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New SGA leaders seek to restore unity and pride

By Jeuron O. Dove ’08

Wayne M. Kimball Jr., Carla J. Saunders and Todd Porter have been elected to the highest student offices at North Carolina A&T State University for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Kimball, a senior biological and civil engineering major, is president of the Student Government Association (SGA). Saunders, a senior agriculture education major, and Porter, a senior broadcast journalism major, are Miss North Carolina A&T State University and Mister North Carolina A&T State University, respectively.

A native of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., Kimball says it’s necessary for students to be aware of their importance to A&T. He aims to enhance the institution’s image through his “The Only True Aggie Life (T.O.T.A.L.)” initiative.

“I want to get students involved in every aspect of moving our campus forward,” said the new president. “We need everyone to be excited and positive about the future.”

At A&T, Kimball has served in a multitude of leadership roles while maintaining a strong academic record. He was sophomore and junior class president and is president of Wayne Kimball Jr. International, where he serves as a motivational speaker and uses his oratorical skills to help others discover their own leadership potential. Kimball is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key honor societies and Beta Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Saunders, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., credits former Miss A&T title holders Crystal Williams and Candace Johnson, as well as former SGA President Marcus Bass for being her inspiration to attain such a goal.

“Since my freshman year I knew that this was something I wanted to do, but I really developed a strong interest after (Williams, Johnson and Bass) worked with me,” said Saunders.

Saunders plans to dedicate a significant portion of her term to activities that focus on youth mentorship and uniting the campus with the Greensboro community and local institutions of higher learning.

“I want to make sure that a prospective student’s first exposure to A&T is a positive one,” she added.

Saunders has held the titles of Miss Freshman and Miss Sophomore, and she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She works extensively with the Office of International Programs and the female mentoring program, Sistah Circle.

Porter, of Raleigh, N.C., is very humbled to continue the legacy of Mr. A&T. This position was created last year and its role is to serve as a representative of the campus’ male population. His plans include implementing programs that stimulate the academic and social interests of male students.

“Having this position isn’t about me and how I feel, but about the impact I can make in the lives of my male counterparts,” he said.

While at A&T, Porter has contributed his time and efforts to organizations such as the National Association of Black Journalists, Alpha Nu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the Blue & Gold Marching Machine.

A sign of how this new administration will revive the concept of Aggie Pride lies within its namesake. Kimball has forgone the tradition of using the president’s last name as a reference to his administration. Instead of the “Kimball Administration,” it is the Sankofa Administration. Sankofa is an African word meaning “the restoration of unity.”

Kimball has forgone the tradition of using the president’s last name as a reference to his administration. This new administration is named the Sankofa Administration. Sankofa is an African word meaning “the restoration of unity.”

The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated North Carolina A&T State University as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Systems Security Education for academic years 2010 through 2015.

The University was cited for its abilities to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria and to contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure. The President’s National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace, 14 February 2003, www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/National_Cyberspace_Strategy.pdf, addresses the critical shortage of professionals with these skills and highlights the importance of higher education as a solution to defending America’s cyberspace.

Certificates were presented in June during a reception at the National Electronics Museum in conjunction with the 14th Annual Conference of the Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education. Details on the Colloquium are available at www.cissse.info.
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has awarded Guilford County Schools, in partnership with North Carolina A&T State University’s School of Education, a grant in the amount of $927,000. The grant’s title is “Enhancing Earth System Science in Guilford County Secondary Schools.”

The School of Education’s Center for Internships & Professional Development will collaborate with the Guilford County Schools Central Region, as well as the N.C. A&T NOAA-ISETT Center and the College of Arts and Sciences, to provide targeted professional development and research experience for secondary math and science teachers.

Project activities encompass innovative strategies to strengthen educator skills in teaching hands-on NASA-related STEM (Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematics) content. Over the course of two years, university faculty and graduate students from the School of Education and College of Arts and Sciences will team with 40 middle and high school teachers from the Guilford County Schools Central Region. These groups will engage in Earth system science research and design innovative inquiry-based Earth science teaching modules that are aligned with the North Carolina K-12 Curriculum.

These modules will be designed to solicit high levels of student interest and engagement. Project stakeholders also will participate in an online learning community to collaborate and share ideas. In addition, the online community will serve as a suppository for project related instructional materials to be shared with K-12 and university educators.

Shawn Watlington, coordinator of professional development and teacher-in-residence, is A&T’s lead principal investigator and Terry Worrell, superintendent of Guilford County Schools’ Central Region, is the GCS principal investigator. The university’s faculty team includes Keith Schimmel of the department of energy and environmental systems; Muktha Jost, and Tyrette Carter, curriculum and instruction; Calisha Petty, biology; Solomon Billignon, NOAA-ISETT; and Yuh-Lang Lin, physics.

Former nursing dean named chief academic officer

Linda Thompson Adams is the new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at North Carolina A&T State University, effective July 1. She replaced Alton Thompson, now former dean of agriculture and environmental sciences, who served during the three-year interim period.

“North Carolina A&T is fortunate to attract a creative and scholarly professional with a proven track record like Dr. Linda Thompson Adams,” said Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. “A&T certainly will use her exceptional higher education expertise and public policy, grants, scholarships and fundraising skills during tough budgetary times.”

Adams has over 20 years of leadership experience in university administration, teaching and nursing, as well as public service appointments by the Governor of Maryland and the Mayor of Baltimore, Md. She most recently served as a tenured professor and dean of nursing at Oakland University in Troy, Mich.

At Oakland, Adams directed operations for the nursing school with a budget of $35 million and led a team of 150 faculty and staff in statewide operations, supporting over 2,500 graduate and undergraduate students and four satellite facilities. Under her leadership overall program enrollment increased by 109 percent, diverse student enrollment increased by 35 percent, the school received $30 million in external funding, and the nurse anesthesia program became one of the top 10 in the country. In addition, Adams designed and launched Michigan's first nursing practice program doctorate in partnership with Northern Michigan University, and she introduced study abroad programs for Italy, Ireland, Korea, Hong Kong, St. Kitts and Jamaica.

Adams has held administrative and teaching positions in nursing schools at the University of Maryland, Coppin State College (now Coppin State University), Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Kowloon), Johns Hopkins University, Hampton University and Wayne State University. She has been a clinical nurse specialist, coordinator, public health nurse, staff nurse and nursing instructor, and she has extensive research accomplishments, is widely published, and is an international speaker, facilitator and presenter.

Adams received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Wayne State University’s College of Nursing. She received an M.P.H. and a D.P.H., with a focus in child and adolescent health and development, from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.
New vice chancellor for student affairs is appointed

Melody C. Pierce has been appointed vice chancellor for the Division of Student Affairs.

"Dr. Pierce brings more than 25 years of experience in higher education, student affairs and enrollment services," Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. said. "She is the ultimate professional and student advocate who will strengthen our focus to holistically develop young people into successful, contributing citizens."

Pierce replaces Judy N. Rashid, dean of students and associate vice chancellor for student affairs, who served as interim vice chancellor following the resignation of Vice Chancellor Sullivan A. Welborne Jr.

Before joining A&T, Pierce served as vice chancellor for student affairs at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) since 2001. From 2006-2008, she was vice chancellor for student affairs and enrollment services providing leadership, coordination and budgetary supervision for 15 units. Prior to 2001, Pierce served in a variety of administrative roles including vice chancellor for student affairs at Southern University, vice president for student affairs at Booker T. Washington State University, assistant vice president/director of residence life and the student union center at Chicago State University, and director of student life at the University of the Virgin Islands. In addition, she served with the New York State Education Department, the State University of New York, Michigan State University, Stephens College, Lincoln University and Southern Illinois University.

Pierce has been a SACS Reaffirmation Committee campus visit consultant, she has sought grant activity to support WSSU’s Division of Student Affairs, and she has led major student affairs partnerships like the Mission of Good Hope Project to South Africa, a collaboration between WSSU and Wake Forest University in 2007 and 2008.

Pierce received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s in child and family studies from Southern Illinois University. Her Ed.S. degree in higher and adult education is from the University of Missouri and Ph.D. in college and university administration is from Michigan State University. She has received national academic and civic awards and is actively affiliated with many professional organizations, associations, activities, conferences and workshops.

UNC Excellence in Teaching Award recipient Antoine J. Alston (standing) with students Jennifer Fuller, Marcus Davis, Lorenzo Rivers-Sams, Sedric Gray and Joshua Muench

Professor Antoine J. Alston, one of this year’s recipients of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors’ 16th annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching, credits his parents and a long line of other relatives with his fulfilling career in education. Alston’s mother was an elementary school teacher for 24 years, and his father retired from a 31-year career as a high school agriculture teacher in the Nash County, N.C., public schools. His maternal grandfather taught agriculture and dairy science at Norfolk State University, where Alston sat in on his grandfather’s classes on several occasions.

“I developed a big interest in agriculture at a young age because of his influence,” said Alston, who teaches in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at N.C. A&T.

Alston graduated from A&T in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural education and again in 1998 when he received his master’s degree. He received his doctorate in agricultural education from Iowa State University in 2000. Other than receiving his Ph.D., Alston considers winning the Excellence in Teaching Award, which carries a $7,500 cash prize and a commemorative bronze medallion, the biggest highlight of his career.

“It’s a real testament to the students I have taught and the ones whose lives I have impacted, because ultimately that is why we’re in the business.”

He strongly believes that learning doesn’t fully occur until the student begins to think in a new way. He also believes that before students can think outside the box, they must be taught what is inside the box.

“Dr. Alston is a professional who listens to his students and plans instruction based on their needs and prior knowledge while encouraging, challenging and supporting them to ensure they learn all that they can;” said Scott Simkins, director of the Academy for Teaching and Learning at A&T.

Alston received the 2010 Outstanding Teaching Award for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences in March.
Campus briefs

Faculty and Staff

Shirley Hymon-Parker, associate dean for research in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences at the association’s annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, June 26. Presented annually, the award is the professional association’s highest honor given in recognition of superior achievements in family and consumer sciences, outstanding contributions to the family and consumer sciences profession, and sustained association leadership at both state and national levels.

Wendell F. Phillips, director of community relations for the Division of University Advancement, has been appointed by Mayor William Sadler to serve a term on the Human Relations Commission of the Greensboro City Council. The board develops short and long-range goals and makes recommendations to the City Council. It also administers the Council policies within its areas of responsibility.

Nicole Pride has been appointed associate vice chancellor for university relations, in the Division of University Advancement. Pride is a communications, public relations, marketing, development and community relations professional who previously served as vice president for development and communications for the Child Care Services Association in Chapel Hill, N.C. She also has served in various capacities at IBM and Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a B.A. degree in business management and economics, and Seton Hall University where she received an M.A. degree in corporate and public communications. Pride is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in organizational leadership at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore.

Sarah Torrence, an administrative support specialist and VA certifying official in the Veteran and Disability Support Services Office, serves on the National Association of Veterans Program Administrators Board of Directors as Region III Representative for 2010. The board works with the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs, Education and Defense to promote the improvement and development of all opportunities to veterans, and their dependents, for their personal growth and fullest potential.

Bioengineering students win national award

A team of biological engineering majors at North Carolina A&T was among 14 teams from major universities across the nation to win design awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during a celebration of Earth Day in the nation’s capital, April 23-26.

The Aggie team won $75,000, the competition’s maximum award, for its “Greening of Sockwell Hall” project that was presented at the Sixth Annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall in Washington.

Winners of the EPA’s People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) awards developed sustainable projects and ideas that protect the environment, encourage economic growth and use natural resources more efficiently. The A&T team won for its permaculture rain garden outside Sockwell Hall. The project applies technological innovation to demonstrate how to use water wisely, grow edible plants, create wildlife habitat, remedy pollution, save money, and beautify a site with a low-maintenance landscape. It also demonstrates how it is possible to make even older buildings such as Sockwell Hall more eco-friendly.

The team will use part of the award to assist General Greene Elementary School in Greensboro and Earth University in Costa Rica to develop sustainable projects on their campuses. Funds also will enable them to expand the project at A&T and advance their overall goal of “greening the A&T campus, one building at a time.”

The A&T biological engineering team poses in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. From left are Carmen Young, Cory Davis, Scott Carter (in back), Kimberly Whitmon, Raemi Battles and Kori Higgins. Photo courtesy of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Frankie Day, executive director of the Paul Robeson Theatre and director of the theatre arts program, is one of six recipients of The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival’s National Teaching Artist Grant. This honor is given in recognition of outstanding achievement as a theatre artist and educator. Each recipient receives a cash prize in support of a professional development opportunity of their choice. Day also received a Faculty Development Grant from North Carolina A&T to study at The British American Dramatic Academy in Oxford, England.
Male Management

Students

Ranette Leigh Goodwyn and Erica Sue Witherspoon graduated from North Carolina A&T State University at the top of their class with perfect grade point averages. The four scholars were recognized at the spring commencement ceremonies held May 8.

Goodwyn, 21, is a native of Prince George, Va. She received a B.S. degree in animal science. While at A&T, she was a member of numerous organizations including the Honors Program, Pre-Vet Club (secretary, 2007-08; treasurer, 2008-09), Collegiate FFA MANRRS (treasurer, 2007-08; president, 2008-09 and 2009-10), Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Alpha Chi Honor Society. She is enrolled at Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (Virginia Tech), where she is studying food animal medicine.

Witherspoon, 21, hails from Newport News, Va. She received a B.A. in English (creative writing). At A&T, she was affiliated with several organizations including the Honors Program, Sigma Tau Delta International English Society (president), The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, National Scholars Honor Society and Who’s Who Among College Students. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in English education.

Chanale Propst and Brooke Waller were among 33 students nationwide who participated in the U.S. Army Minority College Relations Program’s summer internships. Propst interned in the Joint Munitions Command (JMC) resource management directorates at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Waller, a senior, worked in public affairs for the Desert Star newspaper at Tooele Army Depot in Tooele, Utah. Both students are natives of Salisbury, N.C.

Christopher Ware, a senior physics major, placed first in the poster competition for the physics category at the Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP) EXPO in Tampa, Fla., last spring. Marni Adams, Shauna Adams, Malikah Greene, Frances Hardy and Steven Sloan also participated in this event.

The LSAMP program is designed to increase the quality and quantity of minority students who successfully complete baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and pursue graduate studies in these fields. Undergraduate research is a main component of the LSAMP program. This initiative specifically addresses retention, education and graduation of LSAMP students through focused research experiences while providing early exposure to a graduate/postgraduate environment.

Four Aggies were summer interns with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the College Internship Program: Cara Butler, Davita Colclough, Derek Horsey and Chantale Still. Butler, a senior with a double major in civil and geomatics engineering, returned for her second ODOT internship. This year she worked in the survey unit in Portland. An architectural engineering senior, Colclough served as a survey intern in Portland. Horsey, who was assigned through the Federal Highway Administration’s 2010 Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups, worked in the Bridge Engineering/Bridge Preservation Office, which took him to locations across the state. Still, a graduate student in the adult education program, had the opportunity to complete a hands-on dual internship as a college relations intern and as a training manager in the Human Resource Center in Salem.

Jasmine Johnson, a senior print journalism major, is the editor-in-chief of the A&T Register student newspaper for the 2010-2011 academic year. An avid reporter since high school, the Frankfort, Ky., native began her tenure at the A&T Register as a contributing writer in the fall of 2008, before moving to the position of news editor in the spring of 2009. In addition to her role as editor, Johnson is an active member Alpha Phi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Student Food Advisory Board and Student Support Services.

By Jeuron O. Dove ’08

There are numerous organizations at North Carolina A&T State University that offer opportunities for male students to grow socially and become more well-rounded individuals outside of the classroom. While joining a fraternity is a common route to achieving that outcome, there is another alternative on campus where the development of young men is a top priority.

Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success (MALES), which operates under the Department of Housing and Residence Life’s Academic Excellence and Retention Program, assists young men with the social and personal issues they face while attending college. (Sistah Circle is the female cohort.) Participation is open to male students who reside on-campus.

Weekly meetings combine activities and frank discussions that address fatherhood, sexually transmitted diseases, abstinence/contraception, masculinity and gender roles, anger management and other topics of importance to young men.

The meetings are conducted by Ted Sykes, an educator for Wise Guys and a member of the Family Life Council of Greensboro. A male-oriented program, Wise Guys aims to reduce the teen pregnancy rate in Greensboro and to educate young men on how to make responsible decisions. It also addresses issues such as the roles media and culture play in the lives of young men, what it means to be a man and how playing into unhealthy stereotypes can lead to harmful relationships.

“We want these young guys to think about the future and how to have a healthy self-image,” Sykes said.

Sykes often employs creative activities to engage the men in discussion. One example of this was when he had some of the guys draw a picture with qualities of their ideal mate. It led into a discussion that explored how those qualities were values they had within themselves.

Since its inception in 2008, with eight members, MALES has nearly tripled in size.

Peer mentors are central to the program’s success. Upperclassmen or veteran members of the program mentor underclassmen and new members. Mentors are selfless with their time and energy to meet the needs of their peers. The mentors also assist students involved in Rising Stars, a program designed for on-campus students who are academically at risk.

Anthony Lambert, a junior information technology major who became a member of MALES his freshman year at A&T, served as a peer mentor his sophomore year.

“As men we have a tendency to hide our feelings, but this gives us an opportunity to be open,” he said.
Making History

Harold L. Martin Sr.’74 and Davida Wagoner Martin ’75 Make History as the First Alumni to Serve as Chancellor and First Lady of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Many Aggies would say they predicted the appointment of Harold L. Martin Sr. as chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University long before the search for a new chancellor began in 2008. So when the prophetic notions became reality on June 8, 2009, excitement proliferated in the Aggie community.

For Martin, being chosen to lead his alma mater was exciting, yet humbling. During his installation speech, he said it is a special privilege to lead one of America’s respected public land-grant institutions and that he has come to appreciate and respect the wonderful history and great traditions of N.C. A&T even more.

Now, more than ever, he is an integral part of the university’s history.

On April 23, 2010, before an audience of approximately 3,000 officials and guests, Martin was sworn into office by fellow alumnus Henry E. Frye Sr. ’53, former Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. With his wife Davida – also an alum – and sons Harold Jr. and Walter by his side, Martin’s journey from A&T student to chancellor had come full circle.

Martin received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from A&T and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Following a brief stint as an engineering professor, his career in higher education administration began in 1984, when he was named acting chairman of the department of electrical engineering at A&T. The succession continued when he was appointed chairman of the department in 1985, dean of engineering in 1989, and vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1994.

An interlude from A&T began in 1999, when Martin left A&T to serve as the seventh chancellor of Winston-Salem State University (WSU). He guided WSU’s reclassification from a Baccalaureate I to a Master’s II institution, created a school of graduate studies and research, established seven master’s degree programs, and enhanced the overall quality of academic programs. During his tenure, the institution’s enrollment doubled.

In July 2006, Martin was named senior vice president for academic affairs for the University of North Carolina System, where he led the development and implementation of the academic mission of the University, advised the president, provided leadership for the President’s Council, and advised the Board of Governors on important university-wide issues related to academic affairs.

Then in the spring of 2008, the years of preparation reached a crescendo, and he was elected chancellor of his dear alma mater.

In the months since his installation, Martin has embarked on a quest to honor A&T’s heritage by building upon its intellectual capacity. He has met with the campus community, local and national leaders, and others to assess the perceived and actual state of the university, to discuss possibilities for the future, and to set benchmarks and develop strategies that will propel the university to new heights.

I humbly accept this responsibility with enthusiasm. I fully realize the enormous expectations that so many have for the institution. I am confident that, through the collective efforts of our many constituents, our University will have a very bright future.

– Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr.
Pinnacle of Success

today

Jagannathan “Jag” Sankar receives THE award of his lifetime.

By Jeuron O. Dove ’08

On April 9, Jagannathan “Jag” Sankar, Distinguished University Professor of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering at North Carolina A&T State University, received the highest honor the University of North Carolina System has to offer its faculty – the O. Max Gardner Award.

Established by the will of Gov. Oliver Max Gardner, the awards have been given annually since 1949 to recognize faculty who have “made the greatest contributions to the welfare of the human race.” It is the only award for which all faculty members of the 17 UNC campuses are eligible.

Recipients are nominated by their chancellors and selected by the Board of Governors. The 2010 award carries a $20,000 cash prize and was presented by Board of Governors Chairman Hannah Gage and Gardner Award Committee Chairman Fred Mills of Raleigh.

Sankar, a White House Millennium Researcher, thinks this award represents the pinnacle of what it means to be an educator.

“This is probably as good as it gets in terms of recognizing one’s life,” he reflectively stated. “You can win all kinds of awards and honors, but helping others is what life is all about.”

As one of the world’s leading experts on the development of advanced materials, smart structures and biomaterials, Sankar is no stranger to gaining recognition for his works. In 2008, he attracted nationwide attention when he helped N.C. A&T secure a five-year, $18.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation for an Engineering Research Center (ERC) for Revolutionizing Biodegradable Materials Engineering.

Metallic Biomaterials, ERC - Generation 3 is considered the crown jewel of the NSF awards with frontier expectations, specifically initiated for transformational research, economic development, next generation workforce development and global leadership. Over the past 25 years only a few universities (mainly top tier universities in the country) have been awarded after moving through a highly competitive and rigorous process.

A major coup for research (and research dollars) at A&T, the Center aims to transform current medical and surgical treatments by creating “smart” implants for craniofacial, dental, orthopedic and cardiovascular interventions. The ERC is investigating biodegradable systems that combine novel bioengineered materials based on magnesium alloys with miniature sensor devices that can control the release of biological factors and drugs to promote healing. To date, A&T is the only historically black institution that has been awarded an NSF ERC grant.

Sankar’s path to helping A&T gain national prominence began as he earned an undergraduate degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Madras, in his native India. He went on to earn a master’s degree in materials engineering at Concordia University with a co-op program with McGill University in Canada and a doctorate in metallurgy and materials engineering from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. He joined the A&T faculty as an assistant professor in 1983.

Upon his arrival, Sankar made it his personal mission to improve the research capabilities of the institution. There were few labs and advanced equipment available, so he began to aggressively write grant proposals. Along the way, he encountered many critics who felt improving the name of A&T was a futile effort.

“You don’t want people to speak poorly about your home, so you take care of it. That is how I responded to those who spoke unfavorably about A&T. So I…made our home better.”

He also recruited others who were like-minded in his goals.

“Sankar is an outstanding strategic thinker and visionary. He encompasses both areas in his commitment to take this school to the next level in terms of our credentials in the research field,” said Devdas Pai, a mechanical engineering professor, former deputy director of the NSF Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology and current director of education and outreach for the ERC.

There is a cyclical pattern of thought to which Sankar subscribes to as it relates to producing the highest quality of students in relation to the available facilities.

“When you have good equipment you can produce better students. With better students you can have good research. When you do good research, people begin to notice. When people notice, you can attract good faculty, then you can write award-winning grant proposals. When you receive grants, you can buy new equipment and bring in new students.”

An important lesson Sankar imposes on his students is the need to be global-minded. He thinks it is the responsibility of every student to one day leave A&T to become a leader and make a difference in the world.

“The future will consist of people who think way across disciplines and cultures,” says Sankar. He also says that when you lead, others will follow regardless of your color or religion.

Sankar is convinced that humility and traditional moral values are the keys to his accomplishments. He is also a believer of good character above intelligence, and he would rather be led by the former than a genius without character. “Knowledge can be learned,” he says.

When asked about his future vision for research and his role in it at A&T, he responded, “Now that we’ve gotten the snowball rolling, I envision other areas of research growing very fast. We’re laying a path so that those who come behind us and fully driven can have an easier time achieving greater things. And, hopefully, some prospective students will see that and want to come to A&T.”
Leading by Example

New leadership institute targets black youth others ignore.

By Joya Wesley

Many Aggies know Anthony Graham as a high-achieving member of the School of Education faculty, who earned his PhD in his 20s, brought in numerous grants, and recently was tapped to serve as interim chair of the department of curriculum and instruction.

But Graham hasn’t always been on the fast-track to success. He seemed to be heading the other way as a third-grader, when he shattered another kid’s kneecaps and says he had to go to night school just to make it to the fourth grade.

The dramatic turnaround in his own journey is the reason the new Charles Hamilton Houston Summer Leadership Institute targets the African American males it does.

“I have a great deal of faith in all of our young people, but especially the group that we’re targeting because I was one of those kids,” Graham says. “I was labelled ‘learning disabled.’ I was the kid who was the ‘bad kid,’ who always misbehaved.

“But people believed in me and never gave up on me,” he continues. “If someone doesn’t believe then they will become exactly what you expect them to become, which is nothing. They’re just as capable of achieving as anyone else. They need to hear people say that… My thinking is that if I can do it, if somebody supported me and prayed for me, then we can do the same for someone else.”

A partnership between A&T’s School of Education and Greensboro’s Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. – the Institute is funded by a $35,000 grant Graham and former School of Education Dean Ceola Ross Baber received from the Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium of North Carolina.

The five-day Institute involved 30 rising ninth-grade students and 30 rising 11th-graders from the Guilford County Schools in comprehensive academic development and leadership development activities.

Using a culturally responsive leadership curriculum founded in psychosocial theories, the participants explored various leadership models, developed leadership and academic skills, engaged in community and civic involvement as servant leaders, and deepened their awareness of current and emerging economic, social, political, communal and cultural issues affecting blacks and people of color, especially black men.

The Institute’s namesake, the late Charles Hamilton Houston, was an Alpha known as “The Man Who Killed Jim Crow.” Graham first learned about him while working on his doctoral dissertation at UNCG.

“He’s been kind of my model for professional success for a period of time,” Graham says.

Houston dedicated his life to using law as a vehicle to fight racial discrimination and inequality throughout the United States. While attending Harvard Law School, he became the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review. As vice dean of Howard Law School in the 1930s, Houston led the development of its intensive civil rights curriculum as a means to train world-class lawyers who would lead the fight against racial injustices.

Using talented black litigators whom he hired as professors, Houston launched a plan to attack Jim Crow segregation laws. Winning a series of landmark victories, his efforts laid the groundwork for the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, which Houston’s mentor, Thurgood Marshall, orchestrated.

“He captured my interest,” Graham says of Houston. “One day I would like to become a dean and chancellor, and he has inspired me in terms of thinking about how you can use the organization where you work to make the kind of social justice change we need in society.”

Graham says he considered going into law as well, but ended up choosing education instead.

“When I looked at law my belief was that it’s political and at times it’s immoral, whereas with education I thought that it was apolitical and moral, so I went in that direction.”

From more than 100 applications, Graham and his colleagues chose the Houston Institute’s 60 participants. The selection rubric they used gave more points to applicants demonstrating less academic success and fewer leadership or service activities.

In addition to academic and leadership development, the Charles Hamilton Houston Summer Leadership Institute at N.C. A&T provides enrichment activities for its participants.

“We were looking for kids who are struggling (a little more),” he said. “The kids who are doing well – they’re going to do well regardless of who you put in front of them. It’s the kids in the middle who really are at risk in going in the other direction. If we can get them to do well and add them to the cadre of people who are going to do well, then we’re in a better position.”

It’s the same population targeted by the year-round mentoring program that Graham and some of his fraternity brothers have offered since 2005. A similar summer leadership program they offered in 2003 targeted top-tier black male students.

“Because it’s a different population, it’s more engaging than what we did with those high achieving students seven years ago. It has to be,” he said. “Before, we only focused on leadership development skills. Now we have to do academic development skills, using leadership as the vehicle.”

“We’re going to get them using their math, writing, oral communication and nonverbal communication skills,” he adds. “We’re bringing all those things that they’ve been learning about in school to life. That’s been the disconnect for these kids. We’re going to bring that real world application to them.”

The students lived on campus for a week to get the experience of college life, and they participated in leadership development and academic enhancement activities, as well as group sessions and a community service project.

“Some of the counselors had a few reservations about recommending some of the students because they didn’t know if they could handle the independent living environment; but if you don’t expose them to that, they’ll never learn to do it,” he says. “I think one of the reasons (youngsters) misbehave is that they’ve never been given these opportunities.”

Among the experiences participants in the year-round mentoring program received was the chance to learn about professional attire and etiquette, then use what they learned to go to a men’s store to select and purchase a suit, then wear their suits to a conference, where they also can use their new social skills.

“That’s powerful,” he says. “That’s what this is all about to me. It’s exposure and opportunity.”

A native of Kinston, N.C., Graham earned his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and long has worked with young people as a mentor and volunteer. He says that he has benefited from the devotion of numerous mentors – his mother, whom he recently lost, chief among them.

“She believed it was that it takes a village to raise a child and we always had the children of others in our house,” he recalls, noting that her belief was always that it takes a village to raise a child and we always had the children of others in our house.”

“Her philosophy was, ‘I would rather have you around me, so I can monitor you, so that means that all your friends are welcome here so I can monitor them as well.’”

Proof that the philosophy works can be found in the year-round mentoring program, which links students with members of Graham’s Alpha chapter.

“We’ve always taken young men in high school and stayed with them for two years,” Graham says of that program. “Ninety percent have gone on to college, although many of them did not have college aspirations when they started.”

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“We’ve always taken young men in high school and stayed with them for two years,” Graham says of that program. “Ninety percent have gone on to college, although many of them did not have college aspirations when they started.”
When Judge Glenda Hatchett participated in the School of Education’s second annual Urban Education Institute this past spring, she immediately demonstrated why she is among the best in her field when it comes to dealing with adolescents, as she immediately engaged the youth in attendance with a fun and strategic activity that helped them better understand their potential career aspirations.

The symposium, Making a Difference with Black Males, engaged a variety of scholars, educators and community activists in a critical examination of topics related to the personal, intellectual and social growth of persons of color in urban contexts.

After opening remarks and an introduction, Hatchett took the stage and promised the youth that she would not deliver a “boring speech filled with anecdotes.” Instead, she called them to the front of the room and asked each about their career goals. The responses ranged from becoming famous athletes and biochemists to becoming the next Jay-Z.

Hatchett grouped together those with similar interests and had them exchange contact information, so that they could keep in touch with someone with like ambitions and encourage each other in achieving their goals. She reinforced the notion of having a backup plan in the form of some post-secondary education in the case that things did not work out as quickly as they would like in their chosen career paths.

“‘You can be anything in the world if you make up your mind it’s what you want to be. I never felt that I was somehow disadvantaged, and that is what I try to instill in young people when I speak to them,’” she added.

By Jeuron O. Dove ’08

The family structure, or lack thereof, is viewed as an important factor taken into consideration when children begin to experience problems in their development. To remedy this, Hatchett uses the Internet to further her cause. The Parent Power Now website is a project she created to help parents come together to discuss how to support on another and the importance of parenting and mentoring children. It functions as an online community, similar to that of the social networking site facebook.com.

Hatchett recognizes the importance of parents setting a strong foundation for their children.

“We can’t expect them to autopilot and make decisions for themselves. That is why they need parents and family to be anchored too.”

Hatchett describes her passion for touching the lives of youth, and young men in particular, as something that found her instead of her finding it:

“I never planned to be a judge. I always thought I would be a corporate lawyer,” Hatchett said.

She credits her parents as being positive role models and, in retrospect, realizes they may have geared her more towards her current profession than she was aware at first. Her mother was an elementary school teacher whose passion for her students really caught her attention at an early age. Her father was chairman of a local YMCA where he assisted children in their neighborhood.

Judge Hatchett is no stranger to working with young men of color and youth in general. She is best known for her “creative sentencing” in the courtroom when it comes to cases involving juveniles. These interventions were seen daily on her television program, the “Judge Hatchett Show.”

The Atlanta native garnered an extensive track record of excellence for her work in the corporate sector and judicial arena. After graduating from Emory University Law School, she completed a clerkship in the U.S. Federal Courts. From there she served as the highest-ranking African American female at Delta Airlines as manager of public relations.

After nearly a decade, Hatchett decided to leave Delta to accept an appointment as chief presiding judge of the Fulton County (Georgia) Juvenile Court. Upon accepting the position, she became Georgia’s first African American chief presiding judge of a state court and the department head of one of the largest juvenile court systems in the country. In addition, she presided over the nationally syndicated “Judge Hatchett” television show for eight seasons.

“I know that if I can get my hands on a young man when he is 10, 12 or 15 years old, then maybe we will not see him in the system at 25. That is why I’m so excited to be on campus to talk to young black males. They are important and the future anchors of our community and they need to be aware of that.”
A&T’s Student Government Association was largely responsible for planning the first trip in 2006. Each trip since then has been coordinated by the Multicultural Student Center (MSC). Maria Palmer, director of the MSC, thinks the experience of being in New Orleans and helping others teaches students an invaluable lesson about what it means to be a team player.

Before leaving for New Orleans, group members had to be taught many different skills to be efficient at the task they were assigned. Learning the proper construction skills was of the utmost importance, and parts had to be prepared beforehand. Upon arrival via train, the group was stationed at a Habitat Camp Hope volunteer base in the city of Arabi, La., which served as their home for the duration of the trip.

Nearly everyone who has gone on one of the trips, experiences something that gives them a different perspective on life.

“One year, we slept on cots in an abandoned sanctuary with no running water,” said Jennifer Kennedy, an MSC staff member.

Kennedy believes experiences like those are necessary for individuals to get out of their comfort zone and make them appreciate their blessings.

A big problem in years past has been the lack of legitimate organizations in the New Orleans area to provide the volunteers with the necessary support. That was not an issue this year with Habitat for Humanity acting as the host organization.

Every year, a sentiment often expressed by the volunteers is one of non-fulfillment; the type that comes from realizing there is so much more to be done than one week could possibly allow and that some parts of the New Orleans community require special attention.

“We love to see the progress that is made, but there is a lot of work that needs to be done in many of the minority areas,” said Kennedy.

Dawit Tarekegan, a junior electrical engineering major, expressed that he wished they had the time to build a complete house while there, but was glad they were able to help in any way possible.

The project was completed Wednesday, March 10, with a special group of non-A&T volunteers that stayed behind to finish the small detail work.

Palmer thinks that many lessons were learned from the trip.

“Good planning and training is what helped us change a group of mostly inexperienced students into skilled construction workers determined to get a job done for a good cause,” she said.

The general consensus from the students was that the biggest lesson they took away came from realizing there is so much more to be done in many of the minority areas.

“I knew nothing about many of the students before the trip, but we shared a common purpose and went down there to make a difference,” said Tarekegan.

Shantel Wilkerson, a senior architectural engineering major, echoed that sentiment and said the excited looks on the faces of the older residents of the city made a lasting impression on her.

“That is what this is all about.”

The MSC is hoping to do a service project in Haiti or in the flood-ravaged region of Tennessee next year. For more information about the MSC and upcoming events, visit the office in Murphy Hall, suite 204, or call (336) 334-7801.

“Learning from Experience” by Jeuron O. Dove ‘08

For most students, the week of spring break is a time for relaxing from the grind of school work. However, for a few selfless Aggies, it is a time for helping those in need.

The Multicultural Student Center, in conjunction with the School of Technology, hosted its annual spring break service-learning project.

Since 2006, students and volunteers in both areas have volunteered to help residents of New Orleans, La., who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. This year, 24 students, three faculty and staff members and two community volunteers assisted in building a gazebo in the St. Bernard Parish of New Orleans.

Occurring in September 2005, Katrina was the deadliest and costliest storm in American history. Five years later the city, while slowly recovering, is still a shell of its former self.

A&T students learn about themselves while helping others.

“It is important for the young to get organized in how they will serve others, because when people work for something bigger than themselves, there’s no way they can help but grow.”

— Dorothy I. Height
Direct Impact

Young alumnus Jerome Myers ’05 uses his career to help students.

By Jeuron O. Dove ’08

When Jerome Myers first walked onto the campus of North Carolina A&T State University as a middle school student, he had no idea what an engineer even was. That was quite the irony considering his life’s journey thus far. By the time he enrolled in 2001, he dreamed of becoming an architect and a civil engineer.

Myers, a 2005 civil engineering graduate, has made a significant impact on the engineering world and his alma mater in the short time since he graduated.

The Fayetteville, N.C., native got his first taste of Aggieland when he visited the campus for Homecoming festivities while in middle school. As a young adolescent, he was amazed by the excitement and close-knit atmosphere of what has since become universally known as the “Greatest Homecoming on Earth.”

It was shortly after this time when Myers began to take a closer look at the institution, as well as what he wanted to achieve in life, and developed a strong interest in pursuing a career in architecture. He originally came in with the idea of studying both architectural and civil engineering. To seal the deal, he was actively recruited to play football for the Aggies. He ended up playing all four years of his enrollment.

“I wanted to be the one who designed the building and the road you would travel to get there,” said Myers.

Though after discussing his options and weighing the pros and cons with academic advisors, he decided it would be in his best interest to go with civil engineering.

Throughout his matriculation at A&T, Myers began to deviate from the original plans of what he envisioned for himself after graduating.

“When I came in, I had an ambition to work in a construction firm doing development type work.”

He soon realized he was more interested in working with people, and saw more fulfillment in going down a business-oriented path, rather than one that focused purely on math and sciences. He later went on to earn an MBA.

Since completing school, Myers has put what he learned in the classroom into practice. He is employed by Dominion Resources. Headquartered in Richmond, Va., it is one of the nation’s largest producers and transporters of energy, focusing on the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions.

Myers works in the company’s Dominion Virginia Power business unit, where he began as a structural engineer. His current role involves emergency power restoration of the company’s distribution systems. He considers himself very fortunate with the opportunities he has been afforded by the company.

One of Dominion’s biggest initiatives is to foster its future talent who are attending many of the nation’s top universities. To achieve that, Dominion has made a strategic effort over the past few years to increase their presence on A&T’s campus.

“My wife and I both had scholarships and as a result, we were able to finish school without having to pay back anything. We realize the value it had on us and we think it’s prudent for us to go back and provide that same opportunity for someone else.”

The process for initiating the endowment began after he broached the idea with then-chancellor Stanley Battle at a university career fair, where his company was in attendance. A certain amount of the money was offered up by Dominion and the Myers family. The university then took the funds and submitted them for Title III matching. Once approved, the final amount of the scholarship totaled more than enough to cover the costs of the potential recipients. The first recipients of the scholarship are expected to be selected by the spring semester of 2011.

“Jerome is an all-around great guy with a very bright and energetic spirit,” said James Kelle, chair of the electrical engineering department.

Myers’ direct influence was responsible for the development of an entrepreneurial track within the senior capstone design course, which allows senior engineering students to learn business attributes that will enable them to become more versatile engineers in today’s rapidly changing workforce.

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be a North Carolina resident in sophomore or higher standing who is enrolled in the College of Engineering with a minimum GPA of 3.20. Two recommendation letters (one from an engineering professor) and an essay are also required.

Above all else, Myers wishes that all potential applicants will “aspire to be great engineers and make the world a better place.”
Sports Hall of Fame inducts 10

The 2010 N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame inductees are (front, l-r) Jerry Kimbrough, Frankie Howell, Patricia Wall, Shirley Hall and Roy Thompson; (middle) Ronald Hart, Charles Stigger, Leevarry Covington and Richard Lide; and (back) Craig Thompson.

The legendary track and field coach Roy “Spaceman” Thompson is one of the people to be honored. The legendary track and field coach has not only won numerous championships over the last 29 years, he was also a talented triple and long jumper for the Aggies in the mid 1960s.

Three players from the 1991 North Carolina A&T MEAC Football Championship team highlight the 10 new members selected to the 2010 N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame.

A noon press conference was held Friday, Sept. 3, at the Memorial Student Union in Stallings Ballroom to introduce the inductees. The individuals were introduced to Aggie fans prior to A&T’s football game against Winston-Salem State University on Saturday.

Among the inductees are former A&T football players Leevarry Covington (linebacker), Craig Thompson (tight end) and Richard Lide (offensive guard). They were all teammates on the 1991 MEAC Championship team. Two additional former football players – Rodney Hart and Charles Stigger – were also inducted. The two female athletes honored are former softball and basketball player Shirley Hall and softball standout Frankie Howell.

Two non-athletes were inducted. Patricia Wall, a longtime supporter of the N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame who has volunteered her services for several different A&T organizations over the last 27 years, is an honorary member. Former trainer Jerry Kimbrough is also recognized for his contributions to A&T athletics.

Bibs named ‘Grambling Legend’

North Carolina A&T women’s basketball coach Patricia Cage Bibbs found herself among good company this summer when she was named to the Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame.

Bibbs joined 14 other Grambling Legends, including Super Bowl XXII MVP quarterback Doug Williams, who were inducted July 16 at Grambling State University’s Eddie G. Robinson Museum.

Bibbs had numerous accomplishments before arriving at A&T in March of 2005, but her accolades have multiplied in recent years. On Nov. 23, 2007, she became the second coach of an HBCU women’s basketball team to win 400 games, joining Alcorn State’s Shirley Walker. In 2008, the Black Women in Sports Foundation of Philadelphia honored Bibbs with one of its Legends awards, and she was inducted into Grambling State University’s Gallery of Distinction.

Two MEAC Coach of the Year awards and a MEAC Tournament title have also been added to her list of accomplishments since her arrival in Aggieland.

“God has truly blessed me. When you look at the list of great athletes and overall great people that are going in with me, it is truly humbling,” said Bibbs, a 1972 graduate of Grambling, prior to the induction. “I’ve always had dreams and goals, and I never let anyone deter from the things I wanted to accomplish. It’s the same message I try to pass along to the young ladies in my program.”

Bibbs, who started coaching at Grambling in 1984, has won 471 career games. She won six tournament titles at Grambling before being hired at Hampton University in 1997. She also won three tournament titles at Hampton before retiring in 2004. After a brief stint away from the game, Bibbs picked up where she left off once she became the Aggies head coach.

Under Bibbs, the Aggies have won three straight MEAC regular-season titles. She led the Aggies to their first NCAA appearance in 15 years after claiming the conference tournament title in 2009. Her coaching legend grew in 2010 when she led the Aggies to two postseason wins in the Women’s National Invitational Tournament. It marked the first time an HBCU earned two consecutive wins in a postseason tournament.

In five seasons as the Aggies head coach, Bibbs has won 100 games. The Aggies have also broken the school record for wins in a season twice since she arrived. Over her 25-year career, her teams have won 12 regular-season titles, have been to the postseason eight times and have won 20 or games in a season 13 times.
## Women's Basketball 2010-2011

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<td>Florida A&amp;M *</td>
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<td>Howard *</td>
<td>at Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Hampton *</td>
<td>at Hampton, VA</td>
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<td>Morgan State *</td>
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<td>Maryland Eastern Shore *</td>
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* Conference Games

## Men's Basketball 2010-2011

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<td>Greensboro College</td>
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<td>UNC Greensboro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Jan 31</td>
<td>Morgan State *</td>
<td>at Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Feb 05</td>
<td>Delaware State *</td>
<td>at Dover, DE</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Feb 07</td>
<td>Maryland Eastern Shore *</td>
<td>at Princess Anne, MD</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Feb 12</td>
<td>Howard *</td>
<td>Corbett Sports Center</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Feb 14</td>
<td>Hampton *</td>
<td>Corbett Sports Center</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Feb 19</td>
<td>South Carolina State *</td>
<td>at Orangeburg, SC</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Feb 21</td>
<td>North Carolina Central</td>
<td>at Durham, NC</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Feb 26</td>
<td>Coppin State *</td>
<td>Corbett Sports Center</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Feb 28</td>
<td>Morgan State *</td>
<td>Corbett Sports Center</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu, Mar 03</td>
<td>Norfolk State *</td>
<td>at Norfolk, VA</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Mar 07</td>
<td>N/A *</td>
<td>at Winston-Salem, NC</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Conference Games
Verdina Walker Bingham '93, director of operations for the Georgia Chapter of the March of Dimes, has been selected as one of the honorees to be included in the 2010 edition of Who's Who in Black Atlanta.

Mary Lisa Moore '94 is the owner/operator of Moore Professional Counseling Services in Greensboro, N.C., and she recently opened a private office in the Southpark area of Charlotte, N.C. Moore is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a National Board Certified Counselor. She promotes “emotionally healthy living” through community outreach and services provided through her company.

1970s

Donna A. James ’79, president and managing director of Lardon & Associates, LLC., was one of two recipients of the Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University this past spring. She was also the keynote speaker for the occasion.

With over 25 years of diverse leadership and management experience at the highest corporate levels, she has served as corporate director for many public companies including three Fortune 500 companies. In 2005, Black Enterprise magazine named James as one of the Top 75 in Corporate America. She is a 2007 inductee into the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Hall of Fame, and a 2008 inductee into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame. She resides in Columbus, Ohio.

1980s

Elmer Gilliam Jr. ’86, an electrical engineer with 23 years of development and management experience in the pharmaceutical industry, has been elected president of the board of the Phillip Simmons Foundation, Inc. of Charleston, S.C. Established in 1991, the foundation is named after the late Phillip Simmons (1912-2009), one of its most renowned members who was a master blacksmith whose ironworks are throughout the historic city. Gilliam resides in Cary, N.C.

1990s

Mary Lisa Moore ’94 is the owner/operator of Moore Professional Counseling Services in Greensboro, N.C., and she recently opened a private office in the Southpark area of Charlotte, N.C. Moore is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a National Board Certified Counselor. She promotes “emotionally healthy living” through community outreach and services provided through her company.

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IN MEMORIUM

ALUMNUS (2008)

Anthony Wesley Bryant ’70, Oct. 31

ALUMNUS (2009)

David Kevin Bagwell ’92, Nov. 19
Corina Sandra Jeter Gordon ’84, April 24
Kelly DeWeyne Lowe, Nov. 13
Gorrell Warren Proctor ’84, Dec. 1

ALUMNUS (2010)

Issac Barnett ’47, May 30
Joe Frederick Bryant ’62, June 8
Clarence C. Bullock ’58, July 18
Hosea Butler ’58, May 19
Angela Dawn Cheek ’91, April 30
Ruby Delaney Collins ’58, Aug. 15
Ivan J. Coulton, student, May 15
Arthur Lee Crews Jr. ’63, March 16
Alberta Raye White Stuart Cuthbertson, Jan. 4
Mantley “Scrip” Dorsey ’55, June 14
Clinton Abraham Etheridge Sr.’41, May 30
Doretha Ferguson, March 29
William James Fisher Jr.’38, March 15
Lucille Long Fulmore, March 10
George Carroll Gallagh ’48, Feb. 2
Martha Cordell Rue Gardner ’50, March 16
Lena Glenn ’10, March 28 *
Virginia Lomax Henderson, April 21
Dwight Mitchell Hill ’71, July 15
Toni Huntington ’78, May 16
Ivey Thomas Jay, April 1
Melomonia Starr Johnson, student, April 26
Aubrey Bluford Kearney Sr.’42, March 8
Clarence Knight ’54, May 10
Shelby Joan ‘Bunchie’ Lawary ’95, Feb. 16
Garrett Laws ’37, July 24
Robin Jones Marable, June 24
Lindsay E. McElhese’76, March 17
Judy Carol McNeill, Feb. 1
Helburn “Bud” Meadows ’52, July 29
Doris L. Downing Page ’59, March 11
Albert Purcell ’58, July 29
Bobbie Rinehardt ’51, July 17
John W. Royster ’51, June 21
Ross Dennis Slade ’77, April 13
Antoinette Weaver, Jan. 16
Raymond Camp Willis ’52, July 19

OTHERS (2009)

Alfred Marshall “Pete” Gaskin, retired employee, Nov 9

OTHERS (2010)

Shirley Clegg, former secretary for the department of natural resources and environmental design, Aug. 1
Gary Dollinger, environmental services technician, Aug. 3
Karen Fureaux, academic program coordinator for the University Honors Program, July 7
H.D. Flowers II, former director of the theater program, July 3
Sherri Gillis Halley, manager of Aggie Tech Support, April 24
Jaspin Milandu, student, Aug. 16
Ernest Murant Sr., history professor, March 3
Anita Meares Rivers, retired mathematics professor and department chair, March 13
Stanley Arnes Ward, graduate student, Aug. 11
James “Chico” Williams, retired biology professor and director of the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, April 26
Jimmy L. Williams, retired chairman of the English department, May 21
Leo Williams Jr., retired professor, April 20
Rosalie McLoud Wooden, retired administrative secretary and project analyst, June 30

* Degree awarded posthumously

ALUMNUS ON THE MOVE continued

1990s cont.

Kenneth R. Jones ’95, an associate professor in the department of community and leadership development at the University of Kentucky, was recently named director of program and staff development for the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is a non-formal educational program based out of the state’s land-grant college, providing research-based knowledge and assistance to local residents. Cooperative Extension’s educational offerings are in the areas of food and agriculture, human development, environmental science, community economic development, and 4-H/youth development.

The Tarboro, N.C., native will join the UK College of Agriculture’s administrative leadership team to provide statewide direction for program development and evaluation, training of county-based and state-level Cooperative Extension staff/professionals, and preparing and submitting the University’s federal accountability reports to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

2000s

Shearish A. Jones ’07 was crowned Miss Texas United America 2010, June 6, in a statewide competition featuring 25 contestants. Representing the great Alamo City as Miss San Antonio in the pageant, Jones was also named Miss Congeniality. In October, she will compete for the national title, Miss United America 2010.

The 24-year old industrial and systems engineer loves horseback riding and volleyball, and she has a special desire to raise awareness of the 20 million men and women infected with Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States.

Making History, continued from page 12

Martin shared the university’s priorities for 2010-2011 at the Faculty and Staff Institute in August: (1) to improve the intellectual climate; (2) to improve operational effectiveness and efficiency; (3) to enhance the brand and image; (4) to improve campus/community safety; (5) to enhance the innovative use of technology; (6) to recruit and retain top talent (employees and students); and (7) to enhance the visibility and marketing of intercollegiate athletics.

Along with these priorities, $8.6 million has been allocated for a host of improvements including but not limited to website redesign, emergency preparedness, graduate scholarships, academic outcomes, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives, and training.

Above all, the chancellor says that students attending A&T must have a competitive edge to succeed in today’s global society and in the future.

“We have a great university, good students and good employees, but we can and will make them better. All it takes is unity of purpose, strong character, sincerity, devotion to duty, interest and development in our work, and fair play in our dealings.”

Harold L. Martin Sr.'s goal is to make a difference in the history of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.
A Beacon of Light

The Early/Middle College program at N.C. A&T disproves the misconception that black male youth are uneducable and destined for failure.

By Eric Hines and Anthony Graham, PhD

For years, many have questioned the United States’ public school system and its failure of black boys nationwide. Numerous reports reveal that more than half of all black men in inner cities across the country do not finish high school.

A report conducted by the Schott Foundation for Public Education found that nearly 70 percent of black boys who enter the ninth grade do not graduate with their peers four years later. Similar reports indicate black boys either drop out or are suspended from public schools at alarmingly high rates compared to other ethnic/racial groups.

At every turn, statistics about black boys in public schools are abysmal and discouraging. Yet, there are instances of public schools that offer a counter-narrative and a strong, concrete rebuttal to these data. There are public school teachers and administrators who believe that empowering boys and holding them accountable for their own learning and behavior challenges them to grow and develop.

At a time when myths like there are more black men in prison than there are in college pervade American society, it is imperative that the media report data of successful student academic outcomes from schools like the Early/Middle College at North Carolina A&T State University. With caring faculty, staff and administrators who challenge their students to succeed and who take risks to engage their learners, the Early/Middle College at North Carolina A&T is an innovative, groundbreaking school that should never be treated as a hidden gem but presented as it is — a beacon of light on a hill guiding young boys throughout the country to productive citizenship as educated men.

Media frequently sensationalizes the plight of black boys and accentuates the failure of public schools to engage these students, but rarely do reports surface of public schools that produce successful black male students who perform well academically. Over the last two years, the Early/Middle College at A&T has had great success educating its students. At the end of the 2007-2008 school year, the End of Course (EOC) state mandated test composite score showed that 40 percent of the students were proficient. In the 2009 academic year, student proficiency grew to 60 percent, with the school reaching expected growth and high growth. The latter was the second highest growth in the district among all high schools. In academic year 2010, student proficiency grew to 72.3 percent with the school reaching expected growth, high growth and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

The Early/Middle College at A&T had the highest SAT growth in the district by growing 252 points in 2009. The average SAT score was 1256, the attendance rate is over 96 percent, and the graduation rate for 2009-2010 school year was 98.4 percent. Of the 22 seniors who graduated, all but one were accepted and now attend colleges and universities; one student enlisted into the United States Air Force.

The Early/Middle College has an intellectual climate with high expectations for its students. Faculty members use evidence-based instructional strategies to transform their classrooms into wondrous learning contexts that encourage students to think critically and globally.

The Early/Middle College is principal of the Early/Middle College at N.C. A&T. Anthony Graham is an associate professor and interim chair of the department of curriculum and instruction at the university.