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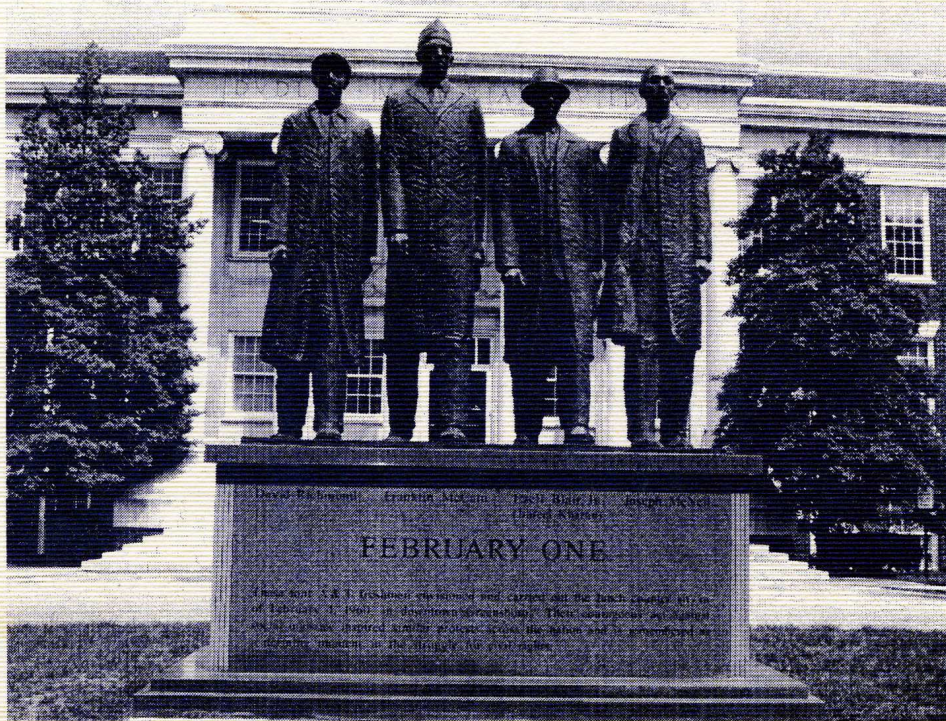
The 45th Sit-In Movement Anniversary Celebration "Equality and Justice for All Times"

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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The 45th Sit-In Anniversary Celebration

“Equality and Justice for All Times”



The Observance of the 45th 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: David L. Richmond, Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair Jr., (MAHAJI Ras-Ala -A.K.A.Jibreel Khazan), and Joseph McNeil.

February 1, 2005

**Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs
Dr. Roselle L. Wilson, 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.

Human Rights Medal Award

Shortly after being named the ninth chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, James C. Renick announced that the University would award a Human Rights Medal. The Human Rights Medal, designed by Charles E. Watkins is awarded annually 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 is countertop, 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 "Five and Dime" 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 Freney Harding, 2001-02

Peace and Reconciliation Activist,

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

Mr. J. Kenneth Lee, 2003-04

Attorney and Civil Rights Activist

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 (Greensboro, NC), the Board of Trustees at North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC), and is a past board member 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.

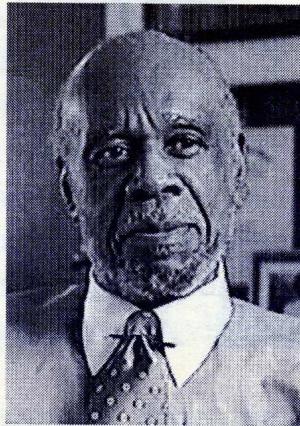
Dr. McNeil retired from the United States Air Force Reserve in February 2000 with the rank of Major General. General McNeil served for over 37 years and was involved with efforts in Desert Storm and Vietnam. He retired as the Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of the Air Force Reserves, and previously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

Guest Speaker **Thomas N. Todd**



Attorney Thomas N. Todd, **Guest Speaker for the Sit-In Anniversary Celebration Breakfast**, is an activist attorney widely known as “TNT” for his oratorical skills. Born in 1938 in Demopolis, Alabama, Todd graduated early from Central High School in Mobile in 1955 and started at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana that same year. In 1959, he received his B.A. in political science and in 1963 graduated magna cum laude from the Southern University School of Law.

Attorney Todd served as a lawyer while in the United States Army from 1964 to 1967 and in that year joined the staff of the United States Attorney’s Office in Chicago, Illinois. In this capacity, Todd made history when he developed the first criminal case against a Chicago policeman for deprivation of an individual’s civil rights in 1968.

Attorney Todd was the first full-time black law professor at Northwestern University. He has been admitted to practice law before many courts, including the Louisiana Supreme Court, the United States Court of Military Appeals, The Illinois Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court.

Attorney Thomas N. Todd is semi-retired and the recipient of more than 500 awards and honorary degrees. He and his wife, Janis, and two daughters live in Chicago.

Human Rights Medalist Recipient **Julius Chambers**



Julius Chambers was born in 1936 in Mount Gilead; Chambers attended an all-black elementary school. The injustices of the Jim Crow system of discrimination inspired him to study law. After obtaining a B.A. in history from North Carolina Central University and an M.A. from the University of Michigan, he entered the law school at the University of North Carolina. There, Chambers became the first African-American editor of the North Carolina Law Review and graduated first in his class in 1962. He taught at Columbia University School of Law in New York City while earning a master's of law degree.

In 1963, Chambers was the first intern in the Legal Defense and Education Fund initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He returned to North Carolina in 1964 to open his own law practice in Charlotte, which in time became the first integrated law firm in the state. The practice put Chambers on the front lines of the civil rights struggles. As he spoke out about racial injustice, he became the target of violence. Once, while Chambers was speaking in a church, his car was dynamited. After inspecting the damage, Chambers returned to the church and finished his speech. When his office was firebombed, friends helped replace his law library.

In 1971, Chambers' law firm argued the landmark case *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* before the U. S. Supreme Court; the court upheld the use of busing to achieve school desegregation. Progress in civil rights law led Chambers to argue cases of employment discrimination in the tobacco, trucking and textiles industries. In 1984, Chambers left his law firm for New York to serve as director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Chambers returned to North Carolina in 1993 as chancellor of North Carolina Central University. Under his leadership, the university raised academic standards and strengthened community ties. He spearheaded extensive capital improvements on campus, including the renovation of outdated classrooms and dormitories, and the opening of a new School of Education building. The school's new Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute building was named in his honor. Chambers retired from the position in 2001 and returned to private law practice.

Among his numerous awards, Chambers has received nine honorary degrees, the Courageous Advocacy Award from the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the Adam Clayton Powell Award from the Congressional Black Caucus. He has served on the boards of many organizations, including the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and the Children's Defense Fund; current board memberships include the Indian Law Resource Center, Duke University Board of Trustees, the Golden LEAF Foundation, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Julius Chambers lives in Charlotte with his wife, Vivian Giles Chambers. They have two children and two grandchildren.

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

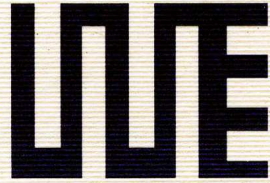
Dear A. and T., dear A. and T., henceforth our aim shall be,
By precepts wise and deeds more sure to bless the State through thee:
The arts of industry to wield against an idle foe.
A harvest rich from ripened fields of they student sow.

45th Sit-In Anniversary Celebration Committee

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Mr. Lewis Brandon, III
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Mrs. Marian Lee
Ms. Peggy Oliphant
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Ms. Angela Cain
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Mr. Rury Grisham
Mr. Jonathan Santos
Ms. Sulina Scott
Ms. Marie Chapman

Host and Hostesses
Mr. Aggie 2004-2005, Mr. Uche Bryd
and
Student Organization Representatives

“Equality and Justice for All Times”



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