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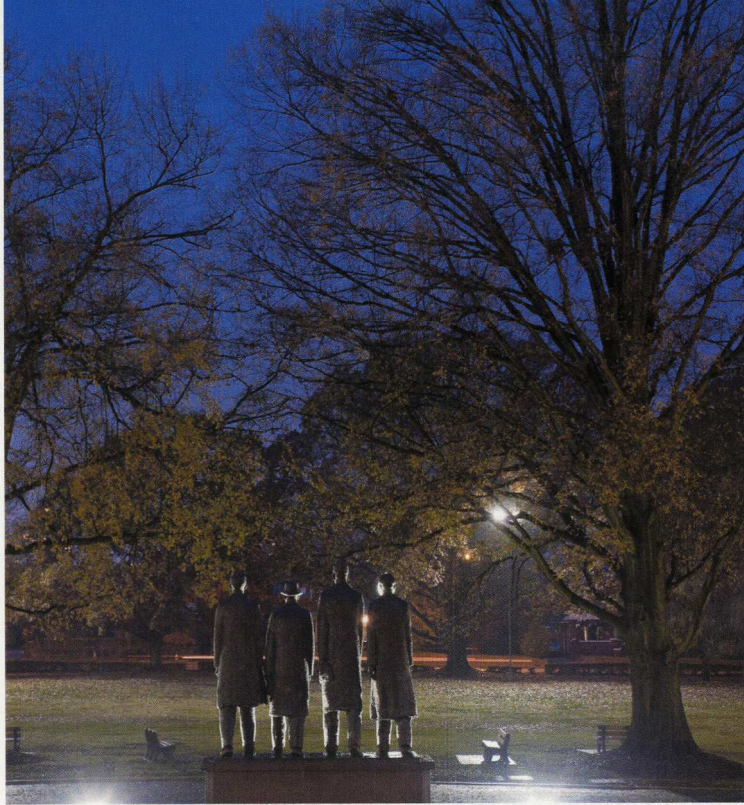
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**NORTH CAROLINA A&T
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**CELEBRATING THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FEBRUARY ONE SIT-IN**

**LEGACY TO LEGACY:
SHARED LEADERSHIP**

FEBRUARY 1, 2013

ALUMNI-FOUNDATION EVENT CENTER

CAMPUS

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 N.C. A&T freshmen 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 25 more students from A&T and other Greensboro colleges and universities joined them. During the next 10 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 where 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.

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 A. BLAIR JR.)

Jibreel Khazan (formerly **Ezell A. Blair Jr.**) was born in Greensboro, N.C., in 1941. He received his education from the Greensboro Public Schools. As a member of the Crown and Scepter Club and National Honor Society, 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.

A 1963 graduate of N.C. A&T with a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology and social studies, Khazan also has studied at Howard University Law School, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth in the field of education. He also studied voice at the New England Conservatory of Music. He also has an honorary doctorate of humanities degree from A&T.

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) and skills teacher/counselor for CETA. He taught a pilot course on Afriyqaan American history for the New Bedford, Mass., public schools, and worked as program assistant for adults who are developmentally disabled.

Khazan is a Mass-Star storyteller, oracle, oral historian and lecturer.

DR. FRANKLIN EUGENE MCCAIN

Franklin E. McCain, currently a resident of Charlotte, N.C., retired from the Hoechst Celanese Corporation Headquarters in New York City and Charlotte, where he held a number of positions in the technical and marketing/sales divisions, progressing from development chemist to division executive.

McCain graduated from N.C. A&T with a B.S. degree in chemistry and biology. He has done further study and training at North Carolina State University, Princeton University, Farr Associate, Clemson University and American Management Association (New York, N.Y.). He also has received an honorary doctorate of humanities from A&T.

McCain has remained extremely active in his community while holding leadership positions in the NAACP Legal Defense and 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. He is an elder at Memorial Presbyterian Church and formerly sat on the Bennett College Board of Visitors and the boards of trustees for A&T and North Carolina Central University, Nivens Center for the Retarded, McC Corey YMCA, and the Charlotte Business League, among many others.

Presently, McCain is a member of the UNC Board of Governors and also holds membership in the North Carolina A&T State University Alumni Association. He is a man with many honors and awards. He and his late wife Betty have three sons.

DR. JOSEPH ALFRED MCNEIL

Following graduation, **Joseph A. McNeil** served active duty in the United States Air Force as a flight navigator. Thereafter, he worked in investment banking and financial management and consulting services. In 2002, McNeil retired from the Federal Aviation Administration in Jamaica, N.Y., where he served for over 15 years and was head of the Flight Standards Division for the Eastern United States.

In February 2000, McNeil retired with the rank of major general from the U.S. Air Force Reserve, having served for over 37 years with efforts including 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.

McNeil graduated from N.C. A&T in 1963 with a degree in physics. He has been awarded honorary degrees from St. John's University (Jamaica, N.Y.) and A&T.

McNeil and his wife Ina have five children and nine grandchildren.

THE LATE DR. DAVID LEINAIL RICHMOND

David L. Richmond was born in Greensboro, N.C., and graduated from James B. Dudley High School. He entered North Carolina A&T State University in the fall of 1959 and majored in business administration and accounting.

After leaving N.C. A&T, Richmond became a counselor-coordinator for the CETA program in Greensboro, a position that permitted him to assist disadvantaged youth and adults.

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.

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

Human Rights Medal Award

The Human Rights Medal, designed by alumnus 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, 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 then freshmen Ezell A. Blair Jr. (Jibreel Khazan), Franklin Eugene McCain, Joseph Alfred McNeil and 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 Woolworth's "five and dime" store initiated a wave of similar sit-ins by college students across the South. Honorees include the following:

- 2001 **Mr. Lewis A. Brandon**, Civil Rights Activist
- 2002 **Mr. Vincent G. Harding**, Civil Rights Activist; Co-founder, Veterans of Hope Project; Author
 Mrs. Rosemarie Freaney Harding, Peace and Reconciliation Activist; Co-founder, Veterans of Hope Project; Author
- 2004 **Mr. J. Kenneth Lee**, Attorney and Civil Rights Activist
- 2005 **Dr. Julius Chambers**, Attorney, Leader, Educator and Civil Rights Advocate
- 2007 **Dr. Alvin Blount**, Physician and Civil Rights Activist
- 2008 **Dr. George Harrison Evans**, Physician and Civic Leader
- 2009 **Dr. Diane Nash**, Civil Rights and Peace Activist, Author and Educator
- 2010 **Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II**, Pastor, Civic Leader and Civil Rights Activist
- 2011 **Rev. Dr. Howard Chubbs**, Pastor and Civic Leader
- 2012 **Rev. Nelson Johnson and Mrs. Joyce Johnson**, Civic Activists

Awards Committee

Candidates for this award are selected from nominations submitted to the University Awards Committee, which is appointed biennially and is comprised of 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 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.

2013 Human Rights Medal Recipient

CONGRESSMAN MELVIN L. WATT



Melvin L. “Mel” Watt was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, on August 26, 1945. He is a graduate of York Road High School in Charlotte. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1967 with a B.S. degree in business administration and was the president of the business honors fraternity as a result of having the highest academic average in the Business School. In 1970 he received a J.D. degree from Yale University Law School and was a published member of the Yale Law Journal. He has been awarded honorary degrees from North Carolina A&T State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Bennett College and Fisk University.

Watt practiced law from 1970-1992, specializing in minority business and economic development law in a general practice law firm best known for its civil rights reputation. He has been an owner of several small businesses.

Watt was the campaign manager of Harvey Gantt’s campaigns for City Council, for Mayor of Charlotte and for the United States Senate. He served one term in the North Carolina Senate (1985–1986) where he was called “the conscience of the Senate.” He did not seek a second term and announced that he would not consider running for elective office again until his children completed high school.

He is married to Eulada Paysour Watt, an educator. They have two sons, Brian and Jason, both of whom are graduates of Yale University and have earned graduate degrees. He is a member of Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church and is a life member of the NAACP. Watt served as president of the Mecklenburg County Bar and has been a member of many professional, community and civic boards and organizations.

In 1992, Watt was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina’s 12th Congressional District and became one of only two African American members elected to Congress from North Carolina in the 20th century. Watt is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, on which he is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet, and he serves on the Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law. He is also on the House Financial Services Committee, on which he serves on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit and the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity. He was unanimously elected and served as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (2005–2006).

Watt enjoys tennis, running, reading and music. Before retiring from the Democratic baseball team in 2008, he was the starting pitcher for the Democratic baseball team in the annual Congressional Baseball Game and was named Most Valuable Player in 1995, 1996 and 2000.

53rd Sit-In Anniversary Breakfast Celebration

Alumni-Foundation Events Center
Friday, February 1, 2013

Presiding: Mr. Allahquan Tate, North Carolina A&T State University Student Government Association President

6:30 a.m. Sit-In Breakfast

Musical Interlude

North Carolina A&T State University Choir

6:50 a.m. Posting of the Colors

North Carolina A&T State University Army and Air Force ROTC

7 a.m. BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Welcome Dr. Judy Rashid, Committee Chairperson

Prayer Mr. Brandon Brockington, N.C. A&T Student

Black National Anthem (Lift Every Voice and Sing) University Choir

Greetings

Mr. Willie Deese, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Dr. Melody Pierce, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Ms. Delrisha White, SGA President, Bennett College
Mr. Dwayne Johnson, President, Graduate Student Council

Recognition of Special Guests Ms. Catherine Hamlin, Miss N.C. A&T

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

Guilford County Schools Sit-In Competition: Reading of the Winning Essays

Introduction of The A&T Four Mr. Reginald Johnson, Mister N.C. A&T

Remarks by The A&T Four

Retrieval of the Colors

Event Announcements and Dismissal

9 a.m. LAYING OF THE MEMORIAL WREATH - February One Monument
Ms. Caneisha Turner, SGA Vice President for Internal Affairs
N.C. A&T Fellowship Gospel Choir, Alma Mater

9:30–10:45 a.m. A CONVERSATION WITH THE A&T FOUR - Harrison Auditorium
Coordinated by the N.C. A&T SGA and Mrs. Leonora Bryant, Co-chair

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 chast'ning 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 that with tears has 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 the 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 shalt be
Set by our great old commonwealth, 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 field of what thy students sow.

SPECIAL THANKS

Faculty and students of Guilford County Schools, the Superintendent's Office and
Dr. Tony Watlington

53rd Sit-In Anniversary Celebration Committee

Dr. Judy Rashid, Chairperson

Mrs. Leonora Bryant, Co-chairperson

Mrs. Akua Matherson, Co-chairperson

Ms. Precious Bradley

Mr. Donald Brandon

Mr. Lewis Brandon III

Ms. Asha Brown

Ms. Deloris Chisley

Ms. Jeanette Evans

Ms. Catherine Hamlin

Mr. Jaalil Hart

Ms. Jennifer Kennedy

Ms. Diatra Langford

Mr. Reginald Lewis

Mr. Ferreli McGilvary

Mr. David Miller

Mr. Brandon Morrison

Ms. Nettie Rowland

Mr. Gerald Spates

Mr. Allahquan Tate

Ms. Canisha Turner

Ms. Crystal Williams

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Office of the Chancellor
Alumni-Foundation Event Center
Bennett College Student Government Association
Division of Business and Finance
Division of University Advancement
Dudley High School Student Government Association
N.C. A&T Alumni Association
N.C. A&T Army and Air force ROTC
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

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