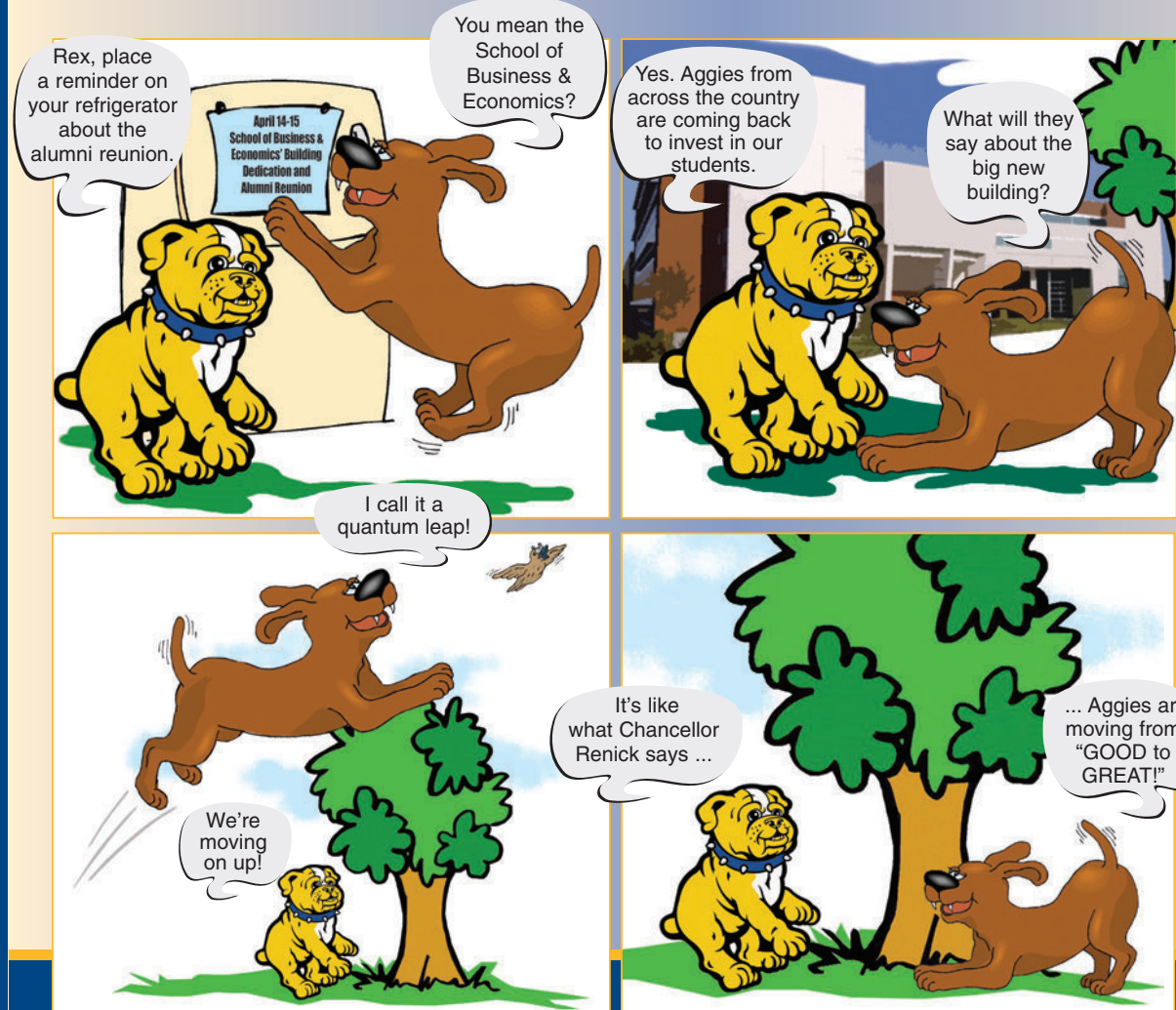


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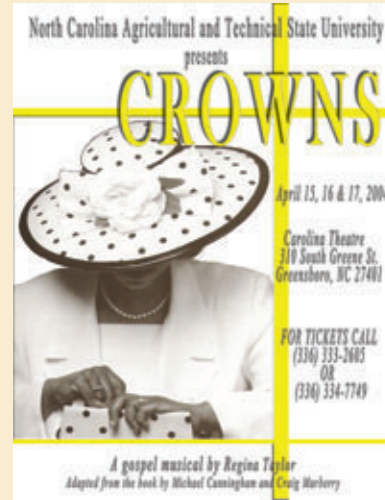
AGGIE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14-15
School of Business & Economics'
Building Dedication & Alumni Reunion

Day 1 - Wednesday, April 14
2:30 pm Building Dedication/Ribbon Cutting
3:30 pm Tour of New Building

Day 2 - Thursday, April 15
10 am Workshops/Seminars/Panel Discussion
1-3 pm Mentor/Mentee Sessions

Office of Alumni Affairs
Call Harriet Davis, BJ Parks or
Catherine Perry at 336-334-7583
www.ncat.edu ... Click on "Alumni"



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NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY'S

School of Business & Economics



Dean Craig

Cause for Celebration!



Willie Deese

Whether a little time or a lot has passed since graduating from N.C. A&T State University's School of Business and Economics, Dean Quiester Craig wants all alumni to come back April 14-15.

As the school dedicates its new classroom building and looks to a future of continued growth and development, it's also a time to celebrate the past and present.

"We want them to be proud of what their alma mater continues to do," Craig says. "We miss them and we want them to know that this is home. We want them to come network and interact with each other and revitalize themselves and revitalize us."

School administrators, along with the Office of Alumni Affairs, have planned two days of activities, including workshops, seminars, one-on-one interactions with students and networking sessions.

Craig, who over his 32 years as dean shepherded his school from meager beginnings to a position of national prominence, says the success of his graduates is as much a cause for celebration as the new building.

At the start of his effort to win the school national accreditation, he had to operate largely on faith. "You couldn't point to too many graduates who had leader-

ship positions in business and industry," he recalls, now reveling in the ways graduates are rewarding the university's belief in them. "It creates a level of pride, excitement, believability and credibility in the program. ... It's a time to celebrate."

One among graduates creating that pride is Willie Deese of the class of 1977, who's now Merck & Co.'s senior vice president for global procurement. Deese, who also is co-chair of the Generation to Generation capital campaign, is chairing the dedication and reunion committee, too.

"The vision here was that we wanted to get as many alumni of the business school back to campus to see what's going on with the business school, including the new building, and to interact with the students, faculty and staff."

"When they understand what the school's trying to do, what the students are doing, then they are going to be motivated to support the endeavors of the business school to an even greater degree," he said. That means financial support, but also a lot more.

"It's our opportunity to give back and to share our knowledge and experience with the students in a way that we as a group have not had an opportunity to do," Deese says.

"It also will provide a tremendous networking opportunity for the alumni who may know people from their decade,

but may not know other alumni from the business school from other decades," he says. "These people are now working in multiple industries and multiple companies."

Director of Alumni Affairs Harriet Davis, whose office is co-sponsoring the event in part with funds received from Gillette Co. to help encourage alumni giving, says it's an exciting new event the University hopes to repeat and to replicate in other schools.

"The response has been great and because of the loyalty to Dean Craig by graduates of the School of Business and Economics, this can be nothing but a win-win situation," she says. "I'm excited to be a part of it."

For more information about the dedication, call (336) 256-2105.



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School of Business & Economics Factoids

- 1972 - Dr. Quiester Craig is named Dean of the School of Business and the name is changed to the School of Business and Economics. The School had 22 faculty members and six held the Ph.D. degree. Craig was the only CPA.
- 1973 - School establishes the vision and goal to pursue AACSB accreditation.
- 1973 - Dr. Danny Pogue accepts a faculty position in the School of Business and Economics. Several years later, he is named Assistant Dean in the School of Business and Economics. (The late Pogue served in this position for 25 years.)
- 1974 - The School of Business and Economics receives a substantial grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support program development.
- 1976 - Files a Notice of Intent to pursue accreditation for American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, the premier accrediting agency for academic programs in Management Education.
- 1977 - The Department of Mathematics moves from Merrick Hall to Marteena Hall. Merrick Hall is exclusively dedicated for programs in the School of Business and Economics.
- 1977 - The UPS Endowed Chair is established to provide faculty support for curriculum and student development, and to enhance research and other scholarly activities in transportation.
- 1979 - By unanimous vote, the School of Business and Economics becomes the first HBCU in the state and the first business school program in the Piedmont Triad to gain AACSB accreditation.
- 1980 - The School of Business and Economics is awarded a chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, The International Honor Society for Academically Qualified Students in AACSB Accredited programs.
- 1982 - Mitchell Martin, Daniel Moore and Faye Moore, all accounting graduates of the School, are recognized for becoming Certified Public Accountants. Prior to Craig becoming Dean in 1972, the School only had two graduates to earn CPAs. By 1982, the number exceeded 50.
- 1983 - The Zeta Sigma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the National Scholastic and Professional Fraternity for financial information professionals, is chartered.
- 1983 - All of the top national accounting firms and over 70 of the largest companies in the country are recruiting students from A&T's School of Business and Economics.
- 1985 - Dennis Dammerman, senior vice president for finance at GE, speaks to students in the School of Business and Economics. The same year, GE also awarded the School a grant for \$98,500. In 1999, Dammerman becomes vice president of GE and North Carolina A&T State University selects him to receive an honorary doctorate degree.
- 1986 - The Accounting program within the School of Business and Economics becomes the first AACSB accredited accounting program at an HBCU.
- 1987 - Dawn Harris, a transportation major, becomes the first graduate of the School to complete all requirements with a 4.0 grade point average.
- 1987 - Terry L. Jones, an economics major, is admitted to the MBA program at Pennsylvania State University. Numerous other economics majors have now earned graduate degrees including the Ph.D. and degrees from prestigious law programs.
- 1988 - Dr. Craig's picture becomes part of the collection of portraits unveiled at the Westin Hotel in Washington, D.C. The collection is titled Gallery of Greats: Black Educators ... Building the Foundation. The collection is the sixth commissioned by Miller Brewing Company.
- 1991 - Dr. Craig is elected AACSB vice-president and president-elect. He serves as vice president during the 1991-92 academic year, and takes the helm as president for the 1992-93 academic year. Craig's presidency follows that of Richard J. Lewis, dean of the College of Business, Michigan State University. Craig is the first African American to be elected to the position of AACSB president.
- 1991 - The U.S. Congress designates North Carolina A&T State University as an Urban Transit Institute for the 1991-2003 period.
- 1995 - Reginald Enoch, a 1982 accounting graduate, becomes the first A&T alum to become a partner of a major CPA firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP. At Reginald's death Deloitte LLP established an endowed scholarship fund in his memory. The School's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi recognizes a deserving student at its annual spring induction ceremony.
- 1998 - GE awards the School of Business and Economics \$450,000 for faculty and curriculum development.
- 1998 - The Executive Advisory Council is established for the School of Business and Economics. The Council fosters a forum for discussions and interactions between businesses and the various professions with the administrative and academic leadership of the School. The Council is chaired by Dr. Bernard J. Milano, President and Trustee, KPMG Foundation.
- 1999 - The School of Business and Economics is reaffirmed accreditation for nine years.
- 2000 - Dr. Craig becomes the first African American to hold the position of president of Beta Gamma Sigma since the organization's founding in 1913.
- 2000 - AT&T awards the School of Business and Economics \$250,000 for student and curriculum development.
- 2001 - The School of Business and Economics implements the Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree program with majors in management information systems (MIS), Transportation/Logistics, and Human Resource Management.
- 2002 - Jannette Suggs, retires as Administrative Secretary to the Dean after more than 30 years of dedicated and outstanding service.
- 2003 - Four graduates from the School of Business and Economics complete requirements with a 4.0 grade point average.
- 2003 - Wachovia Corporation donates \$250,000 to the University to create an endowed scholarship program for business students in honor of Dr. Quiester Craig.
- 2003 - The Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team wins its 10th consecutive regional championship. Dr. Chi Anyansi-Archibong, faculty advisor and Sam Walton Fellow, is honored with a Double Eagle Award for her activities in SIFE Africa and leadership in supporting other HBCUs in developing SIFE programs.
- 2003 - The new state-of-the-art classroom complex, funded by North Carolina Higher Education Bonds, is completed in May 2003.
- 2003 - The Sigma Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, is the only Chapter in the state to earn "Superior Status" for 19 consecutive years because of the quality and relevance of program activities.
- 2004 - The School of Business and Economics, along with Alumni Affairs, sponsor the Building Dedication and Alumni Reunion on April 14-15. This is the first major development effort of this kind to be sponsored by one of the university's schools or colleges.



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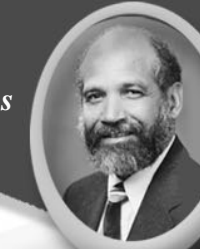
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Transportation Institute Strengthens Triad Development

Michael Simmons



From preparing professionals to fuel the Triad's development into a transportation and logistics center, to reducing congestion on Interstate 40, N.C. A&T State University's Transportation Institute is playing a key role in how people and products move.

"We look for solutions to transportation problems," says Dr. Michael Simmons, director of the Institute.

One of the major problems right now is a pending shortage of transportation professionals.

"U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and others have said that in the next five to 10 years, half the transportation professionals in the country will be eligible to retire," Simmons says. "There's going to be a shortage and we're working to make sure that our region is not as affected as some other areas might be."

With an important FedEx distribution center and an expected growth in an already significant cluster of surrounding logistics firms on the way by 2009, the Triad area can depend

on A&T to prevent a shortage it can ill afford. Founded in 1970, the Institute is an interdisciplinary research, education and technology transfer facility that involves faculty, staff and students from the entire University community.

Well-known in transportation circles, the Institute has been a leader in diversifying the field nationwide, and in driving the development of public transportation in rural areas and small urban areas including Greensboro.

"It's a real resource," says Joyce Johnson, who joined the Institute in 1973 and retired as director in 2000. "I would say a substantial number of the African Americans who are managers or directors in both public transit and transportation management positions are A&T grads."

Offering the only undergraduate transportation/logistics program of its kind in the state, A&T continues in that leadership role.

Its work of developing diverse professionals starts with the young students

who are exposed to the wide variety of transportation/logistics career options through the 10-year-old Summer High School Transportation Institute.

It has also worked with Dudley High School in Greensboro to develop a transportation management track for college bound students.

"Ideally, this will attract more young people to careers in transportation," Simmons says.

The Institute also is poised to attract the not-so-young.

"We think that people may want to switch careers and we're poised to offer the training," Simmons says, noting A&T's Master of Science in Management degree with a concentration in transportation/logistics.

"And we have something else on the drawing board that will be aimed at professionals who want to return to school and want to get course work in transportation/logistics," he adds.

On the research and technology transfer end, many of the advanced technologies working their way into transportation are developed and tested through A&T's Institute.

"Among the major problems facing cities like Greensboro are congestion problems," Simmons says. "Some of our researchers are looking for solutions."

Among the solutions being explored are the possibility of toll lanes or lanes restricted to vehicles with two or more passengers on I-40. The Institute recently received a \$652,700 DOT grant for some of that research.

A&T researchers also are exploring "red light priority" for buses, using technology that would keep lights green for buses, reducing congestion and improving air quality, Simmons says.

"It would reduce the idling time that a bus sits at a traffic light," he says, "and it would speed up the transit trip, inducing more people to ride, which will also clean up the environment."



Chi Anyansi-Archibong

Nurturing Faculty Develop Mature Graduates



Kimberly Ray McNeil

The men and women who make up the N.C. A&T State University faculty are the extraordinarily committed group responsible for the nurturing environment and high standards for which the University and its School of Business and Economics are famous.

Dr. Chi Anyansi-Archibong is one faculty member being recognized nationally this year. She's among faculty members from schools including Harvard and Michigan recognized by the Aspen Institute. She received the Grey Pinstripes Award for external impact.

Getting wind of her work with Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) locally and internationally, as well as other efforts, Beyond Grey Pinstripes recognized what already was apparent to her colleagues and members of her local community.

"She does an excellent job," says Dr. Kimberly Ray McNeil, an A&T graduate who returned to the marketing faculty after earning her Ph.D. "I often-times see students in her office after hours working on their projects. She has always been heavily involved with her students."

Having studied with her as a student, McNeil also knows that Anyansi-Archibong handles her business in the classroom as well. "Her class really

stimulated your critical thinking," she said. "It was one of those capstone courses, that really pushes you to use the knowledge you gained throughout your time at the University."

The honor evidences the high standards set at the school, as do the faculty members and growing number of students inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society for programs accredited by AACSB International. Dean Quiester Craig was the first African American president of the society during the 2000-2002 period.

Craig, who is notorious for not cutting students slack, has set a no-slacking tone throughout the School that sometimes causes students grief during their years of study. He jokes that students sometimes "wish we didn't love them so much."

Usually, though, they change their attitude once they graduate, says Dr. Basil Coley, chair of Economics.

"After leaving A&T and they go to graduate school and find out what the real world is," he says, "then they show appreciation for it."

Dr. Gwendolyn Highsmith-Quick, known around the school as H-Q, as a tough professor honestly.

"If I were asked to describe myself, I would say that I'm reasonable and I'm fair," she said. "I may be hard, but I'm fair."

She says Craig encouraged her to become a professor, which she loves. She also learned from him to be tough back when he was still teaching classes and she was an A&T student.

In one accounting class she finished with the highest average in the class, 89.5. He gave her a B.

"I went to Dean Craig and I said, what about the A? And he said an A is 90 and above," she remembers. "Thirty years later, when I talk about it, I don't get upset but I can't let it go."

As important as the faculty members' personal excellence and high standards is their caring.

"I think the thing that makes this place run is that we have a lot of highly talented and dedicated faculty folk who are genuinely concerned with the education, growth and development of students," says Dr. Mark Kiel, chairman of the Accounting Department. "These are the people who do things you don't even know they're doing everyday," he says, citing examples from lending students money to giving them advice about dress.

The efforts pay off in the development of students.

"I see them from start to finish and I can tell you that they are much different people when they leave than they are when they come here," Kiel says, "and faculty people are the ones who make that difference."

While undergraduate students may not always appreciate it, Lisa Ray, a graduate student who got her undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, does.

"At A&T you're definitely not a number. Professors nurture you and help you stay on track," she says. At A&T, "the teachers and administrative people and department chairs do all they can to keep the students motivated."

In addition to the time they spend in the classroom and with students, faculty members participate in efforts outside of the School to develop themselves.

"All of the folks in this Business School are expected to engage in faculty development activities. That covers a wide variety of things," Kiel says, citing professional meetings, serving on boards and visiting corporations. "Things in business change every day. What you did yesterday may not be relevant tomorrow."

Small classes also are key to the faculty's success, says Dr. Mary Lind of the Business Administration Department, who doesn't have more students than she can get to know.

"I know every single one of their names and I know their faces," she says. "In essence what students are getting at A&T is a private school education for public school dollars."



Michael Barclay III, shown here with his former New York Giants boss Mary Musca and Hall of Fame Giants linebacker Harry Carson, says A&T gave him "everything that I needed and then some."

Recent Grad Puts Aggie Experience to Work

Michael Barclay III was a Fayetteville high school senior headed to Chapel Hill when a chance meeting changed his direction – and his life.

The semester before he was to graduate, his mother ran into then-Chancellor Edward B. Fort at a conference in Washington, D.C. As mothers do, she was bragging about her son, his GPA and SAT scores.

Fort, intrigued, said he should come to North Carolina A&T State University. One thing led to another and Barclay spent a day on the campus.

"On other campus visits the only people I met were students and the occasional financial aid person, but in one visit to A&T I met all the top people and they were really interested in talking to me," he recalls.

"Thanks to Fort and Dean Quiester Craig, Barclay won a Chancellor's Scholarship and settled on N.C. A&T."

"It's the best decision I ever made," says Barclay, a finance major who just launched his own business, Left Lane Marketing, in Atlanta. "I got everything that I needed and then some. Dean Craig took care of me from day one until the day I graduated."

In addition to academic preparation, Barclay had the opportunity to intern in New York with the investment firm Goldman Sachs and in Memphis with International Paper, gaining real-world experiences and the chance to test his mettle against interns from schools such as Harvard and Yale.

"They didn't know more than I knew. They weren't better than I was," he says. "I realized then that I was getting a quality education."

After graduating in 2001, Barclay worked in financial management for General Electric just long enough to determine that a financial career wasn't where his heart was, and with the New York Giants to figure out that a marketing career was.

"It was a great job," Barclay, 24, said of his time as a marketing director with the Giants, which ended last month, "but it let me know that even if I had a great job I still had that entrepreneurial spirit and needed to get out there on my own."

Barclay did that with the launch of Left Lane Marketing (www.leftlanemarketing.com).

"The focus is strategic marketing, lifestyle marketing, product placement, special events and promotions," he said.

He's putting his A&T education -- both in and out of the classroom -- to use in the business.

"I think I really learned how to network in my dealings with Dean Craig," Barclay said. "Dean Craig showed me how to make connections. That's probably the most important thing that I learned -- relationship management."

Barclay is looking forward to the networking of this month's alumni reunion. "I love the School of Business and I love A&T (and I'm kinda missing Aggieland," he says. "It's good to come back and reconnect with everybody."

He's also ready to put his money where his mouth is. He says he was just recently talking to a friend about financially supporting his alma mater.

"The class of 2001 needs to start getting involved. It's about time," he says. "Everybody's made a little bit of money and it's definitely time to start giving back."



SELECTED "B" SCHOOL GRADUATES



- Joseph Wilson, BS, Accounting, 1982 - JP Morgan
- Cynthia Williams, BS, Accounting, 1990 - CPA, Ph.D., University of Illinois
- Katherine Burkley, BS, Accounting, 1981 - CPA, North Carolina A&T State University Office of Business and Finance
- Kimberly Ray McNeil, BS, Business Education, 1993 - Ph.D., Florida State University
- George Hand, BS, Accounting, 1974 - CPA, Investor, HK International, LLP
- Donna James, BS, Accounting, 1979 - President Strategic Investments Nationwide Insurance
- Willie Deese, BA, Business Administration, 1977 - MBA, Senior Vice President Global Procurement, Merck
- Tiffany Eubanks Sanders, BS, Economics, 1994 - Vice President Partnership Marketing, Bank of America
- Dmitri Stockton, BS, Accounting, 1986-Chief Financial Officer, GE Capital Bank of Switzerland
- Jesse Jackson Jr., JD, Management, 1987 - U.S. Congressman, State of Illinois
- Tim King, BS, Business Administration, 1976 - Global Vice President Marketing and Sales Chemicals and Performance Chemicals with the Dow Chemical Company
- Mitchell Martin, BS, Accounting, 1975 - MBA, CPA, Managing Partner of Martin, Harps, Syphoe, & Co.
- Faye L. Moore, BS, Accounting, 1976 - CPA, General Manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), the fifth largest transit authority in the United States
- Duane Williams, BS, Transportation, 1986 - Chief with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- James Clausell, BS, Accounting, 1979 - Principal Owner of Clausell and Associates, CPA's, P.C.
- Leroy Edwards, BS, Business Administration, 1972 - President, TEC Foods
- Bowman Burton, BS, Economics, 1991 - Vice President, Portfolio Management - Global Corporate and Investment Bank, Bank of America, N.A.
- Jonathan Jackson, BS, Finance, 1987 - Investment Banker, Wall Street
- Joe L. Dudley, BS, Business Administration, 1962 - Co-founder, President and CEO of Dudley Products, Inc.
- Glenda Currie Brewington, BS, Business Education, 1977 - MBA, Global Finance Manager, E.I. DuPont
- C. Harvey Monk, Jr., BS, Economics, 1970 - Chief of Foreign Trade Division, Federal Government
- Teresa M. Davis, BS, Accounting, 1989 - Project Manager/Finance Division, Bank of America; President of North Carolina A&T State University National Alumni Association



Mary Lind

Internships And Co-ops Prepare Students for Real World



Joyce Edwards

Internships and co-op opportunities abound for students in N.C. A&T State University's School of Business and Economics, leading to improved job prospects and performance for its graduates.

Graduates across the generations from the School are serving in roles across the spectrum of American society, from university professors to U.S. congressmen to federal and corporate executives.

Those who choose to enter corporate America do so with the help of their professors, administrators and the Office of Career Services, whose annual job fair is the largest in the state and one of the largest in the region.

"Career services on our campus does a marvelous job," says Dr. Mary Lind, whose management information systems students have landed jobs with organizations including Duke Power and AT&T.

In addition to recruiting at A&T, many corporations, such as the Minnesota-based Cargill, have forged more extensive partnerships with the University.

"Cargill is currently partnering with our program to help us along," Lind says, adding that the company has provided support for the A&T chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals, which she advises. "We've been adopted as one of their target universities because of the quality of our students and our program."

That quality makes the job of Career Services a little easier, and pays off for students.

"Our graduates' salaries are usually higher than the national averages," says Joyce Edwards, director of career services.

"Our graduates can compete," Edwards says, adding that factors include "the reputation the school has, the fact that it's nationally accredited and the fact that our alumni have proven to be successful in the workplace -- all of that plays a major role."

That also inspires companies to develop long term relationships with A&T. Thanks to the industry relationships of the Transportation Institute, seniors Jacinta Simmons of Columbus, Ohio, and Rose Pinnix from

Reidsville spent an academic year in Milwaukee working with Harley-Davidson.

"It was more than an internship to me. It was actually a real job," Simmons said. "I relieved two ladies who went out on maternity leave. I took over their entire product lines while they were gone."

While Simmons was dealing with wheel assemblies, oils and other motorcycle accessories, Pinnix was working as an intern supply chain analyst, helping the company's European operation conform to the U.S. operation.

"That was very different because of the cultural differences," she said, noting that she was in continual communication with employees in European offices, who thought her accent was funny. "It showed me that there were certain things you had to adapt to."

Both students credit the faculty and staff of the Transportation Institute for connecting them with various opportunities, including major scholarships.

"They know me personally and my family and everything," Simmons says. "They make sure we're doing the right internships, know the right people, go to the right conferences."

Pinnix's gratitude goes back to high school, when she got her first exposure to her chosen field through the University's High School Summer Transportation Institute. She had previously been thinking of computer science.

"It really changed my mind," she says, "when I went to the summer institute," which includes field trips, guest speakers and other opportunities to learn about a field that's wide open for minorities.

Internships and co-ops are an important part of preparing students for the real world, Edwards says.

"Most of the kids in the School of Business and Economics participate in internships," she says. "That's very important. It benefits the student and the employers. It also contributes to the salary that the student ultimately receives."

North Carolina A&T State University

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Executive Advisory Council Committed to A&T's Success

Dr. Bernard Milano, the New Jersey-based president and trustee of KPMG Foundation, has worked with many business schools around the country – more than enough to know just how special the one Dean Quiester Craig is built at N.C. A&T State University is.

"He takes such an incredible personal interest in these students – and they just love him," says Milano, chair of the A&T School's Executive Advisory Council, which includes business and industry leaders from around the country.

The feeling of A&T Business School students toward Craig is shared by leaders – especially in the field of accounting – around the country, says Milano, who spearheaded KPMG's Ph.D. Project, an effort to increase diversity in accounting by increasing the number of Ph.D. qualified accounting professors.

"Who did I turn to as my prime advisor in all of this? Quiester Craig," Milano says. "I've known Quiester for decades. We have a long history."

Craig's expertise is sought by educators and professionals far and wide, and by the same token, executives from all over

have answered the call to join the EAC. "There are people from all over the country who are willing to come here and participate," Milano says. He cites Craig's leadership, organization and vision as the keys to attracting such broad-based support.

"I've been on some advisory boards that I've resigned from because they'll say, 'This is what we've done,' (and) it's clear that they're there more to raise money than to contribute to the quality of the program," he says.

While he is committed to the EAC raising money for A&T, Milano says the

purpose of the council is to help "the faculty and the dean explore things they're thinking about doing, using us as a sounding board."

"Fundraising is friend-raising," Craig says. "You make friends by getting them to believe in what you're doing. You have to be able to leverage resources from the state with external support. We've been very fortunate."

"I know this has made a difference for us because it's rough out there when you're trying to compete to attract outstanding faculty and outstanding students to your team."



Edna Ragins

Business Students Give Back to Community

From professional organizations to sports organizations to sororities to the Boule, N.C. A&T State University students and faculty are about the business of service, especially in the School of Business and Economics.

As graduates of the School gather to celebrate the new building, their school and one another, Dean Quiester Craig welcomes the community to come connect with the School like the school already connects with the community.

"We'd like the Greensboro community to know that we're an integral part of this community and we're doing our best to enhance the quality of life through our efforts," he says. "We want the community to become more aware of what a jewel it has in its midst."

Dr. Mark Kiel, chairman of the Accounting Department, says service is a key part of the Aggie Family's life.

"That's something that's really important, that faculty be involved and active in the community," says Kiel, who is active in groups including professional organizations, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the local Beta Epsilon Boule of the Sigma Pi Phi, a men's organization dedicated to community uplift.

"When we talk about service, we're talking about service to the University, to the community and to whatever profession you're in," Kiel says.

In addition to countless volunteer hours provided as individuals, chapters of service and professional organizations at A&T conduct numerous organized service activities.

Student members of the American Marketing Association, for example, divide their time in the association between interacting with professionals and students from other universities and providing service in the local community.

When they're not attending conferences and showcasing their marketing skills in competition, they're raising funds through local walks and races.

"Every year we go to New Orleans and students compete in a number of different competitions," says Dr. Edna Ragins, the marketing faculty member who advises the group, adding that the A&T chapter has won numerous awards.

Back at home, chapter members have funded their service activities with recent grants from the AMA Foundation and Union Pacific.

"I'm really proud of the community service work that they do, Ragins says. "Last year they adopted Peeler Elementary and went in and had a couple of game days." Marketing students at A&T also lend their skills to local organizations such as the East Market Street Development Corp. and, this year, to the Charlotte Hawkins Brown African American Festival.

The campus chapter of the Beta Alpha Psi honor fraternity of financial information professionals is another student organization that gives accounting students the chance to learn and provide such community service as preparing tax returns for students and low-income individuals.

"Basically what we do is we prepare them for the business world," says Dr. Gwendolyn Highsmith-Quick, the chapter's advisor. "We focus on community service because that's a part of the business world – that's just a part of life."

Achieving the national designation of Distinguished Chapter during the first year after it was chartered in 1983, A&T's Zeta Sigma chapter has gotten the highest rating of Superior Chapter every year since.



Gwendolyn
Highsmith-Quick

In addition to advising the chapter, Highsmith-Quick's extracurricular service activities include advising the campus chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, chairing the University's curriculum committee and serving as vice-president of the faculty senate.

Off campus, she has taken on roles ranging from Girl Scout cookie manager to involvement with local and state tennis organizations.

"We are a family of tennis stars," she says of herself, her husband J.W. and her daughter Winnie. She and her daughter are the state's current Mother-Daughter doubles champs.

Also, like many other Aggies, the Quicks contribute money as well as time. As charity begins at home, A&T is a recipient. J.W. Quick, a former A&T pitcher, graduated in 1969.

"In the professional world it's expected that you will provide service to the community," says Highsmith-Quick, who contributes to the Athletics Department as well as to scholarship funds named for former Assistant Dean Danny Pogue and the late business student Erica James. "I believe in giving back to A&T (and) I believe we need both academics as well as athletics."

State-of-the-Art Technology Fuels Business Education



Beryl McEwen

The N.C. A&T State University Department of Business Education, which boasts the School of Business and Economics' only online degree program, is continually evolving.

The department, which works in conjunction with the School of Education to train business teachers for middle and high schools, also prepares computer specialists for business and industry.

"The Business Education program goes back a long way," says Dr. Beryl McEwen, chair of the department. "It was one of the first programs in the Business School but it has changed a lot, largely because of technology."

"Each time the technology changes, we have to change right along with it." A curriculum that once included typewriting and shorthand now features

Web design and database management instead. It's also phasing out keyboarding in favor of "digital input," utilizing voice, PDA and digital tablet data.

In fall of 2002, thanks to an e-learning grant from the president's office of the University of North Carolina system, the department began offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education that aspiring teachers can earn completely online.

The department currently is working with the School of Technology on an interdisciplinary program that will offer a Business Education degree with a concentration in Information Technology.

"It's going to be great for teachers who have to teach in a technology savvy system," McEwen says. A&T-produced business teachers already are among

the savviest, claiming a 100 percent pass rate on qualifying exams.

Plus, "business education is one of the very strong areas in the public schools," says McEwen, who has conducted research on public schools' test data. "Business consistently performs at the top, so we're doing pretty well."

With the new building and its new technology, A&T's business education students have the best of both worlds.

"We have a wonderfully nurturing environment and our technology is top of the line. Everyone talks about state-of-the-art technology, ours really is the best," McEwen says.

"We're trying to make sure that when students get out there, they hit the ground running in their careers."

And hit the ground running they do, as evidenced by their success in the job market.

"Our graduates do not look for work," McEwen says. "They usually have several choices."



Basil G.
Coley

Dr. Basil Coley, interim chairman of the Department of Economics and Transportation/Logistics at N.C. A&T State University, knows firsthand the importance of good advising in college.

If he hadn't gotten it from Dr. Juanita Tate in the 1960s, he may never have become the senior faculty member in his alma mater's School of Business and Economics.

He was planning to hurry home to Jamaica with his undergraduate degree in agricultural economics when -- in her characteristically brusque manner -- she asked him about grad school.

"I said to her, 'I cannot go to grad school. I have to go home to work because my daddy already has spent too much money on me,'" he recalls. "She said, 'Boy, with your GPA you don't have to have money to go to graduate school!'"

She was right. He went on to get his Master of Science degree from Penn State and Ph.D. from Illinois, then to help steer the department through a convoluted journey that took it from the School of Agriculture through the old Division of Business Administration to its current place in the fully accredited School of Business and Economics.

Its graduates include economists, lawyers, professors, transportation professionals and assorted other successes around the world. Its undergraduate transportation/logistics program

is the only undergraduate program of its kind in the state.

"Economics is very broad and versatile," Coley says. "When they do economics, really, whatever they want to be, they truly can be. We work with them to make sure they get the quantitative background that is necessary for them to do well."

Many of the graduates choose the department's pre-law concentration and go on to law school.

"I introduced pre-law when I was chairman in the earlier years, and it has turned out to be the sort of backbone of the program," Coley says.

"Economics is something that you either love or hate, but when you love it, you find that it is fun," he says. "When you pick up an economics book you see nothing but graphs, graphs, graphs, and people get afraid of that, but I tell people that every graph tells a story."

Coley awakened to his own love for economics in Tate's "Principles of Economics" class. Before he took it, he had been planning to major in agronomy, breeding plants.

"I started listening to her talk about the economy and how the economy functions and I got turned on to this thing," he said, telling how Tate called him into her office after he got the top score on her first exam.

"She said, 'Boy' -- she called all of us 'boy' or 'girl' -- 'Boy,' she said, 'What is your major?"

Strong Advising and High Standards Produce Excellence

Agronomy? You should be doing economics." according to score, starting with the lowest grade.

Decades later, as chairman of the department, Coley had a similar experience with a student he met during a recruiting visit to Grimsley High School.

"I saw this young man coming down the hall and I said, 'Come here,'" he recalls, speaking in much the same manner Tate had, leaving out the "boy" part.

The student protested that economics was hard when Coley asked if he had thought about it.

"I said to him, 'nothing is really hard if you set your mind to it. I promise you that if you come to the economics department at A&T you can be anything you want to be,'" Coley remembers.

The student did enroll at A&T, but got off to a slow start. Coley cornered him, noted his 2.6 GPA the first semester, and said "I told you, you could be anything you wanted, but it doesn't seem as if you want to be much."

But he did. He buckled down and raised his GPA to 3.7 the next semester. That young man, Terry Jones, went on to get his MBA from Penn State and now is a BankAmerica executive in Charlotte.

Coley himself had paved the way for Jones at Penn State, where he shocked some white professors out of any preconceived beliefs they may have had. In one statistics class, the professor passed out the students' first exam

"There was one paper in his hand when he called my name," Coley says, relating how the professor looked repeatedly from the paper to him, flabbergasted that the name on it belonged to the only black student.

"In most of the classes I was by myself," Coley says, adding that Dr. Howard Robinson was responsible for that statistics success. "Dr. Robinson taught us at a much higher level than what normally would have been taught in an undergraduate program."

"I've always had good advisors here," Coley says. "That's why I love A&T."

As Coley and his fellow faculty members keep up the tradition of attentive advising and high standards, he revels in how students are keeping up their end of the excellence bargain. Andre McSwain, for example, graduated with a 4.0 GPA last May and won a competitive fellowship that's funding his Ph.D. in economics at Michigan State.

Coley points to his office door at a newspaper clipping from "People and Places" about senior Jacinta Simmons, the Transportation Institute's Outstanding Student of the Year, and reports like a proud father that another economics student, Akliah Thompson, won the campus Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

"Those are just two of the many stars we have in the department," he says, "still keeping the tradition alive."



A&T Accounting: The Best of the Best

Mark Kiel

When it comes to excellence in accounting, N.C. A&T State University's program pretty much wrote the book.

The nation's first historically black college or university to have its accounting program accredited by the AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), the program recruits the best of the best with the help of corporate and professional partnerships around the country.

"The only reason that we are different from any program in any other place is because our constituents are willing to support us," says Dr. Mark Kiel, the Accounting Department's chairman.

"I would describe us as being good friends with all of the major CPA firms and a lot of the major corporations," Kiel says, adding professional organizations such as the National Association of Black Accountants, which Kiel serves as a national advisor.

Such friendships, which generate scholarship money, internships and permanent employment opportunities, are key to A&T's recruitment efforts.

"We have always had a big emphasis on trying to recruit students to the department who have the potential to do well both here in school and in the accounting field," says Kiel, an Alabama native who has been at A&T for nearly 26 years. "Recruiting accounting students is like recruiting

athletes – scholarships and opportunities to excel are pivotal."

Dr. Bernard Milano, the New Jersey-based president and trustee of KMPG Foundation and chairman of the A&T Business School's Executive Advisory Council, can attest to the quality of A&T's accounting graduates.

"They're beautifully prepared and they are very respectful," he says. "Quiester (Craig) will not permit anything other than ladies and gentlemen to come out of this institution."

While many graduates become Certified Public Accountants, some of the department's most successful graduates don't end up working as accountants at all. Among them is Faye

Moore, a 1976 graduate who heads the nation's fifth-largest public transportation system, Philadelphia's SEPTA.

"We don't try to use any one measure as the measure of what success is," Kiel says. "Some never take the CPA exam and do well. There are lots of ways for folks to be successful."

The standards for students, however, are high – whatever students decide to do.

"We're serious about education," Kiel says. "There are what I would describe as 'implicit understandings' about what our expectations are. We all are reaching for the same goal."

Career Options:

Management, Finance, Marketing, Management Information Systems, Human Resources Management



Paul Simmonds

While graduates of N.C. A&T State University's Business Administration Department do make plenty of it, for Dr. Paul Simmonds, the department's chair, it's not about the money.

"Yes, many do go into corporate America and end up being successful," he says, but "people actually have interesting careers. Getting an education isn't really about making money. It's a byproduct, to me."

One of four departments in the School of Business and Economics, Business Administration offers undergraduate degrees in management, finance, marketing and a concentration in management information systems.

Faculty members also are excited about the new Master of Science in Management offering, with concentrations in management infor-

mation systems and human resources management. Dr. Mary Lind, who helped design the MIS curriculum, says it gives students the best of both worlds by providing a dual track that includes courses from the College of Engineering and the School of Technology. When they graduate, they have the technical know-how as well as the ability to communicate with business people.

"In essence they're like an internal consultant in a firm," she says. "You have to be able to speak the language of the people you're trying to provide a service to."

She says the MIS master's program is attracting professionals who already are in jobs and want to advance.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Business Administration Department

often attracts freshmen students with flexible goals.

"We have the largest department on campus, both in terms of the number of students and we have over 30 faculty members," he says. "Students aren't always certain as to what it entails, but they know they want to do something in business."

Simmonds' own career reflects the broad variety of career options available.

After spending 14 years in the military, he ran a TRW subsidiary in Singapore for nine years. And he's a certified management accountant.

"I've also been at seven different academic institutions over the past 20 years," says Simmonds, who came to A&T from Florida State.



Bond Investment Brings Big Dividends for Students

Remember those rolling A/V carts? They're only a distant memory in the new General Classroom Building at North Carolina A&T State University.

For celebrating faculty in the School of Business and Economics, teaching in the new building is "fantastic."

"That is the word," says Dr. Basil Coley, who joined the faculty in 1966 and knows better than anyone else how far the school has come.

"You don't have to push around the technology for the classes anymore. Everything is right there, which makes it much more convenient," says Coley, who predated even those carts. "When I started here I had one little blackboard in the classroom."

The new building is a radically new world.

"We're very excited about this," says Dr. Mark Kiel, chairman of the accounting program and longtime advocate for the new building. "It has all of the things you need to run a modern business school, which is what we set out to do. ... We can show information from any media you can describe, from a piece of paper to a DVD."

The building couples such features as lounges and a reading room with technical bells and whistles such as document cameras, computer interfaces and wireless microphones. It also includes accommodations for students with disabilities.

"We've made a special effort to make it a place that was useful to students," Kiel says, noting that it includes office space for student organizations.

Kiel won't heave his sigh of completion, however, until the renovation of the School's old Merrick Hall is completed this December.

"Our idea of this is that this building and Merrick will operate as one building," he says, adding that you'll be able to walk from the new building to Merrick on all four floors.

While the new building focuses on serving students, "the Merrick renovation is intended to make faculty happy," Kiel says.

"It will be what I describe as the office and administration part of the complex," he says. "We're going to make it user-friendly for them so that they can do all of the things that we expect of them."

Both the new building and the Merrick renovation are among the \$161 million worth of construction projects made possible on the A&T campus by the higher education bonds North Carolina voters approved in November 2000.

"A&T has never had \$161 million at one time for construction activities," says Bill Barlow, the university's director of planning, design and construction. "It's a very exciting time on campus because we're getting the opportunity to both build new but also bring the older buildings up to code, and also in some cases ... to improve their functionality."

Although Barlow says A&T's last new building, the School of Technology's Smith Hall completed in 1998, is an "excellent building," the new one is miles ahead.

"Even though technology was big at that time, it wasn't at the forefront that it is now," he says. "Items such as projectors that are included with the General Classroom Building were not included. We didn't have classroom seats where you could plug in your laptop. We didn't have a security system ... the list goes on and on."

Willie Deese, the 1977 graduate chairing the Dedication and Alumni Reunion committee and co-chairing the University's \$100 million capital campaign, wants all alumni to come see and celebrate the new building.

"Every time I see it or I go in it, I have a sense of pride because often, particularly when I was a student, the facilities at the HBCUs were substandard because we didn't always receive the same level of funding to support our capital needs," Deese says. "We now have a building that matches the quality of the instruction."



Thaddeus McEwen

Entrepreneurship Program Affects Economic Development

Recognizing a desire and need among students and the Greensboro community, N.C. A&T State University has responded with the Center for Entrepreneurship and E-Business.

Center for Entrepreneurship and E-Business.

"Our students are very interested in entrepreneurship, and we know also that entrepreneurship is critical to economic development locally and nationally," says Dr. Thaddeus McEwen, the center's director.

The center -- created last year as a joint effort of the Schools of Business and Economics, Technology and Agriculture and Environmental Sciences -- crystallized and expanded on existing programs at A&T.

Over McEwen's nine years on the faculty, A&T's entrepreneurial efforts have grown from a course that in 1995 was new and attracted only a few students, into a resource for everyone from high school students to established entrepreneurs expanding into e-commerce.

Using an experiential approach, entrepreneurship education at A&T engages students with local entrepreneurs and bankers with whom they study real cases, write real business plans and make formal presentations.

The center's cornerstone is the Certificate in Entrepreneurship, offered to A&T students in all majors, matching them with mentors to help refine their business plans and get their ventures up and running.

"We think that the approach of interaction, of involvement with the business community, makes the whole experience more meaningful and enables them to transfer what they learn in the classroom into the real world," McEwen says.

The Center's work beyond the Business School includes an important partnership with the East Market Street Development Corp. in revitalizing the East Market Street corridor in which A&T lives.

Among other projects, McEwen helped the EMSDC bring to Greensboro the popular

and effective REAL Entrepreneurship small business training program, which is open to anyone who has started a small business or aspires to do so.

As a community service, A&T students have added a tutorial program to the training, through which they tutor participants in such technical aspects as accounting and using spreadsheets.

"The idea is that many of these participants have been out of school for awhile and might be uncomfortable," he said.

Another planned partnership with EMSDC is an internship program that will place A&T student interns in East Market Street businesses.

Other center offerings include an A&T student entrepreneur of the year award, a business plan competition open to all high school and college students, a resource center, a virtual business incubator, and a workshop and lecture series for students and community groups.

The center's continuing development has been personally gratifying to its director.

"It has been a very positive experience to have the opportunity to develop the entrepreneurship program, says McEwen, whose center is part of the Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Consortium and who serves on the board of TEI, the Triad Entrepreneurial Initiative.

"Entrepreneurship is really a passion of mine," he says. "It's what I've wanted to do since grad school."

It's work that also adds value to the School of Business and Economics in another way: In addition to being equipped to start their own businesses, students with entrepreneurial skills are popular among corporate recruiters.

"Companies today are interested in students who are creative, proactive and have an entrepreneurial spirit," McEwen says. "They need students who can bring new ideas and who can turn those ideas into profits and value."



Thanks North Carolina Voters!

North Carolina voters agreed in November 2000 to make an investment in the future – an investment in the education of students throughout the University of North Carolina system. At North Carolina A&T, our new \$18 million General Classroom Building highlights the return on that investment.

As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, we've created the kind of high quality educational facilities we need to continue producing business leaders, and we finished the job on schedule and under budget.

Students and graduates of A&T provide service and value to the local economy, growing jobs here at home at a time when they're so desperately needed.

To North Carolina voters, on behalf of the entire Aggie Family, I offer the warmest thanks.



Chancellor James C. Renick

Dean of Deans Driven by Faith

When Willie Deese came to N.C. A&T State University in 1973 as a freshman, Dean Quiester Craig was beginning what would be a long, arduous effort to win accreditation from the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

"If you had asked at the time if that was a reasonable ambition, most people would have said it was not only unreasonable, it was impossible," Deese says. "But by 1979 it was a reality."



Dean Craig in the 1970s

universities (HBCUs).

Craig, a native of Montgomery, Ala., says his mother could have told Deese and anyone else who asked that one easy way to make sure he accomplished something was telling him it was impossible.

That spirit has carried Craig, the youngest of seven children, throughout his journey from a high school student during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, through Morehouse College and graduate school, and into a career as an accountant and distinguished educator.

"When you came to the door of opportunity, the door many times would be shut. Sometimes it would be just open enough for you to see what's behind it," he said. "But if it was slightly ajar and you had a strong shoulder, you could move it."

Craig, a father and grandfather, says he's been led by a key he learned during his own upbringing.

"The important thing was that you had to believe in yourself. One of the things that my parents always beat into us was that if you didn't believe in yourself, you'd lost the belief of the most important person in your life."

He held to that lesson at the University of Missouri, where he was the first black stu-

dent in the Ph.D. accounting program and among the first black CPAs in the state. In pursuing the Ph.D., the faculty and colleagues he encountered offered him a mixed view. "Many were great but many weren't so great," he says, remembering how he could see only one factor that would explain the belief some held that they should make it and he shouldn't.

"You know it wasn't ability. You knew it wasn't strength of character," he said. "You didn't think that that one difference was enough to keep you from excelling. ... When I looked at them making it, I said I know doggone well I can do it."

He said the same thing when he came to A&T to work under the late Dr. Lewis Dowdy, chancellor at the time.

"When I came here the idea was he wanted every program on campus to receive national accreditation," Craig recalls. "He said to me, 'Can you get it done?' and like a fool I said yes."

When he learned in his first meeting with the accreditation board what would actually be required, he feared he had bitten off more than he could chew.

"You know how when you wake up with a nightmare and you want to call Mama? Well, Mama said you got yourself into this. You can either run or you can fight -- and we decided to fight," Craig says.

It was quite a fight, too, given the realities of race and business at the time -- a fight that required an extraordinary amount of faith.

Also, it required hard work from students who were told that the changes had to be made "because we loved them," Craig said, adding that sometimes they "didn't want us to love them so much." Despite some resistance from students who can trade war stories about his high standards, Craig has set a tone for nurturing and guiding students to right choices.

He learned the value of right choices from a time he almost made "an extremely dumb choice" himself. Craig, who received an early admission, full scholarship to Morehouse, wanted to turn it down to be captain of his high school basketball team his senior year.

"I had a daddy who was about 6'5" and weighed about 250," Craig says. "He said, 'Let me get this straight. You're going to turn down a full scholarship because of basketball?' I said, 'Yeah, I'm the captain.'

He soon let me know who was the captain."

Now, 32 years into his tenure at A&T, Craig has succeeded in helping guide countless students, and in laying the groundwork for continued excellence. He is in a groove now, succeeding nationally at "friend-raising" while developing current students and faculty members, and reveling in the success of grads.

In 1992-93, Craig was the first African American to become president of AACSB, the premiere accrediting agency for academic programs in business and accounting. His appointment was a source of pride and certainly enhanced the image of the School and University.

"This has been a joy ride. It has been a good ride. Right now it's just pleasure, gratification and delight," he says, adding that his favorite times of the year are Homecoming and Graduation Day.

He says he'll keep at it until he gets the message that it's time to retire from his mind, or his body -- or his chair. A beloved gift from a long-ago group of students, the brown leather chair that fits his tall frame already has had to be repaired three times.

"I made a vow that I won't get it fixed again -- that when it falls again, that would be my signal to leave," he says.

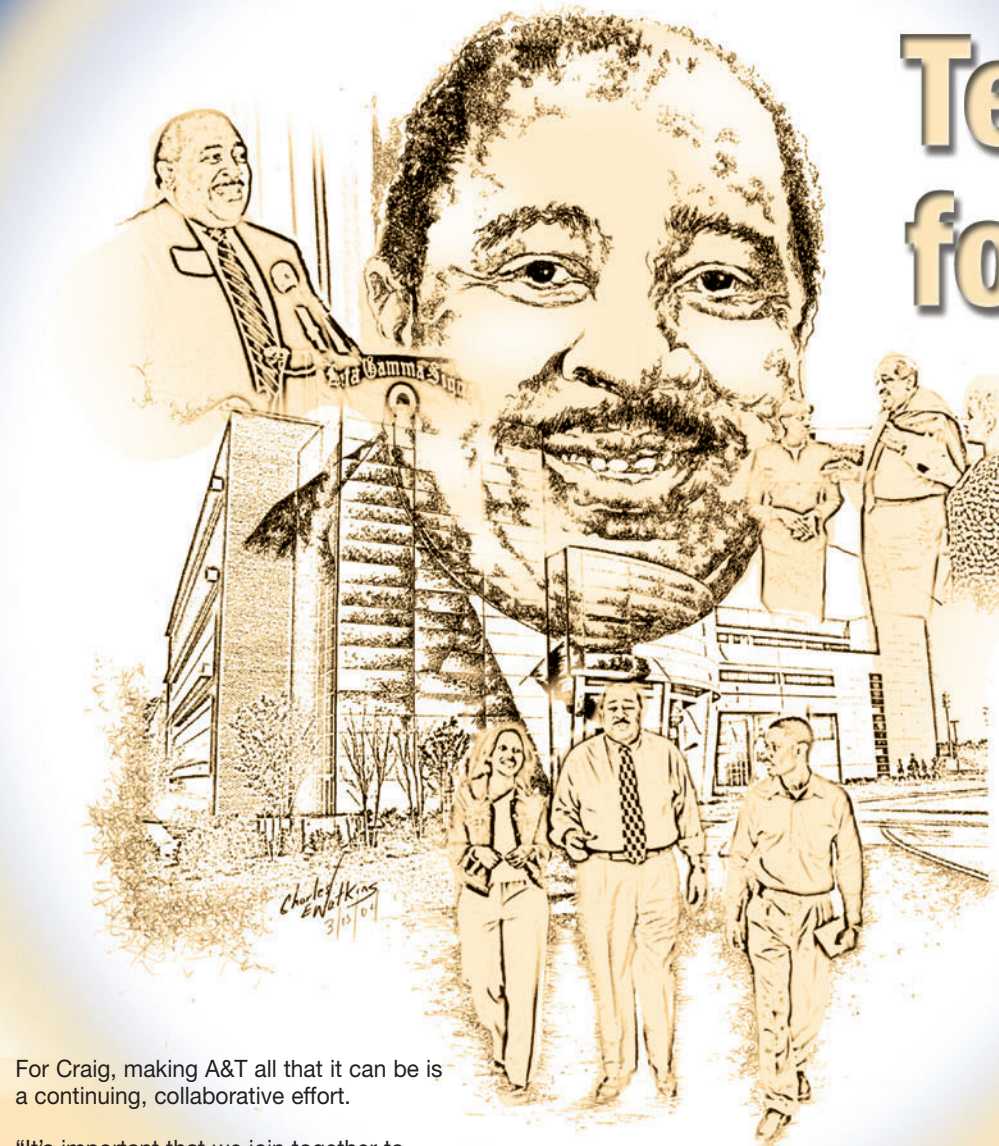
The excellence will continue, Craig says, since it has never been just about him: "The important thing is being a part of a team that makes a difference for your students and for the University."

That team extends throughout the University, where his colleagues revere Craig as the "dean of deans."

"It's flattering. It's gratifying to be able to interact with them," he says of his fellow deans. "They have a lot of energy and, really, to a person, they are committed to being a part of a leadership team that really will make a great university even greater."

In sharing his greater experience, he's returning the favor he received when he arrived at A&T.

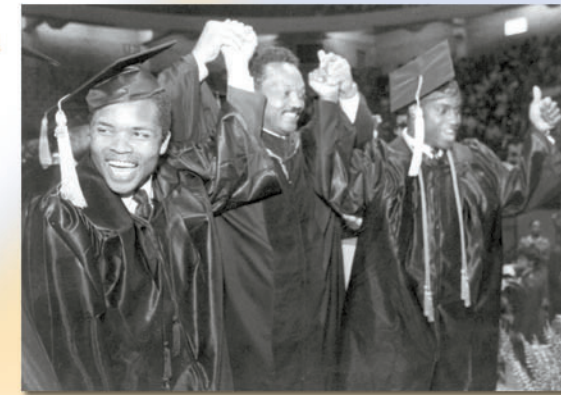
"I was well-received by the people I think were outstanding difference-makers like Burreigh Webb, Joe Shaw, Glen Rankin and Al Spruill," he says. "They were willing to work with me and to tolerate me, because I was told I had a mouth at that time. I was in a hurry."



Teamwork Brings Results for Business School



Administrative Assistant Jannette Suggs



Among two-generation Aggie family members are the Rev. Jesse Jackson, shown during the 1980s with his two Business School graduate sons, U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (right) and Jonathan Jackson.

You're Invited to the School of Business & Economics' Building Dedication and Alumni Reunion

• DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

2:30 PM

Building Dedication/Ribbon Cutting

3:30 PM

Tour of New Building

• DAY 2 - THURSDAY, APRIL 15

10 AM

Workshops/Seminars/Panel Discussion

1-3 PM

Mentor/Mentee Sessions

RSVP by Phone
336.256.2105



Dr. Danny Pogue, namesake of a business scholarship fund, was a "people person" who spent much time with students like these shown here in the 1970s -- Timothy King, now global vice president for Dow Chemical and a member of the Business School's Executive Advisory Council; a Business School coed, and Willie Deese, senior vice president of global procurement for Merck & Co.

Often, when asked about the success of the School of Business and Economics, Dean Craig attributes it to the "JED Factor," for Jannette, Evelyn and Danny.

Craig says administrative assistants Jannette Suggs and Evelyn McKeathen, and his longtime assistant dean, the late Dr. Danny Pogue, were key from the very beginning.

"Janette hired me and then the two of us brought Evelyn in," Craig says.

Suggs, who started work Jan. 5, 1970, thinks that's funny.

"He likes to say that," she says. "He inherited me."

A native of Enfield, N.C., and a graduate of NCCU, Suggs has tales to tell and photos to share from back in the day of the manual typewriter.

After Craig arrived in 1972, McKeathen and Pogue followed in 1973, and the push for accreditation began soon afterward.

Faith was the key ingredient, Craig says, noting that opportunities and examples of success the School now can point to were not there. It took a Herculean effort to sell people on the idea that A&T could have a quality business program, and that developing one would be worthwhile.

"Many of the youngsters were first generation college students. They had no real perception of what their careers in business could be," Craig said. "Many of them didn't talk about Wall Street at the dining room table. Many of them didn't know a CPA." Craig says one of the most meaningful compliments he's ever received

came from the chairman of the accrediting board, who said the School's incremental value -- meaning the difference A&T made in students' lives between matriculation and graduation -- was unexcelled.

"We needed to be a force for change, to be prepared to respond to change, but most importantly to provide quality preparation for people to influence change and in many cases to force change," Craig says.

Holding out and keeping the faith, Craig and his team have seen the expected change come, both inside and outside of the School.

"I just feel really blessed to be here to see the growth of the School and to have come to know so many students," says Suggs, who adds that many second-generation students also have come through.

Before moving to their spacious digs in the new building last spring, Suggs and McKeathen worked for years together in close quarters, critiquing each other's work to meet Craig's standards.

"He's a perfectionist," says McKeathen, a Brown Summit native and A&T graduate. "He has a way he wants things ... and we get it done."

That was true even before computers made perfection more possible. During the accreditation process, there were many long days and even nights -- and lots of retyping.

"You wanted everything to be representative of the School and if you made an error, you didn't just white it out," Suggs says, "you started all over again."

The night before the application was due, the team worked until 3 a.m., with Suggs and McKeathen stretching out on the uncarpeted floor of the hallway for a nap.

"That same morning Dr. Pogue got on a flight to St. Louis to hand-deliver it," Suggs recalls, also remembering the excitement when the application was approved. "The whole school was really thrilled because a lot of work had gone into it. It was a team effort."

In addition to joy, the team also has shared pain, including the deaths of Pogue and Dr. Meada Gibbs, another early faculty member.

"We lost Dr. Gibbs and Dr. Pogue and we were really hurt by that," McKeathen says. "We've been here so long that we really are like a family."

The staff and faculty also have consoled each other over the loss of students including Erica James, whose name is remembered with a student scholarship, and Spec. Mark Bibby, a transportation/logistics student killed last year in Iraq.

The completion of the new building is the latest milestone for this family within a family.

"It was a lot of years coming, a lot of years on paper -- of us looking at the plans on the wall and wondering if it would really happen," Suggs says, adding that she's looking forward to seeing alumni at the dedication and reunion. "I hope a lot of them will come back and see what has occurred; to just be appreciative of how far we've come."

CYAN

MAGENTA

YELLOW

BLACK