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NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

52nd Sit-In Anniversary Breakfast Celebration

"Legacy to Legacy: Shared Leadership"



2009 Photo by Charles Watkins

*The A&T Four (Left to Right): Son of the late Dr. David L. Richmond, Dr. Franklin McCain,
Dr. Ezell Blair Jr., (MAHAJI Ras-Ala -A.K.A. Jibreel Khazan), and Dr. Joseph McNeil.*

February 1, 2012

**Alumni – Foundation Event Center
CAMPUS**

**The Division of Student Affairs
Dr. Melody Pierce, Vice Chancellor**

The Significance of February 1, 1960

The Observance of the Sit-In Anniversary celebrates the trail-blazing "sit-down lunch counter protest" at the F. W. Woolworth in Downtown Greensboro, N.C., on Monday, February 1, 1960, by the A&T Four - Drs. Franklin McCain, Mahaji El-Mi'Raji Apostle Jibreel Khazan, Philosopher of Hope-Disciple of Truth (Ezell Blair, Jr.), David L. Richmond, and Joseph McNeil.

As A&T freshmen students in 1960, Blair (later known as Khazan), McCain, McNeil and Richmond requested service at the segregated lunch counter of the F. W. Woolworth's store in downtown Greensboro, North Carolina. After being refused service, they sat at the lunch counter until closing. The next day twenty-five other students from A&T and other Greensboro colleges and universities joined them. During the next ten days, students across the state participated in similar sit-ins. By the third week of February 1960, demonstrations had spread to other states throughout the South. The "Sit-In Movement" spread to at least 250 major cities and towns in America in which over 400 demonstrations took place by the end of 1960. Millions of Americans joined this movement for equal rights. This led to: (1) The passage of the 1960 Civil Rights Bill; (2) The interstate commerce commission ruling in September, 1961, against racial segregation on interstate carriers and terminals and, (3) The first National Public Accommodations Act in 100 years (Khazan, 2004). By the end of July 1960, the "Greensboro Four" had succeeded. Woolworth's was desegregated. Dr. Jibreel Khazan recounts the following:

On Sunday night, January 31, 1960, we decided we were going to request equal service for all Americans at F.W. Woolworth's lunch counter on Monday, February 1, 1960. We thank our life giver, Rabboni Yashua Al-Masih, our Parents, Relatives, and Teachers. Friends, Believers in our life giver, Bishop Apostle Marcelino Manoel Da Graca, Mahatma Gandhi, Mrs. Rosa Parks, Drs. King and Abernathy, Their Families, SCLC, NAACP, Ms. Ella Baker, SNCC, Core, The Labor Movement, the Martyrs, I.B.P.O. Elks of the world, Prince Hall Masonic Lodge, F. & A. M., A. E., A. E. A. o. -Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and millions of Americans for "Helping to set the captives free." God sent us. We fulfilled the prophecy. All praises and thanks are due to our life giver for "Gods amazing grace."

The legacy of our four heroes proves the true potential and appeal of nonviolence. It was their protest that became the model and inspiration for later civil rights, anti-war, and women's liberation movements. Their courageous actions contributed to a chain of events that changed the destiny of Americans.

The A&T Four

Dr. Jibreel Khazan (Ezell Blair, Jr.)

Dr. Jibreel Khazan (Ezell A. Blair, Jr.), one of the A&T Four, was born in Greensboro, NC in 1941. He received his education from the Greensboro Public Schools. As a member of the Crown and Scepter Club and National Honor Society, Dr. Khazan received an academic scholarship to attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. During his tenure, he served as President of the Student Government Association and was an honor student. Dr. Khazan graduated in 1963 with a Bachelors of Science degree in sociology and social studies. He has studied at Howard University Law School, Massachusetts University in Dartmouth, Massachusetts in the field of education. He also studied voice at the New England Conservatory of Music. He received the honorary doctorate of humanities degree from A&T State University.

Dr. Khazan has served as a tutor/counselor for Rodman Job Corps Center, a minority history teacher at OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Center) in Boston, Mass., programming coordinator for Boston area construction trades program – AFL/CIO, skills teacher/counselor for CETA,. He taught a pilot course on Afriyqaan American history and for the New Bedford, Mass. public schools, and worked as program assistant for adults who are developmentally disabled. Dr. Khazan is a Mass-Star Story teller, Oracle, Oral Historian, and Lecturer.

Dr. Franklin Eugene McCain

Dr. Franklin McCain, one of the A&T Four, currently a resident of Charlotte, N.C. retired from the Hoechst Celanese Corporation Headquarters in New York, N.Y. and Charlotte, N.C... He held a number of positions in the technical and marketing/sales divisions, progressing from development chemist to division executive. Dr. McCain received the honorary doctorate of humanities from North Carolina A&T State University. He graduated from A&T with a B.S. degree in Chemistry and Biology. He did further study and training at N.C. State University, Princeton University, Farr Associate, Clemson University and American Management Association, New York, N.Y.

Dr. McCain has remained extremely active in his community while holding leadership positions in the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Bond Campaign for Mecklenburg County, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, to name a few. Dr. McCain is an Elder at Memorial Presbyterian Church and formerly sat on the Board of Visitors at Bennett College and the Board of Trustees at North Carolina Central University. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees at the Nivens Center for the Retarded, McCorey YMCA, and the Charlotte Business League, among many others. Dr. McCain is presently a member of the UNC Board of Governors and also holds membership in the A&T State University Alumni Association. He is a man with many honors and awards. He and his wife, Betty, have three sons.

Dr. Joseph Alfred McNeil

Following graduation, Dr. **Joseph McNeil**, one of the **A&T Four** served active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a flight navigator. Thereafter, he worked in investment banking and financial management, and consulting services. He retired from the Federal Aviation Administration in May, 2002 located in Jamaica, New York. Mr. McNeil served for over 15 years and was the head of the Flight Standards Division for the Eastern region of the United States.

Dr. McNeil retired from the United States Air Force Reserve in February 2000 with the rank of Major General. General McNeil served for over 37 years and was involved with efforts in Desert Storm and Vietnam. He retired as the Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of the Air Force Reserves, and previously served as a Wing Commander and Numbered Air Force Commander. Upon retirement, he received the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal.

Dr. McNeil has been awarded honorary degrees from St. John's University in Jamaica, New York and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. Dr. McNeil graduated from North Carolina A&T in 1963 with a degree in Physics. He and his wife Ina, have five children and nine grandchildren.

(The late) Dr. David Leinail Richmond

Dr. David Richmond, one of the **A&T Four**, was born in Greensboro, N.C. and graduated from James B. Dudley High School. He entered North Carolina A&T in the fall of 1959 and majored in business administration and accounting. After leaving A&T, he became a counselor-coordinator for the CETA program in Greensboro, a position that permitted him to assist disadvantaged youth and adults. Dr. Richmond received the honorary doctorate of humanities degree posthumously from North Carolina A&T State University at his funeral services on December 12, 1990. He is survived by two children.

Dr. Richmond's life was celebrated with the play, *David Richmond*, written in 1998 by Dr. Sam Hay, former A&T faculty member and former executive director of A&T's Paul Robeson Theatre.

Human Rights Medal Award

The Human Rights Medal, designed by Charles E. Watkins, is awarded annually by North Carolina A&T State University to recognize individuals who have endeavored to correct social injustice and have significantly contributed to the betterment of the world. The design features The A&T Four as they appeared as freshmen, a dove with an olive branch in its mouth, and four stools and a torch, all encircled by the name of the university.

The award was established to honor individuals whose courageous actions are a reflection of the extraordinary action against social injustice that was demonstrated by Dr. Jibreel Khazan (Ezell Blair Jr.), Dr. Franklin Eugene McCain Sr., Dr. Joseph Alfred McNeil, and the late Dr. David Richmond Jr. Their bold move to lead a group of students to take a stand for justice by sitting down at the lunch counter of the local Woolworths "five and dime" store initiated a wave of similar sit-ins by college students across the South.

Honorees include:

- Mr. Lewis A. Brandon, 2001**
Civil Rights Activist
- Mr. Vincent G. Harding, 2002**
Civil Rights Activist,
Co-Founder, *the Veterans of Hope Project*, Author
- Mrs. Rosemarie Freeney Harding, 2002**
Peace and Reconciliation Activist,
Co-Founder, *the Veterans of Hope Project*, Author
- Mr. J. Kenneth Lee, 2004**
Attorney and Civil Rights Activist
- Dr. Julius Chambers, 2005**
Attorney, Leader, Educator, Civil Rights Advocate
- Dr. Alvin Blount, 2007**
Physician and Civil Rights Activist
- Dr. George Harrison Evans, 2008**
Physician and Civic Leader
- Dr. Diane Nash, 2009**
Civil rights and peace activist, author, educator
- Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II, 2010**
Pastor, Civic Leader, Civil rights activist
- Reverend Dr. Howard Chubbs, 2011**
Pastor, Civic Leader

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Candidates for this award are selected from nominations submitted to the Committee for Awards, Honorary Degrees, and Fall Convocation / Honors Day. The membership of this committee is appointed annually from N.C. A&T faculty and staff. The committee adheres to the criteria listed below when reviewing candidates. Following the committee's review, the Chair of the committee sends recommendations to the Chancellor who announces the honoree.

ELIGIBILITY

The Human Rights Medal is presented to an individual who has had a positive impact on correcting social injustices and other humanitarian activities. Other humanitarian activities might include human welfare and social reform, acts of heroism, promotion of fellowship, dedication to technological discovery, academic advancements or contributions, diplomatic endeavors, and community contributions. Candidates for this award may be locally, nationally, or internationally recognized. Nominees for the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's Human Rights Medal are evaluated according to the need fulfilled and actions demonstrated by the individual and the scope of his or her contribution within the community.

2012 Human Rights Medalist Recipients

The Reverend Nelson Johnson and Mrs. Joyce Johnson



Reverend Nelson N. Johnson

Nelson Johnson has been active in the movement for social and economic justice since high school in the late 1950's. He served as a local and national student leader including Vice President of the SGA at A&T State University, in Greensboro, NC in 1970. Between high school and college Rev. Johnson served four years in the United States Air Force. He continues to work for social and economic justice in Greensboro as Pastor of Faith Community Church and Executive Director of The Beloved Community Center of Greensboro.

Though involved in a myriad of initiatives, Rev. Johnson focus his efforts on facilitating a process of comprehensive community building, which include a convergence of racial and ethnic diversity, social and economic justice, and genuine participatory democracy. At the Beloved Community Center, he and his colleagues attempt to bring together the homeless, the imprisoned, impoverished neighborhoods, and other disenfranchised groups in the spirit of mutual support and community. Guided by his three-part emphasis of diversity, justice and democracy, Rev. Johnson is actively building relationships with and providing leadership within organized labor, faith groups and other public and private community organizations. He and other local ministers of the Greensboro Pulpit Forum led an active support effort in 1997 that resulted in a significant contract settlement for workers at the Greensboro K-Mart Distribution Center. As a result, he is frequently invited to share that success story at workshops and meetings, including those sponsored by the George Meany Labor Institute, the AFL-CIO of New York, and the Michigan AFL-CIO.

Because of his extensive experience in community organizing and socio-political analysis, Rev. Johnson is routinely invited to speak on university campuses around the country to share his vision of community building. He has written articles for the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Labor and Employment Law and The Witness Magazine, published by the National Episcopal Church. Rev. Johnson is also a former Contributing Editor for the Black Scholar Magazine, National Chair and Contributing Editor for the African World Newspaper, and Assistant Editor for the Carolina Peacemaker of Greensboro, NC.

Rev. Johnson is a native of Halifax County, NC. He received a baccalaureate degree in political science from North Carolina A&T State University and a Master of Divinity Degree from the School of Theology at Virginia Union University. He is married to Joyce Hobson Johnson, a retired research director and School of Business and Economics faculty member at A&T who now works side by side with Johnson at the BCC.

Mrs. Joyce Hobson Johnson

Joyce Johnson's activism began as a high school student in Richmond, VA during the 1960s struggle for civil rights and open accommodations. She deepened her involvement in college as one of the earlier black students at Duke University and while supporting campus non-academic employees and the movement for relevant education. A former university professor and research director, Joyce is currently Director of the Jubilee Institute, a community-based leadership development and training entity. Joyce assisted the Beloved Community Center of Greensboro (BCC) in developing the Jubilee Institute to provide institutional support, social and political analysis, training, and leadership development for the broad-based progressive movement in that city. Joyce also serves on the North Carolina NAACP State Executive Board, the Guilford Education Alliance Board, and the Faith Community Church Council.

Though officially "retired," Joyce, the BCC and the Greensboro Justice Fund joined with other Greensboro residents in 2001 to establish the pace-setting Truth and Community Reconciliation Project. Molded after the South African process and other international efforts, this initiative is designed to encourage truth, understanding, and healing throughout Greensboro related to the tragic murder of five labor and racial justice organizers by Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party members on November 3, 1979. Joyce and her husband, Rev. Nelson N. Johnson, played a leading role in this ground-breaking model for community problem-solving. The Johnsons were recognized for their work in 2005 by both the prestigious Ford Foundation "Leadership for a Changing World Award" and by the Faith and Politics Institute of Washington, DC "Beloved Community Award." In 2008 the couple received the "Purpose Prize Award" from Civic Ventures of Palo Alto, California and the "Defenders of Justice Award" from the North Carolina Justice Center of Raleigh. In 2009 they were recognized by the Association for Conflict Resolution as recipients of the "Diversity and Equity Award."

In her community and church, Joyce has been active in a myriad of grassroots efforts to improve housing, employment practices, education healthcare, women's issues and support for African liberation struggles. Organizational affiliations have included the Afro-American Society at Duke University (founding member and Co-Chair), Black Student Movement at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Student Organization for Black Unity (SOBU), the African World Newspaper, the National Black Political Party, the Support Committee, the Greensboro Association of Poor People the Citizens Committee Against Police Brutality, the Southern Faith, Labor and Community Alliance, and the Beloved Community Center of Greensboro.

Ms. Johnson received a BS degree in Anthropology from Duke University, 1968; a MS in Adult Education from NC Agricultural & Technical State University in 1990, and Doctoral Studies in Higher Education Research & Administration, UNC-Greensboro, 1993-1995.

In conjunction with her husband, Joyce has dedicated almost 40 years to bringing about significant social and economic changes in Greensboro, NC and throughout the United States. The Johnsons have two adult daughters, Akua Johnson-Matherson, a university administrator, and Ayo Johnson a registered nurse and certified recreational therapist. They are also the proud grandparents of four grandchildren, Nia, Imani, Alise, and Nelson Josiah.



**Darryl C. Towns, Commissioner/CEO of
New York State Homes and Community Renewal**

Darryl C. Towns was selected by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to serve as Commissioner/CEO of NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), which includes all the state's integrated housing and community renewal agencies and programs.

Prior to his appointment, Commissioner/CEO Towns served in the NYS Assembly for 18 years, where he chaired the Banking Committee and served on Education, Health, Rules and Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry committees.

Towns also served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Mass Transit and in 2007 was elected chair of the State Legislature's Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus.

During his 18 years in the New York State Assembly, Commissioner Towns worked closely with not-for-profit housing agencies and community development corporations to revitalize neighborhoods and build and preserve affordable housing for his constituents.

He sponsored legislation to improve access to affordable housing for disabled veterans and to battle predatory lending, subprime lending and the myriad of mortgage and refinancing scams that plagued communities across New York State. He was a strong advocate of projects that provided affordable housing units for rentals and homeownership and secured grant funding for the development of the Cypress Hills Community School, Brooklyn's first green school building. Commissioner/CEO Towns also sponsored legislation to support community and economic development efforts, to create the New York State Community Development Financial Institutions Program, and to ensure that capital is available for small businesses.

Towns attended City University of New York's Medgar Evers College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He also served in the US Air Force for five years. While at A&T he served as Attorney General and Vice President of External Affairs for the SGA, was a Residence Assistant, and was initiated into the Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity in the Spring of 1988 and served as Chapter President. Darryl received was selected as an "Unsung Hero" during the 50th Anniversary of the Sit-In Celebration.

Commissioner/CEO Towns is the son of veteran Congressman Edolphus "Ed" Towns. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Karen Boykin-Towns, and their daughters, Jasmine and Trinity.

52nd Sit-In Anniversary Breakfast Celebration

Alumni - Foundation Events Center

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Presiding, Mr. Christian Robinson, SGA President
North Carolina A&T State University

6:00 am Sit-In Breakfast

Musical Interlude NC A&T State University Choir

6:50 am Posting of the Colors NC A&T State University Army and Air Force ROTC

7:00 am BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Welcome.....Dr. Judy Rashid, Committee Chairperson

Prayer.....Mr. Brent Murphy, Student

Black National Anthem.....NC A&T State University Choir

Greetings

Mr. Willie Deese , Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Dr. Melody Pierce, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

SGA President, Bennett College for Women

SGA President, Dudley High School

Recognition of Special Guests.....Ms. Jasmine Gurley, Miss NC A&T State University

Introduction of Guest Speaker Mr. Jordan Brunson, Mr. NC A&T State University

Guest SpeakerMr. Darryl C. Towns, Commissioner / NYS Homes and Community Renewal

Presentation of the Human Rights Medal.....Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr.

Introduction of the A&T Four.....Mr. Mitchell Brown, Vice President for Internal Affairs

Reading of the Winning Public School Essay

Remarks by the A&T Four

Retrieval of the Colors

Event Announcements and Dismissal

**9:00 am LAYING OF THE MEMORIAL WREATH
FEBRUARY ONE MONUMENT
A&T FELLOWSHIP GOSPEL CHOIR, SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER**

**9:30 am -11:30 A ROUNDTABLE STUDENT CONVERSATION WITH THE A&T FOUR
HARRISON AUDITORIUM**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way with that tears have been watered;
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from places,
Our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand.
True to our GOD, True to our native land

Alma Mater

Dear A. and T., dear A. and T., a monument indeed,
Around thy base with grateful hearts behold thy students kneel,
We bless the power that gave thee birth to help us in our need,
We'll ever strive while here on earth all loyalty to yield.

Refrain

With joy, with joy, dear A. and T., thy students turn from thee
To spread thy trophies year by year from Dare to Cherokee.

II

Dear A. and T., dear A. and T., the signet thou shall be
Set by our great old common wealth, proud boaster of the free;
She'd have the record of her worth on granite not inscribed-
Nay let the children of her birth proclaim it by their lives.

III

Dear A. and T., dear A. and T., henceforth our aim shall be,
By precepts wise and deeds more sure to bless the State through thee;
The arts of industry to wield against an idle foe.
A harvest rich from ripened fields of what thy students sow.

52nd Sit-In Anniversary Celebration Committee

Dr. Judy Rashid, Chairperson
Mrs. Leonora Bryant, Co-Chairperson

Mr. Donald Brandon
Mr. Lewis Brandon, III
Mr. Mitchell Brown
Ms. Deloris Chisley
Ms. Jasmine Gurley
Mr. Jaalil Hart
Ms. Jennifer Kennedy
Ms. Diatra Langford
Mr. Ryan Maltese
Mr. Brandon Morrison
Mrs. Akua Matherson
Mr. David Miller
Ms. Peggy Oliphant
Dr. Maria Palmer
Mr. Christian Robinson
Ms. Nettie Rowland
Mr. Christopher Wade
Mrs. Wyndon Wilkie-Knight
Ms. Crystal Williams

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Office of the Chancellor
Alumni-Foundation Event Center
Bennett College for Women SGA
Division of Business and Finance
Division of University Advancement
Dudley High School SGA
N.C. A&T Alumni Association
N.C. A&T Army and Air force ROTC
N.C. A&T School of Education
N.C. A&T Student Government Association
N.C. A&T University Gospel Choir
N.C. A&T State University Choir
N.C. A&T University Event Center
N.C. A&T University Police Department
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Special thanks to

**Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr.
Mr. Willie Deese, Chair, NC A&T Board of Trustees
Dr. Melody Pierce, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Faculty and students of Guilford County Schools, the Superintendent's Office,
Dr. Tony Watlington**