



A&T Update

A Periodic Newsletter for Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Friends

North Carolina A&T State University

Volume 1, No. 5

January 10, 1984

A&T Receives \$10,000 As Communications Grant

A&T State University is one of 10 colleges chosen by Time Inc. to receive \$10,000 each in new scholarships for minority students studying communications.

Each school will choose the recipients and determine how much each student receives from the grant, but Time is asking that the scholarships be between \$1,000 and \$5,000 each. Time Inc. will reconsider which schools should receive the scholarships each year.

A&T Chancellor Edward B. Fort said the Time award is a breakthrough for A&T because it is the first time the university has received scholarship funds from an internationally recognized communications firm.

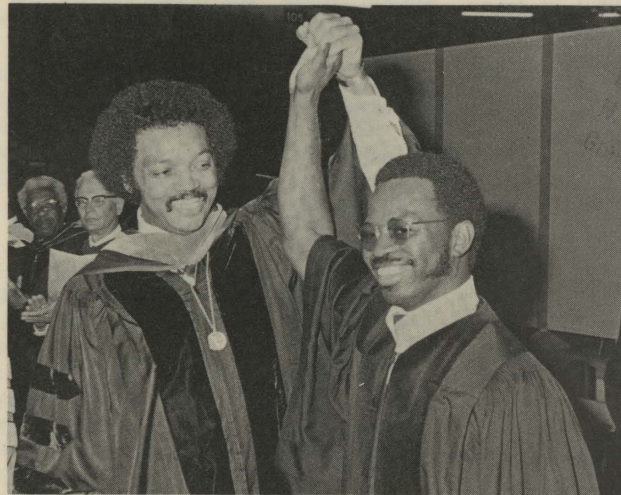
"The award comes on the heels of the announcement of action recently taken by the Board of Governors to approve for A&T the planning of a full-fledged communications major for the baccalaureate degree," Fort said. "This action supports our aspirations of having an outstanding communications program."

Nearly 200 A&T students are enrolled in mass communications courses in the university and can receive degrees in either English or speech with a concentration in mass communications.

Jackson's Big Victory

The Rev. Jesse Jackson '63 scored an important feat of international diplomacy on January 3 when he negotiated for the release of Navy Lt. Robert O. Goodman, Jr. by the Syrians.

Jackson, a Presidential candidate, accompanied Goodman home aboard a jetliner sent by Washington. President Reagan announced Goodman's release which he credited to the efforts of Jackson. "The present American Middle East policy will not work," said Jackson, a former Student Government Association president at A&T and currently a member of the A&T Board of Trustees. "We need to use the policy of negotiation."



The Rev. Jesse Jackson (left) and Astronaut Ronald McNair on visit to their University. Both are in the national limelight.

SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT

(An Editorial)

If A&T State University alumni can be found these days engaging in more than their share of bragging, it probably can be attributed to the fact that two of their number have recently earned national distinction and honor for their university. Alumni chests have bulged a bit since the Rev. Jesse Jackson, director of Operation PUSH in Chicago, became a bonafide candidate for President of the United States. In less than a month, Dr. Ronald McNair, another well-known Aggie, will make history when he becomes the first astronaut from a historically black college to participate in a space shuttle mission.

Both of these men, this writer believes, are examples of how historically black colleges and universities have traditionally intervened in and permanently impacted on the lives of their students, regardless

of SAT scores and state of academic preparation.

Much has been written already about Jackson; McNair's story is just as impressive.

McNair, who earned a degree in physics at A&T in 1971, almost became a music major at the university. In fact, he did major in music for about a week, before deciding to cast his lot with the physics department. After leaving A&T, he earned a Ph.D. degree in laser physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and launched a career as a research scientist with the Hughes Laboratory in California. Shortly thereafter, he received in the mail a notice that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was seeking applicants for the U. S. space program. He submitted an application and became one of four blacks selected for the program out of the 11,000 applicants. Incidentally, Guion Bluford, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and the first black to participate in a space mission, was a second cousin to the late Dr. F. D. Bluford, a longtime president of A&T.

McNair in a recent telephone interview from his home in Houston, recalled the foundation he received in the classrooms at A&T. "I had very good teachers there," he said. "I count my experiences at A&T as very important and positive ones. The university was important to me in the way of total development. I'm more of a complete person."

The Ron McNair stories keep surfacing
(Continued on page 2)

Jones, James Drafted

Tailback Mike Jones was drafted by the Oakland Invaders in the 12th round of the United States Football League draft of college seniors.

Keith James was also drafted by the same team.

Jones, a native of Youngstown, Ohio, led the Aggies in rushing with 941 yards in 211 attempts last season and was named All-MEAC and honorable mention All-America for Division 1-AA. James was a wide receiver.