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## SCHOOL OF LAW TAKES NEW APPROACH TO EXPANDING SERVICES

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# NCCU NOW

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FRIENDS, FACULTY AND STAFF OF NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2017

WHITE COAT PROJECT

## Three Women Claim First Ph.D.s in Biosciences

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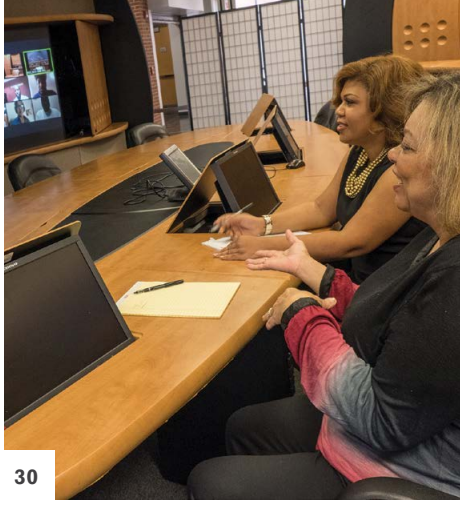

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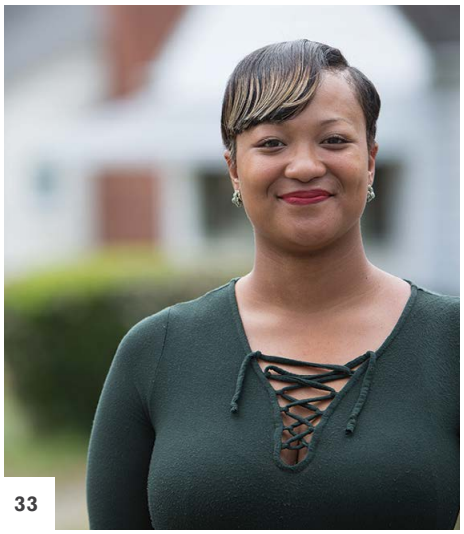

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NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

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## ON THE COVER

Helen Oladapo, Rasheena Edmondson and Elena Arthur become the first graduates to receive a Ph.D. in integrated biosciences from NCCU.

Photo by Chioke Brown

For the latest **NCCU NEWS** and updates, visit **www.nccu.edu** or click to follow us on:

# FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Greetings!
As we come to the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, we pause to reflect on many of the past year's accomplishments and successes. North Carolina Central University was named the HBCU of the Year for 2016–2017 by HBCU Digest. Yet we all know that NCCU is a first-choice, premier and global institution every year. Eagles Soar!

Along with our successes, we faced a difficult loss in our Eagle family this year. On December 2, 2016, we honored the life and legacy of our beloved 11th Chancellor, Dr. Debra Saunders-White, who passed away on November 26, 2016. Her passion for life, her work as a servant leader and educator, and her vision of Eagle Excellence will always be remembered. Read more about our tribute to her, as well as her visionary accomplishments at NCCU on page 17.

Despite this loss, we remain dedicated to continuing the important work of the university, and maintaining student success as our highest priority. This issue of NCCU Now showcases just a few of our many transformative initiatives.

Eagle athletics teams are soaring. Under the leadership of Coach Jerry Mack, the Eagle football team won the MEAC championship and made its first appearance at the Celebration Bowl in Atlanta in December 2016. Coach LeVelle Moton led our Eagle basketball team to another MEAC championship and a trip to Dayton, Ohio, to compete in the NCAA tournament (pages 54-57).

At Commencement ceremonies on May 12 and 13, 2017, NCCU will achieve two milestones: We will confer the largest number of bachelor's, master's, professional and graduate degrees in our history and award the university's first three Ph.D.s in Integrated Biosciences. The doctoral graduates, Elena Arthur, Rasheena Edmondson and Helen Oladapo, are trailblazing scientists already making a real difference by researching treatments for diseases that disproportionately impact communities of color. I encourage you to read their stories beginning on page 20. Also, we have new funding to support our health disparities research, specifically Type II diabetes (page 9).

In the Department of History, students have embarked on a fascinating project to document public history throughout Durham (pages 33-37), while the School of Law's Virtual Justice Project exemplifies our core values of "Truth and Service" by providing free legal assistance to individuals in need (page 30). In the School of Library and Information Sciences, Dean Jon Gant, Ph.D., is adopting the most innovative and modern approaches to preparing students for the rapidly changing field (page 26).

These and many other successes prompt us to wear Eagle Pride, boldly. As always, I sincerely thank you for your support and advocacy of our great university. Together, as Eagles, we Soar!

Sincerely,

Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D.
Interim Chancellor




# NCCU NOW

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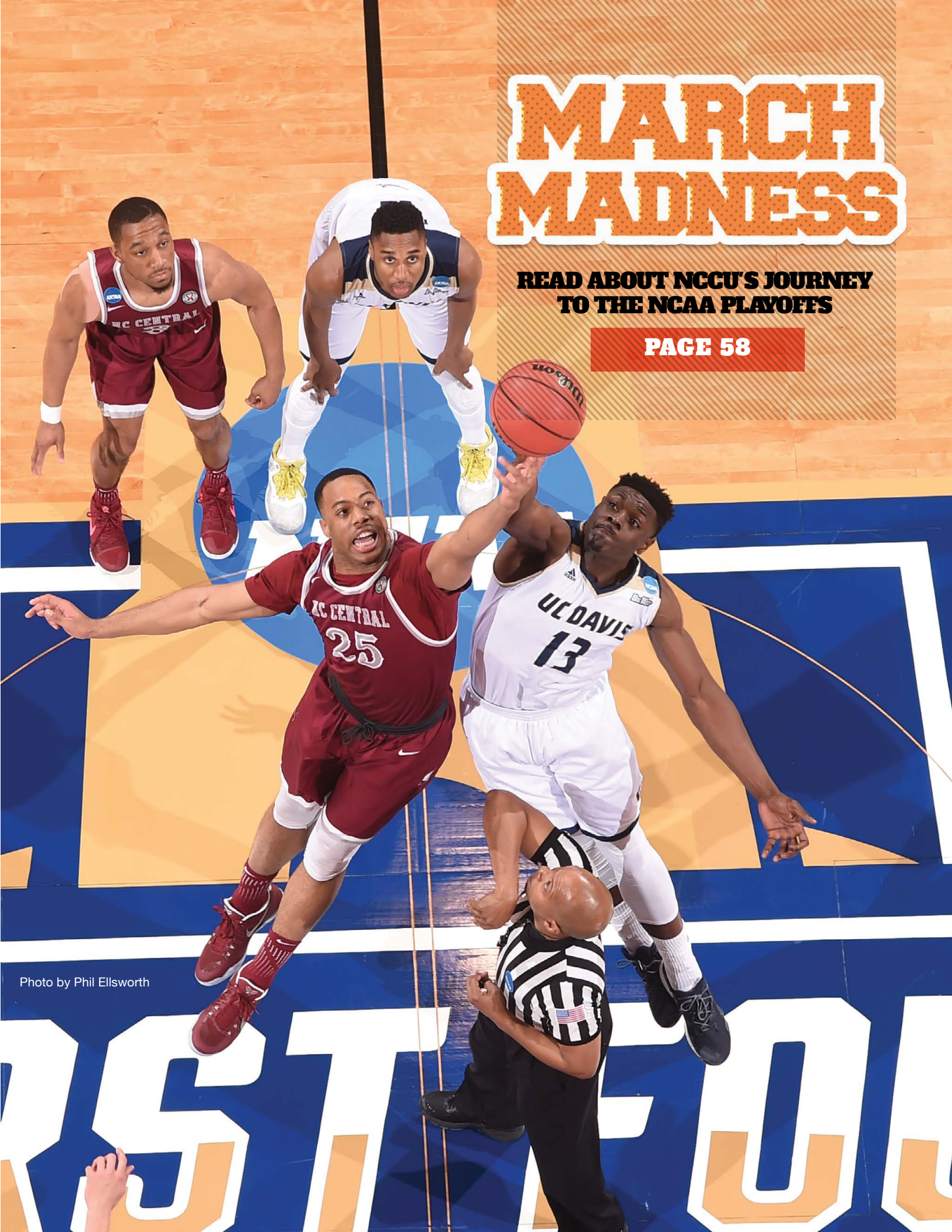



Photo by Phil Ellsworth

> "I, TOO, FACE MANY OF THESE SAME STRUGGLES EVERYDAY. AS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN IN CORPORATE AMERICA, I FIND IT TAKES A LEVEL OF RESILIENCE AND GRIT YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD."
>
> VALEISHA BUTTERFIELD JONES

# Graduates: ARM YOURSELVES WITH RESILIENCE

North Carolina Central University awarded 580 diplomas on Dec. 10, 2016, during the university's 128th Baccalaureate Commencement.

NCCU INTERIM CHANCELLOR Johnson O. Akinleye recognized School of Business graduate Amber Richardson-Booker for her resilience after her education was disrupted for two years following a serious car accident.

"Today, Amber stands among you, a proud Eagle who is graduating with a 4.0 GPA, and two business administration degrees – in management and accounting," Akinleye said at the ceremony in McDougald-McLendon Arena.

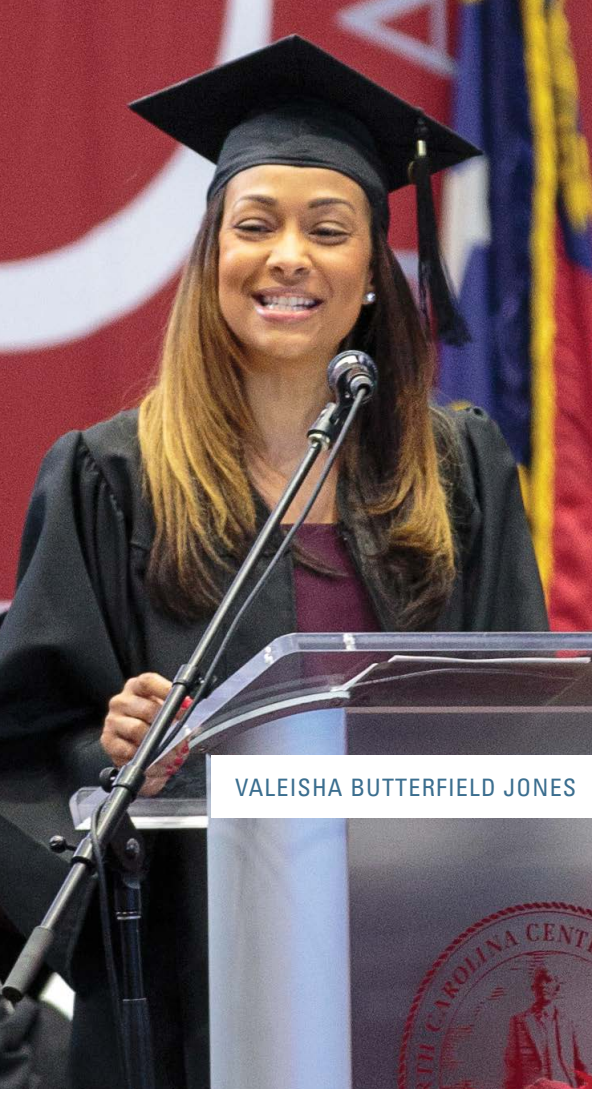
Marketing and entertainment expert Valeisha Butterfield Jones delivered the Commencement address, urging graduates to arm themselves with "resilience and grit" to overcome obstacles, especially those tied to gender or race.

"I, too, face many of these same struggles everyday," said Butterfield Jones, named earlier in 2016 to head the division of black customer engagement for Google. "As an African-American woman in corporate America, I find it takes a level of resilience and grit you didn't know you had."

Butterfield Jones, daughter of NCCU alumni, U.S. Congressman G.K. Butterfield and N.C. Rep. Jean Farmer Butterfield, grew up in Wilson, N.C.

As the newest class of Eagles prepares to fly, Akinleye told the graduates: "Let today give you the wings that allow you to climb higher in your career aspirations and ascend to new levels of greatness in your life." □

VIDEO



VALEISHA BUTTERFIELD JONES

"LET TODAY GIVE YOU THE WINGS THAT ALLOW YOU TO CLIMB HIGHER IN YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS AND ASCEND TO NEW LEVELS OF GREATNESS IN YOUR LIFE."

— DR. JOHNSON O. AKINLEYE

# Sexuality Educator Offers Lessons About Healthy Relationships

**Department of Health Education** Professor Tanya Bass teaches classes in reproductive and sexual health, where she stresses the importance of emotional intimacy in relationships.

While most couples think first of appearances or physical attraction when choosing a mate, Bass says the ability to share personal thoughts and feelings with a romantic partner is important to help forge a stronger, longer-lasting bond.

"Whether it is a new relationship or a desire by longtime couples to become closer, it's crucial to be able to share and take risks," says Bass, a Certified Health Educator whose focus includes minority health, pregnancy prevention, HIV/STDs and reproductive/sexual health.

Bass brought her message to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Social Work in January 2017, where she spoke on the topic: Including Intimacy in Reproductive Life. She pointed out that there are many ways to develop intimacy, from having meaningful conversations to simply sharing a fun experience together.

> "Whether it is a new relationship or a desire by longtime couples to become closer, it's crucial to be able to share and take risks."
>
> TANYA BASS

"When it comes to intimacy, it's not about being perfect," she said. "It's about being present in that moment."

Bass's presentation was recorded as a TED talk and was also featured at the Association for Maternal and Child Health Programs' National Conference in March 2017.

The educator is a double Eagle, with bachelor's and master's degrees from NCCU's Department of Public Health Education. She has been a public health instructor for the past 10 years and also works as an independent consultant.

Here are some of Bass's tips for strengthening intimacy in relationships:

- ☐ Spend quiet time together to share dreams about the future.
- ☐ Don't be afraid to express concerns and vulnerabilities.
- ☐ Be an empathetic listener when your partner speaks about fears and vulnerabilities; don't jump in and try to fix the problems.
- ☐ Find time to create special memories by doing new things together.
- ☐ Try massage or other types of non-sexual contact to create emotional connection.

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY EXPANDS WITH $1.1 MILLION GRANT

**NCCU STRIVES TO MAKE EDUCATION AVAILABLE TO ALL THOSE WHO SEEK IT,** and a $1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education has given that effort an extra boost. The TRIO grant will allow the university to open an Educational Opportunity Center within the Division of Student Affairs to provide counseling and other resources for qualified secondary school students, those wishing to re-enter secondary school and those preparing for the General Educational Development (GED) test.

The funding will be distributed over five years, allowing NCCU to serve 1,000 participants from Durham, Alamance, Vance, Granville and Person counties – where residents are significantly underrepresented in higher education attainment.

# $1.5M GRANT SUPPORTS BRITE RESEARCH INTO 'EXERCISE IN A PILL'

A $1.5 million award from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases will allow a team of university researchers to continue working toward a cure for the national obesity epidemic.

NCCU Associate Professor Jonathan Sexton, Ph.D., and others are developing molecules that target and activate a protein involved in energy metabolism known as AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK).

"A drug that can activate AMPK will induce many of the positive benefits associated with physical activity, effectively acting as 'exercise in a pill,'" said Sexton, who works at the university's Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE). "It stimulates fatty acid oxidation and causes your metabolism to switch to burning fat."

Their work could result in an effective treatment for millions of people with obesity, Type 2 diabetes, fatty liver disease and other metabolic disorders.

Curl Bio LLC, a startup biotechnology company, was recently founded by Sexton and Jay Brenman, a professor at UNC Chapel Hill, to further develop the technology. If the next phase of research is successful, Curl Bio is expected to embark on Phase-I clinical trials.

"We have taken this university-owned technology, filed patents to protect the intellectual property, and with funding from the National Institues of Health, we will develop these molecules into drugs for obesity and diabetes," Sexton said.

As owner of the technology, NCCU stands to benefit financially from success of the drug's development.

"If we are successful in addressing the obesity epidemic, an unmet medical need, it would generate a significant financial return," Sexton said.

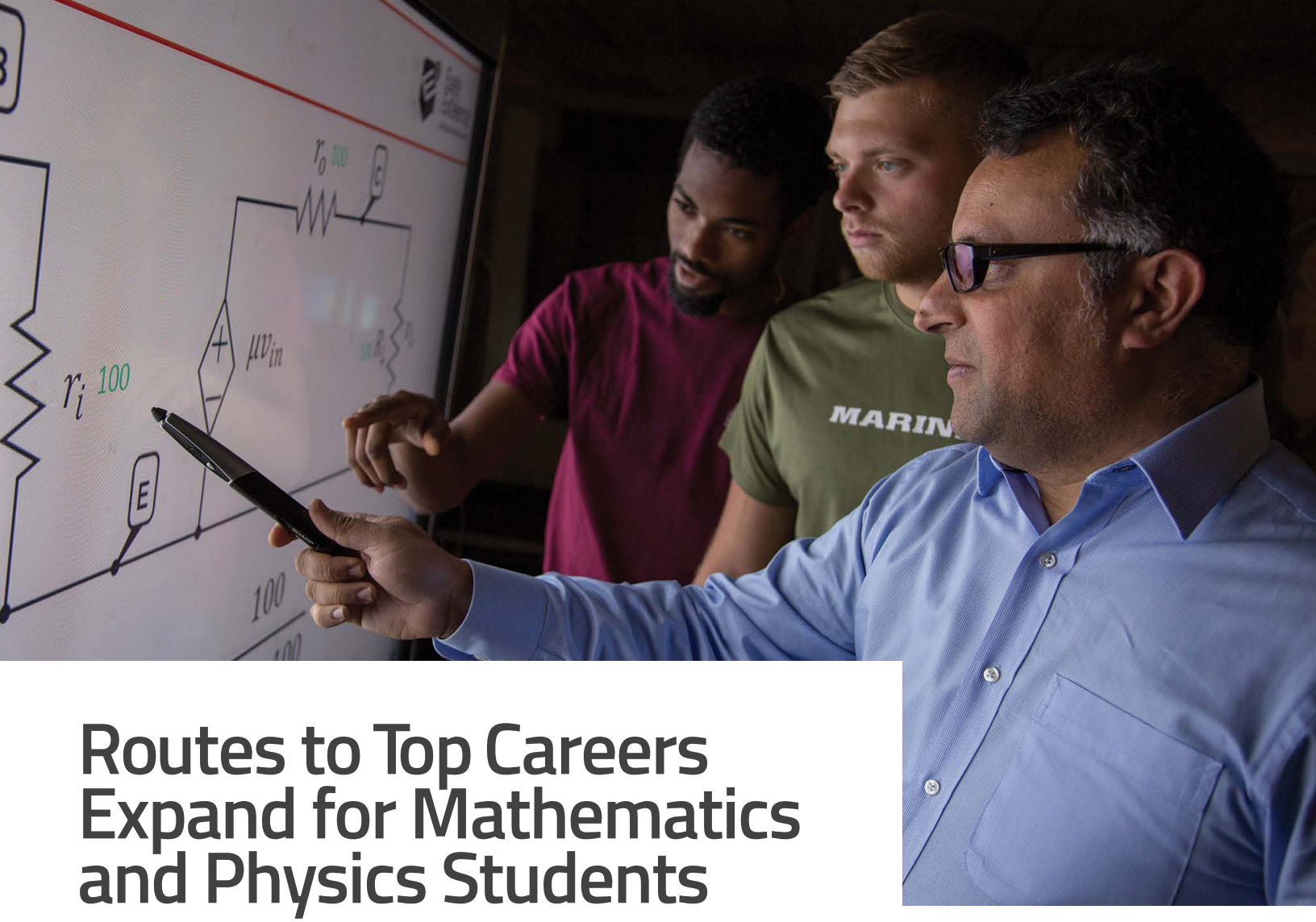
**"A drug that can activate AMPK will induce many of the positive benefits associated with physical activity, effectively acting as 'exercise in a pill.' It stimulates fatty acid oxidation and causes your metabolism to switch to burning fat."** — Jonathan Sexton, Ph.D.

**"As we consider the success of our surrounding community as our own, we're committed to ensuring that all prospective students, regardless of socioeconomic status, have equal access to educational resources."**

**— Interim Chancellor Johnson O. Akinleye**

The grant is from an initiative that got its start with Upward Bound, part of the Educational Opportunity Act of 1964. In 1965, that program was joined by Talent Search, part of the 1965 Higher Education Act. In 1968, the federal Student Support Services program was also established – creating a TRIO of federally funded programs to serve students from lower-income families, first-generation college students and students with disabilities.

In addition to academic resources, the program will address financial and economic literacy of participants and offer counseling on financial aid options and basic financial planning skills.




# Routes to Top Careers Expand for Mathematics and Physics Students

THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS IS ADDING NEW undergraduate programs that allow students to customize the learning experience. The expanded offerings give students more flexibility in pursuing future career goals, said Associate Professor Mohammad Ahmed, Ph.D., "Students can customize their classes to prepare for graduate school, seek teacher licensing or enter the workforce directly," Ahmed said.

Two separate mathematics and physics concentrations now enable undergraduate students to specialize their skills.

The Computational and Engineering Mathematics (CEMA) concentration focuses on computational and mathematical models for data analysis and predictions. Engineering Physics provides basic engineering knowledge for students planning to embark on a technical career.

*Students Derrick A. Swick and Bennett McAuley are both enrolled in the CEMA program.*

In 2015, a Physics and Electrical Engineering Three + Two program was introduced in partnership with North Carolina State University. The department has similar arrangements with Duke University and the Georgia Institute of Technology in which students may earn two undergraduate degrees in five years.

The job outlook for mathematicians is among the strongest in the country. In 2016, CareerCast ranked it as No. 6 among 200 occupations based on income, working environment, growth outlook and daily stress.

Other math-related positions that also fared well in the CareerCast report, including data scientist, ranked at No. 1, statistician at No. 2, and actuary at No. 10.

The Department of Mathematics and Physics also offers a graduate program leading to the Master of Science, a certificate program in computer programming and a two-year pre-engineering program. Scholarships are available for qualifying students.

*Pictured above, Professor Mohammad Ahmed, Ph.D., instructs students (left to right) Kendall A. Jackson and Nathaniel J. Tilque in physics and engineering.*

# NCCU'S JUVENILE JUSTICE INSTITUTE TO CONDUCT STUDY OF CRIME

NCCU is gathering data that will be used to study the impact of police enforcement of misdemeanor crimes. The study is being conducted by the Research Network on Misdemeanor Justice in New York.

ROBERT A. BROWN

NCCU was announced in February 2017 as a partner in the project to gather and analyze data about enforcement of minor offenses such as shoplifting, petty theft and possession of small amounts of drugs. Researchers expect to learn more about how law enforcement patterns impact criminal behavior, community-police relations, police force expenditures and other issues.

"Joining the Research Network is an opportunity for Durham to contribute to the national discourse on how the justice system processes lower-level offenses and offenders," said Robert A. Brown, Ph.D., chair of NCCU's Department of Criminal Justice.

The project was piloted by the John Jay Criminal Justice Center at City University of New York and is being funded by a $3.25 million, three-year grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

## Students Recreate Cotton Club at Museum of Art College Night

BY DANIEL HARGROVE, '19

Each year, the North Carolina Museum of Art hosts College Night, where art students from dozens of schools across the state are invited to see the work of their peers.

NCCU's Department of Art attends College Night annually, but this was the first year students from the department were invited to bring their own art piece: a mural that celebrates the Harlem Renaissance.

NCCU senior Devin Davis was one of several students who helped create the large mural based on guidelines provided by the Museum of Art.

"My idea was to do everything based off of Art Deco design style," Davis said. With Harlem as the setting, it was particularly appropriate to have participation by an HBCU, he added. "We were able to bring our own flavor into the Harlem Renaissance."

Senior Kiera Sanders also noted that the mural's colorful, upbeat design incorporated a few subtle references to the social context of the 1920s, including pieces of twine to represent the threat of lynching.

"Even though the painting itself doesn't appear to have a dark mood or feeling, the twine is there to remind us that was still a time when black people were persecuted, attacked and even killed," Sanders said.

VIDEO

## APPOINTMENTS

### Sylvia Clark Anderson

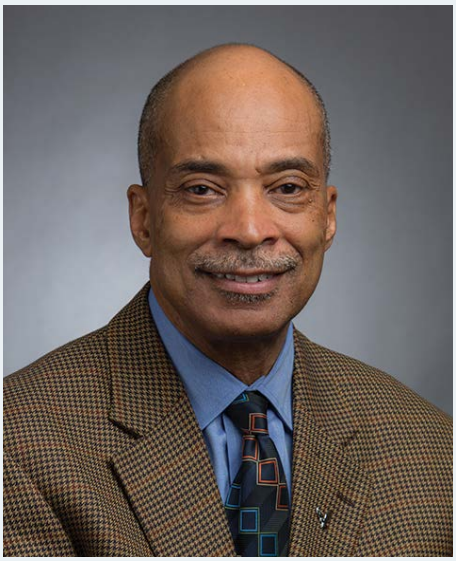
Chief Human Resources Officer

Sylvia Clark Anderson was appointed chief human resources officer in December 2016 and previously served as interim chief human resources officer and director of employee relations and equal employment opportunity for NCCU.

In her new role, she will be responsible for maintaining a high quality, comprehensive human resources program that supports the mission and vision of the university.

Anderson, who joined NCCU in April 2014, was formerly the director of Employee Relations and affirmative action officer for North Carolina A&T State University.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and economics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Master of Arts in psychological counseling from Appalachian State University and has completed post-graduate work at North Carolina A&T State University.



### Carlton Wilson

Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Carlton Wilson, Ph.D., was appointed interim provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs in January 2017. Wilson previously served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

An Eagle alumnus, Wilson started his tenure at NCCU as an adjunct faculty member more than 30 years ago. He has served in many leadership roles and has led various search committees while at the institution.

His numerous achievements at NCCU include supervising the successful merger of two colleges to form the College of Arts and Sciences in 2012, establishing an advisory board for the college, directing the creation of the Department of Mass Communication, and increasing external funding for the College of Arts and Sciences.

### Gary Brown

Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

NCCU alumnus Gary Brown was named interim vice chancellor for Student Affairs in January 2017. He formerly served as the assistant vice chancellor in Student Affairs. He will serve in this role while continuing to provide leadership for Student Health and Counseling Services, Residential Life, Student Disability Services, Career Services and Outreach and Campus Recreation.

Over the past year, Brown has led a number of new initiatives, including the receipt of a $1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education in 2016.

Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from NCCU. He also holds a Master of Education degree and a Master of Divinity from Shaw University. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in leadership studies at North Carolina A&T State University.

VISIT **NCCU.EDU** TO CATCH THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

## Audrey Beard | Dean of the School of Education

Audrey Beard, Ed.D., was named dean of the School of Education in February 2017. Formerly, she served as interim dean of NCCU's School of Education.

Beard has more than 25 years of experience in education, developing relationships with key stakeholders to secure funds and enhance student experiences.

Prior to joining NCCU, she was a tenured professor at Albany State University (ASU), director of clinical experiences and chair of the ASU Department of Teacher Education.

Beard holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Fort Valley State University, a master's degree in early childhood education from Clark Atlanta University, and a doctorate in early childhood education and education administration and supervision from Jackson State University.

## Deepak Kumar | Director of BBRI

Deepak Kumar, Ph.D., was named director of the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute in November 2016.

Prior to joining NCCU, he served the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) in a variety of leadership roles. While at UDC, Kumar conducted research into cancer health disparities, seeking to learn more about the biological factors responsible for variations in cancer incidence and mortality rates in different groups of people. Kumar's recent research focuses on MicroRNAs, and discovered molecules that could be potential biomarkers for prostate cancer.

Kumar received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Agra College, Agra, India, and his Ph.D. in zoology/molecular biology at RML Avadh University. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer biology at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

## Veronica Chima Nwosu | Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Veronica Chima Nwosu, Ph.D., was appointed interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in January 2017.

Nwosu came to NCCU in 1994 following roles with private sector companies and leadership positions at Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Nigeria and Wayne State University. She previously was an interim associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences

As a dedicated scientist, Nwoso has worked to increase funding for student research and played an instrumental role in the establishment of the university's annual research symposium.

She holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Illinois, a master's degree in microbiology from Roosevelt University and a doctorate in microbiology from Wayne State University.

## Jeanette Barker

Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Research, Evaluation and Planning

Jeanette Barker, Ph.D., was named in December 2016 as associate vice chancellor of Institutional Research, Evaluation and Planning after serving in that role on an interim basis.

Her duties include providing analytical support to ensure continuous improvement and student success and collaborating with faculty and staff to assess student learning.

Barker has a B.S. in psychology and M.A. in college student personnel services from the University of Dayton. She also holds a doctorate in higher education administration.

## Randal Childs

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Developement

Randal Childs was named in February 2017 as interim associate vice chancellor for development in the Division of Institutional Advancement. Childs formerly served as assistant vice chancellor in that division.

In the new role, Childs oversees the directors of development, major and planned giving, as well as corporate and foundation giving.

Childs holds a B.A. from Morehouse College and a Master of Business Administration from Elon University.

## Tierney J. Bates

Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Division of Student Affairs

Tierney J. Bates was appointed assistant vice chancellor in the Division of Student Affairs in February 2017. In his new role, Bates will provide leadership for a range of programs and services that support academic achievement and personal development for students.

Bates earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Akron and a Master of Business Administration from Bryan College. He is pursuing a doctoral degree at Spalding University.

## DR. CORNELL WEST 'ROCKS THE MIC' AT NCCU

Philosopher, social activist and professor **CORNEL WEST, PH.D.,** was guest speaker at North Carolina Central University's "Rock the Mic" Lecture Series on Feb. 10. West, a professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary and professor emeritus at Princeton University, has long held a place in the African-American culture for his thought-provoking theories on politics, race relations and religion.

# STUDENTS CAPITALIZING ON 'ADVENTURE' TRIPS THROUGH COLLABORATION GRANT

BY SAMANTHA HARGROVE

THERE'S A BUZZ THAT BEGINS JUST AFTER 6 P.M. in the university's Leroy T. Walker Physical Education Complex. Students are shedding their backpacks and rolling up their sleeves to join a host of healthy lifestyle activities offered through Campus Recreation.

Some students come in groups while others go it alone as they disperse throughout the building. From racquetball, weight training and intramural sports to fitness classes in Zumba, Power Step, Twerk & Tone, Soul Yoga and more, there's an option to suit every taste.

> **"IT'S IMPORTANT TO US THAT STUDENTS CREATE AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE AND IT'S JUST FUN WITH A PURPOSE."**
>
> — Nicole Piscitelli, Campus Recreation Director

Campus Recreation Director Nicole Piscitelli is always looking for new ways to stimulate student participation. Now, along with exercise classes, competitive sports programs and information recreation options, her department is offering an outdoor activities program called Eagle Venture.

Piscitelli said Eagle Venture was designed to get students outdoors to participate in activities such as white-water rafting, skiing, horseback riding and canoeing. This year's lineup included a sunset paddling adventure, ice skating, and a low ropes course and scavenger hunt challenge.

"Recreation is a huge and growing industry, and my goal is to expose our students to it," she added. "I want them to try things they've never tried before and to continue a healthy lifestyle beyond their four years at NCCU."

CAMPUS RECREATION RECEIVED A $10,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL INTRAMURAL-RECREATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATION (NIRSA) TO EXPAND THE MENU OF RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS.

**Eagle Venture coordinator Walter Munoz (center) with participants, Patrick Minor and Gerrie Thomas, has been encouraged by students pushing themselves to try new things.**

Piscitelli believes wholeheartedly in the student-development component part of her job, which is what inspired her to take programming to another level. She teamed with Anthony Patterson, Ph.D., and Catherine Dorwart, Ph.D., both assistant professors in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, to seek funding to support Eagle Venture, as well as gather data to help expand the budding program.

In the fall of 2016, Campus Recreation received a $10,000 grant from the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) to expand the menu of recreational experiences available to students. Along with Eagle Venture, the grant provides funds to lower costs for participating students and collect data about the program.

"We knew that recreation and leisure play contributes to student development and retention," Patterson said. "We also knew that recreation contributes to other social developmental opportunities that help students build confidence."

"This creates a positive impact on the college experience and beyond," Piscitelli added.

As part of the research component, the team will examine some of the challenges students' face that may prevent them from taking advantage of outdoor activities.

"We are going to take a look at the things that stop our students from enjoying these types of experiences," Patterson said.

Studies show that African-Americans participate in outdoor activities at lower levels than the overall population. Some barriers have been identified as cost, access and exposure.

With grant funds to subsidize participation, the average cost for an adventure is between $10 and $25 per student. Students may also receive compensation for filling out journal entries describing their experience.

"Some trips can be virtually free, if they participate in all of it," said Walter Munoz, coordinator of the Eagle Venture program. But widespread participation is not guaranteed.

"Research has found that the concept of doing things outside is not viewed as a positive experience by many African-Americans," Patterson said.

Research from the Eagle Venture project is expected to help Campus Recreation's efforts to design and market programs more effectively to students and to educate them on the benefits of an active lifestyle.

Zhane Watkins, 21, of Forest City, N.C., has embraced a more active lifestyle by participating in six Eagle Venture activities this school year, all of them a first-time experience.

"This has been my first time doing outdoor activities, and I've loved every bit of it," Watkins said.

Along with physical exercise, Watkins said the adventures given her expanded her views on life. On each trip, she has learned something new.

"And I've had the chance to interact with so many other students on campus, people who I would have never come in contact with," she said.

On her most recent outdoor activity, a low ropes course and scavenger hunt, she was challenged both physically and mentally. "The guide gave us very little instruction," she said. "Finally, we got the message: he wanted us to work together and make up the rules along the way."

Munoz, Eagle Venture's coordinator, said he's been encouraged by students like Watkins who are pushing themselves to try new things.

"Most of the students are traveling with us for the first time and are really enjoying it," Munoz said. "People like Ms. Watkins have become regulars now."

The biggest hurdle is getting students to try something they've never tried before. "Once they try it, they've all liked it," Munoz said. "The initial challenge is just getting out there."

Campus Recreation is already planning next year's adventure calendar. Rock climbing, stand-up paddle boarding, rafting, skiing and a horseback riding trip are penciled in.

"Recreation is an essential part of student development, and we only plan on getting better," said Piscitelli.

Campus Recreation programs are open to students, faculty, staff and alumni. To become a member, call 919-530-5471 or visit nccu.edu/campusrec. □

# Dr. Debra Saunders-White

## Remembering Her Legacy Of Excellence

ELEVENTH CHANCELLOR OF
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

# Dr. Debra Saunders-White

## ELEVENTH CHANCELLOR OF NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 8, 1957 – NOVEMBER 26, 2016

**A true catalyst of excellence, Dr. Debra Saunders-White left a lasting mark on North Carolina Central University. As the university's 11th Chancellor, Saunders-White served as not only NCCU's chief administrator, promoting a standard of premier higher education, but also took an active role in community life.**

In her brief administration, Saunders-White achieved many milestones, including significant increases in retention and graduation rates, freshman high-school standings and alumni giving. Her leadership acumen earned her the respect of her colleagues and peers.

Saunders-White was appointed Feb. 8, 2013, as the university's first permanent female chancellor. Before joining NCCU, she was on staff at the U.S. Department of Education, serving as acting assistant secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education. She previously worked as the federal department's deputy assistant secretary for higher education programs, as vice chancellor for information technology systems at University of North Carolina Wilmington and as vice president for technology at Hampton University. Prior to entering higher education administration, Saunders-White spent 15 years in the corporate sector at IBM.

A Hampton, Va., native, Saunders-White earned her bachelor's degree in history from the University of Virginia, a Master of Business Administration from the College of William & Mary, and a doctorate in higher education administration from The George Washington University.

Saunders-White's concept of "Eagle Excellence" was a driving force behind her administration, propelling NCCU to deliver excellence in the classroom, throughout campus facilities and in the institution's service to the community.

During her three-year tenure, the university undertook plans for developing of a new student center and participated in the statewide Connect NC bond to procure funding for a new School of Business. NCCU also received numerous high marks in industry rankings. The university was honored as the 2016 HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest and was ranked third among all public historically black colleges of universities (HBCUs) by U.S. News & World Report.

## MILESTONES

### 2013

**FEBRUARY 8**
Dr. Debra Saunders-White is **ELECTED** by the UNC Board of Governors as the first woman to hold the permanent position of Chancellor at NCCU.

### 2014

**JUNE 1**
Saunders-White's **FIRST DAY** in office as 11th Chancellor of NCCU

Saunders-White was selected as "Spectacular Magazine" 2017 Woman of the Year in Education and also was posthumously presented with the Durham Chamber of Commerce's Civic Honor Award.

A model of truth and service, Saunders-White was involved in a number of service and community organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., The Links Incorporated, Made for Durham and United Way of the Greater Triangle.

Saunders-White is survived by two children, Elizabeth Paige and Cecil III; her brothers, Roger, Ralph and Kyle Saunders and their families; as well as a number of other family members, friends and colleagues. □

VIDEO

**MARCH 14**
NCCU men's basketball team wins the **MEAC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP** and heads for the first time to the NCAA March Madness playoffs.

# 2015

**NOVEMBER 22**
NCCU football team earns a share of the **MEAC FOOTBALL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**APRIL 4**
**OFFICALLY INSTALLED**
as Chancellor of NCCU

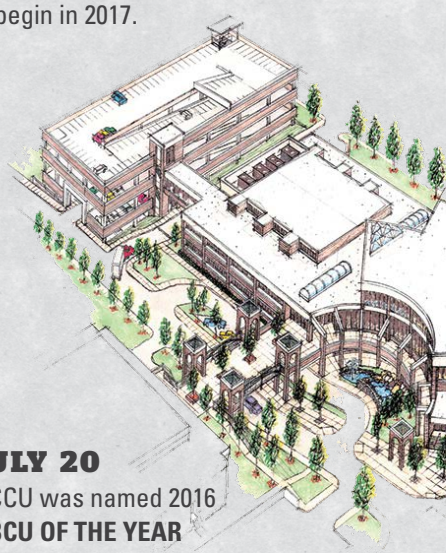
**JULY 30**
Along with Durham Tech's president, the Chancellor signs the MOU of the **EAGLE CONNECT PROGRAM.**

**MAY 1**
NCCU becomes the first HBCU to open a fully operating **FAB LAB**

# 2016

**MARCH 8**
Voters approve **CONNECT NC BOND** that will provide significant funding toward the design and construction of a new School of Business.

**APRIL 18**
The University of North Carolina Board of Governors approved a proposal for a new **STUDENT CENTER** for NCCU. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.



**JULY 20**
NCCU was named 2016 **HBCU OF THE YEAR** by HBCU Digest.

**SEPTEMBER 19**
GoTriangle announced plans for NCCU to be included as part of the Durham-Orange **LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT.**

# DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE

**ASHEENA EDMONDSON** has long envisioned herself in a white lab coat. As a science-loving middle school student in Wilson County, N.C., she first dreamed of becoming a pharmacist. Investigating the career further, however, she had second thoughts.

"I shadowed a pharmacist for a day and thought: I can't do this. It's boring," Edmondson recalled. Next on the list was medical doctor. But her squeamishness about touching strangers quickly derailed that plan.

# THREE MAY GRADUATES BECOME FIRST TO RECEIVE A PH.D. IN INTEGRATED BIOSCIENCES FROM NCCU

**Pictured left to right, Rasheena Edmondson, Helen Oladapo and Elena Arthur**

VIDEO

**"THE LARGEST CLASS I HAD WAS ABOUT 10 PEOPLE, SO THERE WAS LOTS OF ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTION WITH INSTRUCTORS. WORKING IN THE LAB AT BRITE, EVERYONE WAS WILLING TO HELP.**

**Rasheena Edmondson**

Then, while taking a high school biotechnology class, she got a better idea.

"Working in a lab or at a pharmaceutical company? I can do this," she determined.

Edmondson, 29, has become quite comfortable in the lab – and the lab coat – since she enrolled at NCCU in 2012 to work toward her career goal. On May 12, 2017, she and fellow scientists Helen Oladapo and Elena Arthur will become the first graduates to receive a North Carolina Central University doctoral degree in more than 50 years, since an Ed.D. program was discontinued in 1964.

"I'm very, very pleased to see these students coming out of the Ph.D. program on track and with solid research experience," said Professor **CAESAR JACKSON, PH.D.**, who worked on plans for implementing the program that was approved by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors in 2011.

To earn their degrees, the Ph.D. candidates have worked with members of faculty conducting research at the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) and the Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI) on campus, as well as completed a dissertation. The faculty mentors all are principal investigators who receive outside funding for their work.

"The research base of our faculty became what distinguishes this Ph.D. program from others," Jackson said. "We focus on health disparities – the fact that there are disproportionate numbers of minorities who suffer from major health issues, from heart problems to cancers to diabetes and others. Our idea for this program was to tap into African-American and other minority students who wanted to discover solutions to health disparities as a way of giving back to the community."

Ph.D. students have a choice of concentrations: pharmaceutical or biomedical sciences.

Edmondson applied for the Ph.D. program in 2012 intrigued by its emphasis on finding treatments and cures for diseases that disproportionately affect African-Americans. She already held a bachelor's degree from Elizabeth City State University and a master's from North Carolina A&T State University and was looking at several Ph.D. options when she learned about the new offering at NCCU.

"I heard that the program at NCCU was focused on health disparities, which immediately drew my interest," Edmondson said. "Honestly, I love being black and I have always interested in knowing how diseases affect us differently."

**"I AM ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE WONDERFUL FACULTY AND STAFF AT BRITE. THEY ARE AMAZING. THEY HAVE SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED US ALL THE WAY WITH THEIR TIME AND TALENT. IT FEELS LIKE FAMILY."**

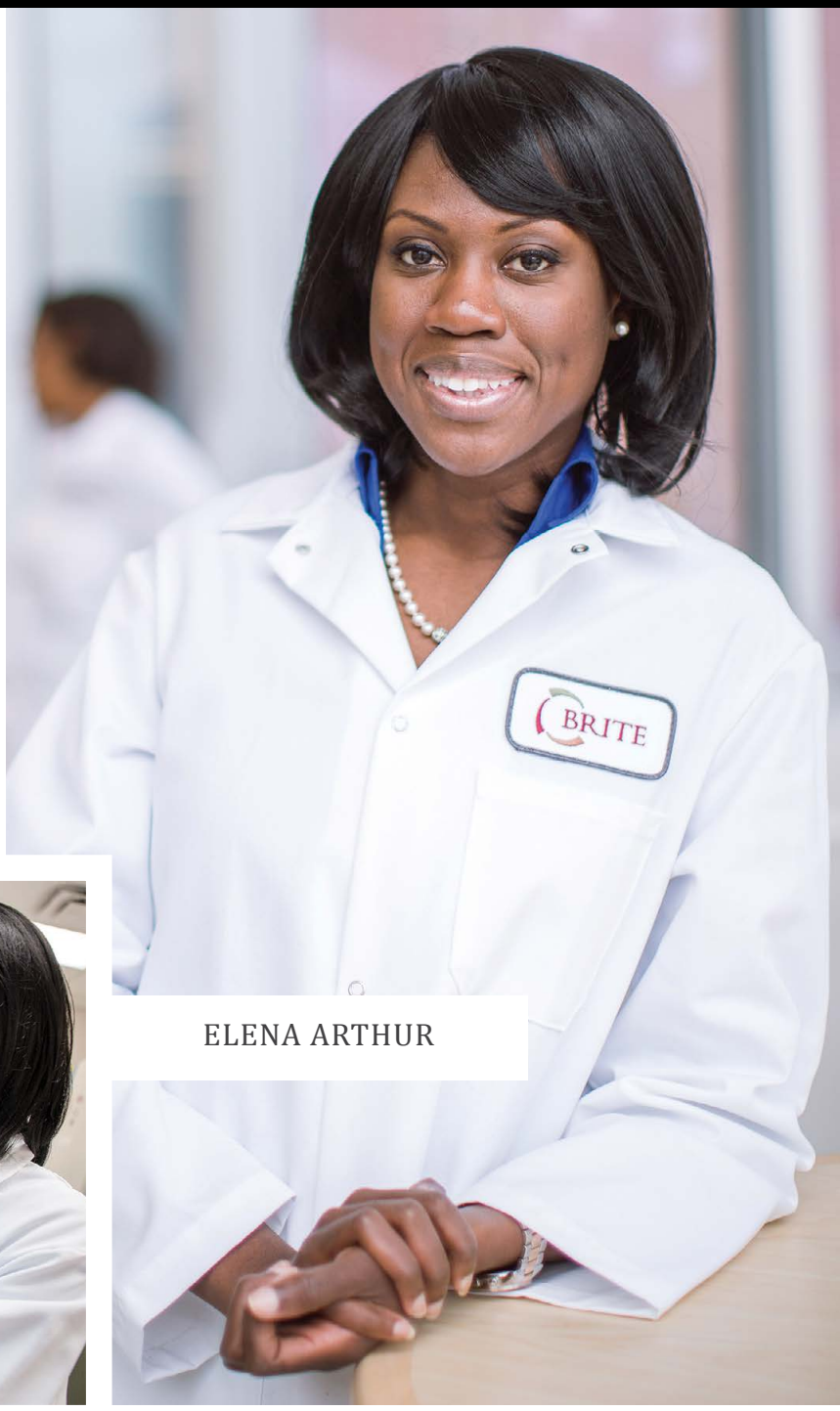
**Elena Arthur**

**NATACHA JANVIER-DERILUS**, academic advisor and recruiter for BRITE, said having the Ph.D. program strengthens the department from the undergraduate level on up. NCCU also offers a Master of Science degree in integrated biosciences.

"Now students can go straight from the bachelor's to the Ph.D. program at the same university, which is a big plus," she said. "Our emphasis on research gives students the foundation they need so they can be competitive candidates for the Ph.D. here or elsewhere."

Having three minority females earn their Ph.D.s this year will help encourage other female and minority students to set their sights on the doctoral program, Janvier-Derilus said.

"We can put them on display to show the pathway to a Ph.D.," she said, also noting that Edmondson achieved her goal by exclusively attending HBCUs. Students who are able to work in the same lab continuously for five or more years have more time to hone their skills and expand the research.




ELENA ARTHUR

**"THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH HARD WORK. BUT I RECEIVED BACK MANY REWARDING EXPERIENCES, AS WELL, AND THE WORK HAS BEEN FUN – NOT BORING AT ALL. ACQUIRING MY PH.D. DEGREE IS A DREAM COME TRUE."**

**Helen O. Oladapo**

HELEN OLADAPO

"They can begin as undergraduates and continue their research while they earn a master's degree, building toward the Ph.D.," Janvier-Derilus said. "That provides additional opportunities for publication, presentation and other skills that add so much value."

Four students who began the doctoral program in fall 2012 are set to graduate in 2017 – three in May, all in pharmaceutical sciences, and a fourth, **DAL KHATRI**, in December, in biomedical sciences. Two of the original candidates were unable to complete the program for personal reasons, Jackson said.

Doctoral student **ELENA ARTHUR** has been working with Professor **JIAUA XIE, PH.D**., on research into proteins that could protect beta cells in the pancreas, which are diminished in patients with diabetes. She co-authored a research article published in the International Journal of Biological Macromolecules.

Arthur said the challenge of writing a dissertation is the need to present new information that has not been seen before, which requires many hours at the laboratory bench.

"It can be a lot of pressure for students, but here we are able to offer each other moral support," she added.

She said the professors she worked with, not only the individual mentors, have shown a personal interest in helping the doctoral students achieve their goals.

"Every one of them was truly concerned about us maturing into and

thinking as scientists; I learned a lot from all of them," she said. "I am also grateful for the wonderful faculty and staff at BRITE. They are amazing. They have supported and encouraged us all the way with their time and talent. It feels like family."

Janvier-Derilus pointed out that the mentoring-style relationships students experience at BRITE is one of the highlights of the program, along with the fact that most of NCCU's integrated bioscience faculty and researchers came from the pharmaceutical industry.

"Our faculty can take in students, work with them and train them and prepare them for industry," she said. "They are given academic, technical and professional development skills."

Doctoral student **HELEN O. OLADAPO**, who holds a bachelor's degree from East Carolina University and a master's in pharmaceutical sciences from NCCU, has worked closely with Professor **KEVIN P. WILLIAMS, PH.D.**, on her research.

Oladapo hopes to begin her career in the field of drug development. She is also interested in becoming a patient advocate in clinical trials that include diverse populations.

In the lab, Oladapo became proficient at the high-throughput screening process used to analyze molecules and compounds for potential pharmaceutical uses. Her position was funded through a Komen Foundation grant, on which Williams is the primary investigator. The research focuses on triple-negative inflammatory breast cancer, a deadly form that resists traditional breast cancer treatments and is more common in women of African descent.

"We screen compounds for activity and study those that might lead to better drug efficacy," said Oladapo, a native of Lagos, Nigeria.

She said the past five years have been filled with hard work.

"But I received back many rewarding experiences, as well," she added. "And the work has been fun – not boring at all. Acquiring my Ph.D. degree is a dream come true."

Edmondson has worked alongside Professor **LIJU YANG, PH.D.**, who receives funding from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Army Research office to study cellular activities, among other topics.

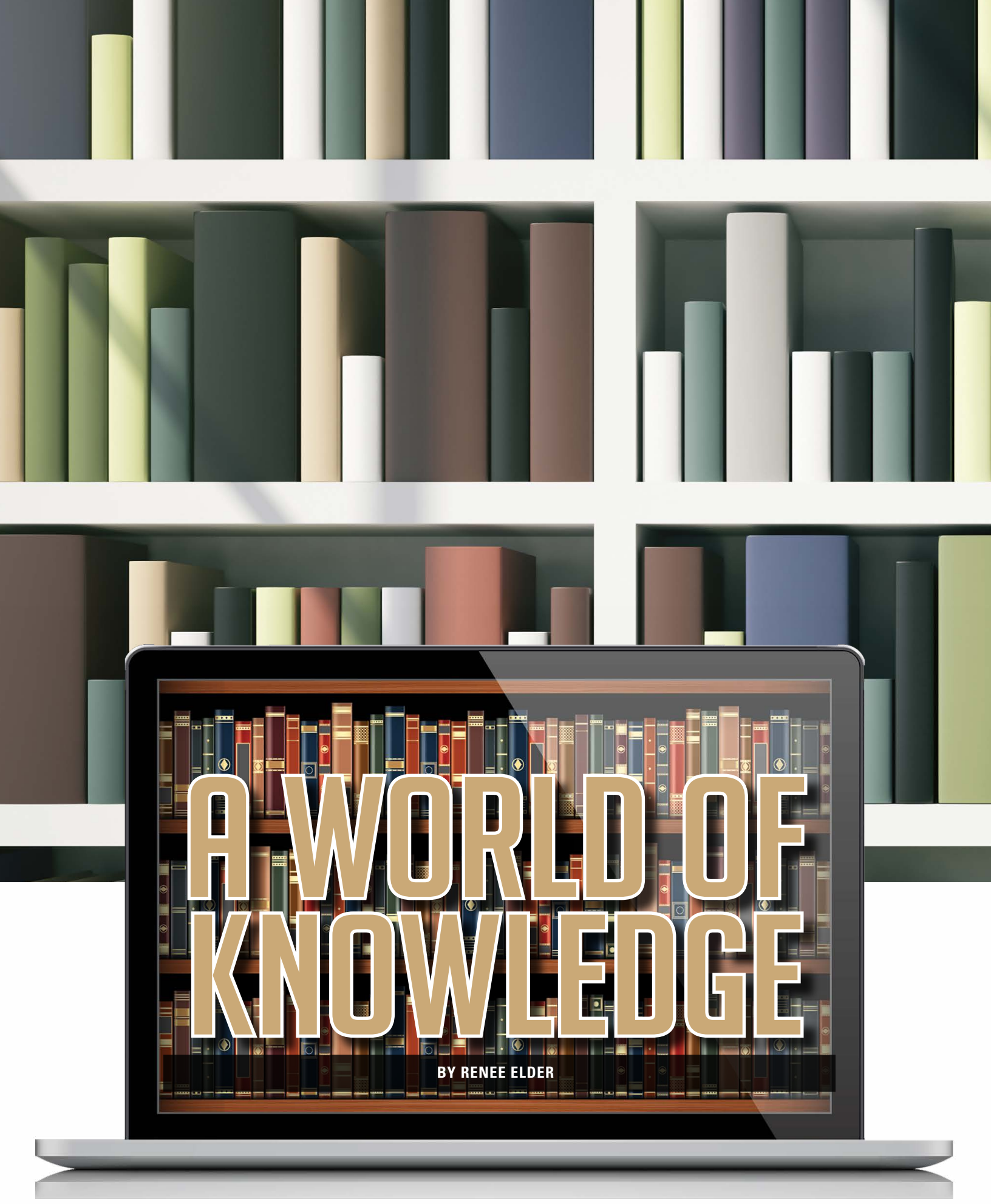
Edmondson plans to look for a job in the pharmaceutical industry after graduation, either in a clinical or administrative role. But she doesn't rule out teaching.

"I feel like I am well prepared for whatever I do based on my experience at NCCU," she said. "The largest class I had was about 10 people, so there was lots of one-on-one interaction with instructors. Working in the lab at BRITE, everyone was willing to help.

According to Williams, gaining experience in a state-of-the-art lab such as BRITE, along with mentoring by seasoned faculty members – many of whom have past experience in the pharmaceutical industry – are opportunities unique to NCCU's Ph.D. program.

"We're trying to build a pipeline," he added. "We want our Ph.D. students to go out and be successful in an academic setting or industry."

On May 12, 2017, Edmondson, Oladapo and Arthur will become the first graduates to receive a North Carolina Central University doctoral degree in more than 50 years, since an Ed.D. program was discontinued in 1964.



# A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE

BY RENEE ELDER

# DIGITAL DATA SKILLS ARE EXPANDING THE CAREER HORIZON FOR GRADUATES OF THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

Librarians who spend their days checking out books and shushing talkative patrons are becoming extinct – if they ever existed at all. Librarianship is really about research and data, said **JON GANT, PH.D.**, dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS) at NCCU. Masters of information technology, librarians have been known to comb through terabytes of information to answer a complex question. And they often serve as a privacy watchdogs, ensuring that data is used in an ethical manner.

JON GANT

"When you see what we actually do, you understand we are really the information experts," Gant added. "From the very beginning, librarians have been asking: how do we make it easy for people get the information they need. For that purpose, libraries – and librarians – have always been there."

The transition from managing printed documents to digital information is but one of the steps forward librarianship has taken over the centuries. One of the world's oldest known libraries existed in the capital of the Assyrian Empire more than 3,000 years ago. Discovered by British Museum archeologists in the 1850s, the Library of Nineveh held a collection of almost 30,000 clay tablets inscribed with stories, letters, medical knowledge and government documents.

As clay tablets gave way to papyrus, and later paper and the printing press, new methods were needed to organize an ever-increasing output of information. In 1876, 21-year-old Melvil Dewey, a library assistant at Amherst College, created the classification method known as the Dewey Decimal System. He also helped found the American Library Association (ALA), the agency that sets the standards for library and information science education across North America.

In 1937, NCCU became the first historically black university to offer a library studies degree, and today it remains as the only full-time, fully accredited Library and Information Sciences program at an HBCU. ALA accreditation requires a rigorous two-year review process that was last completed in 2016 at NCCU.

"Most libraries won't hire you if you don't attend an accredited university," said **DIANN LOGIE**, a 1997 graduate of the SLIS at NCCU who has worked for Pueblo, Col., public libraries since shortly after earning her diploma. "That was a major reason I picked NCCU."

Although technology has changed the field significantly over the past two decades, Logie said her MLS degree taught her to embrace new technological advances and keep abreast of new information sources and methods of research.

"Librarianship is forever changing; I knew that when I went into it," Logie said. "And right now is probably the best time to work in a library. We have so much information at our fingertips. We can find virtually anything you are looking for and find it fast."

**In summer 2017, the school will sponsor leadership development seminars with corporate partners such as IBM and Lenovo, whose digital projects the students will work on.**

Students in NCCU's MLS program may choose one of seven concentrations: academic librarian; archives and records manager; digital librarian, law librarian; public librarian; school media coordinator; or special librarian. The university's Master of Information Science (MIS) degree offers specialties in networking and telecommunications, strategic information management and health informatics.

NCCU also has two joint degrees involving librarianship: the Juris Doctor/MLS degree and the joint Master of Business Administration/MIS degree.

Library science students manage digital information with oversight from Dean Jon Gant.

Librarians may work in a community library, a school or an academic library, as well as in numerous other settings. There are music librarians, biomedical librarians, architecture, science and engineering librarians, even wine librarians. Additionally, dozens of non-library positions are open to graduates of the School of Library and Information Sciences. Those include analytics manager, archivist, research specialist, database administrator, geographic information specialist, digital records manager and more.

**JOSHUA BEAVER**, an NCCU student working toward his master's degree in library science, said he was planning to attend law school but decided that the combined Juris Doctor-MLS degree would provide more career flexibility. Eventually, he opted for the MLS as his sole academic focus.

"After getting into the library sciences program and seeing all the practical applications of it, it sparked my interest," Beaver said. "It doesn't matter what field you are in, you can apply a library degree to just about anything. At the end of the day it's all about information maintenance, control, organization and dissemination."

**Modern libraries subscribe to a number of private and pricey databases that are constantly generating and updating information.**

Beaver is already using his knowledge of librarianship to launch a business with his wife. The two are designing a professional development program for teachers in grades K-12.

"My role in the business is to create a matrix that will allow us to build instructional units that can be taught when needed," he said. "Basically, I'm taking all these units and creating a library of educational options."

Former SLIS dean **BENJAMIN F. SPELLER JR.** arrived at NCCU in 1976 following the school's first ALA accreditation process. He was assigned to update the university's computer information curriculum and advance its use of technology. "There was a lot of information analysis and number crunching needed to make that happen," Speller recalled.

An NCCU alumnus with a bachelor's degree in history and social sciences, Speller earned his Master of Library Science from Indiana University and served as dean of NCCU's SLIS from 1983 to 2003. He established the first computer lab on campus and also led the university's transition from using punch cards and a mainframe to online computing. The first high speed internet at NCCU came straight into the James E. Shepard Memorial Library, Speller said.

"We had the first microcomputers on campus, and I set up the first computer lab with interactive terminals," he added. "We were changing the mindset of the traditional librarianship program."

Speller believes that the role librarians play on the forefront of information technology is not always understood.

"Librarianship always has been an underestimated area," Speller said. "Most people don't know that library science has been using computerized information systems since the 1960s."

In fact, he said, the profession is "all about resources and services."

"The point is to have information where it can be seen and preserved. Sometimes people get caught up in format. Books are valuable as sources of information, but some people look at them as artifacts."

Many online sources of information are open to web-savvy individuals, but

librarians have more options to work with. Modern libraries subscribe to a number of private and pricey databases that are constantly generating and updating information. Some of these include PubMed/Medline for medical research, LEXISNEXIS for news, Google Scholar for multidisciplinary academic knowledge and ABI/Inform for business information.

Additional library resources typically made available to the public include genealogy files, online job search options, language-learning programs, legal services and much more.

"We pay for all that so you can come to the library and have free access," said Logie.

Gant became dean of NCCU's School of Library and Information Science in August 2016 following the retirement of Irene Owens, Ph.D., who served for 11 years prior. Gant's previous post was as professor and founding director of the Center for Digital Inclusion at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Since his arrival, Gant has been reimagining the SLIS as a collaborative idea center, with gathering spaces where stacks of books have been.

"We're looking at the physical space and we may be knocking down some walls," said Gant. "Libraries have become maker spaces and places for collaboration."

Gant said he keeps an eye on the future to anticipate further changes in the field. For example, he mentions that health informatics is a growing area of emphasis, as the health care system becomes more heavily digitized. He's also working to develop a new degree – a combination MIS/Public Administration degree – to address the large amount of information now being generated by local, state and federal governments. He is also developing new degrees with the School of Law and the School of Education.

Text and data mining are other areas ripe for expansion, Gant said. Yet turning megabytes of data into understandable, useful information can be something of a challenge. Data visualization using graphs, charts and illustration, as well as the narrative components of storytelling may be useful in some situations – new skills that will likely useful for the up and coming librarian.

The School of Library and Information Sciences helps students gain real world experience through internships, fellowships and other avenues. In summer 2017, the school will sponsor leadership development seminars with corporate partners such as IBM and Lenovo, whose digital projects the students will work on.

The school has formed an internship program with the Library of Congress, giving students a chance to become part of history, cataloging and managing documents for the U.S. government. Other internship opportunities are regularly available through companies in the nearby Research Triangle Park and local government agencies.

The School of Library and Information Sciences maintains two special collections in its own archives: the papers of African-American librarians and works by African-American authors and illustrators of children's materials. It also has established an archival collection of documents related to the civil rights movement in the southeastern U.S. that is housed at the North Carolina Center for the Study of Black History in Hayti Heritage Center in Durham.

"As an ALA accredited school, we have a mandate to promote diversity and inclusion," Gant said. "And we consider access to information a human right.

"These are goals that resonate with the traditions of North Carolina Central University, which has always been on the forefront of fighting for access."□

**"IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT FIELD YOU ARE IN, YOU CAN APPLY A LIBRARY DEGREE TO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING. AT THE END OF THE DAY IT'S ALL ABOUT INFORMATION MAINTENANCE, CONTROL, ORGANIZATION AND DISSEMINATION."**

**JOSHUA BEAVER**

# Virtual Reality Helps Citizens to Know Their Rights

## NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW FILLS THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE GAP IN NORTH CAROLINA

BY KIA BELL

IMAGINE BEING MILES AWAY FROM THE CITY in desperate need of legal representation. The risk of facing this harsh dilemma has become virtually extinct in many rural and hard-to-reach areas now served by lawyers from many miles away through the use of technology.

NCCU's School of Law Virtual Justice Project is on the forefront of the latest legal offering that embraces technology and uses it to deliver legal services through real-time electronic transmission of video and audio in a secure environment.

With the digital divide diminishing as more individuals gain access to the Internet, the movement to provide legal services and other resources via Internet communications has become almost a necessity. Merging expert legal knowledge with advanced technology creates opportunities for more people to learn about and exercise their legal rights.

According to a recent Pew Research Center study, nine in 10 adults in the United States use the Internet. Also noted in the report, 88 percent of adults in the United States used the Internet in 2016, up from 74 percent in 2007.

Virtual legal assistance and cloud computing involves a network of remote servers hosted on the internet to store, manage, and process data, replacing a local server or a personal computer. This technology has made it easier for legal practices to manage data at various locations and represent clients who are physically some distance away. It is not your normal exchange of emails with a lawyer.

Always on the cutting edge of innovation, NCCU School of Law's Virtual Justice Project has for the last seven years filled access-to-justice gaps by providing virtual legal services and education to underserved communities throughout the state.

In working with clients, the program connects volunteer attorneys and legal services organizations with low-income community members who have a need for legal services. Lawyers and clients work together remotely using high definition conferencing and telepresence. The system also provides a virtual community forum space and pre-law classes for students planning to attend law school.

It is the only project of its kind, so far. The NCCU School of Law Virtual Justice Program was created to become the prototype for future programs at other law schools. Students receive education on cutting-edge technology that will soon be an influential part of the legal practice.

Initial funding included a $1.9 million grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), which works to bridge the digital divide by improving access to education and healthcare services and to boost economic development in communities with minimal technology access.

> MOST COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA ARE CONSIDERED RURAL, AND RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS LACK ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE LEGAL ASSISTANCE.
>
> **PAMELA GLEAN**, PROJECT CO-FOUNDER

NCCU was one of two programs to receive grants from the initiative. Puget Sound Center Foundation for Teaching, Learning and Technology also received funds to expand or upgrade computer centers in Washington state.

NCCU works with Legal Aid of North Carolina, Land Loss Prevention Project, Pisgah Legal Services and alumni from the NCCU School of Law in bringing services to populations that don't have access to legal representation.

Rural and urban areas that are categorized as "underserved" neighborhoods tend to lack access to legal resources, as well as job opportunities and health care options.

PAMELA GLEAN

GREG CLINTON

The North Carolina Equal Justice Commission reports over 80 percent of the legal needs of the underserved go unmet due to affordability issues.

In a 2014 U.S. Census Bureau report, North Carolina had the country's largest increase in the percentage of people living in underserved neighborhoods; it more than doubled in the decade after 2000.

"Most counties in North Carolina are considered rural, and research has shown that people who live in rural areas lack access to affordable legal assistance," said Pamela Glean, project co-founder and NCCU School of Law professor. "The placement of Polycom video collaboration equipment in rural areas of North Carolina allows people to go to one of our rural sites and receive legal information and services from attorneys who are hours away."

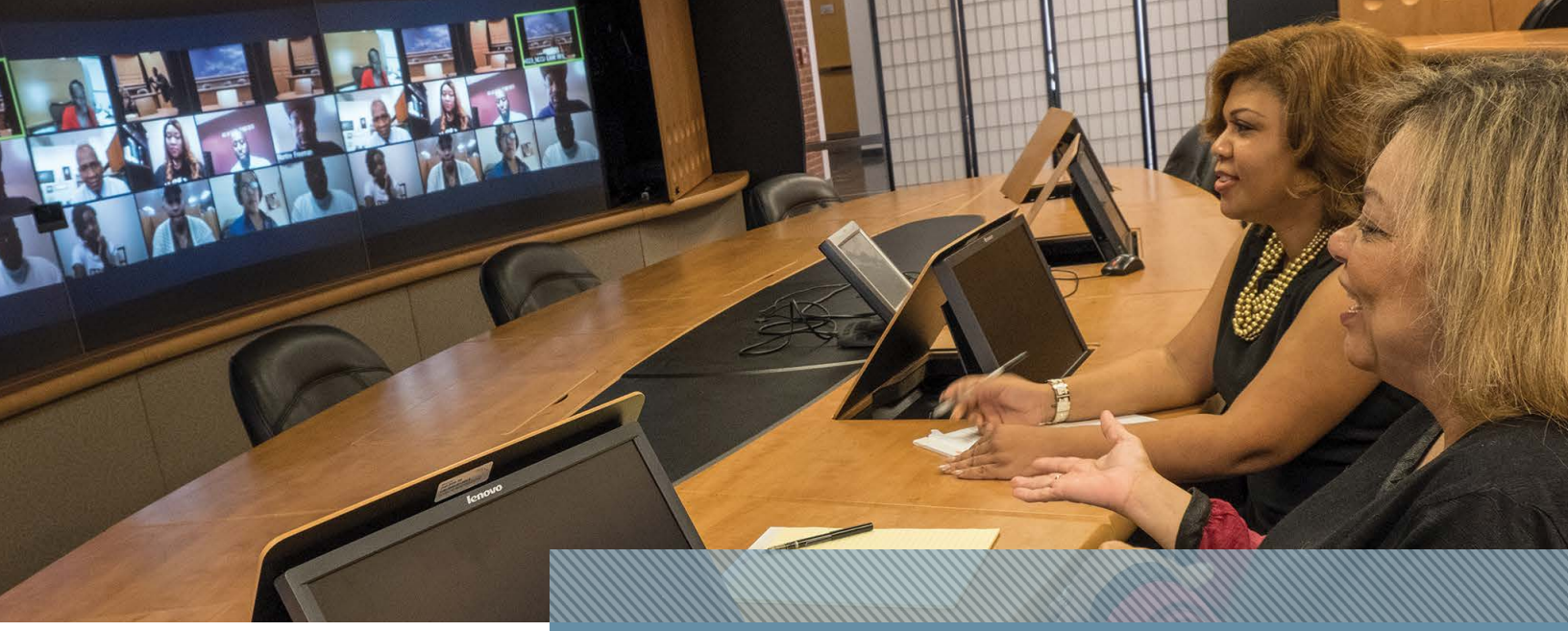
According to N.C. Rural Center, 40 of North Carolina's 100 counties are economically distressed. Eighty of all counties are considered rural and in need of a variety of services, Glean said.

In 2009, to create a large service area, NCCU School of Law partnered with four other North Carolina universities: North Carolina A&T State University, Elizabeth City State University, Winston-Salem State University and Fayetteville State University. Also, 22 legal aid and legal-services offices were looped into the system to provide undergraduate students and rural residents greater access to staff attorneys.

The Polycom RealPresence Experience (RPX) room has high definition cameras, four large viewing screens, high definition microphones and speakers, providing a realistic interactive experience. It also serves as the primary location for live courses teaching remote students. NCCU School of Law has delivered over 23,000 hours of educational content using the RPX room, reaching more than 5,000 students and other North Carolina citizens.

Partner campuses have similar but smaller versions of the RPX space.

Professors and third year law students from the NCCU Clinical Legal Education Program provide legal information and advice on issues such as foreclosure,




financial concerns, family law and dealing with the criminal justice system. Eligible individuals are also able to collaborate with a licensed attorney over a secure Internet connection to develop personalized legal documents for their family and business needs.

The pre-law undergraduate program offers two virtual courses students may attend by tuning into the specially equipped classroom at the School of Law. The classroom is also used to deliver eight courses to current law school students.

Recent School of Law graduate Shana Wynn says taking the pre-law course through the virtual learning system helped her prepare for the law school experience.

"I formed important relationships during my time at NCCU School of Law, more importantly I was challenged to form a solid foundation to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a lawyer," Wynn said.

The virtual classroom uses Polycom's Desktop Video Conferencing Solution to connect up to 32 students at 32 different locations, with 16 also capable of appearing on screen. The professor is able to see all 32 students, the students see their classmates 16 at a time, and everyone sees whoever is speaking.

"The Virtual Justice Program is making a difference in the lives of thousands of students and citizens through virtual education and distance learning," said Greg Clinton, project co-founder and director of information technology and facilities at the School of Law.

**In working with clients, the program connects volunteer attorneys and legal services organizations with low-income community members who have a need for legal services. Lawyers and clients work together remotely using high definition conferencing and telepresence.**

Additional funding from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, Norflet Progress Fund and the United States Department of Agriculture's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program have lead to the program's continuous advancement and service offerings.

The project regularly hosts informational sessions and town hall-style meetings known as the "Know Your Rights" series that provides participants access to legal information and advice that informs how to make informed legal decisions.

Sessions have covered have included family law, domestic violence, small business support and one-on-one legal consultations, among many others.

Police-community relations was the subject of the series in 2016-2017. The forums fostered open discussion about ways to establish, maintain and improve relations between communities and police throughout the state. Panelists included university police chiefs and local community law enforcement officers from throughout North Carolina who took part in open dialogue with an audience and took questions. The audience included individuals at partnering schools in North Carolina who joined in the experience using high-definition video conferencing and telepresence.

In 2016, the program began the process of expanding to 11 additional locations, including all public libraries in Chatham County, Columbus County, Mount Zion United Church of Christ in Henderson, N.C., and Christian Faith Academy in Creedmoor, N.C.

The program will eventually be expanded to offer pre-law courses and the "Know Your Rights" series throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions of the United States. Future plans also include partnering with universities across the country, enabling more students to study law at NCCU, Clinton says.

As technology continues to advance, the Virtual Justice Project will continue to grow and be in the forefront of legal education delivery. □

*The Polycom Real Presence Experience Room offers a realistic, interactive meeting environment.*

# The Truth About HISTORY

## STUDENT RESEARCHERS SHED MORE LIGHT ON AMERICA'S PAST

BY RENEE ELDER

***NCCU SENDS MORE GRADUATES ON TO EARN A PH.D.*** *in history than any other historically black college or university, and ranks sixth in the nation among all universities in the number of undergraduate history degrees conferred to minority students.*

**PUBLIC HISTORY MAJOR REBECCA STUBBS** was doing some detective work last year in Eastern North Carolina. She was looking for clues to African-American land ownership in the 1930s.

"African-Americans are thought to have been mostly renters and sharecroppers during that period, so we didn't expect to find many records of property ownership," explained Stubbs.

Yet she did find significant numbers of black families listed on the deeds to tracts of land. "I was able to document several African-Americans who actually were farmers and landowners in Edgecombe County," explained Stubbs.

Uncovering truths that run contrary to common assumptions is part of what makes research both exciting and important for historians, said **CHARLES D. JOHNSON, PH.D.**, who directs the public history program at NCCU. Johnson starts by training students in the Historical Method – techniques used to identify, search for, critically analyze and apply primary evidence in research.

"To introduce the research method to students, I liken their task to that of a detective who has to solve a crime. Similar to historians, a good detective has to collect strong evidence to retell what happened and to build a case," he said.

For a specialist in Johnson's area, public history, there's the additional goal of "engaging with the wider community in ways that are mutually beneficial," he said. "[Public history is] where the community and the academy come together in pursuit of and the production of historical knowledge."

History has been a mainstay of curriculum at NCCU since its founding in 1910. In the late 1930s, graduate courses were added.

Renowned Harvard-educated historian and, later, civil rights activist **JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, PH.D.**, taught at NCCU from 1943 to 1947 while writing his groundbreaking work "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans." He went on to teach at Howard University, Duke University and other institutions of higher learning. He also taught at Brooklyn College from 1956 to 1964, where he was the first person of color to head a major academic department of history.

Franklin, who died in 2009 at age 94, came of age in his professional life when historically black colleges and universities, including NCCU, were considered fertile training grounds for the research and teaching of history, said **JOHN GARTRELL, PH.D.**, director of the John Hope Franklin Center at Duke University.

"During segregation, there weren't many opportunities for African-Americans to get formal training unless they attended one of the northern institutions," Gartrell said.

After studying at Harvard University, the University of Minnesota or other integrated campuses, many returned to the South to accept positions at historically black colleges and universities.

"Places like NCCU became incubators for scholars of African-American history," Gartrell added. "They helped fill in the knowledge gaps."

During this same period, a traditional Euro-centric version of history was giving way in the face of research by scholars determined to set the record straight about the role of African-Americans in history.

"THE EXHIBIT I WORK WITH IS ONE OF THE LARGEST THAT IS HOUSED AT THE MUSEUM. I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE WRITING, SCRIPTING [FOR THE EXHIBIT] AND DOING RESEARCH ON THE ARTIFACTS.

**JAMARCUS UNDERWOOD**, *member of the Curatorial Staff*
*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

André Vann

SINCE HIS STUDENT DAYS, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST, **ANDRÉ VANN**, SAYS IT HAS BEEN HIS AMBITION TO COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT AFRICAN-AMERICANS ON THIS CAMPUS AND THROUGHOUT THE STATE WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING IT MORE ACCESSIBLE THE PUBLIC.

"John Hope Franklin would always say he was a professor of the American South," Gartrell said. "It was his position that you can't tell the story of the American South – or America, at all – without telling the story of African-Americans."

Alumnus **JAMARCUS UNDERWOOD** earned his master's degree in history from NCCU in 2015 and is now a member of the curatorial staff of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Underwood decided to major in history as an undergraduate, with the goal of becoming a teacher at the high school or college level. But, he said, he was bitten by the public history bug during his senior year, while working part time at the N.C. Museum of History under Earl Ijames, curator of African-American history.

"I discovered I really liked working within that space – not lecturing students but interacting with the public and engaging them," Underwood said.

Underwood is assigned to the "Slavery and Freedom" exhibit that starts in 15th century Africa and Europe and extends through the U.S. Reconstruction period. He has also written a guide used by the museum to train docents.

"The exhibit I work with is one of the largest that is housed at the museum," Underwood said. "I've been working on the writing, scripting [for the exhibit] and doing research on the artifacts. My job is to look for holes – things that may have been overlooked in the content or related to the objects."

Underwood credits his NCCU education for giving him the skills and knowledge to succeed in the profession.

"My degree from NCCU was certainly worthwhile," said Underwood. "I built great relationships with my classmates and professors and learned a great deal."

University archivist **ANDRÉ VANN** teaches in the public history program and also curates the collection of historical documents and artifacts owned by NCCU. Also an NCCU alumnus, Vann said it has been his ambition since his student days to collect information about African-Americans on this campus and throughout the state with the goal of making it more accessible the public.

From documentation regarding a campus visit by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2007 to inscriptions jotted in college yearbooks, Vann works hard to ensure that no relevant stories are lost.

"Ninety-percent of the time, African-American history is taught based on the

big names, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Thurgood Marshall," said Vann, referring to the civil rights leader and U.S. Supreme Court justice.

"I call that the pyramid approach to history, because 90 percent of the time you are focusing on the 10 percent at the top. I like to turn that around and talk more about the people we don't know as much about. It's important to make sure those very diverse and different stories about African-American life are collected and preserved and then disseminated and made available for research."

Vann said historians have been laying plans for a national African-American museum for more than 100 years. The new museum includes three NCCU features: a photograph of Dr. Booker T. Washington during a visit to Durham in 1910; a video from Eagle Access, student web series, in the Sports Gallery; and Patrick "9th Wonder" Douthit is in the music section.

"I see this museum as a great chance to showcase for the world the idea that African-Americans weren't just enslaved in America, then freed and then got civil rights," said Vann, who attended the opening on Sept. 24, 2016. "A lot happened along the way. There are many, many dimensions of African-American life."

"TO INTRODUCE THE RESEARCH METHOD TO STUDENTS, I LIKEN THEIR TASK TO THAT OF A DETECTIVE WHO HAS TO SOLVE A CRIME.

CHARLES D. JOHNSON, PH.D.

NCCU Department of History Chairman **JIM HARPER, PH.D.**, believes excitement over the National Museum of African-American History and Culture has even boosted interest in the field of study.

"We've seen an increase in the number of students interested in public history," he added. "While a lot of it has to do with the African-American history museum, our students are also getting more exposure to historic sites through social media and other outlets. It's a growing market."

The Department of History has developed partnerships with the National Park Service, the Durham History Museum, Historic Staggville and other organizations to give students more opportunities for study and public engagement, he added.

Harper said 76 undergraduates and 28 graduate students are now enrolled in the NCCU history department. The university sends more graduates on to earn a Ph.D. in history than any other historically black college or university, and ranks sixth in the nation among all universities in the number of undergraduate history degrees conferred to minority students, he added.

NCCU history graduates work in a variety of positions, including as academic archivists, historians for state and national agencies, in private corporations, as historic preservationists and as historic site managers. There are also growing opportunities in the field of economic development and tourism, Harper said, with exhibits and trails highlighting African-American history strongly increasing in popularity.

**CHRIS LAWS**, who is earning a master's degree in public history at NCCU, is gaining hands-on experience in public history by working as an interpreter at Duke Homestead, the plantation home of Washington Duke, founder of the American Tobacco Co.

"A lot of the things learned in Dr. Johnson's class are applied directly to my work in the Homestead," Laws said, including skills for interpreting difficult historical topics, such as slavery.

◁ *Graduate student Chris Laws has gained experience by working as an interpreter at Duke Homestead.*

Washington Duke kept an enslaved young woman as a housekeeper from 1855 to 1860, Laws said, although not many details are known about her. When introducing the fact during house tours, he gets "different responses and reactions. Some people want you to focus on her and others don't want to hear about it because they don't think of it as the most 'fun' topic."

Laws, who will defend his master's dissertation in summer 2017, also participated in the research project searching for land-owning African-Americans in Eastern North Carolina. He called it an example of "bottom-up history."

"That's become the movement in history last couple of decades," he said. "So much has been written about the wealthy elites, it became time to focus on other groups, especially the common man. It can give a more accurate picture of what life was really like."

For many reasons, including a lack of resources, lower economic and minority groups often have fewer preserved documents and artifacts that can be included in historic research.

"The further back in history, the less is actually documented," Laws said. So finding that bottom-up knowledge can take quite a bit of legwork, he added.

The master's student plans to spend the summer completing and defending of his thesis paper, which focuses on Confederate monuments in the Piedmont area of North Carolina.

"That's a topic that remains relevant today," he said, pointing to an ongoing debate over Chapel Hill's famous Silent Sam monument honoring North Carolina soldiers who left college to fight in the Civil War.

"This part of North Carolina was heavily Unionist before the Civil War, so I'm really looking at themes of Unionism and class. It was a rich man's war, but a poor man's fight. And now its largely a rich man's memory, too."

Shaakira Gill

NCCU senior **SHAAKIRA GILL** snagged a public history internship with Preservation Durham in 2016. Her assignment was to conduct surveys and take oral histories to document the historical significance of neighborhoods surrounding NCCU.

Starting with a Durham city directory from 1963, the researchers identified a number of civil rights leaders, business executives, professors, doctors and city officials who lived in the area, creating an intellectual beehive of ideas and interaction.

"The purpose of the project was to get information that might qualify neighborhoods like College View and College Heights for the National Register of Historic Places," Gill said. "That could make them eligible for more grants and funds that can uplift and preserve the neighborhoods."

She found the research "really cool."

"I found out how important these neighborhoods were to the life of the city," Gill said.

Among residents identified so far are Charles Drew, the surgeon known as the Father of Blood Banks for his pioneering methods of storing blood plasma; Charles Watts, North Carolina's first African-American surgeon who helped found Lincoln Community Health Center; John Merrick, prominent businessman and founder of North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company; Nicholas Harris, Durham's first African-American city council member; Selena Warren Wheeler, Durham's first African-American librarian; and many more.

While unraveling history's mysteries can become a rewarding and exciting profession, Johnson looks at the bigger picture when considering the significance of studying the past.

"History is powerful in that it shapes how we think about ourselves and how we think about ourselves in relationship to the world around us," Johnson said. "If we do not preserve the contributions of those who have gone before us, we can not benefit from the vast knowledge of their experience."

"So, this is not just a matter of learning of the achievements of our ancestors as a source of pride, which in and of itself would be worth the effort, but even more than that, history is a practical utility, carrying within its narrative many important lessons that help guide us rightly along the road of life. This is true of all people – but for African-Americans, especially our younger generation, it's critically important." □

# classnotes

PROMOTIONS | APPOINTMENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Ah, springtime – a time of renewal and regrowth.

As we enter into the spring and summer season, the Office of Alumni Relations continues to seek new ways to renew relationships with alumni who have not been engaged with the university and to strengthen our bonds with those who have.

Developing and maintaining a vibrant alumni base is essential for our university to thrive. We need alumni who are engaged and excited about NCCU and who are willing to support the university monetarily, as well as by volunteering their time.

This spring, our office is introducing new programs and initiatives to give alumni networking opportunities and other ways of enlarging your circle of relationships with fellow alumni and current students. Be on the lookout for "Eagles, Let's Talk" and "Eagles in Education." Also, H.E.A.R.T. training for student recruitment certification will resume in July.

Eagle Travel Program offers something for everyone, so visit the website at www.nccueagletravel.com to join other NCCU alumni and friends as they explore beautiful locales, such as Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, as well as exciting international locations such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Mark your calendars for October 27-28, 2017, and get ready to join us for another Ultimate Homecoming Experience. The classes ending in 2's and 7's will be returning home for their reunion celebrations, and class coordinators are already hard at work to ensure an exciting weekend.

Information about Homecoming 2017 and other NCCU Alumni programs will be posted on NCCU social media sites and also on the Alumni website, so please stay connected. Visit the Office of Alumni Relations website, Facebook page at NCCUOAR, Instagram@NCCUOAR, or chat with us via Twitter @NCCUOAR.

Yours in Truth and Service,

Chatonda B. Covington, '94
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations

**'71 TERRY E. GARRISON**, was elected in November 2016 to the N.C. House of Representatives for District 32 covering Vance, Warren and the northern portion of Granville counties. Rep. Garrison has been appointed to several committees, including Appropriations, Education-Community Colleges, and Environment.

**'75 WILLETHA KING BARNETTE**, recently published "The Caregiver's Secrets" with co-author Harold Barnette. "The Caregiver's Secrets" follows the life of a woman providing care for an aging parent for more than 20 years, with an overall emphasis on policy issues. The book is available in e-book form on Amazon.com.

**'77 NORMAN ANDERSON, PH.D.**, was recently appointed assistant vice president for research and academic affairs at Florida State University (FSU). Anderson, a psychologist and member of the National Academy of Medicine, will also serve as a research professor in the colleges of Social Work and Nursing.

**'77 SADIE WINLOCK**, was named as president of the Akron, Ohio, Urban League in August 2016. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from NCCU, an MBA from Myers University and a doctorate in management from the University of Phoenix.

## TRUSTEE JOHNSON PLANTS SEED FOR $1M ENDOWMENT

Board of Trustees member **Michael P. Johnson** made a substantial gift that was matched by other donors to create a new $1 million endowment for the NCCU School of Business.

Johnson's original $250,000 donation was matched by a gift from the University of North Carolina General Administration. An additional match was received by the U.S. Department of Education's Title III Part B program – creating the $1 million total endowment.

"The positive impact from this gift will be felt by our students in this decade and for many decades to come," said NCCU Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Dr. Harriet Frink Davis.

The Michael P. Johnson Endowment will boost NCCU's growing School of Business just as plans are underway to construct a new state-of-the-art facility for the school on campus. Johnson said his determination to assist students attending NCCU stems from personal experience.

## ALUMNA WINS UNITED WAY COMPETITION

NCCU alumna **DESTINY ALEXANDER** '16 is the winner of "Idea Generation Next: College Edition," a contest sponsored by United Way of the Greater Triangle.

The competition offered college students and recent graduates a chance to pitch their best ideas for addressing social issues in their local communities to a panel of judges comprised of community and business leaders. Five were chosen to present their ideas to an audience at PNC Arena in Raleigh on Feb. 24, where Alexander took home the top prize.

MICHAEL P. JONSON

DESTINY ALEXANDER

Alexander, a December 2016 graduate, will receive $15,000 to implement her concept for "The Tassel is Worth the Hassle," an initiative to help single mothers living in poverty overcome obstacles to high school graduation by bringing GED preparation courses directly to them and their families.

Seventeen NCCU students and recent graduates participated in the contest. During the initial idea-proposal phase, NCCU sophomore criminal justice major **TYLER WALKER** won the People's Choice Award, along with a $250 prize, for his presentation on mentoring and tuition assistance.

Four NCCU contestants – **ALEXANDER WALKER, SEAN JENKINS** and **ALAYE WASHINGTON** – were selected during the Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Pitch Competition for a second round later the same day. Before that event, the contestants were paired with mentors to develop business plans and sharpen their presentation skills.

Finalists from Jan. 16 participated in an Accelerator Program, where they received coaching from members of the Triangle's business and entrepreneurial community to refine their ideas, build new skills and expand their networks.

The contestants were from NCCU, North Carolina State University, Shaw University, Saint Augustine's University, Wake Technical Community College and William Peace University.

## ALUMNA NAMED COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Alumna **SONYÉ RANDOLPH** '14 has been appointed to serve as equal opportunity and Title IX investigator for Appalachian State University's (ASU) Office of Equity, Diversity and Compliance. In her new role, Randolph will oversee all Title IX cases and conduct in-depth diversity and equity investigations. Randolph previously worked on employment discrimination issues for people with criminal histories at the North Carolina Justice Center and also oversaw legal clinics for North Carolina Legal Aid.

Randolph received her juris doctorate from North Carolina Central University School of Law. She also holds a bachelor's degree in public analysis and economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

# class notes

PROMOTIONS | APPOINTMENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

'79 **JUSTICE MIKE MORGAN** was elected in November 2016 to the Supreme Court of North Carolina. He holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law.

'81 **LINDA McCABE SMITH, PH.D.**, has been appointed to serve as vice provost for institutional equity and diversity at North Carolina State University.

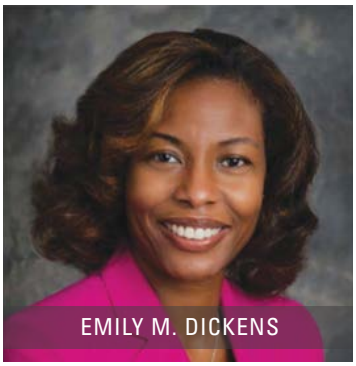
'83 **VERNON JONES** has been re-elected to the Georgia state House of Reprensentatives for District 91, which includes portions of Dekalb and Rockdale counties.

'86 **RONNIE HOPKINS, PH.D.**, has been named executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs/academic dean at Voorhees College. Hopkins obtained his bachelor's degree in English from NCCU and master's and doctoral degrees in English from Michigan State University.

'86 **GLORIA WOODS-WEEKS** has been named Durham Public Schools 2017 Principal of the Year. Since 2012, she has served as principle at NCCU's J.D. Clement Early College High School.

'93 **JOSSAN ROBINSON** was cast as an actor in "The Green Book," an interactive exhibit for the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., that details the travels of African-Americans during the 1940s.

MIKE MORGAN


EMILY M. DICKENS

PAMELA R. HESTER

Spectacular Magazine

'94 **TANIA DAVIS** recently hosted the NCCU Business Eagles Alumni Lunch and Learn. Davis provides procurement strategy expertise to two NASA space centers, Johnson Space Center in Texas and Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

'95 **ANTHONY L. JENKINS PH.D.**, was named as the 11th president of West Virginia State University. Jenkins was previously senior associate vice president for student development and enrollment services at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Jenkins began his new duties on July 1, 2016.

'95, '99, '02 **EMILY M. DICKENS** was appointed senior vice president, general counsel and chief relationship officer for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. Dickens is also a member of the NCCU's College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board.

'97 **DIANN LOGIE** was honored in March by the Pueblo City-County Library District at the 2017 Outstanding Women Awards luncheon.

'97 **PAMELA HESTER** was selected as a Spectacular Magazine 2017 Woman of the Year recipient in the Community Service category. Hester is an Associate Scientist III at Biogen and volunteers throughout her community.

'99 **COTINA JONES** was named the deputy director of the Cumberland County Public Library. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in library science from NCCU.

'99 **MARELLA BETTINA MANGUM CHAKUA** received the Excellence Award as a distinguished professional in her field from Women of Distinction magazine.

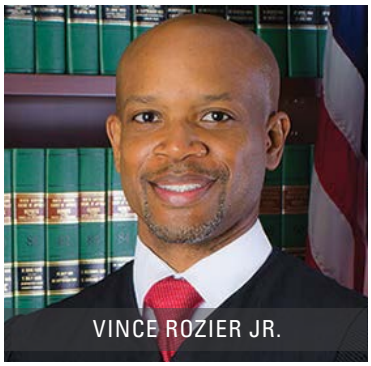
**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

## 'HIDDEN FIGURES' HAVE TIES TO NCCU

The blockbuster movie "Hidden Figures" tells the true story of African-American women whose mathematical abilities helped send the first man into space.

Among those featured in the award winning film was **KATHERINE G. JOHNSON**, a West Virginia teacher whose talents made her a go-to "computer" in the early days of the NASA program and earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Many have stood in awe of Johnson's talents, including her grandson, **MICHAEL MOORE, '16** an alumnus of NCCU. "She and I had a technology and a math kinship; we bonded on that level," said Moore, who accompanied his mother and grandmother, now 98, to the 2017 Oscar awards, where the movie earned numerous nominations.

Another Hidden Figure with ties to NCCU is alumna **CHRISTINE BARNES RICHIE '54**, who was a member of the same West Computing Group as Johnson though not specifically depicted in the film.


VINCE ROZIER JR.

SHAMIEKA RHINEHART

TIFFANY WHITFIELD

'00 **LATANYA BOWMAN** of Discovery Chiropractic and Wellness Center, has been selected as one of 25 outstanding businesswomen from the Charlotte region for making significant contributions to both her profession and community.

'01 **VINCE ROZIER JR.** has been appointed by N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper to serve as a Superior Court judge. He was an NCCU Forty Under Forty awardee in 2016.

'01 **SHAMIEKA RHINEHART** was elected to serve in the 14th Judicial District of North Carolina in November 2016. She is a mentor for young girls through Partners for Youth and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

'02 **CORNELL WRIGHT** served as the keynote speaker for 2016 N.C. Society of Public Health Education's Annual Session in October 2016.

'05, **AARON DAYE** was recently elected as president of the Santa Fe College Association of Alumni and Friends.

'08 **EDMUND P. LEWIS JR.** received the President's Volunteer Service Award for his impact as a role model for engaged and committed volunteers through Black Male Engagement (BMe), a national organization whose members were recently recognized by the White House for volunteering 500 or more hours in their communities.

'10 **BARBARA MASON** was named the 2017 recipient of the NCCU Department of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award. Mason is a lieutenant with the United States Public Health Service and president of the NCCU Nursing Alumni Association.

'11 **TIFFANY WHITFIELD** was elected judge in North Carolina's 12th Judicial District. Whitfield recently has been a prosecutor for the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office.

'13 **CHRISTOPHER D. LOPEZ** recently joined the Inclusion Team at Fox Filmed Entertainment and Fox Networks Group, a California-based producer and distributor of motion pictures.

'13 **CARMELO MONTALVO**, has accepted a position as director of special projects for Forest Devices Inc., a medical startup company in Pittsburgh, Penn. Montalvo also is a defense line coach for the football team at Carnegie Mellon University, where he is also enrolled in graduate school.

'14 **SONYÉ RANDOLPH** has been appointed to serve as equal opportunity and Title IX investigator for Appalachian State University's Office of Equity, Diversity and Compliance.

Richie, of Wilson, N.C., was among the women interviewed by Margot Lee Shetterly, whose book inspired the Hidden Figures Movie.

"The publicity is almost too much for me, but it feels good," Richie told the Wilson Times newspaper. "We never really thought we needed or deserved any special recognition. It is nice knowing people think we did, though."

Johnson was one of the first African-American women to attend graduate school at West Virginia University before teaching and working for NASA, said grandson Moore, who lives in Raleigh, N.C., and earned his MBA from NCCU in 2016.

Richie, now 85 and living in Virginia, earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics at NCCU in 1954 before starting work the following year at NASA. The honors graduate has credited her NCCU training for leading to a successful 30-year career at the space agency.

KATHERINE G. JOHNSON

# HAIL TO THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF

★NCCU GRADUATE **KRISTI JONES** HAS BEEN NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF FOR NORTH CAROLINA GOV. ROY COOPER. JONES IS THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN TO HOLD THIS POSITION.

She is responsible for implementing the governor's agenda and goals by working with cabinet secretaries, senior staff, community citizens and corporations to improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians.

Prior to her appointment, Jones served for 10 years as chief of staff for the North Carolina Department of Justice. In that role, she managed the department's administration, including personnel management, budget development, public outreach and general operations. Jones also worked as deputy chief of staff for the organization.

Jones, who earned a B.A. in political science in 1989, says her achievements stem from her upbringing in a family whose expectation is that everyone must "do your best" in all facets of life.

Jones also earned a Juris Doctor degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1992.

Jones started her career working in non-profit organizations, first at the Opportunities Industrialization Center of Wilson, N.C., and later in Greenville, N.C.

Her public service career started in the late 1990s, when she became a staff member to N.C. Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., serving as the executive director of the North Carolina Initiative on Race. This innovative initiative was instrumental in improving race relations in North Carolina by fostering private and public collaborations between business and community leaders.

She has worked in several capacities in the North Carolina Governor's Office. Previously, as executive director of the North Carolina Initiative on Race, she directed programs to improve race relations across the state by bringing together business and community leaders.

In 2008, the Wendell-Wake Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People honored Jones as Humanitarian of the Year for her grassroots and statewide work as a public administrator and volunteer.

Jones continues to support a number of nonprofit agencies by doing volunteer work, serving on boards and offering personal financial support to effective programs.

She gave the Honors Convocation address for NCCU on April 6, 2017.

# memoriam

## Alumnus Eddie Long Leaves Lasting Legacy

Alumnus and former North Carolina Central University Board of Trustees member Eddie Long died Jan. 15, 2017, following a battle with cancer.

Throughout his successful career he remained a generous philanthropist and donor to many causes. Long received a Doctor of Humane Letters from NCCU in 1998. A longtime supporter of NCCU, he created an endowed scholarship in 2008 and served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2009.

> A longtime supporter of NCCU, Long created an endowed scholarship in 2008.

Long delivered the NCCU Commencement address in December 2004. In 2013, his son, Jared, also earned a diploma from NCCU.

Long is survived by his wife, Vanessa, his children, Eric, Edward, Jared and Taylor, his three grandchildren and his brothers.

Born May 12, 1953, in Huntersville, N.C., Long was pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church near Atlanta for 30 years.

He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from NCCU in 1977. While at NCCU, Long was an active member of the university community and became a member of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

'42,'46, '51 **JOHNNIE JACQUELINE YOUNG MIMS SANDERS**, B.A., B.S., M.Ed., of Henderson, N.C., Oct. 1, 2016

'45 **DORIS BLOUNT,** B.S., of Petersburg, Va., Sept. 24, 2016

'45 **FREDERICA B. BANKS**, Bus.A., of Washington, D.C., Oct. 20, 2016

'51 **DAVIS B. MARTIN JR.**, B.S. of Villanova, Penn., Sept. 23, 2016

'51, '69 **ERTIE MARION FENNER BARNES**, B.S., of Bowie, Md., Sept. 15, 2016

'53 **WALTER L. BROWER**, B.S, of Greensboro, N.C., Nov. 14, 2016

'56 **CATHERINE SNEED WILLIAMS**, B.S., of Matthews, N.C., Sept. 19, 2016

'56 **IRA LASTER**, of Bethesda, Md., March 4, 2017

'57 **SUDIE MAE FIELDS**, M.L.S. of Durham, N.C., March 21, 2017

'59 **GARLAND BURTON**, of High Point, N.C., Dec. 9, 2016

'62 **DUKE MARTIN**, of Olney, Md., Dec. 3, 2016

'65 **MAMIE WORSLEY DAWSON**, B.A., of Durham, N.C., Jan. 9, 2017

**RICHARD I. VAUGHAN JR.**, B.S., of Henderson, N.C., Oct. 25, 2016

'62 **CATHERINE HARRISON JEANNETTE**, B.S., of Chester, Va., Nov. 1, 2015

'65 **HELEN ELIZABETH ROBERTS DUPREE**, B.A., of Baltimore, Md., Dec. 14, 2016

'70 **MURIEL SHARPE BROWN**, B.S., of Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 2, 2016

'70 **WILLIAM A. GAITHER**, B.S., of Durham, N.C., Jan, 7, 2017

'71 **DIANE E. WHITAKER-HAYES**, B.S., of Upper Marlboro, Md., Feb. 10, 2017

'71 **SANDRA BUMPHUS HESTER**, of Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 25, 2017

'71 **BESSIE BEATRICE REYNOLDS**, of Mitchellville, Md., March 1, 2017

'76 **ALICE EVANS MCCOWAN** of Durham, N.C., Oct. 27, 2016

'77 **GLENDA ANNETTE CHEEK DAVIS**, M.A., of Durham, N.C., Dec. 24, 2016

'78 **MARVIN PITTMAN, M.ED.**, of Raleigh, N.C., Sept. 24, 2016

'84 **MARY CECELIA PINSON HALL**, B.S., of Durham, N.C., Nov. 14, 2016

**TY BROWN**, B.S., of Charlotte, N.C., Dec. 15, 2016

# memoriam

## NCCU SAYS GOODBYE TO ALUMNA AND LONGTIME SUPPORTER

**ALUMNA MYRTLE BOYKIN SAMPSON**, Ed.D., Ph.D., died at her home in Greensboro, N.C., Oct. 1, 2016, with her husband, Robert, by her side.

On April 26, 2016, she attended an event at NCCU's Mary Townes Science Complex for the naming of the Myrtle B. Sampson Lecture Hall. The naming was in recognition of her continual support of the university over many years.

Sampson, a Double Eagle, earned her Bachelor of Science in biology and a Master of Library Science at NCCU. She later received a master's degree in psychology, education, an Ed.D. in counseling psychology, and a doctorate in clinical psychology.

A native of Sampson County, she taught at public schools in Mooresville, Charlotte and Winston-Salem before moving into higher education instruction at Bennett College, UNCG and N.C. A&T University. She also was a partner in G&S Associates, a therapeutic and consulting firm in Greensboro, from 1978 until her death.

She was an active member of Providence Baptist Church, an alumna member of Links, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., where she had been a Golden and a life member. She is survived by her husband; son Frank Ricardo of Chapel Hill and Greensboro; and twin sister, Bertha Boykin Todd, of Wilmington; along with several nieces and nephews.

## Aaron "Pete" Martin

**AARON BEAMON "PETE" MARTIN SR.** died Monday, January 9, 2017, in Gambrills, MD.

At a young age, Martin found his niche for sports. He won All-CIAA and most valuable player honors with the North Carolina College Eagles for the 1961 and 1963 seasons. Although he won recognition as a pass-receiving end, he holds the record for the fifth-longest pass in NCCU history, a 78-yard throw to William Giles against St. Augustine in 1962.

After college he was drafed by the Dallas Cowboys and dedicated seven years to the league as a member of the Los Angeles Rams from 1964-66, the Philadelphia Eagles from 1966-70, and later with the Washington Redskins

In 1988, he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at NCCU and New Bern H.S (formerly J.T. Barber) in 1999.

Martin is survived by his wife, Lois Hawkins Martin, daughter Tracy Martin Simpson and son Aaron Martin Jr.

AARON MARTIN

**NCCU NOTABLE**

## Paula Iris Bickham Mack

**PAULA IRIS BICKHAM MACK**, a longtime Human Sciences professor at NCCU, died Sept. 1, 2016, at the age of 89.

Mack held a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee Institute and a master's from Michigan State University in the field of home management and child development.

She taught at Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, Miss., and Florida A&M University before joining the faculty of NCCU in the mid-1950s.

She served as an assistant professor and coordinator of Charles Development Laboratory and as advisor to the Kappa Omicron Nu National Honor Society, among other responsibilities before her retirement in 1992.

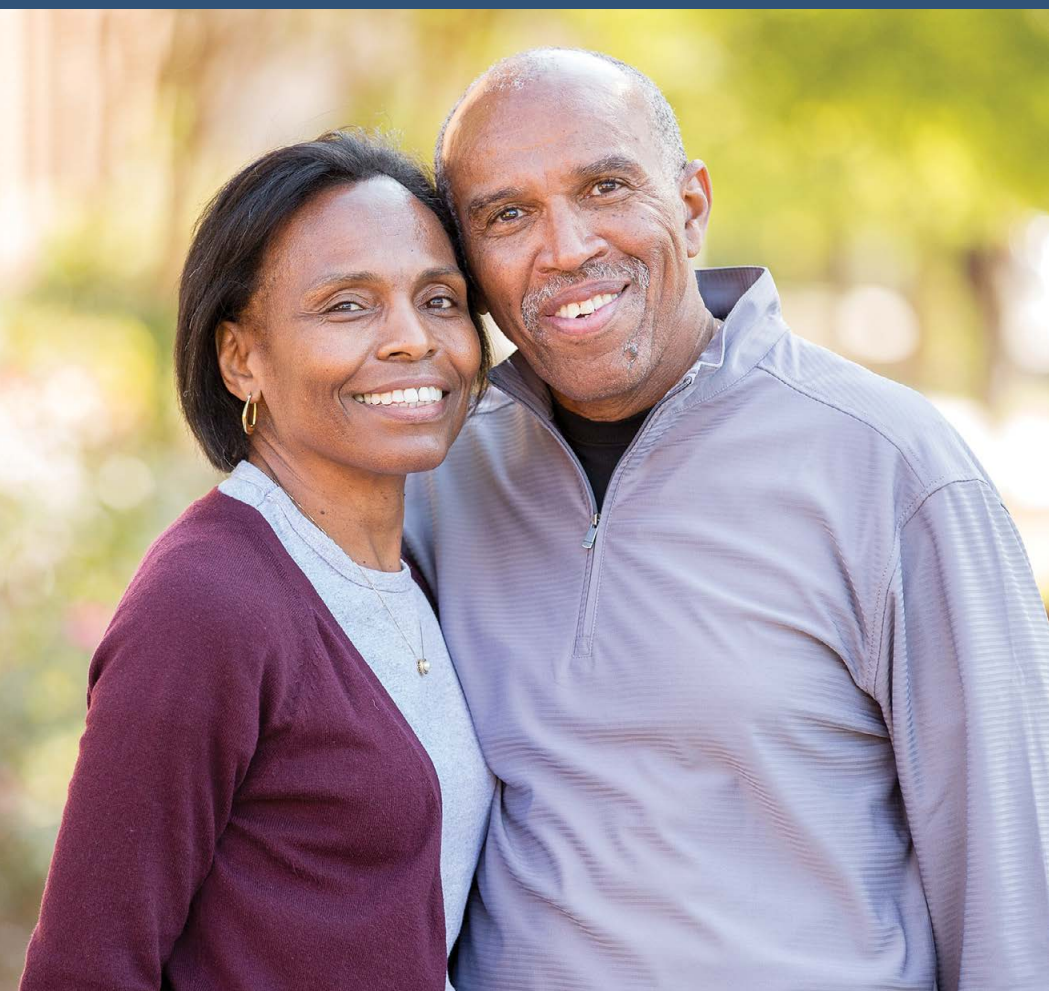
In February 2001, the university honored her life and contributions by creating the Paula B. Mack Child Development Lecture Series.

She is survived by her son, Gary R. Mack, as well as other family members and friends. □

**Calvin and Glendora Hilton**

# Gift from the Hiltons Expands Opportunities for Students

Calvin and Glendora Hilton first came to each other's attention in 1976, after both attended an 8 a.m. literature course at NCCU. The first class meeting was a romantic wake-up call for the couple, Glendora Hilton recalls.



"WE MET IN THAT CLASS during our sophomore year, and then we began dating," she said. "We graduated in May 1978, and married the following September."

Although their marriage and careers have taken them far from their native North Carolina, the Hiltons have never forgotten the important roles that NCCU played in their lives.

"Had it not been for NCCU we would not be where we are now; we actually never would have met," Glendora Hilton says.

Glendora Hilton grew up in Warrenton, an hour north of Durham, N.C. near the Virginia line, while Calvin Hilton was from Monroe, outside of Charlotte.

Both came to college with an interest in business. Calvin was an accounting major, and Glendora studied business education after she learned that secretarial science wasn't an option.

"That's what gave us our foundation," said Glendora, of the couple's time at NCCU.

Calvin, who lived all four years in Chidley Residence Hall, says former accounting professor Raphael Thompson became his mentor at NCCU.

"He was chairman of the accounting department at the time and the most

**"THE INSTRUCTORS THERE TOOK AN INTEREST IN US. WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF THAT, AND WE WANT THAT TO CONTINUE."**

**Glendora Hilton**

influential person in my education," said Calvin, who still exchanges holiday cards with his former teacher.

After graduation, the newly-married couple moved to Minnesota for Calvin's job with General Mills Inc., then relocated after a year to Dallas. Calvin Hilton's career led him through various corporations, including Johnson & Johnson and American Airlines Inc. A switch to Northwest Airlines Corp. in the late 1980s took the couple back to Minnesota, where they raised sons A.J. and Brandon in Golden Valley, outside of Minneapolis.

Glendora Hilton worked in the insurance industry for a number of years but later became a full-time mom and community volunteer. The couple made another move back to Dallas in 2005, where Calvin continues working today as vice president of corporate human resources for Alliance Data.

Meanwhile, A.J., now 34, is a television news anchor in Nashville, Tenn., and 31-year-old Brandon works for Hilton Worldwide not far from his parents' home in Dallas.

Glendora Hilton believes she and her husband thrived at college because of the role that faculty members played for them – as they have for many generations of NCCU students. That's one of their main reasons for giving back.

"The instructors there took an interest in us," Glendora said. "We recognize the value of that, and we want that to continue."

Despite living in Minnesota and Dallas most of their married life, the couple makes frequent visits to Durham for Homecoming, sporting events, or just to reconnect with friends and family. And they seem to like what they see going on at their alma mater, which continues to grow while retaining lots of good memories for alumni.

Longtime donors to the university, the Hiltons recently decided to forge an enduring legacy by establishing a scholarship for a student in the School of Business.

"Some students need the additional nudge of having a teacher take an interest in them, and that's what happens at NCCU," Glendora Hilton said. "When you go to larger institutions, a lot of times you are just a number; if you don't make an effort to be known you can fall through the cracks. We recognize the importance of that and want to support it." □

# Outgoing Trustee Darrell T. Allison Announces New Scholarships

Alumnus and former Board of Trustees member **DARRELL T. ALLISON** announced the establishment of two new scholarships in honor of his father, Thomas Allison.

The Darrell and Thomas Allison Annual Scholarship Fund and the Darrell and Thomas Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide support to undergraduate students from Cabarrus County, N.C. Together, the scholarships total $75,000 and both are designated for freshman students with a high school GPA of 3.2 or higher who have demonstrated financial need.

Allison announced the scholarships on March 30, 2017, the same day that he was sworn in as the newest member of the UNC Board of Governors by N.C. Superior Court Judge Ola M. Lewis and University of North Carolina President Margaret Spellings.

"Alumnus Allison served since 2015 as a valuable leader and member of the NCCU Board of Trustees, and we are thrilled that he is honoring and continuing his father's legacy by establishing a meaningful way to support young students at North Carolina Central University," said Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D., interim chancellor of NCCU.

Although Thomas Allison was unable to earn a bachelor's degree, he made a point to encourage his own offspring to attend college.

"He instilled a powerful work ethic in my siblings and me, encouraging us to achieve academically," Allison said. He strongly believed that NCCU would give us the tools to succeed. He was right."

Dr. Harriet Frink Davis, vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement, said, "NCCU alumni, like alumnus Allison, and their dedication to giving back to their alma mater is exceptional and demonstrates the strength of the university in producing trailblazers who continue to pay it forward for future generations."

Allison is the president of Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina, a statewide organization that advocates for and informs parents about educational options. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from NCCU and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. □

*Alumnus Darrell T. Allison was surrounded by family members, including his mother (pictured lower right), as he was sworn in as a member of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors during a cermony at NCCU.*

# THE ultimate ALUMNI HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

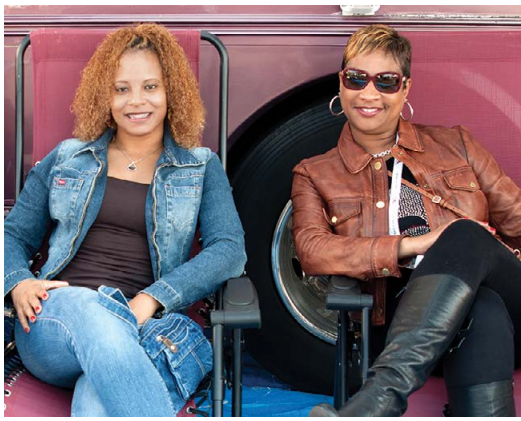
RECAP 1

## ALUMNI CELEBRATE HOMECOMING 2016

Homecoming activities included: ☐ Joining the NCCU faculty and staff in the **GREEK STROLL OFF** ☐ Paying respect to tradition at the **FOUNDERS DAY CONVOCATION** and congratulating the newest class of **GOLDEN EAGLES** ☐ Hitting the links for the NCCU Alumni Association Homecoming **SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**, then relaxing at the **ULTIMATE DAY PARTY** On The Yard ☐ Dining, mingling and dancing to the tunes of Eddie Levert and Midnight Star at the fabulous Friday night **ALUMNI CONCERT** ☐ Cheering for the floats in the **HOMECOMING PARADE**, then noshing at the tailgate and cheering on the Eagles as they won big over Savannah State University, 33-3. ☐ Stopping by the Sheraton Imperial after the game for musical entertainment ☐ Rekindling old friendships at the New Central Connection Party

# NCCU ALUMNI CLASS *giving*

| CLASS YEAR | CLASS GIFT |
|---|---|
| **SOCIETY OF GOLDEN EAGLES** | |
| 1925-1965 | $598,696 |
| 1966 | $ 90,551 |
| 1971 | $ 53,845 |
| 1976 | $ 115,851 |
| 1981 | $ 21,804 |
| 1986 | $ 10,463 |
| 1991 | $ 22,610 |
| 1996 | $ 12,402 |
| 2001 | $ 2,984 |
| 2006 | $ 4,826 |
| 2011 | $ 2,222 |
| **TOTAL** | **$936,254** |



# THE ultimate ALUMNI HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

RECAP 2

For students, alumni and friends of NCCU, the 2016 Ultimate Homecoming Experience was a weeklong blend of class gatherings, entertainment, inspirational messages and community service that brought together Eagles of all ages.

A special **WORSHIP SERVICE** kicked off the week's events, with remarks from the Rev. Diane A. Bogues of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and was followed by a **SOUL FOOD DINNER** at W. G. Pearson Dining Hall. Later that day, acclaimed vocalist **TASHA COBBS** and other gospel artists entertained before an enthusiastic crowd at McDougald-McLendon Arena.

Dozens of students, faculty, staff and alumni came together throughout the week to package meals for local families and help raise awareness of global food insecurity. Others read at neighboring elementary schools, collected coats for veterans and helped restock the campus pantry.

Monday's **CHOIR BALL**, aka The Ultimate Talent Show, showcased a variety of exciting entertainment styles at B.N. Duke Auditorium. **STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS** attended a special event on Tuesday before joining the crowd at the Arena to see the Savannah State University Tigers be buried in a **MOCK FUNERAL**, held in anticipation of Saturday's football contest against the Eagles. The **CORONATION BALL** for Mister and Miss NCCU took place Wednesday evening, followed by Thursday's **EAGLE STREET FESTIVAL** along with campus visits by members of the alumni for the **EAGLE LEGACY TALK**.

Saturday morning's **HOMECOMING PARADE** got everyone in the spirit for the **HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME** a few hours later, when the Eagles took down the Savannah State Tigers 33-3. Later on, students rounded out a busy but fun week with a **HIP-HOP CONCERT** featuring artists Yo Gotti, Ty Dolla $ign, Migos and 21 Savage.

# THE *ultimate* HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

# SAVE THE DATE

**Homecoming Week • Oct. 23–28** | **NCCU vs Delaware State • Oct. 28**

## DON'T MISS OUT ON THE EXCITEMENT!

**Make plans now to attend the 2017 Ultimate Homecoming.**

## CLASS REUNION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Reunion plans are underway for all classes ending in '2 and '7. Representatives from each class are needed to assist in making this the most successful Homecoming reunion season yet. The Office of Alumni Relations offers many opportunities for your involvement. **CONTACT LAMISA M. FOXX** at 919-530-7361 to join the fun.

## SOCIETY OF GOLDEN EAGLES CLASS OF 1967 INDUCTION

**FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 2017**

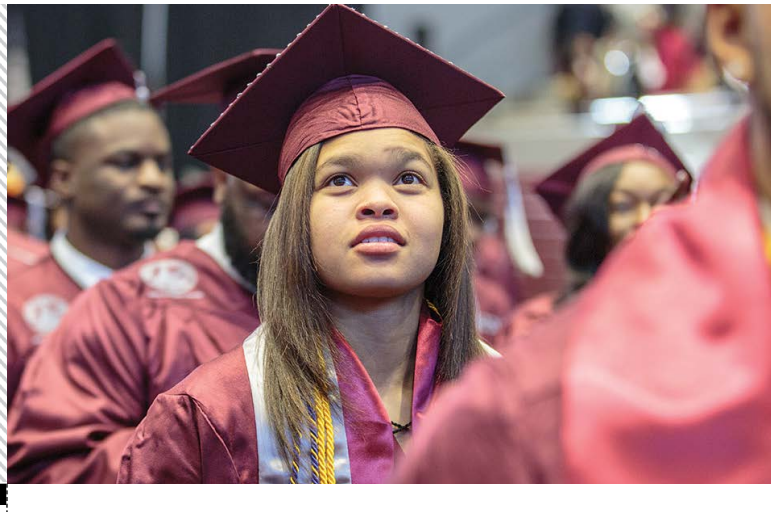
An induction ceremony and luncheon will honor the Class of 1967 as they join the Society of Golden Eagles.

**CELEBRATING CLASSES:**

1967 | 1972 | 1977 | 1982 | 1987 | 1992 | 1997 | 2002 | 2007 | 2012

BY KYLE SERBA

# EXCELLING IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE HARDWOOD



## LADY EAGLE MORGAN JONES LOOKS AHEAD TO MORE BASKETBALL OPPORTUNITIES

Not only did women's basketball senior guard Morgan Jones have a great athletic career at NCCU, but she also graduated as class valedictorian in December 2016 and has re-enrolled to earn a master's degree.

Jones, a native of Stockbridge, Ga., was recognized as the Eagles Athlete of the Month in January 2017 for her outstanding performance both as a scholar and athlete.

"I loved my experience at North Carolina Central," Jones said. "Because I was going to be away from home, I was looking for college with a family vibe. I definitely found it there. I got lot of love from fans, coaches and other athletes."

Jones had an outstanding senior-year season with the Lady Eagles, scoring 108 points and 22 steals in eight games. She averaged 13.5 points, 3.6 rebounds, 2.8 steals and 1.9 assists per contest.

Jones was named by the College Sports Information Directors of America to the Academic All-District First Team in 2016 and 2017, and she made the MEAC Commissioner's All-Academic Team twice, as well.

Jones' talent on the court became apparent at an early age. She said she began playing as a 5-year-old at the YMCA where her older brother also played and her dad was a coach. "I just always wanted to play," she added.

She turned in an overall grade point average of 3.96 to earn the class valedictorian honor and a degree in criminal justice. Jones said that she would ultimately like to become an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation but will consider playing a few seasons in a European professional league before settling into a career.

In addition to playing ball and hitting the books, Jones was a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma criminal justice honor society and the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, and she was on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for the Department of Athletics.

Jones has accomplished much since arriving at NCCU as an 18–year-old freshman four years ago.

"I definitely have grown as a leader," she said. "I wasn't very vocal when I first got here. Now I'm ready to speak out."

**Jones was named by the College Sports Information Directors of America to the Academic All-District First Team in 2016 and 2017.**

# Eagles Celebrate a Winning Season with a Bowl Bid

North Carolina Central University closed out its historic 2016 football campaign as the 19th-ranked team in the country, according to the final FCS Coaches Poll announced on Jan. 9.

The Eagles collected the most wins in the program's Division I era with a 9-3 overall record and an unbeaten 8-0 mark in league play.

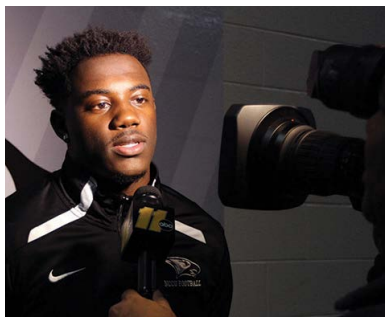
NCCU defeated nationally ranked North Carolina A&T University 42-21 on Nov. 19 to capture the MEAC championship and earn the league's bid to the Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. After sharing the MEAC crown in 2014 and 2015, NCCU became the first team to win the conference championship outright since 2012.

The Eagles received their first national ranking as a Division I-FCS program on Nov. 7, when the FCS Coaches Poll announced NCCU at No. 25. By the end of the regular season, the Eagles jumped to No. 18.

NCCU broke its own single-season record with 4,614 yards of total offense, averaging 384.5 total yards per game. The 2016 Eagles were also the second-highest scoring team in school history, with 347 points. The Eagles made even more history this season by becoming the first NCCU football team to win a third consecutive conference championship.

PHOTOS BY DYANN BUSSE

VIDEO



The Eagles made even more history this season by becoming the first NCCU football team to win a third consecutive conference championship.

The team dedicated their bowl appearance to Dr. Saunders-White.

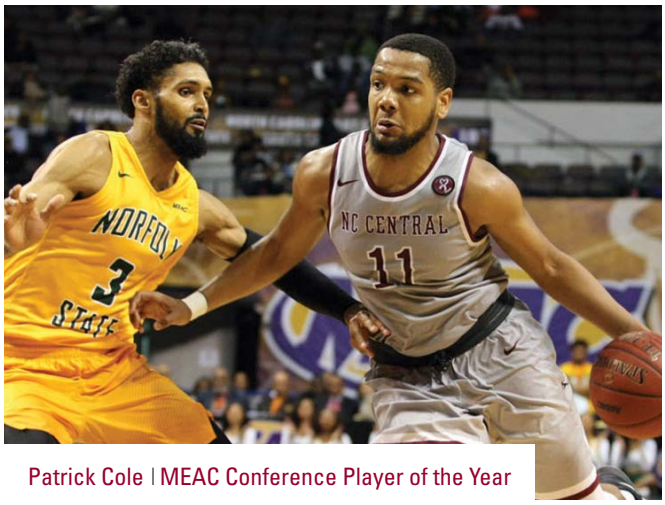
Photo by Juan Richardson

LeVelle Moton | MEAC Conference Coach of the Year

Photo by Phil Ellsworth, ESPN Images

During their three-game run to the MEAC Tournament title, the Eagles won by an average of more than 23 points per victory.

Photo by Phil Ellsworth, ESPN Images




Patrick Cole | MEAC Conference Player of the Year

Photo by Juan Richardson

# Eagles Win MEAC Season, Earn Trip to NCAA 'March Madness'

The 2016-17 North Carolina Central University men's basketball team celebrated a trifecta of wins: capturing the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference regular-season title, winning the MEAC Tournament championship, and advancing to the NCAA Division I Tournament.

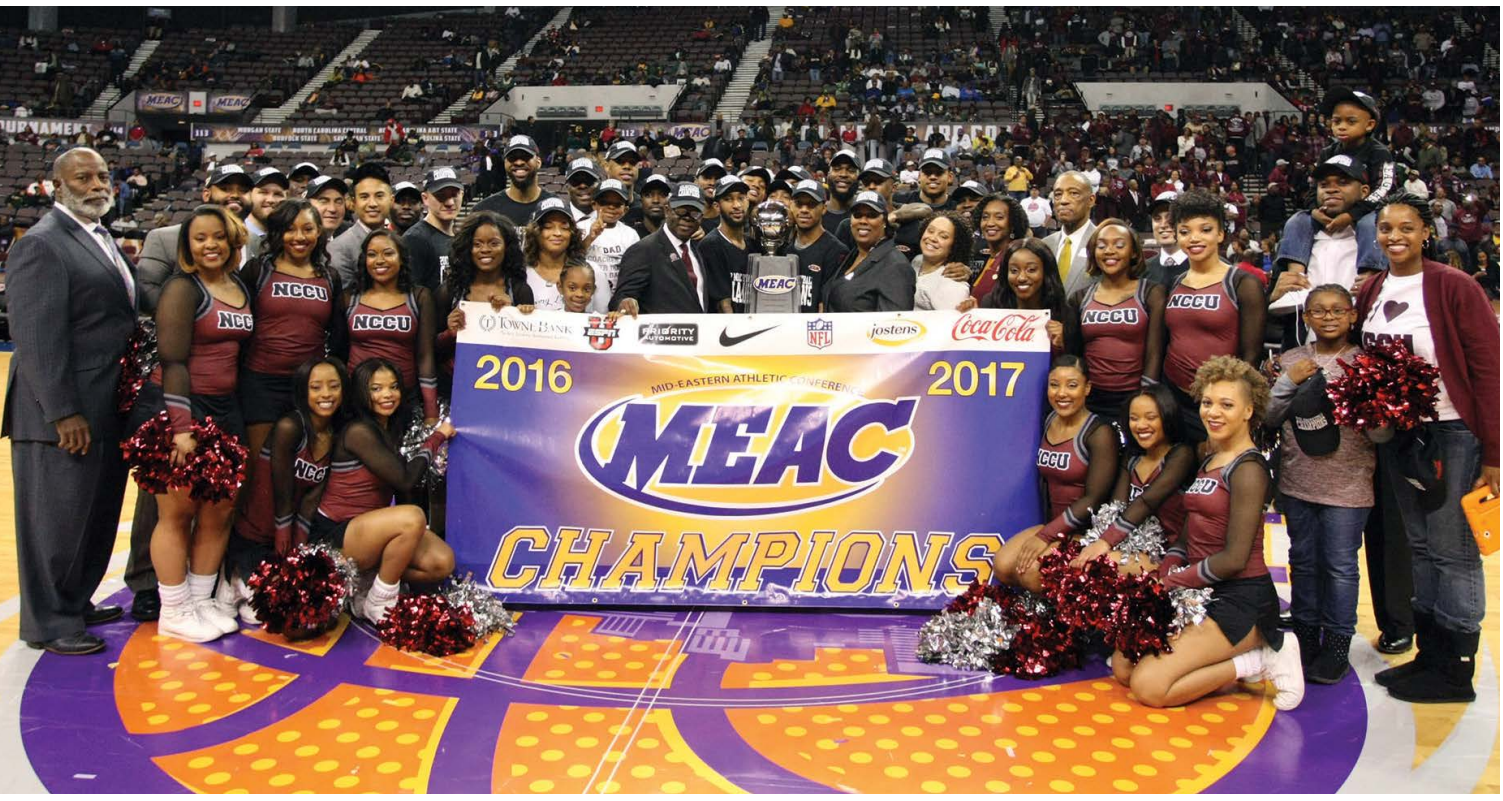
The Eagles competed in the NCAA First Four in Dayton, Ohio, after a posting an overall season of 25-9 and a conference mark of 13-3. Only five teams in school history won more games than the 2016-17 squad.

NCCU ranked 17th in the nation in scoring margin, beating opponents by an average of 11.3 points per contest. During their three-game run to the MEAC Tournament title, the Eagles won by an average of more than 23 points per victory.

As with other recently successful NCCU hoops teams, the Eagles hung their hat on the defensive end of the floor. NCCU was second among NCAA Division I statistical leaders in defending against three-point shots, with a 29.0% success rate, and ranked 11th in field-goal defense, at 39.3%.

NCCU achieved full NCAA Division I membership in August 2011. In just six seasons, the team has has posted four 20-win campaigns, earned three MEAC regular-season championships (2013-14, 2014-15, 2016-17), won two MEAC tournament championships (2014, 2017), and made two trips to the NCAA Tournament (2014, 2017).

VIDEO




Photos by Dyann Busse unless otherwise indicated

## FROM THE NCCU *Archives* CIRCA 1953

Dr. Alfonso Elder, president of what was then North Carolina College at Durham, congratulates Myrtle Tee Boykin Sampson and her twin sister Bertha Ree Boykin Todd after each received a Master of Library Science degree. The twins and their brother, Thomas Edison Boykin, of Sampson County, all received graduate degrees on June 2, 1953. Thomas earned his M.A. in history.

Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Central University Digital Collection

DIVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

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