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U.S. News & World Report Ranks N.C. A&T in Top Third among National Universities

North Carolina A&T State University has been ranked in the top tier of national universities in several categories in the 2013 U.S. News & World Report college rankings.

The national news magazine released its annual list of rankings in early September, and N.C. A&T earned top 25 honors amongst the nation’s top online programs in the area of information technology. Online IT faculty ranked No. 7 in faculty credentials and training while the program ranked 15 and 19 in student services and technology and student engagements and accreditation, respectively.

In the undergraduate category, A&T found itself ranked No. 11 among historically black colleges and universities, No. 132 among engineering programs and No. 258 in high school counselor rankings. In the graduate category, A&T ranked No. 144 in engineering schools with the concentration of industry/manufacturing engineering ranking No. 56. The Joint Master of Social Work program with the concentration of industrial/management and technology and student engagements and accreditation, respectively.

The magazine ranked more than 280 universities.

Founded in 1969, Washington Monthly was created on the notion that writers and editors would ask the uncomfortable questions and tell stories that matter. The magazine offers innovative solutions on how to get the best people to work for the government and how to get the best government for the people.

A&T Ranks Second in the Nation for Social Mobility by Washington Monthly

In the 2012 ranking of national universities by Washington Monthly magazine, North Carolina A&T State University is ranked No. 33 overall and No. 2 in the category of social mobility.

Washington Monthly rates schools overall based on their contribution to the public good in three categories: social mobility—recruiting and graduating low-income students; research—producing cutting-edge scholarship and Ph.D.s; and service—encouraging students to give something back to their country.

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U.S. News and World Report college rankings are intended as a resource guide for families looking to get the best academic value for their money.

The ranking system is based on 16 key measures in seven broad categories: peer assessment; graduation and retention rates; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; alumni giving; and graduation rate performance and high school counselor undergraduate academic reputation ratings.

Angelou Speaks at Behavioral Health Clinic Opening

Dr. Maya Angelou was the keynote speaker for the ribbon cutting and opening of the North Carolina A&T State University Behavioral Health Clinic on Aug. 13.

The Department of Human Development and Services, in the School of Education, created the clinic within the Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness out of the belief that all people in need of mental health services should be able to receive them.

“The Behavioral Health Clinic is a strong example of how the university is focusing on community engagement by bridging university-community partnerships while at the same time providing opportunities for students to learn the latest techniques in behavioral health in a hands-on way. It’s a win-win for our community and our university,” said Kelly Graves, executive director.

“Together, we have the collective power to heal our community, empower the down-trodden, and be a voice for those who are struggling to find their own.”

Professor, author, poet, performer, producer and civil rights activist, Angelou shared stories from her childhood about growing up in Stamps, Ark., and St. Louis, Mo., about trauma she suffered from being molested by her mother’s boyfriend, and about her uncle Willie, the unlikely visionary.

Angelou began her speech singing lines from the Mahalia Jackson song, “God Put a Rainbow in the Sky.” She said the song is a metaphor for life: “At the worst of times there’s a possibility of seeing hope.”

After she was molested by her mother’s boyfriend, Angelou told her mother’s family what happened and the man was arrested and later killed. She stopped speaking for six years as a result of the trauma she experienced. She was sent back to Arkansas to live with her grandmother who became her “Rainbow.”

Her grandmother always told her that she would grow up to teach all over the world and she has. At last count, Angelou said she holds 71 doctorate degrees and has educated people all over the world.

Her uncle Willie was poor, crippled and ashamed of himself, was too ashamed to travel to the county seat but managed to become that rainbow in the cloud for Angelou and a line of others that stretched from Arkansas to Washington, D.C., and beyond.

That’s what this clinic is for people in the community, she said.

“Here you are gathered this morning and throughout the day to cut the ribbon and open the gates to benefit people you may never know,” Angelou said. “I came to say thank you. When times are tough, God put you, a rainbow, in somebody else’s cloud.”

The clinic will offer comprehensive clinical assessments, psychological testing, outpatient individual and group therapy as well as marriage counseling/couples therapy, medication management, support groups, peer support and advocacy programs and wellness experiences.

The staff includes licensed professional counselors, clinical psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, certified substance abuse counselors, psychiatrists and specialized advocates. These professionals specialize in conditions such as depression, anxiety, anger management, substance abuse, additions, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, domestic violence and eating disorders, among others.

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Shelia E. became a top session and touring musician before the age of 20. She has performed and recorded with George Duke, Herbie Hancock, Marvin Gaye, Gloria Estefan, Stevie Nicks and others.

In the 1980’s, Shelia E.’s friend Prince helped to catapult her to pop superstardom. Her talent and hits like “The Glamorous Life” and “A Love Bizarre,” plus her pivotal work on other Prince-related projects contributed to her international stardom.


On Tuesday, April 23, the Russian National Ballet Theatre will perform at the Carolina Theatre Auditorium in downtown Greensboro.

The dance company was founded in the late 1980s during the transitional period called “Perestroika” the restructuring of the Soviet political and economic system. This transitional period in Russian history mandated a political stance and public conversations about human rights.

As part of this movement, many dancers and choreographers of excellence within the Soviet Union representing several dance companies gathered their talents, courage and combined voices to express a newly discovered creative freedom.

Lyceum programs are free to all North Carolina A&T State University students with a valid ID. Faculty and staff tickets are $5 and all other patron tickets are $20. Tickets are available at the N.C. A&T Ticket Office.

Sheila E. and the E. Family Kick Off Lyceum Series

The center’s research will specifically target the production of high quality synthesis gas from biomass gasification, nanocatalysts for the conversion of syngas to bioethanol and the production of high purity hydrogen for fuel cell applications.

The center research team includes Dr. Shamsuddin Ilias, research professor, chemical and bioengineering; Dr. Dabasih Kulla, professor of chemistry; Dr. Lijun Wang, associate professor of biological engineering; Dr. Lyubov Kurkalova, associate professor of economics; Dr. Keith Schimmel, associate professor of chemical engineering and chair of the Department of Energy and Environmental Systems (EES); Dr. Vygani Rastigeyev, assistant professor of math, EES; Dr. Vinayak Kabadi, professor of chemical engineering; Dr. Jinhong Lou, professor of chemistry; and Dr. Divi Venkateswarlu, associate professor of chemistry.

The $5 million project is funded by NSF’s CREST program.

“Bio-based industries present tremendous opportunities for agriculture and energy independence. To be sustainable they must rely on non-food sources and they present major technical and logistical challenges which require coordination between government, private industry and research institutions,” said Dr. Abolghasem Shahbazi, center director and professor of biological engineering in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at N.C. A&T.

“We know petroleum is a finite resource. We know it’s going to run out, the only question is when. We know liquid fuels are necessary for transportation, because of the high energy density they contain. Nothing else comes close. So biofuels are the best alternative for replacing petroleum fuels.”

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Social businesses are defined as cause-driven businesses created to solve social issues such as poverty. Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus designed the social business model and explained how it works during his keynote address during the first University of North Carolina Social Business Conference and competition at N.C. A&T on Sept. 27.

Yunus shared with the audience how he has started or helped start more than 50 social businesses. His first was through creating microcredit by loaning poor people small amounts of money.

During a famine, he walked the village trying to make himself useful to the people and got his idea to loan small amounts of money so the people wouldn’t have to borrow from loan sharks.

“I had a list of 42 names and the total amount borrowed was $27,” Yunus said. “If you can make so many people happy with so little money, why not do more of it?”

Now, 36 years later, his idea to loan people small amounts of money has grown to create Village Bank. The list of 42 lenders has grown to 8.5 million borrowers in India and the $27 in loans has grown to $1.5 billion in loans with 97 percent of the borrowers being women.

With $27, his vision of microcredit has grown to become a global phenomenon and has sprouted dozens of social businesses to combat social problems.

The conference also featured a team social business plan competition to engage students from all 17 University of North Carolina system schools.

“Today, our state faces huge challenges. The students have been audacious enough to take on these challenges and help us think through solutions for tomorrow,” UNC president Tom Ross said.

BB&T Unveils N.C. A&T Spirit Branch

A local branch of BB&T is now a school spirit branch featuring North Carolina A&T State University’s colors, trademarks and more.

The financial center located at 915 East Bessemer Avenue in Greensboro unveiled as a school spirit branch to spectators and customers on Nov. 15. N.C. A&T cheerleaders, mascot and drum line were on hand for the big reveal.

BB&T has co-branded the building’s exterior and interior with Aggie themed signs, ATM and other treatments. The newly redecorated financial center prominently features the university’s colors, mascot and photographs, creating a college-themed banking experience.

“BB&T is committed to supporting the communities it serves,” said Cantey Alexander, BB&T regional president.

“We are especially pleased to showcase North Carolina A&T State University as the newest BB&T spirit branch.”

Phi Kappa Phi Chapter Is Recognized for Excellence

The North Carolina A&T State University’s chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi has been named a Chapter of Excellence.

“Our chapter is honored to receive this award of excellence and inspired to continue to work in a dynamic context that supports student achievement and collaborative work among faculty, staff and students,” said Dr. Barbara Mosley, chapter president.

Founded in 1897, at the University of Maine and currently headquartered in Baton Rouge, La., Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. The Chapter of Excellence distinction is a part of the society’s Chapter Recognition Program, which acknowledged 73 chapters in 2012, including 19 as a Chapter of Excellence.

Chapter of Excellence chapters receive a commendation letter, special recognition on the society’s website and publications, a specially designed logo for use in chapter communications, recognition advertisements in local media and educational journals, and a $500 award.
2012 Homecoming Highlights

Alumni Concert (Jerry Butler)

Comedy Show (Tone-X)

Pep Rally

Parade (Blue and Gold Marching Machine)

Tailgating (Jim Pender)

Fall Convocation (Trustee Faye Tate Williams, First Lady Davida Martin, Bishop George W. Brooks and Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr.)

Coronation (The Royal Court)

Homecoming Game (Aggies 30, Norfolk State 9)

Political Rally (Alicia Keys)
“He’s not just focused on making A&T one of the best HBCUs in the country, but making A&T one of the very best public universities in the country.”

— TOM ROSS, UNC SYSTEM PRESIDENT

North Carolina A&T State University Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. has added three more accolades to his list of accomplishments.

On Nov. 8, Martin was honored by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCI) of the Piedmont Triad Inc. when he received the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Citation Award for his work to make sure all his students receive an equal or superior education.

“[Martin] is a human relations organization that promotes understanding and respect among all cultures, races and religions through advocacy, education and dialogue. The Brotherhood/Sisterhood Citation Award recognizes citizens of the Piedmont Triad region who have made significant contributions towards creating a community free of bias, bigotry and racism.”

Zaki Uddin Khalifa, the owner of Zaki Oriental Rugs in High Point, was the other honoree.

Martin worked his way through a segregated school system to undergraduate and master’s degrees and a doctorate to become an educator and administrator to help advance academic opportunities for students at N.C. A&T, sister institution Winston-Salem State University and across the multi-campus University of North Carolina system.

In A&T’s long range strategic plan, Preeminence 2020, Martin was diligent in making sure the goals included commitments to make the campus more diverse and inclusive while cultivating respect for people and their cultures.

In a video tribute during the dinner program, UNC System President Emeritus Erskine Bowles said that Martin’s commitments are no surprise to him.

“Harold Martin transcends race,” Bowles said. “I have never seen him treat anyone remotely different from anyone else.”

UNC System President Tom Ross agrees.

“I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this award,” he said. “He’s not just focused on making A&T one of the best HBCUs in the country, but making A&T one of the very best public universities in the country.”

A large delegation from A&T including administrators, past and present, alumni and students were on hand to support Martin in his honor.

“It’s important that we support the chancellor on any award that he receives because he always supports us (the students) in so many of our endeavors – we are just returning the favor,” Student Government Association President Allahquan Tate said.

“His winning this award shows that he has a vision for our university and that he is dedicated and committed to it.”

On Nov. 27, U.S. President Barack Obama announced Martin as a member of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD).

“The extraordinary dedication these individuals bring to their new roles will greatly serve the American people,” Obama said about Martin and the other appointees. “I am grateful they have agreed to serve in this administration, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come.”

BIFAD advises USAID on agriculture and higher education issues pertinent to food insecurity in developing countries. The president appoints members, who primarily represent the academic community.

BIFAD was established by Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act. The board and Title XII recognize the critical role of U.S. land-grant institutions in agricultural development, domestically and abroad, and support their representation in USAID development programs.

In September, Martin was elected to a three-year term on the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors. CHEA, a national advocate and institutional voice for self-regulation of academic quality through accreditation, is an association of approximately 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities and recognizes 60 institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations. It is the only national association focused exclusively on higher education accreditation.

Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. receives honor and appointments for his dedicated service to higher education

By Tiffany S. Jones ’03
Faculty and Staff

Dr. Ronald Campbell, an assistant professor of accounting in the School of Business and Economics, was honored during the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Inc. National Convention and Expo in Phoenix, Ariz. Campbell received the National Achievement in Education Award. He has served as the faculty advisor for the NABA student chapter at N.C. A&T since 2000.

Dr. Joseph L. Graves, professor of biological studies and associate dean for research at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, is one of 60 fellows (from a pool of 45,000+) being recognized by the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFPP) for his contributions and achievements. Graves’s research foci are on evolutionary genetics/genomics of postponed aging and biological concepts of race in humans. Graves has written two books, “The Emperor’s New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millennium” and “The Race Myth: Why We Pretend Race Exists in America.” He is the first person of African American descent to earn a PhD in psychology.

An article by Dr. Stephanie Luster-Teseyale, associate professor in the College of Engineering, was featured in the spring 2012 issue of On Campus magazine, a newsletter for students. Luster-Teseyale’s article was featured in the “From Where I Sit” section and discussed her tenure process.

Valerie Nieman, associate professor of English, is the winner of the 2012 Eric Hoffer Award for General Fiction for her novel, “Blood Clay.” Hoffer awards were established at the start of the 21st century in the memory of the great American philosopher Eric Hoffer by “highlighting salient writing, as well as the independent spirit of small publishers.” “Blood Clay” is Nieman’s third novel and fifth book. She is also the author of a collection of short stories and a poetry collection.

Eight members of the faculty were recognized for teaching excellence during the annual Honors Day Convocation on March 15.

Six professors received the Outstanding Teaching Award for their respective school or college: Dr. DeWayne Randolph Brown, professor in the Department of Electronics Computer Technology, School of Technology; Dr. Lisa Gueldenzoph Snyder, professor and chair of the Department of Business Education, School of Business and Economics; Dr. Robin Guill Liles, associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Services, School of Education; Dr. Steven Jiang, associate professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering; Dr. Teresa Jo Styles, professor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore, associate professor in the Department of Agronomy, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education, School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Styles was the university’s nominee for the 2012 UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. Styles joined the faculty at N.C. A&T in 1995, after an extensive career as a broadcast journalist and producer with CBS News and previous academic positions at Savannah State College and Bennett College. She earned her B.A. degree in English from Spelman College, her M.A. in film from Northwestern University, and her doctorate in mass communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Two assistant professors received the Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award: Dr. Sonya Draper, Department of Graphic Communication Systems and Technological Studies, School of Technology and Dr. Lemuria Carter, Department of Accounting, Business and Economics.

Dr. Dilip Shah, associate professor of construction management and safety, participated in the Faculty Fellowship Summer Institute in Israel, May 27–June 6. Shah was one of 12 fellows chosen from more than 280 applicants. He visited various universities around Israel and discussed environmental and occupational safety and health.

Students

Mike Allen, Alisa Barlow, Mark Crostan, Xavier Dillahunt and Isaiah Maggett from the School of Business and Economics are competing in the annual Chartered Financial Analyst Institute Research Challenge (CFA), an educational competition for college and graduate-level students where participants assume the role of investment research analysts. The College Bowl-style competition offers participants the opportunity to develop and present an equity research report and compete on a global basis with peers from top business schools. More than 5,300 students and 160 universities in more than 55 countries will participate in local challenges, culminating in a global final in London, England, in April 2013. During the challenge, N.C. A&T will compete against Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Elon University, North Carolina State University, UNC Charlotte, UNC Greensboro and UNC Wilmington.

Last summer, nursing student Kiwana Fulford participated in The Minority Global Health Disparities Research Training Program (MHDRTP) in partnership with Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Fulford studied in Matlab, South Africa, where she worked on two research projects: one on non-communicable diseases (e.g., obesity, hypertension and diabetes mellitus) among nurses in a selected rural and peri-urban community and one that investigated the effect of evidence-based physical activity on quality of life, health-related characteristics and CD4 counts among rural dwellers living with HIV/AIDS. Both took place in the North West Province of South Africa.

Melanie Payton, a junior industrial and systems engineering major, participated in Semester at Sea® for the fall semester. Established in 1963, SAS uses a ship as its traveling campus. Each fall and spring semester, as well as the summer, undergraduates, lifelong learners, faculty and lecturers live and learn together while circumnavigating the globe each fall and spring semester and exploring a world region in the summer term. Credit earned is fully transferable by the University of Virginia.

A team of student journalists from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication joined more than 600 bloggers and journalists from across the country for the Democratic National Convention, Sept. 3–6, in Charlotte.

The student delegates—electronic media majors Ian Dear, Erin Digs, Amber Thompson and Lauren Everett, and broadcast production major Eric Hicks—were offered 24-hour access to three floors of space for reporting, interviewing and other media-related work during this historic event by the PPL, a politically neutral group. They also had a chance to interact with other bloggers/journalists, giving them insight into the role of new media in news coverage.

In addition, electronic media majors Mya Ervin and Whitney Jeffries and public relations major Dion Harris worked as NBC News DNC Runners with NBC Universal, performing a variety of tasks for news shows such as the “Today Show,” “NBC Nightly News,” “Meet the Press,” MSNBC shows and specials produced by E! Entertainment and the Teleundo network.
First Lady Michelle Obama captivates grads with history and hope.

By Tiffany S. Jones ’03

In the spring, First Lady Michelle Obama joined the graduating class of 2012 to become a part of the newest legion of North Carolina A&T State University alumni.

After delivering a motivational commencement address, Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. awarded the first African American First Lady the doctorate of humanities honorary degree for her commitment to public service.

Obama held 1,200 graduates and their loved ones captivated during her speech; so much so that when she said, “I love you all,” the graduates responded, “We love you, too,” without missing a beat.

“The commencement ceremony was nothing short of amazing. I felt the excitement within the coliseum once I entered,” said Christian Robinson, student government association president emeritus.

Robinson received his bachelor’s degree in economics. He said Obama’s entrance filled the coliseum with love and warmth for her.

“The First Lady’s energy was felt by everyone present,” he said. “Her ‘Aggie Pride’ was perfect to the T! On that day we became legendary, I am truly proud to say that I am an alumnus of this great university.”

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Cora Mathewson received her master’s degree in English and African American literature and, in spite of having a 4.0 grade point average, almost didn’t make it to the commencement exercises.

“I had not planned to participate in the commencement activities, but once I learned First Lady Michelle Obama would be the commencement speaker, I decided to participate fully—stand in line and march across the stage with all the other 1,200 graduates,” Mathewson said.

“Being in the presence of the first black First Lady was a monumental event, a history-making occasion that I will not soon forget.”

Obama made history as being the only First Lady the university has ever hosted as a commencement speaker. In her address, she reminded Aggies about the rich legacy of Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond and Joseph McNeil, The Greensboro Four/A&T Four.

“I know that all of you know the story of the Greensboro Four and how they changed the course of our history, but since we have the nation watching, let’s talk a little bit,” Obama said.

“It’s easy to forget that before they were known as heroes, they were young people just like you. Even younger—they were freshmen here at A&T,” Obama said.

Obama told the graduates and 15,000 spectators that the work, sweat and passion poured into this country by the generations before them must now be met with work, sweat and passion of their own. She told the graduates that they have a responsibility to do more.

She used her own life as an example and shared that she earned her bachelor of arts and her law degree, held a high paying job and still it was not enough. She said her journey to completeness began with three questions that she asked herself.

“The first question I asked myself was, ‘Who do I want to be?’ Not what do I want to be, but who,” she said.

When people meet, they often introduce themselves and give a quick, simple description of what they do. Obama says there is nothing wrong with that, as it can be the cornerstone of a happy life.

“But I also want to stress that your job title and responsibilities, those things are merely what you do, and they will always be. They are not who you are,” she said.

“As you all are thinking about your careers, I want you to think about what’s important to you. How does your job fit into a full life—a complete life? How are you going to give back?”

The second question Obama asked herself and posed to the graduates was, “What’s going on in the world around me?”

She pointed out to the graduates that while the country has come a long way from segregation and Jim Crow, there is still work to be done.

“Each generation around them and decides that it’s time to wake up and change the situation. And we’ve always looked to lead the way.”

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA

“Each generation looks at the world around them and decides that it’s time to wake up and change the situation. And we’ve always looked to our young people to lead the way.”

With that kind of action and that kind of commitment, all of you have begun to carry on that proud legacy of the Greensboro Four,” she told graduates.

“Each generation looks at the world around them and decides that it’s time to wake up and change the situation. And we’ve always looked to our young people to lead the way.”

Obama told graduates it’s time for them to take the baton and move the banner forward to wake society up and do more.

“That’s what Aggies like you have always done. And that is your history, and that is your legacy. That is who you are—never forget that,” she said.

“It’s tapping into the legacy of the A&T Four and the work in the community that has Obama, her husband and people across the country proud and excited about the nation’s future, she said.

“I cannot wait to see all you will achieve and all that you will contribute in the years ahead. You have everything before you. God bless you all, and good luck.”

The Graduate School awarded more than 250 master’s and doctoral degrees, while the undergraduate schools and colleges awarded nearly 950.

Four undergraduates had 4.0 GPAs:

- Darian DeBreaux Bridges, 22, a native of Richland, Mich., who earned a degree in mechanical engineering;
- Stanton Andrew Smith, 33, native of Greensboro, N.C., who earned a degree in mechanical engineering;
- Skyla Ja’Til Staton, 22, native of Tarboro, N.C., who earned a degree in fashion merchandising and design, and
- John Adam Hylton, 29, native of Rocky Mount, Va., who earned a degree in biological engineering.

“Take a look around, and I guarantee you that you will see that there is plenty of work left to be done,” she said.

“Everywhere we look, there are wrongs just waiting to be made right. But again, I warn you — those wrongs won’t go away. And they will entrench themselves deeper and deeper unless we act.”

The final question Obama said she asked herself is “What can I do to help?”

“The fact is we simply cannot move forward unless all of us are engaged. And being engaged means not simply recognizing what’s wrong, not simply complaining about and talking about our problems, but acting,” Obama said.

“It means waking up and changing the situation.”

During academic year 2011-12, students at N.C. A&T volunteered nearly 35,000 hours of community service through mentorship, cleaning up in the community, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, etcetera.
One Team, One Goal, NO LIMITS

By Tiffany S. Jones ‘03

GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS’ STEM EARLY COLLEGE OPENS AT A&T

First-time principal Stacy Alston was all smiles as 50 high school freshmen filed into the Smith Hall lobby on the first day of school.

“It’s an exciting time. It’s hard to put it in words,” he said.

Alston, a 1999 business graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, is excited to serve as principal on the campus of his alma mater at the Guilford County Schools newest early college.

The STEM Early College at N.C. A&T is specifically geared toward highly motivated and high-performing high school students who have demonstrated interest in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

“This is a great opportunity these students have that a lot of us came to A&T to have as college students,” Alston said.

“We came here to be exposed to the technology and engineering here on campus, and for these students to be able to tap into that as such an early age is wonderful,” he said.

Like her classmates, Kyler Mark showed up on her first day of school unsure of what to expect in her new school.

“I like science and math and I wanted to come to a school that would give me a chance to learn as much about it as I can,” she said.

Kyler came to the program after her mother, Nancy Mark, a high school guidance counselor, told her about the program.

“As juniors and seniors, the students will focus on one of three STEM pathways: biomedical sciences, renewable energy and engineering.

“I was thinking it would be a great opportunity for her. She’s not afraid to explore new things and we’ve always tried to get her in things that challenge her,” her mom said.

The curriculum at the STEM Early College is designed to do just that. In August, students began the first of two years of honors and advanced placement (AP) courses along with STEM curriculum incorporated courses such as robotics and scientific visualization.

As juniors and seniors, the students will be fully integrated into college courses and focus on one of three STEM pathways: biomedical sciences, renewable energy and engineering.

“This is Guilford County Schools’ first early college dedicated to STEM education and the second college program on A&T’s campus. The Middle College at A&T posted a 100 percent graduation rate last year.

“We thought it was important to work together to create outstanding learning opportunities for bright students like you,” Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. told the students.

Martin was on hand for the STEM Early College’s first day of school, along with several other dignitaries including Mo Green, GCS superintendent; Dr. Terry Worrell, GCS central region superintendent; and Tony Miller, deputy secretary and chief operating officer at the U.S. Department of Education.

“We wish to thank Chancellor (Harold L.) Martin and Superintendent Maurice Green for being visionaries and supporting a high school on a university campus. Thanks to Dr. Terry Worrell, superintendent for the Central Region and her staff, along with Dr. William Harvey and the School of Education staff,” Hines said.

We wish to thank Chancellor (Harold L.) Martin and Superintendent Maurice Green for being visionaries and supporting a high school on a university campus. Thanks to Dr. Terry Worrell, superintendent for the Central Region and her staff, along with Dr. William Harvey and the School of Education staff,” Hines said.

The class showed persistence and fortitude and lived up to the commitments from teachers and other stakeholders to instill in them that failure is not an option, Hines said.

‘Nobody gets to where they are without help and I’ve had a lot of help,” Hines said. “My staff is amazing. We’ve worked together to change how we do best practices in classrooms to build better relationships and our young men perform for us in return.’

Hines also credits his students and their parents.

GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS’ STEM EARLY COLLEGE OPENS AT A&T

MIDDLE COLLEGE Class of 2012 Makes History

The Middle College at North Carolina A&T’s class of 2012 made history by becoming the first in the school’s eight-year history to graduate 100 percent of the senior class. In addition, each graduating class member was accepted to a four-year college or university.

The graduates earned more than $1 million in scholarships and grants, earned service learning diplomas and were named North Carolina Academic Scholars.

Principal Eric Hines credits the success of the class to the leadership of the Guilford County Schools and N.C. A&T.

“We wish to thank Chancellor (Harold L.) Martin and Superintendent Maurice Green for being visionaries and supporting a high school on a university campus. Thanks to Dr. Terry Worrell, superintendent for the Central Region and her staff, along with Dr. William Harvey and the School of Education staff,” Hines said.

Hines also credits his students and their parents.
Civil engineering assistant professor and researcher, Ellie Fini, has been working with pig manure for four years to create an adhesive alternate to the more expensive petroleum-based adhesives used for roads, parking lots and the like. “We researched different materials like algae, chicken and poultry manure, and swine manure. Swine was very promising,” Fini said.

Fini and colleagues from the School of Business and Economics and the School of Technology are working to patent the research and create another spin-off company for the university, PiGrid. Traditionally, manure is used as a fertilizer twice a year for local crops. Because North Carolina doesn’t have as many crops to use the waste on, this state is the perfect place to create a hub for a business like PiGrid.

“This would be a rational use of condensing the nutrients and it could be transported this way,” Fini said.

Hubs would be the place for small farmers to bring their waste to have it converted to pathogen-free fertilizer for their crops and for the remaining materials to be turned into the adhesive.

In the research process, Fini and four of her students have found an energy efficient way of converting the hog waste to an industry standard for durable adhesives.

“We wanted to have properties that are durable and that last longer than the petroleum-based adhesives,” she said.

What the research has shown is the new material works best when mixed with the petroleum-based product.

“It improves the cracking resistance, the road pavement would last longer and it would be at a lower cost,” Fini said.

Due to the rising cost of petroleum, that product is about $2 per gallon whereas the bioadhesive is about 50 cents a gallon.

The research is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Academy of Science. Fini says the creation of PiGrid is in line with the university’s goals for economic development and innovation in the Preeminence 2020 strategic plan. Most important, this company will create a lot of jobs, she said.

Initially, PiGrid will practice only in America. The company is seeking partners to move along with the scale up and the technology costs. At this time, Fini says other states that are large pork producers would be ideal places for hubs.

For her research on this project, Fini received the prestigious CAREER Award from the NSF.
With a $3 million grant to North Carolina A&T's Interdisciplinary Center for Cyber Defense, the National Science Foundation is using North Carolina A&T State University's unique combination of strengths to create a model for universities nationwide, and fill a critical need of the healthcare industry.

A team led by Dr. Xiaohong “Dorothy” Yuan is developing a new Health Informatics Security and Privacy (HISP) concentration for undergraduates in the College of Engineering’s Computer Science Department. The concentration is an effort involving the School of Business and Economics’ Department of Management, the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Mathematics, and the School of Nursing.

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By Joya Wesley

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“The Department of Management and the Department of Mathematics have collaborated in establishing the University’s Center for Cyber Defense. We’ve got the support of the School of Nursing. Therefore, this is a special place for launching such a program.”

In addition to feeding into the national workforce’s desperately needed health informatics security professionals, the program will enhance career opportunities and competitiveness for A&T students from multiple disciplines, including computer science, mathematics, management and nursing.

Yuan, director of the Center for Cyber Defense, launched the effort after recognizing the need.

According to U.S. News & World Report, health informatics is one of the nation’s largest growth industries, with the Department of Labor predicting 49 percent annual growth over the coming years. Compared to other data-intensive industries, the health care industry is underinvested in information technologies. President Obama has made using information technology and electronic health records a top goal for cutting healthcare costs.

To protect health information systems, health informatics professionals must be well educated and trained in information assurance and to understand the many concerns of security, privacy, integrity and reliability. Research during the project’s planning phase indicated that most bachelor’s degree programs in health informatics placed far too little emphasis on security and privacy issues in health information systems.

Topics like security policies, architectures, risk management, disaster recovery and business continuity, network security, and cryptography are not commonly covered, yet knowledge of security is a key requirement for graduates to function effectively in mid- to high-level specialist positions in a health care organization.

Enter A&T’s Center for Cyber Defense. With its interdisciplinary expertise, critical gaps will be filled.

“This project presents a new curriculum model that many other universities can adopt,” says Yuan, who notes that the concentration will prepare students to step easily into jobs as healthcare application programmers, healthcare system analysts, clinical informatics data analysts, technical analysts, health IT consultants and more.

The concentration will include existing courses in Computer Science, Nursing and Management, as well as newly developed courses with specialized curricula—some of which the university began offering as pilot modules last spring. The full concentration is expected to receive university approval in 2014.

The other key members of the project team are Computer Science faculty members Dr. Jinsheng Xu and Dr. Gerry Dozier (chair), Dr. Kossi Edoh, a mathematics faculty member who also is founding assistant director of the Center for Cyber Defense, and Dr. Hong Wang of the Department of Management, another founding assistant director of the Center.

Our department has strength in information assurance research and education,” she says of her Department of Computer Science. “The Department of Management and the Department of Mathematics have collaborated in establishing the University’s Center for Cyber Defense. We’ve got the support of the School of Nursing. Therefore, this is a special place for launching such a program.”

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By Joya Wesley

If it’s green, bet that Robert “Bob” Powell is on top of it. Green design, green building, green living in general. Now, the assistant professor of architectural engineering is leading a project that’s saving Greensboro residents green dollars on their energy bills.

Through the College of Engineering’s Center for Energy Research and Technology (CERT), Powell is principal investigator of a $214,000 project to develop and implement the Community Outreach component of the City of Greensboro’s Better Buildings program, which he also helped to create.

The project, awarded to CERT in September 2011, is ongoing, and is a continuation of the kind of civic engagement Powell has been involved with throughout his tenure at A&T. He currently is serving on the university’s Civic Engagement Task Force, which the administration created as part of our strategic plan to enhance engagement.

“The basic question of that group is for professors who do, not just community service, but civic engagement,” he says. “It’s first of all defining what that is, then figuring how they can get credit for what they’re doing because, at least in our minds, it’s the equivalent of research. Some people actually call it action research.”

Still, work like Powell’s is viewed differently from an academic standpoint.

“I’m getting contracts,” he said of his own work, “not research grants. The idea is to get us all out of our silos to talk with each other.”

Powell is a registered architect with more than 20 years’ experience in building design, project management, and energy use analysis, including design and project management experience on commercial buildings in the one to five million-dollar range. He previously directed a nonprofit affordable housing development corporation, and for many years has served the construction and construction management industry as a renewable energy and energy efficiency consultant.

At the university, Powell currently teaches architectural history, courses in basic engineering principles, building design, and construction documents. His research includes analysis of energy use in manufactured housing, development and distribution of effective energy efficiency strategies for communities, and utilization of participatory design techniques.

His work with Greensboro’s Better Buildings Program is part of a larger effort to retrofit homes in the city to improve their energy efficiency. It is part of a $5 million grant a city team that included Powell won from President Obama’s federal stimulus funds. CERT’s portion is an effort to teach and learn about how residents can play a role in increasing public good.

Working with the grassroots leaders of five neighborhoods throughout the city, other community groups, undergraduate and graduate student assistants, and a professional community organizer hired on a part-time basis, the outreach project is also designed to help establish a new energy industry in town.

“Ultimately the five neighborhoods together are going to develop a whole kit for how to do this,” Powell told the group of leaders at a recent meeting. “You know the best ways to get the neighborhood conversation going.”

The project is evolving with residents—who already knew their neighborhoods and neighbors better than city bureaucrats or pointy-headed professors—doing a good deal of the teaching in an academically-led project that recognizes the value of their contribution.

“A number of the things that you guys were saying, you’re now doing,” Joe Frierson, an A&T political science graduate serving as CERT’s outreach coordinator, told the group at the meeting. “That’s a win. This is really us learning together. This is us growing together in our collaboration. There’s an experiential growth in this type of work for all areas of Greensboro.”

Powell, who has his degrees from Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has an impressively long list of university and community activities that include helping to lead the Piedmont Triad Sustainable Community Planning Project, advising the student HVAC professional organization’s community service efforts, and advising as a private consultant for the town of Spring Lake, N.C.’s work to build an entire neighborhood of green affordable homes.

“This is a nationwide, worldwide movement,” he says. “The whole deal with research is that basic research is thought to be abstract, conceptual, at the front of any change … the research issue here is that energy conservation is of basic value to everyone, so the question is how do you intervene into this to get the message out? There is all this learning research that’s happening nationwide. What’s the best way to get people this information? Here, we’re learning it.”
**Field Experience**

**THREE STUDENTS TAKE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGINEERING ABROAD.**

By Tiffany S. Jones ’03

As a part of their selection as interns to the Advancing Minorities’ Interest in Engineering (AMIE) partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, two North Carolina A&T State University senior engineering majors traveled to Wiesbaden, Germany, to work with Aggie alumnus Darren Walls.

“It’s rewarding to be able to give back and help other Aggies follow in my footsteps with such a great opportunity to live and work abroad for a summer,” Walls said in an email.

Walls, a 1999 architectural engineering graduate, has worked with the Corps for 12 years in various capacities including an intern with the Department of the Army, a junior architect, project engineer and his current position as a project manager.

“My dream, Dr. Robin Coger, arranged for the funding of Lucas and my travel arrangements — without the College of Engineering’s sponsorship, I would not have been able to come overseas,” she said. “N.C. A&T has upheld its mission.”

Suarez worked as an engineer technician or an alternate project manager on various projects throughout Europe. His responsibilities were to adhere, answer and respond to members’ questions, comments and concerns and solve any issue that surfaces with documentation or directing another component of the project to gather the required information and find the resources necessary to arrive to a solution.

“This AMIE internship has opened my horizons to great lengths from a professional connection aspect,” Suarez said.

He said these were all experiences that will help make him a better student and set him up for the career he aspires to in the private sector.

“It has made me a better problem-solver, analytical thinker, and has taught me to hone my skills and use them in any real life application,” Suarez said.

Townes worked in the engineering and construction division becoming familiar with the ongoing projects and learning the unique protocols for building in Germany. She specifically conducted quality assurance.

Her time in Germany has prepared her for an upcoming class and for her goal to pursue post-graduate studies.

“Due to the nature of the climate, in the surrounding region of Wiesbaden, Germany, there is a large amount of concrete block construction. The technique was new to me as I am from North Carolina and accustomed to wood-frame and steel-frame construction,” she said.

Walls said that Townes and Suarez’s experience will give them a competitive edge their peers don’t have.

“I think just being able to experience working with a major government engineering agency overseas will definitely give the student an upper advantage over their peers who have not had that experience,” Walls said.

“I know for me personally it opened my eyes to many more options and broadening my outlook of doing business internationally.”

The goal of the AMIE program is to act as a promoter and encourager to minority students to pursue engineering careers and as an avenue for members to exchange “best practices” and solutions for development of a diversified engineering workforce.

**ENGINEERING STUDENT MAKES IMPACT IN MALAWI**

Weeks after Destenie Nock returned from Malawi, discussing her experiences there still makes her tear up.

“I feel like a better person,” she said.

Nock, a senior electrical engineering and applied mathematics major, spent four weeks with the Malawi Leadership Team working with school-aged children.

“Before I started my projects, we were getting to know the kids,” she said.

“They were so amazed to get a pen, pencil and a notebook.”

“We would sing an American song to the kids and they would sing a song in Chichewa to us. After school was over, we would spend time playing with them.”

Nock traveled to Malawi with associate professor of leadership studies, Dr. Elizabeth Barber. Barber’s husband is one of Nock’s former teachers. He mentioned his wife coordinates a trip to Malawi and that she would be perfect for it.

“He told me to think about it and gave me a packet. I didn’t think anything else about it until I was cleaning my room one day and I found it,” Nock said.

“I read the information and I thought, ‘This sounds great.’”

Another thing that convinced her to go was a conversation she had with her mother in years prior saying she regretted never visiting Africa.

“I didn’t want to regret this,” Nock said.

The first year, a lack of funds kept the 4.0 student from making the journey to Malawi. Once she decided she wanted to go, she started saving money.

“Every semester I had two jobs; one semester I had three,” she said.

While in Malawi, Nock worked on two projects. She worked with fellow travelers to conduct a workshop with local teachers on how to use a Pathematics manual on how to look for prime numbers.

“Technical to make an impact,” she said.

The Destiny Pads project, though, was Nock’s brainchild. Each year, the team takes feminine supplies to Domasi Demonstration Primary School for the girls. In Malawi, a lot of families do not have the money necessary to buy disposable sanitary items monthly and that meant some girls could miss three to five days of school per month.

To help combat the problem, the team would travel with those items but there never seemed to be enough to get them through the year. In Nock’s forward thinking, she thought it would make more of an impact to show the girls how to make reusable pads.

“Instead of raising money to buy pads, we raised money for supplies,” she said.

Nock researched the customs to find out if this would be acceptable and then she researched designs.

“We taught all the girls how to hand sew them,” she said. “Now they can make more or do their own repairs if the stitching comes loose or something like that.”

This trip for Nock has been an eye-opening experience.

“Life is like a journey until you find yourself and you can’t find yourself until you get lost,” she said.

“When I was in Malawi, I never felt so lost in my life.”

Nock says as an engineer, the first thought to make an impact is something technical. This experience for her showed her there’s not always a complicated solution to the world’s problems.

“Sometimes the needs are so basic, you don’t need to do anything overly technical to make an impact,” she said.

**Townes**

**Suarez**

**Nock**
The Right Place at the Right Time

"Working-class intellectual" is recognized for scholarly excellence

By Joya Wesley

To borrow the words of a history department colleague, Dr. Phillip Rubio is "a true working-class intellectual."

A career postal worker who earned his Ph.D. at Duke University before taking a tenure-track position at N.C. A&T, Rubio brought this University national attention as a national expert, appearing on national Post piece and invited him to help host Stephen Colbert on "The Colbert Report." Producers at "The Colbert Report" saw the Washington Post piece and invited him to help host Stephen Colbert on the popular television show, "The Colbert Report."


Since the interview wasn't scripted, he was able to stick one in, a feat he accomplished very smoothly at the beginning. "He had a snappy comeback, because he's a comic genius," he said of Colbert. "It was exciting," Rubio says of the experience. "The best part was the chance to be a public scholar, but to do it in a format where a lot of people are watching. And it's such a powerful medium. There's almost nothing more powerful than satire."

Rubio has found all of his seven years at A&T to be extremely rewarding. "I found myself at the right place at the right time. A&T gave me the opportunity to take a full time career position," he says. "In this day and age and at my age, that's something to be valued. More than that, it was a place where I thought I could teach and conduct research at an institution where Black history is a first thought and not an afterthought, and that's been important to me for a long time."

Since arriving here, Rubio says he has been impressed by the innovations in teaching and the "interdisciplinarity" he has found to be a key part of the academic culture, allowing to teach and conduct research with simultaneous ease.

Although they were going to put him in a nice boutique hotel overnight, Rubio told them he had to teach all day Thursday but could come to New York to tape just for the day on a Wednesday. He says they prepped him ahead of time, giving him a chance to practice being concise and not trying to be a comedian, because that's Colbert's job.

Rubio, who teaches courses including American History and History of the New South, says the first thing students in his History of African American Culture course asked when he told them he was going to be on the show was, "You're going to give us a shout-out, right?"

Since the interview wasn't scripted, he was able to stick one in, a feat he accomplished very smoothly at the beginning. "My ongoing general research looks at labor and the fight for equality in the United States," says Rubio, whose first book was the award-winning "A History of Affirmative Action, 1619-2000." "My ongoing general research looks at labor and the fight for equality in the United States," says Rubio, whose first book was the award-winning "A History of Affirmative Action, 1619-2000."

"There are still a lot more stories to tell about postal workers, including The New York Post and The Washington Post. Producers at "The Colbert Report" and "The Colbert Report."

"I haven't heard from Robert Townsend, but I hope he gets a chuckle," Rubio says. "I loved that movie and I still have the VHS. We used to joke about that on the shop floor."

Rubio adds that the phrase has been true in the history of the country, with scores of African Americans, including many military veterans and individuals with college degrees, finding postal jobs over generations that enabled them to enter the middle class when opportunities were not available to them elsewhere.

He notes that many entertainers and other prominent blacks including the likes of Charles Mingus, Herbie Hancock, Dick Gregory, Percy Sutton and Morgan Freeman, are postal service veterans.

For the future, Rubio says he is happy to be a part of the A&T family to continue his teaching and research. "From when I first hit the door, I found the buzz words here are active learning and peer learning. There's less of a competitive atmosphere and more of a cooperative learning environment," he says. "I've also really learned a lot about the art and the science of teaching, and actually being able to see results and measure them. I consider our Academy of Teaching and Learning to be a pioneer that's helping to guide the rest of us."

"Here at A&T I've found a really good collegial blend, and that's the way it should be," he says. "It shouldn't be so compartmentalized, or else you're less effective."
AGGIES 30
NORFOLK STATE 9
Homecoming 2012
Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Eight

This year, North Carolina A&T State University Athletics selected four basketball players, two football players, one baseball player and one volleyball player for induction into the N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame on Sept. 7.

Among the inductees are former MEAC standout football players, Demetrius Harrison (linebacker) and James White (running back), and MEAC basketball standouts, James Anderson and Thomas Griffis Jr. Also inducted is one of A&T’s batting champions and standout, Willie Morrison.

The three female athletes honored are former basketball standouts Eva Patterson-Heath and Marsha Simmons as well as volleyball standout Carmen Barrantes-Santa Maria.

Sky Box Opens at Aggie Stadium

Standing six stories high with a tower on each end, the new Aggie Stadium Sky Box is the latest addition to skyline on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University. And what better way to view Aggie football and other athletic activities in action!

The sky box is located on the home side of the stadium just inside the main entrance. Two towers provide access to three guest floors: Press Level, Chancellor’s Level and Terrace Level.

Located on the Press Level are two lease suites along with rooms for the home and visiting team’s coach and radio staff, media and operations. On the Chancellor’s Level are two lease suites, chancellor’s suite and two balconies for outdoor viewing. Also available on these two levels are bleacher seating and handicapped accessible restrooms on these two levels. The Terrace Level is an open rooftop area for outdoor viewing.

The primary purpose for the sky box is to provide an area for the chancellor and others to engage guests with hospitality and a bird’s eye view of sporting events.

For information about leasing, contact the Division of University Advancement at 336-334-7600.

Inductees into the 2012 N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame are (front) James White, Marsha Simmons, Thomas “Ice” Griffis Jr, Carmen Barrantes-Santa Maria and (back) Demetrius Harrison, Willie Morrison, Eva Patterson Heath and James Anderson.

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Walmart, Others Support Aggie Athletics

N.C. A&T Athletics Director Earl Hilton (left) and Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. (far right) accept donations from area Walmart stores and other companies to support Aggie athletics.

Walmart and more than 30 of its vendors provided North Carolina A&T State University Athletics with contributions during the 2012 Walmart-North Carolina A&T Scholarship Drive, Oct. 16, at the Elmsley Drive Walmart in Greensboro.

The majority of the contributions were checks totaling more than $60,000 toward athletic scholarships. The biggest check came from the four Greensboro Walmart stores, the High Point Walmart (South Main Street) and the Durham Walmart (Glenn School Road), which combined to contribute $16,000. Pepsi Bottling Ventures presented a check for $15,000, and General Mills and Kellogg’s gave $5,000 each.

“Every Aggie invested in seeing our 15 varsity sports do well, needs to support these companies,” said Earl M. Hilton III, director of athletics at N.C. A&T. “… We extend a gracious thank you to Walmart and its vendors for their continued support of N.C. A&T Athletics.”

Aggie Athletic Foundation member Jim McLeod spearheaded the initiative.

Howroyd Honored with Entrepreneurship Award

Act•1 Group CEO Janice Bryant Howroyd receives inaugural award

By Tiffany S. Jones ‘03

Howroyd is chairwoman and chief executive officer of the Act•1 Group, a global leader in the staffing and human resources industry that has provided more than 30 years of service to companies in the Fortune 1000. The Act•1 Group consists of: Agile•1 Workforce Solutions, AppleOne Staffing and Business Services Solutions.

A fiery motivational speaker, Howroyd shared with conference attendees how she left North Carolina for California and turned $1,500 and a single phone line into a $3 billion company.

“Act•1, in so many ways, is a house Dean Craig built,” she shared. “I realized earlier on that the talent in my organization has to be better educated—Dean Craig sent some of that talent to my organization.”

This is the second year for the entrepreneurs conference that will become an annual event during Homecoming week. Dr. Thaddeus McEwen, professor and director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Entrepreneurship and E-business, told the audience that this conference is the only one of its kind in the Piedmont Triad region.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for our alumni to network and learn about entrepreneurship and network with the entrepreneurship students on our campus," McEwen said.

According to McEwen, the entrepreneurship program in the School of Business and Economics is the fastest growing in the Department of Management.

“We are looking to partner with our alumni entrepreneurs to help us by coming in to speak during workshops or classes and to be mentors for our students,” he said.

In addition to Howroyd’s keynote address, students had the opportunity to participate in an elevator pitch competition while other attendees had an opportunity to attend various breakout sessions to learn more about social media marketing, transitioning from start up to growth and increasing sales through government and corporate contracts.
1950s

Fleetwood H. Howell ’50 has been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation’s highest civilian honor for distinguished achievement, posthumously. Howell was among the first blacks to join the U.S. Marine Corps at Montford Point at Camp Lejeune during World War II. He served 1943–46 and attended N.C. A&T on the G.I. Bill. He was discharged at the rank of corporal after a tour of duty in Guam and went on to earn a certificate in tailoring at A&T. He later took a job as a manager in the university bookstore where he worked until retirement. The Greensboro native died March 19, at the age of 93.

President Barack Obama signed the bill into law ordering the design of the medal in honor of the first black marines in November 2011.

Dr. Velma Speight-Buford ’53 has joined more than 275 distinguished alumni from historically black colleges and universities who have been inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. She was honored in the category of lifetime achievement during a weekend-long conference in Atlanta, Sept. 28–30.

Through the years, Speight-Buford has generously supported the university and students monetarily, with property and planned gifts, and through service. She has served as national president of the alumni association where she established the Alumni Scholars Program, and she was the first woman elected to the board of trustees where she served 11 years, the last three as the chairwoman. She also has been a member of the School of Education Board of Directors, the Friends of Education, the Aggie Athletic Foundation and the advisory committee of the Talent 21.

1960s

The class of 1962 celebrated its 50th year reunion in May. Class coordinators Donald Brandon, Daonna Geter and Evelyn Williams, along with class president Richard Barber, were instrumental in garnering support and participation. The class donated over $136,500 to the university.

John R. Thompson ’69 has been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor in the United States granted by Congress. During World War II, Thompson volunteered for training with the newly formed and segregated Marines battalion at Montford Point near Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (N.C.). He was honorably discharged in 1946, and later earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from N.C. A&T. He is a retired educator.

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Margaret Woodson ’76 was honored by her peers in the South Carolina Association of Governmental Purchasing Officials on Nov. 8, with the James H. Barnes Award. This award is the highest given to a SCAGPO member. This award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions and distinguished accomplishments by involvement in SCAGPO activities and the promotion of the public purchasing profession.

Willie A. Deese ’77 has been named to Black Enterprise’s list of The 100 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America. To be selected, each candidate had to be among the highest ranking executives within his or her corporation, managing national and global businesses; must be employed at a publicly traded company or an international corporation with gross revenue of at least $1 billion; must have revenue-generation or operation responsibilities or hold a position critical to product development and the bottom line; and must have significant influence in their respective business.

Deese is the executive vice president and president of the Merck Manufacturing Division with responsibility for Merck’s worldwide manufacturing operations. He manages a network of more than 80 manufacturing and distribution sites with approximately 26,000 employees in more than 25 countries around the world, with an operating budget of $9 billion.

Deese graduated from N.C. A&T with a B.A. in business administration. He earned his M.B.A. from Western New England College (1983). Deese was elected to the N.C. A&T Board of Trustees in 2007. He is serving his second 4-year term and his second year as chairman.

On Nov. 27, Hilda Pinnix-Ragland ’77 added another award to her growing list of accomplishments when she received the 2012 Roberta Bowman Award from the Duke Energy Business Women’s Network. The award is named for a former senior vice president and chief sustainability officer for Duke Energy and is given to a Duke Energy employee who embodies professionalism, perseverance, passion, championship and respect.

Pinnix-Ragland is the vice president-corporate public affairs for Duke Energy. She joined the company in 1980 when it was Carolina Power & Light and has since served in various positions in the communications, customer operations-construction, maintenance and restoration, customer service, economic development, management services, treasury and auditing functions.

Pinnix-Ragland is a member of the N.C. A&T Board of Visitors.

Anthony L. Fuller ’89 is the director of the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s Rail Division. In this position, Fuller oversees more than 3,300 miles of railroad tracks used by freight and passenger trains throughout the state. Prior to NCDOT, he worked at Amtrak in Los Angeles. His career has spanned both public and private rail sectors across the country, and he is certified in locomotive engineer management, which enables him to operate trains and locomotives as well as evaluate engineers while they operate trains.

Matthew Barnhill ’92 was named one of CableFax Magazine’s Most Influential Minorities in Cable for 2012. Barnhill is the executive vice president of corporate market research for BET (Black Entertainment Television) Networks.

Patrice Faison, who has two master’s degrees from N.C. A&T, was named 2012 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year. When Faison first took over as principal at Oak Hill Elementary in High Point, N.C., the school was classified as low performing. However, in her first year, the school made 19.4 percent growth in composite score and was the highest for both Guilford County Schools (GCS) and the state. The increase earned the school the Federal School Improvement grant. Faison currently serves as the principal of GCS’s Page High School in Greensboro.


Now Mayfield is completing her fourth and final year as an associate staff engineer in the engineering leadership development program (ELDP) at Altria Group, the parent company of Philip Morris USA, based in Richmond, Va., where Mayfield also spends time mentoring middle school students at Altria’s Higher Achievement Program.
Community organizer **Sammie J. Dow '07** is the new national director of the NAACP’s Youth and College Division. Dow joined the organization with focus on engaging youth and college-aged voters for the 2012 elections, and he is based at the national headquarters in Baltimore, Md. Prior to joining the NAACP, the High Point, N.C., native was the foundation and corporate development manager for Family Resources, a $10 million dollar human services agency in southwestern Pennsylvania, focused on the prevention and treatment of child abuse.

**Christa Greenlee ’10** spent part of 2011 and 2012 in Seoul, South Korea, teaching English to business executives and entrepreneurs seeking to expand their international horizons. The business management graduate and former Miss Senior South Korea, teaching English to business executives and entrepreneurs seeking to expand their international horizons, says that she was among a cadre of young Americans teaching English abroad for a corporation dedicated to providing such service to paying customers who want to better communicate with their American colleagues and clients. Ultimately, the Archdale, N.C., native wants to work in the international tourism and hospitality industry.

**Alumni**

Fred D. Avery III, Greensboro, N.C., June 9
Benjamin S. Blackwall Jr., Huntsville, Ala., April 25
Erik Franklin Bowden ‘96, Greensboro, N.C., April 13
Pearl G. Bradley ’39, Greensboro, N.C., Feb. 4
Clifton Edward Brown, Greensboro, N.C., March 8
Dorothy McBee Brown, Greensboro, N.C., Jan. 31
Janice Lee Pintz Brown 60’, Washington, D.C., Aug. 20
Doris Rakestraw “Dean” Burgess, Stoneville, N.C., July 16
Charles Lee “Lee-Bob” Butler ’80, Greensboro, N.C., April 22
Odell Delano Clanton III 96’, Durham, N.C., July 12
John H. Cobb Jr. ’64, Philadelphia, Penn., Jan. 9
Turner R. Coggins Sr. ’50, Lufkin, Md., June 10
Arthur Mayo Cole Sr. ’50, Greensboro, N.C., June 2
Elmo Dougarty ’53, Wilson, N.C., Nov. 17
Otis Lemuel Hirston Jr., Greensboro, N.C., Oct. 11
Mamie Dunston-Hall ’54, Ohio, March 4
Bertha Joyner Echols ’39, Greensboro, N.C., April 30
Lerwood E. Edwards Sr., Greensboro, N.C., April 28
Frances Gaskin, Norfolk, Va., April 16
Fannie Knight Gilchrist, Greensboro, N.C., Nov. 7
Seanca Wesley Gonz ’99, Sept. 14
Gordon Grady Sr. ’40, Salem, Mass., May 10
Charles Ellis Greene Sr. ’72, Greensboro, N.C., June 2
Bennie Earl Harding Sr., Greensboro, N.C., June 22
Thomas Headen, Durham, N.C., April 10
Hattie Hall Herbin, Greensboro, N.C., Feb. 18
Albertine Cory Hickman, Greensboro, N.C., May 14
Mary Rembry Holley, Forest, Va., May 31
John A. Hunter Jr., Durham, N.C., July 10
Andrew Johnson ’56, Charlotte, N.C., March
Franklin Benjamin Kirby ’72, Jan. 21
Mary McCarty ’45, New York, N.Y., June 17
Willie Ray McCueley ’82, Greensboro, N.C., Jan. 35
Virginia Doris McKeef ’49, Greensboro, N.C., April 12
Frances B. McNeal, Greensboro, N.C., July 23
Jeanette Smith Mclane ’55, Greensboro, N.C., April 28
Lynette B. Parks ’49, Greensboro, N.C., Jan. 22
Kay Pettaway, Miami, Fla., June 4
Ronald Eugene Reed ’65, Aug. 11
Cora Bigelow Robinson, Greensboro, N.C.
Billie Anne Williams Routh, Greensboro, N.C., July 21
Marshall Franklin Scales, Greensboro, N.C., June 17
Phyllis Naydene Smith, Winston-Salem, N.C., May 17

Wilbert C. Spruill ’69, Manassas, Va., June 3
Alma Hodnett Spurlin ’56, Roanoke, N.C., Jan. 50
Doris Phifer Smith Stanton, High Point, N.C., March 31
Arthur “Coach” Statum Jr. ’56, Bethlehem, Penn., May 18
Leon Steele ’47, Statesville, N.C., July 31
Oresta Brit Sitterson ’81, Waldorf, Md., June 7
Marion F. “Shug” Taylor ’30, Winston, N.C., March 20
Charles C. Wallace ’47, Greensboro, N.C., March 9
Roland Smith Watts ’57, Winston-Salem, N.C., July 28
Virginia S. Williams, Greensboro, N.C., June 24
Martha Ann Cable Wood, Feb. 16
Lloyd Youngblood, Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 8

**Students**

Jawuan Paul Trotter, freshman from Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 18
Vershawn Abdullal Miller, junior sports science and fitness major from Detroit, Mich., May 2

**Employees and Others**

Christopher Cleary, utility worker, Williams Cafeteria, Greensboro, N.C., Sept. 5
Leslie Covington Fort, former First Lady of N.C. A&T, Greensboro, N.C., Aug. 13
Earcelle Richmond Evans, former employee, Greensboro, N.C., March 7
William L. Hemphill, former trustee, Greensboro, N.C., Feb. 24
Zebdee Hicks, retiree, Greensboro, N.C., June 26
Harley Liston Jr., former professor and chair of mechanical engineering, Knoxville, Tenn., July 10
James McKinley, former football coach, Pt. Lauderdale, Fla., July 6
Ruby Young, former instructor, Simpsonville, S.C., Sept. 12

**Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the New York City Queens/Long Island and Northern New Jersey alumni chapters welcomed the Blue and Gold Marching Machine to the area for its performance in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade®. The chapters provided dinner, supported the band at the parade and participated in other activities.**
On Thanksgiving Day, the North Carolina A&T State University Band, a.k.a. the Blue and Gold Marching Machine, took New York City by storm. They came, they saw, they conquered and by all accounts left a lasting impression on the city. They were a vision of marching precision and aural delight and they looked good doing it.

It’s my understanding the process to get to New York started over five years ago with an initial application. While not accepted in 2007, Dr. Kenneth Ruff, band director, and his staff were undeterred; they persisted and now the country knows what we always knew.

Nobody does it better. It didn’t take long for the Macy’s Parade officials to figure it out. They decided we are not saving the best for last, we want A&T to step the parade off. That in my unbiased opinion allowed the best band in the parade to be the only band that played the entire three-mile route of the parade. Along the way, 3.5 million onlookers and over 60 million TV viewers became converts and fans. Chants of “Aggie Pride” could be heard along the way.

When the band returned to the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, their performance was affirmed by guests and hotel employees. They were the best band in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Period.

The parade experience in and of itself was special and will be a lifelong positive memory. However, it was one special memory among many for N.C. A&T students in the Blue and Gold Marching Machine.

Friday evening was spent dining and dancing aboard the Spirit of New York cruising around lower Manhattan.

Tired yet? Don’t be.

Saturday morning meant a four-hour narrated city tour. An afternoon visit to the Museum of Natural History was in order followed by an early dinner at Dallas BBQ. The dinner was early to accommodate the hit Broadway show, “The Lion King,” which still mesmerizes audiences of all ages, and our band was no exception.

In between all of these activities, shopping was thrown in for good measure. One can’t come to New York for four days and not shop, especially with the Christmas holidays coming up.

The excitement, wonderment and joy seen on the faces of the students made all of those long hours of practice worth it. It made the time spent fundraising worth it. Memories were created to last a lifetime.

I salute Dr. Ruff, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Melody C. Pierce, Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr. and countless other administrators and staff for having the vision and foresight to support and enable our band to lead the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. I also salute you for providing our students with an incomparable and cultural broadening experience. I salute our band for representing the university and yourselves in a superb manner. And finally, “Thank You” for allowing my wife Carol and I to tag along. The experience was memorable for us as well. Aggies across the country are proud of you.

“Aggie Pride”

Willie A. Deese is a graduate of the School of Business and Economics and the current chairman of the North Carolina A&T Board of Trustees. A similar op-ed by Deese was published in the Nov. 30, 2012, issue of the Greensboro News & Record.
remembering the past

The February One Monument on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University pays tribute to the four N.C. A&T freshmen – Ezell Blair (Jibreel Khazan), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond – who on Feb. 1, 1960, sat down at the segregated lunch counter in the F.W. Woolworth store in downtown Greensboro. The A&T Four’s actions that day represent one of countless examples of global leadership exhibited by Aggies.

Sometimes, a classroom is more than a space filled with desks, students and a professor. Sometimes it’s a gateway—a place where we finally begin answering the question “what do you want to be when you grow up?” At North Carolina A&T State University, we offer students the chance to see themselves in the careers they’ve dreamt of pursuing. That means ensuring that the learning experience at our university mirrors the world awaiting our students after they leave. Because at A&T, a degree doesn’t mean you’re finished learning. It means you’re about to begin making a difference in the world.