

NCCU NOW

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

FALL 2014

JONATHAN SEXTON
PHARMA TO MARKET

ALUMNI IN FASHION
FASHIONABLY NCCU

LENORA HELM HAMMONDS

A VOICE FOR JAZZ

DIGITAL
EXTRAS

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NCCU NOW FALL 2014



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BRITE Professor Jonathan Sexton has high hopes for a treatment under development that could improve the lives of people with Type 2 diabetes.



ON THE COVER: Vocalist, composer and educator Lenora Helm Hammonds is spreading the gospel of jazz through her performances and instructing at North Carolina Central University.

Photo by Chioke Brown



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Photo courtesy of Bennett Raglin/BET/Getty Images for BET



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FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Dear NCCU Alumni and Friends:

I want to take a moment to personally thank all of you for what has been an exceptional academic year! In May, we awarded 1,050 baccalaureate, master's or juris doctorate degrees and saw these students become the newest Eagles to join the ranks of alumni. Faculty and staff have played a vital role in nurturing the talent of our students and ensuring that their dreams of earning a degree and furthering their academic studies were realized.

Our new alumni are some of the best and brightest among their peers. Several of our bachelor's-degree graduates accepted positions at multinational corporations, such as Microsoft, in North Carolina and around the country, while others are attending top graduate schools in their

chosen fields of study throughout the United States. New alumni who were awarded graduate and professional degrees have acquired additional training that will allow them to advance and excel in their careers.

Throughout the 2013-14 academic year, we saw a number of great accomplishments and are celebrating other new points of pride. "Eagle Pride" has gone worldwide, both inside and outside the classroom.

- **U.S. News & World Report's** 2015 ranking has NCCU listed as No. 11 among all Historically Black Colleges, up from No. 12 for the past two years. NCCU is also ranked at No. 65 on the list of Best Regional Universities in the South.
- Several schools and colleges received **significant grants from major funders**, such as the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- The generous gifts from alumni, friends, faculty and staff generated **\$5,034,275 for the 2013-14 fiscal year**. More than \$1.6 million was received from 2,742 alumni, increasing our alumni participation rate to 10 percent. You made a commitment to support NCCU's areas of greatest need, including student scholarships.

In August, we welcomed first-year and transfer students of the class of 2018. These high-achieving students have average GPAs of 3.45, average SAT scores of 937, and possess the aptitude to both excel and soar – and they will!

Throughout this issue of NCCU Now, please read about alumni and a student who are trailblazers in the fashion industry (page 26) and other alumni who are using their mathematics degrees after graduation (page 34). Learn how professors like Lenora Helm Hammonds are taking education beyond the bounds of the NCCU campus (page 16) and students are gaining invaluable experience assisting in development of a drug to treat Type 2 diabetes (page 22).

This fall, the Division of Institutional Advancement will launch the Road to Eagle Excellence. This series of visits to key cities across the country allows me and other members of the NCCU community to provide an update on the state of the university, while encouraging support and continued investment in the institution. I look forward to connecting with you and sharing how North Carolina Central University is a gateway to opportunity!

In Truth and Service,

Dr. Debra Saunders-White
Chancellor



@DSaundersWhite



DSaundersWhite

NCCU NOW

ADMINISTRATION:

CHANCELLOR

Debra Saunders-White

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OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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VICE CHANCELLOR OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

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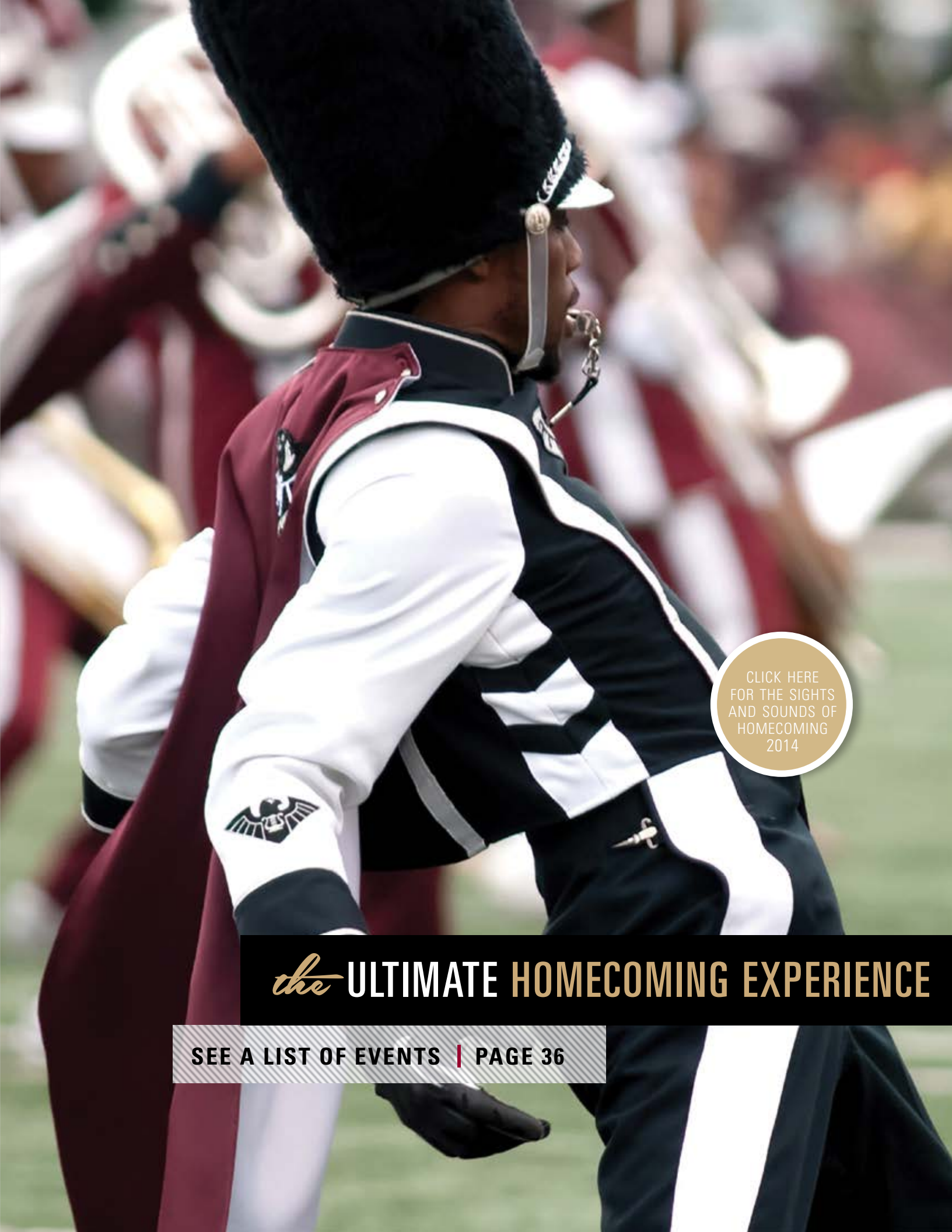
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NCCU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's, education specialist and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA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

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HOMECOMING
2014

the ULTIMATE HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

SEE A LIST OF EVENTS | PAGE 36



Reduced State Funding Shifts Costs to Students, Families

BY CHANCELLOR DEBRA SAUNDERS-WHITE

The landscape of higher education is moving more today than it has in years past. Across the U.S., many of these shifts are occurring within states that are reducing their financial investment in higher education by requiring families and other non-state resources to bear more of the burden.

According to higher education policy analysts, this trend began during the economic downturn, which officially started in 2008. Nearly every state in the nation is spending less per student today than before the Great Recession, with an average reduction of 23 percent, say researchers at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington.

North Carolina's total cuts to higher education funding over the same period have been even higher – 25 percent – and, as of 2014, it is one of only eight states still implementing cutbacks. N.C.'s higher education budget went down by \$1.2 billion between 2006 and 2011; another \$80 million was cut in 2011; and the two-year budget passed in 2012 reduced funding again by \$76 million.

Some of this money has been made up by tuition increases at our campuses, which requires many students to increase their student loan debt. It is now widely estimated that overall student loan debt totals more than \$1 trillion nationwide – a record sum.

Also affecting NCCU is a July 2014 decision by the North Carolina Board of Governors to cap need-based aid at 15 percent of tuition revenue. Nearly 86 percent of our students receive need-based financial aid that supports low-and middle-income families. Such aid comes in the form of scholarships, Pell Grants and work-study programs. Changes to need-based tuition, like the cap, will be challenging for the institutions impacted and force us to meet the needs of our students in new ways.

Although NCCU is one of the lowest-cost colleges in the UNC system, there are still many hurdles to education for our students. Since it's founding by James E. Shepard in 1910, our university's mission has expanded to offer advantages of education as well as high-quality educational opportunities to deserving, disadvantaged students.

A historically black university, North Carolina Central University today is gateway to opportunity for traditional and non-traditional students from a diversity of backgrounds, ethnic groups and races. It is as important today as it was 105 years ago that NCCU remain as a beacon of educational access. This will require NCCU students and the university to find new ways of covering the gap, particularly with many of the restrictions on parent plus loans.

Another trend is more in-depth measuring and reporting on factors that indicate how efficient and effective are institutions of higher learning.

UNC General Administration launched an online data dashboard in March 2014 that provides detailed information – both to higher education administrators and the public – on the 17 campuses in the system. These measures include campus-by-campus enrollment figures, graduation rates and other elements of student success, degrees awarded, and post-graduation employment and wage figures.

At NCCU, our goal going forward will be to demonstrate our sustainability as a university by our accomplishments.

We will strive to attract even more students who are or who have the potential to become high achieving. We will work hard to help our students graduate in four years. And we will ensure that an NCCU education has equipped each graduate with the skills needed to move forward after graduation – either into a rewarding job or by acceptance into graduate or professional school. □

Also affecting NCCU is a July 2014 decision by the North Carolina Board of Governors to CAP NEED-BASED AID at 15 percent of tuition revenue. Nearly 86 percent of our students receive need-based financial aid that supports low-and middle-income families.

EAGLE CONNECT HAS LANDED!



A GROUNDBREAKING DUAL-ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

is providing on-campus housing and other benefits of university life to selected Durham Technical Community College students planning to transfer to NCCU.

The Eagle Connect program is the first of its type in the Triangle region of North Carolina.

The Eagle Connect program is the first of its type in the Triangle region of North Carolina, and is one of just two such programs in the 17-campus UNC system. NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White and Durham Tech President William G. Ingram signed the agreement June 30, 2014.

Along with living on the NCCU campus, Eagle Connect students will receive targeted academic advising and student support services to help them meet the academic requirements for

success. NCCU's campus is less than a mile from Durham Tech, which offers a two-year academic program.

IN BRIEF

Institute Trains Rural Residents in Emergency Response

The Institute for Homeland Security and Workforce Development in the Department of Criminal Justice is bringing emergency preparedness training to members of faith-based and community organizations in rural communities.

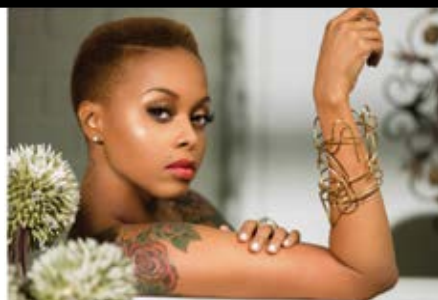
Director Chris Herring and his team have been awarded \$1.9 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Institute to provide training opportunities to residents of underserved areas of the country.

The program, Mobilizing Faith-Based Communities in Preparing for Disaster, has been offered 31 times in 17 states to date.

The initiative is managed by the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, of which NCCU is one of six academic partners across the U.S.

The Institute for Homeland Security and Workforce Development is part of the Department of Criminal Justice at NCCU, which is under the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Its mission is to prepare students for careers in emergency management and other aspects of homeland security.

LYCEUM SERIES



NCCU opened the 2014-15 Lyceum Series with GRAMMY award-winner **CHRISSETTE MICHELE** on Sept. 12 in the B.N. Duke Auditorium. At just 31 years old, Michele is considered by many to be a veteran in the music industry. In 2007, she released her first solo project, "I AM," to critical acclaim; she would later win a GRAMMY award for Best Urban/Alternative Performance. She has toured with Solange and India Arie and has worked with Musiq Soulchild. The NCCU Lyceum Series promotes and enhances the intellectual, cultural and aesthetic aspects of student growth and development through a series of lectures, concerts and exhibitions.



STUDENTS TAKE 'TRUTH AND SERVICE' MOTTO INTO THE COMMUNITY

North Carolina Central University students devoted 207,437 volunteer hours to helping organizations and agencies throughout the Triangle last year.

"Service work is a vital part of the educational experience at NCCU, and it is important to recognize how much our students' give back to the economy of Durham and other areas," said NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White.

According to officials in the university's Academic Community Service Learning Program, 3,529 students donated their time working with university partner agencies and organizations, as well as at on-campus events, such as the annual Book Bag drive,

and in-service/learning positions approved by their professors.

One project teamed NCCU students with Durham Public Schools.

Dr. Kisha N. Daniels, of the university's Center for Translational Health Equality Research, said the Healthy Children-Healthy World initiative brought university students from several colleges to C.C. Spaulding Elementary School. The children learned about healthy eating, smoking prevention and other important issues while participating in fun activities.

The long-range goal is to encourage healthy-lifestyle choices that could decrease the development of childhood diseases,

such as diabetes and obesity, said Daniels, who designed the program along with Cheresha Green-Clemons, assistant professor of education.

While such volunteer efforts certainly demonstrate a commitment to the well-being of North Carolina citizens, they are also a tangible investment in the local economy.

The Independent Sector, a leadership network for nonprofits, calculates the value of the donated student labor at \$4.3 million for the 2013-14 academic year.

"The fact that our students provided more than \$4 million in volunteer assistance is something we should all be proud of," Saunders-White said.



From left to right (Top row) Dr. Kisha Daniels; Lisa Bynum; Renee Blazek; Alani Casey; Yolonda Long and Keandra Diggs; From left to right (bottom row) Jean-Ne Owoh; KiJha Brown; Geri Renfrow; Nyasha Hicks and Morgan Poole



NCCU officials traveled to China to establish a bilingual speech-language partnership.

NCCU DELEGATION VISITS BEIJING, CHINA

NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White along with Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Johnson Akinleye and faculty from the School of Education traveled to Beijing, China, in April 2014 to forge a partnership with Beijing Language and Culture University.

The agreement creates a bilingual speech-language program that includes student and faculty exchanges, joint research and educational training programs.

School of Education Dean Wynetta Lee and Communication Disorders Professor Grace Hao joined Akinleye and Saunders-White on the April visit.

"The new relationship between NCCU and Beijing Language and Culture University will give students an extraordinary opportunity to learn from two distinguished programs and ultimately provide people who need their services with uniquely trained practitioners," Saunders-White said.

Established in 1967, NCCU's Communication Disorders program prepares students to become speech-language pathology professionals working to prevent, assess and manage human communication disorders.

2014-15 Marks Year of Celebration at NCCU

NCCU WAS FOUNDED 105 YEARS AGO, and that's when it all began.

The 1909 charter established by Dr. James E. Shepard started a whirlwind of firsts, beginning with the first day of classes on July 5, 1910.

During the academic year 2014-15, several departments and programs on campus are celebrating significant anniversaries.

The **Department of History** graduate program will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2015.

The **Department of Art**, the **School of Law**, the **School of Graduate Studies** and the **University Band** program also are observing sesqui-centennial anniversary celebrations this year.

The North Carolina General Assembly of 1939 authorized NCCU's graduate work programs in liberal arts and the professions. The School of Law began operation in 1940, and the first doctor of jurisprudence degrees were conferred in 1943.

The Department of Art got its start when President Shepard hired Mrs. Marion Parham

Cordice to be director of art studies in 1939 and the first students were enrolled.

The University Band, known as the Marching Sound Machine, was organized by Dr. Stephen J. Wright, who later became president of Fisk University. That first group numbered only about 25 instrumentalists, a fraction of the students who participate in the band program today.

The **School of Library and Information Sciences** also was authorized to confer its first Master of Library Science degree in 1949. In 2015, the school will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of accreditation by the American Library Association.

WNCU, the jazz radio station on campus at 90.7 FM, made its debut in 1995 after a decade-long struggle to become licensed with the Federal Communications Commission. Permission was finally awarded during the administration of NCCU President Julius Chambers, and the station will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2015.



Mba and Congressman G.K. Butterfield

SHELDON GOES TO CONGRESS

NCCU junior dance major Sheldon Mba shared his story with members of the U.S. Congress this summer when he spoke on behalf of the National Marrow Donor Program.

Mba told lawmakers about the issues faced by patients who have a blood cancer or disease, such as leukemia or sickle cell anemia, and explained the need for blood and bone marrow donors from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

NCCU's Be the Match chapter, which Mba organizes, gives the community a chance to help through its Eagle Pride Blood Drives and sign-up events for the National Marrow Donor program.

NCCU'S PR OFFICE EARNS COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

The Public Relations Office, part of the Division of Institutional Advancement, received a 2014 InSpire award from the North Carolina Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for its **SWAB FOR SHELDON CAMPAIGN** to encourage donations to the National Marrow Donor Program. The award honors top achievements in public relations and communications in central and eastern North Carolina. The campaign was cited for excellence in community outreach.

APPOINTMENTS



Miron P. Billingsley | Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Dr. Miron P. Billingsley was appointed by Chancellor Debra Saunders-White after a national search to serve as vice chancellor of Student Affairs for the university beginning Sept. 15, 2014.

Billingsley has more than 15 years of experience in higher education as a professor, dean, director and vice president. He also worked as a director of training and development for the University of Houston.

His most recent post was as associate vice president for Student Affairs at Prairie View A&M University in Texas, where he established a counseling center and a center for veterans.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a master's in telecommunications from Texas Southern University, and a Doctor of Education degree from Oklahoma State University.

Ruth Gilliam Phillips

Executive Director of Student Health and Counseling Services

A health practitioner experienced in wellness education and outreach was named executive director of Student Health and Counseling Services after a national search.

Before coming to NCCU, Dr. Ruth Gilliam Phillips served as assistant director for wellness promotion at North Carolina A&T State University, where she worked from 2009 until July 2014.

Phillips also served in the role of public health specialist, providing educational outreach to African-American communities, including recruiting participants for Alzheimer's disease research.

Phillips earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Morgan State University in Baltimore and a doctorate from Temple School of Podiatric Medicine in Philadelphia.

She is on the American Cancer Society Leadership Advisory Council, among other activities. She was appointed following a national search.



RUTH GILLIAM PHILLIPS



ANITA WALTON



RANDOLPH RASCH

Anita Walton

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Anita Walton was appointed in June by Chancellor Debra Saunders-White to the newly created post of assistant vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

A former director of Alumni Relations for NCCU, Walton joined the NCCU staff in 2009 and has chaired NCCU's Homecoming Committee as well as assisted in the creation of the NCCU Pre-Alumni Club in 2011 as a new student organization.

Prior to her arrival at NCCU, Walton served as assistant director of orientation, coordinator of student programs and student affairs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She served as district chair for CASE – the Council for Advancement and Support of Education – during the past year.

Randolph Rasch

Interim Chair of the Nursing Department

Dr. Randolph Rasch was named in July as interim chair of the Nursing Department, replacing departing chair Dr. Betty Pierce Dennis.

Previously, Rasch chaired the Department of Community Practice Nursing at UNC Greensboro for four years. He also served as a professor at Vanderbilt University's School of Nursing in Nashville, Tenn., for more than two decades.

He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas in Austin, a master's degree in nursing from Vanderbilt, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Andrews University in Berrien Spring, Mich.

Rasch has been published on such topics as diversity in health care education, HIV risk reduction, primary care and clinical practice. He holds the distinction of being the first African-American male to hold the Ph.D. in nursing.

Thurman D. Hollins

Interim Director of Bands

Thurman D. Hollins was appointed as interim director of bands effective July 1, 2014.

Hollins comes to NCCU from Saint Augustine's University, where he guided the Superior Sound Marching Band program to national prominence.

Previously, he served academic appointments in Virginia and Georgia and was director of bands at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte.

Hollins is a native of Conway, S.C., and a graduate of Norfolk State University, where he completed a bachelor's in music education. He earned his master's in music education from Winthrop University and has completed coursework toward a Ph.D. in music education at Georgia State University.

Bands under Hollins' direction have earned first-place honors at the National High School High-stepping Championship and recognition at other regional and national contests.



Chatonda Best Covington

Interim Director of Alumni Relations

Chatonda Best Covington was appointed to serve as interim director of Alumni Relations in the Division of Institutional Advancement beginning in August.

Covington has served in a number of leadership positions with higher education, law and corporate entities in North Carolina. She has specialized in program and events management, project development, and volunteer oversight. She joins NCCU from Chapman Law Firm, where since 2010 she carried out project management and policy analysis.

Covington earned her bachelor's degree from NCCU in 1994 and an M.B.A. from Strayer University. She has been involved in the NCCU Alumni Association for many years and now serves as vice president for the association's Greensboro chapter. She is a 2014 graduate of Leadership Greensboro.

Enoch Bond

Director of Annual Fund

Enoch Bond has been named director of NCCU's Annual Fund, through which private donors provide critical support for the university.

The fund offers need- and merit-based student scholarships and helps purchase resources for the classrooms, laboratories and libraries on campus.

Bond is a 2004 graduate of Elizabeth City State University and started his career there in Alumni Relations, establishing the first student endowment in ECSU history.

At NCCU, he previously worked in the Office of Special Events and the Office of Alumni Relations and served as interim annual giving director from October 2013 to July 2014, when he was named as the permanent director, following a national search.



NEW LEADERS CHOSEN FOR UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

New leaders for university appointments have been named by Chancellor Debra Saunders-White. Those appointments were:

- **Mr. Willie Bell Jr.**
interim chief for the
NCCU Police Department
- **Dr. Allan Cooper**
professor and chair of the
Department of Political Science
- **Dr. Calvin L. Hall**
associate professor and
chair of the Department of
Mass Communication
- **Attorney Pamela Thorpe Young**
director of government and
community relations
- **Dr. Seronda Robinson**
associate professor and
chair of the Department of
Public Health Education
- **Dr. Emmanuel Oritsejafor**
professor and chair of the
Department of Public
Administration
- **Dr. Alfred Williams**
associate professor and
chair of the Department of
Pharmaceutical Services



DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE
TUESDAY, NOV. 4
IN THE USA GENERAL ELECTIONS



CHATONDA BEST COVINGTON



ENOCH BOND



COREY SAVAGE



KEVIN M. WILSON

Corey Savage

Director of Development for the College of Arts and Sciences

Corey Savage joined the Division of Institutional Advancement in July as director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences.

In this post, he works closely with Dean Carlton Wilson and other members of the college to plan and manage fundraising efforts. Savage has more than 10 years of non-profit management experience, and he holds a bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T State University. Savage's appointment followed a national search.

Savage previously has served as director of Foundation Relations at Hampton University and has been campaign manager for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Dallas, Texas; director of college relations and partnerships at the Tom Joyner Foundation in Dallas; and senior communications specialist at Saint Augustine's University.

Kevin M. Wilson

Associate Athletics Director for Development

Kevin M. Wilson was appointed to the Division of Institutional Advancement as associate athletics director for development, where he will serve as the point of contact for athletics-related fundraising.

Wilson comes to NCCU from Fayetteville State University, where he was assistant athletics director for development and marketing. In that post, he secured the second-largest gift in program history for the men's basketball team.

Wilson previously worked at NCCU for three years, where he served as director of men's basketball operations and assistant director for development.

Wilson holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University, a master's from NCCU, and is pursuing an MBA at East Carolina University.

Wilson's appointment followed a national search.

WELCOME NCCU CLASS OF 2018

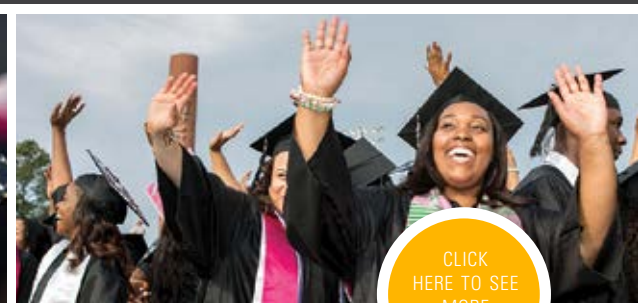
Freshman Eagles are flocking onto campus this fall from **24 STATES** and several foreign countries. The greatest number hail from our own state of North Carolina, followed by Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina and Washington, D.C. Of the more than 1,000 students who enrolled in the Class of 2018, **23 PERCENT** are on now track to becoming the first in their families to obtain a college degree. About two-thirds of the freshman class are female, and the **MOST POPULAR MAJORS** are nursing, business administration, criminal justice, and biology. Our newest Eagles are bringing considerable brainpower to campus, with an overall high school grade point average of 3.45 out of 4.



Spring Graduates Encouraged to Carry the Torch for Civil Rights

BY RENEE ELDER | Class of 2014 graduates were urged to work for the common good as they move through their life journeys – including equal application of civil rights laws and equal access to quality health care.

The 682 undergraduates received diplomas in O'Kelley-Riddick Stadium on May 10 following an address by prominent civil rights lawyer Lezli Baskerville. More than 370 graduate and professional degree recipients heard a speech by national health policy expert Dr. John Ruffin on May 9.



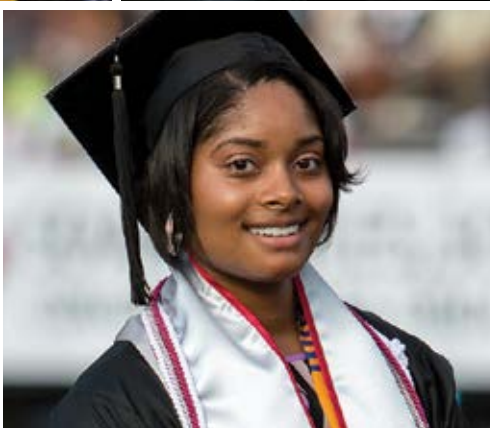
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JOHN RUFFIN



LEON PENDAVIS



Baskerville, president of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, noted that 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. "The torch has been passed. The movement is not yet over," she told the graduates, as she reminded them of the groundbreaking work of previous activists.

Ruffin, a former NCCU professor, retired recently as director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities in Washington.

Chancellor Debra Saunders-White recognized during the ceremonies two outstanding seniors:

Migela Evans, who earned a degree from the School of Business in computer information systems, accepted a full-time job at Microsoft in Seattle.

Daniel Ball overcame his own fractured family life to earn a degree in social work with a grade point average of 4.0 and will be studying for his master's at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Musician and producer Leon Pendarvis, who attended NCCU from 1962-1966, received an honorary degree. He is the first African-American

musical director of "Saturday Night Live" and has contributed to more than 80 albums with legendary artists including Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Roberta Flack, Diana Ross and others.

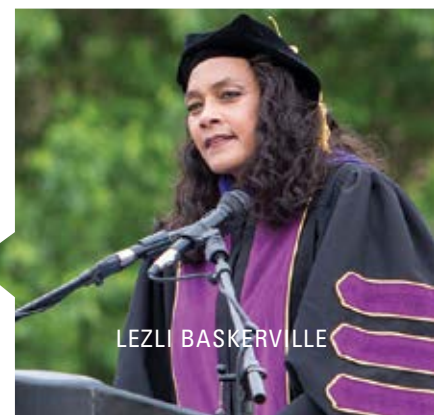
Attorney Eric C. Michaux was named NCCU Trustee Emeritus. Michaux served as a member of the NCCU Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2011 and previously taught in NCCU's School of Law.

University of North Carolina Board of Governors Chairman Peter Hans gave Jim C. Harper, Ph.D., associate professor and chairman of the Department of History, the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The university also presented three Awards for Teaching Excellence to: Antonio T. Baines, Ph.D., of the Cancer Research Program in the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute; Janice Stockard Dargan, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of History; and Tricia Leaf-Prince, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor in the Department of Language and Literature. □

“The torch has been passed.
The movement is not yet over.”

LEZLI BASKERVILLE



LEZLI BASKERVILLE

INTERNATIONAL Jazz Vocalist

DISPLAYS GIFT FOR
EDUCATING YOUNG
SINGERS

BY MYRA WOOTEN

W

hen faced with the question, “Can any good thing come from the Southside of Chicago?” there are two obvious answers: First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama and North Carolina Central University Assistant Professor of Music Lenora Helm Hammonds.

Though she is Professor Hammonds to her students, on stage she is known as Lenora Zenzalai Helm – a successful recording artist with six CDs to her name; a former U.S. Jazz Ambassador to South-eastern Africa (Malawi, Madagascar, Uganda and South Africa) and South Africa; co-founder of the renowned Harmony after-school music education program; global citizen, and now GRAM-MY-nominated educator.

For the last nine years, Hammonds has provided leadership for the award-winning Vocal Jazz Ensemble within the NCCU Jazz Studies program.

“Teaching brings to bear everything you don’t know,” Hammonds said. “Just because you can sing doesn’t mean that you can teach other people how to sing.” She said her first year at NCCU was spent getting acclimated to a university setting. “I was already teaching voice to school-age children and giving private lessons, I just had to translate that to higher education. I had to learn how to teach and catch up to what the other professors in this department already knew.”

Today, Hammonds is miles from where she was when she first began teaching at

A portrait of Lenora Helm Hammonds, a Black woman with long dreadlocks, wearing a black and white patterned sleeveless top. She is seated at a dark table with her arms crossed, looking slightly to the right. The background is dark and out of focus.

[CLICK
HERE TO SEE
PERFORMANCE](#)

Lenora Helm Hammonds earned her degree in three years and became the **FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN** to graduate from Berklee College of Music with a bachelor's degree in Film Music Scoring/Voice.



“

JAZZ MUSICIANS
TRAINED IN AN
ACADEMIC SETTING
ARE ABLE TO
PERFORM ANY
OTHER STYLE OF
MUSIC, WHICH ISN'T
NECESSARILY TRUE
FOR MUSICIANS
TRAINED IN
OTHER STYLES.”

LENORA HELM HAMMONDS

NCCU in 2005. Her sharp New York edge has been replaced by a southern openness that Hammonds says she didn't know she was missing.

For two years, Hammonds was an artist-in-residence at NCCU traveling weekly between New York, where she directed the Harmony program, and Durham.

“I didn't realize that I didn't have a quality of living until I came to Durham,” she said. “Durham has taught me how to live and enjoy green, and how to say hello to people. I met my husband in Durham.

Under her direction, NCCU's Vocal Jazz Ensemble has won accolades at numerous American and international festivals.

The Vocal Jazz Ensemble was featured at the 2008 International Association for Jazz Education Conference in Toronto, Canada, and performed with pianist Geri Allen and vocalist Carmen Lundy at the NCCU Jazz Festival in 2007. In 2009, the

Vocal Jazz Ensemble became the first college vocal group to perform at the prestigious Notre Dame Jazz Festival and in 2010 and 2014 was invited to perform at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

As an educator, Hammonds says she commits to teaching her students more than just how to sing.

“The hardest thing to teach an artist is how to think,” she explained. “They need to be able to look at themselves on any given subject, so that they can articulate that. Artists are mirrors for society. I can't just give them the lyrics to ‘Fly Me to the Moon’ and think everything will be okay.”

Hammonds came to NCCU believing that she could improve the vocal jazz instruction and performance. “I knew I could take the experiences I have had all over the world to my students,” she said. “I know what someone getting ready to go into the field needs to know. I've paid my dues and I know the pitfalls.”

Her longevity in the world of professional jazz is surprising, considering that as a child Hammonds wanted to become a pediatric neurosurgeon. Often first in her class and the first in her family to go to college, Hammonds earned a full ride to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. It seemed her destiny was set: she would go to college, earn her degree and become a doctor. But two things happened that derailed that plan.

In 1977, at the age of 15, Hammonds was approached by a neighborhood boy who asked if she could sing. After giving him a hesitant ‘yes,’ she was invited to join his band. By that afternoon, Hammonds was the female vocalist in a band that included piano, bass, drum, two horns and three singers. The band entertained at school dances and family gatherings, mostly as a cover band, performing songs from Kool and the Gang and other popular artists of the day.

In the summer prior to her senior year, she was invited to the famous Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Door County, Wis., where her teacher was alto saxophonist Bunky Green.

“I fell in love with this type of music – with jazz,” Hammonds said. “I thought

about going into medicine, but I knew what would happen: I'd do well, I'd be a doctor, and that would be boring."

Hammonds instead decided to apply to the Berklee College of Music in Boston. She kept her application a secret from her parents, using money from a part-time job to pay the application fee. "I had this vision of living with my band mates in a small house just like Earth, Wind and Fire," Hammonds recalled.

But when only two of the eight band members were accepted to Berklee, Hammonds decided to go it alone. The experience was transformative. "It was like going to Navy Seal School and you can't even swim. It was hard, but I was really into it," she said.

Hammonds earned her degree in three years and became the first African-American woman to graduate from Berklee with a bachelor's degree in Film Music Scoring/Voice.

After college, she formed a wedding band in Boston, later moving to New York and working with a booking agency that handled major artists including Patti LaBelle and Luther Vandross. "This was my opportunity to learn about the business," she said. She later worked with CBS records in the business affairs office and learned to become her own booking agent. "I have always been interested in the entrepreneur side of things," said Hammonds. "I got that from my mother and grandmother."

After a fire destroyed her family's home in Chicago, Hammonds lived with her grandmother Helen Graine Faulk. An entrepreneur in her own right, Graine Faulk owned and operated the Unique School of Beauty Culture and at one time was the oldest cosmetologist in the state of Illinois. Her longevity in the business led to a recognition from President Bill Clinton and two appearances on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show."

In 1997, when director Bill Duke was filming the crime mob film "Hoodlum," it was Graine Faulk who styled lead character Cicely Tyson. The producers needed a stylist who could create Marcel waves - the popular 1920s style made with a

**"LENORA IS
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ADIA LEDBETTER



stove-heated curling iron - without damaging Tyson's hair.

The beauty school was in a neighborhood of Chicago housing projects, and Graine Faulk's students were trained as barbers and beauticians. "Sometimes they didn't have money to pay," Hammonds recalled. "And she would say, 'come on, you're almost finished. Don't worry about the money now.'"

When neighbors were "short" on their rent, it was Graine Faulk who would bring the community together to raise the money. "They would throw a party, take up a collection, whatever it took," said Hammonds. "That was my model for community. You don't have to have all the answers, you just have to reach out and start. It doesn't matter who had the idea."

In April 2014, after the Vocal Jazz Ensemble was invited to perform in Lincoln Center's Rose Theater during the New York City Jazz Festival, Hammond challenged her students' entrepreneurial spirit, asking them to find a way to raise the \$40,000 needed to get to the Big Apple. The students took up her challenge, establishing a fundraising website page and selling singing valentines throughout a series of snowstorms in February 2014. Before anyone knew it, they were halfway to their goal, with \$20,000 raised. The university provided the remaining \$20,000 so their ensemble could make the trip.

"When I told them that we were going and that they would be on the stage of Jazz at Lincoln Center, they were surprised," Hammonds said. Through tears, Hammonds recalls the look of awe on the faces of her students the first time they heard the high level of acoustic sound in the Rose Theater - one of the most acoustically perfect spaces in the world for jazz.

"I know what that moment feels like," said Hammonds, recalling a similar experience.

"The first time I saw myself as something more than the little girl from the Robert Taylor projects, doing something that had an impact beyond me, was as a Jazz Ambassador in Africa.

"I'm an ex-convict's daughter. I could have been a statistic, but I know what it's like to have your needle moved by having someone see you the way God sees you."

Hammonds explains that because her students look at life through their emotions, they can be very sensitive. "To emote is a gift God gives you so that you can do your craft, but the seat of your strength is also the seat of your weakness. Sometimes if you can't navigate and negotiate that it can be a problem."

When artists struggle to negotiate their gift, they may spiral out of control. Hammonds calls it "ego."

"Your ego is the most useless thing; it is only helpful to get past the butterflies to get on stage."

To help them maintain balance, she sometimes doles out what her students call "nurturing, tough love."



The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has recognized Hammonds with a nomination for the 2015 GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year Award.

"I came from a disadvantaged background," Hammonds said. "We faced some tough challenges, including alcohol abuse.

"But students need to know that you can't come to the arts to find leverage for your poor self-esteem, because if all you are looking for is applause, that is all that you will get. But if you are looking to serve, then you will be healed and become a vessel for someone else."

Among her former students is NCCU alumna and recording artist Adia Ledbetter, who learned to use her artistic gifts in service to others under Hammond's direction.

Ledbetter comes from a musical family – her father is bass player Freeman Ledbetter – and she spent many hours

working with the accomplished Durham-based pianist, composer and arranger Brother Yusuf Salim, who died in 2008.

But it was her two years as a student of Hammonds that Ledbetter said taught her the most about being a vocalist.

"I had to learn how to use and care for the voice. This is our instrument," said Ledbetter. She also credits Hammonds with teaching her that she is not just a singer, she is a vocal musician.

Ledbetter has recently become vocal ensemble director at Durham Technical Community College and, like Hammonds, plans to introduce her students to jazz along with other styles of music.

"Lenora was more than just a teacher; she is a friend, and she is family, really. She

is an amazing person, and shows me what kind of teacher I want to be and the type of relationship I want with my students."

Hammonds describes herself as bringing a level of humility to her own performances. She sits at the piano with reverence, allowing herself to occupy a place where she is always fulfilled. This is where, Hammonds said, she feels the most creative and excited.

Three years ago, inspiration struck with the idea for a global music course for NCCU students. Working with the University of South Africa-Pretoria and the Royal Academy of Music Denmark, she applied for and received a grant to create a global network learning environment (GNLE) for NCCU students.

With a team of international partners — one faculty member from each of the universities — NCCU now offers three GNLE courses: composition, jazz history and guitar. Approximately 20 students from each university are enrolled, with the goal of developing students who are culturally competent. "We want to build global citizens," said Hammonds. "The content is just the vehicle to look at each other's lives."

The courses are open to all students on the NCCU campus, regardless of their major. Next year a fourth course, global voice, will be added.

"We do this so that students can see an artist is also an activist, an educator and a change maker," she said.

Long term, Hammonds would like to see GNLE courses incorporated into general education requirements at NCCU, as the dimensions of learning courses are today. The GNLE courses would be focused



on what it means to be a global citizen with an understanding of various cultures.

"We have to teach students to think differently," she said. "Our students are thinking about how to pass the test on Friday or how to graduate without debt or less debt. Instead they need think, 'What world problem can I solve?'"

Despite STEM dominating much of the educational conversation, Hammonds says encouraging her students to take the arts seriously is not difficult.

"When my students tell me that their parents say art isn't enough, you need to have something to fall back on, I tell them that's not true. Because when archeologists look back, artists will have a role that is as important as the ministers and politicians; we articulate the human condition."

Working in the arts can also be financially rewarding, Hammonds said.

Before coming to NCCU, she worked as an teaching artist at the Brooklyn Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall.

In a new partnership with Hayti Heritage Center, Hammonds will be training NCCU humanities majors to become teaching artists through a new certificate program. Fine art majors interested in teaching as well as writing, creating and/or performing music will work with Durham Public School students as part of the teaching-artist certificate requirements.

"Jazz is a dwindling art form in academia, especially among HBCUs," said Dr. Ira Wiggins, associate professor and director of Jazz Studies. "But at NCCU, there is great interest in jazz, in part because of Lenora. She has a clear understanding of the cultural and historical



significance of jazz and that gives our program an international appeal."

Wiggins brought Hammonds to campus first as a Lyceum performing artist and then as an artist-in-residence, before she became a fulltime faculty member in the department of music.

"I encourage anyone interested in a music career to study jazz, even if they want a career in another style of music because it trains you for the highest level of skill on your instrument," said Hammonds. "Jazz musicians trained in an academic setting are able to perform any other style of music, which isn't necessarily true for musicians trained in other styles."

With a resume that includes leading the award-winning Vocal Jazz Ensemble, implementing global awareness projects and revitalizing arts in public schools, it is no surprise that the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has recog-

Hammonds continues to perform while training a new generation of jazz vocalists at NCCU.

nized Hammonds with a nomination for the 2015 GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year Award.

The Music Educator of the year was established to recognize teachers of students in kindergarten through college who have made a significant and lasting contribution to music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools.

The winner, to be announced during the February 2015 televised Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, will receive a \$10,000 honorarium, and the nine finalists each will receive a \$1,000 honorarium. The schools of all 10 finalists also will receive matching grants.

Meanwhile, the busy professor is currently pursuing a doctorate from Boston University, as well as generating even more ideas for the Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

"My goal is to have the vocal jazz component of the program be half the students," Hammonds said. "I want so many jazz vocalists that they need another jazz vocal teacher, and then I can hire one of my former students to teach."

Hammonds believes everything in life eventually comes full circle, as it did, in a way, in 2011. That's when the two Southside natives came face to face as the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, under Hammonds' direction, performed for First Lady Michelle Obama during her official visit to the NCCU campus. □



(A) Hammonds and fellow jazz vocalist Nancy Wilson. (B) Hammonds with NCCU artist-in-residence Branford Marsalis and the late Billy Taylor. (C) Hammonds and her Berklee College of Music classmates, including Branford Marsalis, enjoy time at school.

Pharma to Market:

BRITE RESEARCHERS
WORK TO DEVELOP NEW
DIABETES DRUG

Rx

BY MYRA WOOTEN

THE U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) reports that 29.1 million people, or 9.3 percent of the U.S. population, are diabetic, with Type 2 diabetes accounting for nearly 95 percent of all diagnosed cases.

Type 2 — previously known as adult-onset diabetes — is becoming prevalent among younger and younger Americans. The CDC predicts that nearly a third of children born after 2000 will have the condition.

These staggering statistics fuel the ongoing work of Dr. Jonathan Sexton, associate professor in North Carolina Central University's Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE).

For the past six years, Sexton and his team have been working to develop a drug treatment for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) — the most common chronic liver disease in adults and children and one that affects the majority of Type 2 diabetics.

After identifying several promising drug compounds out of the half-million compounds housed at BRITE, Sexton applied for and received in 2014 a \$1.8 million two-year small business innovation-in-research grant from the National Institutes of Health. With BRITE's compound discoveries and the Institutes' funds, Sexton hopes to develop an effective treatment for NAFLD.

Better methods of treatment are crucial because diabetes and its associated side effects, such as NAFLD, are especially difficult to control, Sexton said. He describes the challenge this way:

Individuals with sedentary lifestyles and poor eating habits create a strain on special cells in the pancreas, known as beta cells. Beta cells secrete insulin when blood sugar levels start to rise, typically during digestion. When those cells become overused and are

no longer able to handle increasing blood sugar levels, Type 2 diabetes develops.

At the same time, poor diet and sedentary habits often lead to excess fat, beyond the body's ability to store it in the large muscles. Fat then makes its way into the liver, causing sluggishness and feelings of physical exhaustion that further discourages diabetics from exercising or making other healthy lifestyle changes. Ultimately, NAFLD can develop, leading to gastrointestinal bleeding, liver failure and liver cancer.

According to Sexton, the progression from diabetes that responds to oral medication to that which



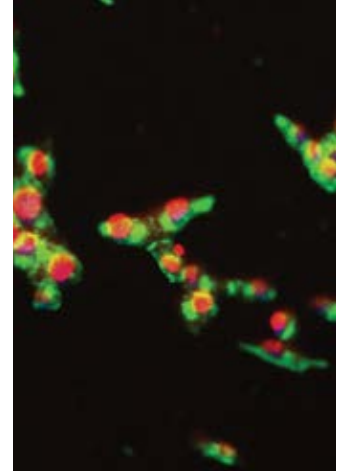
requires insulin injections is almost inevitable, unless a new drug can be identified to halt the progression. Sexton hopes his research can lead to a treatment to short-circuit that process by improving insulin resistance in the liver, which he describes as the epicenter of the body's overall metabolism.

"Insulin resistance drives hunger, making patients hypoglycemic," he said. "We are reversing that to restore normal metabolism to help bring glucose levels down."

The experimental treatment seems to be working for mice fed a high-fat diet. Under laboratory

conditions, the "fat rats" respond in a way that is similar to humans developing Type 2 diabetes.

Using the diabetic mice and live-tissue samples from a human liver, Sexton and his team are performing pre-clinical development of the compounds that were discovered in his laboratory. So far, Sexton has seen promising results.



Above: New compounds under development at BRITE could be key to unlocking a better treatment for diabetes. **Below:** Dr. Jonathan Sexton says the pharmaceutical work underway on NCCU's campus could have commercial potential.



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INTERVIEW

"We give them [the mice] these drugs, and we see a dramatic improvement in their symptoms and an improvement in their glucose tolerance," he said.

Success at this stage of work could put NCCU and Sexton one step closer to bringing a drug to market. So confident is Sexton that he has established partnerships to take the work to the next level.

In late 2012, in cooperation with the NCCU Division of Research and Economic Development, Sexton started a spinoff company, Curl Bio. The company is co-owned by Sexton and Dr. Jay Brenman, professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology at UNC–Chapel Hill. According to Sexton, the partnership between NCCU and Curl Bio is crucial to delivering a new therapy to clinics.

He has also engaged with collaborators at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, which leads the country in liver transplants, currently the only cure for NAFLD. When the time is right, the partnership with Baylor will allow Sexton and his team to conduct human clinical trials.

"No university [alone] can afford to do phase-three clinical trials," said Sexton, referring to testing on humans. "Baylor conducts diabetes trials all the time. They are diabetes research experts."

But Sexton admits his team is years away from this step. Even after effective compounds are identified, they must be tested and retested in the lab until the formula is considered safe for humans.

Sexton works with students, paid and unpaid in his lab at BRITE, including NCCU doctorate student Shatasha Hamilton.

"Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is not very well understood," Hamilton said, "even though 60 percent of diabetics have fatty livers."

Hamilton assists Sexton by growing live human liver cells to test various drug compounds.

"Dr. Sexton has created a great working and learning environment," she said "The work is challenging but interesting."

If Sexton's drug discovery initiative is successful, NCCU would gain ownership of intellectual property that could be licensed to a big



Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is not very well understood, even though 60 percent of diabetics have fatty livers."

SHATASHA HAMILTON

pharmaceutical company in order to bring a drug to market, a feat that is rare at even major Level I research institutes. NCCU has filed a provisional and a Patent Corporation Treaty (PCT) patent application to secure those rights.

Before that can happen, the treatment will go through clinical trials in a series of three phases, with each phase designed to answer a separate research question. Sexton's work is now in the preclinical phase, testing the drug in non-human subjects to gather information about its efficacy, toxicity and pharmacokinetic properties – the branch of pharmacology concerned with the movement of drugs within the body.

"The ultimate goal of this two-year project is to deliver a clinical candidate molecule that can then be tested in a Phase I clinical trial for diabetes," Sexton said. "We ultimately hope to improve the treatment strategy for Type 2 diabetics by delivering a superior treatment option."

Phase 1 and Phase 2 clinical trials will involve administering a drug or treatment to small groups of people to confirm its effectiveness, monitor side effects, compare it to other treatments, and collect information to evaluate its safety. Phase 3 is the final round of testing that must be successful before a drug can be brought into the pharmaceutical market.

This work is especially important for African-Americans, because of a predisposition to develop Type 2 diabetes. The CDC predicts that one in every two African-American women will develop Type 2 diabetes in their lifetime.

Research involving health disparities — the gaps between the health status of racial and ethnic minorities compared with the population as a whole — has long been a part of NCCU's mission.

"As a UNC-system school, one of our goals is to serve the people of North Carolina," said Dr. Hazell Reed, vice chancellor for Research and Economic Development. "This project falls within that realm. At NCCU, we strive to go beyond being just a deliverer of information to being an institution that generates information and contributes to the general overall pool of knowledge."

NCCU's research also is distinguished by the diversity of its researchers.

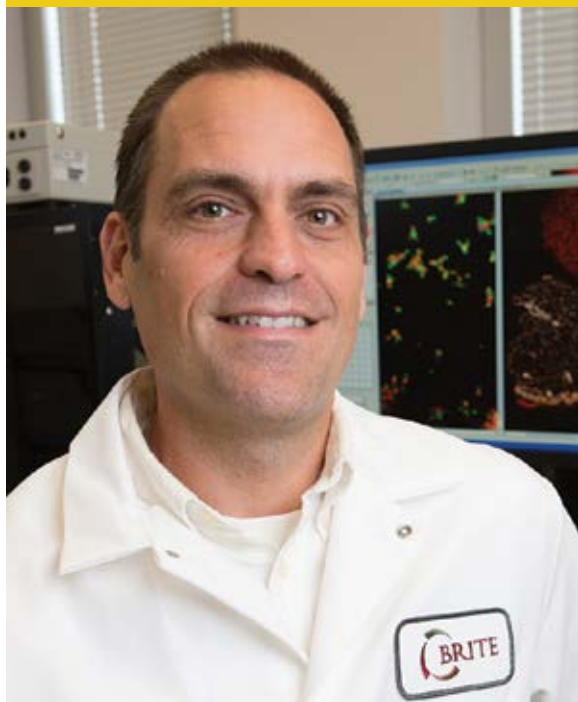
"This gives us a wider and broader view of the problems that we should address, and we are taking advantage of the intellectual capital that comes with that diversity," Reed said.

It's work such as Sexton's that is pushing NCCU to the forefront of research and economic development within the state. The university brings in an average of \$22 million annually in research grants and contracts annually, leading among master's-level, Research Level I institutions across the UNC system. □

► *Student Alexis Williams, junior, gets hands-on experience assisting Dr. Jonathan Sexton in the laboratory.*

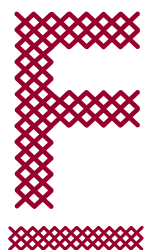


If Sexton's drug discovery initiative is successful, NCCU would **gain ownership** of intellectual property that could be licensed to a big pharmaceutical company in order to bring a drug to market, a feat that is rare at even major Level I research institutes.





BY AYANA HERNANDEZ



FASHION IS A GLOBAL INDUSTRY, where designers, manufacturers, merchandisers and retailers from all over the world collaborate to design, manufacture, and sell clothing, shoes and accessories. In 2013, the U.S. Department of Commerce estimated that Americans spent \$363 billion on clothing alone. The coveted industry that has become the subject of numerous highly successful television shows such as “Project Runway” and “The Fashion Show” is shaped by the talent of designers, wardrobe stylists, retailers and journalists, to name a few. To make it in this complex, ever-changing and highly competitive industry, it takes nothing less than a precise blend of fierce creativity, passion, the right networks and persistence.



Photo courtesy of Michel Dufour

NCCU alumni and students are an integral piece of the fabric of today's multi-billion dollar international fashion world. From those who have shaped the industry for decades, to others who are up-and-coming on the scene, NCCU is making an impact and influencing what consumers see on the runways, in the stores, on the pages of the most popular fashion magazines and on the bodies of A-list actors, musicians and other celebrities. Here's a glimpse at a few of the style-influencers and iconic game-changers in the fashion industry who also have the distinction of being members of the NCCU community. Departments in academic areas from the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, School of Business and College of Arts and Sciences have nurtured the homegrown talent of these accomplished alumni and students. While their majors vary—from biology and textile and apparel design to public administration—each of these Eagles has turned his or her fashion sense into a fruitful professional occupation.

ANDRE' LEON TALLEY

FASHION EDITOR

Considered one of the world's most legendary and iconic style and creative editors at Vogue magazine, Andre' Leon Talley began his journey to fame in his hometown of Durham. In "A.L.T: A Memoir," he credits the development of his fashion talent to his grandmother and other influential women in his life. Talley's larger-than-life personality and expertise as a style originator have been celebrated and sought after by fashion legends including Karl Lagerfeld and Christian Dior. He remains a regular at couture fashion shows and houses throughout the world, and his presence is always noted in Milan, Paris and New York. He even made appearances in several films, from "Sex in the City" to "The September Issue," a documentary with his boss, longtime Vogue editor Anna Wintour, and starred as himself.

Talley graduated from NCCU in 1971 with a degree in French literature and headed to Brown University, where he earned a master's degree in French. His first job with visual artist Andy Warhol provided a stepping stone for Talley's already promising career. Over the past 40 years, Talley has evolved into a respected and lauded industry idol in the fashion world who has gained the admiration of designers, editors and stylists.



WOURI VICE

WARDROBE STYLIST

include covers of magazines including *Essence*, Vice has managed to stay humble. His resume is filled with names like Alicia Keys, Queen Latifah, Viola Davis, Jill Scott, Kerry Washington, Alfre Woodard, Angela Bassett, Taraji P. Henson and Loretta Divine, to name a few. "I've been blessed to have worked with the people I have in my career. It is my faith and patience that keeps me grounded," Vice said.

Vice chose to attend NCCU after looking through yearbooks at his family's home and discovering that two of his cousins were alumni, graduating in 1972 and 1974. "I fell in love with the nostalgia and wanted to go to an HBCU."

Wouri Vice, a native of Harlem, New York, is one of the most sought-after wardrobe stylists in the entertainment business. While his client list reads like a who's who of hitmakers in music, movies and television, and his credits



◀ Wouri Vice on the set of BET's 106 & Park with Teyana Taylor, Claire Sulmers and Bow Wow.

Vice came to NCCU in 1996 as an English major.

"I wanted to be a writer and study journalism, but decided that I did not want to read a Norton Anthology," he said. He also knew he had a knack for style early on. "I liked looking different and would wear my jeans rolled up with different color socks." He switched his major and found that the textile and design program was hands-on, and he loved it.

While studying at NCCU, Vice accepted a summer internship opportunity at Giorgio Armani in New York City, where he made several connections. He wound up staying in NYC, where he studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and worked part-time at a movie theater. "A friend from high school was prepar-

ing to go on tour, and I went on tour with her," said Vice. He spent the next nine years styling "his friend," GRAMMY Award-winning singer, producer and songwriter Alicia Keys, and the rest, as they say, is history. Vice gives credit to NCCU for providing him with connections and friendships that have helped him through his career. "At NCCU, I made a lot of friends who have become fam-

ily. I became a member of the Gamma Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma in the Spring of 1999 and stay in touch with many of my fraternity brothers."

Vice has learned quickly what it takes to be successful in the fashion industry. "Take advantage of opportunities, and study and do your research. Know the market you want to go into, whether its celebrity, commercial or personal shopping, etc. Find someone that you want to mirror, look at the footsteps they've taken in their career and walk in their footsteps without fear." Vice also said that it's vital to know the trends and understand technical terms. "It's a language of experience that I learned to speak in my textile class at NCCU."

While Vice's accomplishments are impressive, he says he has more to do in his career. "I hope to grow and evolve and apply what I've done thus far toward art direction and image consulting," he said.



YOLANDA BROADIE

FASHION COMMENTOR
& STYLE CONSULTANT

When Yolanda Broadie arrived at NCCU, she dreamed of graduating with a degree in public administration and moving to Washington, D.C., to pursue communications and public affairs. However, there was one drawback. "I realized that there would only be black and gray suits," she said.

In 2000, Broadie earned a bachelor's in public administration but answered another professional calling when she was completing her Master of Business Administration degree. "I did my thesis on the negative impact of counterfeit fashion. I had an opportunity to go to New York City and sit down with New York City Police Department Commissioner Raymond Kelly, as well as representatives from fashion houses including Tiffany Inc., Chanel and Louis Vuitton. I examined child-labor laws and the detrimental impact of abandoning them from a business and socio-economic standpoint."

While she was interested in pursuing public relations and concentrating on fashion, she did not want to live in Los Angeles or New York City. She loved North Carolina but knew there were no jobs available for this specialty niche. Broadie's ah-ha moment came when she met Preston Bailey, an event planner and wedding designer whose client roster is filled with celebrities and athletes from across the world. "Mr. Bailey told me, 'It is your job to make them get it and get you.'" Broadie told herself that if there was no fashion PR firm in North Carolina, then "they" could get those services from her. "I would be on my hustle and grind, in six-inch heels. I went to Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh to garner up clients and established the YCB Agency," she said.

Launched in 2007, The YCB Agency has represented Miss North Carolina USA in 2010 and 2013. Broadie expanded her business to become a contributor for Lucky Magazine, and she has a recurring segment on WGHP-FOX 8's Morning News Show in Greensboro. "My segment, 'Fashion Fix,' started in 2012. The segment started after FOX asked me to come in and talk

about the trends after red carpet events like the Grammy Awards and Oscars. Because the ratings were good and there was an increase in sales from the stores where I pulled garments, the segment gained popularity."

Broadie also launched a blog, www.bougiegirlsworld.com, in which she described various looks and styles. "The blog started as a journey to find a purposeful place in life and make an impact on people's lives," she said. "Now it includes several stories about me, my upbringing and various fashion stories I've experienced throughout my life."

Broadie admits that her journey has not been a traditional one. "Don't have the notion that if you did not major in fashion, then you cannot make it in the industry. If you have the passion, you can do it. Find that passion and study it like it is your life. If you are serious about getting into the fashion game, there is a certain amount of studying you need to do so people will take you seriously."

One of her keys to success she learned as a student at NCCU. "Always sit at the front of any room. My professors shared this analogy with me: If they give out gifts and they run out [and you are in the back], you may not get one."

"Don't have the notion that if you did not major in fashion, then you cannot make it in the industry. If you have the passion, you can do it. Find that passion and study it like it is your life."

— YOLANDA BROADIE



SIMONNE DONALDSON

FASHION COLORIST

IN Macy's merchandising group—in midtown Manhattan—sits Simonne Donaldson, an NCCU alumna who serves as an associate colorist for the multibillion dollar clothing, apparel and home furnishing retailer. "At Macy's, we have a color library of almost 10,000 colors. Design would choose their colors for the season, and my job is to compare small lab dip swatches that the dye house tested to match back to the color standard that was chosen from our library. Once the small swatch is approved, then a larger swatch called bulk needs to be approved before the dye house proceeds to the garment production stage."

A 2005 NCCU graduate, Donaldson earned her degree in textile and apparel design in the Family and Consumer Science Department within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Having attended private schools all her life and never having had an African-American teacher, NCCU provided Donaldson with a great educational foundation but also a deep sense of self awareness. "My instructors pushed me and, I believe, made me a better person. It made me want to work harder. If it wasn't for NCCU, where would I be!" she says.

While at NCCU, she worked in Durham at Hancock Fabrics on Hillsborough Road and interned with an alterations shop 10 minutes from campus. "This is where I developed an appreciation and love for fabrics and learned the technical aspects of tailoring."

Her work experience coupled with her time in Sew Unique alterations shop, which is operated under the Textile and Design Department, led her back to her home state of New Jersey after graduation. "I was helping out at a design competition fashion show and ran into a gentleman that worked at a fashion retailer. I gave him my resume after learning that Macy's was starting a color department. He simply said, 'Promise you will make me proud,'" she recalled. "I interviewed two weeks later and I've been at Macy's for eight years."



"I learned about color and how everyone looks at color. I had to become educated on the color caste and the different technologies and fabrications."

SIMONNE DONALDSON

Donaldson started out in a role known as a color clerical. "I learned about color and how everyone looks at color. I had to become educated on the color caste and the different technologies and fabrications." After two years, she was promoted to assistant colorist. "I was taught how to approve or reject colors used for garments. It was exciting to see the finished product hanging in the store," she said. "After another two years in this role, I handled an entire mens brand that included knits, wovens, outerwear, dress shirts, undergarments, and, beginning in the summer of 2013, I am now in the Technology/Color Trends area. I handle any color technology issues, assist in reading colors, train new employees, analyze reports, and also create color trend boards. This current role makes me even more

aware of how important colorists are to the retail business."

To establish color trends, Donaldson partners with Macy's fashion office and the ready-to-wear team that analyzes the latest fibers that manufacturers are producing. "After we do our research, we regroup and find a way to present it to the private labels. Essentially, we want to translate it to Macy's average customer," she said.

Donaldson has learned a few lessons while in the industry: "Keep your eyes open. Even though you go into one aspect of the business, you never know where you will end up." She also advises, "Be a hard worker because you never know who is watching you. Lastly, Donaldson says, "The industry is all about who you know. Be nice to everyone."

Amanda Williamson was touched by the fashion bug early. "When I was 7 years-old, my mom signed me up for a summer sewing class to get me out of her hair. From then on, I always had good designs in my head." But it wasn't until 2006 that she started working on them in her spare time.

Williamson is an NCCU legacy. Her mother, uncle and several of her cousins all attended NCCU. "I started out in theater but switched my major to biology because I wanted to be an anesthesiologist," she said. She chose not to study design because, she said, she didn't "have the passion to major in it." If she was going to pay to earn a degree, she wanted it to be in something "extremely tangible." While at NCCU, she was active in seven campus organizations. "I enjoyed playing trumpet in the Marching Sound Machine band, performing in the theater department and being involved in the Student Government Association."

After graduating in 2011, Williamson took a leap of faith and went in a direction different from the one minted on her degree, launching her line, Ennylaup. Most of what Williamson learned about design was self-taught. She describes the concept of her line as classic, ready-to-wear apparel. "It's like what you think of when you go to the store and pick up something classic by Michael Kors or Karen Kane. Contemporary fashion for the modern woman." Accolades have followed Williamson as she partnered with Preciosa® Genuine Czech Crystal™. "The company sponsored me for New York Fashion Week 2013 and has stayed on as a corporate partner. I am designing jewelry and clothing for the Ennyluap and Preciosa® collection, that will display their beautiful crystals in a causal way not normally seen."

In addition, Williamson shot a segment for the former STYLE Network and was featured in British Vogue in 2013, two aspirational highlights for most up-and-coming designers. Williamson's future in fashion is extremely bright. Asked which of the world's fashion capitals she's rather live in, Williamson answered: "I would fly back and forth between New York and Milan. It seems like a perfect mix for me, since New York is known for ready-to-wear and Milan in couture. The expose to couture might open me up to some new things."



AMANDA WILLIAMSON

FASHION DESIGNER





TAYLOR FREEMAN

UP-AND-COMING FASHIONISTA
AND BLOGGER

NCCU junior Taylor Freeman, a family and consumer sciences major with a concentration in apparel design, is in love with fashion. "Growing up, I watched my mom get ready for work," she said. "I clearly remember that it was in the eighth grade when I developed my own style."

Tapping into social media and the internet, Freeman started thrift shopping. "I could be really creative on a shoe-string budget," she said.

Freeman's style was challenged in the ninth grade when she was forced to wear uniforms. "I started incorporating bow ties and different color shoes." A turning moment came when she was bullied. "I had a hard time fitting in."

When it came time for the Greenville, N.C., native to begin applying to schools, North Carolina Central University was not on her radar. "When I decided to apply here, my dad revealed that he went to NCCU for a semester. I had no idea! I ultimately selected NCCU because there were so many people designing and doing great things at the university," she said.

Freeman's goal is to become the jack of all trades in the fashion industry — from buying and merchandising to writing for major fashion publications. She has her aspirations set high.

"I really love writing and have started a fashion blog, skinnyfashionista.blogspot.com.

"I've gained the attention of several retailers and am now a brand model for several companies—the companies give me clothes in exchange for promotion or a write-up on my blog."

TAYLOR FREEMAN

I use it to keep my readers updated on my style. I've gained the attention of several retailers and am now a brand model for several companies — the companies give me clothes in exchange for promotion or a write-up on my blog." Prominent online retailers including GoJane, ASOS and NastyGal in California, as well as a few Asian retailers, send their clothes to Freeman. She has also been featured on several fashion blogs for her unique style taste.

Freeman says that NCCU has helped build her personal and professional portfolio. "The constructive criticism we are given is preparing me for the real world. I hope to eventually open up a fashion school for young people who are unable to afford it on their own," she said. "She credits model, singer and actress Grace Jones for being her fashion inspiration. "She was fearless and could pull off any style." Freeman is fashioning her steps in Jones,' as she wants to "be different" in the industry. □



JOB PROSPECTS WIDE OPEN FOR NCCU MATH MAJORS

Their Skills are in Strong Demand

BY RENEE ELDER

Middle-school vice principal Charles Feamster took his first job, as a teacher in Charlotte, shortly after graduating with a math degree from NCCU.

And though he has since moved from the classroom to school administration, he continues to put his math education to work daily on the job – whether fine-tuning a lesson in calculus, selecting curriculum for a class, or analyzing data to improve mathematics-learning for an entire student body.

“The preparation I got at NCCU was amazing,” said Feamster, now in his 11th year as a middle and high school administrator in the Montgomery County, Md., Public School District.

“The content I learned was excellent, and I graduated well prepared for all the courses I would go on to teach.”

Math major James Carr said he found his occupational calling as a computer analyst, going to work for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina even before he had his NCCU degree in hand.

“Computer science is where my passion lies, and I knew that with a math degree, I could get a job in the computer field,” said Carr, who graduated in 2001.

“Plus I love the fact that society assumes if you can do math, you can do anything. Eyebrows are raised almost anytime I say I majored in math, even among engineers. But it’s really not as intimidating as it sometimes seems.”

From his first job in the insurance company’s claims department to his current position as its business solutions developer,



CHENA FLOOD



JAMES CARR



CHARLES FEAMSTER

Carr has relied heavily on the skills he acquired at NCCU.

"Once I was facing a problem at work where I needed to develop a program to scroll through claims with varied numbers of lines," he said. "I had a math lesson at NCCU where my teacher explained how to translate that scenario using an algebraic equation. A light went off! I finished the program and took home a bonus check that week."

For 1991 graduate Chena Flood, majoring in math was her path to a career in higher education. Today, she is director of the Office of Field Experience in the College of Education at Western Carolina University.

"I feel that I was well prepared," said Flood, who attended NCCU on a N.C. Teaching Fellows Scholarship. "I had good professors as an undergraduate and knew my content very well."

After five years in the classroom, Flood went back to school to earn master's and doctoral degrees in higher ed administration at East Carolina University.

Yet she still relies often on the math skills she gained at NCCU.

"It's something I use every day," she said. "I've had to produce budgets for my departments, serve on dissertation committees, and now I'm working toward an MBA in statistics. My goal is to become a financial officer in the field of higher education."

These three NCCU math majors took different paths, but they all agreed that studying mathematics at NCCU is a solid career investment. "Math teaches you how to think things through logically," said Flood, who also spent several years as an instructor in the NCCU School of Education.

"If you are good in math, you look at problems differently. You see cause and effect and are able to determine why something happened. That's useful in a lot of fields, including law, business or teaching."



Computer science is where my passion lies, and I knew that with a math degree, I could get a job in the computer field."

JAMES CARR

Carr said all the students he knew from Math Department Chairman Alade Tokuta's senior seminar have found job success and satisfaction using their degrees.

"Every last one I know who went through Dr. Tokuta's class is doing something significant with their life and has remained in the field," Carr said. "Either they are working at a well-known company or have their own business and are doing well."

Feamster, too, believes that NCCU's mathematics department provides solid skills to last a lifetime.

"The educators I had at NCCU were the kind of educators I have always hoped to model for my own students," he added. □

NOV.
1-9

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

HOMECOMING 2014

the **ULTIMATE HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE**

Get ready for the experience of a lifetime. Mark your calendar for a fun-filled week of activities and events, capping it all off with the football game against Hampton University. For the latest details, visit www.nccu.edu/homecoming

SAT.
NOV.
1



HOMECOMING KICK-OFF

10 P.M. – 12 A.M.

O'KELLY-RIDDICK STADIUM

ADMISSION: Free

CLICK TO SEE
VIDEO

MISS & MR. NCCU CORONATION

DOORS OPEN AT 5 P.M. / CORONATION BEGINS AT 6 P.M.

McDOUGALD-McLENDON GYMNASIUM



The crowning of the 2014-2015 Miss NCCU and royal walk of organization Kings and Queens. The royal evening will be followed by a reception.

MISS & MR. NCCU CORONATION BALL

8 P.M. / McDOUGALD-McLENDON
GYMNASIUM

SUN.
NOV.
2

CLICK TO SEE
VIDEO

MON.
NOV.
3

CLICK TO SEE
PHOTOS

DAY WITH THE EAGLES

9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

McDOUGALD-McLENDON
GYMNASIUM

The Student Government Association proudly presents a Day with the Eagles, where we build relationships with Durham-area public elementary and middle schools to convey NCCU's enduring mission of "Truth and Service." Lunch will be provided for participants.

CHOIR BALL

6 AND 7 P.M. / B.N. DUKE AUDITORIUM

ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.

Be moved with R&B, gospel and contemporary music as members of the University Choir and student community showcase their awesome talent and abilities.

CLICK TO SEE
PHOTOS



10:40 BREAK

GEORGE STREET

The Homecoming edition of the 10:40 break is not to be missed.



TUE.
NOV.
4

RIP THE RUNWAY FASHION SHOW

7 P.M. / McDOUGALD-McLENDON GYMNASIUM

ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.

A combination of the finest modeling troupes with special guests musical artists from NCCU and other regional universities.

MOTIVATIONAL TASK FORCE ORIENTATION

7 P.M. / A.E. STUDENT UNION, LOBBY

Join us for an overview, orientation session, and reception for consultants and faculty participating in classroom visits.

LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST

10 A.M. / W.G. PEARSON DINING HALL

ADMISSION: Free for students, faculty, and staff with a meal plan; cash accepted for all without a meal plan.

Enjoy late night breakfast with the Eagles, a homecoming tradition for students, faculty and staff.

CLICK TO SEE
VIDEO



**WED.
NOV.
5**

MOTIVATIONAL TASK FORCE CLASSROOM VISITATION

8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

VARIOUS CLASSROOMS

Alumni consultants from a variety of disciplines will visit various classrooms to share career tips. Visit the MTF volunteer page to register. Email jmorrison@nccu.edu for more information.



MOTIVATIONAL TASK FORCE STUDENT NETWORKING RECEPTION

3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

A.E. STUDENT UNION / ADMISSION: Free

Students are invited to join the Motivational Task Force and the Faculty/Staff Alumni Council to network, mix and mingle and begin to make lifelong connections with alumni and friends on and off campus. Don't miss your opportunity to tap into the Eagle Network.

MOTIVATIONAL TASK FORCE CLASSROOM VISITATION

8 A.M. – 5 P.M. / VARIOUS CLASSROOMS

Alumni consultants from a variety of disciplines will visit various classrooms to share career tips. Visit MTF volunteer page to register. Email jmorrison@nccu.edu for more information.

**THUR.
NOV.
6**

10:40 BREAK OUR TIME TO SHINE EAGLE FEST

10:40 A.M. – 1 P.M. / LIBRARY BOWL

Talent showcase for students and university employee performers in a positive non-competitive atmosphere.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS RECEPTION

6 – 8 P.M. / SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL

ADMISSION: Invitation Only

NCCU invites corporate and community supporters to an appreciation reception.

LYCEUM GOSPEL CONCERT

featuring

**TYE TIBBETT
AND
KIERRA SHEARD**

7 P.M. / McDOUGALD-

McLENDON GYMNASIUM

ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.



Tye Tibbett



Kierra Sheard

the ULTIMATE HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

FRI.
NOV.
7

CLICK TO SEE
CLASS OF
1964 PHOTO

FOUNDER'S DAY / CONVOCATION

SOCIETY OF GOLDEN EAGLES INDUCTION

9 A.M. / McDOUGALD-McLENDON GYMNASIUM

The university will honor founder Dr. James E. Shepard and induct members of the Class of 1964, who will celebrate their 50th anniversary reunion. Chancellor Debra Saunders-White will address alumni and the university community.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

NOON / HOEY CIRCLE / ADMISSION: Free

The celebration continues as we lay a memorial wreath at the statue of founder Dr. James E. Shepard.

SOCIETY OF GOLDEN EAGLES LUNCHEON

NOON / SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL

ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.

Luncheon in honor of the newly inducted class of Golden Eagles (Class of 1964).

MOCK FUNERAL

2 – 4 P.M. / B.N. DUKE AUDITORIUM / ADMISSION: Free



CLASS REUNION REGISTRATION

TIME: CONTACT YOUR CLASS COORDINATOR

Registration for classes ending in 4 and 9.

EAGLE HOMECOMING CAMP

6 P.M. – 2 A.M. / FRI., NOV. 7 / SAT., NOV. 8

EAGLE LANDING RESIDENCE HALL

ADMISSION: Visit www.nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.

Parents of future Eagles ages 5 to 13 can register their children for one or two nights of fun activities at the 2014 Eagle Homecoming Camp. Participants receive an Eagle Homecoming Camp T-shirt.

Email alumni@nccu.edu for more information.



CLICK TO SEE
STEP SHOW
VIDEO

NPHC STEP SHOW

7 P.M.

McDOUGALD-McLENDON
GYMNASIUM

ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for ticket info.

CLICK TO SEE
MORE
PHOTOS

ALL REUNION CELEBRATION *featuring* ANGELA WINBUSH — AND THE — TRADEMARK BAND

6 P.M. RECEPTION / 7 P.M. DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT / SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL

ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets. *It's time to celebrate North Carolina College/NCCU classes as they return to present their class gifts to Chancellor Debra Saunders-White and their alma mater. All alumni are invited.*



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

the ULTIMATE HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE

SAT.
NOV.
8

HOMECOMING PARADE

9 A.M. / FAYETTEVILLE STREET

The parade will begin at W.G. Pearson Elementary School on Fayetteville Street and travel to Lawson Street, ending at the corner of Lawson and Fayetteville Streets.

HOMECOMING PARADE WATCHING

9 A.M. / CORNER OF FAYETTEVILLE AND CECIL STREETS, ALUMNI HOUSE LAWN

Join the NCCU Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations and enjoy watching the parade.

HOMECOMING BLOCK PARTY 11 A.M. – 1 P.M. & 4 P.M. – 8 P.M. / LINCOLN STREET

TAILGATING EVENTS

DONOR TAILGATE WITH THE CHANCELLOR

11 A.M. – 1 P.M. / PRACTICE FIELD

ADMISSION: Invitation Only

Get in the pregame spirit with a traditional tailgate-style buffet, giveaways, DJ and more.



STUDENT TAILGATE

11 A.M. / PRACTICE FIELD / ADMISSION: Free

TAILGATING COMPETITION

1 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. / VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON CAMPUS

Celebrate NCCU Athletics and support the Football Team by being a part of the "Best-Ever Tailgate" contest! Visit www.nccu.edu/homecoming for details.



CLICK TO SEE
HOMECOMING
VIDEO RECAP

HOMECOMING EXTRAVAGANZA

8:30 P.M. / SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL / ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.

The NCCU Alumni Association hosts the 2014 Homecoming Extravaganza Dance with a live band and dynamic DJ. Visit www.HCX2014.nccualumni.org for more information.

"THE AFTERMATH" HOMECOMING PARTY

11 P.M. – 5 A.M. / LEROY T. WALKER COMPLEX

ADMISSION: Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.

This is the official homecoming party for NCCU students.

HOMECOMING GAME EAGLES — VS — PIRATES

2 P.M. / O'KELLY-RIDDICK STADIUM

ADMISSION:

Visit nccu.edu/homecoming for tickets.

Our NCCU Eagles will take on the Hampton University Pirates. Halftime show includes a performance by the Marching Sound Machine and the crowning of Mr. and Miss Alumni 2014-2015.

SUN.
NOV.
9

5TH ANNUAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP CELEBRATION

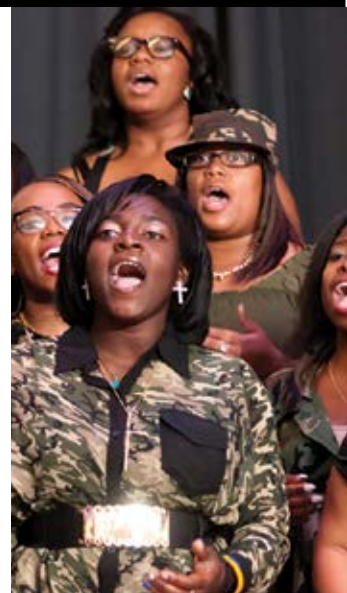
11 A.M. / B.N. DUKE AUDITORIUM / ADMISSION: Free

Alumni and friends are invited to celebrate the weekend with guest speaker Pastor Ervin Best.

WORSHIP AND PRAISE CHOIR GOSPEL CONCERT

4 P.M. / B.N. DUKE AUDITORIUM / ADMISSION: Free

Join the NCCU Worship and Praise Choir for its annual concert.





Dear Alumni and Friends:

I am ecstatic to be back “home” at North Carolina Central University, particularly in the role of interim director of Alumni Relations. As a 1994 alumna, I look forward to speaking to my fellow graduates and letting each one know what a difference they can make here on campus in the lives of our students. I graduated from this institution with my B.S. degree in recreation administration, and the love affair with NCCU has continued ever since. I may have earned an MBA elsewhere, but I know where my loyalty lies: I’m an Eagle!

It is my desire to engage all alumni of North Central Carolina University. I welcome open dialogue about how we can encourage you to get and stay involved through philanthropic as well as volunteer activities. I need your ideas on how we can help move our institution closer to Chancellor Debra Saunders-White’s vision of Eagle Excellence. I am looking for partners in this new adventure to take NCCU to higher heights.

I look forward to meeting many of you at Homecoming 2014, particularly those celebrating the anniversaries of graduation years ending in 4s and 9s! Welcome back! Next year, we’ll celebrate all those who graduated in years ending in 5s and 0s. I would love to meet with anyone who would be interested in volunteering to plan the reunions in 2015.

I am excited to be home, and I look forward to seeing you at the Ultimate Homecoming Experience 2014! Our cheer “Eagle Pride AMPLIFIED” will resonate across the nation!

Yours in Truth and Service,

Chatonda Best Covington, '94
Interim Director of Alumni Relations

CLICK
HERE TO SHARE
YOUR NEWS
WITH US

'58 HILDA HARRIS received the Presidential Medal for distinguished faculty service from Manhattan School of Music.

'63 JOEL SMITH was selected as Man of the Year at Saint Joseph AME Church, Durham.

'73, '76 DR. EDWARD MCLEAN was recognized as the recipient of the 2013-14 Jeanette E. Lee Award during the annual Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Spring Meeting. The honor is a special recognition of outstanding service within the CIAA.

'75 DR. MARILYN SUTTON-HAYWOOD is now the dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences at Pfeiffer University.

'95 BRIAN O. BEVERLY was elected to become the 39th Sixth District Representative of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

'97 MICHAEL BRYANT was promoted to the position of director of the Office of Management and Budget for Mecklenburg County.

'01 TIMOTHY PETERKIN opened The Peterkin Law Firm in Red Springs.

'07 KEILLA PATE MOLDEN was named as sales manager for Embassy Suites Golf Resort and Spa in Concord.

BY RENEE ELDER

Distinguished NCCU Alumni **LOU S. BARNES** is 'Everybody's Mom'

When world-famous South African anti-apartheid leader Desmond Tutu visited North Carolina Central University in 1986, the campus turned to its go-to staff person, Lou S. Barnes, to welcome him and his family.

Archbishop Tutu's three daughters, then in their 20s, also had a request: Could someone help them do a little shopping while they were in Durham?

"They wanted to dress like the American girls," recalls Barnes, who was director at Alfonso Elder Student Union at the time. "So I took them to the mall."

Cool and capable no matter the situation, Lou S. Barnes has been a valuable resource for NCCU since her arrival as a student in 1939 and throughout more than three decades as a dedicated staff member.

For her work, she was honored at the Mid-Eastern Athletic Championship tournament in March 2014, when she was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award from NCCU.

Though Barnes retired in 1996, her university service continues, as when she recently accompanied Chancellor Debra Saunders-White to a service at White Rock Memorial Church, where Barnes has been a member since she was 10.

"The chancellor called and asked me to go with her," Barnes said. "She said she'd heard I'd do anything for the University."

This aptitude for service was demonstrated almost from the moment Barnes

arrived as a freshman and was assigned a work/study job assisting President James E. Shepard's wife, who was then in poor health but still working from the Shepard House on Fayetteville Street. In addition to famously composing the alma mater, "Dear Old N.C.C.," Annie Day Shepard assisted her husband with university business, served on the executive board of the N.C. Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, and wrote a regular column for the Federation Journal.

"I worked in the house, making sure she had everything she needed, because she couldn't climb the steps," Barnes says.

As Annie Day Shepard's assistant, Barnes learned a lot about the university and gained the confidence of administrators, staff and faculty members, who would come to rely on her skills and enthusiasm for many decades.

Barnes was born in Durham in 1922 to Rose and Isham Suitt. She and her younger sister, Inez, who became an accomplished chemist, grew up on Umstead Street, just a few blocks from the university.

After graduation from Hillside High School, she entered what was then known

as N.C. College for Negroes, taking history from John Hope Franklin, the famed writer and educator who later became her neighbor.

Barnes said she switched her major from library science to physical education to avoid taking night classes, which required her to walk nearly a mile from home in the dark to and from classes.

Immediately after graduation in 1944, she accepted a job at a recreation center in the Bronx section of New York City, where she had previously found summer employment. But by January of 1945, she was back in Durham teaching at Hillside High, a job she retained for the next 10 years. During this time she married and had four children. For eight years, she was a stay-at-home mom. But then a call came from NCCU staff members, who again needed her help.

"There was a big surge of students in 1964 and not enough dorm space to house them, so they wanted me to find places for them to stay in the neighborhood," she remembers.

Working part time, she managed the needs of students housed off campus, which included the responsibility of



making sure they attended classes regularly and had access to the same activities and information as students living in residence halls.

After two years, Barnes went to work in the Student Union, although her focus remained much the same – providing positive guidance to students, engaging with families, and fostering communication between faculty, students and staff.

Students remember her fondly as their away-from-home mom, someone who would call their parents when they got sick or help them earn extra credit to overcome demerits.

“I did a lot of the things professors didn’t have time to do – sponsoring programs in the student center and making sure that students went to class.”

Soon, graduates were sending their own children to college at NCCU, instructing them to “go see Ms. Barnes” for advice and guidance as soon as they got checked in.

During her years on campus, she got to know dozens of dignitaries, scholars and public figures, including poets Nikki Giovanni and Gwendolyn Brooks, educator and civil rights leader Mary McCloud Bethune, voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, filmmaker Spike Lee and many others.



Students remember Ms. Barnes fondly as their away-from-home mom, someone who would call their parents when they got sick or help them earn extra credit to overcome demerits.



Barnes still lives in the house near campus that she and her husband built in 1947. And she keeps up with university activities as best she can between excursions abroad with her daughter, Beverly. Among the places they have traveled are France, Germany, Sweden and Italy, Thailand, Australia and Gibraltar.

But she says her fondest memories still are of the students she helped and got to know – many of whom call her “Mom” and remain in touch.

“Where ever I go, there are people coming up to me and saying ‘hi,’” said Barnes.

This is true even at the White House. “When we were up there, I saw a security officer waiving and saying ‘Ms. Barnes! Ms. Barnes!’” she recalled. “I thought: who could that be?”

It was a former student, of course, who embraced “Ms. Barnes,” then took her and her party behind the velvet ropes for a special White House tour. □



(Left) Barnes with a soldier stationed nearby at Camp Butner. Military men from Butner were frequent campus visitors during the World War II era. **(Center)** Convocations and other special events gave co-eds in the 1940s a chance to flaunt their finery. **(Right)** Barnes, second from right, poses with fellow graduates from the Class of 1944.



1972

Alumni Rises in Ranks of Hospitality Industry

RONALD J. HUNTER, has been named general manager of Embassy Suites, Raleigh-Crabtree, a premier hotel property in the Triangle area.

Hunter was formerly a consultant for Research Triangle Park Foundation in Durham and held positions at the Governors Inn and the Radisson Hotel RTP.

Hunter, who earned a B.A. in sociology from NCCU, credits his liberal arts education for helping advance his career in the fields of business and hospitality.

"I got a well-rounded education that exposed me to a lot of things," Hunter said. "That experience has benefited me as I have migrated through the business world. A strong curriculum that touches a number of areas provides a well-rounded base of knowledge as you interact with people in all areas of life."

Hunter has served the local community in various capacities, including as a member of NCCU's School of Business Board of Visitors, SKAL International, and the NCCU Hospitality & Tourism Advisory Board. He served on the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau board from 1995 to 2014.

1993

U.S. Health Official Visits Healing with CAARE

Acting Surgeon General Rear Admiral Boris D. Lushniak paid a visit in June to NCCU alumna **DR. SHARON ELLIOTT-BYNUM** and the agency she co-founded, Healing with CAARE Inc.

Lushniak came to Durham to highlight the partnership between the U.S. Public Health Service Officers corps, which he oversees, and CAARE, founded by Elliott-Bynum and the late Patricia Amaechi in 1995.

CAARE was created to address a lack of services to low-income residents of Durham and nearby communities. It offers education, case management and referrals for issues related to healthcare, social services and housing to some 1,000 residents each month.

CAARE receives funding from private and government sources and has collaborations with a number of local and national agencies, including USPHS, which allows CAARE to reach more individuals in need, said Elliott-Bynum, who holds a nursing degree from NCCU as well as Ph.D in Theology from Victory International College.



'42 ARTELIA TENNESSEE BRYANT (B.S.), of Durham, Aug. 4, 2014.

'42 CORA MAYES PEEPLES, of Washington, D.C., Aug. 8, 2014.

'42 ROBERT PAGE DUKE JR. (B.A.), of Lynchburg, Va., March 17, 2014.

'46 ETHEL RICHARD MCLENDON (B.A.) of Wilmington, Aug. 1, 2014

'47 DR. ROY MOORE SR. of Greensboro, May 12, 2014.

'50 EDWARD F. HANES SR., (B.S., M.A.) of Winston-Salem, Aug. 27, 2014.

'55 HARVEY D. HEARTLEY SR. (B.S.) of Raleigh, June 23, 2014.

'60 ROSCOE M. FAISON SR. (B.S.) of Margarettsville, N.C., Jan. 31, 2014.

'62 HELEN GENEVA COOPER BLACKWELL of Edenton, April 29, 2014.

'62 S. DALLAS SIMMONS SR. (B.S., M.S.), of Richmond, July 5, 2014.

'64 DR. JAMES HERMAN WILLIAMS (B.S.) of Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

'86 SONDRA LEE (B.A.) of Raleigh, July 7, 2014.

DR. FELIX ARMFIELD of Buffalo, NY, April 30, 2014.

DR. OTIS B. MICHAEL of Baltimore, May 2, 2014.

NATHANIEL GLENN JR. of Charlotte, July 29, 2014.



ROBERT LAWSON

COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF LONGTIME CAMPUS PHOTOGRAPHER

The NCCU family lost a beloved icon with the passing on May 11, 2014, of campus photographer and Double Eagle Robert Lawson, '62, '74.

A native of Person County, Lawson entered undergraduate school at NCCU in 1958. He earned a bachelor's degree in science and commerce and later a master's degree in instructional media.

Lawson got his start in photography as a protégé of Alexander Rivera and went on to take photographs of people and events on campus and in the Triangle community for 50 years.

He succeeded Rivera as the official campus photographer in 1992 and retired in 2013. Before coming on board full time at NCCU, Lawson owned and operated Lawson Florist and Photographic Services and L&J Seafood.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Clara Lawson, and daughter Apryle Daye.



(Front) Robert Lawson and wife, Clara, with granddaughters August and Winter; (Back) daughter Apryl and son-in-law, Thomas Daye.



FORTY UNDER FORTY ALUMNI AWARDS

The North Carolina Central University Office of Alumni Relations has recognized a select group of young alumni for the Forty Under Forty Alumni Awards of 2014.

The **2014 Forty Under Forty Winners** were selected from among 150 candidates for their accomplishments by the age of 40 in fields ranging from arts and entertainment to healthcare, sciences and law. The award was initiated in 2012 as a way to recognizing NCCU's younger, outstanding alumni.

The 2014 Awards Gala took place Sept. 12 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham.





AWARDEES WERE:

Tomika Altman-Lewis '03
 Sharonda Arnold '05 '09
 Tomeika Bowden '00
 Michael Bryant '96 '99
 Teccara Carmack '09
 Sabrina Clark '01
 Phonte Coleman '01
 Jasmine Crowe '05
 Shelley Davis '98
 T. Greg Doucette '12
 Patrick Douthit AKA 9th Wonder
 Emily Dickens '95 '99 '02
 Lewis Ferebee '97
 Jamila Perry Foreman '08
 Jade Fuller '01
 Kessonga Giscombe '99
 Christopher Graves '97



Karon Moody Harden '01
 Patrice Hargrove Hopkins '01
 Patrice Howard '03
 Shameka Johnson '09
 Adrian Jones '02
 Derrick Jordan '99
 Cicero Leak III '01
 Wanida Lewis III '08
 Kenneth Love '03

Christopher DelaRosa Lopez '13
 Sherise Malachi-Wright '01
 Che'Landra Moore-Quarles '05
 Erika Murphy-Newkirk '99
 Shayla Nunnally '98
 Truitt O'Neal '01
 Terrance Reeves '01
 Terrence Scarborough '08
 Rashaun Rucker
 Deena Smith '01
 James Taylor '03
 Pauletta Thompson '04
 Wouri Vice
 Dominique Williams '09

◀ **First Row** (left to right) Sabrina Clark, Sherise Malachi-Wright, Jade Fuller, Pauletta Spence Thompson Shameka Johnson, Jamila Perry Foreman, Teccara Carmack, Sharonda Arnold, Che'Landra Moore-Quarles, Shayla Nunnally; **Second Row** (left to right) Tomika Altman-Lewis, Lewis Ferebee, Ericka Murphy-Newkirk, Terrence Scarborough, Emily Dickens, Wanida Lewis, Kessonga Giscombe, Dominique Williams, James Taylor, Rashaun Rucker, Terrance Reeves, Christopher Graves, Patrice Howard, Derrick Jordan, Michael Bryant; **Third Row** (left to right) Eric Jones (standing in for Patrick Douthit), T. Greg Doucette, Cicero Leak III, Tomeika Bowden, Wouri Vice, Karon Moody Harden, Truitt O'Neal, Shelley Davis, Deena Smith, Patrice Hargrove Hopkins; **Not pictured:** Christopher Lopez, Kenneth Love, Phonte Coleman, Jasmine Crowe, Patrick Douthit, Adrian Jones

For more information about the awardees, visit nccu.edu/publicrelations/40under40



Thank You!

Your generous gifts and support make Eagle Excellence possible for NCCU students. During the 2013-14 fiscal year, the combined gifts of more than 5,000 NCCU alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff, helped us to raise more than **\$5 million**. A few highlights include: Your contributions provide critical funds for scholarships and allow our students to continue or complete their education.

- ❑ **\$5,034,275** raised for 2013-14 fiscal year
- ❑ **\$254,239** donated by faculty and staff

- ❑ **\$1.6 million** in gifts from 2,742 alumni
- ❑ **10%** alumni participation rate
(as compared to 8.5% in 2012-13)

Thank you for your continued investment in Eagle Excellence!



NORTH
CAROLINA
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UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED 1910

The Dallas and Yvonne Simmons story

BY CYNTHIA FOBERT

IN THE HISTORY OF NCCU, eight alumni have risen to the very top of higher education administration to become president or chancellor of a university. Among this select group was Dr. S. Dallas Simmons '62.

Simmons served as president of two institutions, Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Va., and Virginia Union University in Richmond, Va. But it was North Carolina Central University that gave him his start – and he never forgot it.

When he passed away on July 5, 2014, Simmons bequeathed \$250,000 to NCCU from a life insurance trust funded by Dominion Resources Inc. for members of the company's board of directors. Simmons served on Dominion's board for 15 years. The bequest was used to establish The Simmons Endowed Scholarship.

Most life stories of great leaders in our community focus on their highest accomplishments, yet underlying those success stories are many details that never make it into their biographies. The Simmons story is one of a strong, married couple that embraced the challenges of leading two historically black colleges together, as a team.

Dallas met Yvonne Martin at NCCU in 1958. Both were enrolled as undergraduate business majors and earned bachelor's



degrees in 1962. The couple married in February 1963, and both found jobs on campus.

Dallas became manager of data processing, and Yvonne was a secretary to the dean of the undergraduate school. The couple relocated for a few years to take similar positions at Norfolk State University, before returning to NCCU in 1967 – this time, as a family of three. Son S. Dallas Jr. was born in 1964, and Yvonne became a working mother long before it was commonplace to do so.

At NCCU, Dallas taught and began studying for his master's degree in business. Meanwhile, Yvonne provided the primary financial support for the family, working as a secretary in the NCCU Business Department and, later, for the vice president for financial affairs. In 1968, Dallas graduated with his Master of Science degree. Daughter Kristie was born the following year.

In 1971, Dallas was offered a position as assistant to the chancellor, allowing Yvonne to leave her secretarial job for a more flexible teaching career at Durham Technical Institute. She earned her M.S. in business at NCCU in 1974.

On the strength of his work at NCCU, Dallas was awarded a Government Service Fellowship from the State of North Carolina to pursue graduate studies at Duke University, and he received his Ph.D. in education admin-

istration in 1977. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to vice chancellor for University Relations at NCCU. In 1981, Dallas was appointed president of Saint Paul's College.

According to Yvonne, Dallas had many NCCU mentors and often credited them with inspiring his success. He would mention Dr. Helen Edmonds, dean of the graduate school; Dr. Leonard Robinson, dean of the undergraduate school; William Jones, vice president for financial affairs; Dr. Alfonso Elder, president; Dr. Albert Whiting, president and chancellor; John Turner, professor in the School of Business; Alex Rivera, director of public relations; and Dr. Marion Thorpe, dean of students.

"He admired these people, and he knew early on that university administration was something that he wanted to do," said Yvonne.

At Saint Paul's and also VUU, Yvonne continued her teaching duties while serving in the unique role of First Lady at a historically black college.

"I was his event planner and constant companion at fundraising activities," Yvonne said. "We entertained the board, faculty, staff and students. It was really all about trying to make a difference in the lives of young people and the community."

According to Yvonne, Dallas brought financial stability to both institutions. At VUU, where Dallas served as president from 1985 to 1999, he delivered a litany of accomplishments, including overseeing the construction, purchase and restoration of several buildings. Skillful fiscal management and successful fundraising were pillars of a Simmons administration.

Dallas Jr. followed in his parents' footsteps by attending NCCU. He graduated from the School of Business in 1986 and is now a certified public accountant. Kristie graduated from Spelman College and received her law degree from the University of Virginia.

The Simmons Endowed Scholarship was established in the names of Yvonne Martin, S. Dallas and S. Dallas Simmons Jr. to support a student majoring in business who is in financial need, with the stipulation that the recipient "is willing to work hard, is involved in campus and community activities, and exhibits leadership qualities" — in other words, someone much like Dallas and Yvonne.

"We worked together to accomplish our goals," Yvonne said. "We shared a wonderful life together surrounded by a loving family and loyal cherished friends. We were blessed. That's how Dallas would describe himself: as being blessed."

NCCU will be forever grateful that the Simmons family elected to share their blessings with our deserving students. □



**WE ENTERTAINED THE BOARD,
FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS. IT WAS
REALLY ALL ABOUT TRYING TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG
PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY."**

YVONNE SIMMONS



The Simmons Family: (front row) grandson S. Dallas III, granddaughter Kameron, daughter-in-law Sandy; (back row) son S. Dallas Jr., grandson Aaron, daughter Kristie, parents Dallas Sr. and Yvonne.

PLANNED GIVING COMES INTO FOCUS ON NEW WEBSITE

BY CYNTHIA FOBERT

Learn how some of your classmates have elected to give back and forever change the lives of our students and their families by visiting NCCU's new planned giving website: www.ncculegacy.org.

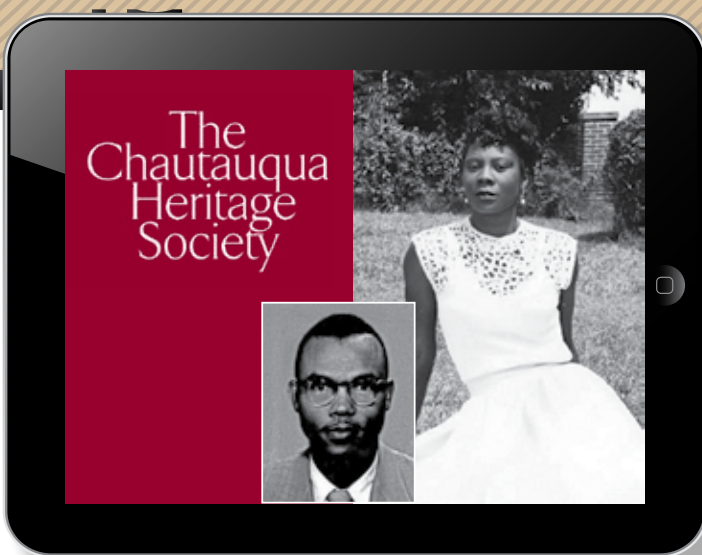
This informative site was created to help you take full advantage of your estate for the good of your family at home, and on campus.

On these pages, you will learn how to secure your future and NCCU's with your gift. For example, you can maintain a life interest in your property while ultimately bequeathing it to benefit the university that made it all possible for you – and that is striving to do the same for the next generation. Should you choose instead to make an outright gift of real estate, you can avoid capital gains tax and claim a charitable income-tax deduction, too.

Did you know that if you bequeath your retirement income to your heirs, as much as 65 percent of the value of these savings will be taxed away? Let us help you find another way to secure your family and your legacy by leaving your retirement account to NCCU. Bequests of retirement funds to a charity are not taxed at all.

Take out a life insurance policy naming the NCCU Foundation as the beneficiary and pay your premiums through the Foundation to make those the payments tax deductible too! How easy is that?

**ACCORDING TO RECENT
PUBLISHED STATISTICS,
LESS THAN ONE-THIRD
OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN
ADULTS HAVE
ESTABLISHED WILLS.**



There are additional details on the site, www.ncculegacy.org, about how to transfer business interests and stocks and bonds in ways that can offset income or capital gains taxes.

According to recent published statistics, less than one-third of African-American adults have established wills. Nothing adds stress and strain to a grieving family like conflict over an undesignated estate. Whether you leave a gift to NCCU or not, use the free information on this site to help you understand the language and the questions you need to ask and answer before you seek legal services for your estate. With this knowledge, you can decrease your lawyer's time on task and your bill.

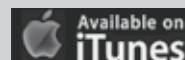
"With this new website, we wanted to provide information so that people could create the legacy they dreamed of leaving for their family and for their institution," said Randal Childs, assistant vice chancellor. "Most people don't realize what a powerful difference they can make if they take steps now to direct their estate." □



TEXT TO GIVE.

You can now text **'NCCU' to '501501'** to give a \$10 gift.

DOWNLOAD THE **NCCU MOBILE APP** TODAY!



Eagles Football Team Adds Youngest Member

When 10-year-old **HOWELL BROWN** left his home in Durham on a Sunday afternoon in August 2014, he thought his mom was taking him to play some games with student athletes at North Carolina Central University.

Instead, when he arrived at Alfonso Elder Student Union, Howell was greeted by reporters and TV cameras – and a roaring ovation from the Eagles football team. They were there for head coach Jerry Mack’s announcement that Howell, who is recovering from a rare brain tumor, would be joining the football team as an official, honorary member.

Howell quickly took center stage, saying he wants to play quarterback and is excited about having a bunch of new friends on the Eagles football team.



Howell, who doctors say is now tumor-free after surgery and multiple radiation and chemotherapy treatments, eventually wants to become a doctor so he can help other children who suffer as he has. His message to kids with serious health issues is: “Keep fighting!”

Following his remarks to the media and posing for a few photos, Howell did get the chance to play with his new teammates. He challenged his fellow Eagles to foosball, ping pong, bowling and video games.



► Howell's message to kids with serious health issues is:

“KEEP FIGHTING!”



“Howell means as much to us as we do to him,” Mack said. “He puts the game into perspective. When our guys are battling adversity, they just think about what he has been through and how he continues to fight and overcome obstacles in his life.”

In November 2012, Howell was diagnosed with Stage IV pineoblastoma, a rare type of brain tumor. In December 2012, he had surgery to remove the tumor and began radiation and chemotherapy. The doctors also infused Howell with stem cells that were harvested from his brain prior

to treatment to aid in his recovery. He finished treatment in September of 2013 and has since had two MRIs that both have shown no signs of a tumor.

“He has an electric energy,” Mack said about Howell. “You can be around him for a few minutes and you can tell he is special.”

Howell was introduced to Mack by Boston-based nonprofit organization Team IMPACT, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses through the power of belonging to a team.

NCCU fans can look for Howell on the sidelines during home football games this season, providing support and inspiration for the Eagles. □



NCCU Football Head Coach Jerry Mack, 10-year-old Howell Brown III and his mom, Sue Brown, gather for a group photograph after induction of the newest – and youngest – team member.

OUTSTANDING ATHLETES INDUCTED INTO THE
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

HALL of FAME

CLASS OF 2014



BRANDON GILBERT



KATERNINA GLOSOVA



RICCARDO T. JONES



AMBA KONGOLO

On Sept. 13, 2014, seven individual student-athletes and the entire 2006 NCCU football team were selected for induction into the **ALEX M. RIVERA ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME.**

THE INDIVIDUAL INDUCTEES ARE:

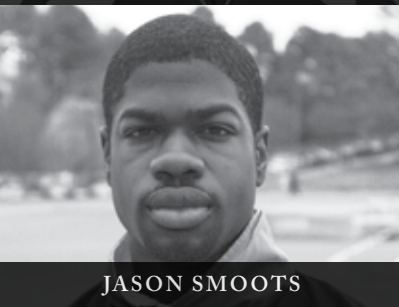
CLICK
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PAST
INDUCTEES

- ❑ **BRANDON GILBERT** (football, 2004-08) From Graham, N.C., Gilbert is the school's all-time leading scorer and was named MVP of the 2005 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Championship Game. He kicked the longest field goal in school history, 51 yards, to win the 2006 CIAA Championship during the last second.
- ❑ **GREG PRUITT JR.** (football, 2004-06) Pruitt, from Cleveland, Ohio, is the school's all-time leading rusher. He was named MVP of the 2006 CIAA Championship Game and Most Valuable Player in the 2006 CIAA Football Championship Game, where he rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries.
- ❑ **KATERINA GLOSOVA** (cross country/track, 1999-2002) A native of the Czech Republic, Glosova won 15 individual conference championships and was an NCAA Division II national champion. She was named 2002 CIAA Female Scholar Athlete of the Year and 2002 Verizon Academic All-American.
- ❑ **JASON SMOOTS** (track, 1999-2003) A champion sprinter from Gadsden, Ala., Smoots was a six-time NCAA Division II national champion and the 2003 NCAA Division II Male Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year. He was selected as the 2003 NCAA Division II Male Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year.
- ❑ **RICCARDO T. JONES** (tennis, 1972-75) Jones, from Greenbelt, Md., played the No. 1 singles position from 1972-75, winning three consecutive Mid Eastern Athletics Conference championships and leading the Eagles to four straight MEAC team championships.
- ❑ Also inducted was the university's **2006 FOOTBALL TEAM**, which was named as Sheridan Broadcasting Network's Black College National Champions under the direction of head coach Rod Broadway. The team earned the CIAA championship and the school's highest national ranking at No. 4 in NCAA Division II, as well as posted the most wins in school history with an 11-0 regular-season record. In addition, the 2006 Eagles broke the NCCU single-season record by scoring 371 points. ❑
- ❑ **AMBA KONGOLO** (basketball, 1999-2002) Originally from Kinshasa, Congo, Kongolo was a two-time CIAA Player of the Year and the CIAA's first WNBA draft pick. She was named three times to the CIAA All-Tournament Team and was a 2002 NCAA Division II First-Team All-American.
- ❑ **SHARI MATTHEWS** (volleyball, 2006-07) From Bridgetown, Barbados, Matthews was 2006 NCAA Division II National Player of the Year after leading the nation with average of 6.37 kills and 0.92 service aces per game. She also set school records for career kills, with 1,447, and career service aces, with 229.

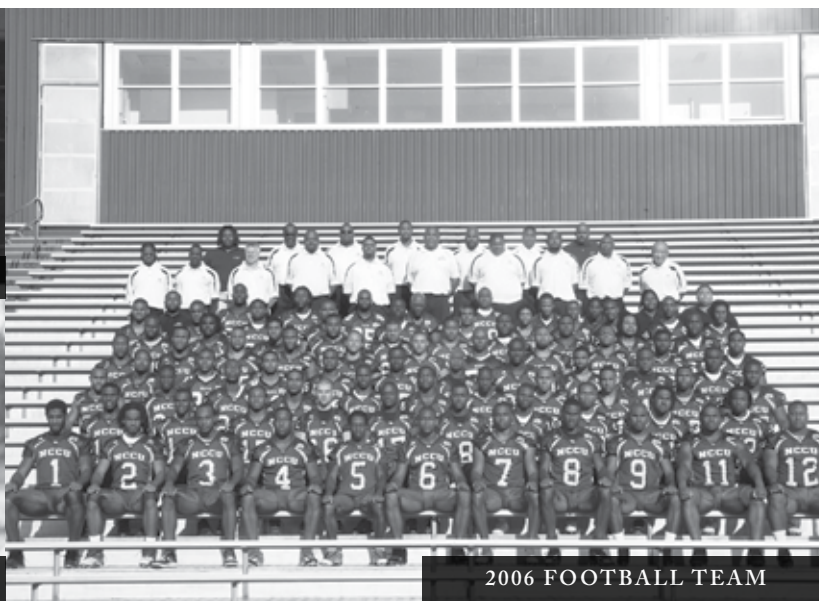
For more information about the Alex M. Rivera Athletics Hall of Fame, visit www.NCCUEaglePride.com.



SHARI MATTHEWS



JASON SMOOTS



2006 FOOTBALL TEAM



GREG PRUITT JR.

A portrait of the hip-hop producer 9th Wonder. He is a Black man with a short beard and mustache, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a black coat over a white shirt and a green and blue striped tie. The background is a dark, solid color.

Legendary hip-hop producer **9th Wonder** is back on the yard...

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INTERVIEW

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BY MYRA WOOTEN

Before he was a Harvard Fellow, before the GRAMMY win, before producing megahits for hip-hop and R&B greats, Patrick "9th Wonder" Douthit walked the sloping hills and verdant green as a North Carolina Central University student.

While a student at NCCU, 9th Wonder formed the group Little Brother after a chance meeting with Phonte Coleman on the yard and took history lessons from the music of Public Enemy.

He returned this fall to NCCU as an artist-in-residence in the history department, teaching the History of Hip-Hop. He will also head the newly created Hip-Hop Academy. In September 2014, 9th Wonder was recognized as among young NCCU alumni who have made significant contributions in the arts and other fields during the Forty Under Forty Awards Gala.

With so much expertise on the campus, we sat down with 9th Wonder to dig through the crates of hip-hop.

WHAT ARE FIVE CLASSIC HIP-HOP ALBUMS AND WHY?

Just five? Okay, these are not the top five, but five albums that should be part of your collection.

Nas "Illmatic" (April 19, 1994)

It is the purest form of hip-hop. This album is the hip-hop equivalent to John Coltrane's "Kind of Blue" for jazz heads.

Public Enemy "It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back" (June 28, 1988)

That album started the resurgence of black colleges. In 1988, after the release of this album, black college enrollment went up 45 percent. It was renaissance movement for black consciousness.

Dr. Dre "The Chronic" (Dec. 15, 1992)

I can't think of many hip-hop albums that were in such heavy rotation as "The Chronic." You couldn't turn on the radio without hearing the G-funk sound. It became an anthem. I can only think of a few albums that were played as much as this album.

Outkast "Southernplayalisticadillacmuzik" (April 26, 1994)

It gave a new sound and style to southern rap. Before this album, the South was known for Miami bass music, but Outkast brought an intelligence to the South and gave the world another side of southern hip-hop. Outkast changed the perception that black rappers from the South were dumb.

Wu-Tang "Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)" (Nov. 9, 1993)

Wu-Tang fused universal mathematics, science and kung fu. They were the first super heroes of hip-hop, creating another world, complete with characters. They took their collective sound and made successful, independent spin-off projects.

IS IT THE LYRICS OR THE BEATS THAT MAKE A SONG?

The beat... I'm a producer. As a people, we are entranced by the drum. Nobody rides around listening to a cappella lyrics; they'll listen to a beats tape first.

WHAT HIP-HOP ARTIST MIGHT WE NOT KNOW BUT WE SHOULD, AND WHY?

I'll just put it out there, **Rapsody**. She is one of the best MCs, not the best female MC, the best period. She is a great marriage between me, [MC] Lyte and Lauryn Hill. There is no such thing as rapping like a girl with her. She wants to bring something else to the forefront instead of just showing your body. There's nothing wrong with that, if you got it flaunt it. But she is so much more than that.

Vic Mensa and **Chance the Rapper** are two Chicago rappers with major influence. Vic Mensa staged a 72-hour, no-violence campaign among the youth of Chicago. They bring a lot of the Chicago house music sound to their music.

Problem from Compton, Calif. He brings hip-hop back the way Dr. Dre brought the G-funk era. He can sing, rhyme, and he is a producer.

Joey Bada\$\$ is the reincarnation of New York hip-hop. If Nas, Black Thought, Mos Def and Buckshot of Black Moon sat down and created a hip-hop child, it would be Joey. He is cut from the same cloth as rappers from 1992.

BIGGIE OR TUPAC?

Biggie; that is not to deny Tupac's legacy; he is probably the most polarizing hip-hop artist ever. But the Notorious B.I.G. is probably one of the best, if not the best, lyricist ever. But it is not just his lyrics. From a technical standpoint, the way he formulates his words makes him the best.

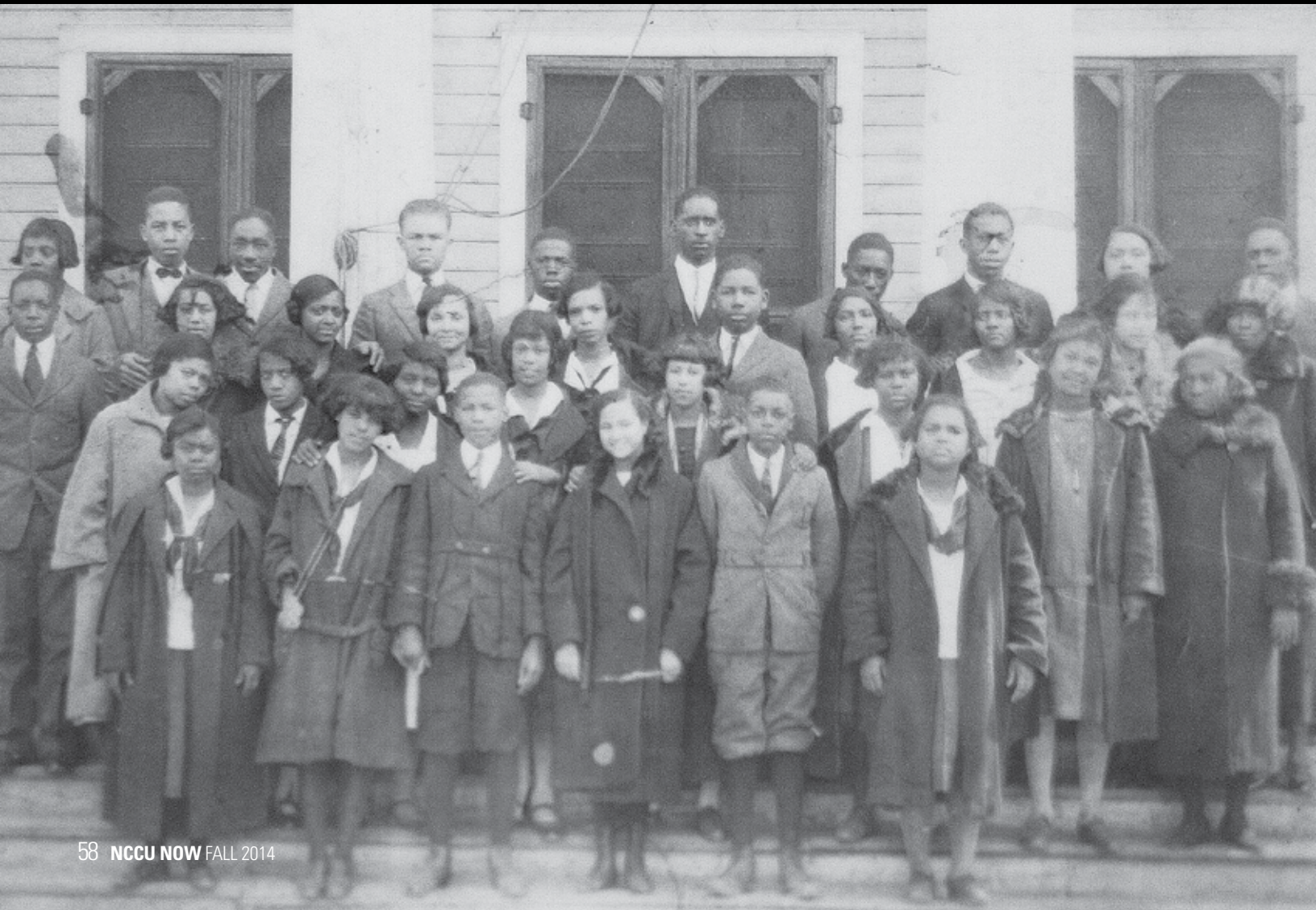
WHAT SONG SUMMARIZES COMING BACK TO NCCU?

Just one song? Okay, that's easy, **Pete Rock & C.L. Smooth's "They Reminisce Over You (T.R.O.Y.)"** because every time I come on campus that is exactly what I do. I reminisce about the 10:40 breaks, the cafeteria, and things that have changed. □

FROM THE NCCU *Archives* | CIRCA 1923 |

Durham State Normal School's
Graduating Class of 1923

Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Central University Digital Collection



A close-up portrait of a young Black woman with curly hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a black leather jacket over a dark scarf. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building with many windows is visible, slightly out of focus.

THE ROAD TO Eagle Excellence BEGINS WITH YOU

NCCU students are able to advance and complete their education at North Carolina Central University thanks to the generous gifts of our supporters. Join us as we visit cities across the U.S. and engage alumni, friends and university partners. Visit www.nccu.edu/eagleexcellence.

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