

NCCU NOW



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

SUMMER 2016

THE BIG BANG

EARTH SCIENCES STUDENTS
EXAMINE LIKELIHOOD OF
EAST COAST QUAKES

TALKING POINTS

CLINIC HELPS SPANISH-SPEAKING
YOUTH IMPROVE VERBAL SKILLS

HEALTHY OUTLOOK FOR NURSES

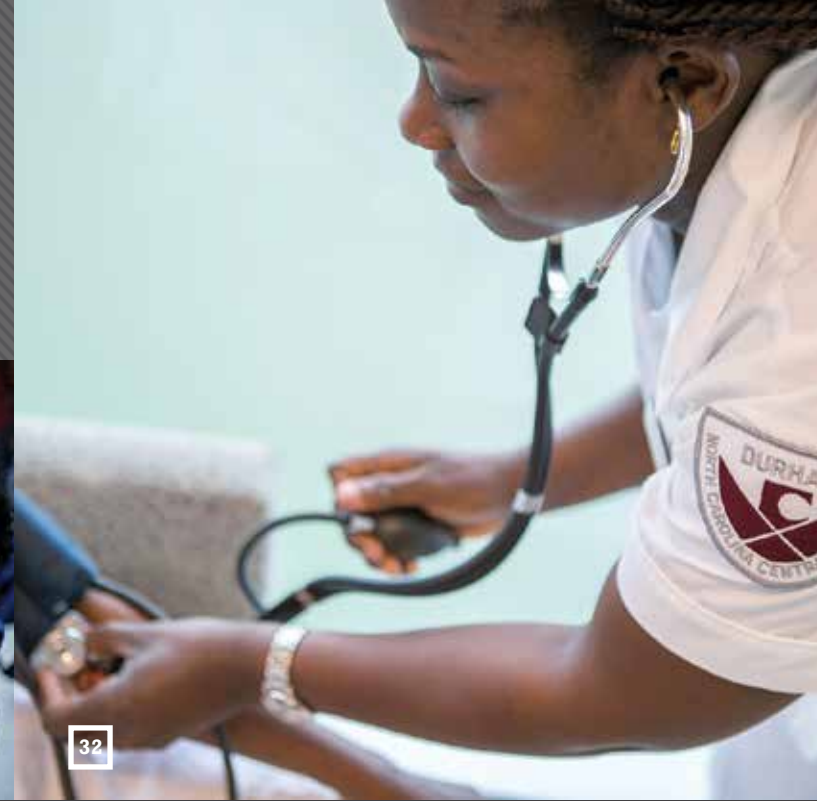
CHANGES STRENGTHEN NURSING DEPARTMENT,
GIVE STUDENTS MORE OPTIONS



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ON THE COVER: NCCU School of Nursing student Gerron Benthall gets practical experience working with equipment at Eagle General Hospital. PHOTO BY CHIOKE BROWN

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FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Greetings Alumni and Friends:

Our 2015-16 academic year has been filled with energetic and fruitful activity, as well as accolades for North Carolina Central University. We attracted a group of high achieving students, including a large number of transfer students, to the Class of 2019 and are prepared to welcome an even larger group of Eagles for the Class of 2020! All this is possible because of the investment by faculty, staff, alumni and friends in creating and elevating North Carolina Central University as a first-choice, premier and global institution.

A special thanks is due to the new and returning members of our Board of Trustees who have been actively engaged on behalf of the university this year, including support for the Connect NC bond approved March 15 by voters. Trustees also were instrumental in supporting plans for a

new Student Center, which were approved by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and move forward soon to the North Carolina State Legislature. (More details and next steps are on pages 7 and 8.)

Here is a brief update on a few new initiatives that are underway, as well as achievements earned across our campus:

□ In collaboration with SAS, our School of Law is establishing a new Intellectual Property Law Institute to educate and train students for specialized legal careers while also serving the public interest. Analytics leader SAS provided funding to help launch the Institute. Charles Smith, whom NCCU Board members met at their retreat last year, was named Institute director. Students enrolled at the Institute will gain practical legal experience by helping review suspect patents filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). By identifying false patents that could be used to disrupt businesses - posing significant costs to the U.S. economy - this effort will directly serve the public interest. Our School of Law is one of only 11 law schools certified by the USPTO to offer both a Patent Clinic and a Trademark Clinic.

□ Congratulations to members of our quiz bowl team who advanced to the top four in the 2016 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship Tournament, winning a \$20,000 grant for the university. Zuri Gurganiou, a senior geography major, was named tournament all-star after scoring an average of 52.5 points per game. This honor earned an additional \$1,000 award for our team.

□ North Carolina Central University was identified as one of the top value colleges for online criminal justice programs in a recent ranking by College Values Online. The ranking looked at graduation and tuition rates using data gathered from the NCES College Navigator Database. We ranked #13. The editor noted that the university’s Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Online Completion Program addresses the needs of students looking to earn a baccalaureate diploma, as well as mid-career employees hoping to advance within the field.

□ As we look toward the 2016-17 academic year, we continue to see a significant increase in undergraduate applications, and more students who have committed to attending NCCU. Our applications have increased by more than 21 percent over last year, a trend that speaks volumes about the value of an NCCU education.

Throughout this issue of NCCU Now, you will see a common thread: innovation delivers results. From meeting healthcare challenges in the Department of Nursing to serving the needs of Hispanic children through the School of Education’s Communications Disorders program and monitoring seismic activity in the Department of Environment, Earth and Geospatial Sciences, this university is delivering an academic portfolio that meets the growing needs of 21st century scholars.

Thank you for serving as passionate advocates and engaged ambassadors for North Carolina Central University!

In Truth and Service,

Dr. Debra Saunders-White
Chancellor

@DSaundersWhite
 DSaundersWhite

NCCU NOW

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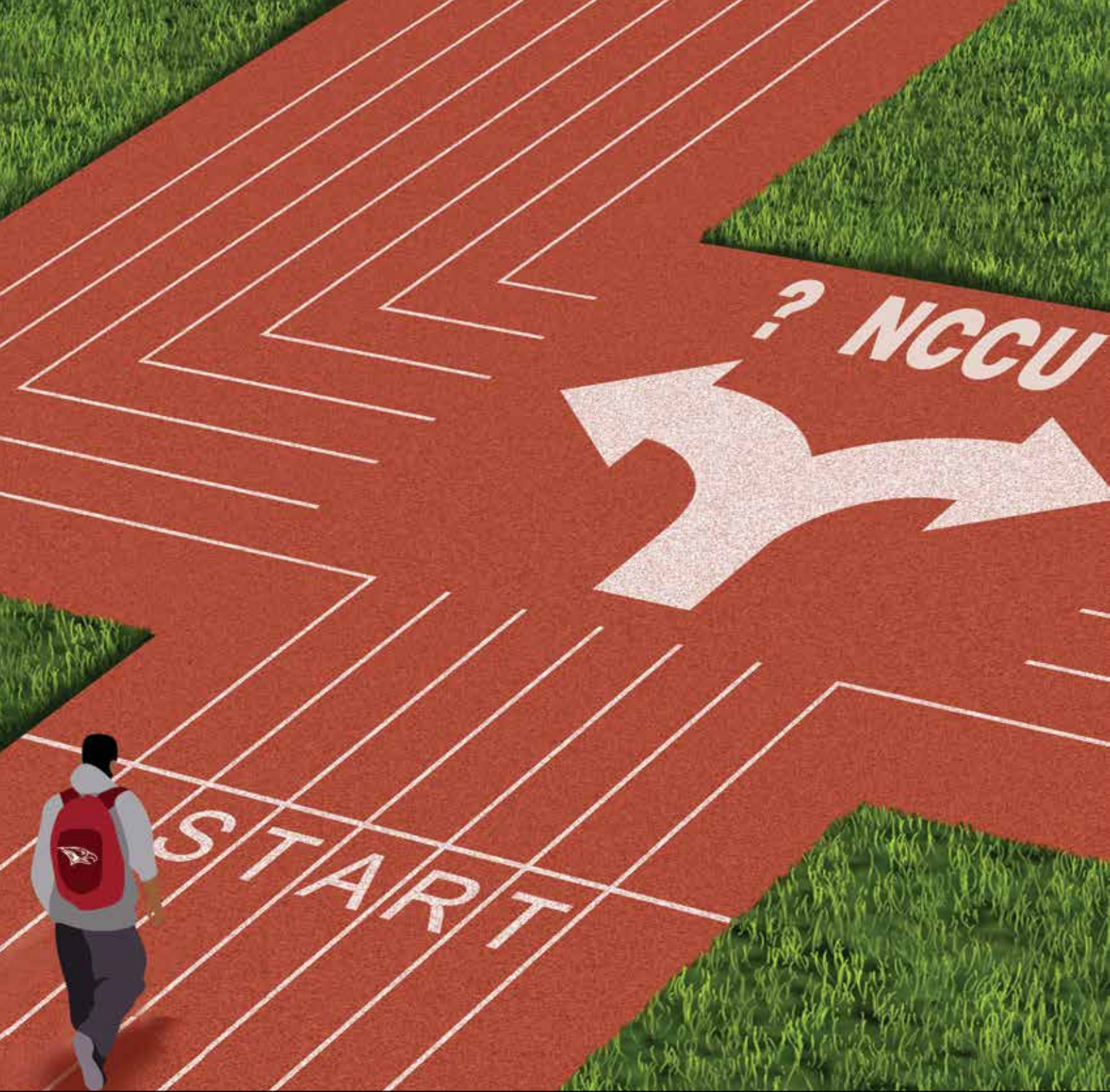
At a cost of \$1.96 each, 6,000 copies of this public document were printed for a total of \$11,727 in Summer 2016 and distributed to NCCU supporters and donors. NCCU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master’s, education 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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THE Ultimate **HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE**

TIME TO MAKE PLANS FOR HOMECOMING 2016 | SEE PAGE 60



Student Center, School of Business on Track for Improvements

Legislature mulls new rules that may affect enrollment

BY CHANCELLOR DEBRA SAUNDERS-WHITE

T

he past several months have been busy for the North Carolina Central University community and filled with several great accomplishments and legislative updates from the State of North Carolina and the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

CONNECT NC BOND: THANK YOU!

First, we are grateful to NCCU students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends – as well as North Carolinians around the state – for showing overwhelming support for \$2 billion Connect NC Bond. As part of the bond package, North Carolina Central University will receive \$30 million toward the design and construction of a new School of Business. Ultimately, the funding will help create a world-class learning center for our students and allow the university to better prepare leaders for success in the global business environment. We are working with the University of North Carolina General Administration on a timeline for this project to provide our students with a 21st century state-of-the-art facility.

OUR NEW STUDENT CENTER

On April 15, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors voted affirmative on a new student center for North Carolina Central University. This approval came following two years of concerted effort and strong support from many individuals within the NCCU community, including our students and a number of university divisions. The vote came one day after the Board's Budget and Finance Committee granted funding authorization for the \$36,084,571 project. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.

The new student center will provide additional space for student services, student activities and programmatic initiatives, as well as a commuter lounge and offices for student organizations. The facility will also contain a 1,750-seat auditorium and a



NEW STUDENT CENTER

The facility will also contain a 1,750-seat auditorium and a 1,000-seat banquet hall with meeting space that is expected to produce additional revenue for the university. The building will be constructed in what is now a parking lot south of the existing A.E. Student Union.

NCGAP & PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

The NC Guaranteed Admission Program, or NCGAP, is proposed to begin in 2018, directing the lowest 2.5 percent of admitted students in the UNC system to community colleges. We are watching the state's budget law closely for any potential impact on our institution and other public institutions.

1,000-seat banquet hall with meeting space that is expected to produce additional revenue for the university. The building will be constructed in what is now a parking lot south of the existing A.E. Student Union. Next, NCCU's student center project will go before the North Carolina General Assembly for approval of a construction and financing plan for the project.

OTHER NEWS

Additionally, as most of you know, the state legislature passed House Bill 2 in March 2016 that amends North Carolina's public policy statement regarding nondiscrimination. This legislation, which has been covered and discussed both nationally and internationally, was intended to supersede nondiscrimination regulations for workplaces and public accommodations implemented by lower subdivisions of government, such as counties and municipalities.

However, legal experts have determined that HB2 does not require our university to change its current nondiscrimination policy. We will continue working with UNC General Administration to determine other implications of this bill. On April 7, we hosted a student town hall meeting to discuss the bill and its potential impact on our university. North Carolina Central University is committed to

supporting diversity and inclusion for all students, faculty and staff, as well as visitors to our institution. We are a safe and inclusive campus for all individuals — no matter their race, gender, sexual preference or identity.

NCGAP & PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

The NC Guaranteed Admission Program, or NCGAP, is proposed to begin in 2018, directing the lowest 2.5 percent of admitted students in the UNC system to community colleges. We are watching the state's budget law closely for any potential impact on our institution and other public institutions.

I have met with legislators on this issue and request that you ask your fellow alumni and family members living in North Carolina to raise their voices regarding NCGAP. I strongly believe, and have spoken up to say, that this program will have a disproportionately negative impact on low-income and minority students, as well as other prospective UNC system student populations.

SENATE BILL 873 AFFORDABLE EDUCATION ACT

The North Carolina Senate drafted a proposal called the Access to Affordable Education Act that would lower tuition to \$500 per semester for in-state students and \$2,500 for out-of-state students at several UNC universities. NCCU and N.C. A&T are part of a scholarship program being created, as well, and administrators at both institutions remain heavily engaged in discussions surrounding this proposed bill.

As the year progresses, we intend to keep the university community, our constituents and supporters informed and updated on these and other issues that impact NCCU. □

HOUSE BILL 2

North Carolina Central University is committed to supporting diversity and inclusion for all students, faculty and staff, as well as visitors to our institution. We are a safe and inclusive campus for all individuals — no matter their race, gender, sexual preference or identity.



Public Health Education Students Take Campaign to Governor's Office

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION STUDENTS got a lesson in lobbying in January 2016 when they visited North Carolina's political leaders to discuss the need to expand the state's Medicaid program.

Seniors Amire Shealey, Ashley Bueno and Jennifer Hendrix were part of a 10-member delegation from the Coalition for Health Care of North Carolina that met with the governor's deputy chief of staff and policy director.

"First we went into the community and collected signatures on a letter encouraging the government to expand Medicaid," Shealey said, adding that some 4,000 people agreed to sign the petition.

The governor's representatives seemed receptive to the message, Shealey said, however he does not expect them to enact a plan to expand Medicaid anytime soon. Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government covers the cost for expanding health care coverage in states that have given approval. So far, the North Carolina has declined the option that would make health care coverage available to 500,000 additional North Carolinians.

"I feel very strongly about advocating for this on behalf of all those who would be covered if the government expands Medicaid in the state of North Carolina, and also it would be very personal to me," said Shealey, who has chronic asthma and has been able to receive treatment through a university-sponsored health care plan.

"Now that I'm graduating, I won't have any health insurance unless I can find a job that provides it."

The visit to state officials helped the students fulfill a requirement for an upper-level public policy course that requires at least 15 public service hours engaged in

activities aimed at increasing access to health care, said David Jolley, Ph.D., chair of the NCCU Department of Public Health Education.

In April, the department again joined with the Coalition for Health Care of North Carolina to sponsor a legislative forum on Medicaid reform and expansion.

State Senate members attending included Angela Bryant of District 4, Floyd McKissick of District 20, and Mike Woodward of District 22. They were joined by state House of Representatives members Mickey Michaux of District 31, Verla C. Insko of District 56, and Paul Luebke, of House District 30.

Participating health professionals included MaryAnn Black, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., from Duke University; Gayle Harris, director of the Durham County Department of Public Health; Don Taylor, Ph.D., a public policy professor at Duke University; and Gina Upchurch, R.Ph. M.Ph., of Senior PharmAssist.

Jarvis Hall, Ph.D., associate professor political science at NCCU, was forum moderator.

"It was a very lively discussion with our public health panelists asking legislators questions," Jolley said.

"The legislators were very candid in their perspective on how to get Medicaid expanded in North Carolina: Vote out of office the people who are blocking it."



CHANCELLOR TELLS GRADUATES TO BE "CHANGE AGENTS" IN THE WORLD

SOME 560 STUDENTS

CROSSED THE STAGE DEC. 12, 2015, to receive diplomas during the university's 126th annual Commencement exercises.

TOM ROSS, then president of the University of North Carolina system, delivered the Commencement address.

"NCCU is a very special place to give my last Commencement speech," said Ross, who was winding up his tenure with UNC.

He urged the graduating seniors to move forward in confidence and sharpen their leadership skills. "We need leaders now more than ever. Each of you can be a strong, effective leader," Ross said.

And he offered these tips for effective leadership: "Know yourself; communicate well; care for yourself; clarify your values; embrace differences; involve others with talent; and take risks."

NCCU presented Ross with a formal commendation recognizing his leadership in higher education in North Carolina.

During the ceremony, Chancellor Debra Saunders-White also recognized Department of Public Health Education graduate

Salima Taylor, who organized the university's first community garden in 2013 and spent a summer interning in Gaborone, Botswana.

Saunders-White closed with words of encouragement to graduates.

"I charge you to eradicate the world of fear, because in fear we will never succeed," she said. "Soar and be great, for it is not enough to be leaders but also be change agents. Stand and dare others to do the right thing everyday of your life."

To view a rebroadcast of the 126th Commencement Exercises for NCCU, go to www.nccu.edu/live. □

 VISIT NCCU'S FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE PHOTOS

“ Know yourself; communicate well; care for yourself; clarify your values; embrace differences; involve others with talent; and take risks.” — TOM ROSS



NEW UNC SYSTEM PRESIDENT GETS TO KNOW EAGLES' CAMPUS

University of North Carolina System President Margaret Spellings met with students, and ventured into research labs during an April 1 visit to NCCU.

"It's been a terrific day here, touring this center for excellence with a very historic past," she said afterward. "I heard things like, 'We are a family here,' and saw a connectedness with the students. And I also heard about cutting-edge research and innovation."

Her day started with a campus timeline presented by university historian Andre' Vann. Later, NCCU seniors Olivia Robinson and Omari Collins guided Spellings through the A.E. Student Union as musicians from the university's jazz program performed. Spellings also briefly met with members of NCCU's faculty and staff senates.

She paused for lunch with Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, members of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Leadership Team and guests, including Johnny Taylor, president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. The menu featured roasted game hen, braised kale and polenta prepared and served by



UNC System President Margaret Spellings inspected the NCCU School of Business and science labs at BBRI and BBRI during her visit to campus. She also enjoyed a performance by the NCCU Jazz Ensemble.



students completing the university's hospitality and tourism program that is part of the School of Business.

"Our institution offers a variety of competitive academic programs that meet the needs of several of the state's largest and fastest growing industries," Saunders-White said. "One example of this is our hospitality and tourism program that trains professionals for the

growing tourism industry, which brings more than \$19.4 billion in annual revenue to North Carolina."

In the Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute, the UNC president met with graduate student Ashley Adams, who is conducting cardio-metabolic research to address diabetes, obesity and hypertension.

At the School of Business, Spellings toured the 60-year-old facility that will receive \$30 million for updates from the Connect NC bond package passed recently by North Carolina voters.

At Mary Townes Science Complex, the UNC president was shown the Fabrication Laboratory, or Fab Lab, where Director Faye Calhoun explained that the emphasis is on "interdisciplinary and collaborative" innovation.

Spellings said the visit reinforced her conviction that "HBCUs are exactly where we ought to be in American education."

"It's been a terrific day here, touring this center for excellence with a very historic past."

— PRESIDENT MARGARET SPELLINGS

NCCU Awarded \$750,000 from U.S. Department of Education

North Carolina Central University has received a three-year grant totaling \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Education's Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program.

NCCU was among 13 institutions across the nation to receive the grant out of 152 that applied for the funding aimed at strengthening education programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The grant will assist in the development of pre-college enrichment activities in science; tutoring and enhancement of research skills for college students in science; faculty training to develop specific science research and education skills; curriculum development; and other improvements.



► Students experiment with technology in the Fabrication Lab on campus.

DEFENSE CONTRACT SEEKS SENSORS

North Carolina Central University has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to conduct research into chemical and biological sensors used in national security and defense.

The award grew out of the university's participation in the Minority Serving Institutions STEM Research and Development Consortium that links research institutions with priority projects of the U.S. Army. The \$188,000 grant was among the first two issued by the consortium, which was founded in 2014.

"We are developing a stronger relationship with the Department of Defense, and expect this first grant to lead to additional funding," said Dr. Undi Hoffler, interim vice chancellor of Research and Economic Development for NCCU.

THE \$188,000 GRANT WAS AMONG THE FIRST TWO ISSUED BY THE CONSORTIUM, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 2014.

GRANT AWARDED

NCCU Part of \$7.5 Million Project to Study Alcohol Effects



North Carolina Central University and the University of North Carolina School of Medicine received \$7.5 million to examine factors causing alcohol-related health disparities in African-Americans.

The grant from National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the National Institutes of Health, awarded the funding, giving \$6 million to NCCU and \$1.5 million to the Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, a research center at UNC School of Medicine.

The grant covers a five-year period and provides a boost to an ongoing collaboration to examine factors making alcohol-related pathologies more prevalent among African-Americans.

IN BRIEF

Researchers Study Impact of Deodorant on Skin Bacteria

New findings by researchers at NCCU and other institutions found that antiperspirant and deodorant use can significantly influence both the type and quantity of bacterial life found in the microbiome of the human armpit.

The work, published Feb. 2 in the journal *PeerJ*, was a joint project by researchers at NCCU, North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Rutgers University and Duke University. It received

widespread recognition from news agencies as far away as Australia.

“We wanted to understand what effect antiperspirant and deodorant has on the microbial life that lives on our bodies, and how our daily habits influence the life that lives on us,” says Julie Horvath, an associate research professor at NCCU and head of the genomics and microbiology research laboratory at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

Use of underarm products has become widespread among most Amer-

“WE WANTED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT EFFECT ANTIPERSPIRANT AND DEODORANT HAS ON THE MICROBIAL LIFE THAT LIVES ON OUR BODIES.”

—DR. JULIE HORVATH



DR. JOYCE HORVATH

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK LISTED IN REGION'S TOP 10 FOR VALUE

The Department of Social Work has been recognized as one of the most affordable accredited Master of Social Work (MSW) degree programs in the country by bestsocialworkprograms.com.

NCCU's program ranked eighth out of 50 institutions accredited by the Council on Social Work Education that were evaluated based on graduate tuition and fees.

“The rankings reflect North Carolina Central University's commitment to delivering an affordable, high-quality learning experience,” said Dr. Blenda R. Crayton, chair of the NCCU Department of Social Work. “Students are able to efficiently advance their careers, giving them an advantage in the marketplace.”

The traditional Master of Social Work program is a full-time two-year plan of study with a curriculum that assimilates classes on social work theory with hands-on field instruction to put the theory into practice. Areas of concentration are children and family practice and juvenile justice.

Online Education Technology Degree Earns Award

North Carolina Central University has been lauded by *U.S. News & World Report* as having the best online graduate program offered at any historically black college or university (HBCU) and second-best among all institutions in North Carolina.

The degree in Educational Technology is offered through the NCCU School of Education and ranked nationally as 17th out of 188 programs included in the 2016 rankings for Best Online Graduate Education Program.

The programs were judged on criteria that included student engagement, student services and technology, admissions selectivity, faculty credentials and peer reputation.

icans over the last century, notes Julie Urban, co-author of the research report at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

“Yet, whether use of these products favors certain bacterial species – be they pathogenic or perhaps even beneficial – seems not to have been considered and remains an intriguing area needing further study,” Urban said.

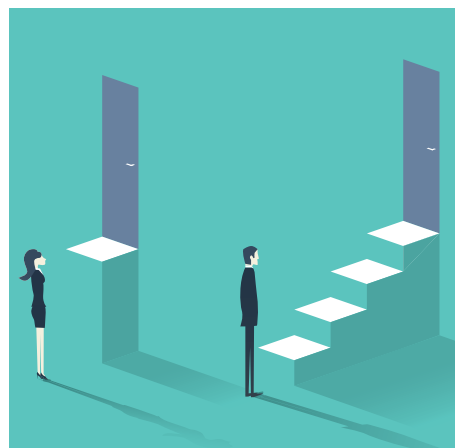
To learn about the microbial impact of antiperspirants and deodorants, the researchers studied responses of 17 participants who wore deodorant some days and abstained on other days.

The researchers then cultured all the samples to determine the abundance of microbial organisms growing on each participant and how that differed day to day.

“People using antiperspirants did have fewer microbes in their samples than people who didn't use product at all,” Horvath says.

NEW MINOR TO EXPLORE POWER, PRIVILEGE AND GENDER

North Carolina Central University will introduce Women's and Gender Studies in Fall 2016 as a minor in the College of Arts and Sciences, making it the first HBCU in the University of North Carolina system to offer the program.



Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students to think critically about structures of power, privilege and identity, and the intersections of gender, race, class, religion, sexuality and other social structures affecting women. At NCCU, the coursework will place an emphasis on global experiences of women, including women of the African diaspora.

Carlton Wilson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he believes the new minor is a positive addition to the curriculum at NCCU.

"The minor in Women's and Gender Studies will present students with opportunities to engage in conversations and pursue innovative research in the complex historical and contemporary issues associated with women and gender," Wilson said.

"NCCU's diverse faculty and student body are uniquely positioned to benefit from and make a significant contribution to this important field of study."

Professor Antonio Baines Earns National Toxicology Award

ANTONIO BAINES, PH.D., faculty member in North Carolina Central University's Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, was among 15 experts recognized nationally for outstanding work during the March 2016 meeting of the Society of Toxicology.

Baines was chosen to receive the Undergraduate Educator Award for his tireless commitment to the academic development and mentoring of future toxicologists.

"The 2016 SOT awardees are among the best and brightest of our scientists," said Peter L. Goering, the Society's president, as he announced the awards. "We also are

pleased to honor exceptional individuals who are educating the next generation of scientists and who are making toxicology more accessible to all."

Baines earned a B.S. in biology from Norfolk State and joined the faculty at NCCU in 2006 after completing his doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Arizona. He also holds an

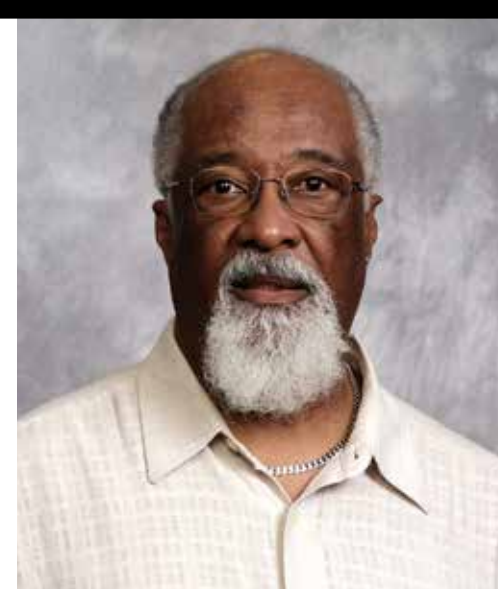


“The 2016 SOT awardees are among the best and brightest of our scientists.”

PETER L. GOERING

appointment with the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/ Biotechnology Research Institute at NCCU and serves as an adjunct teacher of pharmacology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"It's a very important honor to be recognized for commitment to undergraduate education, mentoring students in STEM fields and finding ways to introduce more students to toxicology," Baines said.



Law Professor

**Irving Joyner Receives
Conflict Resolution Award**

SCHOOL OF LAW
Professor Irving Joyner was presented with the Elna B. Spaulding Founder's Award during the Partners for Peace Celebration on March 4.

The Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center is a nonprofit agency in Durham that offers services and training in alternative dispute-resolution models, such as mediation and facilitation, to help resolve conflicts through cooperation.



Future Re-imagined for First-Year Students

Future NCCU freshman will have an experience like none before.

That's because the university has joined with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) to "reimagine" the first-year experience by offering programs and services that guarantee first-year students a better shot at earning their four-year degrees.

Participating in the Re-Imagining the First Year of College program are 44 colleges and universities committed to increasing student retention and graduation rates, particularly among historically underserved populations.

As part of the program, NCCU representatives will attend national conferences and educational webinars, receive one-on-one mentoring, access online tools and resources, and share ideas, successful strategies and lessons learned with other participating colleges and universities.

"North Carolina Central University's selection as one of the 44 institutions in the Re-Imagining the First Year of College program is an honor," said Chancellor Debra Saunders-White. "Our inclusion recognizes our leadership and achievements in increasing student enrollment, outperforming all UNC schools in 2015-16, and growing our rate of retention from 69.9 percent to 80 percent in just two years. We look forward to our first-year college professionals' continued exposure to best practices that will impact NCCU student engagement and four-year completion rate."

NCCU already has a number of programs supporting student success and academic attainment, including the first-year experience course.

The NCCU Finish Line Initiative provides financial support to allow seniors to attend summer classes in order to graduate just a few weeks beyond their intended graduation date, without having to return for the fall semester. The initiative is supported by NCCU Trustee Michael Johnson.

In fall 2016, the new Chancellor's Cycle of Success scholarships will be awarded to recognize enrolling undergraduates who have demonstrated academic excellence.

"North Carolina Central University's selection as one of the 44 institutions in the Re-Imagining the First Year of College program is an honor."

— Chancellor Debra Saunders-White



Shepard Library Shines with Renovated Space, Technology Upgrades

COLORFUL, FUN and **EXCITING** aren't words usually associated with a research library. But the description now fits NCCU's James E. Shepard Memorial Library, which was recently redesigned with an energizing new look and technology upgrades to better serve the campus community.

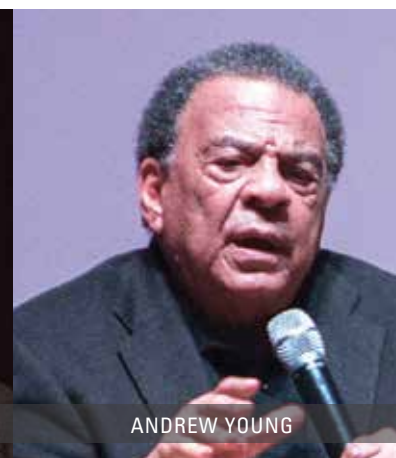
The computers and printers of the MegaLab have been relocated to the second floor, creating a spacious first-floor Commons area that welcomes patrons for research and study. New modern, tech-friendly furniture in the

Commons can be rearranged to suit individual library users and wired collaboration spaces enable larger groups to work together with ease.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, new furniture and design, the upgrades created a central customer service hub that gives library users a single go-to source for research, reference and technology inquiries. The renovation was made possible with funding provided by Title III, and support from student fees.



ANGELA DAVIS



ANDREW YOUNG



NIKKI GIOVANNI



SHEYANN WEBB CHRISTBURG

POLITICAL LEADERS, ACTIVISTS AND WRITERS ROCK THE MIC

Former U.S. Ambassador and civil rights leader Andrew Young spoke at North Carolina Central University on Jan. 19 as part of the university's Rock the Mic lecture series.

Rock the Mic is sponsored by the Department of Student Engagement and Leadership in the Division of Student Affairs and brings thought-leaders to campus to interact with students, faculty and staff.

Young, a civil and human rights leader, has held many positions in public office, including congressman, United Nations ambassador and mayor of Atlanta. As a colleague and friend of Martin Luther

King Jr., Young was key strategist for civil rights campaigns leading to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Other engaging Rock the Mic sponsored speakers this year included poet and educator Nikki Giovanni, and political activist Sheyann Webb Christburg.

The Lyceum Committee also sponsored popular speakers including journalist Soledad O'Brien and philosopher, educator and activist Angela Davis.



◀ In February, the Lyceum Committee sponsored a campus visit by journalist Soledad O'Brien to discuss issues surrounding mass incarceration.

SARAH VAUGHAN STAMP DEDICATED AT NCCU JAZZ FESTIVAL

The U.S. Postal Service dedicated the newly released Sarah Vaughan postage stamp at North Carolina Central University's 26th Annual Jazz Festival on April 15, 2016. During the event, Debra Wiggins-Wooten, post office operations manager, dedicated the commemorative stamp in honor of the renown

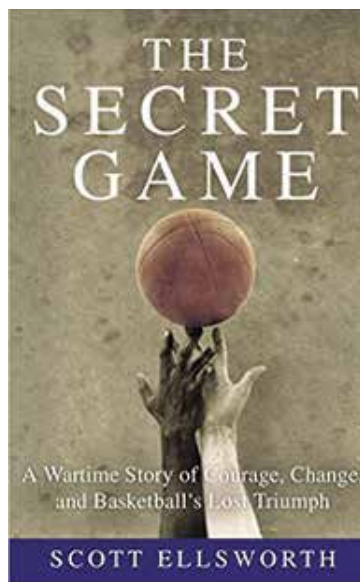
jazz singer. It was the first such dedication to take place in North Carolina.

Vaughan, a Grammy- and Emmy-winning singer often called "The Divine One" or "Sassy," joins the ranks of musical greats who are part of the postal service's Music Icons stamp series.

The Sarah Vaughan stamp is being issued as a Forever stamp, which will always be equal to the current first-class mail single-ounce rate. The stamps are available for purchase at usps.com/stamps, or at the Postal Store usps.com/shop, by calling 800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724) and at post offices nationwide.



◀ From left to right: Ms. Debra Wiggins-Wooten, Post Office Operations manager; Dr. Johnson O. Akinleye, NCCU provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dr. Ira T. Wiggins, director of NCCU Jazz Studies



'THE SECRET GAME' IS UNVEILED IN NEW BOOK ABOUT NCCU BASKETBALL

In 1943, a secret basketball game took place on NCCU's campus, something only a handful of onlookers were privileged to see.

The game defied Jim Crow laws making it illegal for black players and white players to mingle on the basketball court.

Now the details and the drama of that Sunday-morning contest have been documented by University of Michigan history professor Scott Ellsworth in a book titled: *The Secret Game: A Wartime Story of Courage, Change and Basketball's Lost Triumph*.

Ellsworth became fascinated with the incident almost two decades ago, after meeting famed NCCU Coach John McLendon while researching a book on the history of the Final Four. To tell the story, Ellsworth conducted dozens of interviews, studied NCCU history, and traced the academy's role in advancing the intellectual climate of North Carolina. The book follows a cultural narrative entwining African-American history, Southern mores, and the influence of college basketball on pre-War II-era Durham.

The Secret Game earned positive reviews in the *Boston Globe* and other national publications and was named the 2016 winner of the PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing. Readers who pick up this book will be rewarded with a fascinating glimpse into a significant moment in the history of NCCU, the Durham community and the nation.

GEOGRAPHY BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP LANDS AT NCCU

THE NCCU WORLD GEOGRAPHY BOWL TEAM took home the top prize in the statewide contest requiring in-depth knowledge of physical, economic and cultural geography.

In winning the title, the Eagles defeated contestants from Appalachian State, UNC Charlotte, UNC Pembroke, UNC Greensboro and UNC Wilmington.

The statewide victory was a first for NCCU, said Christopher McGinn, Ph.D., advisor for the team and assistant professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences.

Senior history major Zuri Gurganious earned the "most valuable player" title in the competition. Other students on the winning Eagles team, all enrolled in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospa-

tial Sciences, were (pictured below, left to right) Nick Foggie, Zuri Gurganious, Mary Booze, Christian Surratt, Miracle Thomas, Mustapha Sanno (Back row) Professor Chris McGinn, Cristan Zdanski □



APPOINTMENTS

Jaleh Rezaie | Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

Jaleh Rezaie, Ph.D., has been appointed as associate provost and dean of Graduate Studies.

Rezaie comes to NCCU from a post as director of the STEM-H Institute at Eastern Kentucky University, where she also previously served as associate dean of Graduate Education and Research and as founding chair of the Computer Science Department.

She holds a doctorate in computer science from the University of Kentucky, as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Eastern Kentucky University.

Rezaie's academic interests have focused on STEM education, university administration and computer science education, and her research has been widely published.

She received the Eastern Kentucky University Alumni Service Award in 2014 and the Government Leadership in Technology Award for the NASA Downlink Project in 2013, among other honors. She is a member of Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the computer science honor society.



REZAIIE

Hope Murphy Tyehimba

Chief Legal Counsel

Attorney Hope Murphy Tyehimba was named chief legal counsel for NCCU following a competitive national search.

Murphy Tyehimba has practiced law for 16 years, including the last six as assistant university legal counsel for NCCU.

Her background includes experience in numerous areas of law, including anti-discrimination, employment, records management, student issues, contract review and policy review.

In her new position, she serves as the chief legal advisor to Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, the NCCU Board of Trustees, the senior leadership team and administrators.

She also heads the Office of Legal Affairs, which provides legal advice and counsel regarding all legal matters affecting the university.

Murphy Tyehimba is a member of the Fee Dispute Resolution Committee for the North Carolina Bar Association, the Administrative Law Section of the National Bar Association. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and political science, as well as her Juris Doctorate, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



TYEHIMBA

David S. Hood

Dean of University College

David S. Hood, Ph.D., has been named dean of University College to provide leadership in academic advising, the First-Year Experience course, and other services to help ensure that all students matriculate successfully.

Serving as associate dean of the college for the past five, Hood's achievements include a successful redesign of Aspiring Eagles Academy Summer Bridge Program, implementation of the university's Supplemental Instruction Program, and serving as the activity coordinator for University College's Title Three Activity.

Prior to arriving at NCCU, Hood served as the director of the Center for Undergraduate Stud-

ies at Virginia Union University, where he led successful retention initiatives and developed and implemented the VUU Honors Program. He also has held faculty and administrative appointments at Drake State Technical College, Elizabeth City State University, Tennessee State University and

Central Michigan University.

His research interests include retention, leadership styles, school leadership, college access and advising structures.

Hood holds a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, as well as a master's and Ed.D. from Tennessee State University.



HOOD



Follow us for the latest NCCU news, videos and events

APPOINTMENTS

Gary Brown

Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Division of Student Affairs



The Division of Student Affairs announced the appointment of Gary Brown as the new assistant vice chancellor for the Division of Student Affairs.

Brown joined North Carolina Central University in 2007 as the assistant dean of students and coordinator of Greek Affairs. He would later serve in a variety of roles within the division, including director of Student Rights and Responsibilities and assistant director of Student Support Services.

Since 2014, Brown has served as the Dean of Students and is a member of the vice chancellor's executive team. In his new role, Brown also supervises Student Health

and Counseling Services, Residential Life, Student Disability Services, Career Services and Outreach and Campus Recreation.

"Gary has an excellent reputation as an advocate for students and a proven track record for building strong relationships on campus and in the community," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Miron P. Billingsley, Ph.D.

Brown received a bachelor's degree in history from NCCU in 2002. He holds a master's in education with a concentration in higher education administration from North Carolina State University and master's of divinity from Shaw University Divinity School.

Sylvia Clark Anderson

Interim Chief Human Resources Officer



Sylvia Clark Anderson has been appointed interim chief human resources officer for the Department of Human Resources.

Anderson previously served as director of employee relations and Equal Employment Opportunity at NCCU from 2014 to 2016. In her new role, she is responsible for maintaining a high quality, comprehensive human resources program that supports the mission and vision of NCCU.

Anderson has more than 37 years of experience in human resources management and administration. Prior to joining NCCU, Anderson served as director of Employee Relations and as the affirmative action officer at North Carolina A&T State University. Anderson has held various human resource and human services management roles with the Department of Health and Human Resources, Western Piedmont Community College and the N.C. Department of Commerce.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration and economics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Master of Science in psychological counseling from Appalachian State University. She has also completed post graduate work at North Carolina A&T State University in the area of leadership studies. □

Jonathan A. Peeler

Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management



Licensed professional engineer Jonathan A. Peeler was appointed associate vice chancellor for Facilities Management at North Carolina Central University.

In this role, Peeler is responsible for directing all aspects of the facilities and capital projects program on the campus, including planning, land acquisition, landscape design, engineering and other areas.

He is a native of Lincolnton, N.C., and holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in civil engineering from North Carolina State University.

Peeler has more than 15 years of experience in engineering and higher education. His previous work in facilities maintenance, operations and management was at the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts, West Indies, and at N.C. State University.

Peeler also has corporate facilities maintenance experience, previously working as a plant engineer at Flowserve Corp. and as a mechanical engineer at Square D Co.

Earthly WONDERS

BY RENEE ELDER

EARTH SCIENCES SCHOLARS LEARN THE THEORIES, SKILLS AND METHODS NEEDED TO ANALYZE AND BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PLANET'S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.



EACH DAY THE ODDS ARE GOOD THAT
somewhere in the world an earthquake
of magnitude 5 or larger will occur.
And it's also likely that students at
North Carolina Central University will be
among the first to learn about the event.

A seismic recording station on NCCU's campus is linked to the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis and monitored by students and faculty in NCCU's Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences (EEGS). The station detects earthquakes above magnitude 5 that happen anywhere around the world, and many smaller tremors closer to home.

"The interior of North American plate is currently really active with many small to moderate earthquakes, said Gordana Vlahovic, Ph.D., chair of the EEGS department, which was formed in 2005 by the merger of Department of Geography with Environmental Science program.

"Moreover, historically, three of the largest earthquakes ever recorded in the United States happened along the New Madrid Seismic Zone in Missouri. In contrast to earthquakes in California or Alaska, these earthquakes occurring in the stable continental areas are not readily explained by plate tectonics theory."

Learning more about earthquakes, particularly the potential for a strong earthquake in the eastern U.S., is part of

the work carried out in the Mary Townes Science Complex at NCCU by students working on their masters' degrees in Earth Science.

The goal of the Earth Sciences program is to teach skills and methods that are used in analyzing and understanding the Earth's physical properties and environment and how human activities alter those conditions – a field of science that is quickly growing. According

to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the country will have 150,000 vacant earth science-related jobs by 2020 as we strive to manage the planet's increasingly complex environment.

All students in the EEGS undergraduate program earn the same B.S. degree – in Environmental and Geospatial Science – but with three concentrations to choose from: environmental science, geoscience or environmental health.



(Right) Graduate student Cortney Cameron has a National Science Foundation Fellowship to study earth science at NCCU. (Top Right) Earth Science students Nicolle Martin, Cortney Cameron and post-doctoral fellow Enrico Brandmayr evaluate data from earthquakes in the southeast.



"It's a great degree," Vlahovic said of the bachelor's program. "It prepares students for many different careers and professional schools."

For example, she points to environmental science law – a growing field where a future attorney would be well served to enter law school with a background in the earth sciences.

"Our graduates can go directly to work in careers such as environmental health and GIS, or they may continue on to attend graduate school or apply to a professional program – even business school, where clean energy and sustainability are growing concerns," Vlahovic said.

The Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Science master's degree in earth science is unique in the Triangle. Students complete their coursework in the evenings at a rate of three courses per semester. The evening classes all start after 6 p.m.

Cortney Cameron is a master's candidate studying seismology in Vlahovic's lab. A first-generation college student who earned a bachelor's in earth science from Duke University, Cameron won an intensely competitive, five-year graduate research fellowship from the National Science Foundation, giving her options on which graduate program to pursue. She chose NCCU for its seismology concentration.

“
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PROGRAM – EVEN BUSINESS SCHOOL.”

GORDANA VLAHOVIC, PH.D.

"It's the strongest program," Cameron explained.

While the western North Carolina native enjoys the computational research used in seismology to analyze the relationship between hydrologic and seismic cycle in the eastern Tennessee seismic zone, her thesis topic, she also likes the idea of using her knowledge to solve problems for government and industry.

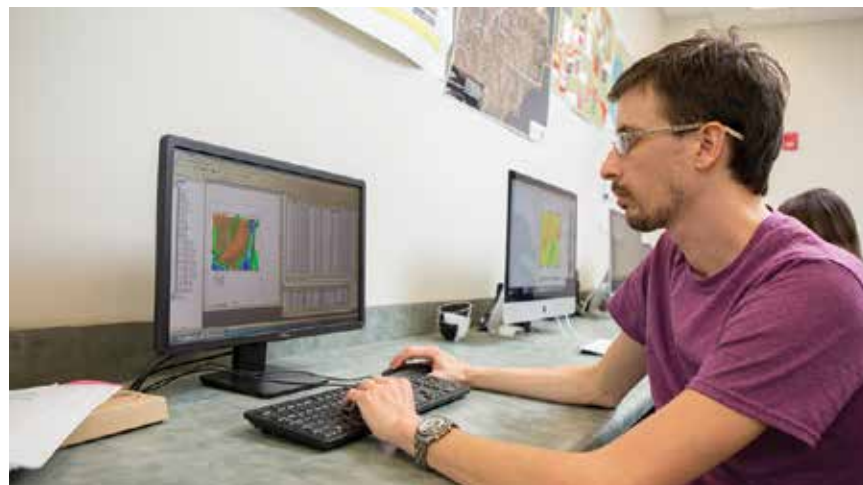
"I have an interest in applying the information to practical aspects, such as determining the risk of whether drilling for oil or water might cause an earthquake," she said. "Anyone can recognize why this is important."

She is debating whether to continue on in school to receive a doctorate degree or go to work as a geologist after earning her M.S. To keep her options open, she took the North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists exam this spring and is

planning to enroll in additional math and physics courses in the summer.

Meanwhile, Nicolle Martin is an earth science graduate student who studies how the practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is thought to influence the stability of the earth's crust. During fracking, drillers inject a high-pressure water mixture deep into rock to release the natural gas contained there. The recent increase in the number of small and moderate earthquakes in the central United States is almost certainly due to the rising number and volume of fracking-related wastewater disposal wells, Vlahovic said.

Earthquakes occur when tectonic plates, massive slabs of rock that make up earth's crust and uppermost mantle, come together under millions of tons of pressure. The stress and friction causes rocks along the edge to break apart, creating faults. The energy released by this by this



(Top) Enrico Brandmayr, Ph.D., is investigating American intraplate dynamics (Bottom) Nicolle Martin, is earning a master's degree in Earth Science



The National Science Foundation Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) has awarded \$5 million to four research projects in different STEM areas at NCCU. Among them is a study of North American intraplate seismicity in Vlahovic's lab.

activity can send powerful shock waves, which we know as earthquakes, throughout the adjoining geographic region.

"As researchers we try to understand what makes certain areas prone to earthquakes," Vlahovic said.

In the geophysics lab at NCCU, students track seismic events as they occur, but also study geologic evidence from past earthquakes, such as a series of three tremors near New Madrid, Mo., in 1811-

1812 that have been estimated at 7.5 in magnitude or slightly higher.

"While earthquakes are less common along the East Coast, they are felt more widely because of the area's older and more rigid crust" said Vlahovic.

The largest East Coast quake on record is the 1866 Charleston quake, estimated at 7.2 magnitude, killing about 60 people and damaging buildings for hundreds of miles. More recently, a 2011 earthquake

near Richmond, Va., shook 30 states and cracked the Washington Monument more than 130 miles away. According to USGS geologists, that quake was felt by more people than any other in U.S. history, even though, at 5.8 in magnitude, it was far from the strongest.

Since then, concern has broadened over the potential for damage in East Coast population centers, where utilities such as dams and nuclear power plants might also be affected. Special precautions could also be in order for critical facilities and infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and major bridges.

"With these critical structures, it is important to know what is the largest magnitude earthquake we should expect," Vlahovic said.

The estimate for the largest quake possible on the East Coast is 7 to 7.5, similar to the historic 1886 Charleston, S.C., quake, with the potential of causing widespread damage.

Along with exploration work in oil and gas industry, seismologists are often involved in consulting work for government and utility companies that have a particular interest in building quake-proof structures.

Building codes around the world are now being upgraded to incorporate what scientists have learned about the potential earthquake damage, even in regions that haven't experienced large quakes in hundreds of years. In February 2016, President Barack Obama ordered all new or renovated federal buildings to incorporate construction methods that better withstand large quakes. The new Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard offers guidelines for earthquake-resistant design to make buildings safer and less costly to repair in the event of a tremor. In addition, an early warning system that could stop trains or open elevator door upon activation is also being developed.

The National Science Foundation Center for Research Excellence in

Science and Technology (CREST) has awarded \$5 million to four research projects in different STEM areas at NCCU. Among them is a study of North American intraplate seismicity in Vlahovic's lab. Working on this project is also Enrico Brandmayr, Ph.D., a post-doctoral fellow.

Part of Brandmayr's work involves the eastern Tennessee seismic zone, an area that includes portions of the North Carolina mountains and is the second most active earthquake zone east of the Rockies, after the New Madrid seismic zone. Vlahovic said there have been more than 1,000 seismic events in the region since the late 1970s, but none above 4.6 magnitude.

In addition to historic and instrument-recorded seismicity, the scientists use paleo-seismology to search for clues to future activity. This process analyzes displaced sediment and other rock layers for clues to past tectonic events. Magnetic and gravity imaging technology may show telling patterns in rock and sediment.

"We are trying to determine based on what we can observe on the surface of the earth what is 10 or 20 km below," Vlahovic said. "For example, where sharp changes occur in gravitational or magnetic field observed on the surface, there is a chance that an ancient, buried fault zone is responsible."

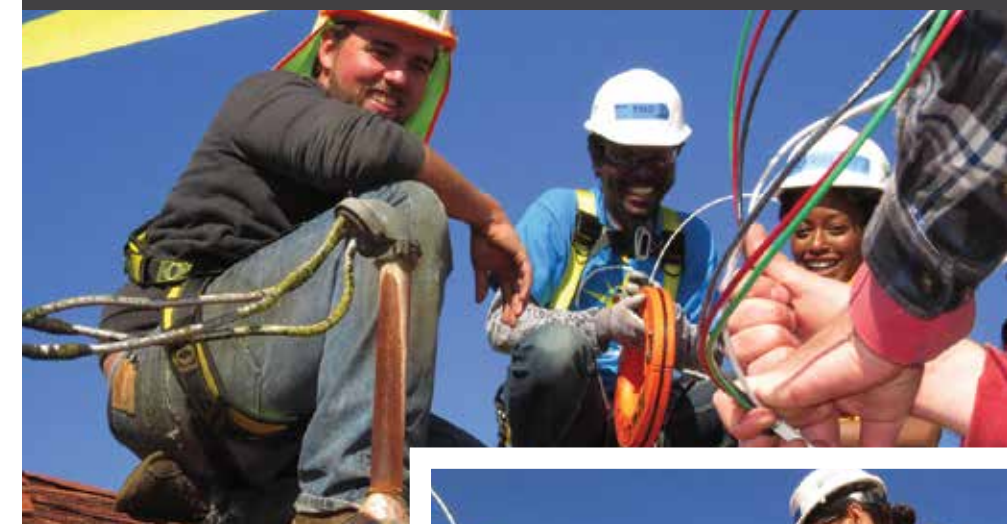
To help students get an overview of the many career options in earth science field, Vlahovic takes a group of students to Washington, D.C., annually, where they visit the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Census Bureau and other government agencies that deal with geospatial data.

"It's a chance for them to meet practicing professionals and hear about jobs and internships," Vlahovic said.

Earth Science graduate students Glenn Koch, Nelson Holden and Zuri Sneed made the trip during spring break 2015, where they heard presentations on geospatial information applications and presented research to the R&D STEM Outreach Symposium made up of scientists from NASA Goddard Space Center, NOAA and others. The trip also involved students from Fayetteville State University and was funded by the \$542,000 grant to Vlahovic from National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. □

Students Take Solar Spring Break to Bring Energy Savings to Families

Students from the **Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences (EEGS)** devoted their spring vacation to a volunteer initiative that provides home energy alternatives to underserved communities in California. As part of the GRID Alternatives Solar Spring Break program, students traveled to Sacramento March 14 to 18 to learn solar design techniques from industry leaders and install rooftop systems for families in low-income neighborhoods. Ten universities joined the effort, NCCU was the only historically black college and university to participate.



NCCU students install solar rooftop systems as part of a volunteer initiative in California.





Making a STATEMENT

Hablemos! Speech Clinic helps Spanish-speaking children with communication disorders find their voices

BY KIA BELL

NESTLED BETWEEN CLASSROOMS in the H. M. Michaux Jr. School of Education Building at NCCU is the Hablemos! Speech Clinic. Colorful and stimulating posters fill the walls in the room where preschoolers gather not only to work on cognitive skills but also receive treatment for speech and language disorders.

Hablemos!, which is Spanish for "Let's Talk!", offers high-quality treatment for speech and language delays among children from socio-economically underserved families in North Carolina, predominantly those of Hispanic descent. It's a big need and one that is likely to increase, said Elisha Blankson, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, who directs the Hablemos! clinic.

According to demographers, English language learners will account for approximately 40 percent of the entire school-aged population in the United States by the 2030s. At NCCU each year, typically 12 children enroll for services that are provided, in part, by six students from the communications disorders graduate program in the School of Education.

Nationally, nearly eight percent of children ages three to 17 experience some type of dysfunction related to voice, speech, language, or swallowing, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Communication disorders affect children

ages three through six years old the most, with ages seven through 10 reporting more frequent rates than older children.

For English-language learners who develop such problems, there have been few easy alternatives. But at Hablemos!, they can receive one-on-one speech and language services at no cost. Hablemos! also offers group sessions for youngsters ages two through four. Employing play-based therapeutic intervention, clinicians treat children with varying diagnoses — ranging from minor to severe speech and language delays to autism.

On a cool, rainy day in late winter, children who walked into the clinic displaying a bit of apprehension took only a few moments to begin smiling as they saw familiar faces, including that of clinic Director Elisha Blankson, M.Ed., CCC-SLP.

Blankson is a bilingual therapist fluent in Spanish and French who specializes in early intervention. Under Blankson's supervision, student



English-language learners get one-on-one speech therapy at NCCU's clinic, directed by Elisha Blankson, M.Ed., CCC-SLP.

clinicians work with small groups of children to help them recognize letters of the alphabet and lead other essential lessons for reading and comprehension.

Seated in a semi-circle during group therapy, the children interact while reviewing cognitive skills with clinicians who speak both English and Spanish. Children who are considered non-verbal use sign language to communicate, which is considered a milestone in the therapy for some. The sounds of musical instruments at the end of the lesson signals it is time for the class to begin working on curricula using the letter 'c.'

Hablemos! serves as a training ground for the student clinicians, who receive course credit for their work as they pursue master's degrees in speech and language pathology from NCCU's Department of Communication Disorders. Students are trained in therapeutic intervention techniques that are grounded in evidence-based practice, Blankson said.

NCCU graduate students enrolled in the bilingual track may be native or non-native Spanish speakers, practicing skills in the clinic to enhance their training and the techniques needed to provide services to bilingual communities. Students are required to complete

designated Spanish courses before they are certified as bilingual clinicians.

"Students are able to learn a cross-cultural perspective of service provision; this enhances their skills as culturally competent therapists," Blankson said. "The professional reputation of our students is echoed within the speech community."

Durham resident Irma Cristo Sanchez, mother of a three year old diagnosed with expressive language delays, says her son's participation in the clinic has helped him tremendously.

"Coming to the clinic has helped Derrick a lot in advancing his communication skills – the specializations offered here have helped him to become more sociable and interact more with other children," Sanchez said.

Early diagnosis and intervention has shown to be effective in treating communication and swallowing disorders, leading to a better quality of life and, in some cases, better academic success.

"Services provided here have made a great difference," Sanchez said. "Instead of pointing to things or using signals, he now communicates his needs, wants and desires verbally."

The first three years of life, when the brain is developing and maturing, is the most



A

intensive period for acquiring speech and language skills. These skills develop best in an environment that is rich with sounds, sights, and consistent exposure to the speech and language of others.

The clinic prepares children to enter Durham Public Schools with skills useful to any learning environment.

"The most effective aspect of the clinic is that it prepares children for a traditional classroom setting," Blankson said. "The literacy

component of the program teaches children to read, write and also communicate ideas within the group setting."

If the critical periods for speech and language development are allowed to pass without exposure to language needed for learning, the task becomes more difficult, Blankson explained.

After group therapy, the children are paired with clinicians to receive individualized play-based therapy.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, play-based therapy is more effective in catching a child's attention, and it assists with establishing memories that extend beyond a therapy session. Play is flexible, non-literal, sporadic and process-oriented – allowing children to be actively engaged and naturally motivated. Activities are geared to support learning and retention, which are essential when treatment sessions are infrequent – which is the case for the Hablemos!, which offers services twice a week.

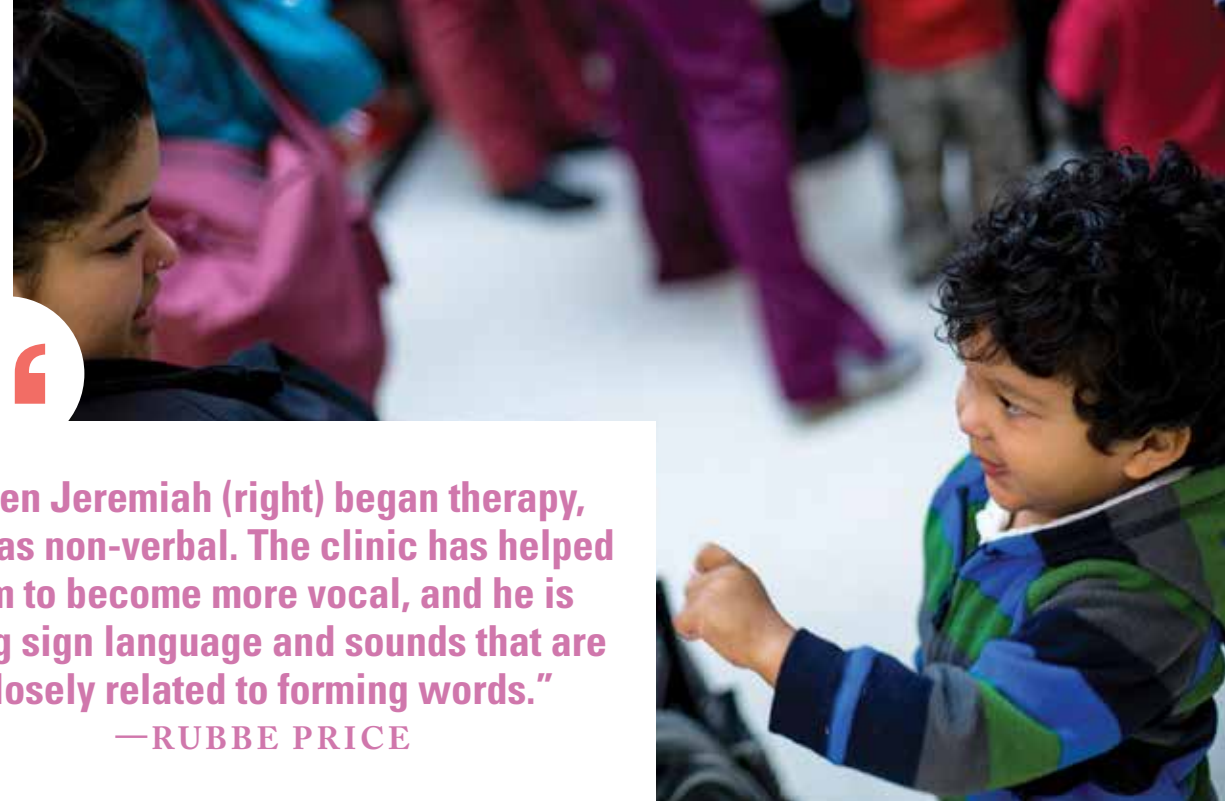
Jeremiah Price, a 2-year-old boy diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and expressive and receptive language delays, experiences language milestones with individual therapy, his mother said.

"When Jeremiah began therapy, he was non-verbal," said Rubbe Price, a Durham resident. "The clinic has helped him to become more vocal, and he is using sign language and sounds that are closely related to forming words."

“

When Jeremiah (right) began therapy, he was non-verbal. The clinic has helped him to become more vocal, and he is using sign language and sounds that are closely related to forming words.”

—RUBBE PRICE



C

Program who studies ASD, said her time spent with Jeremiah is more useful than a classroom learning experience.

"I am extremely thankful for being able to work with Jeremiah," Tyson said. "We grow together and learn from one another. When he spoke for the first time, I was extremely overwhelmed with joy. I feel it is important for everyone to have their voices heard. No matter who you are, it is important to promote speaking as soon as possible."

Tyson said she had little previous experience working with children on the autism spectrum, requiring additional research outside of her normal coursework. Tyson said Hablemos! offers her a platform to fine-tune her clinical skills and to follow her passion of helping others as a speech language pathologist.

"Since working with Jeremiah, I have become more and more interested in working with young children with autism spectrum disorder," she added. "To see concepts I've learned in class being effective in therapy is exciting. I'm grateful for this opportunity to not only receive a quality education at NCCU but to also have the opportunity to practice theories and concepts I've learned in courses before graduation."

Blankson said the program is exploring the opportunity to expand its services to children from French- and Chinese-speaking households in the near future. □

A **BOUT 8 PERCENT OF CHILDREN BETWEEN 3 AND 17 EXPERIENCE SOME TYPE OF SPEECH DEFECIT.**

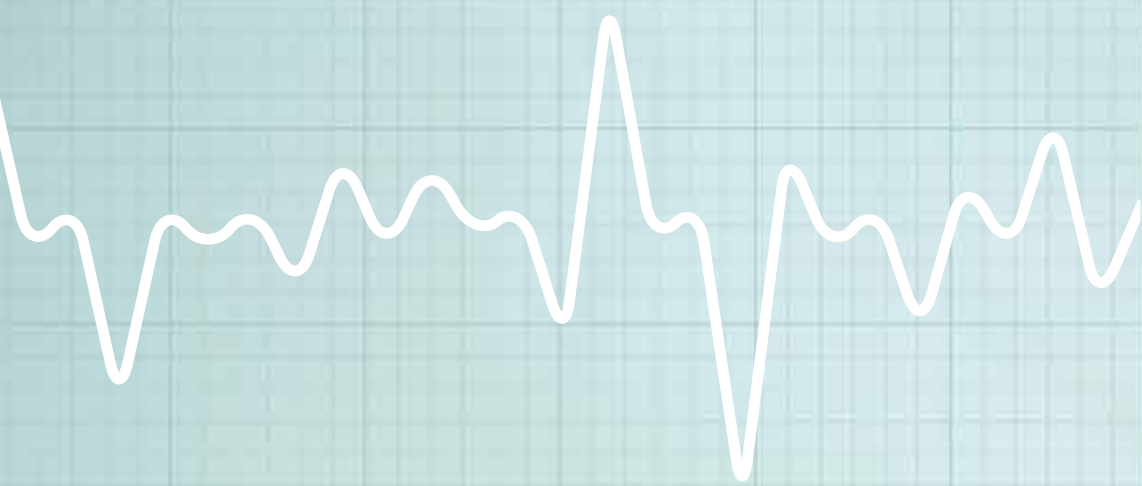
(A) Student clinician Samantha Tyson works with Jeremiah Price on his language skills.

(B) Group activities encourage children to practice communication in a safe and friendly environment.

(C) Aroni Padillaearr picks up skills by chatting with student clinician Brandi Moore during snack break.



B



REGIS+ERED FOR SUCCESS

HEALTHY OUTLOOK FOR AWARD-WINNING NURSING PROGRAM

BY AYANA D. HERNANDEZ





Pictured above and right, NCCU nursing students gain hands-on experience in various clinical settings such as Duke Regional Hospital.



W

Wanda Lawrence Ph.D., calls her return to North Carolina Central University a “fantastic opportunity.”

“I count it and consider it to be a blessing to return to my alma mater and make a difference in a program that has given me such a wonderful career.”

Lawrence, chair of the Department of Nursing at NCCU, was hired in July 2015. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from NCCU in 1978, Lawrence spent much of her career in higher education. With less than a year in her new role, she and members in the department have worked to revise all syllabi and policies, hire new, credentialed faculty, establish a curriculum taskforce with faculty and students, strengthen the R.N.-to-B.S.N. program and create three new courses.

In August 2015, the department was recognized as one of the top nursing programs in the country by *Nurse Journal*, ranking 13th out of 1,189 nursing programs in the eastern United States.

“The Department of Nursing is soaring,” Lawrence said. “Today, we have 119 students in our program and 68 that are preparing to bridge into our program in the summer of 2016. We reviewed and strengthened the curriculum offerings and developed additional courses to support student success.”

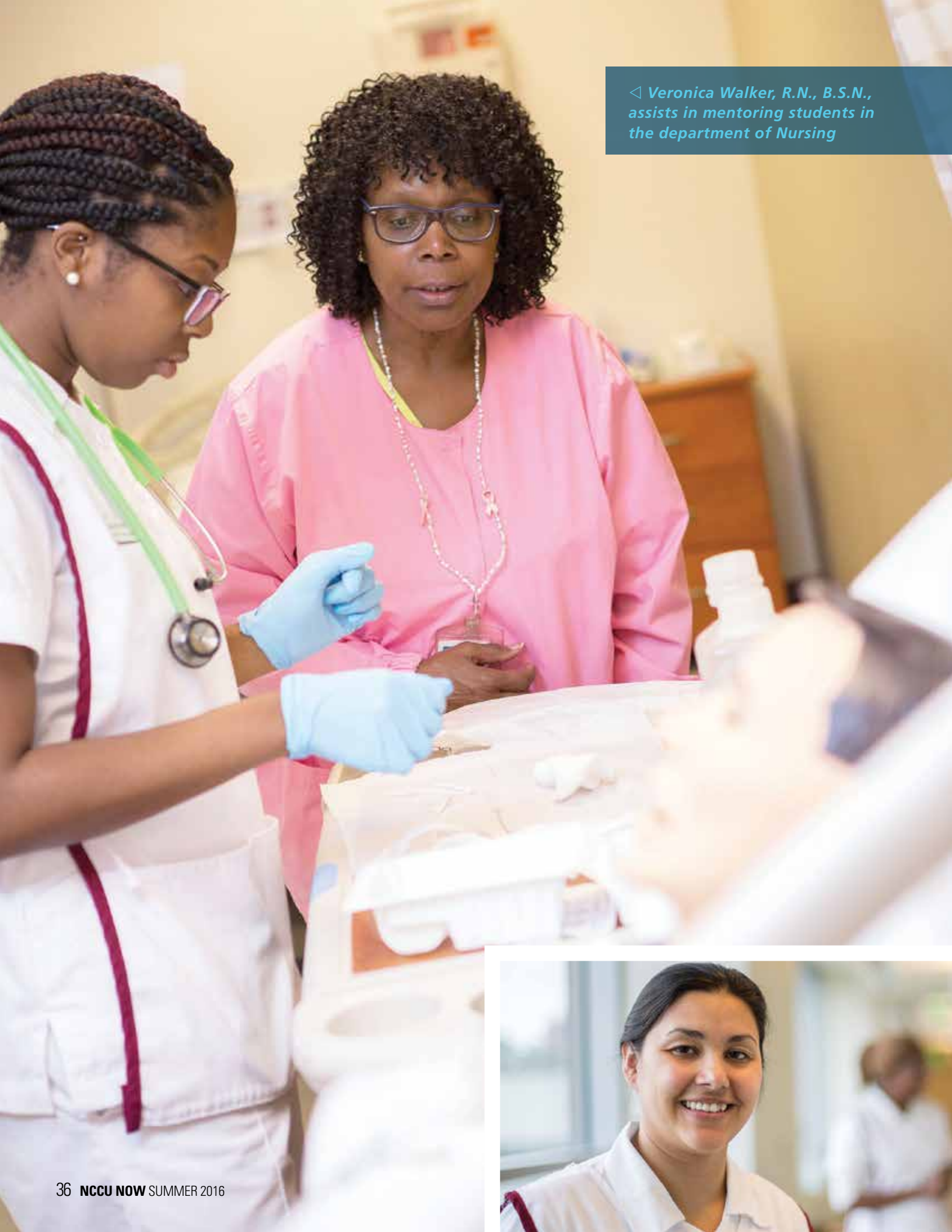
In August 2015, the department was recognized as one of the top nursing programs in the country by *Nurse Journal*, ranking 13th out of 1,189 nursing programs in the eastern United States.

The department was in a period of transition when Lawrence took over. The pass rate for the NCLEX exam, required for nursing licensure and certification, went from 70 percent to 90 percent in just one year. For upcoming graduates in the class of 2016, Lawrence is hopeful that the rebound in exam scores will continue on the upward trajectory.

During the fall 2015 semester, four new faculty members, including two with Ph.D.s, were hired. “We were looking for additional faculty with experience

in teaching and research as we are doing action research in the classroom and publishing it,” Lawrence said.

The three new courses are: Foundations of Clinical Nursing, designed to help incoming students with foundations of the nursing profession, from concepts to clinical practice; Caring for the Older Adult, centered around needs of the growing geriatric population and skills in caring for the elderly; and Synthesis of Nursing Concepts 1 and 2, which assists students in critical thinking, understanding and



◁ *Veronica Walker, R.N., B.S.N., assists in mentoring students in the department of Nursing*

interpretation of vital knowledge required for the NCLEX-RN exam.

“Since the NCLEX is critical to our students’ ability to begin their careers, we formed an NCLEX team and started ‘Snack and Learns,’ where we ask faculty to prepare questions and engage in discussions with the students in order to enhance their critical thinking skills,” Lawrence said. “We hold them every other week until the end of the semester and also review content for the exam. Additionally, we ask experts in the community to come in and help assure our students are ready for the exam.”

The department examined the performance of students over the past three years in classes and on exit exams and reviewed their science scores to determine what worked and did not work when it comes to instruction and exam prep. NCCU’s Department of Nursing is on track to earn a 94 percent or greater passage rate for 2016.

POLICIES FOR SUCCESS AND REDESIGNING CURRICULUM

Upon arrival at NCCU, Lawrence reviewed all policies and practices of the department as part of her initial assessment. Lawrence created a team to sharpen the focus on students and their success. The team looked at department policies for clinical attendance, performance and evaluation, tools used for clinicals, the admissions policy, lower-division course requirements and test taking. When the review was complete, the test administration policy and test review policy, among others, were updated.

“Consistency is important. Collectively as a department, we believe all these changes will make for a strong program and strong, well-prepared students,” Lawrence said.

A curriculum taskforce was established under the leadership of Lillie Hill, a lecturer, who has taught in the department for four years.

According to the American Nursing Association (ANA), the average age of employed RNs has increased by nearly two years over the past decade, from 42.7 years in 2000 to 44.6 years in 2010.

ANA also reports that: “America is seeing vast increases in the number of people over 65. This age group has many medical and health needs, and will put a strain on our health system.” Additionally, the association noted that recent reforms in healthcare will give millions of people access to the healthcare system. More nurses and health professionals are needed to respond to these changes. The department has been recalibrated to address these and other new developments, including technological transformations.

A SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT

Veronica Jones Walker, R.N., B.S.N., maintains a strong relationship with the Department of Nursing some 38 years after she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing here. Since 2009, she has spent three days each week providing assistance to students at Eagle General Hospital, the clinical training center for the program.

Walker’s professional career, nearly 37 years, has been with Duke University

◁ *School of Nursing Chair Wanda Lawrence, Ph.D., returned to her alma mater with 13 years of experience in higher education.*

Since the NCLEX is critical to our students’ ability to begin their careers, we formed an NCLEX team and started ‘Snack and Learns,’ where we ask faculty to prepare questions and engage in discussions with the students in order to enhance their critical thinking skills.”

DR. WANDA LAWRENCE, Chair, NCCU Department of Nursing

Health System. Today, when she isn't performing her duties as a charge nurse in cardiology at Duke Health Center at Southpoint in Durham, she is in the Nursing Building passing on her knowledge and wisdom to current nursing students.

She came into the nursing field after watching her mother serve as a caretaker for people in her hometown of New Bern, N.C.

"I was led to nursing by my mother," Walker recalls. "She would get up at 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. after receiving a call from someone in our community who was sick, and she would 'unofficially' attend to them, as she was not formally trained."

Walker's education at NCCU prepared her well for working as a nursing professional today.

"My first job was as a medical-surgical nurse, and I quickly learned how to use all the skills NCCU gave me, especially critical thinking," she said. "NCCU prepared us with the proficiencies and knowledge to hit the floor running. We graduated from the nursing program ready to go to work, do the job and get the job done. It gave us leaderships skills, and many of the NCCU graduates who are in leadership roles in the profession are successful."

Walker's career began in ambulatory nursing, then bedside nursing, and she is now in outpatient cardiology. As a charge nurse, she is responsible for an entire patient floor, ensuring that the nurses she supervises are being taken care of – all while listening to patients, family members and "making sure everything on the floor or in the clinic is running smoothly." She said she enjoyed bedside nursing the most. "You meet many different and interesting people and build relationships with them. I believe bedside nursing is the most important part of the profession."

Walker notes that nursing has experienced significant changes over the past three decades, including the adoption of electronic record keeping.



"To be successful, it's important to keep abreast of all the changes in the profession," Walker said. "Take the initiative to learn new things, get new certificates and go back to school. Prepare yourself and do not wait for someone else to tell you to do it. It will help you move around in different areas of nursing."

The advice Walker has for students coming into nursing is simple: "You will come out of the program with a portfolio of skills.

Over time, you will learn that what you were taught, you will be able to apply in the workforce. Remember that it's not about the money. You have to have a caring attitude, have patience and have a genuine love for people.

THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Kimberly Potter believes she benefitted from recent enhancements to the nursing program. Potter, who grew up in Wilmington, N.C., graduated with a B.S.N. in May 2016. She came to NCCU after attending N.C. School of the Arts, spending several years as a musician and a decade in sales.

"I have a master's degree in music, as math and science minds tend to be musically inclined," she noted.

"I heard NCCU had a great accelerate bachelor's degree program in nursing and with the responsibility of raising two daughters, ages 9 and 11, I wanted to enter and complete a program fairly quickly," Potter said.

NCCU prepared us with the proficiencies and knowledge to hit the floor running. We graduated from the nursing program ready to go to work, do the job and get the job done. It gave us leaderships skills, and many of the NCCU graduates who are in leadership roles in the profession are successful."

VERONICA JONES WALKER, R.N., B.S.N.

She also was accepted into Duke University's School of Nursing but elected to attend NCCU.

"We started out with bridge courses, and the summer was especially intense," she said. "The most beneficial part of the program has been the clinical experience

in the hospitals." Potter has done clinical work at UNC, Duke Regional and Central Regional hospitals.

"I really liked the abdominal transplant [liver and kidney] area, as well as the psychological hospital at Central," she said. Central Regional Hospital, in Butner,

N.C., is part of the federal prison system.

Potter has a 3.47 GPA and is taking the CNA 2 at Duke Regional Hospital while interning at Central.

"My original plan was to be a physician assistant, but I ultimately want to be a family nurse practitioner," she added.



Several changes have been made to the R.N.-to-B.S.N. program over the past few months. Beginning in fall 2016, the program will admit students every semester instead of each academic year, and successful students could finish in two semesters.

ENHANCING THE 21ST CENTURY NURSING PRACTITIONER

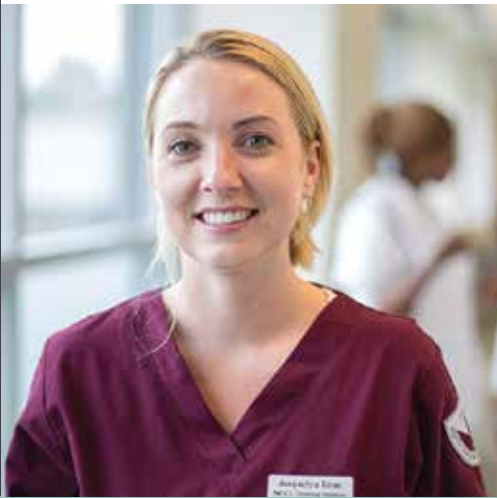
NCCU's R.N.-to-B.S.N. degree is one of the university's most sought-after academic offerings, and Lawrence has been working with Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D., provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, to further strengthen the program.

"The program is so important to the market, and we need more opportunities for nurses to return to school and receive their baccalaureate degree," Lawrence said. "To offer a program that is affordable, accessible and convenient — available completely online — makes it distinctive."

Several changes have been made to the R.N.-to-B.S.N. program over the past few months. Beginning in the fall 2016, the program will admit students every semester, instead of each academic year, and successful students could finish in two semesters. Students must enter the program with an associate's degree in nursing and an active R.N. license.

"We have the capacity to accommodate as many as 100 students by spring 2017," Lawrence said.

A three-year grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration has allowed for development of a new Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The first students, set to enter in summer 2016, are veterans with some medical background and may be active in or retired from the military. The R.N. credential will expand employment opportunities for these veterans, providing a professional, well-paying career, Lawrence explained.



"We will attract veterans, who are a strong community in North Carolina because of the numerous military installations, including Fort Bragg and Fort LeJeune," Lawrence said.

Lawrence is eager to set even more new goals for the department.

"There are so many opportunities and advancements in medicine — and nursing is right there in the center of it all."

A team is being established to start in fall 2016 planning for a graduate program.

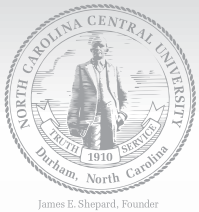
"Nursing is at the forefront; you will always have careers in nursing," she said. "Educating our students so they can function in any setting is critical. People will need care in their homes. And we must educate the community about prevention, wellness and public health and global health. Nursing can help with all of it."

With an updated Nursing Department that reflects the diversity of an increasingly global society, there's no question that NCCU graduates will be well prepared to meet the nursing challenges of today — and those of the future, as well, she added. □

The career outlook is good for graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at NCCU.

classnotes

PROMOTIONS | APPOINTMENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Alumni,

As we enter the summer season, the Office of Alumni Relations continues to pursue new relationships with our alumni to strengthen our bonds of loyalty to NCCU with our longtime active members.

To help our university thrive, we need alumni who are engaged and excited and willing to support NCCU monetarily as well as by volunteering their time. By sharing positive stories about their own college experience with prospective students, alumni can help us attract the best and brightest young minds to this university, which is a source of pride.

We are partnering with other departments on campus to establish programs and initiatives to increase alumni networking opportunities, provide recruitment training and other outreach. Please stay tuned!

Our office is particularly interested in engaging more young alumni. We invite them to join us for the upcoming Forty Under Forty Awards Gala scheduled for September 16, 2016.

We also are extremely excited about the launch of our Eagle Travel Program. Visit the website at www.nccueagletravel.com to see how you can join fellow alumni for trips to regional locations such as Biltmore Estates, Martha's Vineyard, as well as adventures around the globe.

Mark your calendar for October 13-15, 2016, for another Ultimate Homecoming Experience! Classes ending in 1's and 6's are planning reunion celebrations, with class coordinators already hard at work to ensure an exciting, fun-filled weekend. In addition, alumni are returning to celebrate affinity reunions such as College and School, sorority and fraternity, alumni band, alumni choir, former Miss NCCUs, and former SGA presidents.

NCCU social media sites have all the details, so please stay connected! Visit the Office of Alumni Relations Facebook page at NCCU OAR, follow us on Instagram @NCCUOAR, or chat with us via Twitter @NCCUOAR.

Yours in Truth and Service,

Chatonda Best Covington

Chatonda Best Covington, '94, M.B.A.
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Alumni Relations

LAKEISHA HOOD was recently appointed as the new director of the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

'97, **LEWIS FEREBEE** was named a 2016 "Leader to Learn From" by Education Week. Ferebee, superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools, was highlighted for strategies he developed to raise student achievement and build stronger communities.

'98, **JASON DISBROW** was recently appointed as judge in the North Carolina 13th Judicial District.



'06, '09, **ADAM S. KEITH** (above) was recently appointed District Court Judge for Judicial District 9B in the State of North Carolina.

'10, **SHARITA WHITAKER** was awarded the 2015 Triangle Business Journal's Leader in Diversity Award.

'12, **BRADLEY HICKS** has been appointed to serve as director of the employee classification section for the North Carolina Industrial Commission.

Lillian Lowery Leads FutureReady Columbus

NCCU graduate **LILLIAN LOWERY** has been appointed to lead FutureReady Columbus as president and chief executive officer. FutureReady Columbus is a non-profit organization that focuses on early childhood education, public policy and community engagement.

Prior to joining FutureReady, Lowery was superintendent of education for the state of Maryland and previously served as secretary of education in Delaware.

Lowery holds a bachelor's in English from NCCU, a master's in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a doctorate in education and educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Technical University.



1978

Assistant Director for NCCU Alumni Relations Retires

Joan Morrison, a 1978 graduate of NCCU, retired as assistant director for NCCU Office of Alumni Relations on Dec. 31, 2015.

Morrison has been a longtime contributor and supporter of NCCU, and she served in various positions at the university for 36 years, most recently as assistant director in the NCCU Office of Alumni Relations where she oversaw volunteer engagement, class reunion celebrations, homecoming events and alumni-based fundraising programs for NCCU.



2004



EAGLE INFLUENCER ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SIMONE SHEPHERD, a 2004 graduate, has taken social media by storm.

Shepherd began her career as an actress on a Black Entertainment Television reality show in 2007. She worked with entrepreneur and hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons to write and produce the YouTube series "All Def Digital." Shepherd also has produced projects for comedian and actor Marlon Wayans.

As of spring 2016, she had 23,000 followers on Twitter, 412,000 followers on Instagram and an astounding three million followers on Vine. With her extensive social media following, Shepherd produces digital content for major brands such as Trident, Wendy's and Toyota that she shares on her social media pages. Shepherd currently stars in the YouTube series "Hood Central," which has more than 50,000 subscribers.

New Transportation Director Strives to Reduce Carbon Footprint

CHA'SSEM ANDERSON has been named director of transportation for the university.

Before joining NCCU, Anderson was a logistics analyst for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S. With more than 15 years of public/private transit experience, Anderson brings a wealth of expertise in the transportation and logistics field. He previously served as principle planner for the Fort Worth Transportation Authority in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Durham Area Transit Authority.

In Anderson's new role, he will manage the university's transportation system and supervise the shuttle services and charter service program. His commitment is to reduce NCCU's carbon footprint and build a sustainable transportation network.

Anderson received his undergraduate degree in geography from NCCU in 2000. He is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Alumnus Lopez Speaks at Honors Convocation

CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ, NCCU alumnus and program manager and executive assistant to the president of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, addressed students, faculty, staff and guests at the university's Honor's Convocation.

In his role with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Lopez travels across the nation to raise support for the non-profit organization. He also manages the Fund's \$40 million partnership with Apple and serves as the liaison to the president and CEO, Johnny C. Taylor.

"Just three years ago, Chris Lopez was a senior in the University Honors Program being recognized at Honors Convocation for his outstanding academic achievements," Brown said.

Lopez earned a bachelor's degree in business administration specializing in management with honors from NCCU in 2013 and is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

Alumnus Named CBS Affiliate News Director

North Carolina Central University alumnus **JOHNNY GREENE** has been appointed to serve as news director of CBS-owned WBZ-TV in Boston.

In this role, Green will work alongside on-air and off-air talent to produce local news coverage with WBZ-TV. Along with his new position, Green will oversee the development of a newscast and additional stories being produced.

Previously, he served as executive producer at WCAU-TV in Pittsburgh, Penn. In that position, he oversaw the hiring of cast and crew, as well as writing and editing content. Green also worked as an executive producer at WPDE-TV in Myrtle Beach, SC, for 15 years.

Prior to joining WPDE-TV, Green was a news producer at WRAL-TV in Raleigh; WSOC-TV in Charlotte; WCNC-TV also in Charlotte; and at WCTI-TV in New Bern. He has also served as special projects executive producer at WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Green earned a bachelor's degree in history and media communications from North Carolina Central University.

Alumna Named Morrisville Police Chief

North Carolina Central University alumna **PATRICE ANDREWS** was recently appointed as the chief of the Morrisville Police Department.

Andrews will be the first woman to serve in the role that she will begin on June 6. Andrews was selected from amongst 70 other candidates to lead the Morrisville police. After the list was narrowed down to 15 finalists, she topped the competition.

Currently, Andrews serves as the commander in the Criminal Investigations Division of the Durham Police Department.

Andrews earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice at North Carolina Central University. In 2011, she graduated from West Point Leadership Academy, and she recently completed the FBI National Academy's 263rd training session in Quantico, Va.



Photo Courtesy of Patrice Andrews

POLICE CHIEF ODETTA JOHNSON COMES HOME TO NCCU

NCCU alumna **ODETTA JOHNSON** was named director of public safety and chief of police for North Carolina Central University. Previously, Johnson served as a major and chief of staff in Virginia with the Richmond Police Department.

Johnson said she was overjoyed to land the position at her alma mater, where she graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in public administration. She also earned a Master of Business Administration degree in 2010.

"As a young girl, my father always told me not to be a pigeon, but to be an eagle and soar," she said, explaining that even though her father died when she was 14 years old she kept those words close to her heart.

"Upon arriving at N.C. Central University, when I saw that the motto of the school was 'Where Eagles Soar,' I knew I was home," she said.

Johnson said she was unsure of what to major in at NCCU, but with the help of her teachers and her Delta Sigma Theta Sorority sisters, she decided to study public administration and pursue a career in law enforcement, like her mother, a corrections officer.

Johnson is the third woman to hold the post at NCCU, and the first to be appointed to the permanent position. She brings to her



“
I WANT
STUDENTS TO
BE CHANGED
WHEN THEY
LEAVE THIS
CAMPUS.
”

Chief Odetta Johnson



alma mater more than two decades of experience and a wealth and breath of expertise in law enforcement.

At the Richmond Police Department she served in a number of leadership roles, including as police commander of the First Precinct, supervising a staff of 122 employees.

She also spent 24 years in the U.S. Army, where she served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and received a Bronze Star Medal. She spent 24 years as a reservist in the U.S. Army before retiring. Her last assignment was as the Equal Opportunity Advisor for the 80th Training Command.

At the beginning of her career, Johnson said, she struggled with finding the right balance in her life as she juggled her career, her faith, and her family.

"I've learned that everything had its time and place," she said, explaining that she is determined to set a good example for her department.

One way of doing that is by making time for herself, she said. "In order for a person to do their best, they must have

a level head and a clear focus. You can't do that if you're always stressed out by work."

Johnson explained that she plans to build on the positives within the NCCU Police Department by working to enhance existing systems

rather than trying to change things to fit a pre-conceived ideal.

Her son, Kenneth Johnson, a structural engineering junior at Old Dominion University, said his mother is the most determined, self-disciplined, and hardest working person he has known.

"Sometimes I wish she would slow down," Kenneth Johnson said. "She taught me that even though the world might be working against you, with faith, hard work and God, all things are possible."

NCCU Police Sergeant Michael Watlington describes Chief Johnson's relationship with her staff as collegial. He said she works closely with officers to identify their strengths and help them develop and grow professionally. Watlington said Johnson is respected and trusted by the officers, who have a sense that the department is "headed in the right new direction."

Given her experience at NCCU as a student, Johnson says she also understands students' point of view, and she wants them to know that their voices will be heard.

"I want students to be changed when they leave this campus," she said.



Former NCCU Trustee Recognized For Service

NCCU graduate and state **REP. HENRY M. MICHAUX JR.** is the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year for the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP.

In 1972, Michaux became the first black representative in the North Carolina state legislature. He continues to serve in that post and is the longest serving member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. He holds a bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor degree from NCCU.

Michaux has served three terms as the national president of the NCCU Alumni Association, as well as terms as a member of the Board of Trustees and of the Board of Directors of the NCCU Foundation. In 2007, NCCU named its School of Education in his honor.

In 2010, Michaux received the Shepard Medallion, recognizing a lifetime of service to the university and society and bears the name of NCCU founder Dr. James E. Shepard.

NCCU Trustee and Alumnus Leads Commerce for Philadelphia

North Carolina Central University Board of Trustees member and alumnus **HAROLD T. EPPS** has been appointed to serve as commerce director for the city of Philadelphia by Mayor Jim Kenney.

Epps is a Philadelphia business leader and official of one of the nation's largest minority-owned firms. Epps has more than 30 years of corporate experience providing high performance products and solutions for complex and compliance-driven industries.

Epps graduated in 1974 with a B.S. degree from North Carolina Central University and also holds an M.B.A. from Western New England College.

Trustee Michael P. Johnson Honored with MEAC Award

Board of Trustees member and NCCU alumnus **MICHAEL P. JOHNSON** was presented the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Distinguished Alumni Award on March 9, 2016, during the 2016 MEAC Tournament in Norfolk, Va.

The recognition is made annually to an alumnus or alumni who has shown extraordinary support for the university.

Johnson supported two new NCCU initiatives, the Finish Line Initiative and Minimum Admissions Requirements Pilot Program, in 2015. The programs, developed to increase student success, were beneficiaries of a \$50,000 gift from Johnson.

Johnson is president and chief executive officer of his own business-management consulting firm, the J&A Group LLC in Tulsa, Okla.



1993

Durham Feels Loss of Health Care Advocate Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum

DR. SHARON ELLIOTT-BYNUM, 58, co-founder of Healing with CAARE Inc. and a 1993 graduate of the North Carolina



Central University School of Nursing, passed away Jan. 3, 2016, of cancer. Dr. Elliott-Bynam and her late sister, Pat Amaechi, started Healing with CAARE in 1993 to address the health needs of

minority communities, patients at high risk for AIDS, and military veterans.

In addition to her bachelor's degree from NCCU, Dr. Elliott-Bynum held an associate degree from Durham Technical Institute, an R.N. from Watts School of Nursing, and a Master of Arts in counseling and a Ph.D. in theology from Victory International College.

Prior to starting CAARE, she served as a charge nurse at Durham Regional Hospital, worked in private medical offices, and served in health care management, including as district director of clinical operations for Kindred Healthcare Center in Raleigh. □

'48 JANICE WALL ROBERTSON-JONES

'40 VERA MANN, B.A., of Whitakers, N.C., Jan. 21, 2015

'47 HUBERT "HUBIE" ROBINSON, B.A., Greenbelt, Md., Nov. 29, 2015

'49 LIZZIE MAE EDWARDS CREWS, B.S.C, Durham, N.C., Oct. 7, 2015

'49 WILLIAM ALEXANDER DARITY SR., M.S., Amherst, Mass., Nov. 29, 2015.

'53 DR. ELDEE L. BROWN SR., M.S., Durham, N.C., March 16, 2016

'55 DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLARK SR., A.B., Mount Olive, N.C., Jan. 20, 2016

'55 '60 EURYDICE WILLIAMS SMITH, B.A., M.L.S, of Durham, N.C., Oct. 20, 2015

'55 RUDOLPH VERDI SMITH, B.S., 1955, of LaVergne, Tenn., Aug. 22, 2015

'58 JAMES CALVERT BOON, B.S., Jackson, N.C., Jan. 29, 2016

'59 CHARLES J.D. THORPE, B.S., Sacramento, Calif., March 10, 2016

'68 CLARA WALLACE HANNAH, M.A., Crofton, Md., Dec. 12, 2015

'62 BETTYE YVONNE MOORE CUMMINGS, Clinton, N.C., Nov. 17, 2015



'65 HELEN CHAVIOUS, B.S.C., Durham, N.C., Jan. 7, 2016

'65 RUTH FRANKS, B.S., Grantham, N.H., Feb. 8, 2016

'74 ANDREA JEANEN SMITH BUNN, Chapel Hill, N.C., Sept. 19, 2015

'76 WALTER DELOATCH JR., B.A., Miama, Fla., Dec. 5, 2015

'80 GERTIE BLACKWELL TATUM, B.B.A., Durham, N.C., Oct. 14, 2015

'81 FREDERICK PRUITT, B.S., Bealsville, Md., Jan. 30, 2016

'86 DR. CYNTHIA V. CLEMONS, M.A., Pittsboro, N.C., Dec. 28, 2015

'86 GENEVA HARRINGTON ROBINSON, B.S., Durham, N.C., Nov. 25, 2015

'93 DR. SHARON ELLIOTT-BYNUM, B.S.N., Durham, N.C., Jan. 3, 2016

'93 ELIZA ROBERTSON, M.L.S., Pittsboro, N.C., DOD

'94 TAMMY LYNN WILLIAMS-MOORE, B.S., Red Springs, N.C., Nov. 29, 2015

Alumna Takes Lessons Learned at NCCU to Life in the Big Apple

BY RENEE ELDER



NROLLING FOR COLLEGE

at North Carolina Central might not seem like the most natural move for a girl growing up in Queens, N.Y., in the 1960s.

But Chris Coy said she became fond of the idea after it was suggested by her mother, a graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh who was born in North Carolina. When Coy got to campus, she ran into several other students from New York.

"Back then, your mother and father really picked your school for you," Coy said. "I found out I had several acquaintances from my high school who came to NCC."

Between the university's storied past and Durham's reputation as a progressive city for African-Americans, NCCU has been a destination school for students from many areas of the country who want the experience of a historically black college.

"I really liked NCCU in every way, including the social aspect," said Coy, a Class of 1969 graduate who majored in art and minored in education. "The overall environment at NCC was very nurturing and encouraging."

Coy's father is a native of Virginia. Both of her parents eventually made their way to New York, where they met and stayed to raise their family. After earning her bachelor's degree, Coy returned to New York, but never quite left the influence of NCCU behind.

"When I got to the point in life where I had enough to give back, I wanted to give to NCCU," she said. "I want to help other people get a good education, as well. I guess it was a desire to pay it forward." Coy has donated to various areas of campus where needs are identified. Athletics, the annual fund, and student disability services are among departments that have benefited from the generosity of this educator with an artistic spirit. She also has considered the university in her estate planning.

Although Coy possesses enviable artistic talents, she set her career sights on education. "My art is a gift, not a passion," she said. "And it wasn't something I wanted to ruin by making it a job I had to do every day."

As a naturally curious person, Coy said she has always enjoyed learning along with others.

"I enjoy sharing knowledge on how to do things and sharing various other forms of information," she said. "I enjoy the thought of advancing the minds of children so that they can do things for themselves. Teachers ought to give others as much information and as many tools as possible so they can succeed on their own."

Ultimately, Coy would devote 34 years to educating the children of Queens and Brooklyn as a public elementary school teacher.

On the side, she turned her creativity loose, taking on a variety of short-term assignments, including turns as a crime scene sketch artist, a graphic designer and writer of plays and poems for children.

Retired from teaching for more than 13 years, Coy is currently putting her skills to work in architecture by designing additions to her home in Queens. Each fall, however, her thoughts still turn to NCCU.

"I came back to Homecoming for the first time in 1988 and again in 1989," she recalls.

After a few skipped years, she returned again for her 39th reunion in 2008, and has since come each year.

"I see people I knew from school and we get together and reminisce," she said. "Some of my friends still live in Durham but others are from many different places. We've stayed in touch throughout the years."

Coy, who resumed the use of her maiden name, has a daughter, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



“I REALLY LIKED NCCU IN EVERY WAY, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL ASPECT, THE OVERALL ENVIRONMENT AT NCC WAS VERY NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING.”

— CHRIS COY '69



NCCU Honors Alumna and Nursing Alumni Association with Dedications

A lecture hall in North Carolina Central University’s (NCCU) Mary Townes Science Complex and a classroom in NCCU’s Nursing Building were dedicated on April 26 to recognize significant university supporters.

The lecture hall in Mary Townes Science Complex will henceforth be known as the “Myrtle B. Sampson Ed.D. Ph.D., Lecture Hall” in honor of Sampson, a double Eagle who has provided continual support to the university for many years. In NCCU’s Nursing Building, a classroom was christened the “Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Inc. Classroom” in recognition of an alumni group that given generously to the nursing program.

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

She began her career as a teacher and librarian at Dunbar High School in Mooresville, N.C., before working at North Carolina A&T State University for 23 years. She also was an owner and partner at G&S Associates, a private practice that treated individuals with mental illness.

Sampson, her husband, Dr Robert B. Sampson, as well as her twin sister and NCCU alumna Dr. Bertha B. Todd and other family members attended the naming ceremony.



(Left) NCCU alumna Myrtle B. Sampson attends the dedication of the lecture hall named her in honor .

(Above) Members of the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association Inc. gather inside the NCCU School of Nursing classroom that bears the association’s name.

At the Nursing Building, Ms. Sandra Clemmons, president of Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, spoke to the crowd gathered for the naming ceremony.

The Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing was founded in 1903 to educate black nurses, with 614 women eventually receiving their degrees from the institution. With supplemental curriculum courses in natural and social sciences taken at North Carolina College, many of the students went on to work in pediatrics, psychiatry and other specialty practices throughout the region.

NCCU opened its Nursing Building in 2011. The university’s nursing program received full accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission in 1970, a status it has since maintained.

Eagles are soaring high in 2016 with the Eagle Travel Club, the alumni travel program that launched last year.

SOAR, SWIM AND DINE WITH EAGLE TRAVEL

UPCOMING EAGLE TRAVEL EXCURSIONS CATER TO ALUMNI OF ALL AGES.

Nov. 6-13, 2016: Eagles will visit the high seas on a Royal Caribbean cruise featuring more than 20 dining experiences sure to satisfy both the adventurous and discriminating diner. Activities such as zip lines, ice skating, swimming, rock-climbing are also available on board. Guests may enjoy the breezes and the deep blue seas as they sail between several ports, including Nassau, Bahamas, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas and Philipsburg and St. Maarten.

June 17-19, 2017: A weekend getaway to New York City will give travelers a chance to venture around the Big Apple and see Broadway favorite “The Color Purple,” featuring award-winning actress Jennifer Hudson.

Aug. 9-15, 2017: Young alumni are invited to enjoy the starry lights of Paris while exploring the wonders and



culture of France. Eagle travelers will experience a historic tour of “black Paris” and visit monuments that tell the story of France.

Aug. 10-14, 2017: Travelers will be able to relax and get fit at a premium, all-inclusive sports resort in Florida. Club Med’s Sandpiper Bay offers children and adults the opportunity to enjoy a game of tennis or golf, splash in a waterpark or ride a flying trapeze. When it’s time to wind down, guests may want to visit the resort’s top-notch spa for pampering, visit the open full bar serving up tasty alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, gourmet-style dining, and more.

Through Eagle Travel, alumni are given an opportunity to learn about the world around them while gaining memories to last a lifetime. □

For information on trips and booking prices, please go to www.nccueagletravel.com.

The Chautauqua Heritage Society

Ensure a better tomorrow with a planned gift to the NCCU Foundation. Through your will or trust, life insurance, life income annuity or bequest of real estate, you can support students in need or the college, school or program of your choice. With your commitment, you will become a lifelong member of the Chautauqua Heritage Society.

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THE Ultimate HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE 2015

YES, IT WAS THE ULTIMATE HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE.

The 2015 Ultimate Homecoming Experience brought home alumni including the newest inductees into the Society of Golden Eagles. The weekend began with the annual Founder's Day Convocation and continued with the All Reunion Recognition and Entertainment event. More than 1,061 alumni showed their support through contributions with the total growing to just over \$1 million and setting the record for the most donors ever during the weekend festivities. The Homecoming concert featured R&B legend Jeffrey Osborne and saxophonist Mike Phillips. NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White hosted a special Donor Tailgate celebration for members of the Shepard Society before the football game, where the NCCU Eagles won against the Norfolk State University Spartans, 26-13.



NCCU ALUMNI CLASS *giving*

CLASS YEAR	CLASS GIFT
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Society of Golden Eagles

1944-1959	\$ 776,333
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1965	\$ 131,677
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1970	\$ 42,900
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1975	\$ 229,946
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1980	\$ 15,712
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1985	\$ 12,636
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1990	\$ 24,339
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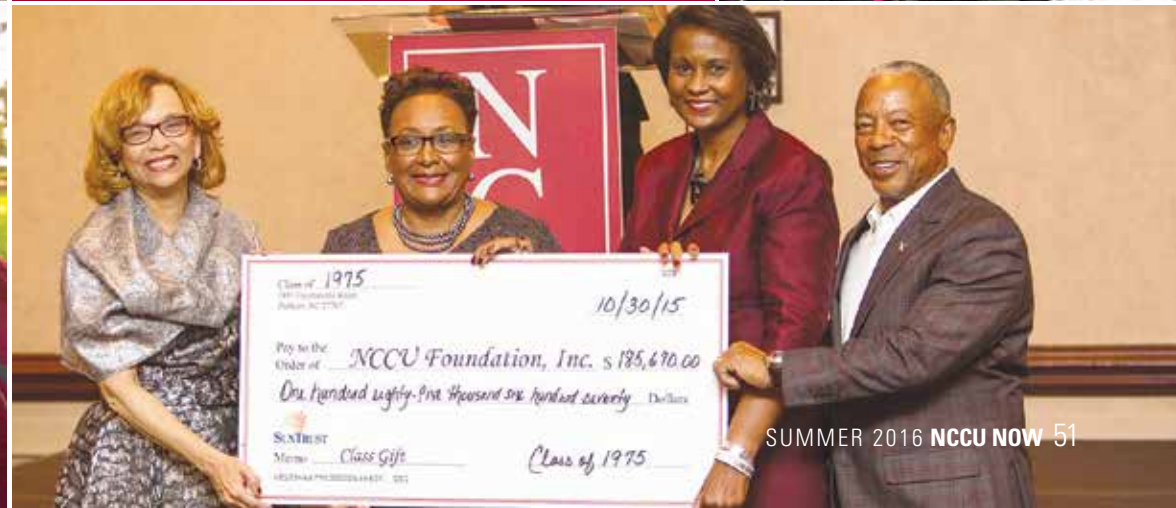
1995	\$ 14,055
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2000	\$ 11,844
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2005	\$ 5,918
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2010	\$ 1,877
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TOTAL	\$1,267,237
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THE Ultimate HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

2015



A HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

The Ultimate Homecoming Experience brought a series of new events for students, including concerts with hit-makers taking center stage. The celebration kicked off with a worship service and a concert featuring Deitrick Haddon, as well as performances by NCCU's Worship and Praise Inspiration Mass Choir & Unrestricted Praise. The 10:40 Break Homecoming Edition was "All About Royalty." Wednesday brought the Mister and Miss NCCU Coronation and Ball, followed by Old School Throwback Thursday and Greek Stroll Off, with faculty and staff joining in on the action. The week's events concluded with a hip-hop concert at the Durham Performing Arts Center featuring Big Sean, Rich Homie Quan, Rapsody and Roland Champaine.



NCCU Former Defensive Back Ryan Smith Enjoys Turn in NFL Spotlight

After Eagles former defensive back Ryan Smith captured the attention of National Football League Scouts in March, he was chosen on the forth round of the April 28 draft to play professionally for Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Scouts representing 26 NFL teams attended NCCU's pro day on March 23, and many were focused on the four-year NCCU standout from Upper Marlboro, Md.

As a Top Performer during the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis, the cornerback posted the 12th-fastest time in the 40-yard dash and tied for third in the 60-yard shuttle.

According to Aaron Wilson, who covers the Texans for The Houston Chronicle, Smith had private workouts with the Arizona Cardinals, Detroit Lions, New York Jets, New England Patriots, Baltimore Ravens and Carolina Panthers. He also had visits slated with the Oakland Raiders, Pittsburgh Steelers, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Miami Dolphins and Minnesota Vikings.

Tim Watson, an all-conference defensive back at Howard University and 1993 NFL draft pick, wasn't surprised at the NFL's interest in Smith.

"He not only has all the athleticism you want, and has good ball skills; but this young man is an elite 'Dog Corner,'" Watson wrote in his sports blog. "He can tackle with the best of the best, and has the bulk, strength, and power to be physical."

Smith is coming off a senior season that included all-conference recognition as both a defensive back and a return specialist. He ranked

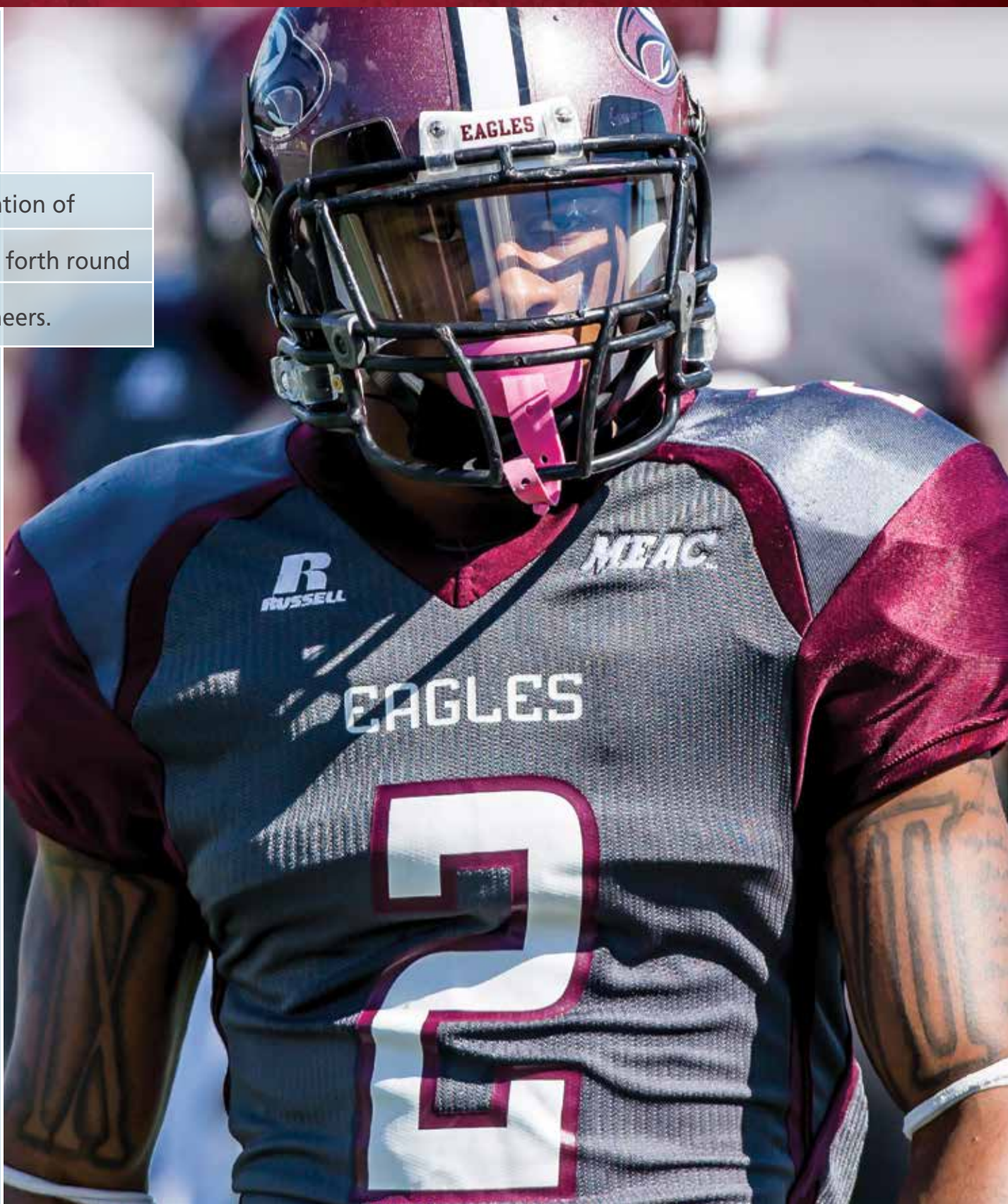
third in MEAC with team-best 11 passes defended (two interceptions and nine pass break-ups), while adding 52 tackles (38 solo). Smith also led conference and ranked 10th in the nation with an average of 28.1 yards per kickoff return (14 for 394 yards, 1 TD).

During his standout NCCU career from 2012-15, Smith broke the school record for solo tackles with 168, while finishing sixth in career tackles with 263 and 11th in passes defended with 31 (seven interceptions and 24 pass break-ups).

After helping to lead the Eagles to their second straight Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship, Smith graduated from NCCU on Dec. 12, 2015, with a degree in criminal justice.

Although he said he fell short of some of his personal goals, Smith was pleased with his experience Scouting Combine in Philadelphia March 4.

"That a surreal moment," Smith said. "From the time I stepped off the plane, it was a pro football experience. The plane ride, to being picked up at the airport to getting dropped off at that top-notch hotel, to meetings with all the scouts from every team as well as the coaches and general managers. I enjoyed every moment of my four-day experience at the Combine."



SPORTS IN BRIEF

Volleyball Coach Jody Brown Committed to Athletics, Academics



Director of Athletics Dr. Ingrid Wicker McCree has announced the hiring of **JODY BROWN** as the new head women's volleyball coach.

Brown joins the NCCU athletics department with 17 years of Division I coaching experience at Florida Atlantic University, where he made three NCAA Tournament appearances.

"Jody brings a wealth of experience and success to our program," said McCree. "He has a diverse resume, which adds to his ability to provide our young women with the best academic and athletic experience. His connections in the volleyball community will enable him to continue bringing top student-athletes to NCCU."

Brown was named Atlantic Sun Conference Coach of the Year in 2005 after leading Florida Atlantic to a 29-3 record.

The veteran coach has also owned and operated Jody Brown Volleyball Camps and Clinics since 1984. Brown has hosted camps and clinics nationwide and internationally, and his summer events have attracted an average of 300 to 400 campers each year.



“
I WAS SO HAPPY. I HAVE PUT IN
A LOT OF HARD WORK ALL SEASON.
THE FIRST PEOPLE I LOOKED FOR
WERE COACH (MARINO) DRAKE AND
MY JUMP TEAMMATES.”

Zoe Ellis

Junior Zoe Ellis Returns to Campus with Double Medals

ZOE

Ellis left the 2016 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship in February with her first conference medals – a bronze in the long jump and a gold as the MEAC champion in the triple jump.

“It felt amazing,” Ellis said about earning her first career MEAC medal, which she earned in the long jump after a career-best leap of 5.60 meters at the championship event in Landover, Md.

The junior from Charlotte, N.C., entered the triple jump as one of the favorites to win. Ellis rose to the occasion and soared to a distance of 12.29 meters – the second-best triple jump of her career.

“I didn’t know how to act,” Ellis said. “I was so happy. I have put in a lot of hard work all season. The first people I looked for were Coach (Marino) Drake and my jump teammates. I just hugged them and jumped on them. They were with me every step of the way.”

Other top performers for NCCU were senior Joshua McClam, who placed fourth in the men’s long jump with a distance of 7.34 meters, and freshman Armond Shaw, who finished fourth in the men’s high jump with a height of 1.96 meters.

RED SOX PRESIDENT KENNEDY PAYS VISIT TO EAGLE’S NEST



Photos by Juan Richardson

Boston Red Sox President Sam Kennedy made a lasting impression on his recent trip to Durham in support of North Carolina Central University's baseball program.

Having become familiar with NCCU after the Red Sox hosted the Eagles and Florida A&M University for a game inside Fenway Park on April 25, 2015, Kennedy accepted an invitation to serve as the keynote speaker at NCCU's fifth annual First Pitch Dinner and Silent Auction in January 2016.

After a tour of NCCU's 135-acre campus, the Red Sox chief spent time chatting with NCCU Chancellor Dr. Debra Saunders-White.

“North Carolina Central University is grateful to the Boston Red Sox for their partnership with our university and the Department of Athletics, especially their support of the talented student-athletes and skilled coaching staff who make up our baseball program,” Saunders-White said. “Mr. Kennedy's personal interactions with these players and other members of the NCCU community give us a unique opportunity to showcase NCCU's

development of its students, including our student-athletes, who excel both inside and outside the classroom.”

Prior to the dinner, Kennedy met with members of the Eagles' baseball team, sharing his personal story as a college student-athlete and subsequent his career path. He encouraged the young men to continue their passion for baseball after their playing days by pursuing administrative careers in sport.

“It was an incredible evening for our baseball student-athletes, coaches and our athletics program, and a unique experience that we will never forget,” said NCCU Director of Athletics Dr. Ingrid Wicker McCree. “It was important for our young men to engage with a relatively young leader of such a powerful organization.”

Wicker McCree noted that Kennedy's message reinforced what is taught at NCCU: that “being dedicated, having a plan, and how taking advantage of internships or volunteer opportunities will indeed pay off.”

NCCU head baseball coach Jim Koerner also expressed his gratitude to Kennedy and the Boston Red Sox for their support and for helping “build momentum” for the team.

“This year's involvement of Boston Red Sox President Sam Kennedy was a great experience for our student-athletes and fans,” Koerner said.

Kennedy noted that his trip to Durham was about more than just athletics.

“The partnership between NCCU and the Red Sox started because of baseball, but it means so much more,” Kennedy said. “These student-athletes are learning how to be members of a team and members of a community with civic responsibilities that extend far beyond the diamond.” □



Pictured left to right: Red Sox special advisor Frank Jordan; Sam Kennedy's father, Tom Kennedy; Sam Kennedy; Chancellor Debra Saunders-White; and Durham City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield



FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

archives

CAROLYN M. SMITH GREEN

(pictured left) granddaughter of Dr. James and Annie Day Shepard, received the highest honors as valediction when she graduated from North Carolina College at Durham on June 4, 1951. She is pictured with her father Isaac H. Smith '19, Annie Day Shepard Smith '17 and her sister, Annie Day Smith Donaldson '66. After graduation, Mrs. Smith Green, now 85, attended Boston University and spent her career as an active civic leader in Vance and Granville counties. She was married for 50 years to Dr. James P. Green, an activist, politician and humanitarian. Together, they had three children. The Dr. James P. Green and Carolyn Smith Green Scholarship is named in their honor.

Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Central University Digital Collection

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