

NCCU NOW



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

FALL 2015

LABORATORY FOR LEARNING

Hands-on Lab Work Opens Doors for
Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduates

WORLD OF DISCOVERY

Encouraging Field Research
for Non-Science Majors

HOSPITALITY CENTRAL

Hospitality and Tourism
Program Teaches Professional
Skills for a Growing Industry



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35 WORLD OF DISCOVERY

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ON THE COVER Hospitality and Tourism Administration graduate Clarissa Cox greets visitors to The Somerset on Grace Bay, a seaside resort in the Turks and Caicos. Photo by Andre Kerr

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LABORATORY FOR LEARNING

Extensive lab exposure and industry connections launch BRITE graduates toward success.



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FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Greetings Alumni and Friends:

North Carolina Central University entered its 105th year in July 2015. As we move forward into the future, we embrace our distinctiveness and celebrate the achievements of current students and alumni nurtured on these sloping hills and verdant green.

NCCU's mission and legacy set out values we cherish today as we prepare students academically, socially and professionally to serve as productive citizens in society.

Outstanding accomplishments at the end of the most recent academic year included:

- A record year of fundraising that reached \$7.6 million in a single fiscal year, with \$2.2 million donated by alumni. Participation in the Faculty/Staff Giving Campaign reached 76 percent. More than 3,600 alumni gave back to their alma mater. Please read more on Page 52.
- A partnership with NC State University to establish a physics and engineering dual-degree program will allow students to obtain Bachelor of Science degrees in both physics and electrical engineering in five years. Read more on Page 9.

In August, we welcomed 1,137 first-year and 413 transfer students into our Eagle family—one of the largest classes in our institution's history. Our graduate enrollment has grown to 1,245 students this fall and our doctoral program has 15 new students.

Among our recent accolades:

- U.S. News & World Report confirmed our ranking as No. 12 among the most successful historically black institutions and 65th among all the universities in the South.
- NCCU's Department of Nursing was recognized as one of the top nursing programs in the country by The Nurse Journal, ranking 13th out of 1,189 nursing programs in the eastern United States.
- NCCU is No. 5 among HBCU graduate programs with the highest enrollments.
- Graduates of our Law School carry the third-lowest amount of student debt in the country.
- Washington Monthly magazine's annual College Guide and Rankings placed NCCU 19th in its list of the Best Bang for the Buck Colleges in the Southeast.

Among the many grants and awards received this year was a five-year U.S. Department of Education grant of more than \$1 million. Part of the federal TRIO Program, the funds will provide support services to help increase retention and graduation rates among students with disabilities and those on track to become first-generation college graduates.

NCCU received the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair Award, as well. The \$200,000 award will support efforts in integrated biosciences focusing on uterine fibroid tumor research. Please read more on Page 11.

Our departments of Chemistry and Physics received a five-year, \$3.3 million grant in September from the National Science Foundation to forge a partnership for nanoscale research with Pennsylvania State University.

These initiatives and others will help us take Eagle Excellence to the next level. Thank you for your leadership in helping our institution soar!

In Truth and Service,

Dr. Debra Saunders-White
Chancellor



@DSaundersWhite



DSaundersWhite

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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UPCOMING CULTURAL ARTS EVENTS

MUSIC, THEATER, SPEAKERS AND MORE | SEE PAGE 23



ANALYTICS, TARGETED MESSAGING LEAD TO ENROLLMENT ADVANTAGE

BY CHANCELLOR DEBRA SAUNDERS-WHITE

F

OR 105 YEARS, North Carolina Central University has made student success its top priority. Founded as the Religious Training School and Chautauqua – a name that reflected the adult-education movement of the pe-

riod – our campus mission for more than a century has been to educate and equip men and women with the competitive credentials needed to lead successful professional and personal lives.

Today's academic programs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences, business, education, law and more graduate some of the best-educated and most talented employees and entrepreneurs in Triangle, throughout North Carolina and around the world.

In U.S. News & World Report's 2016 national rankings, NCCU is near the top of the list for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). While we consistently attract some of North Carolina's most qualified students to our campus, competition for these highly sought-after scholars is stronger than ever.

WIDE-RANGING ANALYSIS

To step up its game, NCCU has begun to focus more intently on enrollment management. The university re-examined its approach to marketing, recruiting and admitting freshmen and other students. After analyzing those data trends carefully, in 2014-15 NCCU rolled out a new plan to reach more potential first-year students, increase the presence of transfer students and take another look at "stopouts" — students seeking to re-enroll in higher education after taking a break of a year or more. An estimated 1.2 million individuals in North Carolina are in this latter category. (See End Zone story on page 22.)

Additionally, the enrollment management staff led by Dr. Monica T. Leach, associate vice chancellor, took a

laser-focused approach to recruiting some of the highest performing and talented high school scholars throughout North Carolina and the southeastern United States. These strategic efforts led to a record applicant pool of more than 13,600 individuals. Of this group, NCCU enrolled 1,137 first-year, first-time freshmen and 413 transfer students, nearly a record number.

Program enhancements were such as our new Three + Two Physics Engineering dual-degree program added to provide more academic offerings to attract promising 21st century scholars.



Technology enhancements were instrumental in the early recruitment process, which helped attract more than 10,000 student applications by January 2015.

MOBILE-READY AND READY TO GO

Technology enhancements were instrumental in the early recruitment process, which helped attract more than 10,000 student applications by January 2015. This robust number resulted in part from visits by admissions team members to key target markets and the extension of an advertising campaign to communities where many of our prospective students reside, including Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland. Our team also made virtual contact via enrollment strategies that incorporated Twitter and other social media into the recruitment process. I used my Twitter account (@DsaundersWhite) to retweet posts from students who indicated they had just been accepted to NCCU.

With more than 44 percent of applicants sending in information using mobile phones and smart devices, this engagement was a highly interactive communications tool, helping us reach

students where they spend much of their time: in the online environment.

WIDENING THE PIPELINE

In 2014, a Transfer Imperative Task Force was formed at NCCU to look at ways of increasing the number of transfer students.

One of the key recommendations was strengthening the university's existing relationships and agreements with North Carolina community colleges, including Durham Technical Community College (Durham Tech), Wake Technical Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Central Carolina Community College and others. The effort was enhanced further by a new transfer agreement between the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and the North Carolina Board of Community Colleges in early 2014.

A pilot initiative featuring a dual-enrollment, transfer-admissions program with Durham Tech kicked off in August 2014. Eagle Connect became the first such residential program for the Triangle region and offers targeted academic



INCOMING STUDENT NUMBERS ARE CONTINUING TO GROW AT NCCU, DESPITE A NATIONAL TREND TOWARD LOWER HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS.

Welcome #NCCU19

EXPLORING THE NEWEST EAGLES!

A few statistics on the newest members of the North Carolina Central University family!

RECORD POOL OF 13,646 APPLICANTS

FRESHMEN	12,334
TRANSFER	1,312

1,137 JOINING THE CLASS OF 2019 // 413 TRANSFERS CONFIRMED**

19 AVERAGE STUDENT AGE

MOST REPRESENTED ANTICIPATED MAJORS

PSYCHOLOGY
BIOLOGY
BUSINESS ADMIN.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
NURSING

965 IN-STATE (88%)*

160 OUT-OF-STATE (14%)*

25 STUDENT ATHLETES

FEMALE: 742 (66%)*

MALE: 383 (34%)*

ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT

3.2 AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GPA

878 AVERAGE SAT SCORE

18 AVERAGE ACT SCORE

RACIAL BACKGROUND OF #NCCU19*

- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 3 (0.27%)
- Asian: 11 (0.98%)
- African-American: 870 (77.42%)
- Hispanic: 59 (5.24%)
- More than two races: 131 (11.64%)
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 1 (0.09%)
- Other: 24 (2.13%)
- White: 25 (2.22%)
- Identified as a race or ethnicity other than African-American: 254 (22.58%)

MOST REPRESENTED OUTSIDE OF NORTH CAROLINA

- DC
- VIRGINIA
- GEORGIA
- SOUTH CAROLINA
- MARYLAND

*As of August 2015

advising, student support services, and a student-life component to help students meet the requirements for transferring to NCCU after their first two years of college. In January 2016 NCCU is scheduled to begin a new partnership with Vance-Granville Community College in which students can earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice through a combination of coursework at Vance-Granville and distance education classes.

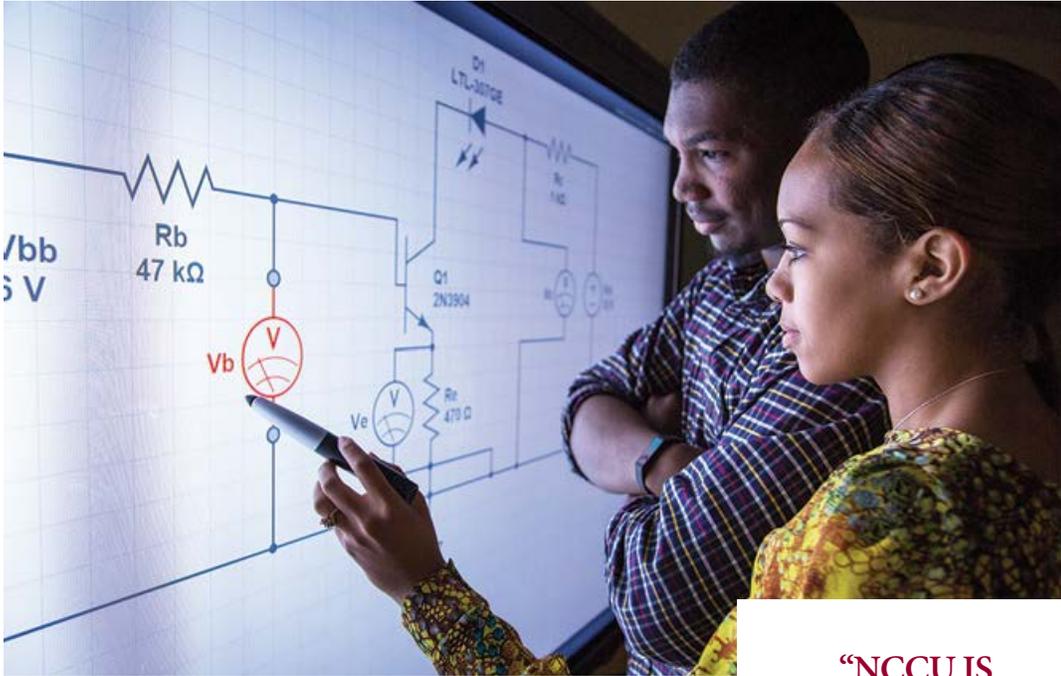
Enrollment numbers have risen at NCCU over the past two years, and the initiatives adopted in 2014-15 will no doubt bolster those numbers even further in coming years, despite a national trend toward decreased student enrollment.

Moving forward, NCCU will further enhance the total educational experience through an effort to respond in a more personalized way to the individual needs of students. We will seek to attract a diverse class of new and transfer students who have demonstrated outstanding ability to excel and succeed.

Transfer students, military veterans, first-generation students and older adults will be included in our strategic marketing efforts, along with the traditional first-year students from every county in the state and beyond that have long been our enrollment core.

These important steps were accomplished through the insight and dedicated leadership of Dr. Leach and her skilled team, as well as the college deans and others throughout campus who played key roles in the evolution of our admissions process and aided efforts that will allow NCCU to continue its role as a first-choice, premier and global university. □

NCCU AND NC STATE DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM



The physics-engineering dual degree will give students maximum employment options for graduates.

A partnership between NCCU and NC State University will establish a physics and engineering dual-degree program that blends coursework at both state institutions.

The dual-degree program, known as a Three + Two (3+2) Dual B.S. Degree Program, allows students to obtain Bachelor of Science degrees in both physics and electrical engineering.

Students admitted to NCCU complete the first three years of a physics curriculum before transferring to NC State for completion of requirements for electrical engineering over a two-year timeframe. The first group of dual-degree students began their coursework at NCCU in August 2015.

“NCCU is excited about this historic program between two

“NCCU IS EXCITED ABOUT THIS HISTORIC PROGRAM BETWEEN TWO GREAT INSTITUTIONS.”

JOHNSON O. AKINLEYE
NCCU PROVOST

great institutions,” said Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D., NCCU provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. “NCCU is eager to recruit students for the new program, and we look forward to continuous collaborations with NC State.”

The five-year program is designed to meet the requirements of both universities and provide graduates with knowledge of mathematics, science and engineering in order to broaden career opportunities. The program also increases access, diversity and enrollment in a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) discipline at both institutions.

Dual-degree students will be eligible to apply for graduation from either or both institutions by meeting necessary requirements for either or both degrees.



Present during the signing: (Left), NCCU Provost Johnson O. Akinleye and NC State Provost Warwick Ardent; (center), NCCU Professor Caesar Jackson and (right), Associate Dean Jerome Lavelle of NC State's College of Engineering discussing the program with two NCCU physics students.



Students Create Original Hip-Hop Performance in Florence, Italy

STUDENTS IN THE NCCU THEATRE AND DANCE DEPARTMENT took American hip-hop to the Italian city of Florence in summer 2015 as part of a travel-abroad program focused on multi-media journalism.

Associate Professor of Theatre Stephanie Howard, who goes by the stage name Dr. Asabi, was one of several international instructors for the Hip-Hop Meets the Renaissance program sponsored by Institute for Education in International Media.

Program coordinator Arielle Emmett described the four-week-long event as “a celebration of black music, dance and street poetry reborn in Tuscany’s premier city for culture and art.”

NCCU students who traveled with Howard were Daja Middleton, Jonathan Able, Sheldon Mba and Destini Newborn. The students

participated in writing, producing and performing a hip-hop drama titled “The Miseducation of Hip-Hop.”

“The theater piece was about how hip-hop is more than just music, even though that’s how most people think of it,” Mba said. “We see it as more of an art form and a way of life. Music is just one of those elements.”

NCCU students were joined in the program by about 20 students from other U.S. cities and foreign countries, including those from several historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). In addition to producing live performances, their work also was showcased through multi-media and digital presentations, Howard said.

Hands-on workshops and classes enabled students to gain skills necessary for multi-media productions, including broadcast journalism techniques, online and print magazine design,

photography, videography, and graphic arts.

The students also learned a few things about Italian art and culture.

“My greatest surprise was seeing how influential American culture is in other countries,” Middleton said. “Sometimes conversations were difficult due to the language barrier, but when it came to the art, they identified with the things we were presenting.”

Similarly, Middleton said it was exciting to attend the theater in Florence, which emerged as a world center for the arts more than 500 years ago under the reign of the Medici family.

“At NCCU, I have been studying the Renaissance era in history, including the Medicis,” she said. “It was impressive to see how their legacy lives on.”

To see work done by the students in Italy, visit <http://ieimedia.com/hip-hop>.

IN BRIEF

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA E. LYNCH RETURNS TO DURHAM

U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch, a Durham, N.C. native, hosted a civil rights roundtable meeting at NCCU School of Law to address concerns over human trafficking, hate crimes, voting rights, school safety and community-police relations.

During the two-hour event, Lynch discussed various civil rights matters with Triangle area leaders from education, religion, law enforcement and community activists.

“While we cannot guarantee the absence of hate, we can guarantee the presence of justice. We can do that,” said Lynch. “I am committed as attorney general to making good on that guarantee.”





◁ Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. members present their gift to NCCU Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Harriet F. Davis, Ph.D. (second from the left).
Photo by Sharon Farmer

Delta Sigma Theta Awards Grant For Health Research

A \$200,000 award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. will be used for research of uterine fibroid tumors.

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair Award was presented to NCCU

at Delta Sigma Theta's 52nd National Convention in Houston in July. Harriet F. Davis, Ph.D., vice chancellor for institutional advancement, accepted the award on NCCU's behalf.

Delta Sigma Theta awards the grant biennially to a historically black college or university to provide support for a professor of distinction to be in residence and teach or conduct research.

The grant will allow Darlene K. Taylor, Ph.D., NCCU associate chemistry professor, to partner with the Champion Fund of the Phyllis and Mark Leppert Foundation for Fertility Research to conduct uterine fibroid research and host public conferences, including "Uterine Fibroids: What Every Woman Needs to Know."

NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW AWARDED \$250,000 PROFESSORSHIP



John D. Fassett, a graduate of Yale Law School, began his career as a clerk in the office of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed.

Fassett played a significant role in convincing the judge not to dissent in the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. His influence will have significant meaning at the NCCU School of Law.

The NCCU School of Law has received a \$250,000 gift from Fassett to create an endowed professorship for a faculty member making contributions to legal reform in areas of constitutional law, human rights and civil rights.

"This professorship will allow one of our professors to expand the work of the law school in addressing cutting-edge and systemic issues in the law that disproportionately impact vulnerable communities," said School of Law Dean Phyllis Craig-Taylor.

The John D. Fassett Professorship will be awarded in terms of three to five years, with the possibility of renewal. A portion of the gift will be added to the School of Law Annual Fund to support a visiting lecture series also bearing Fassett's name.



Participants in the roundtable included Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, Law School Dean Phyllis Craig-Taylor and Law Professor Irving Joyner.

Lynch, the first African-American woman to lead the U.S. Justice Department, was sworn in on April 27, 2015.

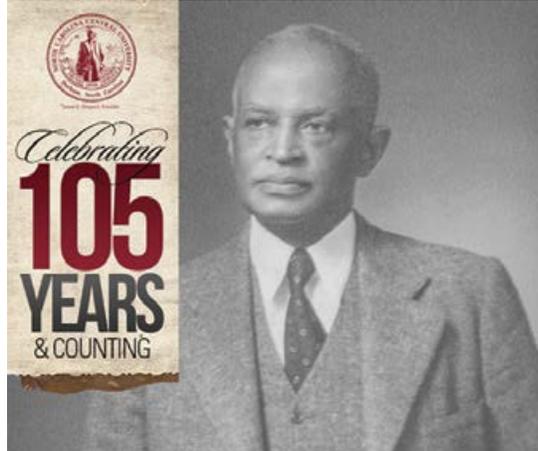
◁ Chancellor Debra Saunders-White participated in a roundtable discussion at the NCCU School of Law with U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Celebrating 105 Years of Educational Excellence

DR. JAMES E. SHEPARD, a Durham pharmacist and religious educator, opened the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race to 130 students on July 5, 1910. Shepard declared its purpose to be “the development in young men and women of the character and sound academic training requisite for real service to the nation.”

To celebrate the campus’s 105th anniversary in June 2015, NCCU launched a social media campaign sharing 105 Eagle facts via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and displayed a collection of 105 artifacts dating back to the early years at the James E. Shepard Memorial Library. The display was curated by the University Archives, Records and History Center with assistance from Alicia Melton, a student in the School of Library and Information Science, and is now on NCCU’s website at www.nccu.edu/105th.

Included in the exhibit are a 1929 campus yearbook, a 1947 report from the U.S. President’s Committee on Civil Rights, a 1975



vinyl recording by the University Choir, and photographs of visits to campus by former Presidents Gerald Ford and Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama.

Maggie P. Bryant, a member of the Class of 1938 who turned 100 on July 2, 2015, as well as members of founding families Shepard, Green and Boone, were special guests during events held

as part of the birthday celebration.

Over the past 105 years, the student population of NCCU has grown from 130 in 1910 to more than 8,000 students today.

The university boasts a proud and active alumni contingency of more than 30,000 Eagles, who are employed in a wide range of occupations and professions.



Visit [instagram.com/nccueagle](https://www.instagram.com/nccueagle) for 105 Eagle Facts

Summer Youth Business and Entrepreneurship

Academy Turns Four



NCCU’s School of Business, in partnership with the Executive Leadership Council, brought in 60 high school students from across North Carolina and the United States in June for the **fourth annual Summer Youth Business and Entrepreneurship Academy**.

The two-week residential camp focused on hospitality and tourism. Students explored various sectors of the industry with classroom lessons and behind-the-scenes visits to sites such as the Durham Performing Arts Center, Marriott City Center in Raleigh and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

The academy concluded on June 26 with an award to the winners of the case-study competition, which asked student to devise a marketing plan for the North Carolina Symphony.

“The students are able to come together, network, associate with varying platforms and industries, and collectively put into practice their respective skills, perspectives and aptitudes,” said Wanda Lester, Ph.D., interim dean for the School of Business.



UNDI HOFFLER

Undi Hoffler | Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Undi Hoffler, Ph.D., was appointed interim vice chancellor for Research and Economic Development in April 2015. The role will allow Hoffler to develop research initiatives and other economic development opportunities for the university.

Hoffler has more than 19 years of experience in metabolism and pharmacology studies and toxicology research. Previously, she served as NCCU's director of research and compliance in the Office of Technology Transfer and as a guest researcher for the National Environmental Health Sciences Institute, which is part of the National Institutes of Health.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in biology and a doctorate in pharmacology from Meharry Medical College.



ONTARIO WOODEN

Ontario Wooden | Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovative, Engaged and Global Education in the Division of Academic Affairs

Ontario Wooden, Ph.D., has been appointed associate vice chancellor for Innovative, Engaged and Global Education in the Division of Academic Affairs.

Wooden previously served as associate dean of University College at NCCU from 2008 to 2011. In his new role, he is responsible for community engagement, student grievances and appeals, parent relations, University Conference and other student-success initiatives.

Wooden has a B.S. in early childhood education from Albany State University, an M.S. in higher education, a post-master's certificate in institutional research, and a Ph.D. in higher education with a minor in African-American and African Diaspora studies from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Prior to joining NCCU, Wooden served as director of the Velma Fudge Grant Honors Program and Academic Success Initiatives at Albany State University in Georgia.



WANDA K. LAWRENCE

Wanda K. Lawrence | Chair of the Nursing Department

Wanda K. Lawrence, Ph.D., was named chair of the Department of Nursing in August. Lawrence previously served on the faculty of the Department of Nursing at Winston-Salem State University from 2003 to 2015.

She earned her Ph.D. in education with a specialization in higher education leadership from Capella University. She also holds a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from NCCU, where she graduated in 1978.

Her certifications include a medical-surgical endorsement from the American Nurse's Association and certifications from the American Heart Association as an instructor in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support and advanced cardiac life support.



NICOLE GIBBS

Nicole Gibbs

Undergraduate Admissions Director

Newly appointed Undergraduate Admissions Director Nicole Gibbs, Ed.D., brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education, student engagement and enrollment management to campus.

Previously, Gibbs served as vice provost of Access and Enrollment Services and interim dean of Student Affairs at the University of the Virgin Islands.

As director of Undergraduate Admissions, Gibbs supervises and manages the department's federal, state and institutional funds and oversees recruitment programs within the Division of Enrollment Management.

Gibbs earned her bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University in psychology, master's degree from Columbus State University in English education and doctorate in educational leadership from Clark Atlanta University.

APPOINTMENTS



Audrey W. Beard | Interim Dean for the School of Education

Audrey W. Beard, Ed.D., was appointed interim dean for the School of Education.

Beard has more than 25 years of experience in education, previously serving as a tenured professor at Albany State University, director of clinical experiences and chair of Albany State's Department of Teacher Education.

Beard's experience includes guiding reaccreditation of teacher education programs by the National Council

for Accreditation of Teacher Education and serving on several Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation teams at higher education and K-12 levels.

Beard holds a B.S. in early childhood education from Fort Valley State University, a M.S. in early childhood education from Clark Atlanta University and a doctorate in early childhood education and education administration and supervision from Jackson State University.

Yolanda Banks Anderson

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Development/Resources



Yolanda Banks Anderson, Ph.D., environmental science professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences, has been appointed as interim associate vice chancellor for Faculty Development/Resources.

Anderson joined NCCU as an associate professor in 1996 and was promoted to full professor in 2010. She has served in a number of faculty roles at NCCU. As a researcher, Anderson has received over \$4.5 million in grants for research and training.

Prior to joining NCCU, she was employed by the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development of the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, an M.S. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Christy Simmons

Director of Marketing and Communications



Christy L. Simmons was appointed in March as the director of marketing and communications for University Relations in the Division of Institutional Advancement. Simmons will be responsible for advancing the North Carolina Central University brand and increasing visibility

and support for the institution with both internal and external audiences by implementing integrated marketing, public relations and communications plans and directives. Simmons has more than 15 years of marketing and public relations experience in the print media and nonprofit settings where she developed marketing strategy and communications plans for both print and web. Simmons holds a bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University and a certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University.

REFERENDUM ON BOND PACKAGE COULD BENEFIT NCCU

A state bond referendum that goes before the public March 15 includes \$30 million for a proposed new School of Business at NCCU. The ballot will ask voters to approve an overall bond package of about \$2 billion that has been targeted for repairs and expansions across the state. Known as Connect N.C., the package was put forward by Gov. Pat McCrory to shore up educational facilities, parks and other infrastructure, such as aging water and sewer systems. The current School of Business at NCCU building was constructed in 1956 and lacks the modern facilities needed to support contemporary instruction and research methods, university officials said. For more details, click here.

FOR A VIDEO ON
**CONNECT
NC BOND**
CLICK HERE

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



Quanda Baker

Director of Annual Giving

Quanda Baker was appointed in August 2015 as NCCU's director of Annual Giving in the Division of Institutional Advancement.

Baker is a longtime professional in both higher education and finance industries, with 13 years experience at Virginia Union University in

Richmond, and was most recently a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual, where she worked with clients to set retirement goals and make investments.

At Virginia Union, she developed stewardship plans for annual donors in the President's Circle and established programs for engagement of the entire university community. She also managed business relationships and engaged with corporations and organizations to establish fundraising initiatives.

Baker previously worked in the Alumni Office at Albany State University for nine years, where she managed alumni development records and significantly increased alumni giving, among other accomplishments.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in administrative systems/business education from Albany State and a Master of Science degree in human resources from the University of Maryland University College.



Patricia Mitchell

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor
for Advancement Services

Patricia Mitchell brings more than 25 years of fundraising and development expertise to NCCU in her position as interim associate vice chancellor for Advancement Services.

Mitchell was appointed in October 2015 to oversee annual gift fundraising, stewardship, reporting, and constituent relations for the university.

Mitchell is a native of Jackson, N.C., and holds an undergraduate degree from N.C. A&T State University.

She previously served as assistant vice president for development at Jackson State University for three years, where she handled fundraising, stewardship, advancement services and alumni relations. She also worked in development at N.C. A&T State University for 11 years, where she rose to the position of senior director of development operations, and spent five years as director of annual giving at Georgia State University.

Her professional affiliations include the association of Advancement Service Professionals and the Association of Fund Raising Professionals, and she recently served on the Board of Directors for CASE District III as the liaison to the HBCU Taskforce.

Mitchell is a graduate of the Aggie Leadership Institute at N.C. A&T.

Laurell Malone | Coordinator of Faculty Professional Development



Laurell Malone, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Educational Leadership, has been appointed to serve as coordinator of Faculty Professional Development.

Malone, who joined the NCCU faculty in 2002, has 35 years of experience as an educator and a professional development facilitator.

In her new position, Malone will lead a variety of teaching initiatives for university-wide faculty, including programs to support innovative teaching, learning and assessment and use of technologies in the classroom.

Malone holds a B.A. in biology from Earlham College and a M.A. in early childhood education from the

University of Virginia. She also has a Ph.D. in educational administration and a certificate of advanced graduate studies in educational administration, both from Virginia Tech University.

Malone's past experiences include roles as teacher, assistant principal, principal, educational consultant and college instructor. Her specialty areas include instructional leadership, curriculum development and design, assessment and accountability, student engagement, professional development and culturally responsive pedagogy.

MEMBERS APPOINTED TO NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



DARRELL T. ALLISON



OITA C. COLEMAN



MICHAEL P. JOHNSON



JOHN T. McCUBBINS



OLIVIA ROBINSON

A pharmaceutical executive, software vice president and public education advocate were all named as new members by Gov. Pat McCrory to serve on North Carolina Central University Board of Trustees beginning Sept. 22, 2015.

Also announced in September was the appointment of business consultant **MICHAEL P. JOHNSON** and Student Government Association President **OLIVIA ROBINSON**, who assumed ex officio status on the 13-member panel for a one-year term.

Additionally, two sitting trustees were reappointed: **GEORGE R. HAMILTON**, who serves as chairman, and **JOHN BARBEE**, vice chairman. All except the student appointment were for four-year terms.

THE THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS NAMED BY THE GOVERNOR ARE:

Education advocate **DARRELL T. ALLISON, J.D.**, is founder of Parents for Educational Freedom, a 60,000-member state-wide organization working to expand school-choice options, including school vouchers. He is a magna cum laude graduate of NCCU and also holds a law degree from the NCCU School of Law.

JOHN T. McCUBBINS, PH.D., is senior vice president for animal health manufacturing at the global pharmaceutical company Merck & Co., headquartered in Kenilworth, N.J. McCubbins oversees vaccine production in the U.S. and overseas. He is also a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

UNC Greensboro graduate **OITA C. COLEMAN** has spent more than 30 years as a professional in the software industry and now serves as vice president for research and development

in the QUEST Division at SAS Institute in Cary, N.C. Coleman also is vice chair of the business advisory board for the Wake County-NC State University Early College High School.

Johnson, appointed by the UNC Board of Trustees, is president and chief executive officer of his own business-management consulting firm, the J&A Group LLC in Tulsa, Okla. Previously, he served as senior vice president in charge human resources, strategic services and other divisions of Williams Companies, a Tulsa-based energy company. Johnson earned a bachelor's in business administration from NCCU and attended the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University.

Olivia Robinson, president of the NCCU Student Government Association, is a senior majoring in political science. She was a three-term delegate for the UNC system Association of Student Governments and has been a dedicated volunteer throughout her academic career.

Allison and Johnson succeed trustees Dwight D. Perry, D.D.S., and Avon L. Ruffin, who have completed two consecutive terms.

Sitting board members whose terms continue through 2016 or longer include **PAUL R. POPE JR.**, former Capital Broadcasting executive and board secretary; **HAROLD T. EPPS**, alumnus and president of PRWT Services in Philadelphia; **JOAN HIGGINBOTHAM**, director of community relations for Lowe's Home Improvement; **ALLYSON SIEGEL**, President of Tru-Pak Moving Systems; **KENNETH R. TINDALL, Ph.D.**, senior vice president for Science and Business Development at the N.C. Biotechnology Center; and **KARYN S. WILKERSON**, early childhood educator who directs the Kiddie Kollege Early Learning Center at NCCU.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SPEAKS ABOUT HORROR AND FEELINGS OF HOPE

ESTHER LEDERMAN, a Holocaust survivor who spent two years hiding from the Nazis in a Polish farmhouse, told the NCCU community about the experience in conjunction with a new literature course on survival and healing.



Born in 1924, Lederman grew up in Lodz, the second largest city in Poland, in a Jewish family that included her parents and a younger sister. The girls attended a private school and enjoyed figure skating.

"We were just typical teenagers and we wanted to have a good time," Lederman says.

When she was 15, however, the German army invaded Poland, and her family fled to a distant small town to stay with relatives. Eventually, her father was sent by the Nazis to a work camp, and her mother and sister disappeared from their home one day while Esther Lederman was away. She said she never saw her mother or sister again.

Lederman remembered feeling "very anxious" as events unfolded, but held out hope. "Somehow in the back of our minds we could not accept it," she explained.

Such experiences are the focus of NCCU's upper-level seminar course on survival and healing created by Department of English professors Camille Passalacqua, Ph.D., and Rachelle S. Gold, Ph.D., with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The class examines narratives of traumatic experiences, such as slavery, exile, torture and war, and how art often emerges from such conditions as a vision of hope. The course will be taught again in spring 2016.

Lederman told the NCCU audience how she managed to survive the Holocaust: Shortly before her family was captured, she met another Jewish teen, Ezjel Lederman, and was permitted to hide with Ezjel's family in a 10-by-10-foot attic for the remainder of the war. They all were freed in August 1943, when Soviet soldiers came to liberate the region. Lederman was reunited with her father two years later. Esther and Ezjel eventually married and immigrated to the United States in 1949. Esther now lives in Chapel Hill.

A documentary based her experiences, "Hiding for Our Lives: Esther Lederman's Story," was originally presented at the Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education of North Carolina. Lederman is a member of North Carolina's Holocaust Speakers Bureau.

Alumnus William Barber Receives CBC Award

The **REV. WILLIAM BARBER II** was presented with Congressional Black Caucus Chair Award during the Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Sept. 19 in Washington, D.C.

President Barack Obama was the keynote speaker for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation event that brings focus to issues affecting the black community.

Barber, a 1985 graduate of North Carolina Central University, is president of the N.C. Conference of the NAACP and pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro.

"Rev. Dr. Barber has dedicated his life to advocating for racial equality and social justice and is most deserving of being recognized for his tireless work," said 1st District N.C. Congressman G. K. Butterfield, who presented the award. Butterfield is CBC chairman and a graduate of the NCCU School of Law.

Barber's recent activities include organizing the popular

Moral Monday demonstrations at the State Capitol in response to actions of the N.C. General Assembly to cut Medicaid, place restrictions on voters and other policies. In 2012, he was instrumental in the pardon by former Gov. Beverly Perdue of the Wilmington Ten, individuals unfairly convicted and imprisoned during integration protests 40 years ago.

Additional honorees for the event included Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was honored posthumously with the Harold Washington Award. An organizer of the 1965 Bloody Sunday March in Montgomery, Ala., she commemorated its 50th anniversary by crossing the bridge hand in hand with President Obama. She died in August 2015 at age 110.



Student Leader Brings Home White House Award



Kienka completed research internships at Yale University and Duke University and worked as a medical intern for the Tropical Pathology and Infectious Disease Association in Iquitos, Peru.

B

BIOLOGY MAJOR TAMINA P. KIENKA

was named as a 2015 All-Star by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in recognition of outstanding student performance.

Kienka, who has a 4.0 grade point average, was among the 83 All-Stars out of 450 students who applied. The program rates applicants on academic achievement, leadership and civic engagement.

Kienka is a native of Nigeria who has studied at NCCU since 2012. He has been active in academic research initiatives locally and globally, and has been involved with several student organizations and as captain of the NCCU tennis team, which won the HBCU National Championship in 2014.

Kienka completed research internships at Yale University and Duke University and worked as a medical intern for the Tropical Pathology and Infectious Disease Association in Iquitos, Peru. He has also contributed greatly to the NCCU community through his work as an undergraduate research assistant and biology supplemental instructor.

“I am particularly interested in the study of the genome and how to manipulate the information it encodes,” said Kienka, who is also a Thurgood Marshall College Fund Scholar, a member of Sigma Alpha Pi, The National Society of Leadership and Success, Golden Key International Honor Society and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

He is active with the NCCU Honors Advisory Council, Student Athlete Advisory Committee and Centennial Advisory Board and founded GlobeMed, a campus-based non-profit that works on behalf of global health equity.

Throughout the upcoming year, Kienka and other HBCU All-Stars will participate in a conference at the White House and receive other opportunities to meet experts in leadership in various fields.

HACKATHON CREATES AND CELEBRATES

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY produced a two-day Music Hackathon in September at the Fabrication Lab, with students from the College of Arts and Sciences working in teams to create music-related projects from scratch.

The Hackathon is part of a movement celebrating self-expression and creativity in students while they explore and learn how to use computer technology to create music.

Nearly 50 participants took part in the inaugural event, developing a glove that plays musical notes with the touch

of a finger and a drum machine that creates sounds using a variety of objects, among other inventions. Workshops on Fab Audio and Audio Remix using Max7 programming were part of the second day's events, with live sounds and pre-recorded audio samples merging into new audio samples and sounds.

NCCU is the first historically black college or university with a fully operating Fab Lab registered with the Fab Foundation's global community of researchers, makers and innovators. For additional information about the NCCU Fab Lab, go to www.nccu.edu/fablab.



Students worked with digitized music and sounds to create original audio projects during the September 2015 Music Hackathon in the university's Fab Lab. Faculty members who helped organize the event included **(A)** biology Professor Eric Saliim, **(B)** Faye J. Calhoun, Ph.D. STEM program director and **(C)** music Professor Lance Hulme, Ph.D.



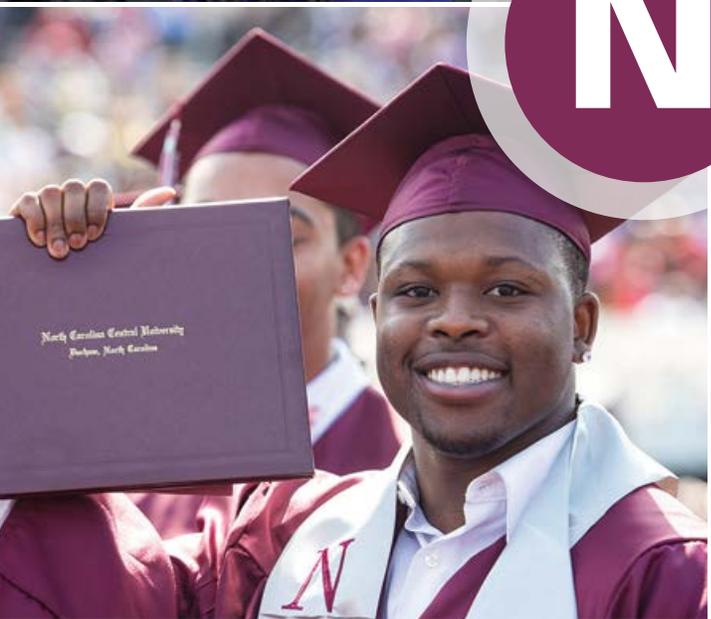


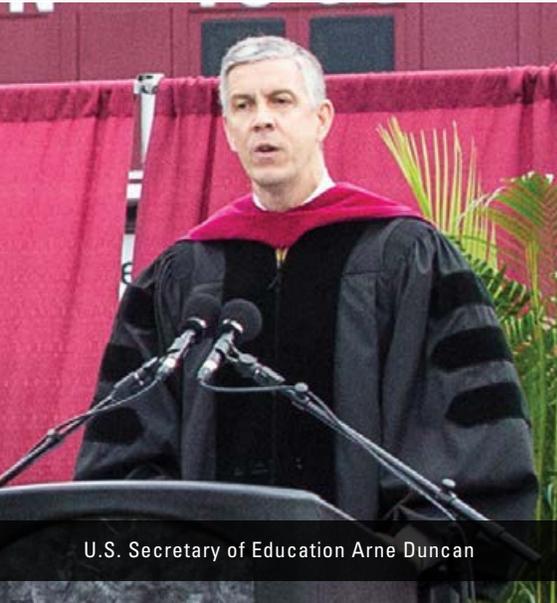
MAY GRADUATES RECEIVE THEIR DEGREES

BY KIA C. BELL

N

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY AWARDED MORE THAN 1,000 BACCALAUREATE, GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL DEGREES IN SPRING 2015, INCLUDING 660 AT THE UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES ON MAY 9.





U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan



Darlene Eberhardt Burke, Lenora Helm Hammonds and Rachelle Gold received the NCCU Award for Teaching Excellence



Outgoing NCCU Board of Trustees Chairman
Dwight D. Perry

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan delivered the undergraduate Commencement address, applauding students' efforts and underscoring the need to strengthen diverse institutions of higher education.

"We need this university and all historically black colleges and universities not just to survive but to thrive going forward if we hope to have stronger communities and a stronger nation," Duncan said.

Independent and creative thought are the keys to success in today's intellectual and economic climate, he added.

"The key factor of success for any society going forward is what percentage of its people are change-makers," Duncan said. "It is the new literacy, and empathy is the foundation."

NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White recognized graduate Darryl Lewis, a Rocky Mount native who majored in pharmaceutical sciences. Lewis currently attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Eschelmann School of Pharmacy.

Four faculty members were honored during the ceremony. Language and literature professor Karen Keaton Jackson, Ph.D., received the UNC Board of Governors Award in Teaching Excellence. The NCCU Award for Teaching

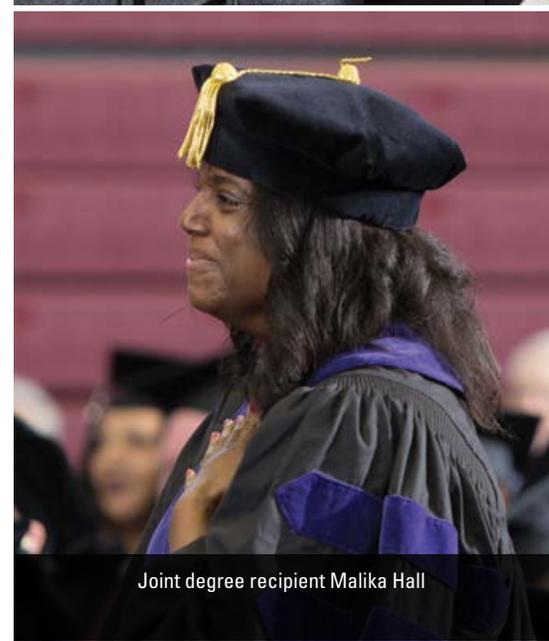
Excellence was presented to three faculty members: Darlene Eberhardt Burke, Ph.D., department chair of Human Sciences; Professor Lenora Helm Hammonds, assistant professor in the Music Department; and Rachelle Gold, Ph.D., assistant professor of English.

Joshua Bynum accepted the Bachelor of Science degree on behalf of his sister, Chekeria Renae Reid, a recreation administration major who died unexpectedly in March.

On May 8, the university awarded 400 graduate and professional diplomas after hearing from Commencement speaker, ophthalmologist, alumnus and former NCCU Board of Trustees chairman Dr. Dwight D. Perry.

Paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Perry said: "The function of education is not only to teach one to think intensively and critically but also to develop character... With character you are now equipped to face the world."

Chancellor Debra Saunders-White recognized NCCU School of Law and School of Library Sciences joint degree recipient Malika Hall for her accomplishment as a first-generation college graduate. Hall said she chose NCCU's School of Law because it is the only historically black college or university with the Juris Doctor/Master of Library Science joint program. □



Joint degree recipient Malika Hall

End Zone Initiative Helps Former Students to Finish Degree at NCCU

A new degree program kicks off at North Carolina Central University in January 2016 that will make it easier for former college students to return to campus and earn their bachelor's degree.



education institution or the U.S. Military.

To earn the degree, students must acquire 30 hours of credit in core courses in sociology, psychology, human sciences, political science, criminal justice,

The End Zone Initiative was created to help students maximize credits previously earned at NCCU and other higher education institutions. The credits will be applied toward the Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences.

The End Zone Initiative offers students the option of attending classes on campus or through online distance education, according to Terry Huff, program coordinator.

"We are proud that North Carolina Central University provides yet another gateway opportunity for those whose pathway to higher education was interrupted and now choose to complete their degrees," said Dean Debra O. Parker, of the College Behavioral and Social Sciences. "This program will give you the opportunity and flexibility to complete your degree by receiving as much credit as possible for your previous coursework."

Previous academic work counts toward degree requirements as long it was received through an accredited higher

social work, public health education and/or physical education and recreation – including two 12-hour subject concentrations. Other requirements include 32 hours of general electives and 38 hours from the university's General Education Curriculum.

This interdisciplinary curriculum provides a diverse educational background while still allowing students to customize their degrees based on individual interests.

The Behavioral and Social Sciences bachelor's degree was designed to equip students with workforce skills that are highest in demand, according to the government website NCWorks.gov. Those skills including critical thinking, decision-making, data analysis, problem solving, networking, interdisciplinary thinking, team building, flexibility, and strong oral and written communications.

Approximately 1.5 million students who left school without completing their degree have been identified across the University of North Carolina system. □

NCCU CULTURAL ARTS

2016 EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

MLK DAY CELEBRATION

JANUARY 19 | 9 A.M.

Featuring Andrew Young, 7 p.m.,
B.N. Duke Auditorium

Visit nccu.edu for a full list of events

FOR MORE
EVENTS
CLICK HERE

FEBRUARY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories.

Visit nccu.edu for a list of events in celebration of Black History Month.



DAVIS

NCCU LYCEUM SERIES

DR. ANGELA DAVIS

Political Activist, Scholar and Author

FEBRUARY 10 | 7 P.M. | B.N. Duke Auditorium

ROCK THE MIC SERIES

SHEYANN WEBB CHRISTBURG

Civil Rights Activist

FEBRUARY 18 | 7 P.M. | B.N. Duke Auditorium

NCCU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

"HURT VILLAGE"

See the heartbreak of gentrification through the eyes of a 13-year-old female rapper.

FEBRUARY 19, 20, 26, 27 | 8 P.M.

FEBRUARY 21, 28 | 3 P.M.

B.N. Duke Auditorium

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Visit nccu.edu for a full list of events that highlights the contributions of women to events in history.

MARCH



GIOVANNI

ROCK THE MIC SERIES

NIKKI GIOVANNI

Poet, Social Activist and Educator

MARCH 9 | 7 P.M.

B.N. Duke Auditorium

NCCU VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE & FRIENDS OF SHEPARD LIBRARY

"LEGACIES OF JAZZ WOMEN" & ANNUAL STUDENT COMPOSITION COMPETITION

MARCH 5 | 6 P.M. | Hayti Heritage Center, Durham, NC

NCCU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

"ELLA" Celebrate the sultry sounds and iconic presence of Ella Fitzgerald.

MARCH 4, 5, 7 | 8 P.M. | **MARCH 6 | 3 P.M.** | University Theatre

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

DR. YABA BLAY

Professor, Producer and Publisher

Department of Political Science presents a lecture titled: *When Black A'int Beautiful: Hair, Skin and the Politics of Beautiful.*

MARCH 10 | 2:25 P.M. | H.M. Michaux School of Education



BLAY

NCCU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

OPERATARIO CONCERT

MARCH 30 | 7 P.M. | **APRIL 1 | 7 P.M.** | B.N. Duke Auditorium

2016 EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

NCCU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

CLEAR ONYX SPRING DANCE CONCERT

APRIL 2 | 8 P.M. | B.N. Duke Auditorium

NCCU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

PERCUSSION, STRING AND GUITAR ENSEMBLES STUDENT CONCERT

APRIL 5 | 7 P.M. | B.N. Duke Auditorium



NCCU UNIVERSITY CHOIR

NCCU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY CHOIR | CONCERT BAND SPRING CONCERT

APRIL 7 | 8 P.M. | B.N. Duke Auditorium

NCCU JAZZ STUDIES

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER/ DIZZY'S CLUB-COCA COLA

APRIL 12 | 8 P.M. | New York City, New York

NCCU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

"THE MIS-EDUCATION OF HIP-HOP"

Original work by faculty and students that takes the audience on a journey to discover the true meaning of hip-hop.

APRIL 15, 16, 22, 23 | 8 P.M. | APRIL 17, 24 | 3 P.M.
B.N. Duke Auditorium



NCCU FACULTY CONCERT

NCCU 26TH ANNUAL

APRIL 15 – 20

JAZZ FESTIVAL

FEATURING GUEST ARTISTS, JAZZ ENSEMBLE AND VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The NCCU Jazz Festival offers a lineup of stellar musicians and vocalists. Visit nccu.edu/jazzfestival/ for the latest schedule.

APRIL 15 | 8 P.M. | Guest Artist Mary Stallings

APRIL 16 | 8 P.M. | Guest Artist Sax Appeal with Javon Jackson, Jimmy Heath, Gary Bartz and Donald Harrison

NCCU JAZZ STUDIES & SALETT ARTS CENTER

ANNUAL STUDENT JAZZ COMPETITION

APRIL 16 | 7 P.M.

JAZZ COMBO CONCERTS

APRIL 18 | 7 P.M.



NCCU VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

VOCAL JAZZ SUMMIT

APRIL 19 | WORKSHOPS | 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

MIDDLE & HIGH-SCHOOL ADJUDICATION | 5 PM
CONCERT | 7 P.M.

FACULTY CONCERT

APRIL 20 | 7 P.M.

Scientist Mildred Pointer Conquers Life Step by Step

IF THERE'S A THEME TO MILDRED AUDREY POINTER'S LIFE, IT COULD BE "TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME." That is just how the young girl from Alton, Va., transformed her prospects from future wife and farm hand to

that of noted research scientist at Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute at NCCU.

"I have five brothers and three sisters; I am number four from the top," Pointer explains. "I am the only one in my family who has a Ph.D. — and the first, on either my father's or mother's side, to get a doctorate. So there was no pathway for me to follow to become a scientist or a Ph.D. I got here by taking one step at a time."

The accomplished academician grew up in a farming community just across the Virginia state line from Milton, N.C., working beside her siblings in the field and taking care of other chores around the house. Her parents had a family garden, as well as a tobacco crop that was trucked away for sale at regional markets that provided income.

Wanting a different path, Pointer embraced education from the start. In junior high, an inspiring biology teacher convinced her to consider science as a profession — at least until she joined the high school band.

"I played the clarinet, and I loved it," Pointer said. "I wanted to be the first African-American female conductor of a major symphony."

Her senior year, a successful audition for a Blacksburg, Va., conservatory confirmed her talent. She won the spot, but a high school guidance counselor warned Pointer that Blacksburg was not "receptive" to African-Americans, and



Mildred Pointer with NCCU students

advised her to consider an HBCU instead. An older sister had just graduated from North Carolina Central University, so Pointer decided she would go there, too; in fact, it was the only school where she applied.

"I got to college, dropped band, focused on biology and forgot the music career," Pointer added.

At NCCU, she worked to pay her own tuition, living and housing expenses, while

carrying a full load of classes. But hope for a better life drove her forward.

Her parents encouraged her ambitions — especially her mother, Gladys Brandon Pointer, whose own education ended at seventh grade. "My mother believed education was the ticket to getting out of the type of circumstances that she and my dad experienced," Pointer said.

"Farming was hard work, and you didn't make a lot of money, especially if you were

Mildred Pointer studied science at NCCU but chose to go into research rather than pursue a teaching career.



a minority. You just made enough to pay the bills, buy food on credit until you could sell the tobacco and settle the bill. There was no way I wanted to work that hard and get no money. I thought, there's got to be a better way."

Pointer's vision of the future included "a house with indoor plumbing and carpet," but also a life where she was free to make her own choices.

"Back then, all women were expected to do was cater to men. I saw how unfair the system was, how females in our family worked as hard as the men but didn't get pocket money the way our brothers did," she said.

At NCCU, Pointer's sharp mind and excellent grades caught the attention of an academic advisor, who spoke with her about graduate school. It was the first time she had considered the prospect.

After earning her bachelor's degree at NCCU in 1974, Pointer attended Wake Forest University School of Medicine for a Ph.D. in physiology. She also completed post-doctoral work at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harvard Medical School.

"It was a time when there were fewer women, and most assuredly very few African-Americans male or female, in the field," Pointer recalls. "In fact, I was the only African-American accepted that year into my graduate program at Wake Forest and the first to get a Ph.D. from that department."

Despite her initial goal to conduct research on heart health, Pointer switched to renal physiology after some changes in the Wake Forest faculty. "In retrospect, that was a good thing," Pointer said.

“
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BRILLIANCE.”
DR. MILDRED POINTER

"It was perfect, because the kidney is one of the major regulators of blood pressure, so I got my cardiovascular focus after all," she said. Her post-doctoral work in Chapel Hill paired her with two of the world's leading renal investigators, Carl W. Gottschalk and William Arendshorst.

By this time, Pointer was married and had a young son, James Elliott Rudd. She also was ready to begin her career as a college teacher,

but there was little response from higher education institutions in the South.

She finally began sending her résumé to institutions in the Northeast, including Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

"I posted my letter on Monday and by Wednesday I got a call," Pointer said.

By Friday, she found herself in a building that once housed the Boston Hospital for Women, founded in 1832 as one of America's first maternity hospitals. The women's hospital eventually merged with two other facilities to create Brigham and Women's, a teaching hospital for Harvard Medical School. It was in this facility that the world's first kidney transplant took place in 1954.

But Pointer was more skeptical than impressed as she pulled the iron gates down on the building's outdated elevators and rode up for her interview. It hadn't yet occurred to her that she was applying for a position at Harvard.

"I was relaxed and completely clueless as I was interviewing with Joseph Loscalzo (current Chief of Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital) and Victor Dzau," she said, referring to the current president of the Institute of Medicine. At the time, he was division chief of Vascular Biology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and later became president and CEO of Duke University Medical Center. Pointer accepted Dzau's offer to do research at the hospital and serve as an instructor on the Harvard faculty.

Later, she switched jobs to become a research assistant professor at the School of Medicine at Boston University as a member of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Research



IF I WANTED TO PURSUE WHAT I WAS FASCINATED WITH, I HAD TO BE MY OWN PERSON IN MY OWN RESEARCH ORGANIZATION. NCCU ALLOWED ME THAT OPPORTUNITY.”

MILDRED POINTER

Institute where Joseph Loscalzo was Director. In 2001, she decided to return to NCCU, after being invited to stop by for a tour of the new JLC-Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI).

“Is this my alma mater? I must be dreaming,” Pointer thought as she toured the recently dedicated BBRI building, in awe of its research laboratories, tissue culture facilities, state-of-the-art video conferencing capabilities and other enhancements.

“I had just moved into a new research institute in Boston, and it was huge. But it didn’t have as many capabilities as BBRI.”

She also longed for a chance to pursue independent research.

“If I wanted to pursue what I was fascinated with, I had to be my own person in my own research organization,” Pointer said. “NCCU allowed me that opportunity. This campus is small enough that you are given incredible opportunities to grow in areas that would be difficult in other places.”

Lastly, Pointer wanted to finally realize her dream of teaching undergraduates.

“The thing that thrills my soul and gets me most excited is showing students that they are indeed brilliant and teaching them the skills they need to unlock that brilliance,” Pointer said.

“When I can see them leave my sphere of influence, having grown professionally and in their analytic and critical-thinking abilities and going forward to achieve their goals and dreams – that excites me.”

Perhaps she even sees a little of herself when meeting with students aspiring to become health investigators or simply science teachers.

“It’s not always the brightest stars that shine here; we are interested in those who

most want what we have to offer,” Pointer adds. “When you find yourself working in an environment where your passion is in alignment with the mission, true breakthroughs happen.”

The steps taken by Pointer to forge a better future for herself led to professional accomplishment as well as personal satisfaction, especially considering the doors that have been opened for her son, James, who now is working to complete his Ph.D. in quantitative biology at Dartmouth College.

When she’s not in the BBRI lab investigating minority health concerns, you might still find Pointer sitting quietly, listening to the sounds of a symphony orchestra.

“I still love music,” she said. “It helped me quiet myself inside while I was growing up impoverished with few opportunities because of segregation. That makes you feel oppressed and, at times, depressed. Music is the thing that can lift you up above all that.” □



Mildred Pointer second from right, stands with her professor, Vernon Clark, center, and other biology majors from 1973-74.

VISITORS

Welcome

**Hospitality and Tourism
Administration Program Grows
Students Who Know
the Ins and Outs of the Industry**

BY RENEE ELDER



The Somerset on Grace Bay is a seaside resort located in the Turks and Caicos.
Photo provided by Spotlight Communication.

WHETHER YOU ARE DINING AT AN UPSCALE RESTAURANT in Durham or sunning at a Caribbean resort, a hospitality professional is likely working nearby to ensure that your experience is satisfying. NCCU's Hospitality and Tourism Administration program has been educating top-notch professionals since 1998, and many of these graduates play crucial roles at tourist-destinations, restaurants and resorts around the world. Home to dozens of popular tourist attractions, 17,500 restaurants and 1,700 hotels and inns, North Carolina receives more than \$20 million in annual revenue from the hospitality and tourism industry.

"The hospitality industry is a driving force in the economy, providing tax revenue, jobs and careers," said **Ranita Bulluck**, an NCCU alumna who serves as education programs manager for the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association. "There are lots of career opportunities, especially for students from bachelor's degree programs like NCCU's."

Clarissa Cox, a 2007 graduate, found her hospitality career at The Somerset on Grace Bay, a seaside resort where she manages 53 private villas in the British Crown Colony of Turks and Caicos. Growing up on the islands, Cox was exposed to the hospitality field as a teen. By attending NCCU to earn her bachelor's degree, Cox believes she accelerated her career development by a large margin. She recently was promoted to Rooms Division manager at The Somerset, a five-star resort in Providenciales, the largest city in Turks and Caicos.

"The leadership, management and business administration classes I took at NCCU have all been very helpful," Cox said. "The Human Resources Certification course in particular played a vital part in preparing me for my current position. Areas that were touched on in that class allow me to provide valuable input to management discussions regarding revisions to employee handbooks, employment contracts, formalizing job descriptions, etc."



Photo by Andre Kerr



CLARISSA COX

Pictured above, NCCU graduate Clarissa Cox uses her skills as Rooms Division manager at The Somerset, a luxurious seaside resort.

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM ADMINISTRATION is part of the NCCU School of Business and requires a minimum of 28 semester hours of business courses, said Professor Beverly Bryant, Ph.D., who founded the Hospitality and Tourism Administration program nearly two decades ago.

“It was just me and 12 students to start,” Bryant recalled. “We have grown to more than 100 today, adding 18 to 21 new students per academic year.”

Courses include Human Resources Management, Principles of Marketing, Meetings and Convention Management and Food, Beverage and Labor Cost Control. An added plus for students is that all of the coursework is online, with the exception of two fourth-year food and beverage production courses that use a kitchen laboratory on campus.

Recently named as interim director of the Hospitality and Tourism program is **BARRY SHUSTER**, a lawyer who began teaching hospitality law at NCCU in 2005. His hospitality experience also includes creating a best-practices magazine for restaurant entrepreneurs, serving on the board of the International Food-service Editorial Council, and working as chief marketer for Divers Alert Network, a Durham-based tourism insurance company for the adventure travel industry.

“What I am seeing and hearing when talking to restaurant, lodging and tourism people is that there is a demand for employees who know how to manage other people and resources,” Shuster said. “The difficulty is finding people with the right personal skills and attitude who also have business and management skills.”

That’s exactly what the NCCU hospitality program sets out to create, he added.

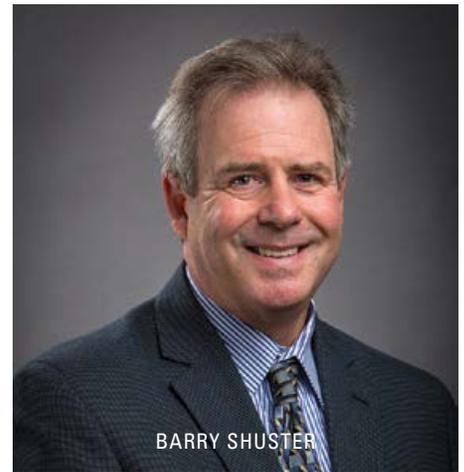
With only two other higher-ed hospitality programs in the state – at East and Western Carolina universities – Shuster says NCCU has a lion’s share of

opportunities to further develop the program.

“What distinguishes NCCU is not just that it is an HBCU (historically black colleges and universities) program, but it is the only program that serves the Raleigh-Durham market,” Shuster explained. “There’s no other school in the Triangle that provides that degree.”

Named by Southern Living magazine as the “Tastiest Town in the South,” Durham is the “center of the universe” for restaurant opportunities in particular, Shuster said.

“I’m confident that as the reputation of the Triangle grows nationally and internationally as a destination for tour-



BARRY SHUSTER

ism, so will the reputation of the NCCU hospitality program.”

The Hospitality and Tourism Administration program has already won its share of awards, including selection by BestColleges.com as a “Top 10 Online Hospitality Management Program” for 2015.

With day and nighttime classes, and the option for an online degree, the program attracts a fair share of non-traditional students who are returning to school to advance their skills or transfer in from another university.



MICHAEL EVANS

MICHAEL EVANS was already a mid-career hospitality professional in Durham when he enrolled in the program in 2002.

“When I turned 40, I knew I wanted to do something different; I was trying to decide whether I should I go out and buy a motorcycle or sharpen my professional tools,” he said. Deciding on the latter, Evans visited NCCU for an interview with Bryant.

“We started talking, and she sold me on the program,” he recalled.

Working full time, attending classes part time, and with a family at home, Evans said he appreciated the scheduling flexibility.



“But the biggest value-added for me was networking,” Evans said. “Dr. Bryant set up the program to be supported by a lot of industries and businesses, and it allowed me the opportunity to network, which was wonderful. It sharpened the tools that I already had and enhanced them.”

Evans is now director of The Searle Center at Duke University Medical Center, managing dozens of employees and overseeing a million-dollar budget for the conference center, full-service restaurant and mobile catering operations.

“In this job, I’m using everything I learned through both my education and experience,” he said. “I love it because it is a people business. And I love having a positive impact on young employees – sometimes first-time employees just out of high school or college – and helping them develop their work skills.”

Growth in the hospitality industry is not just a local phenomenon. According to 2014 figures from the World Travel and Tourism Council, the industry provided 5.3 million jobs in the U.S., more than auto manufacturing, banking and mining combined. The total impact on the U.S. economy was estimated at \$1.4 trillion. Hospitality jobs are expected to grow at an average rate of 4.4 percent over the next decade, nearly twice as fast as the overall economy.

The view that hospitality is a low-wage profession doesn’t take into consideration how quickly talented workers may advance, Bulluck pointed out.

“With a bachelor’s degree and five years experience, I could be the general manager at a high-end hotel and make a substantial income,” she said.

Pictured above, the culinary laboratory is where students learn the basics of food service, including how to order ingredients in bulk and commonly used culinary terms, said hospitality program founder Beverly Bryant, Ph.D.



ZURI REYNOLDS-HESTER



“THEY TEACH THE WHOLE PERSON – NOT JUST THE ACADEMICS. IT REALLY HELPS WHEN A TEACHER CONNECTS WITH YOU AND YOU CAN RELATE THEIR ADVICE TO THE REAL WORLD.”

ZURI REYNOLDS-HESTER

ZURI REYNOLDS-HESTER, 26, took another tack toward employment after graduating with her hospitality and tourism diploma in 2013. First, she headed to Charlotte for a yearlong culinary arts course at Johnson & Wales University.

Like many in the millennial generation, Reynolds-Hester didn't wait around to find her perfect job; instead, she created one. In fall 2014, she opened Nzinga's Breakfast Café on Fayetteville Street in Durham, applying the industry knowledge she gained at NCCU, her new cooking skills and a start-up investment from her father.

“When my dad said, ‘Come up with a business plan,’ I did. And the rest is history,” she said. Reynolds-Hester's restaurant concept is based on principles she learned during her four years at NCCU. Even her passion for cooking was ignited there.

“I took a food production class, and that's how I figured out I wanted to cook,” she said. “Then after I graduated, I went to Johnson & Wales to learn more about food. I learned how to cook French food, meat cutting, and the science behind cooking. But I would have never known I wanted to do this if I hadn't gone to NCCU.”

Reynolds-Hester said she benefited highly from the mentorship offered by her professors, and their willingness to look beyond the classroom setting to see a student's individual needs.

“They teach the whole person – not just the academics,” she said. “It really helps when a teacher connects with you and you can relate their advice to the real world. I learned a lot from my accounting class and my tourism class. And I learned a lot about event planning, which really helps because I do so much catering.”

CHRISTOPHER TYNER

Finding the right career fit was also a concern for **CHRISTOPHER TYNER**, who transferred into NCCU after two years at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A native of Murfreesboro, N.C., Tyner was taking pre-med courses at Chapel Hill intending to become a doctor when his father suggested he get a part-time job. So he did, at an Embassy Suites hotel.

“A few weeks later, I realized I loved what I was doing there and that I didn’t want to go to school for eight more years to become a doctor,” Tyner recalled. “I found out about NCCU’s hospitality program and made the move.”

While continuing to work, Tyner earned his Hospitality and Tourism Administration degree in 2004 and is now the

general manager of the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Springfield, Va. He was recently named Hilton’s General Manager of the Year.

Tyner hasn’t regretted his decision to leave medical aspirations behind in favor of a hospitality career.

“I’m a talker, and I love interacting with people from different cultures,” he said. “Every day it’s something new, depending on the types of groups you have coming in. It may be a church group, senior citizen group, college professors for a conference – always something different.”

He especially appreciates his NCCU training that focused on “behind the scenes” aspects of hotel management.

“Once I started working at a hotel, I learned my job, but I didn’t know much about what went on outside my job,” Tyner recalled. “So I took a specific course on facilities management that covered HVAC, plumbing, all the back of the house things I knew nothing about. Coming to North Carolina Central University, I just knew I

loved hospitality, but their program taught me fundamentals I didn’t know I was going to need.”

Tyner was hired right out of college to manage a restaurant for Marriott International in Research Triangle Park. He later went to work for a Hilton Hotel property as a front-desk manager.

He moved to Virginia to open a new Embassy Suites Hotel in November 2013. That hotel was named among the top 10 percent nationwide for quality and guest satisfaction scores in 2014.

“EVERY DAY IT’S SOMETHING NEW, DEPENDING ON THE TYPES OF GROUPS YOU HAVE COMING IN. IT MAY BE A CHURCH GROUP, SENIOR CITIZEN GROUP, COLLEGE PROFESSORS FOR A CONFERENCE – ALWAYS SOMETHING DIFFERENT.”

CHRISTOPHER TYNER





DEBRA B. WATKINS

DEBRA B. WATKINS, director of the Conference Center at the William and Ida Friday Center in Chapel Hill, plays host to more than 750 events and 750,000 attendees annually. Watkins, a 2004 Hospitality and Tourism Administration graduate, now serves as a member of NCCU’s Hospitality and Tourism Administration Advisory Board.

“Graduates of the Hospital and Tourism Administration program have a strong foundation in hospitality,” said Watkins, who has hired several younger NCCU hospitality graduates to work for her.

“They understand the importance of outstanding customer service, relationship-building and communication. These strengths are essential to the economic success of the Friday Center, and I am proud to have these graduates on my team.”

Watkins agrees that there is lots of room for growth in the hospitality industry.

“It offers career opportunities that are dynamic and jobs that offer advancement, widely transferable skills and ongoing opportunities,” Watkins said.



Pictured above, the William and Ida Friday Center staff members from left to right are: (front row) RJ Ellis, Gloria Farrar, Kristopher Brevard, Lori Snider, Debra Watkins, Allana Outlaw, Doris Clayton, Gail Young (back row) Josh Benjamin, Chad Patillo, Chaz Glenn and Tara Smith.



With such a bright future, its no wonder NCCU’s Hospitality and Tourism faculty gets a lot of inquiries from potential students these days. And they stand ready to welcome one and all. □

Field Research Yields Big Dividends for Non-Science Majors

University research often involves shiny laboratories and scientists in white coats. But for many faculty and students at NCCU, the process takes on a vastly different look, especially when the subject matter is jazz in 19th century New Orleans or the eating habits of elementary school students.

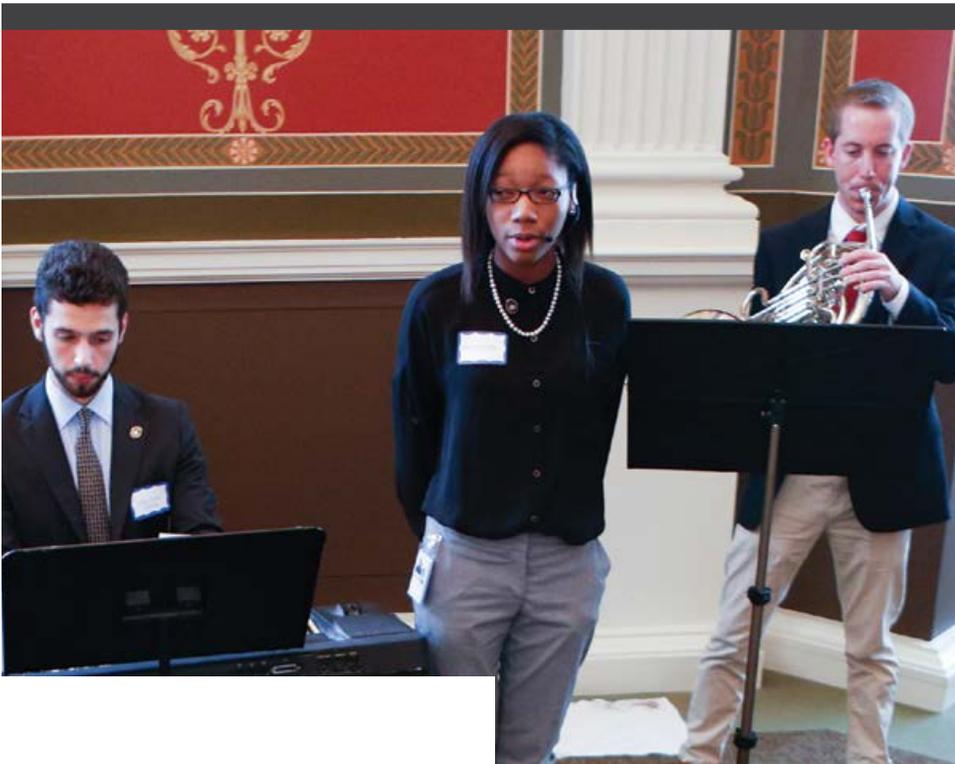


Students at Spaulding Elementary improved their eating habits after receiving lessons from the Healthy Children, Healthy World curriculum.

Research projects have taken senior Sierriana Terry from the halls of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to the lowlands of Louisiana, where she investigated musicians from the previous two centuries.

“We visited the archives at Tulane University and the Historic New Orleans Collection, a huge archive and library in the French Quarter,” said Terry, a music education major and one of six students who traveled to New Orleans with musicology professor Candace Bailey, Ph.D., in 2014.

Terry’s work led to a research paper on how women in New Orleans, particularly women of color, learned music in the 1800s and early 1900s.

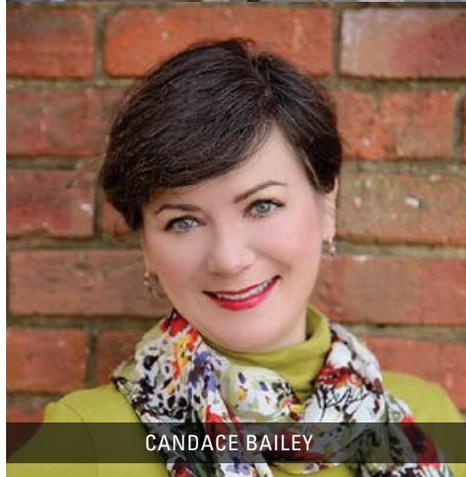


◁ *Musicology student researcher Sierriana Terry (center) presented her work to the American Musicology Society.*



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— CANDACE BAILEY



CANDACE BAILEY

“I was looking into how they were trained, since laws restricted people of color,” she explains. “Only teachers of color could teach children of color, even after the Civil War.”

She combed old newspapers and archival materials going back well over 100 years looking for primary sources that document the work of women musicians, as well as how they learned to play and sing. The pursuit led her to learn the Sisters of the Holy Family, an African-American congregation of nuns founded in New Orleans in 1842.

“The nuns taught the girls all kinds of things, such as how to sew, cook, write and

do math,” Terry said. “They taught them to sing Mass in Latin and French. And they taught them music.”

Bailey complemented the students for their efforts in developing research skills, saying it sets the groundwork for higher learning.

“On a very basic level, undergraduate research is important because it stimulates our students to pursue advanced study in their areas of interest,” Bailey said. “It also makes them more competitive for admission to graduate school and funding, because they gain experience in a practical way.”

Terry’s internship at the Library of Congress allowed her to pursue research for her senior thesis on the 1905 Richard Strauss opera *Salome*, which drew from an original play by Oscar Wilde. Based loosely on the Biblical story of John the Baptist and his relationship with *Salome*, the work was controversial in the Victoria era, she explained. “Seeing the letters between Strauss and his contemporaries and seeing the reviews of the women who played *Salome* were fascinating,” she added. “Both the play and opera were banned for a time.”

Not only has her research experience got Terry thinking about graduate school – with UNC Chapel Hill and Northwestern on her short list – it also helped her win an Eileen Southern Travel Grant to present her work at the national American Musicological Society in Milwaukee.

“Sierriana really impressed graduate faculties from around the country,” Bailey said of the student’s presentation. “The graduate school dean at Northwestern University said she was the most impressive student he met at the conference.”

PRACTICE

Another way that discoveries happen outside the lab is through translational research.

Kisha Daniels, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Education, said it is her goal to help non-science majors learn and apply research skills, work that is funded through a Center for Translational Health Equality grant and is part of larger National Institutes of Health initiative aimed at reducing health disparities.

“Universities put a lot of emphasis on research in the sciences, but this grant looks at how research also impacts non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) areas,” Daniels said. “For example, you can’t talk about the science of diabetes without talking about nursing and public health. You can’t talk about educating families about sugar if you don’t have a rich education component to your program.”

NCCU students from psychology, food and nutrition, public health and nursing came together to conduct research and devise lesson plans for elementary school students to help improve their health knowledge.

Lessons titled Healthy Living, Stress Busters and Germ Busters were developed and presented to students at Spaulding



Elementary School in Durham. Data taken before and after those lessons showed the researchers just how well their curriculum was working.

“We got great feedback from students and teachers,” Daniels said. “So we decided to take the program outside of Durham.”

In July 2015, they presented the Healthy Children, Healthy World curriculum in a workshop for elementary school teachers from across the mid-state. About two-dozen teachers attended the workshop, and were given take-home lessons in healthy eating and smoking prevention.

Participating in an activity titled “Putting the Ice in Ice Cream,” teachers learned to make a healthy dessert combining ice and fruit in a blender, then freezing it with dry ice and garnishing with sprinkles.

“The curricula uses components of English, science, social studies and math,”

“UNIVERSITIES PUT A LOT OF EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH IN THE SCIENCES, BUT THIS GRANT LOOKS AT HOW RESEARCH ALSO IMPACTS NON-STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH) AREAS.” — KISHA DANIELS



Left, Musicology students Sierriana Terry, Jacob Classen, Curtis McPhatter and Andrew Berinson accompanied Professor Candace Bailey to New Orleans for a chance to conduct primary research into early American musical traditions. **Center,** Vintage sheet music was among the original material examined by the musicology students. **Right,** Kyla Davis, Sierriana Terry, Andrew Berinson and Jacob Classen enjoyed hearing live music throughout their visit to New Orleans.



said Kara McRae, a teacher from High Point who plans to use the lessons with her third-graders. “I’m glad to have this to take back to class.”

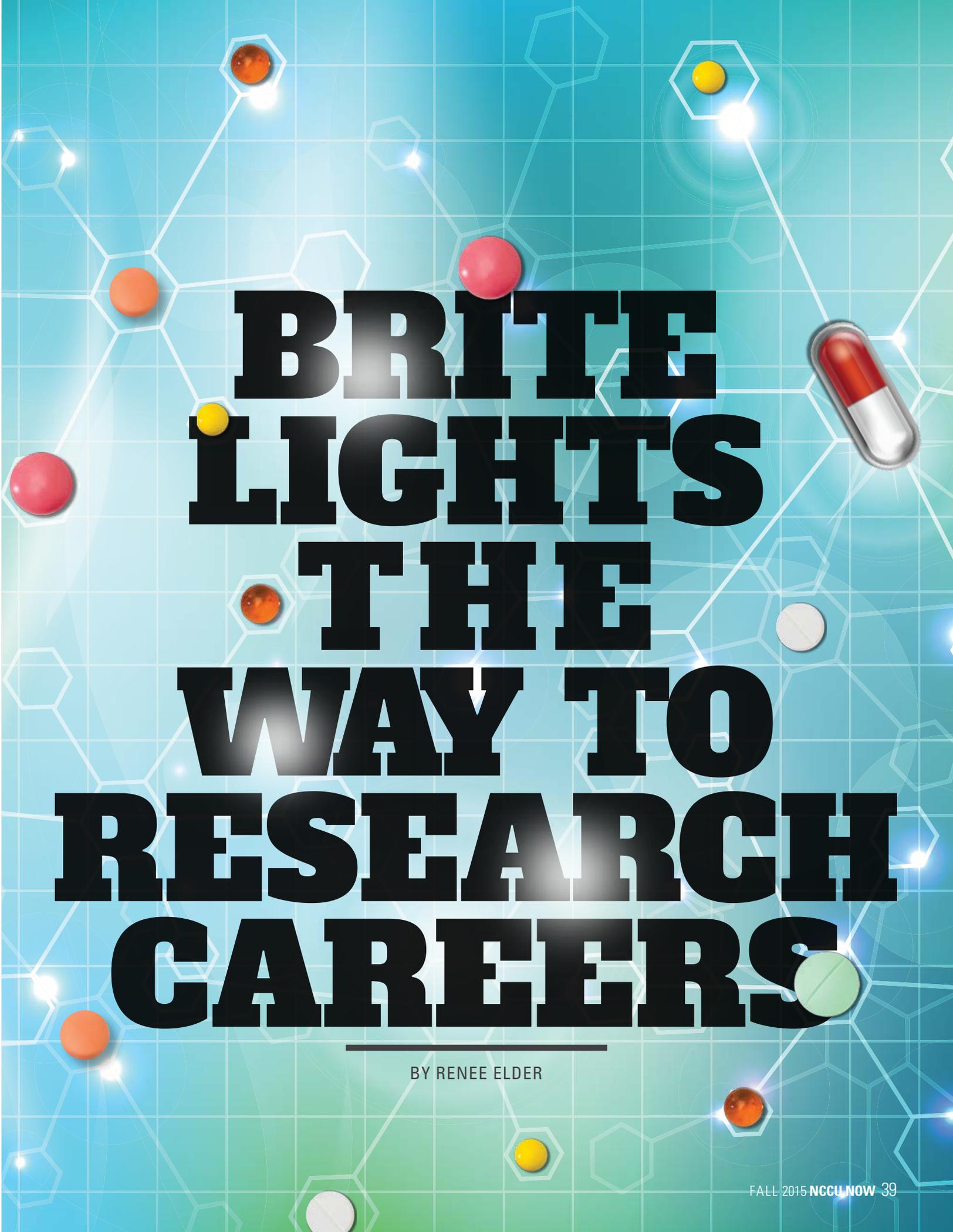
The teachers also heard from Jonathan Sexton, Ph.D., a researcher at NCCU’s Biotechnology Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) who spoke about the biological factors that cause Type 2 diabetes.

With such a positive outcome, Daniels said the research team plans to move forward with middle school and high school curricula for their next project, and bring another cohort of NCCU students into the mix.

“Working with Dr. Daniels on Healthy Children-Healthy World has been truly instrumental in honing in my education as a student researcher,” said Yolanda Long, a senior joined the four-year-old project as a freshman.

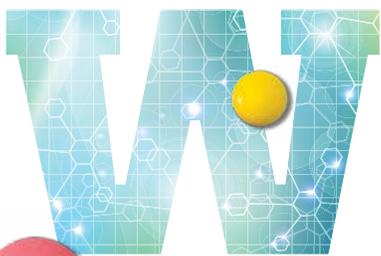
“As a result of working with Dr. Daniels, I’ve been able to co-author two manuscript publications, travel locally and abroad. I’m consistently challenged to move out of my comfort zone.” □

Biology Professor Ruth Phillips (a), demonstrates the recipe for healthy ice cream, as teachers from across North Carolina work with lesson plans from the Healthy Children, Healthy World curriculum.



BRITTE LIGHTS THE WAY TO RESEARCH CAREERS

BY RENEE ELDER



WORKING ON A NEW VACCINE FOR A DEADLY DISEASE

or researching alternative treatments for cancer is all in a day's work for students in NCCU's Pharmaceutical Sciences Department.

While typical undergraduates are spending much of their time in lecture halls, pharmaceutical sciences majors are immersed in hands-on experiments in the university's state-of-the-art laboratories.



CARRI MURPHY

“I love, love the lab,” said

CARRI MURPHY, a senior from Durham, who balances her time between classes, campus lab work and an internship at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park (RTP).

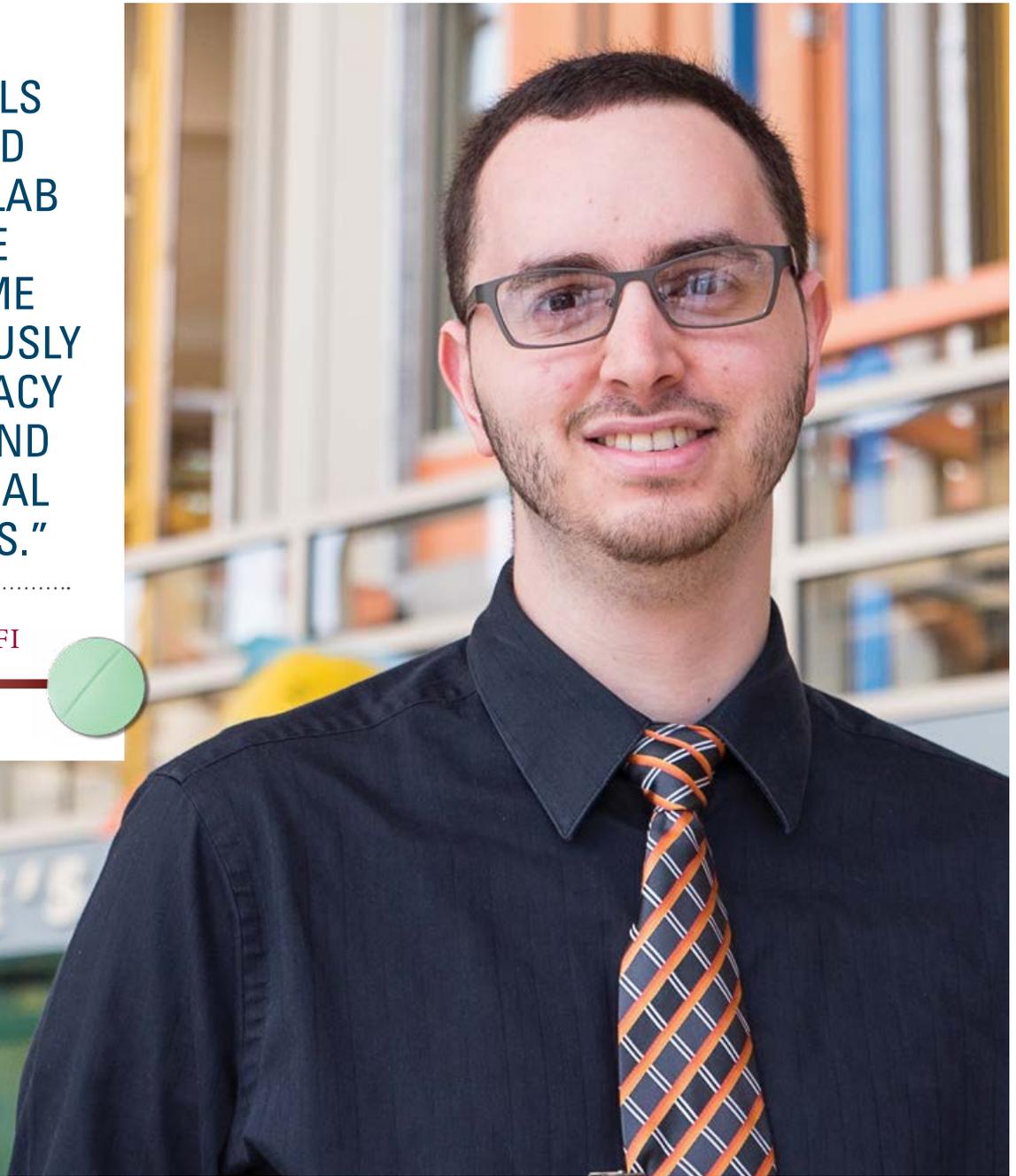
“At BRITE, they teach us everything about working in a research lab using similar equipment and principles as the industry. So when you get into an industry lab, you're not overwhelmed. You know how to operate everything, and you are not scared to get your hands dirty.”

BRITE, the Biomufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise, has been a magnet for budding scientists and accomplished academicians since 2007, when the program got its start with a grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation. Initially housed in the Mary Townes Science Complex, BRITE's own \$20.1 million state-of-the-art research facility opened in 2008. Developed in conjunction with a public-private consortium known as NC BioImpact, the institute attracts top students to NCCU through programs that lead to well-paying jobs in the biotechnology industry. Graduates say their degrees help pave the way to employment at many of the 600 bioscience companies operating in North Carolina, most of which are in the Research Triangle region that stretches from Durham to Chapel Hill and Raleigh.

PING-AN (ANDY) LI, who holds both a Ph.D. in neuroscience and a medical degree, was named chair of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department in July 2015. Having conducted research at premier laboratories in Sweden, Canada and the U.S. Li has no reservations about describing BRITE as a “marvelous, top-of-the-line facility.”

“THE SKILLS
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.....
YOUSEF LAFI



The faculty is also outstanding, with more than half having extensive industry experience with companies such as Glaxo SmithKline, Bayer Corporation, Novozymes and others.

“It’s a combination, a unique combination, of academic and industrial experience,” Li said. “Our faculty members have good connections in RTP and elsewhere.”

ANITA JACKSON, M.D., M.P.H., a graduate of Princeton University, Stanford University, University of Illinois College of Medicine and Harvard School of Public

Health, is the interim director of BRITE, coming on board in early 2015. She said she has been working diligently to “make BRITE success equal student success.”

Jackson has fostered several new relationships and opportunities for students and faculty involving biopharmaceutical and manufacturing industry partners over the past eight months.

A recently developed partnership with Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg will allow Army researchers to work in the BRITE facility, exposing stu-

dents to an even broader range of drug discovery and social science research opportunities. NCCU researchers will be able to collaborate with the Womack Clinical Research Faculty on grants and have access to U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) intramural grants so that both entities can increase their research potential. Fort Bragg has an 80 percent success rate on their DoD intramural submissions. By collaborating with the BRITE Institute and NCCU researchers, Womack can expand its research

interest and activity in drug discovery biotechnology and biopharma translational research, Jackson said.

BRITE also hosted a “Shark Tank” event this summer with Cindy Buhse, Ph.D., director of Quality for the Federal Drug Administration. Buhse spoke to faculty, students and industry representatives from Merck, Biogen, Novartis, Quintiles, and others about some of her most challenging FDA cases. Teams of participants made up of students, faculty and industry professionals were then formed to devise plans to work through complicated case scenarios.

“This interactive learning, which allowed the students to engage with potential employers in the biotechnology and biomanufacturing community, was very successful in showcasing the knowledge and preparedness of the BRITE students,” Jackson said. “It has become a springboard to the New BRITE Industry Career Mentor Network.”

The Network is being developed to connect BRITE students with NCCU alumni and industry professionals to encourage both internships and post-graduation employment. Formation of the new Industry Career Mentor Network is just one example of how BRITE faculty and administration are working to make student success the institute’s No. 1 priority, Jackson said.

Successful relationships between BRITE and private research institutions thrive on a blending of academic theory with hands-on laboratory experience that is available within the department, according to Li.

“We have all the major equipment used in drug discovery and biomanufacturing, and after four years of training on routine lab skills, most of our students can work independently. That is unusual. A lot of universities rely on classroom lectures but students lack the hands-on experience. We put a lot of effort into that.”

BRITE also has a career development staff that not only helps students locate internships and post-graduate opportunities, but also prepares them for the real

world by conducting mock interviews and holding information workshops that focus on topics such as personal branding or how to get the most from online networking.

Full and partial scholarships are available to first-time freshmen and community college transfers with associate degrees, as well as rising juniors, who demonstrate strong academic potential.

NATACHA JANVIER-DERILUS, a molecular biologist formerly with GlaxoSmithKline, has been senior academic advisor, recruiter and student service specialist at BRITE since 2007.

She and colleague **ANTHONY J. ERVIN** visit high schools to expose students to the options available at BRITE. They have found that the undergraduate hands-on laboratory work is a popular drawing card.

“Instead of taking your theory to the library to do research, they can take it directly to the lab,” Janvier-Derilus said. “Most spend no less than two years working in the lab.”

Many BRITE graduates find research positions within the biomanufacturing industry directly after graduation, while others continue their education in pharmacy school or by pursuing a master’s, Ph.D., M.D. or another terminal degree.

“There are a lot of choices in one curriculum,” Janvier-Derilus said.

A student who chooses to remain at BRITE for post-graduate work can earn an M.S. degree in pharmaceutical sciences or a Ph.D. in integrated biosciences in one of two concentrations: pharmaceutical sciences and biomedical sciences.

DIANE DARLINGTON transferred to BRITE after two years at Durham Tech, receiving her B.S. in pharmaceutical sciences in 2009 and an M.S. two years later.

“I was accepted into UNC Chapel Hill but ultimately decided to go to NCCU because of the degree’s focus and because of the scholarship. I won’t lie – graduating debt-free was a huge bonus,” Darlington said. “Though my initial goal was to pursue a pharmacy degree, I fell in

love with research while I was at BRITE and decided to get my M.S. in pharmaceutical sciences instead.”

Now working at a vaccine manufacturing company in RTP, Darlington uses knowledge she gained at BRITE daily.

“One of the things I loved most about BRITE was that most of my professors had industry experience,” she said. “They regularly shared practical examples rather than just lecturing from a theoretical perspective. All the specialized courses like Bioprocess and Cell Culture, Assay Design and FDA Regulations gave me a leg up on the competition when I was interviewing for jobs and taught me things I still use regularly on the job.”

YOUSEF LAFI joined the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department as a student in 2008 knowing he would eventually pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He said BRITE’s faculty expertise and the chance to conduct serious research during the department’s intensive fourth-year lab module convinced him to enroll.

“The professors at BRITE continually challenged me and pushed me beyond my comfort zone, but were always there to guide me when I needed it,” said Lafi, who has since earned his Pharm. D. from Campbell University’s College of Pharmacy and Health Science. He now works for PPD, a pharmaceutical product development company in RTP, as well as serving as a part-time clinical pharmacist at Duke Children’s Health Center Outpatient Pharmacy. “The skills I learned from my lab module helped me tremendously in pharmacy school and my clinical rotations,” Lafi added.

Carri Murphy also has plans to pursue a Doctorate of Pharmacy after she graduates in December. An internship in a hospital convinced her that she does not want to serve as a dispensing pharmacist working with doctors and patients but rather in an industry setting.

“I’ve been able to join field trips to several industry labs and I realized how much I like the hands-on research,” she said.



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**NATACHA
JANVIER-DERILUS**
—————



Her internship at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has given Murphy a taste for solving scientific riddles. Her work involves experiments with the cancer-suppressing gene TP53, which helps prevent harmful gene mutations. If the gene is absent or has suffered damage, tumors are more likely to grow. In the lab, Murphy tests drug compounds on TP53 genes in search of effective cancer treatments.

“We are hoping to find more ways to eliminate mutated TP53 genes,” Murphy said.

Another project involves growing muscle cells on synthetic fibers, an effort that was initially unsuccessful.

“It was frustrating, but I liked the project so I stuck with it. We finally got it to work,” she added.

About 180 undergraduates are enrolled in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, and odds are good that those who complete the program will have no trouble finding employment. Data from 2008 to 2014 show



“This interactive learning (Shark Tank), which allowed the students to engage with potential employers in the biotechnology and biomanufacturing community, was very successful in showcasing the knowledge and preparedness of the BRITE students.”

DR. ANITA JACKSON

that more than 80 percent of students receiving their pharmaceutical sciences undergraduate degree and more than 90 percent earning the M.S. were employed or enrolled in graduate or professional school six months after graduation, said Jackson, the interim director.

Many students who seek employment directly after graduation can earn salaries up to \$40,000 per year, according to industry data.

“But some of them perform so well, they are able to earn more,” added Li.

Pharmaceutical science majors at NCCU may take advantage of cross-departmental offerings with the School of Law or School of Business to specialize in particular areas, such as bioethics and intellectual property. They also may take courses at North Carolina State University’s Biomanufacturing Education Center to earn certification for in-demand industry skills.

Students preparing for graduate school or work in the industry are given a boost by the required Lab Module that provides



Nada Abuzaid said attending BRITE’s pharmaceutical sciences program has made a positive difference in her career trajectory.

opportunities to work alongside a faculty member serving as primary investigator (PI) on a research project.

“All our PIs are required to publish two papers per year and to apply for extramural research grants,” Li said. Students spend a semester shadowing the PIs and then come back in summer or the following semester to continue or complete their research project.

“We encourage faculty to acknowledge the student effort by putting the student’s name on the publication if that student has made a contribution to their work,” Li added.

Appearing as an author in a scientific publication is considered by graduate school enrollment evaluators as a strong indicator of a student’s ability to conduct effective research.

“From time to time, we have undergraduate students whose names appear as the primary author in a scientific publication, and that is very impressive,” Li added.

Student **NADA ABUZAID** said it has been her dream to work in clinical research at RTP since moving to the Durham area in 2004. Growing up in Saudi Arabia, Abuzaid planned to study medicine. However, she later discovered that a pharmaceutical science degree is better suited to her professional goals.

“Coming into the BRITE program made me realize that I’m finally doing something right for my career,” Abuzaid said.

“The professors at NCCU are very informed and have a great ability to communicate and teach the students. Academic counseling is the best, as well. They listen to your needs and direct you to take the best available courses, whether at NCCU or another teaching facility.”

Through the program at BRITE, Abuzaid was able to land an internship conducting research in RTP, as well as a summer job in 2015 working at the same medical research company.

“The internship helped me a lot in building my confidence and learning about the research industry,” she said. “It has provided a launch point for me to pursue a career in medicinal research.” □



SHARK TANK

Below, Dr. Cindy Buhse (front row, second from left) of the Federal Drug Administration visited campus for a workshop with students and industry executives that included Shark Tank-style presentations.





Collaboration Formed to Solve Cancer Disparities

North Carolina Central University was awarded more than \$6 million and the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center received more than \$5 million to support an ongoing effort between the institutions to understand and address disparities in cancer incidence and death for African-Americans in North Carolina.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding covers five years and is the latest in a series of awards supporting a 14-year partnership between the two institutions. The funding will support molecular- and population-based cancer research and the research education of junior faculty and students.

"North Carolina Central University is grateful to the National Cancer Institute for continuing its support of critical work being undertaken by our researchers to address health disparity," said Undi N. Hoffer, Ph.D., interim vice chancellor in the university's Division of Research and Economic Development at NCCU.

M. Ricardo Richardson, Ph.D., a GlaxoSmithKline Endowed Professor of Biology and NCCU's principal investigator on the project, said the funding will help to increase the number of NCCU students focused on cancer research and of faculty at work on issues related to minority health disparities.

"In the last funding cycle, the teams made particular progress on how to deliver cancer prevention messages to the African American community and in understanding triple negative breast cancer, a subtype of breast cancer that has a high incidence among African-American women," said Shelton Earp, MD, principal investigator for the partnership at UNC Lineberger and director of UNC Cancer Care. "In addition,

numerous researchers have been trained, articles have been published in outstanding journals, and faculty have been recruited that have formed lasting partnerships between our two institutions."

The grants awarded this year allow NCCU undergraduates to gain research experience at both NCCU and at UNC and support three research projects and two pilot studies. They include:

- A study into the mechanism of causation of basal-like breast cancer in African-American women led by Jodie Fleming, Ph.D., a UNC Lineberger member and assistant professor at NCCU, and Keith Burrige, Ph.D., a Kenan Distinguished Professor of Cell Biology and Physiology at UNC.
- Work to improve the effectiveness of cervical cancer screening led by LaHoma Romocki, Ph.D., of NCCU's Department of Public Health Education, Vijay Sivaraman, of the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences at NCCU, and Jennifer S. Smith, Ph.D., associate professor in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.
- Analysis of genomic patterns in breast cancer samples led by ClarLynda Williams-DeVane, Ph.D., of the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences at NCCU, and Melissa A. Troester, Ph.D., M.P.H., of UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health.
- A study to examine sustainability of delivering health messages to African-American men at barbershops led by David Jolly, Dr.P.H., in the Department of Public Health Education at NCCU, and Laura Linnan, Sc.D., a professor of health behavior at UNC.
- Investigation into the molecular causes of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma led by Xiaoxin Chen, M.D., Ph.D., a UNC Lineberger member and professor of Biological and Biomedical Sciences at NCCU, and Michael B. Major, Ph.D., of the UNC Department of Cell Biology and Physiology.
- A professional development program for NCCU student in cancer biology research and public health led by Sandra White, Ph.D., and David Jolly, Ph.D., both of NCCU, and Gwen Sancar, Ph.D., Tope Keku, Ph.D., Anna-Maria Siega-Riz, Ph.D., and Trinnette Cooper, M.P.H. This program supports the development of a workforce devoted to eliminating disparities in cancer prevalence, diagnosis and treatment. □



James E. Shepard, Founder

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It's hard to believe that the fall semester will soon end! More than 1,500 new Eagles arrived on our campus in August to embark on a journey that will change their lives for the better. NCCU is more focused than ever on meeting the needs of our growing family.

It is our goal to encourage and foster lifelong alumni participation, involvement and commitment. Over the next several months and years, it will be the goal of the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) to strengthen the bond between NCCU and our alumni; to create programs that match the interests and needs of the alumni; to maintain and build upon the positive relationships we have with our more seasoned alumni; to increase the participation, involvement and communication with our younger alumni; and to continue to serve as the primary communications link between the university and its alumni. "Every Eagle. Every Year." will be embraced by all.

OAR will reach out to alumni by creating a number of programs that offer the opportunity to engage with the university in different ways. One program that we are extremely proud of is the launch of the Eagle Travel Program, a new partnership with Joy! Cruises and Tours that will provide group travel opportunities for the NCCU family. Be sure to visit our Eagle Travel website at www.nccueagletravel.com to view and book some of the exciting trips we have planned.

The Ultimate Homecoming Experience 2015 was fun-filled and more exciting than ever! We have already begun working with the classes ending in 1's and 6's for their class reunion as part of our 2016 Ultimate Homecoming Experience.

Finally, stay connected with us! "Like" our Office of Alumni Relations Facebook page at NCCUOAR, visit us on Instagram @NCCUOAR, or chat with us via Twitter @NCCUOAR. Information about all of the great things happening at NCCU will be posted on our social media sites.

Yours in Truth and Service,

Chatonda Best Covington, '94, M.B.A.
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Alumni Relations
Executive Director of the National Alumni Association, Inc.

'61, **LESLIE BRINSON**, Ph.D., retired in June 2015 from NCCU's Department of Psychology after 40 years of service. Upon his departure, Brinson presented a check to Dean Debra Parker of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences to start a scholarship fund for psychology students.



CHEVELLA L. THOMAS

'83, '04, '06, **CHEVELLA L. THOMAS** was selected as Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Campus Playmaker for the month of April for her service, dedication and the significant impact she has made on the lives of the student-athletes, alumni and employees of the university.

'91, **VONCELLA McCLEARY-JONES**, RN, BC, CNE, director of the Master's Nurse Education Program at the College of Nursing at the University of Oklahoma's Health Sciences Center, was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure.

'92, **JUDGE LORI A. DUMAS** was selected as the inaugural recipient of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Innovator of the Year Award.

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NEWS
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TOBIAS ROSE



TENIKA C. STEED



ERIC KIMBER

'95, '99, '02, **EMILY DICKENS** was recently appointed as the new vice president for public policy and executive director of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, a leading voice on matters of higher education and governance.

'03, **PATRICE ZAKIA HOWARD**, Ph.D., has been appointed to serve as senior research and policy analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

'03, **REGGIE McCRIMMON** has been appointed to serve as the director of member services and external affairs for the Congressional Black Caucus.

'05, **TOBIAS ROSE**, founder and creative principal at Kompleks Creative, a Durham graphic design and website development studio, has joined the faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism. Rose will be teaching courses on news design.

'05, **TENIKA C. STEED, Ph.D.** established the Dr. Teneka C. Steed Scholarship Program to award scholarships to high-achieving students at Richmond Senior High School in Rockingham, NC. She has served as a senior statistician for NASA's interagency partner, Ohio Aerospace Institute, for the past three years.

'05, **KRISTEN WHITAKER** was awarded the 2015 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year award by the National Center for Families Learning.

'05, **AMANDA WILLIAMSON** was a winner in the 2015 Southern Designer Showcase sponsored by Charlotte-based Belk department

stores. The popular retailer will begin carrying her classic-contemporary women's clothing line in 2016.

'10, **SHARITA WHITAKER, J.D.**, was presented the Leaders in Diversity Award from the Triangle Business Journal on Sept. 10, 2015. Whitaker is a member of Smith Anderson's Real Estate Development Group and focuses her practice in the areas of commercial real estate and real estate development.

'15, **ERIC KIMBER** signed a contract in June 2015 to play professional baseball for the Kansas City Royals.

1972

DOUBLE EAGLE DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS



NCCU graduate, **JUDGE QUENTIN T. SUMNER** gave the commencement address at North Carolina Wesleyan College on May 2, 2015. In his commencement address, he urged graduates to fight on after graduation. Sumner was also awarded an honorary of Doctor of Laws degree at the commencement exercises.

Sumner, a double Eagle, obtained his bachelor's degree in 1972 and Juris Doctor degree in 1975. After law school, Judge Sumner was a founding partner in Fitch, Butterfield and Sumner. In addition, he established Sumner, Evans and Lawrence law firm in 1978. In 1983, Judge Sumner was appointed to the District Court bench in North Carolina's 7th Judicial District serving Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson Counties. He currently serves as a senior resident court judge for North Carolina Superior Court District 7A.

in memoriam

'48 JANICE WALL ROBERTSON-JONES

M.A., of Wagram, NC, Aug. 4, 2015

'50 WILLIE BRADSHAW, B.S., of Durham, NC,

March 25, 2015

'53 GEORGE S. NIXON, B.A., of Durham, NC,

Aug. 16, 2015

'54 CLAIBURNE B. THORPE, B.A.,

Greensboro, NC, Jan. 20, 2015

'55 WALTER H. GREEN SR., B.S., Norfolk, VA,

March 10, 2015

'57 BARBARA ANN BURNETTE

B.A., of Tarrytown, NY, July 16, 2015

'60 RICHARD BLYTHER, B.S., of Los Angeles,

CA, Aug. 11, 2015

'61 ALTON THOMAS COGDELL, B.A.,

of Greenville, NC, Feb. 21, 2015

'61 ROMALA LULA WIGGINS CORBITT, B.A.,

of Durham, NC, April 28, 2015

'62 LARRY THOMAS SUITT, B.S.,

of Durham, NC, June 29, 2015

'66 REV. CHARLES E. CLINTON, B.A., J.D.,

of Durham, NC, July 17, 2015

'71 JOHN DONALD EARL "RED" WILLIAMS,

B.A., of Raleigh, NC, Feb. 10, 2015

'73 DONALD RAY NOLEN, B.S., of Durham, NC,

June 6, 2015

'73 FRANKLIN A. SMITH, B.A., of Hartsville, SC,

March 15, 2015

'75 MACERINE SAMPSON BROOKS, B.A.,

of Clinton, NC, July 5, 2015

'81 DR. LORAIN MOSES STEWART, B.A.,

M.A., of Midlothian, VA, July 11, 2015

'00 KAMELA B. ALSTON, B.A., of Nashville,

N.C., June 20, 2015

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEADER ROGER ROY GREGORY



1971

ROGER ROY GREGORY, a 1971 graduate of NCCU, died on Sept. 1, 2015, in Durham.

Gregory was born in 1949, in Camden, N.C.

After earning his bachelor's degree at NCCU, he lived in New York and New Jersey for more than 20 years. He returned to Durham in 1989 as director of Human Resources at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, and in 1989,

he was appointed director of Alumni Affairs at NCCU.

A loyal Eagle supporter, Gregory became active with the NCCU Alumni Association immediately after his 1971 graduation and was selected to serve as national president in 1976.



1949-2015

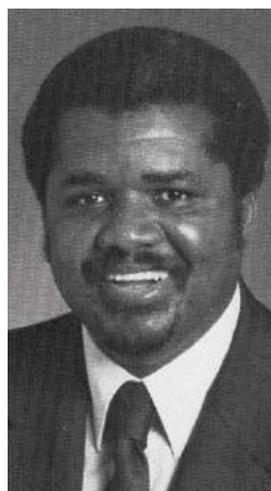
Gregory was a member of the board of directors for the Durham Arts Council, Durham Workforce Development Board, the NCCU Foundation Downtown Durham Inc. and other organizations. He was a life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

NCCU MACE SCULPTOR FRANKLIN D. BARROW SR.



FRANKLIN DELANO BARROW SR., of Shelby, N.C., passed away July 19, 2015, at age 82. Barrow was a retired master sergeant in the U.S. Army and an accomplished sculptor who crafted the university mace designed by Art Department Chair Melvin Carver. The mace is carried by the chancellor on special occasions at the university.

FORMER HEAD OF STUDENT AFFAIRS ROGER G. BRYANT



ROGER G. BRYANT, Ed.D., former vice chancellor and dean of Student Affairs, passed away Sept. 3, 2015.

Bryant was born in 1940 in West Palm Beach, Florida, and attended Florida A&M University. He earned his doctorate in 1976 from the University of Georgia, coming to work that same year at NCCU. He served as dean and vice chancellor

Student Affairs until his retirement in 2002.

Bryant received many awards throughout his life, including a Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership and a Phi Beta Sigma Award for Dedication and Service.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Martina James Bryant.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR VIVIAN McCOTTA MERRICK-SANSOM

VIVIAN McCOTTA MERRICK-SANSOM passed away on July 4, 2015, in Durham at age 97.

Merrick-Sansom attended both Durham's public schools and Palmer Memorial Institution in Sedalia, NC. She received undergraduate and master's degrees in Health and Physical Education from Talladega College.

Her grandfathers, Aaron Moore and John Merrick, were co-founders of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and among the founders of Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

Aaron Moore was Durham's first black physician and cofounded Lincoln hospital.

Merrick-Sansom was instructor of physical education at NCCU for six years, working alongside legendary basketball coach John N. McLendon, leading her to become a lifetime fan of the game. In 2008, she was honored by the CIAA officials for having attended every tournament since its founding.

After leaving NCCU, she taught at Shaw University for many years.

Merrick-Sansom was a charter member of the Durham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. □

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Family Legacy Leads to Graduation of First **GlaxoSmithKline** Foundation STEM Scholar

BY CHRISTY SIMMONS



Marilyn Foote-Hudson, executive director of the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, and Kendall Kennedy

KENDALL KENNEDY, a North Carolina Central University biology major, became the first of the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation STEM scholars to graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in May 2015.

Kennedy enrolled in fall 2012 after NCCU received the \$1.5 million grant from the foundation, which is aimed at increasing the number of graduates with degrees in science, technology, engineering and math, also known as the STEM disciplines.

"The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation STEM Program has supported

NCCU in creating a model for students who study science, technology, engineering and math to succeed," said Faye J. Calhoun, Ph.D., NCCU director for the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation STEM Program. "I am elated to see students such as Kendall thrive academically thanks to the generous support of the Foundation."

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation is an independent, self-funding non-profit organization. Grants provided by the Foundation to NCCU over the past three years have underwritten scholarship support for 40 STEM majors, as well as student and faculty support services.

A demanding schedule and academic performance allowed him to graduate within three years with a 3.7 GPA. He served as president of the Golden Key International Honor Society and as vice president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. With support from the



A native of Charlottesville, Va., Kennedy's academic success at NCCU stems from a strong family legacy. Both of his parents received undergraduate and law degrees from **North Carolina Central University** and his grandfather, Gene Kennedy, is also an Eagle alumnus.

North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation grant, Kennedy was able to live on NCCU's campus in summer 2014 while commuting daily to Duke University to complete his internship requirements.

A native of Charlottesville, Va., Kennedy's academic success at NCCU stems from a strong family legacy. Both of his parents received undergraduate and law degrees from North Carolina Central University and his grandfather, Gene Kennedy, is also an Eagle alumnus.

Kennedy's father, Brian Kennedy Sr., graduated in 1987 with a degree in political science and received his law degree in 1990, while his mother, Kimberly Johnson Kennedy, graduated in 1988 with a degree in psychology and received her law degree in 1991. Brother Brian Kennedy II and sister Kaci Kennedy, currently a sophomore, also have attended at NCCU.

His mother's side of the family has Eagle ties dating back over a half-century, with aunts Fannie Johnson Harrell and Winnie

Pauline Johnson Leaders graduating in 1951. Several cousins have also attended or worked at the university over the years.

Today, the Kennedy family seems to be starting another NCCU legacy: marriages.

Brian Sr. and Kim Johnson Kennedy were first introduced at the university's Honorees in Action meeting when he was a sophomore and she was a freshman. They celebrated 26 years of marriage in June 2015. Kendall's brother, Brian II, met his wife, Brianna Hargrove, at NCCU, as well.

DONORS BUILD A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR NCCU

North Carolina Central University reached one of its highest institutional records in 2014-2015 by raising over \$7.6 million in one year. NCCU received that amount during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015; alumni donated \$2.2 million of that total.

Alumni giving has risen to 15 percent, a 3 percent increase over fiscal year 2013-2014 well above the national average of 8.3 percent, according to the 2014 Voluntary Support of Education report.

"With the generosity and support of donors, NCCU is able to provide an enhanced academic environment for our students," said Harriet Frink Davis, Ph.D., vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement. "We are grateful for the continuous support of Eagle Excellence through giving."

These fundraising results are especially encouraging because they have occurred despite a nationwide trend of lower annual giving over the past decade, Davis noted.

In fiscal year 2014, the university received \$5.42 million in donations. Individuals contributed more than 71 percent of the gifts the most recent fiscal year.

Successful fund raising helps the university raise money for need-based financial aid and scholarships for talented students. Donations are also used for faculty instruction and research efforts.

"The generosity of our donors not only underscores high levels of Eagle Pride, but it also demonstrates the willingness of our alumni to invest in the future of the

university by making a financial commitment to support NCCU," said Chancellor Debra Saunders-White."

NCCU currently ranks 11th in the U.S. News & World Report's 2015 survey of historically black colleges and universities. Such rankings often take into consideration whether an institution is able to reach its fundraising goals. □

**\$7.6 MILLION
RAISED**

**\$5.42 MILLION
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS**

**15 PERCENT
ALUMNI GIVING**

Chance Meeting Leads to Life in Science and Service for Class of '65 Members

GOLDEN EAGLES SAMPSON HARRELL, M.D., AND LIZZIE JOHNSON HARRELL, PH.D., have sailed life's course together since 1962, filling their days with science, service and very successful careers.

Sampson Harrell recalls noticing the girl then known as Lizzie Johnson at a school dance at the beginning of their sophomore year.

"We discovered we were taking chemistry together," he said. "We started talking and both enjoyed the things we talked about."

Lizzie and Sampson had already set high goals for themselves. Sampson was aiming for a medical school, while Lizzie had her sights on a science career. Both were from large families. Sampson was the middle child among 16 siblings growing up in Ahoskie, N.C., and Lizzie was the oldest of 13 from Shallotte, N.C., near the coast. They shared similar values and their personalities meshed, Lizzie recalled.

"We're both family oriented, faith-based and down to earth," she said, although Lizzie has always been the "serious" one, while Sampson's sense of humor shines.

Lizzie had dreamed of becoming a scientist since seeing the Russian-launched Sputnik spacecraft orbiting Earth in 1957, but was the first in her family to attend NCCU. Sampson was following in the footsteps of several of his siblings, including a brother who was by then on the college faculty.

Shortly after graduation, though, Sampson was drafted into the military, where he was sent to work at a research facility in Baltimore. Fortunately for the couple, Johnson had been hired as a researcher at DuPont Co. in Delaware and was working less than an hour's drive from Sampson's military station. Some months later, the two decided it was time to get married.

After his discharge from the military, Sampson was accepted into the University of North Carolina Medical School and they moved to Chapel Hill.

"That year, I was the only black in my class," Sampson recalled. "So I went and talked to the dean and got appointed to the ad-

missions committee. I was able to go out and recruit applicants from N.C. Central University, N.C. A&T University and other HBCUs, presenting seminars on what it was like to be a student at medical school."

His talks were successful. The following year, the incoming medical school class at UNC included 11 black students and has since become a magnet for African-Americans seeking a medical education.

Lizzie worked at UNC Hospital's clinical laboratory while Sampson studied. After their son, Kendall, was born, Lizzie began taking graduate school coursework at UNC, studying bacteriology and immunology.

"By the time he finished medical school, I had worked in Chapel Hill for a year, had a child, gotten my master's degree, and then worked another year," Lizzie said.

During Sampson's residency at Howard University, Lizzie worked nearby at Veteran's Administration Hospital in Washington, D.C. Then they returned to Durham so Sampson could open his family medical practice and focus on the health needs of the community.

"Each year, there are about 100,000 blacks who die unnecessarily because they don't have the right type of health care," he noted. "As a medical practitioner, I not only had the chance to help patients who came to my office, but also give counsel to others – friends, family and acquaintances – who would come to me for advice."



In 1978, Lizzie earned her doctorate from N.C. State University, becoming the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. in microbiology from that institution. She then joined the faculty of Duke University as the first African-American teaching basic science in the medical school. She retired in 2011 as research professor emerita of the Department of Molecular Genetics and Biology.

After retiring from private practice, Sampson Harrell began serving the prison population as a physician under contract, which he continues to do today. He remains active in a number of medical associations, including the Old North State Medical Society, the N.C. Academy of Family Physicians and others and is a longtime Eagle Club member and donor to NCCU.

These days, the Harrells enjoy a bit more leisure time with travel, attending NCCU sporting events and spending time with their three grandchildren, Jared, 11, Jaylen, 13, and Laurin, 22. □

LIZZIE AND SAMPSON HAD ALREADY SET HIGH GOALS FOR THEMSELVES. SAMPSON WAS AIMING FOR A MEDICAL SCHOOL, WHILE LIZZIE HAD HER SIGHTS ON A SCIENCE CAREER.

Adventure in Europe Gives Athlete a Preview of Medical Career

Rising junior **BRIANNA HAMPTON**, an exercise sports science major and member of the NCCU softball team, made the most of her summertime opportunities by spending four weeks learning how health care is practiced on the Portuguese island of São Miguel.



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The internship with the Atlantis Project was ideal for Hampton, who plans to pursue either medical school or physician-assistant school after graduation.

While in São Miguel, Hampton shadowed doctors, explored different medical specialties, and got a behind-the-scenes view of the European health care system. Atlantis Project Fellows spend roughly 25 hours per week shadowing doctors in Europe and also have the opportunity to improve language skills and contribute to the local community by teaching English.

"It was a very comprehensive clinical experience for me and it was an eye opener to the realities of health care," said Hampton. "I was able to learn about the Portuguese health care system and the new technology on the island and how it compares to the technology in America, including how the doctor-patient relationship and even the economics are very different. A lot of patients don't have to pay anything at all. The doctors, nurses and everyone in the hospital all get paid the same."

For her community assistance work, Hampton helped residents write reports in English.

"They wanted a lot of research that had to be translated to English, so that was our way of teaching them," she said.



“I was able to learn about the Portuguese health care system and the new technology on the island and how it compares to the technology in America, including how the doctor-patient relationship and even the economics are very different.”

— BRIANNA HAMPTON

Hampton batted .247 in 40 games for the Lady Eagles in 2015, playing mostly at first base in her sophomore season before departing for Portugal’s “Green Island” in early May. São Miguel is the largest and most populous island in the Portuguese archipelago of the Azores, about 900 miles west of mainland Portugal in the Atlantic Ocean.

In her free time, Hampton joined excursions a couple times each week, where she indulged in hiking and site-seeing – including a memorable swim in the ocean with dolphins. She tried foods like octopus and shark, but said her favorite was the sushi. She stayed in a dorm on campus but was able to explore most of the small island easily on foot or by taxi.

“I would recommend any overseas internship,” Hampton said. “Everything was pretty memorable for me, and it was an overall great experience for me. It made me want to travel more, especially out of the country.”

The Atlantis Project began as an organization at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the 2007-2008 academic year. Its founder, João Toste, then at UNC Charlotte, grew up in the Azores and saw an opportunity to start a program that would offer a uniquely valuable education abroad option for fellow students in a way that would contribute back to his home community. □



Brianna Hampton, opposite page, ventured into the Portuguese wilderness while undertaking a summer internship through the Atlantis Project in Sao Miguel. Above, Hampton, at left, was joined in the project by students from other universities who were also interested in pursuing health careers.

EAGLE SLAYS

The Green Monster

AT FENWAY PARK

PHOTOS BY KELVIN MA



A B



NCCU FIRST BASEMAN CHRISTIAN TRIPLETT

blasted two home runs at Fenway Park in April 2015, during the HBCU Legacy Weekend game against Florida A&M.



PHOTO BY CHI BROWN

Above, family members joined the celebration at NCCU when the first-baseman was honored by officials from the Red Sox organization. Pictured left to right, mother Crystal Triplett, Christian Triplett, brother Wesley Triplett and father Thomas Triplett.

Although it wasn't enough to ensure a win for the Eagles, the feat brought fame to the Wilkesboro, N.C., native, as he became the first college student/athlete in history to send two hits in one game over Boston's 37-foot left field wall, known as the Green Monster.

Triplett earned the title of Most Valuable Player in the game, which was part of the Legacy Weekend Celebration sponsored by the Boston Red Sox, the City of Boston, and the Boston Area Church League Inc.

In August, representatives from the Red Sox organization made a trip to Durham, to honor Triplett. Present at the award presentation were Red Sox President Larry Lucchino, Vice President Charles Steinbert, and Frank Jordan, special advisor to the Red Sox. Also on hand were NCCU Chancellor Dr. Debra Saunders-White, Director of Athletics Dr. Ingrid Wicker-McCree, Eagles baseball Head Coach Jim Okerner,



(A) Fenway Park was where Christian Triplett blasted two balls out of the park and earned the honor of Most Valuable Player during the HBCU Weekend baseball game that pitted NCCU against rival Florida A&M. **(B)** NCCU Eagles Baseball made history as one of the first two HBCU teams to play each other in Boston's Fenway Park. **(C)** Triplett's teammates greet him after his second homerun. **(D)** (left to right): Special Advisor to the Red Sox Frank Jordan, Red Sox Executive Vice President and Senior Advisor to the President/CEO Charles Steinberg, Red Sox President/Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino, Christian Triplett, NCCU Baseball Head Coach Jim Koerner



Durham Mayor Bill Bell and the athlete's family.

In addition to his two home runs that afternoon, Triplett added a single to go 3-for-5 at the plate with three runs batted in against the FAMU Rattlers.

Not only is Triplett an outstanding athlete, he is a first-rate scholar. The accounting major boasts an overall grade point average of 3.76, is a member of NCCU's Honors Program and is a Chancellor's Scholar.

In May, he was named to the 2015 Capital One Academic All-District First Team for District 3 as voted by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

For more information about NCCU baseball, visit www.NCCUEaglePride.com. □

PHOTO BY CHI BROWN

IT WENT VIRAL



A photo of the North Carolina Central University Volleyball team, taken by university photographer Chi Brown, went viral in August 2015, reaching more than 20,000 Facebook users in less than 24 hours and lighting up Twitter. This year the coaches were given the option to take team pictures out of uniform to give fans a chance to see what the players are like off field. NCCU Volleyball player Casey Curan said the photos make her feel powerful, fierce and beautiful.



1912

archives

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1912

Pictured left to right (back row): Unknown, Eva Whitted, E. Ruffin, Woody H.,
(front row): Fred Moore, Mable Ealon, Willie Wilson, Margaret G. and Jessie Bell

Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Central University Digital Collection



EVERY EAGLE.
YEAR.



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