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The 49th Sit-In Movement Anniversary Celebration Our Heritage: Redefining Our Legacy

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

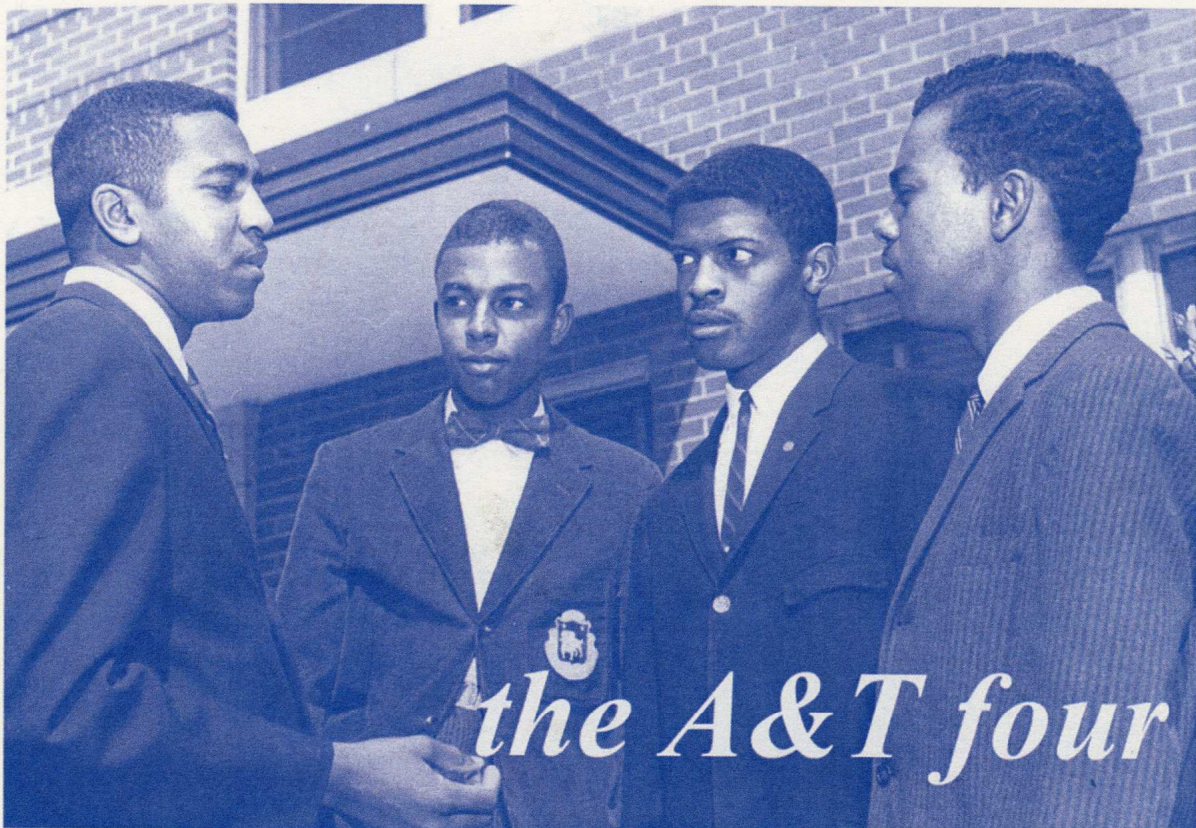


NKYINKYIM

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

The 49th Sit-In Anniversary Celebration

*Reclaiming Our Heritage:
Redefining Our Legacy*



The Observance of the 49th 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): Drs. Franklin McCain, Mahaji El-Mi'Raji Apostle Jibreel Khazan, Philosopher of Hope – Disciple of Truth (Ezell A. Blair Jr.), David L. Richmond, and Joseph McNeil.

January 30, 2009

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

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 Freney 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

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 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 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**, 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 of Bennett College and the Board of Trustees at North Carolina Central University. He is 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 Board of Trustees at North Carolina A&T State University 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.

The A&T Four (cont'd)

Dr. Joseph Alfred McNeil

Dr. Joseph McNeil, one of the A&T Four has enjoyed waived professional career interest. Following graduation, he served active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a flight navigator. Thereafter, he worked in investment banking and financial management, 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. 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 four children.

Human Rights Medalist Recipient Dr. Diane Nash



While a student at Fisk University in 1959, Dr. DIANE NASH became involved in the nonviolent movement. She was:

- Chairperson of the student sit-in movement in the first southern city to desegregate its lunch counters (Nashville, Tennessee, 1960)
- One of the founding students of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (1960)
- Coordinator of the Freedom Ride (from Birmingham, Alabama to Jackson, Mississippi, 1961)
- Jailed while pregnant with her first child (Jackson, Mississippi, 1961). She served 30 days in jail in Rock Hill, South Carolina and was arrested for her civil rights activities many times throughout the South
- Director of the direct action arm of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961
- Appointed by President John F. Kennedy to a national committee that promoted passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Field staff person, organizer, strategist, race relations staff person, and workshop instructor for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), 1961-65
- Activist in the peace movement that worked to end the Vietnam war
- Instructor in the philosophy and strategy of non-violence as developed by Mohandas Gandhi in India

- One of two people who conceptualized and formed SCLC's initial strategy for the Selma Right-To-Vote movement, as well as participated in its development until its conclusion, resulting in the Voting Rights Act. For this work, she and her co-strategist received SCLC's highest award for 1965, presented by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Diane Nash's work is discussed in these well-known books: *Freedom Riders 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice* by Raymond Arsenault; *Parting the Waters* and *Pillar of Fire*, by Taylor Branch; *The Children*, by David Halberstam; *Walking With the Wind*, by Congressman John Lewis, and *Freedom's Daughters*, by Lynne Olson.

In addition, her work is cited in many television and film documentaries and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. Dr. Nash has appeared on and in The **OPRAH WINFREY** Show, The **TODAY** Show, The Spike Lee Film, **FOUR LITTLE GIRLS EYES ON THE PRIZE: America's Civil Rights Years - 1954 to 1965**, the award-winning Public Broadcasting System series; and **A FORCE MORE POWERFUL**, award-winning documentary on the use of nonviolence, globally.

The John F. Kennedy Library presented Dr. Nash with their "Distinguished American Award" in March, 2003. The Kennedy Library Distinguished American Award is bestowed upon men and women who have played significant roles in American public affairs and who have contributed to the moral education of the country. Past recipients of the Distinguished American Award include Madeleine Albright, Harry Belafonte, Former President George Bush, James Farmer, Betty Freidan, Congressman John Lewis, Sargent Shriver, Helen Thomas and others.

Dr. Nash received the LBJ Award for Leadership in Civil Rights from The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in March, 2004. Lynda Johnson Robb presented the award with Lady Bird Johnson and Luci Baines Johnson in attendance.

Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, awarded Dr. Nash an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree in May, 2007. In addition, The National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN, presented her with their 2008 National Freedom Award on October 28, 2008. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions in civil rights and human rights. Previous recipients include Nelson Mandela, President Jimmy Carter, Rosa Parks, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Oprah Winfrey, Thurgood Marshall (posthumously awarded) President William Jefferson Clinton and Sidney Poitier.

Dr. Nash, a native and current resident of Chicago, Illinois, held several administrative positions in social service agencies in Chicago after the 1960's and was a housing and real estate consultant. Currently, she lectures at colleges and universities and continues to be an activist in civil rights and peace issues. Dr. Nash has a daughter and a son who are adults and she is a grandmother.

49th Sit-In Anniversary Celebration

Friday, January 30, 2009

6:00 a.m.
Musical Interlude

Sit-In Breakfast

Williams Cafeteria
A&T Jazz Ensemble

7:15 a.m.

PROGRAM

Marcus Bass, Presiding
President, N. C. A&T State University Student Government Association

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

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

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

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

Greetings

Dr. Franklin McCain, Chairperson
N.C. A&T Board of Trustees

Michael Jeffries, Vice President
A&T Chapter of the NAACP

Mesha White, SGA President
Bennett College for Women

Introduction of Guest SpeakerSammie Dow, Chief of Staff /Admin. Logistics
NC A&T SU Student Government Association

Guest SpeakerThe Honorable Julian Bond
Chairman of the Board, NAACP

Presentation of the.....Chancellor Stanley F. Battle
Human Rights Medal & Remarks

Introduction of the A&T Four..... Tanisha Shavonne Fordham
Ms. North Carolina A&T State University 2008-09

Remarks by the A&T Four

Retrieval of the Colors

8:45 a.m.

**LAYING OF THE MEMORIAL WREATH
FEBRUARY ONE STATUE**

2:00 p.m.

Sit-In Roundtable Discussion with the A&T Four
Memorial Student Union, Stallings Ballroom



JULIAN BOND
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, NAACP

From his student days to his current Chairmanship of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Julian Bond has been an active participant in the movements for civil rights, economic justice. As an activist who has faced jail for his convictions, as a veteran of more than 20 years service in the Georgia General Assembly, as a university professor, and as a writer, he has been on the cutting edge of social change since 1960. While a student at Morehouse College over forty years ago, he founded the Atlanta student sit-in and anti-segregation organization, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). As SNCC's Communications Director, Bond was active in protests and registration campaigns throughout the South during one of this nation's most difficult times.

Elected in 1965 to the Georgia House of Representatives, Bond was prevented from taking his seat by members who objected to his opposition to the Vietnam War. He was re-elected to his own vacant seat and un-seated again, and re-seated only after a third election and a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court. In 1968, he was co-chair of a challenge delegation from Georgia at the Democratic Convention. The challengers were successful in unseating Georgia's regular Democrats, and Bond was nominated for Vice-President, but had to decline because he was too young.

Bond serves as Chairman of the Premier Auto Group PAG (Volvo, Land Rover, Aston-Martin, and Jaguar) Diversity Council and is on the Boards of the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Council for a Livable World, and the advisory board of the Harvard Business School Initiative on Social Enterprise, among many others. Bond has served as commentator on *America's Black Forum*, the oldest black-owned show in television syndication and his poetry and articles have appeared in numerous publications. He has narrated numerous documentaries, including the Academy Award-winning *A Time for Justice* and the prize-winning and critically acclaimed series *Eyes On The Prize*. He has been a commentator on *The Today Show* and was the author of a nationally syndicated newspaper column called "Viewpoint." He has published *A Time To Speak, A Time To*

Act, a collection of his essays as well as *Black Candidates Southern Campaign Experiences*.

Serving since 1998 as Chairman of the Board of the NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, Bond continues with his activism, working to educate the public about the history of the Civil Rights movement and the struggles that African Americans and the poor still endure.

In 2002, he received the prestigious National Freedom Award. Throughout his influential career, Bond taught at several universities, including Williams, the University of Pennsylvania, American, Drexel, Harvard and the University of Virginia. The holder of twenty-three honorary degrees, he is a Distinguished Professor at American University in Washington, DC, and serves as Professor of history at the University of Virginia. For more information please visit www.apbspeakers.com.

TOPICS:

The Road to Freedom: From Alabama to Obama

Race to the White House: The Politics of Civil Rights

Mentoring & the Corporate Way

Civil Rights: In the Day, Today, & Tomorrow

Black, Jewish, Muslim: Common Cause with Those Who Share Our Condition

Crossing the Color Line: From Rhythm'n Blues to Rock'n Roll

Affirmative Action: The Just Spoils of a Righteous War

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 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.

49th Sit-In Anniversary Celebration Committee

Dr. Judy Rashid, Chairperson

Marcus Bass

Mr. Donald Brandon

Mr. Lewis Brandon, III

Robert Braswell

Shekeitha Burnett

Dominique Donaldson

Sammie Dow

Veronica Harrison

Kenny King

Mrs. Marian Lee

Tabitha Lowe

Ms. Peggy Oliphant

Mr. Maurice Scott

Penny Torrence

Gerrard Wheeler

Mrs. Wyndon Wilkie-Knight