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## **The 47th Sit-In Anniversary Celebration Reclaiming Our Heritage: Redefining Our Legacy**

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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# The 47<sup>th</sup> Sit-In Anniversary Celebration

*Reclaiming Our Heritage:  
Redefining Our Legacy*



*The Observance of the 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the trail-blazing "sit-down protest" at the F. W. Woolworth lunch counter on Monday, February 1, 1960, by the A&T Four (Left to Right): Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair Jr., (MAHAJI Ras-Ala -A.K.A. Jibreel Khazan), David L. Richmond, , and Joseph McNeil.*

February 1, 2007

**Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs  
Dr. Sullivan Welborne, Jr., Interim Vice Chancellor**

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University  
Greensboro, North Carolina

## The Significance of February 1, 1960

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, 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 were awarded honorary doctorates from North Carolina A&T State University at commencement in 1991.

# 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, 2000-01**

Civil Rights Activist

**Mr. Vincent G. Harding, 2001-02**

Civil Rights Activist,

Co-Founder, *The Veterans of Hope Project*, Author

**Mrs. Rosemarie Freeney Harding, 2001-02**

Peace and Reconciliation Activist,

Co-Founder, *The Veterans of Hope Project*, Author

**Atty. J. Kenneth Lee, 2003-04**

Attorney and Civil Rights Activist

**Atty. Julius Chambers, 2004-05**

Attorney, Leader, Educator, Civil Rights Advocate

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

Candidates for this award are selected from nominations submitted to the Committee for Awards, Honorary Degrees, and Founders/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.

# **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 in 1941. He received his basic education from the Greensboro Public Schools. As a member of the Crown and Sceptre 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 and also studied voice at the New England Conservatory of Music. He received the honorary doctorate of humanities degree from North Carolina 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, 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. 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**, was born in Union County, North Carolina but was educated in Washington, DC. After graduating from Eastern High School in Washington, Dr. McCain entered North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and in 1964 he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry and Biology. Sometime later, he also earned his Master of Arts Degree from N.C. A&T. Dr. McCain did further study and training at N C State University (Raleigh, NC) Princeton University (Princeton, NJ), Farr Associates (Greensboro, NC) and American Management Association (New York, NY).

Dr. McCain worked at Hoechst Celanese Corporation in Charlotte, North Carolina from 1965 until his retirement. He 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 with Memorial Presbyterian Church and sits on the Board of Visitors of Bennett College and the Board of Trustees at North Carolina A&T State University. He is past member of the Board of Trustees at North Carolina Central University and of the Nivens Center for the Retarded, McCorey YMCA, and the Charlotte Business League, among many others. Dr. McCain 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.

## **The A&T Four (cont'd)**

### **Dr. Joseph Alfred McNeil**

Dr. Joseph McNeil, one of the **A&T Four**, 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.

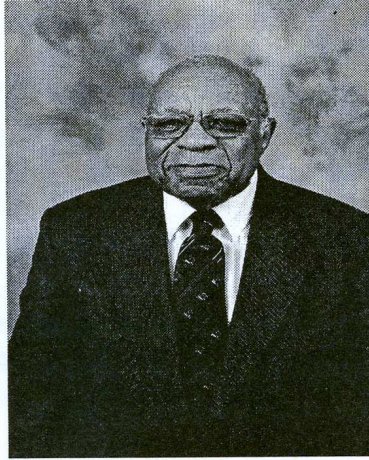
Dr. McNeil retired from the United States Air Force Reserve in February 2000 with the rank of Major General. General McNeil served for over 37 years and was involved with efforts in Desert Storm and Vietnam. He retired as the Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of the Air Force Reserves, and previously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

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. 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 died in Greensboro on December 7, 1990. He is survived by two children.

## Human Rights Medalist Recipient **Dr. Alvin Blount**



Born on February 24, 1922, in Raleigh, North Carolina, Alvin Blount, Jr. was destined to be a man of distinction. The son of Alvin and Annie Blount, he was the only boy among three sisters. He and his family briefly transplanted to New York during his youth, but he returned to Raleigh to become an honors graduate of Washington High School. At an early age, Blount had distinguished himself as a determined scholar.

In 1939, he enrolled at NCA&T State University on a NYA work scholarship. This was the beginning of what was to be a lifelong commitment to his alma mater. His tenure in college also marked the start of his leadership career. He was a founding member of the Alpha Kappa Mu honor society and by his senior year, Blount was president of the SGA and chair of the editorial board for the *A&T Register*. Upon graduating with high honors in 1943, he enlisted in the US Army and subsequently entered Howard University School of Medicine, graduating in 1947. Dr. Blount completed his surgical residency in Winston-Salem at Kate Bittings Reynolds Memorial Hospital in 1950.

A Captain in the US Army Medical Corps, he served as Acting Chief of Surgery, 8225<sup>th</sup> MASH Unit, in Korea from 1951 until 1952. Upon completing his military service, Dr. Blount started a distinguished medical practice in Greensboro that has lasted over five decades. While his specialty was abdominal surgery, Dr. Blount was first and foremost a doctor who treated all in need. This included the delivery of many Greensboro infants. Although he retired from a full practice in 1994, Dr. Blount continues to see patients at his office on East Market Street and is medical director of the Guilford Health Care Center. He is also an executive committee member of Kindred Hospital (formerly L. Richardson Hospital.) Dr. Blount held the position as Chief of Surgery at L. Richardson Hospital for over 23 years. He retired as Chief in 1988. He remains active in several medical organizations.

As a young “Negro” professional, Dr. Blount was among those who championed the destruction of racial barriers and the development of positive race relations in Greensboro. He is the only living litigant of the suit, Simkins v. Moses H. Cone Hospital. As a result of the 1963 landmark Supreme Court decision, hospitals throughout the South were desegregated and Dr. Blount became the first black surgeon admitted to the medical staff of Moses Cone Hospital. He is now an honorary member of the staff for life. In addition to his medical career, Dr. Blount has been a tireless supporter of many of Greensboro’s civic organizations. He was one of the earliest black members of the United Fund and integrated several other Greensboro organizations. During the turbulent times of the Greensboro sit-ins and other racially tense incidents, Dr. Blount was among those civic leaders who helped the city stay on a course of civility. He has continuously fostered friendships and partnerships across racial and religious lines in many arenas.

Dr. Blount’s tenure in Greensboro is marked as much by his commitment to NCA&T as it is by his medical practice. He has been an integral part of the university’s growth. Now President-Emeritus, he was a 1966 Charter Member of the NCA&T State University Foundation Board. Under his leadership, the Foundation raised over \$26 million for university support and scholarships, assisting hundreds of students with tuition and living expenses. He served as President for 23 years and continues to actively support the Board. In 1983, the university awarded him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities. In 2000, the Foundation Board established the Dr. A. V. Blount Scholarship in his honor.

Dr. Blount’s numerous community affiliations include life memberships of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the NAACP; and membership of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and the Association of Guardsmen. He is Co-Founder of the Century Club of Hayes Taylor YMCA and a member of their Hall of Fame. Dr. Blount is Honorary Past Grand Master and Medical Director of the Prince Hall Masons of North Carolina. He is a devoted member of the Episcopal Church of The Redeemer. He is a past president of the Greensboro Men’s Club. Among his countless awards and honors is the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest honor that can be granted to a civilian in the state of North Carolina.

Dr. Blount is married to the former Gwendolyn Harris. He is beloved by their seven children and nine grandchildren. In his “spare” time, Dr. Blount enjoys golf, reading, and encouraging young people to always reach beyond their grasp.



**47<sup>th</sup> Sit-In Anniversary Celebration**  
Thursday, February 1, 2007

**6:00 a.m.**  
Musical Interlude

**Sit-In Breakfast**

Williams Cafeteria

**7:15 a.m.**

**PROGRAM**

Ms. Arnita Floyd Moody , Presiding  
N. C. A&T Student Government Association President

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

Posting of the Colors..... North Carolina A&T Army ROTC

Prayer..... Dr. Sullivan Welborne, Jr.  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Black National Anthem..... N.C. A&T State University Gospel Choir

Greetings..... Dr. Velma Speight-Buford, Chairperson, N.C. A&T Board of Trustees  
Ms. Sharelle Barber , SGA President - Bennett College  
Ms. Chenae White, President - Council of Presidents, N.C. A&T

Introduction of the A&T Four.....Crystal Williams, Miss A&T 2006-2007

Introduction of Guest Speaker .....Ms. Jasmine Fisher, President - Pan Hellenic Council

**Guest Speaker**

*Ms. Nontombi Naomi Tutu*

**8:00 a.m.**

Presentation of the **Human Rights Medal & Remarks** ....Chancellor Lloyd V. Hackley

**8:45 a.m.**

**LAYING OF THE MEMORIAL WREATH  
AT THE FEBRUARY ONE MONUMENT  
(DUDLEY BUILDING)**  
North Carolina A&T State University Choir

**3:00 P.M.**

**Sit-In Roundtable Discussion with the A&T Four**  
Memorial Student Union, Stallings Ballroom  
Sponsored by the N. C . A&T Council of Presidents

## Guest Speaker Nontombi Naomi Tutu



The challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa has led Naomi Tutu to her present as an activist for human rights. Those experiences taught how much we all lose when any of us is judged purely on physical attributes. In her speeches she blends the passion for human dignity with humor and personal stories.

Ms Tutu is the third child of Archbishop Desmond and Nomalizo Leah Tutu. She was born in South Africa and has also lived in Lesotho, the United Kingdom and the United States. She was educated in Swaziland, the US and England, and has divided her adult life between South Africa and the US. Growing up the 'daughter of ...' has offered Naomi Tutu many opportunities and challenges in her life. Most important of these has been the challenge to find her own place in the world. She has taken up the challenge and channeled the opportunities that she has been given to raise her voice as a champion for the dignity of all.

Her professional experience ranges from being a development consultant in West Africa, to being program coordinator for programs on Race and Gender and Gender-based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. In addition, Ms Tutu has taught at the University of Hartford in Connecticut and Brevard College in North Carolina.

She started her public speaking as a college student at Berea College in Kentucky in the 1970's when she was invited to speak at churches, community groups, and colleges and universities about her experiences growing up in apartheid South Africa. Since that time she has become a much sought after speaker to groups as varied as business associations, professional conferences, elected officials, and church and civic organizations. Ms Tutu has also led Truth and Reconciliation Workshops for groups dealing with different types of conflict. Together with Rose Bator she presents a workshop titled *Building Bridges* dealing with issues of race and racism. The two also lead women's retreats through their organization **Sister Sojourner**. They are also writing a book provisionally titled *I Don't Think of You as Black: Honest Conversations on Race and Racism*.

Ms Tutu is a single mother of two children and lives in Nashville, TN.

## 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 is 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 hears 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 they student sow.

# 47<sup>th</sup> Sit-In Anniversary Celebration Committee

Dr. Judy Rashid, Chairperson

Mr. Donald Brandon

Mr. Lewis Brandon, III

Mr. Jawan Dow

Mrs. Kay Harris

Ms. Bridgett Herring

Mrs. Marian Lee

Ms. Arnita Floyd-Moody

Ms. Peggy Oliphant

Ms. Keturah Parker

Mr. Maurice Scott

Ms. Brittny Stallings

Mr. Desmond Stowe

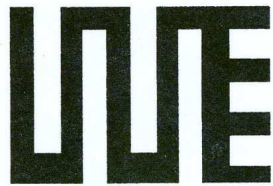
Ms. Chenae White

Mrs. Wyndon Wilkie-Knight

Host and Hostesses

Student Organization Representatives

**“Reclaiming our Heritage:  
Redefining Our Legacy”**



Adinkra symbol of TOUGHNESS, ADAPTABILITY,  
DEVOTION TO SERVICE AND RESOLUTENESS