an appointment. Ask for Nanole Cole, Exter Checkers or Joan Jeffries. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

Permanent and temporary employees who separate from (leave) the university must complete Form PD-201. This form is available on the university’s website, www.ncat.edu. The form must be signed by the vice chancellor of the property or equipment and it helps to close out accounts such as parking fines and email. Permanent and temporary employees who separate from (leave) the university must complete Form PD-201. This form is available on the university’s website, www.ncat.edu. The form must be signed by the vice chancellor of the property or equipment and it helps to close out accounts such as parking fines and email.

The Piedmont Blue Preservation Society will present its Blue Christmas Benefit Concert, Saturday, Dec. 4, at Solaris Tapas Restaurant in downtown Greensboro. The blue/swing band Russ Wilson and His Mighty Mighty Men will perform beginning around 8 p.m. Minimum donations at the door will be $8 for the general public and $5 for FRPS members. Net proceeds from the event will benefit WNAO, 90.1 FM, which broadcasts from the campus of N.C. A&T. WNAO airs the longest running blues program in the Triad, “The Blues Hangout,” every Thursday from 6-9 p.m.

Nearly 90 students participated in the practice graduate school exams that were provided Nov. 6 by the Honors Program, in partnership with The Princeton Review. The practice session was an opportunity for students to preview the GRE, GMAT, LSAT and MCAT exams. On Saturday, Nov. 20, students will return to Gibbs-Hall for a meeting with instructors from The Princeton Review who will spend two hours with each test group, going over the test questions and providing students with tips on how to do better on these major national exams in the future. Commuted to helping all N.C. A&T students get into graduate school, the Honors Program will make practice opportunities available again in the spring semester.