

RIGHT SIDE RESEARCH

Investigators look into little known effects of stroke

POLITICS OF BEAUTY

Professor Yaba Blay examines cultural influences

NCCU NOW

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

FALL 2016

LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DIGITAL
EXTRAS

THE BIG DATA

School of Business dives into data analytics



NCCU DIGITAL EXTRAS

EAGLES VOTED!

NCCU Eagles Were Active During The Election Season

NCCU was in the spotlight during the 2016 election season, when North Carolina was seen as one of the most important swing states in the nation. From voter registration drives organized by students to a surprise appearance by Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, the campus was immersed in a whirlwind of activities surrounding the national and local elections.

Among the many candidates who on campus this fall was Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine; recording artist Pharrell Williams also stopped by to greet students in the company of Clinton prior to the candidate's large rally in Raleigh Nov. 3; and NCCU alumnus U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield attended a One Vote, One Voice event sponsored by the Gamma Beta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.; In late October, the Rev. William Barber, another alumnus, joined the Oct. 27 March to the Polls Rally organized by the Political Science Club.

Check out these and other images from the exciting election season.



Doug Mills

@dougmillsnyt



.@HillaryClinton surprises students who were early voting on campus at North Carolina Central University @NCCU #voting
pic.twitter.com/ofYJsRLs1P

4:22 PM - 3 Nov 2016 from Brookhaven, GA



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+ VIDEOS

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Founder's Day 2016



McCrimmon '13 Discusses Voting



The Ultimate Homecoming Experience 2016



Terrence J Opens Rock the Mic Lecture Series



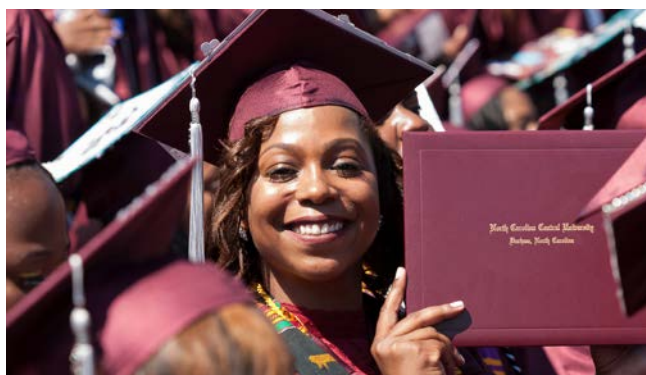
aliyah abdur-rahman @aliyahaar • Nov 9

@IyanlaVanzant @NCCU giving her master class... "Wake up everybody...wake up!"



+ TWEETS

+ PHOTOS



2016 Spring Commencement #NCCU16



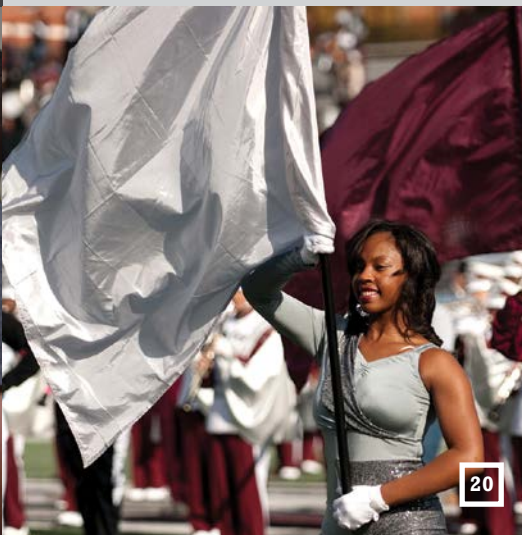
2015 Spring Commencement #NCCU15



The Ultimate Homecoming Experience 2016

contents

FALL 2016



FEATURES

16

OPPORTUNITY ALL AROUND

Acting Chancellor and Provost Johnson O. Akinleye develops a blueprint for the academic future of NCCU.

20

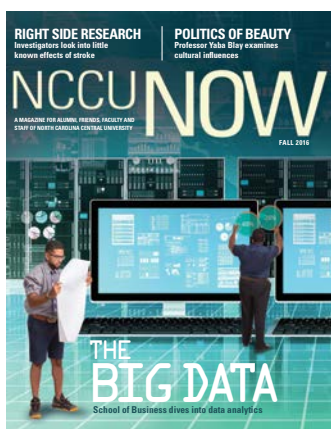
HOMECOMING 2016

From parties to concerts and, of course, football, the Ultimate Homecoming Experience has it all.

24

WHAT'S THE BIG DATA?

Data analytics changes the playing field for all types of businesses.



ON THE COVER Students in NCCU's School of Business are embracing big-data analytics and adding value to their future careers.

Photo by Chioke Brown



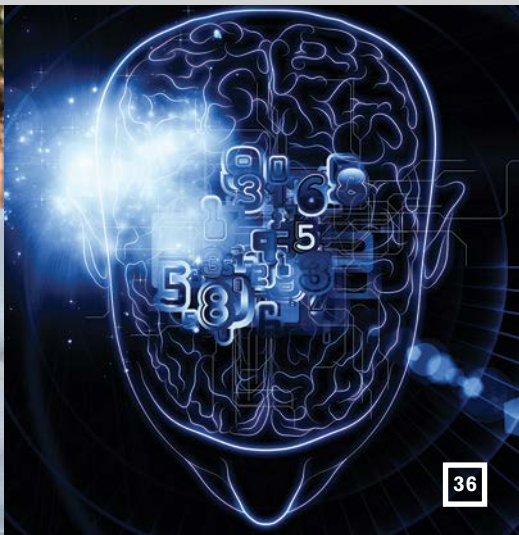
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NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY



30



36



38

30

CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES

Diversity is key to enrollment growth following changes in North Carolina's demographics.

36

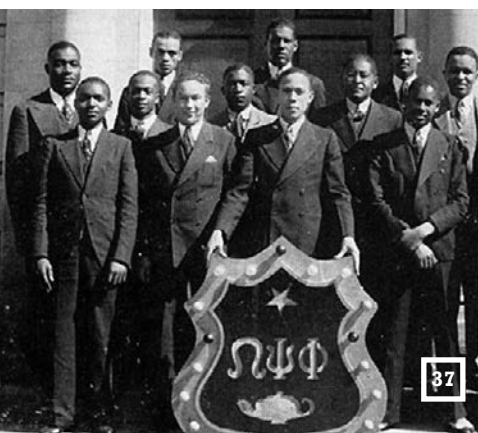
THE RIGHT SIDE OF RESEARCH

NCCU launches a new patient registry to help shed light on right brain stroke.

38

SOCIOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS

Endowed Chair Yaba Blay shares her insights with students in the Department of Political Science.



37

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----|----------------|
| 4 | Letter From the Chancellor | 41 | Class Notes |
| 6 | Commencement | 50 | Donor Profiles |
| 8 | Campus News | 54 | Sports |
| | | 50 | Archives |

FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Greetings!

North Carolina Central University thrives as we open the 2016-2017 academic year.

It is important that I begin my letter with a special request for members of the university community to keep Chancellor Debra Saunders-White in their thoughts and prayers as she makes progress on her journey toward healing and recovery following her recent health challenge. Her strength, passion and leadership has guided us through the past three academic

years and built North Carolina Central University into the first-choice, premier and global institution that it is today. We continue to execute her vision of "Eagle Excellence," maintaining student success as the university's number-one priority. It is at the forefront of everything we do.

We realized several accomplishments at the end of the 2015-2016 academic year and the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year, as well. In July 2016, NCCU was awarded the distinction of being named 2016 HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, a recognition that we will celebrate over the coming year (page 10). During our 126th and 127th Commencement exercises, we awarded more than 1,700 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees to our students — the largest number of degrees granted in one academic year in the history of NCCU. Our strong freshman-to-sophomore advancement rates are contributing to the increased number of students we are graduating each year (see page 6). We also achieved one of our highest institutional advancement records in 2015-2016 by raising more than \$7 million in a single fiscal year, with \$2.4 million of that total donated by alumni.

As we look further ahead into the 2016-2017 academic year, North Carolina Central University is positioned for continued excellence. On August 11, we welcomed new students in the class of 2020, as well as transfer and returning students. The great news is that we had near record-enrollment by first-year and transfer students, with nearly 1,741 students confirming their status as new Eagles!

Alone with a feature on our new Academic Affairs Strategic Plan, this edition of NCCU Now also highlights the work our faculty, staff and students are engaged in related to diversity and inclusion initiatives (page 16), creating innovative strategies regarding big data (page 24) and pioneering research for right brain stroke survivors (page 36).

Again, thank you for your continued support of North Carolina Central University!

Sincerely,

Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D.

Acting Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

NCCU NOW

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NCCU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's, education specialist and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of NCCU.

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Lyceum

SERIES



GRAMMY AWARD WINNING R&B SINGER LALAH HATHAWAY AND THE NCCU VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE OPENED THE NCCU 2016 LYCEUM SERIES IN SEPTEMBER.



1,156 { NCCU awarded more than **718** undergraduate diplomas and **438** graduate and professional degrees during ceremonies held in May 2016. }

Students Awarded Degrees During Spring Commencement

The 127th Baccalaureate Commencement exercises on May 14 featured an address by U.S. Senator Cory Booker. It was the largest graduating class in the university's 105-year history.

Booker's late father, Cary Booker, was a 1962 graduate of NCCU from Hendersonville, N.C.

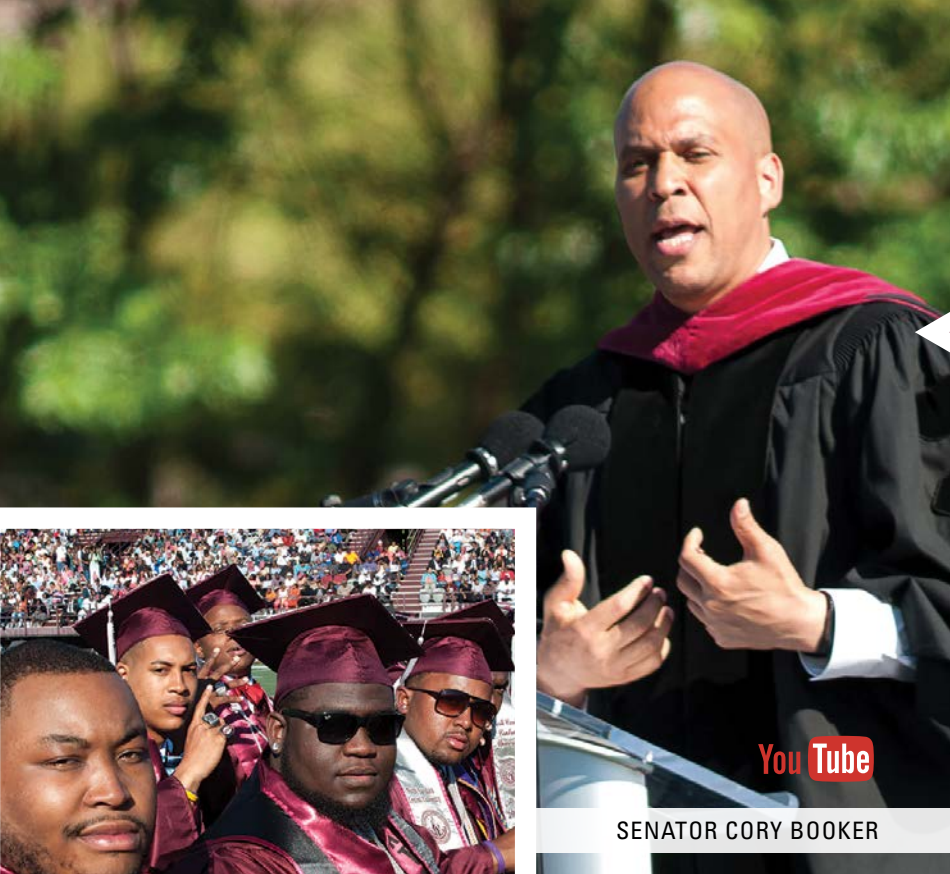
"I'm the son of an Eagle; I would not be on my current path if it was not for this great university – the legacy that you'll protect and advance is the reason why I'm standing here today," Booker told the audience. "Without this university, I would not be a senator from New

Jersey, I would not be the fourth African-American elected in the U.S. Senate in the history of our country."

Referencing Alice Walker's *In Search Of My Mother's Garden*, he said: "The real revolution is always concerned with the least glamorous stuff. With raising a reading level from second grade to third. With simplifying history and writing it down or reciting it for the old folks. With helping illiterates fill out food-stamp forms – for they must eat, revolution or not. The dull, frustrating work with our people. It means,

most of all, staying close enough to them to be there whenever they need you."

In her address, NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White recognized Jelaina Shipman, a White Oak, N.C., native who maintained a 3.7 grade point average while earning two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. Shipman also was a member of NCCU's Honda Campus All-Star Challenge academic team for four years. She is continuing her studies at NCCU to earn a master's in psychology.



SENATOR CORY BOOKER

I'm the son of an Eagle; I would not be on my current path if it was not for this great university – the legacy that you'll protect and advance is the reason why I'm standing here today."



DR. ELMIRA MANGUM



Also during the ceremony, former NCCU Board of Trustees members Dr. Dwight D. Perry, Avon Ruffin and Charles Baron were recognized as trustee emeriti for their dedicated service to the university.

Students receiving graduate and professional degrees heard from Elmira Mangum, Ph.D., president of Florida A&M University and an alumna of NCCU. "For your own self-health and self-worth, be authentic. The more real you are the more you will respect yourself and the more other people will respect you."

She described her years on campus at NCCU as an important turning point in her life. "I saw the value of serving the community," she said, "which allowed me to develop myself as a citizen of the world."

The May 13 ceremony conferred 156 law degrees, along with 64 master's degrees in science, 59 in social work, 40 in library science and 33 in education. Other advanced degrees awarded were in the arts, business administration, school administration, information science and music.



For more photos visit:



Research Leads to First Compound Licensed at BRITE

A molecule that could make chemotherapy treatments more tolerable for some patients has become the first compound to be licensed through NCCU's Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE).



Researchers Alfred L. Williams, Ph.D., and John E. Scott, Ph.D., of NCCU's pharmaceutical sciences program, worked with Matt Redinbo, Ph.D., of the University North Carolina at Chapel Hill in discovering the ability of the small-molecule compound to inhibit the actions of an enzyme causing severe diarrhea in cancer patients.

"With certain cancer treatments, chemotherapy becomes dose-limiting due to the side effect of diarrhea. Our researchers were able to identify the small molecule compound that limits that response, potentially allowing more patients to benefit from the treatment," said Undi Hoffer, Ph.D., interim vice chancellor for Research and Economic Development at NCCU.

Parnassus Medical Systems, which works to develop drugs for cancer and other diseases, licensed the patent in early 2016 and is expected to continue doing drug discovery research using the compound.

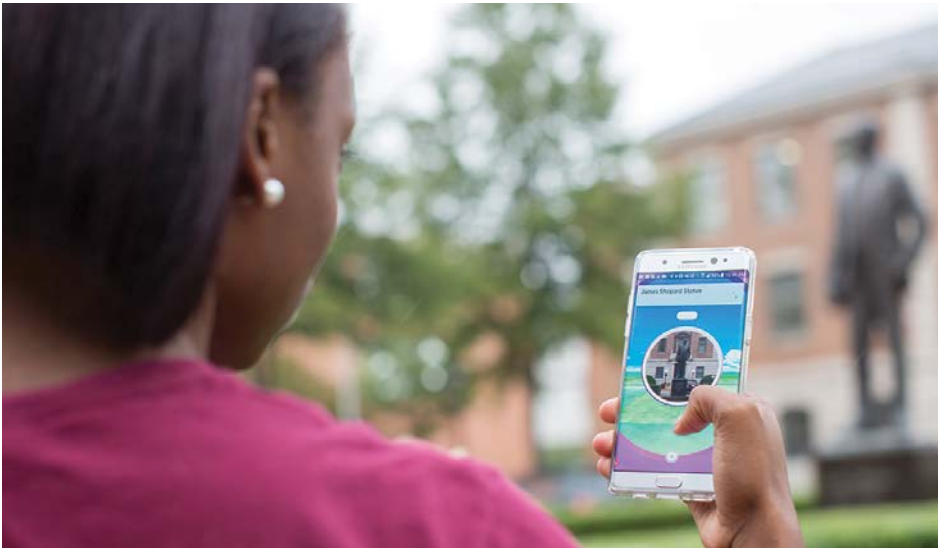
▷ BRITE researchers John E. Scott, right, and Alfred L. Williams, far right, identified a small molecule compound from the university's compound library that was licensed by a pharmacology company for potential use in anti-diarrheal medication.

Scott called the event a "milestone" for the university. "It's the first patent that BRITE has licensed, and it demonstrates the value of our high-throughput screening core facility here as well as the compound collection we have," Scott said.

The BRITE compound library consists of 350,000 compounds donated by Biogen Idec in 2006 and is one the largest publically owned compound libraries in the country. The compounds are used in drug-discovery research at BRITE and the university's Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute.



GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION IS KEY TO POKÉMON GO PHENOMENON



Knowledge of geographic information systems (GIS) can help students land good-paying jobs in fields such as city planning, environmental protection, seismology and oil and gas exploration.

But these skills may also be positioning students for success in the world of online gaming following the success of Pokémon GO, a smart-phone-friendly game that uses GIS to help players locate and capture creatures known as Pokémon.

"People are really going all out to catch 'em all," notes Byron Ifediora, an NCCU graduate student in earth and environmental sciences who has a geoscience concentration.

"I think it's really cool that GIS is being used in a popular game like Pokémon GO, even though I don't think most people think about GIS when they are playing," said Rebekah Mixon, who also is earning a master's in earth science at NCCU.

Originating as a card game in the 1990s, Pokémon GO now is played by 10 million people daily using smart phones to search neighborhoods, parks and other locations to find the elusive characters.

The game uses GIS to integrate layers of spatial information and create a custom visual display, so the Pokémon appear on screen as if part of the surrounding landscape.

The game uses GIS to integrate layers of spatial information and create a custom visual display, so the Pokémon appear on screen as if part of the surrounding landscape.

"GIS uses points, lines and polygons to represent real-world phenomena such as fire hydrants, roads and parks, respectively," said Tim Mulroony, a professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Geographic Sciences. "In Pokémon GO, points can be represented by

Pokémon, PokéStops and Gyms that have real-world locations and can be interfaced via a hand-held GPS unit on a smart phone."

Gamers visit PokéStops to earn more energy and Gyms to compete against other players.

The Pokémon GO application keeps track of the user's location and proximity to major land and water features. It also collects data on distance the user has traveled, Mulrooney said.

"This makes Pokémon GO an interactive game, allowing players to explore their surrounding environment, incentivizing physical activities built on the foundation of GIS principles."

In 2015, NCCU added a bachelor's degree in environmental and geographic sciences to complement the existing master's program. Four undergraduate and four graduate courses in GIS are offered.

GIS-trained graduates have gone on to work for international companies including Apple and Samsung, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Durham and dozens of other agencies.

Graduate student Cortney Cameron believes Pokémon GO is just the beginning when it comes to using geographic information in online gaming.

"I think Pokémon GO has blazed the way, and I'd expect to see more games in the future using spatial information," said Cameron, who studies earth science with a concentration in seismology.

"Virtual reality is starting to improve, as well, and it will be interesting when those two technologies eventually merge, so you'll have a virtual reality game that interacts with your environment as you move around."

And it could be an NCCU graduate who introduces the first blockbuster dual-technology GIS gaming adventure to the public.

NCCU BRINGS HOME HBCU OF THE YEAR AWARD



NCCU was a finalist in five other categories

NCCU was named 2016 HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest during the annual awards contest recognizing achievement among the nation's 105 historically black colleges and universities.

The Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise, or BRITE, also was named as the Best STEM Program, and the Campus Echo won in the category of Best Student Newspaper.

The HBCU Digest Awards were presented July 15, 2016, in Washington, D.C., at the University of the District of Columbia. A panel of former and current HBCU presidents, alumni, faculty, students, journalists and former award winners served as judges.

NCCU was a finalist in five other categories: Best Alumni Publication, Best Social Work Program, Best Nursing/Health Program, Male Student of the Year and Female President of the Year.

Jarrett Carter Sr., founding editor of the online news magazine, said the HBCU Awards are based in part on how well a university's accomplishments are showcased through positive regional and national publicity. "This past academic year, NCCU did an extraordinary job of demonstrating excellence – in athletics, student achievement, faculty achievement, research and development, and community outreach," Carter said.

SENIOR SCIENCE STUDENT FINDS ADVENTURE AND LEARNING IN MADAGASCAR

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SENIOR BRITTANY CARSON traveled 9,000 miles from home to live in a tent, subsist mostly on rice, and conduct her work outdoors.

Though the assignment sounds daunting, Carson jumped at the chance for a summer internship in Madagascar, a large island off the eastern coast of Africa that is struggling with environmental issues and high poverty rates.

Carson was the only NCCU student to travel with the team from Duke University to study a variety of issues. Her goal was to measure the health impacts of wood-burning stoves used to cook all meals in the small town of Mandena.

"Sometimes it was hard to breathe," she explained. "They are burning a lot of wood to cook their meals, sometimes all day long. During mealtimes, the whole village would be covered in smoke."

Inhaling carbon monoxide from wood fires causes problems for the heart and lungs, leading to hypertension in some residents.

"The project was geared toward developing cleaner-burning cook stoves to improve air quality in Madagascar," said Carson, 23, who will graduate from NCCU in December. "My job was collecting air samples. I installed air-quality monitoring devices in houses, and then collected them about every 24 hours to download data."

Madagascar, a sovereign island nation, is about the size of Texas and is home to 23 million citizens, most of whom live on incomes of \$2 or less per day. Carson, a

native of Atlanta, left the U.S. on June 29 and spent more than a month living in a tent in Mandena, a town of about 400 residents.

On weekends, Carson and her team would venture into different parts of the country to visit agricultural sites, hike and view exotic animals – many of which live only in Madagascar, such as lemurs, fossa, leaf-tailed gecko, and the world's tiniest chameleon, the *Brookesia micra*.

"One weekend, we went to Marojejy National Park in the rainforest and hiked," she said. Marojejy is a World Heritage Site with a variety of habitats and a wide array of animal species.

At the park, they spotted a silky sifaka lemur, which is on the list of the world's 25 most endangered species, and a rare malagasy mongoose.

Carson described the trip as a vast educational experience that reinforced her plans to spend two years in the Peace Corps before attending graduate school in environmental conservation.

"It definitely reinforced what I want to do," she said. "I realized I could survive using a latrine, sleeping in a tent and eating rice three times a day."



△ Along with several students from Duke University, Brittany Carson, above left, joined a group of student researchers who spent a month living in tents in a Madagascar village.



“The project was geared toward developing cleaner-burning cook stoves to improve air quality in Madagascar. My job was collecting air samples. I installed air-quality monitoring devices in houses, and then collected them about every 24 hours to download data.”

—BRITTANY CARSON

Eagle Experts Program Makes Big Impact on Campus

BY SAMANTHA HARGROVE

KENYA HOMSLEY AND JAMAAL SEARCY may come from two different parts of North Carolina, but their experiences on the campus have helped them grow closer and form a special bond.

Homsley and Searcy are two members of the newest class of Eagle Experts – a student-leadership and peer-mentoring program that began in 2015 under the Department of Student Engagement and Leadership. The program offers personal and professional development training and a host of activities that prepare these students for a vigorous year of service.

This summer, 42 NCCU students participated in the Eagle Experts Student Leadership Institute – a weeklong intensive training experience that exposed students to topics such as, servant leadership, ethics and decision-making, business etiquette and teambuilding.

"It was the best training I've ever had," said Homlesley, a native of Charlotte, N.C., who's majoring in biology/pre-med and minoring in chemistry. She also serves through several other campus organizations, including Science African-American Majors Evolving, and as the Miss Eagle Ambassador for 2016-17.

Searcy agreed.

"This experience really helped me find out who I really am," he said. "We were placed in very intense team-building exercises that challenged us and pushed us. I really believe it brought the best out of all us."

Searcy is a native of Walnut Cove, N.C., and is majoring in criminal justice. He is currently Mister Sophomore 2016-17 and serves as an orientation leader.

STUDENTS GET INTENSE LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR PEER MENTORING JOB



HOMSLEY



SEARCY

Training sessions provided through the program, such as a ropes course and motivational seminars, helped both students learn things about themselves and each other.

"This was a new experience," Searcy said. "We didn't have people just lecturing to us. We were able to open up and talk about our own experiences in life. We were put into situations and given obstacles that we had to overcome. And we did it together."

"We even cried," added Homlesley. "These [students] are like my family now. We all made a connection, first with ourselves and then with one another."

According to Orok Orok, acting director for Student Engagement and Leadership, the goal of the leadership institute is to provide a deeper level of training and development for the participants.

"We didn't want this to be a traditional training with talking heads," Orok said. "Our goal was to give them access to the leadership traits that are already within them. This is the type of connection that creates great alumni. I feel confident that they will serve the university well."

The Eagle Experts program was created under the leadership Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Miron P. Billingsley, Ed.D., and developed by Toya Corbett, Ph.D., former Student Engagement and Leadership executive director who recently became the university's dean of students.

"We wanted our students to get leadership experience early on in their college career," Billingsley said. "It is a dynamic and unique

opportunity for our students. They have accepted the role of leader and servant."

To participate, students must be at sophomore standing or higher, with 30 academic credits earned and a minimum GPA of 2.5. Applicants complete a brief survey and must submit a letter of recommendation to be considered for the volunteer program.

In its second year, Eagle Experts has nearly 70 students who have completed the weeklong training and made a commitment to perform peer-mentorship duties. Each Eagle Expert is assigned to a group of freshmen with whom they make weekly contact in a variety of ways, including inviting them out to campus programs, hosting meet-ups and one-on-one interactions. This year, the experts also participated in Eagle Mania events to get to know the incoming class members.

"We are being like a big sister or big brother to them," Homsley said. "I remember how scared I was as a freshman. This drives me to serve my group even more."

Eagle Experts engage with younger students on multiple platforms, including hosting impromptu night tours and social media chats. They are open to contact by members of their freshmen group both day and night.

"There's nothing they can't ask us," Searcy said. "My goal is to make sure they have a positive experience and that I get the chance to make an impact on their lives. I love this job. I want our freshmen to know that I really care about them."

Homsley and Searcy concurred that it's important to maintain a positive attitude and always be genuine in order to demonstrate a true example of Eagle Excellence.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION OFFERS TOP ONLINE DEGREE IN COUNSELING

NCCU's online master's degree program in career counseling has been named among the top

10 online master's degree programs in the field.

The ranking by bestcounselingdegrees.net was calculated using data reported by the Institute of Education Sciences' College Navigator. Regional accreditation with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and tuition cost are also included as ranking factors.

NCCU's Career Counseling Program is designed to prepare students to work as career development professionals with clients of all ages in a variety of settings. These settings include: career services offices in colleges, universities, community colleges, K-12 public and private schools, nonprofit organizations, as well as private companies.

"These rankings affirm the positive results of our continuous efforts to cultivate scholars and top-notch practitioners," said Dr. Audrey W. Beard, interim dean of the NCCU School of Education.

The online counseling program, offered through the NCCU School of Education, also includes opportunities to gain critical counseling experience through on-campus residencies.

National ranking lists issued in recent months have given high marks to NCCU for its programs in nursing, law and criminal justice and others.

Learn more at www.nccu.edu/rankings/





Monica T. Leach

Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for
Enrollment Management and Academic Affairs

Dr. Monica Terrell Leach has been named senior associate vice chancellor for the Division of Enrollment Management and Academic Affairs.

In her new role, Leach will lead the division charged with executing key academic strategic initiatives.

Leach joined NCCU as associate vice chancellor for enrollment management in 2014 after serving at North Carolina State

University for almost 20 years in a variety of leadership roles.

Leach is a 2003 graduate of the Harvard Institute Management Development Program and has completed the UNC system's BRIDGES for Women Leadership Program. She holds a bachelor's degree in science from Louisiana State University, as well as master's and doctoral degrees in education from N.C. State University.



Jon Gant

Dean for the School of Library
and Information Sciences

Jon Gant, Ph.D., was named in August 2016 as dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS).

Gant received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. He previously held faculty positions at Syracuse University and Indiana University.

He has conducted groundbreaking research in the areas of Internet access and use, broadband adoption, and new models for delivering digital literacy training in public libraries and community anchor institutions.

His lifelong passion has been to improve digital inclusion in ways that help individuals, communities, public libraries and others to close the digital divide.

He was formerly a faculty member at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he had been employed since 2007.



Toya Corbett

Dean of Students

Toya Corbett, Ph.D., has been appointed to serve as dean of students for the Division of Student Affairs.


Corbett, who joined NCCU in March 2015 as executive director for the Department of Student Engagement and Leadership, previously served at Morgan State University in the Office of Student Activities.

She is a 2016 participant in the inaugural class of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Emerging

Leaders Program. Corbett holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, as well as a master's and a doctorate in history from Morgan State University.



**VOTE TUESDAY
NOV. 8**
IN THE USA GENERAL ELECTIONS



Then and Now:

Student Necessities Expand with the Decades

Most NCCU students carry a variety of must-haves in their fashionable backpacks.

Raleigh native **Kia Henley**, for example, considers her smart phone something she can't do without.

"I also have to have my headphones and a bottle of water with me at all times," said Henley, a member of the class of 2018.

For freshman **Shakira Griffin**, of Lexington, N.C., the list is a little bit longer and includes antibacterial gel and a fully stocked make-up bag.

Cassie Bargman, of Wilmington, N.C., totes her laptop and its charger, a smart phone, headphones, keys and Eagle card, along with paper, pens, scissors and a glue stick she needs for her art classes.

With all of today's online research tools and word processing platforms, traditional academic supplies may seem a bit, well, old school.

Not so for the class of 1966. A similar survey of these soon-to-be Golden Eagles reveals student gear that was heavy on the basic day-to-day necessities.

"We just carried our books stacked on top of our notebook," said **Furman Glenn**, of Louisville, Ky., a math and chemistry major who retired recently from DuPont Co.

"If we needed to make a call, there was a phone or two in the dorm for us to share. And the only computer on campus was in the math department. It was an IBM 1620 with punch cards, and it took up the whole room."

Without texting at their fingertips, friendship – and courtship – required a little more face time, said **George Partlow**, a varsity football player who majored in physical education.

"If you wanted to talk with a girl, you'd go to their dorm and stand outside," Partlow recalls.

"We also liked to sit on the iron rail outside the old cantina and talk. The boys would sit on the rail and the girls would come by and visit."

Esther Hardin, who studied biology and library science, recalls "no social media, no technology and certainly no personal computer" in her room at McLean Residence Hall in the 1960s.

"I carried a notebook and pen and paper to class, then we would head over to the library to study," she said. "The card catalogue was our go-to resource."

Like many music lovers, Hardin brought a transistor radio from home, but she also knew some lucky students who had record players to spin vinyl 45s in their rooms.

Top hits of the day included "You Can't Hurry Love" by the Supremes; "Uptight (Everything's Alright)" by Stevie Wonder; and "Cherish" by The Association. □



Planning the Way Forward for the NCCU Academy

BY AYANA D. HERNANDEZ

When Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D., acting chancellor, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, arrived at North Carolina Central University in February 2013, he made it one of his highest priorities to evaluate and develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the Division of Academic Affairs. He noted the university's quick pace of growth and expansion and determined that reshaping the academic core of the institution was critical to the overall success of the university.

With the support of Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, Akinleye began the process in November 2014. He formed a committee, led by Carlton Wilson, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Kimberly Cogdell Grainger, J.D., chair of the Faculty Senate, with input from Johnnie Southerland, director of Strategic Planning, to produce a transformational strategy for the university.

Using the NCCU 2020 Strategic Plan as a guidepost, the committee assembled representatives from various entities within the Division of Academic Affairs and began seeking feedback from key stakeholder groups within the university, including students, members of the Board of Trustees and numerous external constituent groups.

“WE HAVE TO ENSURE WE ARE PROVIDING OUR 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS WITH A ROBUST RANGE OF COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS THAT ARE NEEDED TO LEAD AND INNOVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND COMPANIES IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND BEYOND.”

Dr. Johnson O. Akinleye, Acting Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Incorporating additional feedback from members of local governments, non-profit organizations, public school officials, corporate entities, employers of NCCU graduates, community colleges, veterans, and alumni – along with input from focus groups of administrators, students, faculty and staff – a market-driven plan emerged with a focus on cross-disciplinary teaching, learning, collaboration, innovation and ideas generation.

The 2016-2021 Academic Affairs Strategic Plan was first presented to the Board of Trustees in April 2016 and was approved at the June 2016 meeting.

“The presentation showcased the results that followed a review of our data against local, regional, national and worldwide trends in current and forecasted job growth,” said Akinleye. “Not only did we do an inventory assessment of our current academic portfolio, the marketplace of today and the skills required to succeed, but we looked into the future to plan for jobs and industries that will be leading our economy in five to 10 years.

“We have to ensure we are providing our 21st century scholars with a robust range of competencies and skills that are needed to lead and innovate organizations and companies in the State of North Carolina and beyond. Equally important to this process was developing and providing our faculty with support needed to accomplish the established goals.”

Akinleye also deemed it essential for the Office of Institutional Research,



Evaluation and Planning to track, report, measure and communicate results of the plan beginning with its implementation in the 2016-2017 academic year, including both quantitative and qualitative measurements.

The plan identifies the university’s four core values as academic engagement; innovation and transformative leadership; inclusive culture; and social responsibility.

THE FIVE CRITICAL GOALS OF THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN ARE:

GOAL 1

Enhance teaching, research and scholarship among faculty

GOAL 2

Create an environment of collaborative learning and cross-disciplinary programming

GOAL 3

Develop innovative, versatile and culturally responsive leaders

GOAL 4

Create an inclusive environment that promotes an understanding of diverse perspectives, respect for individuality and community and the practice of culture competency

GOAL 5

Promote a community-engaged campus that supports social responsibility and economic development

Within each goal, four or five objectives are outlined that range from learning outcomes to establishing demonstrated, tangible new programs, such as “Launch to Venture” that capitalizes on the university and the City of Durham’s entrepreneurship advantage.

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

□ TEACHING, RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

NCCU continues to elevate its status as an institution dedicated to providing quality education. Toward this goal, NCCU is transitioning to a research-driven institution. By enhancing teaching, research and scholarship, NCCU Academic Affairs will attract and retain high quality faculty and students. Professional development for both faculty and students will allow for the effective use of technology and integration of new teaching and learning methods. Recognizing faculty and student research and scholarly accomplishments encourages achievement. To promote research, implementation strategies include planning for maintenance of facilities and equipment, and establishing an Office of Undergraduate Research.

□ CROSS-DISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

Cross-disciplinary teaching and learning purposefully involves the collaboration of two or more disciplines in a course, project or activity. Cross-disciplinary education allows students to recognize the connections between seemingly unrelated subjects and prepare them to be competitive in a dynamic labor market. To achieve the goal of collaborative learning across disciplines, the plan suggests the development and creation of several new programs, including a Department of Translational Sociology and a Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.

□ INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP

NCCU Academic Affairs is committed to promoting a culture of creativity and intellectual development. Workshops, online resources, and course are a few of the mechanisms that will be used to infuse the practice of innovation into the academic program. Students will be involved in projects on- and off-campus that embrace innovation. NCCU Academic Affairs will encourage innovation and entrepreneurship within the faculty and promote the commercialization of intellectual property through inventor-friendly initiatives and recognition. NCCU Academic Affairs will also raise awareness of and expand opportunities to develop vision-driven, flexible and culturally responsible leaders. Courses and workshops can assist students in their transformative leadership development. Planning is essential to effective leadership. Creating a plan of activities and interests will allow

students to reflect on their progress in meeting and advancing their academic career and leadership goals.

□ INCLUSIVE CULTURE

As a division, NCCU Academic Affairs embraces the historic mission of the university serving minority populations. The demographics of the NCCU student body include many first-generation college students and those with various academic, social, and socioeconomic qualities. Through recruitment, development and retention of culturally conscious faculty and staff, and expanding immersion opportunities for students, NCCU Academic Affairs will create an inclusive environment.

□ COMMUNITY-ENGAGED CAMPUS

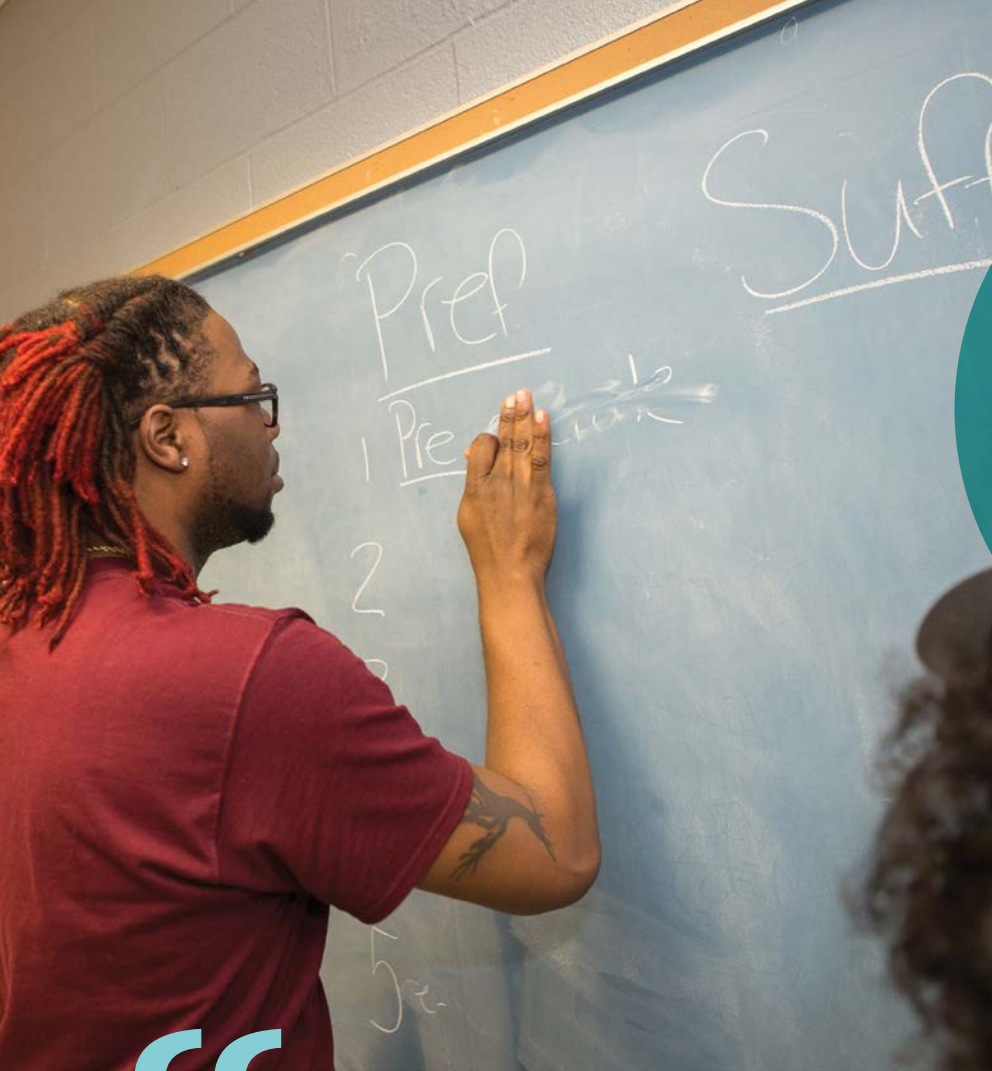
The NCCU mission addresses developing leaders prepared to advance the consciousness of social responsibility and civic engagement in a diverse, global society. NCCU Academic Affairs Strategic Plan has incorporated a goal of promoting a community-engaged campus that supports sustainable social justice. To achieve sustainable social justice, the engagement must be bi-directional from the community to the university and from the university to the community. Specifically, sustainability requires that programs and activities are developed with financial support, infrastructure, leadership and student participation that can withstand changes inside and outside the university. Community-engaged research and service learning are two key components that promote social responsibility.

□ CONCLUSION

Graduates will successfully compete in a variety of professional careers including the growing healthcare industry. The NCCU Academic Affairs Strategic Plan supports a campus environment that promotes diversity, social responsibility and global awareness. The plan also addresses the infrastructure, resources and academic programming necessary to achieve student success and produce competitive graduates. The successful completion of the strategic plan will ensure that to be one of four major universities in the region and will allow the University to capitalize on the strengths that are particular to a comprehensive Masters level institution. □

“I am pleased to say that the work implementing the plan has already begun.”
Once we fully roll out all aspects of the plan and begin seeing results on each
of the goals and objectives, I know that our students and the entire
North Carolina Central University academy will be positioned for even greater success.
As a result, our students will be better prepared to compete in the employment
marketplace as they graduate and enter their respective career fields.”

DR. JOHNSON O. AKINLEYE



/ SOARING MAGAZINE

As part of the Division of Academic Affairs' efforts to highlight faculty accomplishments in teaching, research and service, an editorial committee, led by Yolanda Banks Anderson, Ph.D., and Jaleh Razaie, Ph.D., debuted SOARING magazine in September 2016.

The annual publication showcases publications and presentations, as well as feature articles on award-winning educators including our University of North Carolina Board of Governors Award in Teaching Excellence winner, Dr. Peggy Whiting in the School of Education, as well as our three NCCU Excellence in Teaching Award winners.

SOARING has been digitally enhanced to feature short videos with 15 faculty members who discuss their respective disciplines. Additionally, first-place winners of the 2016 NCCU Undergraduate and Graduate Research Symposium are noted in the magazine. □



The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan will provide direction for the Division of Academic Affairs for the next five years. The plan is the result of a nearly two-year examination of the university's academic programs as well as current, future and market-driven trends in higher education. Its emphasis on cross-disciplinary education, effective teaching, productive research, entrepreneurship, innovation, cultural inclusiveness and social justice will allow faculty and students opportunities to develop and participate in creative programs that will establish exciting approaches to learning and student development as well as the discovery and application of new knowledge. This strategic plan is exceptional because it moves beyond the traditional academic space to ensure that students have an experience that will prepare them to compete and contribute in an ever-changing global community.”

DEAN CARLTON WILSON
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

You Tube

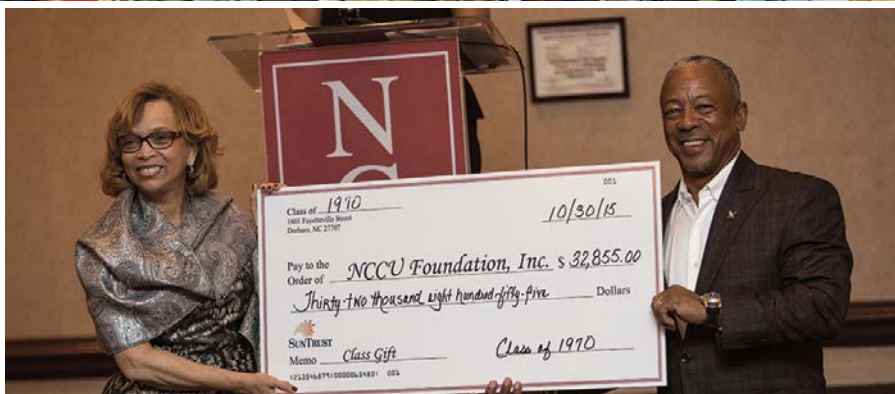
To view Soaring magazine, visit
nccu.edu/soaring

THE ultimate NCCU HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

OCT. 13-15



THUR
—
OCT
13



9:25 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

MOTIVATIONAL TASK FORCE EAGLE LEGACY TALK

A.E. STUDENT UNION, ROOM 146

Admission is free and open to the public.



10:40 BREAK

OLD SCHOOL GREEK STROLL OFF LIBRARY BOWL

Faculty and Staff from all Greek organizations are invited join us in the library bowl. / Admission is free and open to the public.

3 – 9 P.M.

EAGLE FEST STREET FESTIVAL AND K97.5 LIVE BROADCAST

BRANT STREET (RAIN SITE, STUDENT UNION)

It's almost game day. Join us for an afternoon of fun featuring music, contests, on air interviews, campus pep rally, inflatables, food, your 2016 Homecoming T-shirt and much more. / Admission is free and open to the public.

6 – 8 P.M.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS RECEPTION

SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

NCCU invites corporate and community supporters to an appreciation reception. / RSVP Required

11 P.M. – 2 A.M.

TENT PARTY STOP LIGHT PARTY

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL COMPLEX – TENT

(Colors determine the tempo of the party.)

Featuring DJ Be Owt / Ticket Required

Visit www.nccu.edu/homecoming to purchase tickets for homecoming events.

9 A.M. / FOUNDER'S DAY / CONVOCATION

SOCIETY OF GOLDEN EAGLES INDUCTION

McDOUGALD-McLENDON ARENA

The university will honor founder Dr. James E. Shepard and induct members of the Class of 1966, who will celebrate their 50th anniversary reunion.



10:45 A.M.

(Immediately Following Founder's Day)

WREATH LAYING

CEREMONY, HOEY CIRCLE

Admission is free and open to the public.

10 A.M. – 8 P.M.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Community service project

11:30 A.M.

SOCIETY OF GOLDEN EAGLES LUNCHEON

SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL
& CONVENTION CENTER

The luncheon will honor the newly inducted Golden Eagles from the Class of 1966.

Advance registration required / Tickets \$50



1 P.M. – 5 P.M.

ON THE YARD—

THE ULTIMATE DAY PARTY

LIBRARY BOWL

Admission is free and open to the public.

12:30 P.M.

NCCU HOMECOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHOLARSHIP

FUNDRAISER / HILLANDALE GOLF COURSE

NCCU Alumni Association / Tickets Required

6 P.M. – 2 A.M.

EAGLE HOMECOMING CAMP

Parents of future Eagles ages 9 to 13 can register their children for one or two nights of fun activities at the 2016 Eagle Homecoming Camp. \$45 for one night (per child) and \$80 for both nights.

6:30 P.M.

REUNION RECEPTION AND PRESENTATION OF CLASS GIFTS

SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

It's time to celebrate North Carolina College. NCCU classes ending in 1s and 6s as they return to present their class gifts to their alma mater. / Ticket Required

7 P.M.

NCCU HOMECOMING STEP SHOW

McDOUGALD-McLENDON ARENA

FRI
OCT
14

8 P.M. DOORS OPEN / 9 P.M. CONCERT

ALUMNI CONCERT featuring **EDDIE LEVERT** and **MIDNIGHT STAR**

SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

Carving Station • Cash Bar • All Reserved Seating

FOR TICKETS: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming



FALL 2016 NCCU NOW 21

THE *ultimate* GAME DAY

2 P.M. / NCCU EAGLES VS. SAVANNAH STATE



SAT
OCT
15



9 A.M.

HOMECOMING PARADE WATCHING ALUMNI HOUSE

(Corner of Fayetteville Street and Cecil Street)

Join the NCCU Alumni Association Inc. and the Office of Alumni Relations for breakfast and enjoy watching the parade on the lawn of the Alumni House. Admission is free and open to the public.

11 A.M. – 1 P.M.

SHEPARD SOCIETY DONOR TAILGATE CAMPUS RECREATION OUTDOOR COMPLEX (TENT)

2015 – 2016 Shepard Society members are invited to join Acting Chancellor Johnson O. Akinyele for food and fellowship at a pre-game tailgate. Invitation Only / Game Ticket Required

11 A.M. – 7 P.M.

VENDOR VILLAGE

LINCOLN STREET / Admission is free and open to the public.

2 P.M. (GATE OPENS 3 HOURS PRIOR)

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME VS. SAVANNAH STATE

O'KELLY-RIDDICK STADIUM / Ticket Required

POST GAME

STUDENT/ALUMNI SOCIAL FEATURING DJ MIC CHECK

LIBRARY BOWL / Free

8 P.M.

HOMECOMING HIP HOP CONCERT FEATURING YO GOTTI, TYGA DOLLA \$IGN AND MIGOS

DURHAM CONVENTION CENTER / Ticket Required

6 P.M. – 2 A.M.

EAGLE HOMECOMING CAMP

Parents of future Eagles ages 9 to 13 can register their children for one or two nights of fun activities at the 2016 Eagle Homecoming Camp. \$45 for one night (per child) and \$80 for both nights

8:30 P.M.

HOMECOMING EXTRAVAGANZA

SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

The NCCU Alumni Association hosts the 2016 Homecoming Extravaganza. Visit www.nccualumni.org for more information / Ticket Required

Visit www.nccu.edu/homecoming to purchase tickets for homecoming events.

THE ultimate NCCU HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING 2017

OCTOBER 28, 2017 NCCU EAGLES vs DELAWARE STATE



Don't miss out on the excitement next year!
Make plans now to attend the Ultimate Homecoming 2017.

SOCIETY OF GOLDEN EAGLES CLASS OF 1967

An induction ceremony and luncheon will honor the Class of 1967 as they join the Society of Golden Eagles on Friday, Oct. 27, 2017.

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.

RESERVE YOUR HOTEL FOR 2017

Special rates have been arranged for booking your perfect stay in Durham for Homecoming 2017. Our partner hotels include the Marriott at RTP, Sheraton Imperial, Homewood Suites, DoubleTree Page Creek, SpringHill Suites Slater Road, DoubleTree Meridian, Hilton Garden Inn at RTP and Courtyard by Marriott RTP.

EVERY EAGLE. YEAR.

Giving AT HOMECOMING

If NCCU graduates agree on one thing, it is the positive impact that their time as Eagles made on their lives. Homecoming is the ideal time to give back to your alma mater, as each class joins a friendly competition to see who can raise the most support for NCCU.

Not only does giving back feel great, it helps change the lives of students by providing scholarships and other assistance needed to ensure that every student receives a first-class education.



Your *gift* will change lives.

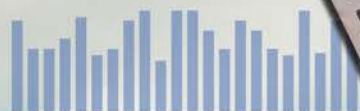
Make *your* gift today at
nccu.edu/donation

THE

BIG DATA



2008 2009 2010 2011





NCCU students Fabiola Doissaint, Clarence Hollaway Jr., Kawada King Burns and Ahmed Meley explore the business potential of big data.



B

ig data is big news around the Triangle region of North Carolina, and North Carolina Central University is riding the wave of data analytics with a pair

of partnerships and a new academic offering.

BY KIA BELL

Over past few years, big data has become more than a catchphrase in technology and business; it has become an essential element in many everyday functions. Although big data has recently developed more buzz, it is still a relatively new concept.

SO WHAT IS BIG DATA?

Big data can be described as the large volume of data – both structured and unstructured – that impacts operations or outcomes.

Corporations rely on big data analytics to make decisions that shape their core mission, and researchers use it to develop insights based on patterns and trends. In a recent Forbes Magazine report, a survey concluded that 89 percent of business leaders believe big data will revolutionize business operations in much the same way that the Internet has done.

Two of the leading companies in data analytics around the world are SAS and SAP, and both have formed partnerships with NCCU.

With corporate offices in North Carolina, SAS analytics software is used by over 80,000 businesses – including 91 of the top 100 companies on the Fortune Global 500 list – as well as government and university operations worldwide.

Headquartered in Germany, SAP creates products that use live data in predicting customer trends, as well as programs to help companies work more efficiently.

“NCCU’s School of Business is excited to not only offer the new course offerings but also build great relationships with SAS and SAP,” said Donna Grant, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Computer Information Science Department. “These partnerships are a great addition to ensure our students are exposed to emerging technologies and knowledge, such as big data, while also making them market-ready for lucrative careers.”

NCCU students are especially interested in this innovative approach to education that they believe will increase their opportunities in the workplace.

“Collaborations with companies such as SAS and SAP will do wonders for historically black colleges and universities,” said Clarence Holloway Jr., a junior computer science and business student from Oxford, N.C. “Students will gain valuable knowledge through obtaining internships and even jobs thanks to partnerships established by faculty and staff.”

Through its partnership with SAS, the School of Business will offer a Certificate in Analytics and Statistics

that was created through SAS’s Global Academic Program to prepare students and professionals for work in data-rich settings. According to pay-scale.com, the average starting salary for such positions is \$78,000.

Ahmed Melegy, a junior computer science and business major, is a sports enthusiast who is excited about the opportunity to learn data analytics using state-of-the-art software. Melegy credits his love of basketball with spurring his interest in the field; he hopes to become a data scientist for the NBA.

“Some NBA teams use big data analytics in the way they play. That was very intriguing to me, which is why I

TWO OF THE LEADING COMPANIES in data analytics around the world are SAS and SAP, and both have formed partnerships with NCCU.



Industry leaders such as Brian Reaves of SAP have met and spoken

Reaves worked closely with Donna Covington, dean of Delaware State University's School of Business, to develop an HBCU-directed initiative called Project Propel, part of SAP's Black Employee Network designed to help boost recruitment, retention and promotion for African-American employees.

The SAS-NCCU Joint Certificate will be offered through the School of



(Pictured left to right) NCCU students
Charlee Moss and Clarence Hollaway Jr.



Business's decision sciences concentration and will equip students with skills in statistical analysis, data management and SAS programming. Students will complete a major project using a large set of real data to ensure firsthand experience in delivering big-data findings.

Four three-credit-hour courses in data analysis and statistics are required for the certificate. These courses also will count as electives for students earning bachelor degrees outside of the School of Business. The certificate paired with a B.S. degree leverages the university's existing course work with new curriculum. The certificate may be earned along with a bachelor's or graduate degree, and it will also be available separately through continuing education.

Data analytics skills are increasingly attractive to a wide range of employers, said Ibrahim Salama, Ph.D., a professor in the School of Business.

"This certificate gives students transferrable skills and a valuable

In a recent Forbes Magazine report, a survey concluded that **89 PERCENT** of business leaders believe big data will revolutionize business operations in much the same way that the Internet has done.

competitive advantage for any profession," Salama said. "With this certification program, students will be able to get almost any job based upon their advanced skills alone. It will open many avenues of career opportunities for students."

Fabiola Doissaint, a senior business administration student, agreed.

"Learning about big data before graduation positions us ahead of a lot of people in the workforce," Doissaint said.

John Medicke, an IBM distinguished engineer who visited NCCU in spring 2016, told students that big data can be useful in many ways, from big-picture forecasting to more targeted decision-making tasks.

It may be used to establish company-wide business goals or to defend a specific business decision, Medicke said.

"Data science may be used to understand, to change, to decide, to convince and to impress," Medicke said. "With access to more data, it's possible to mine more insight from that data, and that gives you a competitive advantage."

For companies and organizations that have mastered big data analytics, the sky is the limit, Medicke believes.

"Some make the analogy to oil," he added. "Strike the right vein and you'll get wealthy." □

CELEBRATING OUR
DIFFERENCES:

DIVERSITY

MEANS OPPORTUNITY
FOR NCCU

.....
BY RENEE ELDER





North Carolina Central University has a long history of welcoming diversity – from employing Jewish refugees as professors during World War II to hosting the first interracial basketball game in the segregated South. Today, NCCU is casting its net even wider with outreach to individuals from a variety of races, backgrounds, cultures and all walks of life.

A Latino Advisory Committee for the university was formed in 2014 to focus on a particular group that is expanding “exponentially faster” than any other segment of the population, said Johnnie Southerland, director of Strategic Planning for the university.

“The Hispanic population in this region is growing, and that presents a wonderful opportunity for us to offer a campus environment that not only welcomes but embraces them,” Southerland said. “Our goal is to put together an infrastructure that will promote Latino recruitment and also support persistence of that student on through to graduation.”

The terms Latino and Latina refer to men and women whose families come from Latin America. Hispanic is another term that is frequently used in reference to native Spanish-speakers.

According to the U.S. Census, people with Hispanic backgrounds will make up nearly a quarter of the country’s native-born population by 2050, compared to 13 percent in 2015. That growth is projected to be even greater in some regions, including states in the southeast. During this same period, the percentage of native-born white Americans is expected to drop

from 79.9 percent to 72 percent, and African-American growth to rise only slightly, from 13.7 percent to 14.6.

Today at NCCU, 76 percent of the student body is African-American, with white students comprising 11 percent of the enrollment. Hispanic or Latino students make up about 3 percent. Those numbers are expected to change over the next decade as North Carolina’s citizenry becomes more diverse, Southerland said.

Monica T. Leach, Ed.D., senior associate vice chancellor in the Division of Enrollment Management, underscores the need for greater diversity in



Director of
Strategic Planning
Johnnie Southerland talks
with Nathalie Bravo Batista,
who formed Raices to help
her meet other Hispanic
students on campus.



NCCU was the second HBCU in the nation to open a center for gay, transgendered and questioning students and their allies. The LGBT Center in A.E. Student Union offers a place to meet and educational and social activities for students, including Keyonna Fowler, Kaylee R. Sciacca, and Glenda Spell.

enrollment at NCCU, which was founded in 1910 to educate African-Americans then barred from whites-only institutions.

"While we honor, love and respect our historic mission, students are attracted to various campuses for a variety of reasons," Leach said. "In order to attract a diverse student body, we are diversifying our majors, being innovative with our curriculum, and building partnerships with community colleges and other agencies. All these things help build a more diverse student pool that can help us reach our enrollment goals."

Nathalie Bravo Batista, a junior biology major from Puerto Rico, said she came to the U.S. to live with her brother and attend N.C. State University, but an impromptu visit to NCCU changed her mind.

"I first came to NCCU with my sister in law who was signing up for a nursing program," Batista said. "I fell in love with the campus. Then I met another Puerto Rican girl who had the same goals that I do, to study science."

The fact that NCCU also had an academic scholarship program that could help

professors have space in their labs and in the classrooms, and they make you feel like you belong."

Despite the warm reception, Batista said she initially felt a bit isolated on campus because it was hard to connect with other Latina and Latino students. She has since become involved in the Latino Advisory Committee and is working to make the environment more welcoming.

She helped organize Raices, a student group offering opportunities to socialize, volunteer and raise the profile of Hispanic students at NCCU. Members also visit area high schools to talk with Latino youngsters about the value of higher education and the advantages offered at NCCU, Batista said.

"If we are going to get diverse students into the university and want to keep them here, we need to find ways to help them feel comfortable and represented," she added.

Dayami Lopez, Ph.D., is an NCCU assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences who was born in Cuba. Upon joining the faculty in 2008, Lopez said she was pleasantly surprised by the degree of inclusion and diversity on campus.

"I felt very welcome, especially when compared to my previous place of employment," said Lopez, who taught for a while in another southern state. "The fact that there are a lot of minorities here, not only African-Americans but different groups, makes everybody very open in the way they welcome you and talk to you. It was different culture than I was used to, and I like it a lot."

Also a member of the Latino Advisory Committee, Lopez tries to overcome what

pay for her tuition was a bonus – along with the personal nature of the faculty-student relationships.

"I learned that if you want to do research, someone will help you do research," she explained. "If you want to dance, there is someone here to help. There are opportunities to grow at this university. The



she believes is the biggest barrier for some foreign-born applicants: communication.

"The Hispanic community hasn't always gotten all the information it needs to understand the opportunities available at NCCU, such as the kinds of programs we offer and the kinds of financial aid available," she said. "That can be critical, because in many cases, the families are not wealthy and would have trouble paying for a student's education without financial aid."

While many college-age Latinos speak fluent English, many of their parents do not, Lopez pointed out.

"It is a characteristic of the Latino community that the parents are very involved," Lopez added. "But when they go to see colleges that their students are interested in, they often can't understand the information because they don't speak English very well. For me, talking to parents and students is very important. They are always happy to learn that I can speak Spanish."

The university's Enrollment Management division recently hired its first Latino student-recruiter and the Office of Admissions also has added a staff member who speaks fluent Spanish.

"We know that for us to build our Latino population, you have to recruit the entire family," Leach said, "so you must have outreach partnerships to engage them and help them understand why NCCU is a good fit for them."

Outreach efforts include collaborations with the N.C. Society of Hispanic Professionals, El Centro Hispano, the state Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other agencies.

For the past three years, NCCU has been the host site for Mi Exito La Universidad, an educational fair for families aimed at reinforcing the importance of high school graduation and providing



THE HISPANIC POPULATION IN THIS REGION IS GROWING, AND THAT PRESENTS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO OFFER A CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT THAT NOT ONLY WELCOMES BUT EMBRACES THEM.

Johnnie Southerland, Director of Strategic Planning

information about support services and college admissions requirements.

"The families who come have children in high school and younger, and the fact that they are coming to our campus is a huge plus for us," Southerland said.

With higher educational attainment required for success in the modern workplace, the emphasis on staying in school is especially important for Latinos, whose level of education tends to be lower than other groups. In 2014, for example, high school graduation rates stood at 88.8 percent for whites, 87 percent for African-Americans and 66.7 for Hispanics of all races. Many Latinos who enter NCCU are first-generation college students.

Emily Guzman, director of diversity and inclusion for the university, said making concerted efforts to help Latinos feel comfortable on campus is a fitting strategy for NCCU.

"Like African-Americans, Latinos also faced and continue to face a lot of discrimination and racism throughout the United States," Guzman said. "It would be fabulous to have this safe space for Latinos at a

university that understands what is like not to have that space."

Sharpening the focus on Hispanics and other groups outside the university's original mission may not be an easy sell for some, she concedes.

"Since there was an obvious reason that was important for HBCUs to exist, it is going to be a little bit of a special challenge to start talking about Latino issues," Guzman said. "There also may be challenges when talking about issues of diversity and race and ethnicity and homophobia, but I'm excited to be part of the conversation."

Meanwhile, NCCU continues to work on improving educational opportunities and outcomes for African-Americans. One particularly successful initiative is the Centennial Scholars

program, where freshman males receive coaching to help narrow the graduation gap between female and male African-American students. At NCCU according to University of North Carolina system statistics, 65.5 percent of female students graduate within six years, compared to 58.8 percent of males.

Each year, 40 students are chosen in a competitive process to join Centennial Scholars living-learning environment, which offers special programming and mentoring in research skills and other academic areas. The Men's Achievement Center also offers MAC Brothers, a less intensive mentorship program that provides career development, support for academics, opportunities for civic engagement, service learning and more.

Female students can get special help through the Women's Center. Director Nichole Lewis notes that even though women make up 67 percent of the university's enrollment, they still have some catching up to do when it comes to taking full advantage of opportunities that are available.

“Leadership capacity is a very significant issue for us, particularly for women of color,” Lewis said. “There’s often the question of how a woman of color can position herself as a leader, yet not be in competition with African-American men.”

Steps to address diversity among faith traditions and sexual orientation also are taking place at the university.

As a southern, historically black institution, Christian faith traditions have predominated at NCCU. But that is beginning to change, said the Rev. Gloria Winston-Harris, who joined the NCCU staff in July 2016 as director of Spiritual Development and Dialogue.

“So often we think of HBCUs as staying in the tradition, but there are many reasons why students are attracted to an HBCU,” she said. “To be inclusive, it is important to welcome people of Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish and all faith backgrounds.”

Interfaith meetings allow participants to get together, learn from one another, and explore their faith differences and similarities.

“We look different; we are not all one way,” Winston-Harris said.

“Many young adults have a spiritual journey during this time of life, and it’s important that we welcome all faiths to the table. Yours doesn’t have to look like everybody else’s.”



“I FELT VERY WELCOME, ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED TO MY PREVIOUS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.”

Dayami Lopez, Ph.D.
NCCU Assistant Professor of
Pharmaceutical Sciences

The inclusiveness extends to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and their allies. In 2013, NCCU became only the second historically black university to establish a LGBTQA Center

on campus. Housed in the A.E. Student Union, it hosts a variety of activities and learning opportunities.

“Sometimes we might focus on transgender issues or other issues of interest to the group,” said Glenda Spell, a sophomore, who serves as an ambassador for the organization. “We also invite speakers from different organizations and churches.”

A typical LGBTQA Center event will draw a crowd of 30 or 40 students, said Spell, who first learned about the center during campus orientation.

“I saw the center and heard some of my friends talking about it,” she said. “My first event was a Karaoke night with food. It was a real fun thing.”

Helping LGBT students build friendships and establish a support network is key for the center, but education and advocacy are important, as well. Among the groups housed at the center is COLORS, which stands for “creating open lives and organizing for real success.”

“COLORS has a commitment to fighting for social justice, advocacy, service, community and accountability,” Spell said.

Faculty and staff also have participated in safe zone training to serve as allies for LGBT students across campus.

Demographic changes are also affecting enrollment. North Carolina is growing older – with the median age rising from 37 in 2010 to 40 by 2030. Looking outside the first-time freshman cohort for new students offers more opportunity for enrollment expansion. NCCU has already seen a spike in students who are starting college at an older age or returning to complete an interrupted college career.

Such students tend to be more interested in taking online or evening classes that mesh with their family obligations or work schedules. Extracurricular activities are not as important as a streamlined path from enrollment to graduation.

Some changes aimed at addressing this group include an expanded menu of online courses, partnerships with area community colleges, an increase in the number of

The age demographic is another area in which NCCU is responding.

North Carolina is growing older – with the median age rising from

37 in 2010 to 40 by 2030.



TO BE INCLUSIVE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO WELCOME PEOPLE OF MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, JEWISH AND ALL FAITH BACKGROUNDS.”

The Rev. Gloria Winston-Harris, Director of Spiritual Development and Dialogue

certification programs offered, and fast-track options for veterans, registered nurses and others with existing skills. The university plans to launch a new initiative, NCCU Online, in late fall.

According to UNC system figures, there are 1.5 million students in the state who have “stopped out” or left school without earning a degree. The End Zone Initiative introduced in spring 2016 at NCCU offers a new Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences to help those students graduate. The degree incorporates interdisciplinary studies designed to prepare students for the diverse challenges of the modern workplace while maximizing existing credit hours earned.

To make sure the university addresses the needs of a diverse mix of students, faculty and staff, Laurell Malone, director of Faculty Development, facilitates a series of programs aimed at raising the awareness of new employees about cultural and learning differences among various races, ethnicities and, especially, generations.

“We have three or four generations of folks blending in at the workplace,” Malone said. “There are the Millennials, Generation X, Baby Boomers, and some before that. We are trying to blend together many types of differences.” □



Interfaith meetings and prayer groups help students get to know and better understand a variety of faiths practiced by members of the campus community.

New Registry to Help **Shed Light** on Right Brain Stroke

BY RENEE ELDER

S

STROKE SURVIVORS often struggle with basic skills, such as speech and short-term memory.

But other hurdles faced by stroke patients are less well known and harder to address with traditional therapies, particularly for those who have sustained damage to the right hemisphere of the brain.

“With right brain stroke, there are more subtle communication problems,” said Jamila Minga, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Communication Disorders Program at North Carolina Central University. “When a right brain stroke occurs, the diagnosis is right hemisphere disorder [RHD], a constellation of impairments that involve language and thinking.”

Unlike strokes to the left hemisphere, right hemisphere stroke patients often have speech that is fluent and intelligible, but the cognitive process behind their words may be flawed.

“The way that language is used at a pragmatic level is compromised,” Minga explained. “We know that difficulty in communication occurs, but it is not often studied in the RHD population.”

Compounding the issue is the fact that right brain stroke sufferers may not be aware

of their own disabilities and fail to seek out therapy and support as often as those suffering an injury to the left side of the brain.

“They may be discharged into the community, where they go back to their jobs, only to be fired because they don’t make it to appointments, have poor interpersonal communication skills or less than optimal decision-making abilities,” Minga said.

The biology behind a stroke is fairly straightforward, explained Mildred Pointer, director of cardiometabolic research at the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute at NCCU.

“Either you have a blood clot that prevents blood from getting to a portion of your brain, or a blood vessel in the brain may burst,” she said.

Sometimes the event is caused by health factors, such as high blood pressure, but it also



△ Patricia Carrington, of Durham, who suffered a stroke more than a decade ago, adds her name to the Right Brain Stroke Registry at NCCU. Sarah Stidham and Leilani Burgess (foreground) are graduate students studying the characteristics of right hemisphere disorder under Professor Jamila Minga.

may occur due to a genetic defect in the blood vessel wall.

When a vessel bursts or a blood clot forms that blocks the flow of blood the brain, damage quickly occurs in the affected region.

"It is critically important to get to the hospital as quickly as possible following a stroke, before the cells begin to die or become dysfunctional," Pointer said.

When brain cells die, the functions that normally occur in that region can be impaired. The right side of the brain controls the body's left side, so areas affected by right brain stroke can include functions of the left arm and leg and the left visual field, as well as communication skills and certain traits, such as creativity, insight and intuition.

The left hemisphere controls the right side of the body, as well as functions such as language, analytic thought and reasoning. Researchers at the University of Florida, Gainesville, published a 2013 study that found strokes affecting the brain's left hemisphere are slightly more common, making up 54 percent of all stroke incidents.

That study is one of only handful that have been carried out on the differences between

She and some of her graduate students have traveled to Atlanta and other cities to conduct a study examining the communication skills of adults with RHD. This study is in collaboration with TalkBank, a national shared database that catalogs multimedia interactions of communication-impaired populations for research and clinical purposes. While conducting the study, the registry was promoted as a way to address difficulties researchers have expressed in recruiting right brain stroke survivors.

"There is a growing need to advance research in this area, but this can't be accomplished without a representative sample size," said Minga, whose dissertation focused on right brain stroke survivors' use of questions. She said she had to visit several states to recruit an adequate sample size for her investigation.

Sarah Stidman, a second-year master's student in the Communications Disorders Program, is excited about the chance to advance the registry.

"At the beginning, Dr. Minga gave us research articles to read so we had a good understanding of what right side strokes do and what functions are affected," Stidman said.

**Jamila Minga, Ph.D.,
has recently established the first Right
Brain Stroke Registry,
which is housed within
the Communications
Disorders Program
at NCCU.**

"Then we went through the protocol she created and learned what we would be doing with the participants, which included going over the consent form and giving them the Cognitive Linguistic Quick Test. "We tested each other to get comfortable with the flow. Then we started working with actual participants at their home or having them come to the clinic in our department area."

More than 40 individuals have been added to the registry so far, including Patricia

Carrington of Durham, who suffered a right brain stroke in 2003 at age 51. Carrington's articulation is clear but she still finds it difficult to communicate.

"I have some memory problems and sometimes, when I want to say something, I can't think of the words," said Carrington, who also has paralysis on her left side.

"I believe more knowledge from research can make life better for people who have strokes and for those around them."

Stidman has become well versed in the differences among stroke survivors.

"When it happens on the right side, it doesn't always affect the person's speech. They may sound fine, but it ends up affecting their pragmatic skills," she said. "The patients lose their filter and can't self monitor, for example. They may keep on talking and over explaining."

Stidman and other future speech-language pathologists who plan to work with right brain stroke survivors hope eventually they will have therapies that have been proven through extensive research.

But at the moment, too little information exists on the best treatments for right brain stroke survivors, Minga said.

"Without an adequate sample size, the research literature on communication impairments following a right brain stroke can't be advanced any further. The registry is a remedy to that gap."

Right brain stroke survivor Kelly Campbell met with Minga and four NCCU graduate students on recent trip to Atlanta to sign up for the new registry. Campbell, 48, suffered a stroke seven years ago due to a genetic problem that was previously undetected.

A former assistant principal, she has also suffered with some memory problems and paralysis in her left arm.

Since that time, she has noticed several symptoms, including a reduction in impulse control.

"I've been leading stroke support groups for survivors and caregivers for a while, and the team from NCCU was the first to reach out to us for potential participation in any research," Campbell said.

She said additional research is needed to understand why stroke incidents are on the rise, particularly among people between the ages of 30 and 55. □



right and left brain stroke survivors, a fact that a research team from NCCU's Department of Allied Professions is working to change. Minga, who joined the faculty in 2015, has recently established the first Right Brain Stroke Registry, which is housed within the Communications Disorders Program at NCCU.



Professional
Black Girl

You Tube

The Journey to Commentating on the Politics of Beauty

BY AYANA HERNANDEZ | One of North Carolina Central University's newest endowed chairs is no stranger to the spotlight. Yaba Blay, Ph.D., who serves as the Dan Blue Endowed Chair in the Department of Political Science, is a cultural commentator and critic whose insights and expertise have been noted widely in national media such as O Magazine and CNN on topics of beauty, colorism and race.

Currently, Blay is teaching a variety of courses that range from The Politics of Hip Hop to Black Body Politics and will offer classes on Black Lives Matter and Hip Hop Feminism in the near future. Her courses are designed to provide students in the department with exposure to a broader application of political analysis.

Blay is the creator of the #PrettyPeriod movement affirming Black beauty of darker-brown hues and garnered national attention in February 2016 when she launched #PrettyLipsPeriod, a social media campaign that went viral after responding to an Instagram post from a cosmetics company that generated hateful comments about Black features. Most recently, Blay unveiled her newest project in early September, "Professional Black Girl," an original video series featuring 15 Black women and girls ranging in age from 2 to 52 years old. Each episode features a candid discussion with personalities from rap artists to authors about what it means to each of them to be a "professional Black girl."

Before Blay's platform expanded to an international audience, her worldview was shaped on the campuses of Xavier University and Delaware State University, where she lived while being raised by her parents, who were both educators. The daughter of Ghanaian immigrants, Blay was born in New Orleans.

"I haven't always been smart; I was a professional high school student," she candidly admitted.

AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLAR TAKES A HARD LOOK AT CULTURAL FACTORS SHAPING AMERICA

"My father is a sociologist and is a retired professor from Delaware State University. When I went to college, I knew I would study liberal arts and wound up picking psychology." She began her collegiate career at Delaware State before transferring to Salisbury State University.

After starting her career as a social worker for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Blay discovered that she really enjoyed connecting and speaking with families. She pursued and earned a Master of Education degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of New Orleans and began working as a university counselor.

"I thought I was a good and effective therapist," she concludes, even though she quickly felt the tug of another career.

"I am too social and active of a person to sit in an office for eight hours every day talking quietly. As a work environment, therapy wasn't for me. I needed a change. I needed to do something. One of my mentors helped me to figure it out. He knew I loved Black culture and Black people and that I enjoyed working with students and teaching, so when he said 'Why don't you study Black studies?' the light bulb came on. Well, it was more like a strobe light."

“We are professional code-switchers, hair-flippers, hip-shakers, and go-getters.”

—DR. YABA BLAY

She applied to several programs before deciding to attend Temple University, where she earned a doctorate.

A strong sense of cultural identity is intrinsic to Blay. “Being raised Ghanaian in New Orleans, I had strong cultural pride. I was raised to be proud of who I am.”

Today, part of Blay’s mission is to critically engage the “politics” of Black beauty. She believes it is essential to understand how beauty, culture and politics all intertwine.

“There are several larger umbrellas — culture and cultural aesthetics, for example,” she explained. “Beauty is a function of the larger society and larger institutions and a function of power and white supremacy.”

Blay said: “As a people, we have to think critically about how we identify. I am Black. Not African-American. Black is a political identity, and by “political” I mean that it reflects a negotiation of power. It reflects my conscious decision to align myself and connect myself to all of the people who look like me all over the world, including African-Americans. There’s power in that.” Blay believes that beauty is her “thing.”

“Beauty has become the catch phrase or term under which I tend to categorize my work, because it’s simple and everybody knows what it is,” she said. “My work is about Black culture and Black identity – and there are so many ways to look at it, from skin color to hair texture to body shape.”

Prior to joining the NCCU faculty, Blay was an assistant professor and co-director of the Africana Studies program at Drexel University. She is the author of “(1)ne Drop: Shifting the Lens on Race.” On her NCCU appointment, which began in January 2016,



Blay is teaching two courses for the fall 2016 semester: The Politics of Hip Hop and a course on Black Body Politics. In addition to teaching and continuing scholarship, Blay is hosting public symposiums, the first of which was held at NCCU during Women’s History Month when she presented on the topic “When Black Ain’t Beautiful: Hair, Skin and Politics of Beauty.”

“My students need to learn about themselves,” she said. “History is critical. The politics of history is critical. We should be arming our students with an arsenal of tools that they can use to understand their reality, the world they live in. That arsenal is knowledge of themselves.”

The Politics of Hip Hop introduces students to the history of hip-hop. She believes that students need to not only understand the history of hip hop that began in its birthplace of Bronx, N.Y., but also the sociopolitical context which necessitated its birth and defined its function so that they can properly gauge if what they are currently listening to is actually hip hop music.

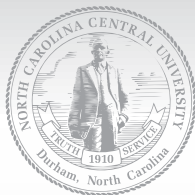
A second course, Black Body Politics, examines race, gender, and negotiations of power as they are reflected on and through Black bodies. In this course, Blay’s goal is to help students understand their own body politics and the power (or lack thereof) that their bodies communicate.

Within days of its release, Blay’s project, Professional Black Girl, had already gained the attention and acclaim of numerous media outlets and popular online sites, including EBONY, Huffington Post, The Root and Blavity. EBONY called it, “A Love Letter to Black Women Worldwide,” while Huffington Post said it “Celebrates the Everyday Magic Of Black Women.” The series includes Blay’s conversations with professional Black girls, including Grammy Award-winning recording artist Rapsody; Joan Morgan, author of “When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost;” and 13-year-old world traveler Nahimana Machen. NCCU alumna Briana Lawrence, a mass communications graduate from the class of 2016, is credited for filming and editing the online video series.

“The terminology that is often used to describe and define Black girls—such as bad, grown, fast, ghetto, and ratchet—are non-affirming and are words that are intended to kill the joy and magic within all Black girls,” Blay said. “We are professional code-switchers, hair-flippers, hip-shakers, and go-getters. We hold it down while lifting each other up, and we don’t have to justify or explain our reason for being. This is us.”

Follow the #PrettyPeriod movement at prettyperiod.me and learn more about the “Professional Black Girl” series at yabablay.com. □

For more on Dr. Blay visit: 



James E. Shepard, Founder



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The Office of Alumni Relations is extremely proud of the role alumni played in helping the Division of Institutional Advancement meet and exceed our fundraising goal! The university gained 555 new alumni donors during the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2016, bringing the total to 3,401 alumni who raised \$2,431,616 for the university.

While philanthropic support from alumni is essential, your willingness to serve as volunteers is equally important. Quite frankly, we cannot make it without your assistance, as alumni volunteers play a vital role in the successful execution of programs at North Carolina Central University. We rely upon you to help us reach out to our students in meaningful ways, such as your assistance in helping students move into their residence halls during Eagle Mania.

We are particularly excited that engagement by our alumni graduates of 2000 or later has increased significantly, both in their philanthropic support and commitment of time. Our office issued challenges to Greek-letter organizations, former campus leaders and alumni affiliated with other campus groups through our Every Eagle. Every Year. campaign – and you responded in a generous way.

Alumni also showed up in large numbers to formally welcome approximately 1,500 new freshmen and transfer students into the NCCU family during the Eagle Pinning Ceremony. Your participation during the Fall Eagle Preview on Oct. 1, 2016, also provided a valuable perspective to high school students as they considered making our campus their home for the next four years.

On Sept. 16, 2016, alumni under the age of 40 who have made a lasting impact in their communities and the world were recognized during the third-annual Forty Under Forty Alumni Awards Gala. Led by a volunteer committee of their peers, the awards program was introduced by the Office of Alumni Relations in 2012 as a means to develop the next generation of NCCU alumni ambassadors. Congratulations again to all of the honorees!

Homecoming 2016 will take place during the week of October 9-15, and we will continue to rely upon the dedicated support of our cadre of alumni volunteers to assist our office to ensure that returning Eagles have the ultimate experience. As we move towards the Spring Eagle Preview and Commencement, we look forward to your continued dedication, as well.

Don't be left out! Watch your email for upcoming opportunities to volunteer. Your support is invaluable, and we thank you for all you do.

Yours in Truth and Service,

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

'61, '69 **LENWOOD G. DAVIS, PH.D.**, was named professor emeritus in the History Department at Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

'66, '73 **JACQUELINE JONES HILL** was recently elected to a four-year term as president of the North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, Young Adult and Youth Clubs Inc.

'66 **JAMES NEWTON**, professor emeritus of Black American Studies at the University of Delaware, was recently featured by the Delaware Art Museum during a film screening and discussion of "James E. Newton: A Life Story in Art." Presented by Delaware Humanities Forum, Newton's documentary is a first-person narrative of his life as an artist, author, educator, and activist. Newton studied art under NCCU Professor Ed Wilson and later went on to become the first African-American to earn a Master of Fine Art from UNC-Chapel Hill.

'67 **JANET SIMS-WOODS**, former assistant chief librarian in the reference/reader services department and Mooreland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, recently co-authored a book entitled "Dorothy Porter Wesley at Howard University; Building a Legacy of Black History."



'93, '95 **ANDRE D. VANN** (above) was awarded the Beacon of Light Award from the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs Inc. and Youth Affiliate at the 120th Anniversary and 60th Biennial Convention in Concord, N.C., on July 16, 2016.

'94 **LAURIE ROBINSON HADEN** was recently featured in the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Sepia HBCU of the Week series. A former Miss NCCU, Haden serves as senior vice president and assistant general counsel at CBS Corporation. She founded and directs Corporate Counsel Women of Color, a non-profit advocating diversity in the legal profession.

'96 **OMAR BEASLEY** was sworn in on February 22, 2016, as the 14th chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. He replaced former Senator Ralph Hunt, who stepped down from the post in February 2016.

'01 **DESHELIA HALL** was recently awarded a Bronze Award for Commendable Service for her work with the Enterprise Wireless Team. Hall was recognized for her exceptional work in ensuring secure wireless access to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency network. She is an information technology specialist at the EPA in Research Triangle Park.

Young Eagle *Entrepreneur* Offers **TEN TIPS**

Featured in Forbes Magazine and ABC's Shark Tank, **BRANDON NORMAN**, 28, is an entrepreneur from Charlotte, N.C., who says flexibility, determination and kindness are some of the key ingredients to his success.

Norman, a 2010 NCCU graduate, co-founded The Everybody Eats Company, an agricultural consulting firm with a focus on urban farming and local-farm-produce aggregation. His responsibilities include development and implementation of a mobile food distribution program that will take healthy foods directly into areas that normally don't have access to fresh produce.



Norman was a political science major at NCCU and has a background in international trade and logistics and supply chain management. He was recently honored as a Forty Under Forty awardee for 2016. In this guest column, he offers tips for finding success in business or life. Follow him on social media @everybodyeatscompany @b_norm_

"As I reflect back on my days on the sloping hills and verdant green of NCCU, I'm reminded of the many friendships, experiences and habits I developed then that have helped shape me into the man I am today. It is my hope that these habits will aid in your journey to success, as well."



Keep An Open Mind

Although we may all have those fast track, million-dollar ideas, the reality is that life never works out according to plan. As an entrepreneur, when you want to go up, life pushes you back; if your plans are to go left, you end up making four right turns only to end up right back where you began. Along your path to achieving the personal or professional success you're after, keeping an open mind will enable new doors to open and opportunities you never imagined.

FOR SUCCESS

2

Step Out of Your Comfort Zone

You never know who you could meet, what you could learn, or where you might go if you maintain an open perspective on life and the willingness to try new things. Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will. Most people never achieve success because they fear change or stepping outside of their tiny comfort zones. Remember, growth requires sacrifice.

3

Utilize University Resources

One thing I truly wish I had done better was utilize all of the on-campus resources I had at my disposal to prepare me for the business world. Advisors are there to help with everything you need. From personal development tools and resumes, to business plans – it's all within reach on your campus.

4

Pay It Forward

Be kind: you never know who you may cross paths with in the future.

5

Network, Network, Network

Meet new people and make a lot of connections. Everyone has a special talent or gift, and you never know who you'll cross paths with. Attend on-campus events, attend professional mixers, interact with people via social media; all of these are ways to establish a great network full of diverse professionals. You also never know who or what you may need in the future, so keep those business cards in a safe place!

6

Never Stop Believing

The road will be rough, but don't let it stop you from believing.

7

Read

Continue to educate yourself about the world, your passions and your craft. A book I recommend to undergraduates is *Campus C.E.O.* by Dr. Randall Pinkett, which details how to develop a successful business from idea to implementation while living in a dorm.

8

Find a Mentor

Connect with someone to help guide you along your way. A good mentor provides the insight and wisdom to keep you focused and motivated. One of my favorite mentors at NCCU was Dr. Jarvis Hall. I could drop by his office anytime for a quick chat, and I knew that he would always leave me with something to grow on.

9

Appreciate Small Victories and Losses

Victories are victories, however you look at it. Give yourself a pat on the back for accomplishing your goals. In defeat, as well, there are many lessons to learn and grow from.

10

Give Back to Your Institution

You can give of your time or talents by serving as a mentor, becoming active in your local alumni chapters or acting as a university ambassador to future Eagles.

'08 JENNIFER LYNNE WILLIAMS has been named deputy athletic director at Alabama State University. She is a former executive director of the Aggie Athletic Foundation and associate director for development at North Carolina A&T State University. She will lead day-to-day operations of Hornet Athletics and lead athletics fundraising initiatives. Alumna Williams also was selected as an NCCU 2016 Forty Under Forty Honoree.

'16 OMARI COLLINS, former Mr. NCCU, was named Man of the Year by the Dapper Distinguished Men Society of Caswell County. He was honored for his success in higher education and his entrepreneurship in founding his company, O.G. Collins Media.

'02 RASHAUN RUCKER (below) was recently featured in Black Enterprise's Modern Man program, honoring the accomplishments men of color. Rucker's photography, prints, and drawings, have garnered more than 40 national and state awards. He became the first African-American to win the Michigan Press Photographer of the Year and was an NCCU Forty Under Forty award recipient in 2014.



THE HON. CHARLES L. BECTON, former Interim Chancellor of North Carolina Central University (2012-2013), received the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People Founder's Award at the 81st Anniversary Founder's Day Banquet on August 27, 2016.

WINLOCK NAMED LEADER OF AKRON URBAN LEAGUE

The Akron Urban League has named NCCU graduate **SADIE WINLOCK** as the league's president following a national search.

Board leaders chose Winlock for the post in August 2016, citing her outstanding organizational skills, business acumen and executive experience.

Winlock was most recently chief operating officer at the YWCA Greater Cleveland, where she managed corporate and individual fundraising, among other duties.

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.



NCCU GRADUATE NAMED DEAN IN TOLEDO

AMANDA BRYANT-FRIEDRICH, PH.D., a 1990 graduate of NCCU, has been appointed as dean of the College of Graduate Studies at University of Toledo.

Bryant-Friedrich recently has been associate professor in the Department of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry in the university's College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

After earning a bachelor's degree from NCCU, Bryant-Friedrich received a master's from Duke University and a doctorate from the Ruprecht Karls Universität in Heidelberg, Germany. She also conducted postdoctoral work at the Universität Basel in Switzerland.

WRIGHT RECOGNIZED FOR WORK IN HEALTH DISPARITIES



Hall of Fame Honors Butterfield, Barber

The Honorable **GEORGE (G.K.) BUTTERFIELD**, '69, and the **REV. WILLIAM BARBER II, PH.D.**, '85, were inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in September 2016.

These honorees were recognized for their distinguished service to their country, alma mater and excellence in their fields of endeavor.

Butterfield was elected to North Carolina's 1st District in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2004, where he continues to serve. In Congress, Butterfield is a champion of affordable health care, education, investments in rural communities, veterans, renewable energies, and federal programs that support low-income and middle-class Americans.

Butterfield serves in the Democratic leadership as chief deputy whip and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. He sits on the influential Committee

on Energy & Commerce as the fifth most senior Democrat on the Health Subcommittee. In addition, he serves as a member of the subcommittees of Communications and Technology, and Commerce, Manufacturing, & Trade.

Barber is president of the North Carolina NAACP and is a champion in the fight against racism, poverty and war. His work includes aiding in the passage of the Racial Justice Act of

2009, which allowed death row inmates to appeal their sentences on the grounds of racial bias in the court system.

He also has successfully advocated for voting reforms, such as same-day registration and early voting and re-framed marriage equality as a civil rights issue. Barber is very much in the national spotlight, and was nationally recognized for his speech at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.



BUTTERFIELD



BARBER II

CORNELL P. WRIGHT, pictured on the right, executive director of the N.C. Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, was recently honored by the National Minority Quality Forum.

Wright and 39 others were recognized as 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health and Healthcare during the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust Awards Dinner April 12, 2016, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Wright also received a Forty Under Forty award from North Carolina Central University in 2012 for his contributions to health and health care.

Since its inception in 1992, NC OMHHD has been working and serving in communities to increase health equity and eliminate health disparities in the states' most vulnerable populations.

Sullivan Takes Educational Leadership Role at Paine College

Paine College in Augusta, Ga., named North Carolina Central University alumnus **DR. SAMUEL SULLIVAN** as its president.

Prior to his appointment, Sullivan served as interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Paine College. Before joining the university, Sullivan was vice president of Academic Affairs at Augusta State University.

Sullivan began his career as a professor at Federal City College in Washington, D.C. He was later instrumental in



the merger of Federal City College, Washington Technical Institute and the District of Columbia Teachers College to form the University of the District of Columbia. He served in

several leadership roles there, including associate president for Academic Personnel Management, acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, and university ombudsman.

Sullivan serves the community as a board member for the Rachel Longstreet Foundation Inc., United Way of the CSRA, Augusta Museum of History, Augusta State University Foundation Inc., Augusta Biomedical Research Corporation, Georgia Health Sciences University Research Institute, and the Ike and Justine Washington Foundation Inc.

Sullivan obtained his B.S. in physics and mathematics from North Carolina Central University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from Howard University.

Savoy Recognizes NCCU Influencers

Three NCCU Alumni were recently named to *Savoy* Magazine's 2016 list of Most Influential Black Corporate Directors.

These honored individuals were:

MICHAEL P. JOHNSON, '69, a member of the NCCU Board of Trustees, is president and chief executive officer of J&A Group. He was previously senior vice president and chief administrative officer of The Williams Companies, a natural gas processor and transporter.

Johnson was inducted into the Tulsa Historical Society's Hall of Fame in 2009 and was recognized by Bethune-Cookman University with the naming of the Michael and Elizabeth Johnson Center for Civic Engagement.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from NCCU and is a graduate of the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Business Advanced Executive Program.

MACEO K. SLOAN, '79, is chairman of NCM Capital, a financial holding company. An attorney and a chartered financial analyst, he has served in numerous leadership roles, including as chairman and chief executive officer for NCM Capital Management Group. He was principal officer of the NCM Capital Investment Trust from 2007 to 2011.

Sloan is a Member of the National Board of Advisors of Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, an MBA from Georgia State University, and a juris doctorate from NCCU School of Law.

ISAIAH TIDWELL, '78, was executive vice president and director of wealth Management for Wachovia Bank. Tidwell's career with Wachovia began in 1972 at the bank's Charlotte office. He moved up the ladder quickly, becoming vice president of the bank's Winston-Salem office in 1977. In 1999, he was named president of Georgia Banking.

Tidwell is a founding member of the board of trustees of Friendship Baptist Church and a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from North Carolina Central University and an MBA from Babcock Graduate School of Management at Wake Forest University.



JOHNSON



SLOAN



TIDWELL

memoriam

'43 **SHIRLEY M. RODRIGUEZ**, B.S.,
of Pompano Beach, Fla., March 11, 2016.

'45 **MARY A. TATE**, B.S., of
Fair Haven, N.J., April 27, 2016.

'46 **ADAM THEODORE MCDANIEL JR.**,
B.S., of Rahway, N.C., May 21, 2016.

'49 **VIVIAN N. WILLIAMSON**,
A.B., of Petersburg, Va., April 4, 2016.

'51 **WILLIAM (BILLY) SPRINGFIELD**
of St. Louis, Mo., May 6, 2016.

'54 **MARGUERITE S. CRAWFORD**
A.B., of Surprise, Ariz., May 8, 2016.

'55 **GEORGE K. LIPSCOMB SR.**, M.S.,
of Durham, N.C., Aug. 11, 2016.

'55 **ALBERT WILLIAM OPPER JR.**, B.S.,
of Philadelphia, Penn., June 3, 2016.

'56 **BERTHA LEWIS ANDERSON**, B.A.,
of Suitland, Md., June 25, 2016.

'56 **REV. LOTTIE MAE BLAIR KEE**,
of Durham, N.C., June 11, 2016

'57 **DR. CHRISTINA ROSSETTI BROWN**,
B.S., M.S., of Pittsboro, N.C., May 23, 2016.

'56 **HARRIS C. JOHNSON SR.**, B.A.,
of Durham, N.C., March 30, 2016.

'57 **LENORIS L. WITHERSPOON**, A.B.,
of Philadelphia, Penn., June 14, 2016.

'60 **ELIJAH JOHN FISHER III**, A.S.C.,
of Durham, N.C., Aug. 30, 2016.

'60 **DR. EVELYN MORRISEY**, B.S.,
of Durham, N.C., May 12, 2016.

'61 **BETTYE BATTLE BELL**, B.S.,
of Washington, D.C., Aug. 22, 2016.

'61 **THELMA V. COOK**, B.A.,
of St. Louis, Mo., May 16, 2016.

'63 **ROBERT "PEDRO" CURRINGTON**,
of Durham, N.C., June 29, 2016.

'67 **HERMAN "TWEETY BIRD" CURTIS
BYRD**, B.S., of Durham, N.C., May 16, 2016.

'69 **JESSE A. MANN**, B.S., of
Greensboro, N.C., June 30, 2016.

'71 **ROGER A. MCLEAN**, B.S.C., of
Elizabeth City, N.C., June 27, 2016.

'74 **JUDGE CAROLYN DENTON JOHNSON**,
J.D., of Durham, N.C., Aug. 7, 2016.

'74 **SHELTON MAURICE JONES**, B.S.,
of Durham, N.C., July 31, 2016.

'74, '87 **ALICE MAYER**, B.A., J.D.,
of Durham, N.C., April 21, 2016.

'84, '95 **ANGELA LANGLEY**, B.A.,
of Durham, N.C., April 25, 2016.

'91 **SHIRLEY TOWNSEND**, of M.Ed.,
Rockingham, N.C., June 27, 2016.

'95, '00, **JAMES STREETER**, B.A.,
of Greenville, N.C., July 27, 2016.

'04 **MARGARET EDITH ABDULLAH**,
B.B.A., of Durham, N.C., May 12, 2016.

'07 **SGT. DAVID HOUGH**, B.S.,
of Piscataway, N.J., May 30, 2016.

Judge Carolyn Johnson Made Inroads in Durham

Pioneering judge and city council woman Carolyn Lucille Denton Johnson passed away Aug. 7, 2016, in Durham.

Johnson was born Jan. 16, 1931, in Little Rock, Ark., attended Oberlin College and then Howard University, graduating from Howard in 1953 with a degree in economics and business administration.

She married Charles Johnson in 1955 and, after working for a time at the Social Security Administration, moved with her family to Durham, where she joined St. Joseph's AME Church as well as a number of civic and professional groups, including The Links Inc.

Johnson graduated from NCCU School of Law in 1973 and began a successful legal and political career, working as an instructor at NCCU

School of Law, practicing criminal defense and serving as attorney for the State Utilities Commission and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In 1983, she ran for and was elected to the Durham City Council, becoming the first African-American woman to hold the post. As a member of the council, she chaired the Community Services Committee and the Fair Housing Committee.

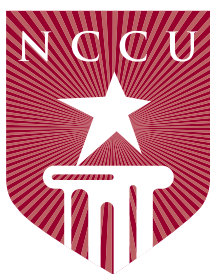
In 1986, she ran for the position of District Court judge, becoming the second African-American woman elected as a judge in Durham. She retired from the bench in 1997.

Survivors include daughter Carla Denise Johnson of Haymarket, Va., and Charles Denton (Chaz) Johnson of Durham, and two grandchildren.



Photo by Morgan Crutchfield Photography

FORTY UNDER FORTY RECOGNIZES HIGH-ACHIEVING YOUNG GRADUATES OF NCCU



FORTY UNDER FORTY

ALUMNI AWARDS

The North Carolina Central University Office of Alumni Relations honored 40 of the best and brightest young alumni for their contributions and leadership in North Carolina and beyond at the third annual Fort Under Forty Alumni Awards Gala.

Established in 2012, the awards program recognizes NCCU's younger alumni base. Chosen by a committee of their peers, the 2016 honorees were selected for their significant contributions in fields such as art, law, entertainment and healthcare to name a few.

This year's celebration took place on Sept. 16 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in Durham and featured entertainment, award presentations and dinner.





First Row (left to right) Camesha Jones, Janelle Terry, Turquoise Parker, Audrey Barbee, Deborah Brown, Jennifer Williams, Deyaska Spencer, Margaret Brunson, Deshelia Hall, Suntrease Williams-Maynard; **Second Row** (left to right) Dr. Takeia N. Anthony, Dr. Chandra Sledge, Dr. Kemi Amola-Hill, Dr. Tressie McMillan Cottom, DeWarren Langley, Dr. Salimah El-Amin Siobahn Day, Tobe Stephens, Gary Brown, Timothy Johnson, Jonathan Leach, Christopher Jones; **Third Row** (left to right) Jillian Mack, Letitia Huger-Hill, Ashleigh Parker Dunston, Dr. LaTanya Bowman, Deborah Brown, Rasheda Sanders, Tiffany Turner, accepting the award on behalf of recipient Venus Brunson, Brandon Norman, Dr. Opal Williams; **Fourth Row** (left to right) Winston Rozier, Sabrina Seymore, Jeff Nieman, Danny Yancey, Jason Armstrong, Julian Macaulay, Jr., Preston Mitchum; **Not Pictured:** Mike Silver, Venus Boston

THE AWARDEES ARE:

Oluwakemi Amola, '07

Owner, V.O.I.C.E. Therapeutic Solutions

TaKeia Anthony, '07, '10

Assistant Professor of History, Edward Waters College

Jason Armstrong, '01

Captain, Forest Park Police Department

Audrey Barbee, '11, '15

Biologist, Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories

Venus Boston, '04, '06, '12

Assistant Legal Counsel, Winston-Salem State University

LaTanya Bowman, '00

Doctor of Chiropractic, Owner Discovery Chiropractic and Wellness Center

Deborah Brown, '14

Kindergarten Teacher, Eastway Elementary School

Gary Brown, '02

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, North Carolina Central University

Margaret Brunson, '09

Director of Hospital Relations, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare

Siobahn Day, '09

Graduate Research Assistant, The Center for Advanced Studies in Identity Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University

Ashleigh Dunston, '12

Assistant Attorney General, North Carolina Department of Justice

Salimah El-Amin, '99

Senior Research Associate, Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity, Duke University; Assistant Director for the Global Inequalities Research Initiative (GIRI); Co-Director of Working Group on Health Disparities

Deshelia Hall, '01, '05

Technical Consulting Service Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Letitia Huger-Hill, '00, '10

Licensed Professional Counselor, Healthnet Government Services

Timothy Johnson, '98

Vice President of Community Impact and Engagement, United Way of the National Capital Area

Camesha Jones, '00

Director of Talent Recruitment KIPP Public Charter Schools

Christopher Jones, '09, '13

Director of Development for Athletics, Clarion University

DeWarren Langley, '11

Founder and Executive Director, Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation

Jonathon Leach, '04, '10

Assistant Director of Athletics for Administration, North Carolina Central University

Julian Macaulay, '06

Vice President and Financial Crimes Manager, Wholesale Financial Crimes Risk and Compliance, Wells Fargo

Jillian Mack, '12

Associate Attorney, Ellis Family Law

Jamar McKoy, '06

World History Teacher and Head Football Coach, Hunter Huss High School

Tressie McMillan-Cottom, '10

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Preston Mitchum, '11

Professor, Georgetown University Policy Research Analyst, Center for Health and Gender Equity

Jeffrey Nieman, '06

Assistant District Attorney, Orange County, N.C. District Attorney's Office

Brandon Norman, '10

Founding Partner, Agri-Tech The Everybody Eats Company

Turquoise Parker, '10

Teacher, Durham Public Schools

LaKeisha Randall, '11

Senior Judicial Law Clerk, City of Atlanta

Winston Rozier, Jr., '01

District Court Judge, Wake County

Rasheda Sanders, '00

Attorney and Owner, Sanders Law Firm

Sabrina Seymore, '08

Owner, Sabrina Seymore Events

Michael Silver, '07

Deputy Commissioner, North Carolina Industrial Commission

Chandra Sledge, '00

Principal and Director, Warren New Tech High School

Deyaska Spencer, '13

Attorney and Owner, The Deyaska Spencer Law Firm

Tobe Stephens, '03

Founder and Managing Director, Enhanced Training Champions

Janelle Terry, '04

Senior Product Developer Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina

Jennifer Williams, '08

Executive Director, Aggie Athletic Foundation; Associate Athletics Director for Development, North Carolina A&T State University

Opal Williams, '03

CEO, Communication, 360 Plus, PLLC

Suntrease Williams-Maynard, '08

Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Alabama

Danny Yancey, '03

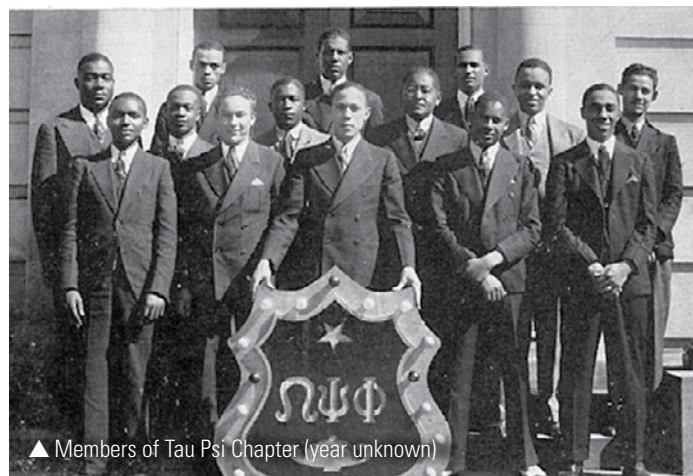
Choral Director and Piano Teacher, Martin GT Magnet Middle School

DIVINE *Nine*

CHAPTERS ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Alumni from two chapters of North Carolina Central University's National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) have established permanent legacies at the university by creating endowment funds for student scholarships.

Members of the **Tau Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.** and of **Alpha Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** – each part of the “Divine Nine” group of black Greek letter organizations – chose to create the funds as a special way of giving



back to NCCU. Through annual gifts, the funds can provide a vehicle for ongoing alumni support.

“We are hopeful that once everyone is aware of what the brothers of the Tau Psi chapter have done to assist NCCU, other fraternities and sororities on campus will follow our lead and establish their own endowments,” said Floyd Ferebee, Ph.D., of Durham, who was initiated into the Tau Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi in fall 1963.

The **Tau Psi Scholarship Endowment** was created in 1992 as the



first endowment established by alumni initiated into NCCU's NPHC chapters. Since its inception, the fund has provided essential support to NCCU students.

The Tau Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. dates back to 1932 on the NCCU campus. Ferebee, a former NCCU English professor, said the idea for the fund was developed during planning for the chapter's 60th-year reunion. Fundraising efforts began with the goal of eventually establishing a scholarship endowment to assist deserving NCCU students. Donations are accepted from Tau Psi initiates, as well as friends of the chapter.

As with many Greek letter organizations, reunions are very important to Tau Psi members. By the chapter's 70th anniversary in 2002, the group had collected more than \$12,000. By 2006, the endowment began producing scholarships for NCCU students.

Also in 2006, NCCU Board of Trustees member and university alumnus Harold T. Epps joined with alumnus Benjamin Hill to co-chair the scholarship fundraising committee. Alumnus Robert Woods became the scholarship committee chair. Through their efforts and leadership, the group was able to increase the fund's value to \$100,000 by the chapter's 80th reunion celebration in 2011. During the celebration, another goal was set to increase the scholarship fund to at least \$200,000. To date, the group has raised over \$130,000, with more than \$20,000 awarded in scholarships to students.

"This endowment reinforces that education is the primary way for advancement; it also emphasizes our commitment to scholarship," Epps said. "We hope other organizations will begin to develop endowments, not only at NCCU but at other HBCUs, as well."

Ferebee agreed.

"We are NCCU alumni, motivated by our love for NCCU and our desire to see it further its representation as one of the leading institutions of higher education in North Carolina and the nation," he added.

"This endowment reinforces that education is the primary way for advancement; it also emphasizes our commitment to scholarship. We hope other organizations will begin to develop endowments, not only at NCCU but at other HBCUs, as well."

— HAROLD T. EPPS, SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIR



A | Robert Woods, Scholarship Committee chairman (*far right*) recognizing (*standing left to right*) NCCU Board of Trustees members Harold T. Epps, John Barbee and Dr. Dwight D. Perry (all three initiated in the early 1970's) **B** | (*Left to Right*) Original Tau Psi Reunion Committee members Pete Holman and Dr. Floyd Ferebee **C** | (*Left to Right*) A. Leon Stanback, Clark Scales, Robert Woods (Scholarship Committee chairman and original Reunion Committee member), Donald Daniel (original Reunion Committee member), Benjamin Hill (Scholarship Fundraising Co-Chairman).

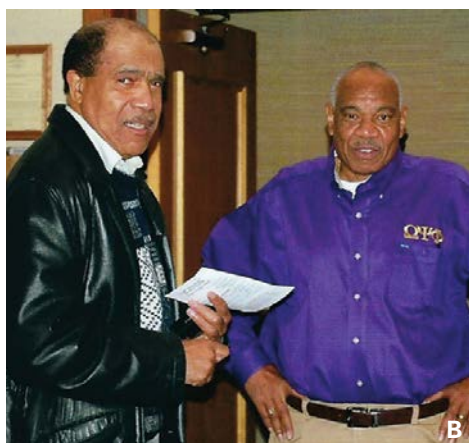




Photo courtesy of Debra McNeil-Teasley

Reflecting the momentum of the Tau Psi endowment, the idea of establishing a scholarship in the name of the **Alpha Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** was first discussed by three NCCU initiates of the chapter – Jemma Boler, Dianne Pledger and Pandora Frazier.

Looking for a way to give back to their alma mater and create a lasting legacy, Boler and her 31 line sisters, who were initiated in the chapter in the fall of 1983, led the charge in setting up the endowment fund in celebration of their 30th anniversary and the fund was officially established on Jan. 8, 2014, with a goal of meeting the NCCU Scholarship Endowment minimum requirement of \$25,000 by October 2018.

In July 2016, 150 alumnae members who where initiated into the chapter, returned to the Triangle to celebrate the chapter's 85th Anniversary. The weekend events were

“We remain strong in the principles of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s Educational Programmatic Thrust, and we have fulfilled those ideals with this endowed scholarship. We challenge other NPHC organizations to make the commitment and support NCCU also.”

— JEMMA BOLER

coordinated by Frazier, who was initiated in the chapter in the spring of 1980. Pledger pledged in fall of 1978 and alumnus Kecia Wynn in spring of 1985. The anniversary served as an opportunity to raise awareness of the endowment and increase donations towards the scholarship. The celebration proved to be successful, as donations flooded in and to date, the group has raised over \$28,000, and has met the requirements to establish the endowment, two years ahead of schedule.

Some members have pledged monthly support, and alumnae members celebrating initiation anniversaries also have donated to help meet the goal.

“We remain strong in the principles of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s Educational Programmatic Thrust, and we have fulfilled those ideals with this endowed scholarship,” says Boler. “We challenge the other NPHC organizations to make the commitment and support NCCU.”

➤ **For more information on establishing an endowed scholarship**, please contact Randal V. Childs, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement at 919-530-5264.



A | Some of the 150 Alpha Lambda sorors that were in attendance at the 150th Anniversary celebration are pictured with guest speakers, (left to right in black) Mary B. Sutton, Past Regional Director of South Atlantic Conference of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Juanita B. Massenburg, Current Regional Director. Both are alumnae of the university. **B** | (Left to Right) Alpha Lambda Scholarship Endowment fundraising committee members, Pandora Frazier, Dianne Peerman Pledger and Jemma Boler.

GOOD CHEMISTRY

David Mitchell establishes scholarship in honor of former chemistry professor

David Mitchell, Ph.D., has enjoyed his work in scientific research for the past 27 years, one of the reasons he encourages younger scholars to consider a career in the lab.

Mitchell has spent most of his professional life at Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis, where he is a research advisor for pharmaceutical product development. He also is a member of the Board of Advisors for the College of Arts and Sciences at NCCU.

As a newcomer to North Carolina from his native island of St. Croix, Mitchell was unsure what to expect when he gained admittance to NCCU as a Chancellor's Scholar in 1980.

But the encouragement of his professors, particularly chemistry instructor John Myers, Ph.D., put him on track to a successful career.

Before his retirement last year, Myers, who joined the Department of Chemistry as an associate professor in 1971, trained Mitchell and dozens of talented chemists who are now working throughout the country. "From the beginning, my desire was not to be at a Ph.D. institution doing research, but to join a faculty where I could teach and direct undergraduates doing research," Myers said.

"David Mitchell was one of the best students I ever had, and I had many good ones over the years. He was very impressive in the things that he did, and I am glad that I got to be part of it."

Expressing a similar admiration for his mentor, Mitchell chose to make a financial gift to the university by creating an endowed scholarship in Myer's name.

"When I started at NCCU, I was in Dr. Myers' freshman chemistry class," Mitchell recalled. "By the end of my freshman year I was doing labs, and he asked if I would like to conduct undergraduate research with him. I said 'sure.'"

Although Mitchell had his sights set on medical school when he joined the chemistry program, Myers often reminded him that a fulfilling career in research was also a worthwhile goal. "He was always there, pushing," Mitchell recalled. "He let me know that I could have a rewarding career in research just as easily one in medicine."



Now nearing retirement from Eli Lilly, Mitchell is eager to give back to NCCU in honor of the time and inspiration that Myers and other NCCU professors gave him as a student in Durham.

Myers helped Mitchell land an internship the summer after his sophomore year at Burroughs Wellcome and Co. in Research Triangle Park, the same company that today, after several mergers, is known as GlaxoSmithKline.

After his 1984 graduation from NCCU, Mitchell secured another four-month internship, this time at Procter & Gamble, where he helped develop the flavor of Pringles potato chips.

"I was part of a team that utilized chemistry analytical tools to find the missing link in the Pringles potato snack flavor," Mitchell said. "The idea in the mid-1980s was to have Pringles taste and smell more like McDonald's French fries. The team looked at natural amino acids and natural sugars present in the raw Pringles recipe and the final product to track the missing ingredient. As a chemistry student from NCCU, the experience had a lasting impression on me as I entered graduate school and continued during my 27 year career in industry."

Now hooked on chemical research, Mitchell entered a doctoral program at Emory University in Atlanta, earning his Ph.D. in 1988.

"Procter & Gamble gave me a nice job offer after my Ph.D. work at Emory; however, the pharmaceutical industry was more attractive to me," he admitted.

Now nearing retirement from Eli Lilly, Mitchell is eager to give back to NCCU in honor of the time and inspiration that Myers and other NCCU professors gave him as a student in Durham.

The gift was first announced at a chemistry conference at NCCU in 2015, where Mitchell spoke and Myers was in attendance. "I felt very honored and humbled by his gesture," Myers said.

Since that time, Mitchell's \$25,000 contribution has been matched through Eli Lilly and continues to grow, with other chemists, including Myers himself, contributing to the fund.

"Once the endowment gets to a certain level, it will be up to the Chemistry Department to decide how best to use it to help support a chemistry student," Mitchell said.

"One of the reasons for doing this, for giving back, is all the help that NCCU gave me over four years – especially the support I got from Dr. Myers." □

T.J. WALKER NAMED DIRECTOR OF TRACK-AND-FIELD CROSS COUNTRY

T

TAVIUS "T.J." WALKER, an alumnus and former All-American sprinter at North Carolina Central University, was named as director of the men's and women's track-and-field/cross country programs at NCCU in August.

As a seasoned head coach specializing in sprints, hurdles and relays – and with a strong recruiting background – Walker brings considerable firepower to the director's position.

"Coach Walker knows how much our track-and-field/cross country program means to the history of this university and will continue building upon that legacy," said NCCU Director of Athletics Ingrid Wicker McCree, Ph.D., in announcing the appointment Aug. 24, 2016.

Wicker McCree noted that Walker was a standout student athlete at NCCU, where he graduated with a degree in sociology in 1999. "I am confident in his ability to build a MEAC championship program," she added.

As an Eagles coach for the past nine years, Walker trained student-athletes earning NCAA Division II All-America awards 11 times, including two All-American relay teams, and 41 all-conference honors.



He coached eight all-conference relay squads, one of which brought home a conference championship. He also recruited and coached a Lady Eagle sprinter who ranked fourth in the nation in the 200-meter dash in 2013.

"My vision is clear...myself and the coaching staff will teach, mold and guide our student-athletes with passion and a belief in success," Walker said, after accepting position. "While fostering an unforgettable team experience, we will be strategic in our recruiting and establish student-athlete development along with national and international success as the cornerstones of our program."

Walker began his career coaching the Eagles for two years before being named head track-and-field coach for both the boys' and girls' programs at Needham B. Broughton High School in Raleigh, his alma mater. While coach of the Broughton Capitals, his athletes broke three school records, were prolific as state qualifiers and earned one state championship.

Walker returned to the NCCU coaching staff in 2007 as a full-time assistant coach for both the men's and women's teams, aiding in the transition from Division II to

Division I competition. In 2008, he earned the position of assistant head coach of the track-and-field/cross country programs.

He was named as interim head coach prior to the start of the 2016 outdoor track-and-field season. Under his direction, both the women's and men's teams earned event victories and tallied the most top-10

“While fostering an unforgettable team experience, we will be strategic in our recruiting and establish student-athlete development along with national and international success as the cornerstones of our program.” — TAVIUS “TJ” WALKER

finishes at the Raleigh Relays since 2012. The teams also earned five medals at the MEAC Championships. The 2016 men's 4-by-100 meter relay team recorded the school's fastest time in eight years, placing fifth in the College Finals of the prestigious Penn Relays. The women's 4-by-100 meter relay squad broke a High Point University meet record with the fastest time in eight years. Both relay teams captured bronze medals at the MEAC Championships.

As a student-athlete from 1996 to 1999, Walker was a four-time All-CIAA sprinter and earned a CIAA champion award, an All-American citation and was ranked fourth in NCAA Division II track-and-field in the 200-meter dash.



△ Joshua McClam represented NCCU at the 2016 NCAA East Regional Outdoor Championships in May, placing 16th in the long jump. (Photo by Dyann Busse)



Vernon Becomes NCCU's First Major League Baseball Draft Pick

Former North Carolina Central University pitcher Andrew Vernon had a record-breaking senior year and career and now has added another historic first - becoming the first Major League Baseball draft pick from NCCU.

Vernon was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 28th round of the draft on June 11.

"I'm ecstatic, this is definitely a dream come true," he said. "I can't wait to see what happens, the guys I'll meet, and the fan base. I'm really excited about everything that's happening."

NCCU baseball head coach Jim Koerner called it "a tremendous culmination to a great four year career."

"Andrew has earned everything he's gotten, and we are very proud of him," Koerner added. "His talent, work ethic and determination will take him far."

A native of Raleigh, Vernon pitched four seasons for the Eagles ended his career as the modern-era leader in saves with 15. The earned run average of his career was also a high point for the maroon and gray at 3.89.

He was a 2016 First Team All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference selection after leading the league with 85 strikeouts. Vernon also finished the regular season 12th in NCAA Division I for strikeouts per nine innings - with an average of 11.93.

Vernon now waits to see where he will be assigned in the organization.

The Milwaukee Brewers minor league affiliates are the Colorado Springs Sky Sox (AAA), Biloxi Shuckers (AA), Brevard County Manatees (Advanced-A), Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (A), Helena Brewers (Rookie). They also have an Arizona League rookie team.

JENNY
TRACY HITS

Home Runs



Softball standout **JENNY TRACY** is North Carolina Central University's nominee for 2016 NCAA Woman of the Year based on her achievements in the classroom, in the community and on the field.

"During her tenure at NCCU, Jenny embodied the four pillars of the Woman of the Year award," said NCCU Director of Athletics Ingrid Wicker McCree, Ph.D., referring to academics, athletics, service and leadership.

"Jenny is truly deserving of this distinction, and we are extremely proud of her accomplishments at NCCU and those she will receive in her professional life."

Tracy said her success at NCCU was made possible, in part, by the support she received from fellow students, faculty and staff.

"One of the biggest positive things for me was the friends I made," she explained. "It's a small-school environment where everyone roots for the athletic teams. I always felt there were people supporting me and lifting me up."

Tracy graduated from NCCU in May with a business degree and a concentration in

IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS AND MORE

marketing. With a 4.0 grade point average, she was a class valedictorian. Tracy recently began her career with Shell oil company in Houston, Texas, where she is part of the business operations team.

"I love my job; it's a big company but they do a lot to help new employees get to know people and feel comfortable," she said.

While at NCCU, Tracy served as a member of the executive board for The Helius Foundation, a nonprofit agency specializing in helping those who are homeless and others considered necessity-driven entrepreneurs due to barriers to traditional, living-wage employment.

As president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee on campus, she founded the Soap for Hope initiative, which encourages university athletes to collect their unused hotel toiletries on road trips and uses volunteers to create individual bags to donate to the Durham Rescue Mission.

"With the intention of losing myself in the service of others, it's my hope that I have been a positive role model in my attempt to be an exemplary scholar and



leader," Tracy wrote in her Woman of the Year application.

Other academic awards Tracy earned during her four years at NCCU include the Chancellor's Award for female student-athlete with the highest overall grade point average, School of Business Dean's Award, Department of Business Administration Marketing Award, member of the University Honors Program, Chancellor's Scholar, Thurgood Marshall Institute Scholar and President of the NCCU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

The 2016 NCAA Woman of the Year award will be announced Oct. 16 in Indianapolis. □

YouTube

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Former North Carolina Central University defensive back **RYAN SMITH** has earned a spot on the 53-man roster with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Smith, a fourth-round NFL Draft pick by the Bucs, is one of four safeties remaining on the roster. He is also mentioned as a prospect in kickoff return duties.

In preseason action, Smith finished with seven tackles (five solo) and an interception for an eight-yard return, while also returning two kickoffs for 44 yards with a long of 25 yards, according to the Tampa Bay Times, which quoted Buccaneers head coach Dirk Koetter about his options at the kickoff return position. "I actually like what I've seen from Ryan Smith. He's got a burst and he's not afraid and he'll hit it in there," Koetter said.

The North Carolina Central University men's basketball program has restocked for the upcoming season, as head coach LeVelle Moton has announced a signing class of six newcomers.

ALEX MILLS (McLennan College), **PABLO RIVAS** (Sheridan College), **RON TRAPPS** (Coastal Carolina University), **MICHAEL WOLFE** (South Plains College), **RAASEAN DAVIS** (Kent State University), and **RASHANN LONDON** (Drexel University) all join the program as transfers.

"We're excited about our incoming class," Moton said of the newcomers. "We felt that we needed older and mature players in the program to compete with the new landscape in the MEAC."

JAY COPELAND, a former varsity basketball player for NCCU, signed a professional basketball contract on in July 2016 to play for Peppino Cocuzza in Italy.



FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

archives

MAINTAINING THE EAGLE TRADITION

North Carolina Central University has kept a strong generational legacy since its founding in 1910.

These students all are sons and daughters of Eagle alumni. Pictured in the front row, left to right:

Kay N. Thompson, Vera L. Frances, Joyce Leane Perry, Claudia Mae Highsmith, Rufus Horton, Samuel Harvey Frink.

Back row, left to right: Albert L. Stanback, Joseph S. Wray and Carolyn E. Flowers.

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