World Class
International Programs Provide Nontraditional Learning Experiences

ALSO INSIDE:
Alumnus Shares His Bounty
Frank McCain’s Hand in A&T’s History, Future
Homecoming Highlights
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is a learner-centered community that develops and preserves intellectual capital through interdisciplinary learning, discovery, engagement, and operational excellence.
Female vocalists EnVogue (center) pose with Chancellor and Mrs. Stanley F. Battle (center, 2nd row) and members of the N.C. A&T University Foundation staff prior to the Alumni Concert.


Above: Tailgating is a Homecoming tradition.

Left: Who said that Homecoming is just for alumni? Some of the youngest Aggies rally with WFMY News 2 personality Tracey McCain.

Gate City Alumni Chapter No-Tap Bowling Tournament
Gateway University Research Park held a ribbon cutting and open house event for the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on Oct. 30.

The new building, located at 2901 E. Lee St., will permanently house the East National Technology Support Center (ETN), a joint collaboration between USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Gateway University Research Park’s South Campus. The East NRCS building will be the permanent home of the East National Technology Support Center.

The new building, located at 2901 E. Lee St., will permanently house the East National Technology Support Center and the East Remote Sensing Lab. Photo by James Parker/SAES.

Gateway University Research Park is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity created to manage and operate the joint collaboration between North Carolina A&T State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for the purposes of research and economic development within the Triad. Gateway University Research Park will attract and retain educational, corporate and community service agencies that advance scientific and educational research. For more information, visit www.GatewayURP.com.

 USDA FACILITY OPENS AT GATEWAY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK

Gateway University Research Park held a ribbon cutting and open house event for the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on Oct. 30. The new building, located at 2901 E. Lee St., will permanently house the East National Technology Support Center and the East Remote Sensing Lab, as well as bring approximately 100 technical specialists with advanced degrees to the Triad. Nearly 50 percent of the USDA contract employees are from area colleges, including North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

For the past four years, local USDA employees have been working temporarily out of the “Black Box” office building located on East Wendover Avenue in Greensboro while awaiting completion of the new Gateway facility. NRCS professionals help landowners and communities use conservation practices effectively and manage natural resources wisely.

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JMC HOSTS STUDENT NEWSPAPER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The department of journalism and mass communication hosted the second Student Newspaper Improvement Program, Oct. 2-3, in conjunction with the Black College Wire.

The two-day training seminar prepares historically black college and university student journalists for professional training in the use of multimedia technology, copyediting, first amendment, ethics, and newspaper design.

Media professionals and faculty participating in the program were Pearl Stavari, founder and editor of Black College Wire and former newspaper editor; Ruth Todelie, Black College Wire coordinator; Maya Gilliam, CEO, Ill Eya Digital, Inc. and former assistant photo editor of USA Today; Mike Scholtz, coordinator of newspaper relations, College Media Network (college publisher); Valerie White, assistant professor of journalism at Howard University; Emilly Harris, adviser, N.C. A&T Register; and Bruce Depnyssle, adviser, North Carolina Central University’s Campus Echo.

Students from Benedict College, Norfolk State University, South Carolina State University, Hampton University, Bennett College for Women, Winston Salem State University, North Carolina Central University and North Carolina A&T State University participated.

The program was made possible with funds from a grant from the James and John L. Knight Foundation. Teresa Styles, professor of journalism and mass communication at A&T, is the principal investigator. For more information visit www.blackcollegewire.org.

A&T AND NC State University are one of 50 institutions across the nation participating in the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education, which helps campuses determine for themselves how best to improve student learning by providing assessment support, consultations and assistance in articulating campus goals and objectives.

During the fall 2007 semester, 722 first-year A&T freshmen participated in the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education. Students completed a number of assessment instruments and surveys measuring their inclination to inquire and engage in lifelong learning, intercultural effectiveness, socially responsible leadership, and psychological well-being. Overall, these assessments measured the academic proficiency, attitudes and behaviors of incoming freshman students as they entered the university.

In spring 2008, 315 of the original freshman cohort were retested using many of the same assessments. Additionally, students completed the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), along with surveys aimed at measuring students’ first-year college experiences.

These assessments are being used to help identify practices, programs and institutional conditions that contribute – or fail to contribute – to students’ intellectual and personal growth while attending college. Full-year data was shared with the A&T community in September. Trained A&T student leaders then conducted student focus group sessions to gain a deeper understanding of the Wabash National Study results.

The same fall 2007 cohort of entering freshman will be tested a final time during their senior year to determine four-year student growth measures.

A&T’s participation in this project has been heavily subsidized by Wabash and grants they have received to implement this national study, saving the university tens of thousands of dollars while providing valuable assessment data.

MARSALIS VISITS AGGIELAND

Grammy Award-winning producer and trombonist Delfeayo Marsalis, of the renowned New Orleans Marsalis family, presented a workshop at A&T. Marsalis paid a visit on behalf of Mondré Moffett, adjunct professor and director of the jazz ensemble at N.C. A&T. A longtime music associate of Moffett, Marsalis has accepted an invitation to return for a future performance.

For information on the department of visual and performing arts or the music program at A&T, call (336) 256-2137 or (336) 285-2010, respectively.

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Wheel Brown Brown has been named director of intercollegiate athletics. Brown served as interim director of athletics November 2007-August 2008. Prior to that, he served as athletics’ associate director for internal affairs and compliance for five years.

During his appointment as associate athletics director, Brown, one of 12 applicants selected to participate in the NCAA Fellows Program that pairs minorities and women who are striving toward being directors of athletics at Division I institutions with an executive Division I director of athletics mentor.

Brown is a former student-athlete football and an alumnus of N.C. A&T. During his career he has taught and coached at the secondary education level and he has coached at the college level.

Deborah J. Callaway is serving as special assistant to the chancellor, effective Aug. 1, 2008. The special assistant to the chancellor functions as a senior officer and serves on the chancellor’s executive cabinet to meet increased demands of academic and administrative leadership of the university. The special assistant supports the chancellor in the design, development and implementation of all academic programs, providing an academic presence in the Office of the Chancellor as it relates to campus initiatives.

Callaway assists with enrollment management, the UNC-Tomorrow initiative and contract negotiations tied to academic programs, as well as the coordination of major university events in an effort to build strong community relationships in attracting and developing corporate sponsorships. Additionally, she provides senior level administrative oversight to mission critical projects, monitors trends and provides recommendations to the chancellor to assure comprehensive educational programs in collaboration with the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Callaway has over 26 years of experience in higher education and athletics. Since 1985, she has worked at A&T in a variety of administrative roles including chair of the department of human performance and leisure studies in the School of Education, interim athletics director and senior woman administrator for female athletics. She was the University’s Outstanding Administrator of the Year in 2002; and during academic year 2007-08, she served as interim dean of education.

The Petersburg, Va., native received her B.S. degree from Virginia State University, M.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University and Ed.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is a veteran of the United States Army.

Ray J. Davis, associate dean in the School of Technology since 1989, is serving as interim director of the Honors Program. Davis has administrative experience in academia and working with high achieving students. He also has provided leadership to A&T’s chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, serving as its first chapter president (2003-2005). In August 2007, Davis was elected vice president of the organization’s Southeast Region, where he works with 62 chapters in six states.

Before joining A&T, Davis worked in several institutions including the State University of New York at Oswego and Alcorn State University. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and his master’s degree and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Karen L. Hornsby, assistant professor in the history department, made two presentations at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference that was held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in October. Her topics were “Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Student Learning and Success” and Faculty and Student-Driven SoTL Focused on Institutional Needs.

Ann B. Mayfield-Clarke, associate professor and program director of speech/language pathology and audiology and speech communication studies, is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The fellowship is one of the highest forms of recognition and distinction given by ASHA of an individual’s professional accomplishments. Fellows were formally recognized at the ASHA Convention, Nov. 21, in Chicago.

Donald R. McDowell is serving as interim dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES). McDowell replaces Alton Thompson, who is serving as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

McDowell, an SAES associate dean for academic programs since 2001, came to A&T in 1981 and has served as an instructor, assistant and associate professor, and professor. He received his bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics from Southern University and his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in agricultural economics.

Doris Mitchell is serving as interim dean of library services. Mitchell replaces Watneeme Canada, who has entered the State’s phased retirement program.

Mitchell has served P.D. Bluford Library for more than 17 years with 14 of those as associate dean. She has over 30 years of experience in academic libraries including progressively responsible positions at Howard University and Virginia Commonwealth University. She received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics education from Alabama A&M University and her master’s degree in library science from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Glenn C. Newell has been hired as associate vice chancellor for police and public safety (police chief). Newell has over 30 years of experience in public safety. He most recently served as director of public safety at New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn.

Newell has a B.S. degree in liberal arts from New York Institute of Technology and an M.A. degree in urban affairs from Queens College.

Andrew M. Perkins Jr., assistant vice chancellor for business and financial affairs, has been appointed by former Gov. Mike Easley as a member of the North Carolina Teachers and State Employees Comprehensive Major Medical Plan Board of Trustees. Perkins’ term expires June 30, 2010.

Abdulhaasan Shahbaei, professor of natural resources and environmental design, has received $770,180 for a proposal that focuses on production of biodiesel and biofuel from waste materials in order to improve energy security and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Teresa Jo Styles, professor in the department of journalism and mass communication, was awarded a Mellon Foundation Fellowship enabling her to participate in the Saltzburg Global Seminar as a fellow of Session 459, “The Global Energy Fulcrum: Asian Development And International Response,” held at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, Nov. 30-Dec. 5. The fellow provided recommendations on global energy issues in two areas: Policy Recommendations on Kyoto and The View Toward the Future. The seminars bring together 50 emerging and established leaders from around the world and from a variety of professional backgrounds to debate critical global issues and propose possible solutions.

Alton Thompson, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, has been named Outstanding Advisor of 2007-2008 by Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for First Year Students. Williamson has served as chapter advisor at N.C. A&T since 2002. She also teaches history at A&T.

Under Williamson’s guidance, A&T’s chapter has received recognition on and off campus. In 2005, the chapter won the prestigious Order of the Torch Award and has won the Maintaining the Flame Award for the past three years.
MISS A&T WINS NBCA HALL OF FAME QUEENS COMPETITION

Miss North Carolina A&T State University 2008-2009, Tanisha Shavone Fordham, wowed the crowd and won the hearts of judges at the 22 Annual Miss NBCA Hall of Fame Queens Competition that was held in Atlanta. The annual competition, sponsored by the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc., is a national scholarship pageant that highlights the talent, personality and intellect of college queens from among America's historically black colleges and universities.

Fordham, a senior journalism major from Buffalo, N.Y., where she graduated from The Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, performed a monologue for the talent segment. She beat out 25 other queens from across the country in the competition and her outgoing personality and charm helped win the crown.

As a member of the Student Government Association, serving as Miss A&T, Fordham is involved in numerous campus activities. Outside of her responsibilities as Miss A&T, she is founder and president of Enlightened Visions, Inc., editor, photographer and columnist for the En Vyne monthly magazine; talk show host, WNAA 90.1 FM and public access Channel 8, writer, The A&T Register; and member, Richard B. Harrison Players theatre company.

She is the recipient of several awards including the N.C. A&T Journalism Department Most Contributed to the Department Award (May 2008), The Richard B. Harrison Players Award for Most Talented Chorus Member (May 2008) and the Afro American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier Young Community Leader Award (August 2008).

Fordham is known around campus for having a passion for people. In her free time, she also enjoys volunteering in the Guilford Child Development Center at Shiloh Baptist Church.

TRAVIS BOLES and Matthew Fuini, two juniors majoring in mechanical engineering, are the first two candidates from N.C. A&T appointed to the U.S. Navy Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NUPOC) program. Both students passed a rigorous selection process that included oral exams on technical areas and an interview with Adm. Kirkland H. Donald, director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion in Washington, D.C.

NUPOC is a highly selective program for students who desire to work for the Navy after college. It pays student candidates up to 30 months to finish school. The program is open to students majoring in engineering and science majors with two semesters of calculus and two semesters of calculus-based physics.

NUPOC provides candidates with active duty benefits of petty officer first class—over $3,000 per month plus health and dental benefits while completing their undergraduate degree as full-time students. Prior to this appointment, Boles and Fuini were working long hours to support their families while attending college. Now, with the assistance of the program, they can concentrate wholly on academics.

Upon completing their undergraduate degree, Boles and Fuini will enter the Officer Candidate School and then the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power School. After training, they will serve as nuclear warfare officers onboard a nuclear submarine or nuclear aircraft carrier, a naval reactors engineer in Washington D.C., or nuclear instructor at the Navy Power School in Charleston, S.C.
This past summer, N.C. A&T graduate students Brian Moseley and Tenika “Nikki” Walker traveled with leadership studies professor Liz Barber and collaborators from Virginia Tech and Radford University to Domasi Province in the southern region of Malawi, Africa. They engaged in sustainable change projects in a country where life expectancy is 17 years and more than 10 percent of children ages birth through 14 test positive for HIV/AIDS.

Malawi, arguably one of the poorest countries in the world, instituted a universal public education initiative in 1994. Since summer 2007, A&T students and faculty have joined with others from Virginia Tech and Radford to conduct leadership and service research projects that support the country’s education initiative.

Their work has been focused in three primary schools (Standards 1-8) located within walking distance of each other: Domasi Demonstration Primary, Government Primary and Malemia Village School. The research projects include co-teaching other: Domasi Demonstration Primary, Government Primary and Malenia Village School. Their work has been focused in three primary schools (Standards/grades 1-8) located within walking distance of each other: Domasi Demonstration Primary, Government Primary and Malenia Village School. The research projects include co-teaching and maintenance of libraries in all three schools, conducting repairs with Malawian teachers in classrooms of 125+ children, development projects that support the country’s education initiative.

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Prudent country boy’s journey takes him from farm and back, sharing his bounty along the way.

“SHARE” CROPPER

“TAKE ME THROUGH THE DOOR, AND I CAN MAKE IT,” Jesse Abel Francis’ legally blind A&T classmate Cash uttered as he assisted him through the revolving door during registration.

“I have never forgotten those words,” Francis said. “They have remained with me throughout my life.”

Francis recently opened the door for many A&T students by giving a $50,000 gift to his alma mater. The 89-year-old eagerly talks about his days at the institution.

“I came to A&T with $95 in scholarships. Forty-five was from the 4-H club and the rest academic,” he said.

“A&T gave me my first glimpse of success. The college enabled me to exercise my talent and develop it, and when I left God gave me the opportunity.”

Today Francis lives a couple of miles from his family farm in rural Halifax County, N.C., where he was reared with eight brothers and four sisters. He still refers to himself as a country boy, one who enjoys being around ordinary people.

In 1939, the Eastman High School valedictorian arrived on A&T’s campus a week early with the hopes of finding a job to supplement his scholarship monies. He knew his parents’ budget was tight for they were already assisting with the education of a sister and two brothers. Francis said. “I said, ‘Yes sir.’ He then asked me if I was good and I replied, ‘Very good.’”

Francis was surprised to see Francis and immediately began rubbing his head and his secretary laughed, as he asked if I could cut his hair,” Francis said. “I said, ‘Yes sir.’ He then asked me if I was good and I replied, ‘Very good.’”

Gibbs was pleased and gave the young freshman a room. He became the campus barber, cutting his classmates hair, and also acquired a job as a campus agent for a local pawn shop.

“A&T enabled me to help myself,” Francis expounds. “I think of the days when I was a barber. They didn’t charge me rent. They tolerated my lateness at night cutting hair. I also had a little business loaning money.”

Francis’ jobs didn’t deter him from excelling in and out of the classroom. The young entrepreneur became president of his class, and he participated in a variety of academic, social, religious and other extracurricular activities.

In 1943, after three years and a quarter (A&T was on the quarter system during that time) Francis had completed all requirements for his degree but he wasn’t ready to graduate. World War II was taking place and he knew that once he was out of college he would be drafted into the army. He tried prolonging his education by taking a chemistry course, but Uncle Sam soon discovered his status and he was called to serve his country.

Francis graduated from A&T with a 3.6 average, a major in vocational education and biological science and a minor in business administration.

After a short training period, Francis was sent over seas and served three-plus years in two separate theaters of operation. His degree and ROTC training would prove helpful to him as he and four other black college graduates convinced their general to send them to the Infantry Officers Candidate School. After graduating from OCS and serving in a number of other assignments, Francis was assigned to the administrative staff of the Second Manor Port in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, as a personnel officer - first lieutenant, infantry.

Four of Francis’ brothers also were drafted.

“It had to have been Mama’s prayers and the mercy of God that all of us returned from the war without major injuries,” he said.

Francis came home in 1943 and taught biological science and chemistry at his former high school for a year. Wanting to help veterans, he accepted a job with the North Carolina State Department of Vocational Education and was sent to Brunswick County, N.C., to establish, supervise and administer a new occupational training program for 75 newly discharged veterans of World War II. The program was housed at the Brunswick County Training School, which later became the high school.

When Francis arrived at the school, he learned that there wasn’t a facility to train the veterans. That didn’t daunt him. He had researched the county and was aware of its poverty. He also knew that the governor was serving in a number of other assignments, he approached the person in charge of destroying the facility. He discussed his vision of building a shop for the veterans, and as fate would have it, the man was a veteran.

With materials from the camp, Francis and his students built one of the finest shops in the state. As a result of his innovative programs at the school, he was appointed by the Brunswick County Commissioners to serve on the Brunswick County Resources Development Commission, which allowed him the opportunity to travel all over the country to help attract corporation to Brunswick. DuPont and Pfizer were among the companies. He served on this commission for 23 years, and he was also appointed to serve on the county’s Industrial Development Commission.

While working at the high school, Francis met his wife, Annie Herz Givens, a former Miss A&T. They were married for 42 years and the parents of two children. His wife passed in 1990.

Francis later became principal of Southport Middle School, where he initiated vocational education for middle school children. The job wasn’t easy. He recalls being threatened by the Ku Klux Klan. The incident occurred when a white female student slapped her white teacher. Members of the organization confronted him when he suspended the student. But, the Aggie stood his ground and gained a higher respect from the community.

Francis was devoted to his profession and served two terms as president of the Brunswick County Teachers Association. On the state level, he was elected and served two terms as president of the North Carolina Association of Vocational Teachers Inc.

With encouragement from his wife, Francis fulfilled his dream of establishing and operating a low-income housing rental business. The business consisted of 11 units that were designed for the handicapped, the elderly, newlywed couples and other families who did not have permanent homes. He operated the facility for 42 years.

Although Francis was quite busy he found the time to earn a master’s degree in vocational education at A&T and a graduate certification in school administration at East Carolina University. He was also active in his church, where he served as an adult Sunday School Teacher, chairman of the trustee board and treasurer.

Francis says he will always be appreciative of A&T for helping him become the person he is today.
World Class

A&T students interested in foreign study have a wide variety of options. Aggies can choose from 60 countries and stay anywhere from several weeks to a year. Along the way, educators say they learn lessons that last a lifetime. “I think they get a deeper appreciation for what it means to be an American,” said Michael Plater, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We are really test into the rest of the world, and if you can understand the rest of the world, it helps you understand your world a little better.”

“One from an academic standpoint, you begin to ask more questions,” Dr. Plater continued. “When you travel internationally, you see people with the same resources and in the same situations you are in, and they are coming up with very different conclusions.”

“It raises questions. Students begin to ask questions and that makes them better citizens – better informed citizens – and better able to have an impact on their town, their state, their country and the world.”

One of the main reasons Plater enjoys leading trips abroad is opening students’ eyes and minds so that they ask questions. This past spring he led a group of honors students on a study tour of Thailand that served as a follow-up to A&T’s “Introduction to Global Studies” course. Traveling abroad affords students the opportunity to spend a day helping girls and boys with their computer skills at the Nsaba Science Foundation for Girl Child Education, which was established by Kojo Fosu, a Fulbright Scholar from Ghana who said Michael Plater, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We are really tied to what it means to be an American,” said Williamson. “I think they get a deeper appreciation for what it means to be an American,” said Williamson.

A&T’s architectural and landscape programs participated in a study abroad educational tour of Italy and Greece in 2008 where they studied architecture, transportation and energy conservation. Pictured in Vatican City, Italy, are Walter Smith, Eric Watts, Nicole Williams, Diane Kendall, Ashanti Nepburn, Chonteu Jackson-Johnson, Richard James, Jeremy Young, Ursula Richardson, Philip Moten, Eric Jordan, Lashanda Jones and Linley Love. Ronnie S. Bailey, associate professor in the architectural engineering program, sponsored the tour.

University Studies Students Collect Books for Ghanaian Children

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Future Engineers Visit Italy and Greece

Statistics and accounting students were selected for an internship with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia 4th from left this past summer. Kari worked in the Ministry of Education developing assessment plans for a community college, evaluating the curriculum, and assisting Minister Kotchi with several research projects. She also was afforded the opportunity to work for the University of Liberia where she was offered permanent employment.

Physics Researchers Collaborate in Ethiopia

Students enrolled in UNIST 120 Contemporary World collected over 1,200 children’s books and other educational materials for two organizations that educate street children in Ghana, where some of them traveled to personally deliver the items last summer. The Ghanaian Child Literacy Project was coordinated by Agya Boakye-Boaten, assistant professor. Pictured are Akimi Sinclair, Travis Jackson, Wayne Kimball Jr., Crista Greenlee, Boakye-Boaten and Sargent Nelson.

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Physics Researchers Collaborate in Ethiopia

Students enrolled in UNIST 120 Contemporary World collected over 1,200 children’s books and other educational materials for two organizations that educate street children in Ghana, where some of them traveled to personally deliver the items last summer. The Ghanaian Child Literacy Project was coordinated by Agya Boakye-Boaten, assistant professor. Pictured are Akimi Sinclair, Travis Jackson, Wayne Kimball Jr., Crista Greenlee, Boakye-Boaten and Sargent Nelson.

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My studies abroad are in places people do not usually venture to explore,” he said. “People are initially attracted to places in Europe and South America, but I wanted to go to a place that I did not hear people talk about that often. When the opportunity came up I was eager to go.”

McCoy says he was not nervous about what awaited him in Thailand and Cambodia.

“I only knew small phrases in French, so I decided to buy a book to help learn the basics of getting around and communicating with others. When I talked to French people in their language, they were very appreciative that I took time to learn it. It was a sign of respect. They were also more willing to help me, and to teach me French. In her journey, Townsell noticed extreme trends in different lifestyles.

“I was very interested to see the extremities in the way people lived,” she said. “For example, there are men who go to work in suits in the morning, and come home to a tent at night. On the other hand, people lived in beautiful, extravagant penthouses and walking around the terrain of Cambodia on crutches was difficult,” he said. “The crutches were not exactly built for my frame -- they were my mother’s. I was in a foreign place because I was too excited.”

Thailand and Cambodia had to offer, he ran into a little difficulty. Though McCoy was ready to experience all of the marvels during the entire trip. Walking with two wooden sticks around plains and hills was a challenge; he did not let it ruin his trip. “Being a walking tourist and navigating the terrain of Cambodia was a challenge, but it was a challenge I wanted to experience,” he said. “The crutches were not exactly built for my frame -- they were my mother’s. I was engaged in daily walking tours and scaling Cambodian temple ruins and monuments with a painful injury. However, I treated it as a challenge and was determined not to let that keep me from fully enjoying the trip.”

After starting his summer vacation in Southeast Asia, McCoy returned home with a keener understanding of Thailand and Cambodia.

“I think about the role of the American government in the development of other nations. Thailand has a unique point of development because it is free of American influence, which is led by economic interest. Cambodia has not been so fortunate. This trip gave me a greater thirst for knowledge.”

By Brittany Haney

Bonjour: Aasiya in France

Fashion became a significant part of Aasiya Townsell’s life at an early age. A senior journalism and mass communication major, Townsell became interested in applying fashion to her journalism studies, however, such courses were not offered at A&T. She decided that studying fashion overseas would be the perfect way to learn more about her interest while pursuing her passion for travel.

During the summer of 2008, Townsell studied with the American Intercontinental University program in Paris, France: the fashion capital of the world. She also attended Fashion Week! “I’ve always had a passion to travel outside of the country, although I was a little nervous at first,” said Townsell.

Although she was nervous about leaving the country, the emotion left her as soon as she arrived in Paris. “When I actually walked on Parisian ground, I knew I was going to be okay.”

While in Paris, Townsell was exposed to different customs, foods and walks of life from what she was accustomed. She went to Paris with an open mind and left with a lifetime of stories after coming in contact with people in their language, they were very appreciative that I took time to learn it. It was a sign of respect. They were also more willing to help me, and to teach me French.

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One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things. — Henry Miller

North Carolina A&T State University students seize opportunities to study abroad and spread the University’s trophies far beyond Dare and Cherokee. Let’s take a moment to look into the journey of four students — Jonathan McCoy, Aasiya Townsell, Stephen Wynn and Talore Harrison (pictured above, left to right) — as they reminisce on the experiences abroad that forever changed their lives. — By Brittany Haney

Sa-wat dee, Sues-day: Jonathan in Thailand and Cambodia

Twice each year, the university’s Honors Program takes students on trips. Students can travel to Ghana during spring break, and Thailand/Cambodia shortly after the spring semester ends. Jonathan McCoy, a senior mechanical engineering major, took this as the perfect opportunity to go to a rarely visited Southeast Asia.

“My studies abroad are in places people do not usually venture to explore,” he said. “People are initially attracted to places in Europe and South America, but I wanted to go to a place that I did not hear people talk about that often. When the opportunity came up I was eager to go.”

McCoy says he was not nervous about what awaited him in Thailand and Cambodia.

“I went overseas with a completely open mind. I was all the way on the other side of the world, so there was no turning back. I did not allow myself to get nervous about being in a completely foreign place because I was too excited.”

Though McCoy was ready to experience all of the marvels during the entire trip. Walking with two wooden sticks around plains and hills was a challenge; he did not let it ruin his trip. “Being a walking tourist and navigating the terrain of Cambodia on crutches was difficult,” he said. “The crutches were not exactly built for my frame — they were my mother’s. I was engaged in daily walking tours and scaling Cambodian temple ruins and monuments with a painful injury. However, I treated it as a challenge and was determined not to let that keep me from fully enjoying the trip.”

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By Brittany Haney

Oy: Talore Harrison and Stephen Wynn in Brazil

Instead of studying abroad alone, some have chosen to share the experience with close friends. Talore Harrison and Stephen Wynn are among them.

The two industrial engineering majors set out for Brazil together after a year-long friendship. While in Brazil, Harrison and Wynn attended the Federal University in the world-class city of Rio de Janeiro.

“What shocked me most about Brazil was the beautiful scenery,” said Wynn. “In North Carolina, we are surrounded by trees. But, the landscape here can never compare to the splendor of Brazil.”

“Once I got off the plane and into a taxi, I was also amazed by the scenery,” said Harrison. “I am from a small town in the suburbs, and I have never experienced being in such a big city.”

Before their trip, the two engaged in a six-week long language intensive Portuguese program.

“Though we had previous knowledge of the language,” said Wynn, “it was hard to understand at times. It was not so much about comprehending the language, but keeping up with the different dialects.”

The most interesting concept of Brazil for Harrison and Wynn was the soccer craze.

“My most memorable experience was going to a soccer game,” said Harrison. “I remember watching celebrations after a win. The football fans in America cannot compare to the soccer fans in Brazil.”

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Wynn was the soccer craze.
Dream Weaver

Retired A&T associate professor and supporter walks, talks and breathes education. To her, it is the golden passport for bridging one’s lifestyle and service to others.

By Nettie Collins Bowland ’72

GLADYS HOPE FRANKLIN WHITE grew up surrounded by educators. White’s aunt and mother were teachers, and her grandmother, who read to her often, was a strong advocate for knowledge. Her husband, the late Frank Hollowell White – historian, founder and chair of North Carolina A&T’s history department – was second dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I believe that giving back provides a way for students to pursue their dreams,” said Dr. (Gladys) White, who served as the first director of A&T’s Reading Center and developed the university’s reading specialist certification program.

During her tenure at A&T, White also served as a technical reading consultant for the USA Office of Education National Right to Read Program, a national reading program to enhance reading instruction in the nation’s elementary schools. She also received an NDEA reading grant to train and retool elementary teachers to improve their reading instruction with creativity and innovation.

Throughout White’s career and now, she makes students’ dreams ripen into realities. The Elizabeth City native has a legacy for establishing scholarships and recently created a $25,000 endowed scholarship for A&T’s College of Arts and Sciences.

White continues to support many monetary causes at A&T and at her alma mater, Hampton University, where she has a residence hall named in her honor. Hampton’s president, William R. Harvey, has coined White as a “fund-raiser extraordinariae.”

Upon retiring from teaching at A&T in 1982, White founded Project CARE (Coaching Accelerates Rich Excellence), an enrichment testing program for high school and graduate students. A member of A&T’s Friends of Education, White is proud of her accomplishments as she strives to help others achieve theirs.

“I taught students how to excel and build confidence and esteem to gain high performance on their college and graduate school admission tests for careers in medicine, law, dentistry, humanities and other areas,” said White. “I also coached teaching and nursing majors to pass their licensure exams.

Affectionately called “Mother Dear,” many students owe their successful careers to this faithful, caring guru.

Take Fatima Kasiah, a participant in the project. After completing it, she obtained a full A&T scholarship and is now a second year medical student at Ross University School of Medicine.

“Dr. Gladys White is one of the most selfless, genuine people that I have met to date. Her no-nonsense approach to education and steadfast desire to see people become the best that they can be has helped me to become the person that I am today, as well as reach many of the goals that I set for myself.”

Kasiah’s younger sister Fanta also received the same test prep and was an outstanding A&T scholarship recipient. Today, she is in her third year of medical studies at Ross’ and concurs with her sister regarding White.

“She has personally helped sculpture my career path, beginning with SAT preparation, continuing onward to provide guidance for the U.S. Medical Licensing exams,” said Fanta. “Over the years, I have seen her devote countless hours towards enriching lives, both young and old.”

White has taught and mentored hundreds of students and often keeps in contact with them. She recalls the invitation and letter she received from Sonya Thomas when she obtained her college degree. The Dudley High School track star excelled in White’s program and received a scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Now completing her Ph.D., Thomas wrote, “I wanted to send you an invitation to my college graduation because without you I would not be graduating.”

Vernell Stallings, a retired A&T employee and graduate, describes White as an outstanding mentoring teacher.

“Two of my children were participants in Project CARE, and when they completed the program they were fully prepared to go to any college in the country with SAT scores 1400 and above.”

White’s commitment continues to be embedded in Project CARE, which has been located at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer for 26 years. Prior to the project, she organized and directed the Saturday Academy for K-6 graders.

“Many professional people today owe their success in their chosen professions to Dr. White,” said the Rev. Father Carlton O. Morales, a chaplain at Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital and former rector of the church. “As an educator, Dr. White has dedicated her life to serving humanity in preparing young people and adults to drink freely at the Fountain of Education to make the world a better place. She is committed to upholding the dignity of all people, irrespective of race, color or creed.”

In reaching out to others to be successful, White values serving her church. As a member of Church of the Redeemer, she has served in the choir, on the Vestry and is currently president of the Episcopal Church Women. But directing Project CARE is her most prized service to the community.

Lennie B. Foster, a 1947 A&T graduate and church parishioner, quotes D.H. Lawrence to describe White: “The greatest virtue in life is real courage that knows how to face facts and live beyond them.”

“Dr. Gladys White’s greatest virtue is real courage. ‘She is always willing to accept unknown challenges and creates successful adventures.’”

White devotes efforts to community causes that include the directorship at Project Cherish, a restoration, beautification and preservation initiative of the oldest African American cemetery in Greensboro, Union Cemetery. White conducted extension courses, workshops and seminars for teachers and principals. She holds memberships in countless community, civic and educational organizations and has life membership in the International Reading Association and Lady Sertoma.

Because she contributes so willingly of her time, mind, talent and monetary gifts to helping mankind, White’s name resonates a fuller means of giving.

“One of the things that impressed me about Dr. White is her continuing efforts to improve the reading skills of children both in the classroom at A&T and her SAT courses at the church,” said retired university professor and small business owner Sandra Alexander, who is one of her former students and colleagues. “She seems tireless—always giving, giving, giving, and reaching back to help others.”

It is evident that White has touched so many lives and left a viable imprint. As she says, “When you give back to others, you internalize your own rewards. However, throughout my life, my belief and pattern has been in the words of the late Edwin Markham’s poetic line, ‘... all that you send into the lives of others comes back into our own.’”

White also says, “I always aim to let my life do the singing.”
GREENSBORO — On a winter day 48 years ago, a young man named Franklin McCain made history when he and three N.C. A&T classmates took seats at the whites-only lunch counter at Woolworth’s in downtown Greensboro.

The civil rights pioneer took another important seat last week, when McCain was elected chairman of A&T’s board of trustees.

He’s the first board chairman in school history to have a statue of himself (with the Greensboro Four) on the campus lawn.

“The truth is, I rarely think about that statue,” McCain said Thursday. “It’s probably more humbling than anything else. When someone does mention it, it makes me do a little more self-introspection … I tell myself, ‘Make sure you continue to deserve the things that have happened to you.’ I’d work just as hard if there wasn’t a statue there.”

But it is there, on a patch of grass in front of the stately Dudley Buidling. And the man cast in bronze, second from the left, is now first among his alma mater’s 12 trustees.

McCain takes over the post from Velma Speight-Buford. He served as her vice chairman.

“It was time,” said Speight-Buford, who still holds a seat on the board. “I really had an extra year, you know. They waived the bylaws in order for me to be the chair for an extra year. It’s supposed to be you can serve a maximum of two years, but because we were going through such a transition, I had three years as the chair.”

McCain said Speight-Buford’s leadership helped A&T get through turbulent times. On her watch, trustees dealt with the fallout from a massive audit that led to a State Bureau of Investigation probe into school finances. Chancellor James Renick left for another job, and Speight-Buford led the search that found a new chancellor, Stanley Battle, in 2007.

“(Speight-Buford) shared everything with me, and she invited me to participate in everything,” McCain said. “She was a great mentor in that regard. We’re hoping (the transition) is going to be seamless.

“We’ve got different styles, and my No. 1 priority might be her No. 3, but I don’t think we vary much in what we deem significant,” he said.

So what is significant? In their own ways, both said steering A&T on a proactive course — rather than reacting to trouble — will help the school flourish.

Speight-Buford hopes she put down a solid foundation with reforms, including an updated faculty handbook, a performance evaluation plan for trustees, a new committee structure tailored to best use trustees’ individual talents and revised bylaws that hadn’t been updated since the 1970s.

McCain, the board’s new chairman, said he hopes to put a higher priority on nursing, teacher education and engineering. He wants to increase enrollment in graduate programs and find more money for scholarships. He wants students to feel safer and new faculty members to feel at home.

“I hope we can concentrate now on those kinds of things,” McCain said. “You don’t like dealing with those other kinds of (negative) things you know to be your No. 1 priority.

“We had some challenges in the past take time away from growth and development. We’re past that, and I don’t have any reservations about the things I’m responsible for now.”

Contact Jeff Mills at 373-7024 or jeff.mills@news-record.com

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By Jeff Mills

A Hand in A&T’s History, Future

2009-2010 Women’s Basketball Recruits Announced

Aggies sign one of the best players in the state of North Carolina

North Carolina A&T women’s basketball coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs has announced the signing of three players to National Letters of Intent. The class is ranked among the top third in the nation by the All-Star Girls Report.

Guard Amber Calvin, center/power forward Nikia Gorham and swing player Jaquayla Berry are expected to be in uniform for the Aggies during the 2009-10 season.

“We want to continually put teams on the floor that can compete with any other team in the country,” said Bibbs. “I believe these three young ladies will go a long way in helping us do just that. I’m very pleased with what you all were able to do during this period.”

Calvin is a 5-foot-7 point guard from Fayetteville. She averaged 18.4 points, 8.1 assists, 3.8 steals and 2.5 rebounds per game as a sophomore for Southview High School. She is widely considered one of the best players in North Carolina. As a sophomore, Calvin led the Tigers to the Class 4A state championship.

That same year, she was named second-team All-State by the Associated Press. Calvin was the youngest player in school history to reach 1,000 points as a career. She plans to major in human performance and leisure studies.

Gorham stands at 6’2” and hails from Springdale, Md. She averaged 15.0 points, 13.0 rebounds, 2.0 steals and 2.0 blocks per game for Flowers High School last season. Gorham rebounded aggressively on both ends, and the pressure defense she ran in high school will help her adapt to Bibbs’ pressing style. She plans to major in graphic communication systems and technology.

Berry rounds out Bibbs’ impressive class. At 5-10, the Douglas, Ga., native will play on the wing at either the shooting guard or small forward positions. Berry averaged 16.0 points, 10.2 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 3.0 steals per game last season for Coffee High School. A year ago, Berry was the only underclassman to earn first-team All-Region honors. She is also an all-conference performer, who plans to major in human performance and leisure studies.

By Brian M. Helmsany ’97

CAGE-BIBBS ENTERS GRAMBLING HALL OF FAME

North Carolina A&T head women’s basketball coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs was inducted into the Grambling State University Alumni Hall of Fame in September. A reception, banquet and induction ceremony were held Oct. 17 at the university.

Cage-Bibbs was among five inductees who entered the GSU Hall under the category of athletics.

“It is always a great honor to be recognized by your alma mater,” she said. “I have so many fond memories of Grambling. It is where I met my husband, it is where I was educated and it is where I got my start in college coaching.”

Cage-Bibbs attended Grambling from 1968 until 1972 and received a degree in health and physical education. She returned to the school to earn a master’s degree in sports administration, and she returned again in 1986 to serve as the director of women’s athletics where she started and coached the Tigers softball program.

Dr. Joseph Benjamin Johnson named her head women’s basketball coach of a fledgling Grambling program. She eventually turned the program into a SWAC power, winning six championships and 238 games over a 13-year span. She also led the Tigers to their first NCAA tournament appearance in 1994.

Last season, Cage-Bibbs earned her 400th coaching victory, led the Aggies to a record-breaking 25-8 season, won MEAC Coach of the Year honors and led the Aggies to the WNIT. She ranks 33rd among active women’s basketball coaches with 422 career wins.
The North Carolina A&T Sports Hall of Fame has inducted three new members for their accomplishments for N.C. A&T athletics, and five more members were inducted for their many contributions to athletics.

Former A&T head football coach William “Bill” Hayes, men’s basketball standout James Jackson, and football and track and field participant Edward Gladden Favor were inducted for their athletic and coaching accomplishments.

Velma Spaight-Buford, John David Haynes, Melvin Swann, Gladys Shipman and Isaac Barrett were inducted as honorary members.

Hayes, the current Florida A&M athletics director, coached football at A&T from 1988 until 2002. He won three MEAC championships, made two Division I FCS (then I-AA) playoff appearances and was awarded MEAC Coach of the Year twice. In 1999, Hayes led the Aggies to the Black College National Championship, a school-record 11 wins and the school’s first ever NCAA playoff victory. He finished his 15-year coaching stint with the Aggies as the school’s all-time leader in wins with 106.

Jackson played men’s basketball for the Aggies, 1961-64. He led the Aggies to the South Central Regional Tournament twice. He was an honorable mention All-American as a senior and a two-time All-CIAA member. Jackson still shares the single-game A&T scoring record he set in 1964 with 41 points against St. Augustine’s College.

Favors participated in track and field and football, 1953-56. As a football player, he was a two-way starter as a safety and running back. In 1956, Favors received the Jack Gibson Memorial Trophy as the outstanding graduating senior member of the football team.

Spaight-Buford highlights the honorary inductees. She was elected to the N.C. A&T Board of Trustees in 1998, and she served as board chair September 2005-September 2008. She also served as director of alumni affairs at the university.

Over the years, Spaight-Buford has given significant financial and in-kind contributions to nearly every program and cause sponsored by A&T to ensure students remained in school.

Haynes is a veteran and a retired revenue field auditor with the North Carolina Department of Revenue. In 1974, he was a member of the planning committee and a team captain that sold Gold Helmet, Blue Helmet and Century Club seats for the construction of Aggie Stadium.

In 1978, Haynes was a member of the steering committee that brought all local chapters of the Aggie Club under one umbrella. He also assisted in the writing the booster club’s constitution. Later, he served as president and vice president of the Aggie Club. Haynes is also a charter member of the Victory Club and has an endowed scholarship of $1,500 through the organization.

Swann has spent more than 35 years broadcasting Aggie football games on Saturday afternoons. But he has done much more than broadcast football games for the university. A 1958 graduate of Hampton, Swann is a member of the Greensboro chapter of the Aggie Club, where he has served as president and vice president.

Swann also has been a contributor to Aggie athletics and the Greensboro community. He spent more than 38 years in the public school system of Greensboro and Guilford County, including earning a position as deputy superintendent of Guilford County Schools.

Shipman has personally financed N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame activities. She is the president and CEO of Shipman Family Home Care, Inc., a family operated minority home care provider, which is the largest company of its kind in North Carolina. For more than 23 years, the company has employed several thousand people, and serves the elderly and disabled community in the state.

Shipman currently sits on the Civil Rights Museum Board of Directors, and has made sizeable financial contributions toward many of the projects and needs of the athletics programs at A&T.

Barrett was instrumental in organizing the N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame group. He has made sizeable financial contributions toward many of the projects and needs of the athletics programs at A&T.

Barrett is a nationally recognized pioneer in the fields of safety and driver education at A&T, where he dedicated 43 years of his life. To show his continued support for the occupational safety and health program, he recently established a $25,000 endowed scholarship.

THREE AGGIES RECOGNIZED BY NFCA

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) announced its annual academic honor with some familiar North Carolina A&T softball players on the list.

Senior Britney Hodges earned the NFCA honor for the third straight season. She is joined by junior Bianca Alabrook, who is making her second straight appearance, and first-time recipient Jessie Larson.

NFCA is the professional growth organization for fastpitch softball coaches from all competitive levels of play. In order to be considered a NFCA scholar athlete, a player must hold at least a 3.5 GPA for the previous academic year.

Hodges is a social work major. She has been recognized as an A&T scholar-athlete since her arrival. She has also made the MEAC all-academic team and the Dean’s lists. The Raleigh native played 26 games for the Aggies last season with 11 starts.

Alabrook is a political science major from Robbins, N.C. After a promising freshman season, Alabrook made 39 starts in 40 games played and batted .272 with six doubles and 29 RBIs. In the field, she posted an impressive .980 fielding percentage.

Larson is an animal science major from Morrison, Colo. The junior slugger has been a valuable offensive weapon for Jones over the last two seasons. Larson is a career .317 hitter with 10 career home runs and 91 career RBIs. She also has 23 career doubles. A year ago, she batted .290 with two homers and 35 RBIs.

Mamie Jones is the head coach for softball at N.C. A&T.
The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) has inducted Nagatha Tonkins ‘80 into its 2008 Hall of Fame class as the Journalism Educator of the Year. The NABJ Hall of Fame Awards recognize black journalists who have made outstanding contributions to the journalism profession. Past inductees include Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois, John H. Johnson and Charlayne Hunter Gault. Last year’s class consisted of Xernona Clayton-Brady, Mary Aubespin, John L. Dotson Jr., and Jim Vance.

Tonkins is an assistant professor and director of internships at Elon University. She previously served as assistant professor/internship director in the department of journalism and mass communication at N.C. A&T State University where she was project director of the NABJ Short Course for 16 years.

In September, the Senate and the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania acknowledged Julia Shivers Brooks ‘44 for service to her community and her achievements. The citations were presented at the second annual Northwest Community Appreciation Awards Dinner where Brooks was honored as an outstanding committee person.

Marlow Hinton ‘74 was the morning keynote speaker at the National Society of Black Engineers Region 2 Professional Development Conference held in Norfolk, Va., Oct. 31-Nov. 2. His topic was “Ethics for the Information Age.” Over 700 engineering students and professionals attended the conference. Region 2 extends from Pennsylvania to South Carolina.

Delores Mitchell-Tulloss ‘74, a former Miss A&T, has written a children’s book, ABC’s of Character for People Around the World. Mitchell-Tulloss says the book is designed to teach children, teens and adults to have positive behavior, kindness, respect, compassion, honesty and more.


In July, Derrick O. Lennon ‘88, administrator of wholesale credits and collections for Verizon Customer Financial Services, traveled to Austria and Germany in July to study international business. Lennon has a B.S. in business administration from N.C. A&T and an M.B.A. in management from Pfeiffer University.

Garla A. Glover-Smith ‘93 was featured in Women’s Edge magazine, where she and her business partner Michelle Yank were the magazine’s June 2008 cover story on home based businesses. Glover-Smith is co-owner of Smart Moms, a company that helps businesses fill part-time and contract positions with a workforce of skilled stay at home moms. Glover-Smith received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering from N.C. A&T.

Lenard D. Moore ‘97, assistant professor of language and literature at Mount Olive College, was one of five individuals and one organization selected to receive the 24th Annual Raleigh Medal of Arts given by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission in October. The medal is awarded for lifetime extraordinary achievement in the practice or support of local arts. Originally based on the National Medal of Arts program, the Raleigh Medal of Arts program was inaugurated in 1984. Over the past 24 years, 122 medals have been awarded.

Moore is a Raleigh, N.C., resident and native of Jacksonville, N.C. He earned his master’s degree in English/African American Literature from N.C. A&T and his bachelor’s degree with honors from Shaw University. In 2008, Moore became the first Southerner and the first African American to be elected president of the Haiku Society of America. He recently won the Sam Ragan Fine Arts Award for his contribution to the fine arts of North Carolina. Additionally, he is executive chairman of the North Carolina Haiku Society; Haiku editor of the online magazine Simply Haiku, and cofounder of the Washington Street Writers Group.

In August, Moore was featured on “The State of Things” on North Carolina Public Radio, WUNC. He talked about his latest book of poems, A Temple Looming (WordTech Communications,2008), which was inspired by old black and white photographs of African Americans.

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ALUMNI NEWS

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Tonya N. Saddler ’97 has earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies (higher education program) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Saddler’s research interests include faculty work-life issues, including tenure, promotion and effective strategies for recruiting and retaining faculty members of color. Her special research interests include the socialization of doctoral students to faculty careers. Saddler’s dissertation explored the socialization of education and engineering doctoral students to the research role of faculty careers.

Saddler is a postdoctoral research fellow at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. She is working with a team of faculty members on an NSF project titled Prototyping the Engineer of 2020: A 360-degree Study of Effective Education, examining programs that have exemplary characteristics of preparing undergraduate engineering students effectively for the future.

La Toya Stevens-Agbai ’99 began her own line of handbags, Miss Pretty Perfect, in 2007. Stevens-Agbai has a B.S. degree in fashion design and merchandising from N.C. A&T. She also has a degree in fashion design from Parsons School of Design in New York City.

In August 2008, Leonnora C. Bryant ’99 was appointed director of alumni affairs in the Division of Development and University Relations after serving in an interim capacity for one year. The director of alumni affairs serves as the chief liaison with the Alumni Association as well as serves to strengthen the bonds of loyalty and enthusiasm between the University and its alumni. Her vision is to perfect past programs and activities (things we do annually) and introduce and promote new events/activities that create opportunities for more alumni involvement.

Bryant has a B.S. degree in management and an M.S.M. in information systems. She has worked at the University for over 25 years.

Nikkita Lanee Mitchell ’01 is an assistant district attorney in the Rockingham County (N.C.) District Attorney’s Office. Mitchell has worked as a prosecutor in New Hanover and Pender counties, and most recently at a private practice in Reidsville, N.C. She was SGA president during her senior year at N.C. A&T, 2000-01, and she received her law degree from Tulane University in 2005.

Jackie Powers ’05 is manager of college marketing (urban, pop, country) for Sony BMG Music Entertainment, Inc. Powers manages a team of 25 college marketing representatives across the country. The Sony BMG roster includes artists such as Beyonce, John Legend, Terrence Howard, Mary Mary, Donnie McClurkin, Usher and more.

In the 2000s

Memoriam

Alumni

Teddy Campbell Sr. ’69
Ellenase Randall Browning Colston, Nov. 11
Eugene “Pete” Copeland Jr. ’53
Frank Perry Cuthbertson ’42, Oct. 19
Roosevelt “Blitk” Davis Jr., Oct. 26
Lewis E. Dunlap Jr. ’54, Sept. 6
Preston Lee Fleming ’58, June 29
William “Bill” Gray Jr. ’50, May 9
George Thomas Halsey Jr., Sept. 2
Roland Jeffrey Hanes Sr., Sept. 15
Charles Augustus Hargrett, Sept. 7
Lillian Dillard Harris ’53, June 16
Patricia Jane Harris, Oct. 18
Josephine Young Hayes, Oct. 8
Annie Beatrice Herbin ’47, June 25
Emily W. Ireland ’52, Oct. 5
Eunice Jones, Nov. 7
Masa (Moses) Kamara, June 19
Armond R. Kane ’73, Aug. 9
Alfonza “Al” Kinsey, Nov. 25
Willie Earl Knight, June 25
Josephine Elizabeth Currye Luedt ’57, Aug. 20
Thurman Edward Marley, Oct. 20
James Robert McNair, Sept. 7
Ladizar David “L.D.” Robinson, Sept. 25
Carlton E. Scales Sr., Sept. 13
Novarro Andrew Smith, Oct. 26
Linda Faye Gant Thompson ’70, Sept. 24
Hardy James Williams, Sept. 27
John L. Williams Sr., Nov. 25

Others

Edward Douglas Cheeks, electrician, July 13
Evelyn Lourene Gadsden Jones, former research professor, Sept. 26
Sarah Virgo Jones Kirk, retired professor and department chair, July 4
Willie Knight, retired physical plant mechanic, June 25
Jesse Edward Marshall Jr., Ph.D., retired vice chancellor for student affairs, Dec. 2
Isaac H. Miller Jr., PhD, former professor, Nov. 1
Ronnie Pinchback, parking services officer, June 29
Winnie Thomas Robinson, former dean of women, June 9
Lloyd Russell Sr., former employee, Nov. 16
George Keveyn Washington, freshman biology major, Oct. 9

In August 2008, Leonnora C. Bryant ’99 was appointed director of alumni affairs in the Division of Development and University Relations after serving in an interim capacity for one year.

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Bryant has a B.S. degree in management and an M.S.M. in information systems. She has worked at the University for over 25 years.
Dear Alumni:

The North Carolina A&T State University Alumni Association, Inc. is gearing up for a wonderful weekend designed with you in mind. We are excited about providing an atmosphere centered on celebration. This reunion weekend affords you the opportunity to rekindle your commitment, renew old acquaintances, delight in new relationships, and help your alma mater provide a world-class learning environment for students. Alumni Weekend 2009 will convene in Greensboro, N.C., May 8-10. Reunion headquarters will be held at the Greensboro Marriott Downtown. Special recognition will be given to the classes of 1959 and 1984, which will celebrate their 50th and 25th anniversaries, respectively. Other classes in reunion are 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004. Here is an update on Alumni Weekend so that you can plan your weekend accordingly.

Registration check-in for Alumni Weekend will occur Friday, May 8, 2009, from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. until noon, in the main lobby of the Downtown Greensboro Marriott. The registration fee is $85 for all alumni and $40 for guests ($22 for children under 12). The fee includes the picnic and admission to the Class Reunion/Banquet. Pre-registered alumni will receive a souvenir gift. The pre-registration postmarked deadline is April 30, 2009. On May 1, the late registration fee becomes $100, $45 and $25. We can only guarantee a souvenir and banquet space for those who register by the deadline. Make check/money order payable to NC A&T SU Alumni Association, Inc. and send to: PO Box 20966, Greensboro, NC 27420. Please note that your class will be responsible for the cost of the suite.

400 N. Greene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401. Reservations must be made on or before April 14, 2009. The rate is $95 plus 12.75% tax per night. If you have questions, contact Joan Fletcher, Chair of the Alumni Weekend/Class Reunion Coordinators/Co-coordinators at Fletcher.Joan1@gmail.com or by calling (336) 852-8959. Visit www.ncat.edu/alumni for latest developments and updates.

Class Reunion Coordinators/Co-coordinators - Classes ending in 4 and 9 will be in reunion

1934 and 1939
Joan Fletcher, Chair
4645 Pembroke Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27407
(336) 852-8959
Fletcher.Joan1@gmail.com

1944
Julia Brooks
417 E. Gorges Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19119-1319
(215) 246-4853

1949
John C. Kelly, Sr.
4231 Flowers Valley Dr.
Rockville, MD 20853-1809
(301) 529-1424
jckelly@thesalesinstitute.com

1954
Lammy G. Barnes, Jr.
486 Wilster Ave., Unit B-7
New Rochelle, NY 10801-2430
(914) 633-3988
BRC102@yahoo.com

1959
Herbert S. Rodwell
5734 Wymanfield Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19131
(215) 879-5833

1964
Wilkie Mooreing
4801 Tumblewood Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27407
(336) 454-3248

1974
Class Coordinators (needed)

1979
Barbara A. Redden
6418 Gwinn Dr.
 Bowie, MD 20720
(301) 860-0622
Barreden529@yahoo.com

1984
Fita Joyner
2 Ashwood Square
Durham, NC 27713
(919) 215-6559
fitajo@ncat.edu

1989
Kelvin M. Edwards Sr.
4067 Big John Store
Pawann, NC 27765
(336) 852-8959
kevin@ncat.edu

Teresa Davis
8700 Woodhill Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28215
(704) 555-5021
Talexis07@carolina.nc

Knifley Holloway
1203 Oak Crest Dr.
P.O. Box 1107
Kittrell, NC 27544-9084
(919) 413-1547
kt_solutions@hotmail.com

Terris Edwards
7000 Woodhill Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28215
(704) 555-5021
Talexis07@carolina.nc

Antoinette Birdsong
1158 Pettine St.
Greensboro, NC 27401
(336) 375-1403
antbirdsong@msn.com

1959
Tate Williams
4117-Shirley Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27407
(336) 250-6546

1969
Phyllis B. Faison
1801 Liburn Ct.
Garners, NC 27529
(919) 772-2617
pfinley@ncat.edu

1964
Gladys Outlaw-Gallo
4170 Stovall Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27407
(336) 250-6546

1979
Joe Bloomfield, Eugene Preston (Advisor) and Deloris Chisley, Interim Executive Director (Ex-officio)

Society of Golden Aggies Luncheon/Induction (50+ Years), sponsored by the Office of Development, will be held Friday, May 8, at 1 p.m. on campus in the Alumni-Foundation Event Center, 200 Benbow Road. There is no fee for this event. For more information and the reservation deadline, contact Leonora Bryant at the Office of Alumni Affairs, (336) 431-5573, and/or the 1959 class co-coordinator.

The Annual Class Reunion Committee will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2009, at the Greensboro Marriott Downtown, Triad Ballroom. Commencement will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 9, 2009, at the Greensboro Coliseum. The Golden and Silver Classes will have reserved seating.

Alumni Picnic will be held Saturday, May 9, 2009, from noon until 2:30 p.m. at the Oak Parade Grounds (old Chancellor’s Residence) on campus. Reserve Seats for Hospitality Suites. There are a limited number of suites available. Those who register for suites will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Christine Stiles, Sales Manager at the Greensboro Marriott at (336) 379-8000 or (800) 228-9290. Please note that your class will be responsible for the cost of the suite.

The pre-registration postmarked deadline is April 30, 2009. On May 1, the late registration fee becomes $100, $45 and $25. We can only guarantee a souvenir and banquet space for those who register by the deadline. Make check/money order payable to NC A&T SU Alumni Association, Inc. and send to: PO Box 20966, Greensboro, NC 27420. Please include your class year in the memo section of the check. Credit card payments are acceptable.

Registration:
- Classes ending in 4 and 9 will be in reunion.
- Registration check-in for Alumni Weekend will occur on or before April 14, 2009.
- Alumni Weekend is May 8-10, 2009.
- The registration fee is $85 for all alumni and $40 for guests ($22 for children under 12).
- The fee includes the picnic and admission to the Class Reunion/Banquet. Pre-registered alumni will receive a souvenir gift.
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The last goodbye, hug and smile are what you remember most of your dear friend. You are able to envision so much about the last time you laughed and shared secrets on North Carolina A&T State University’s campus. Your memories are precious, and so often you wish you could reverse the time so you could see your friend again.

Well, stop wondering about what you should have done and just do it in May 2009!

Set your calendar NOW to attend the 2009 Class Reunion of the 4’s and 9’s, and plan to spend May 8-10, 2009 – Alumni Weekend – in Greensboro, N.C., with your friend – not as a distant memory, but as a face-to-face reality.

Make the Class Reunion the place where you rekindle that heartfelt friendship. Fellowship with classmates to make new friendships, see the University’s evolution over time and revitalize your commitment to the students!

Right now, the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Alumni Association, Inc. is requesting your presence for this most auspicious time. The Association will do all it can to equip you with the proper tools to make this weekend an event to REMEMBER. We look forward to honoring the alumni in reunion and ALL alumni are invited and welcome to attend.

We want everyone to be connected. If you are in reunion this year and would love to serve as a class coordinator under the subcommittee’s leadership of Joan Fletcher, please send an email to classreunion@ncatalumni.org. Although the Association will continuously provide information about the 2009 Class Reunion/Alumni Weekend via the many modes of communication, please do not hesitate to send an email or call (336) 433-5576 for more information.

Bring your old memories and the spirit to make new ones. Give the Association the privilege to thank you for making this time a priority in your busy lives. Believing in our alumni is what we do best. Supporting our students is our greatest accomplishment. Time is so precious and friends are so dear. Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy the birth of your connection to so many of life’s experiences!

Believing in Aggie Pride always,

Pamela L. Johnson ’91
National President

Alumni Weekend Registration

The deadline to pre-register by FAX or postmarked mail is Friday, April 30, 2009.

Please pre-register so your registration packet and name badge(s) will be ready when you arrive. Late registration fees will apply after deadline.

Name:
Class of:

Mail Address:

Home Phone:
Work Phone:
Cell Phone:

Email address:

Name as you would like it to appear on your badge:

Other attendees you would like to pre-register:

Name:
Name:

Registration Fees:

* $45.00 after April 30, 2009
* $100.00 after April 30, 2009

Payment Options:

Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Discover ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐

Charge my credit card the “Grand Total” amount of $__________

Card Account Number
Expiration Date (mm-yyyy)

(Print) Name as it appears on the card
Cardholder’s Signature

Mail this completed form with payment to:
NC A&T SU Alumni Association, Inc.
Executive Director
P.O. Box 20866, Greensboro, NC 27420

Annual Fund contributions must be submitted in a separate transaction
By Wayne Kimball Jr.

Life is a journey and within it you discover that there are enumerable trips that are worthwhile and beneficial to the development of all humans. This summer I had the grand opportunity to embark upon one of those life altering excursions that I consider to be the journey of a lifetime: a trip to the motherland.

In July (2008), I – along with four other N.C. A&T students and two professors – traveled to Ghana, West Africa, as ambassadors for the University on behalf of Chancellor Stanley F. Battle, who selected the students and funded the trip. We went to render services and donate supplies to street children as part of the Ghana Street Children Literacy Project that my classmates and I initiated.

Every part of this gratifying trip was truly awesome: from the lavish inner city hustle and bustle in Accra and the breath taking emotional slave castles in Cape Coast and Elmina, to the picturesque beaches, rain forests and high spirited Asante people in Kumasi. My heart truly hurt when I saw the extreme desperation of the street hustlers and children who did whatever it took to find food or get money just to buy scraps. Words can not express how I felt when I saw toddlers playing in dirty waters and fields infested by flies and mosquitoes.

While at the two schools where we volunteered, mentored and donated the books and supplies, I was humbled in more ways than one. It is truly disheartening to see American children take quality education for granted, going to school daily to misbehave and eventually drop out, when African children have to walk miles to go to a one-room school with temporary dividers that create smaller classroom areas. The mind blowing reality of children in school with no books, supplies or food is one that will forever keep me grounded in utmost appreciation for the outstanding educational opportunities I am blessed to have.

The day we went to the first school – Accra Street Academy – we walked down dusty dirt roads through shanty towns that housed the children who attend the Academy. At the school we took pictures, presented the books and supplies, taught classes, mentored students and displayed immense Aggie Pride in many ways. The most rewarding part of the visit was witnessing the gratefulness of the students and teachers as well as their performance of a rousing cultural dance to authentic African drumming. Our visit to Catholic Action School the following day was just as amazing.

Although the children at both schools were alike in many ways, they had major differences. The children at Accra Street Academy were children “of” the streets and the children at the Catholic Action School were children “on” the street. As similar as it may sound, they are both very different. Children “of” the street are impoverished children who live in slums and villages and who struggle to find food; however, at the end of the day they have nothing but themselves. The street is their only family and what they call home. Due to the unfortunate daily living conditions and harsh situations, they fall prey to prostitution, child labor, violence and crime. Contrarily, children “on” the street have a family to go to and a place to call home.

Children “of” the street appeal more for money and supplies, while children “on” the street are grabbed by the hands of children who pulled me up to grab my bag and my camera as I continued to record the unfortunate daily living conditions. Children “of” the street have nothing but themselves. The street is their only family and what they call home.

Upon our arrival at the Catholic Action School, we instantly noticed the difference in students. They were much harder and uncooperative … until they found comfort in students, we began to feel right at home. The students began to lead the tour and showed immense pride in their works of art. The books we donated to the school outnumbered the books they currently had in their library. The children and adults were happy and appreciative to receive the books and A&T goodies, but I wanted to help more.

As we prepared to leave, emotions and deepest sympathy/empathy began to conquer my entire being. The bond that we formed with the students in just the short time we were there was enough to change lives. The children continued to thank us with utmost sincerity followed by begging for food and asking for money.

Before stepping onto the bus, we were grabbed by the hands of children who pulled us with uncompromising force, begging us not to leave. Tears rushed from my eyes and down my face like a waterfall and continued to flow 15 minutes later.

Although the flow of the tears has stopped, my zeal and passion to help those in need and bring change to the world never will.

This journey to the motherland was eye opening, mind bogging, heart throbbing, tear shedding, and life changing. I encourage all to travel abroad, for as the African proverb says, “You can never say that your mother’s soup is the best, until you step outside of your mother’s kitchen.”

Wayne Kimball Jr. is currently president of the sophomore class at N.C. A&T. He is pictured in the large photograph on page 32 in the back row on the right.
REMEMBERING THE PAST

Miss A&T 2008-09, Tanisha Fordham (center), is flanked by her predecessors (l-r): Brooke Myatt, Miss A&T 2002-03; Latiera Streeter, 2004-05; Candace Johnson, 2007-08; Delores Mitchell Tulluss, 1973-74; Sharron Jenkins, 1990-91; Anisa Rasheed, 2005-06; Arlene Bell-Price, 1972-73; Crystal Williams, 2006-07, and Greta Shaw-Jumper, 1980-81. Former queens return to campus every year to participate in Coronation and Homecoming activities.