

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 19
International Day of Peace Observance, Holland Bowl Plaza, 12-1 p.m., F

SEPTEMBER 20
Aggie Football, Opponent: Hampton Pirates, Hampton, VA, 6 p.m., \$

SEPTEMBER 21
International Day of Peace

SEPTEMBER 25
College of Arts and Sciences Fall 2008 Colloquium Series: Methods in Teaching On-line Courses, General Classroom Building-Room A218, 4 p.m., F

SEPTEMBER 27
Aggie Football, Opponent: Coastal Carolina, Aggie Stadium, 1:30 p.m., \$

SEPTEMBER 29 - NOVEMBER 3
NCFlex Open Enrollment

OCTOBER 2
NCFlex Open Enrollment Training Session, 1020 Wendover-HR Computer Lab, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., F

Hispanic Dance Festival, Harrison Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 3
Richard B. Harrison Players present "Walls that Bleed" (film production), Harrison Auditorium, 7 p.m., F

OCTOBER 5
Volleyball: Aggies vs. Winston-Salem State Rams, Corbett Sports Center, noon, F

OCTOBER 7
Volleyball: Aggies vs. North Carolina Central Eagles, Corbett Sports Center, 6 p.m., F

The N.C. A&T Ticket Sales Office is located in Brown Hall, corner of Laurel and Bluford streets. For information, call (336) 334-7749.



THE AGGIE REPORT

A Biweekly Newsletter for Faculty and Staff of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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N.C. A&T has Prestigious NSF Engineering Research Center

North Carolina A&T State University has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for an Engineering Research Center (ERC).

ERC grants are among the most prestigious NSF awards, and they represent major investments by NSF in partnership with industry to transform engineering

research and education. The centers aim to produce innovative technologies and engineering graduates to significantly enhance the competitiveness of the U.S. economy.

The ERC program has made 49 awards since its initiation in 1985, and it is

making five new awards in 2008. The award to N.C. A&T marks the first time that an HBCU has been the lead institution of an ERC.

Award funding has been approved at \$18 million for the initial five years, with a potential duration of 10 years.

The NSF ERC for Revolutionizing Metallic Biomaterials at A&T will conduct research in the areas of biomedical engineering and nano-bio applications and is in partnership with the University of Cincinnati and the University of Pittsburgh. It also has a global technical partner in Germany's Hannover School of Medicine and a global cultural and outreach partner in the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India. California State University at Los Angeles will serve as an outreach partner in the United States.

The ERC has partnerships with pre-college institutions in North Carolina to involve teachers and students in engineering; it has partnerships with a broad range of North Carolina organizations devoted to entrepreneurship and small business development.

A&T's ERC will be lead by Jagannathan "Jag" Sankar, professor of engineering. William Wagner from the University of Pittsburgh and Mark Schulz

from the University of Cincinnati will serve as co-directors. Devdas Pai, professor of engineering at A&T, will lead educational aspects of the ERC.

ERC research will focus on three engineered systems: craniofacial and orthopedic applications, cardiovascular devices, and responsive biosensors for implants.

Research conducted in the ERC will introduce devices made with magnesium alloys that have the ability to adapt to the body and grow without refitting. After their work is done, the magnesium alloys can be absorbed into the body's bloodstream with no side effects. These implants are expected to have a broad-based impact on craniofacial and orthopedic treatments and may aid children who are born with birth defects and injured veterans and others who have significant bone damage.

The ERC will introduce new metallic materials, devices and systems that have the potential to exhibit all the necessary attributes of an ideal foundation – or scaffold – and that promise to completely transform the field of regenerative medicine. Similarly, innovative metallic materials will be introduced as stents in the treatment of cardiovascular problems.

Nano sensors will be developed to study the efficacy of these devices as part of this research. More than eight companies will be associated with the ERC to provide input for the direction of research as well as a conduit to transfer the technology to the real world.

A&T also will start a new department of bioengineering in conjunction with this ERC. The department will offer bachelor, masters and doctoral degrees in bioengineering. Both the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Cincinnati will collaborate with A&T in offering these degrees.

The third generation (Gen-3) Engineering Research Centers builds on the successes of the first and second generations of ERCs funded since 1985. The A&T ERC is one of five new Gen-3 ERCs that are designed to create university and industry partnerships in research and education that promote innovation, transform engineered systems, advance technology, and produce engineering graduates who can creatively contribute to U.S. competitive advantage in a global economy.

"NSF is delighted to welcome A&T to the ERC program as lead institution," said Lynn Preston, a deputy division director at NSF and leader of the Engineering Research Centers Program. "The unique vision of this ERC to carry out research on new implant technologies for controlled use of degradable metallic implants offers significant opportunities for regenerative medicine for children and adults."

For additional information, contact Shena Crittendon, assistant vice chancellor for communications and operations, Division of Research and Economic Development, at scritten@ncat.edu or (336) 334-7995.



N.C. A&T is the recipient of an NSF Engineering Research Center. On hand for the Sept. 4 announcement were (l-r) Erskine Bowles, president of the UNC System; Jagannathan Sankar, professor of engineering and director of the ERC at A&T; Stanley F. Battle, chancellor, A&T; John Hardin, acting executive director, N.C. Science Board; Narayanaswamy Radhakrishnan, vice chancellor for research and economic development, A&T; Paul Clayson, CEO, nCoat; Edward B. Fort, chancellor emeritus, A&T; Lloyd V. Hackley, former chancellor, A&T; and Donald W. Cameron, president, GTCC.

HOMECOMING 2008 EVENTS

OCTOBER 5
Gospel Show, Harrison Auditorium, 6 p.m., H \$

OCTOBER 6
Pep Rally, Corbett Sports Center, 6 p.m., H \$

OCTOBER 7
Comedy Show featuring Mike Epps and Friends, Corbett Sports Center, 6 p.m., H \$

OCTOBER 8
Rip the Runway Talent and Fashion Showcase, Carolina Theatre, H \$

OCTOBER 9-10
Alumni Welcome Desk, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., H

OCTOBER 9
Fall Convocation, Harrison Auditorium, 10 a.m., H

Alumni Reception, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel, 6 p.m., H I

Coronation of Miss A&T, Corbett Sports Center, 7 p.m., H F

OCTOBER 10-12
Vending, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel-Pre-function Area, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., H

OCTOBER 10
30th Annual Richard E. Moore Memorial Golf Tournament, Grandover Resort, 8:30 a.m., H \$

F.D. Bluford Library Archives Picture Party, Bluford Library, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., H F

Gate City Alumni Chapter Aggie "No Tap" Bowling Tournament/Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, Gate City Lanes (5502 Hornaday Rd., Greensboro), 9:30 a.m./11 a.m./12:30 p.m., H \$

Royal Reception for Former Miss A&Ts, Memorial Student Union, 11:30 a.m., H

School of Education Reunion, Reception and Tour, New School of Education Building, 3-5 p.m., H

Chancellor's Donor Reception, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel-Imperial Ballroom ABC, 6 p.m., H I

Pan-Hellenic Step Show, Greensboro Coliseum, 7 p.m., H \$

Alumni Concert featuring Charlie Wilson and En Vogue, Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center, 8 p.m., H \$

OCTOBER 11
Homecoming Parade, 8 a.m., H

School of Nursing TELOCA Breakfast, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel-Colony Ballroom BC, 8-10 a.m., H

Homecoming Game, Aggies vs. Morgan State Bears, Aggie Stadium, 1:30 p.m., H \$

"The Put On" Homecoming Concert featuring T-Pain, Rick Ross, Plies, Shawty-Lo and others, Greensboro Coliseum, 7:30 p.m., H \$

Victory Club Stewardship Event, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel-Imperial Ballroom D, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., H I

Ultimate Aggie After-Party (Alumni Dance), Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel-Guilford Ballroom, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., H \$

OCTOBER 12
Campus-wide Cleanup, 8 a.m., H

Alumni Continental Breakfast, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel-Imperial Ballroom A, 8:30-10 a.m., H F

Affirmation Service, Richard B. Harrison Auditorium, 9:30 a.m., H



Zerihun Assefa, associate professor in the department of chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, has co-authored a peer reviewed journal article, "Magnetic interactions in dimeric lanthanide iodates: Structures, Raman Spectroscopy and magnetism of $\text{Ln}(\text{IO}_3)_3$ ($\text{Ln} = \text{Gd}, \text{Er}$) and magnetism of $\text{Yb}(\text{IO}_3)_3$." The manuscript is published in the *Journal of Solid State Chemistry*, 181 (2008) 1867-1875. Scientists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of South Alabama collaborated on the manuscript.



Lorrie R. Davis-Dick, clinical assistant professor, School of Nursing, and **Sean G. Moore**, senior nursing student, presented at the second annual Rehabilitation of Racial and Ethnic Minorities with Behavioral Addictions (REMBA) Conference, which was sponsored by N.C. A&T's Rehabilitation Counseling Program this year. The conference highlighted the silent crisis of addiction in minority communities, and Davis-Dick and Moore's presentation was based on the African American woman's pathways to addiction and recovery through spiritually based models of treatment.



Jeffrey A. Edwards and **Lyubov A. Kurkalova**, associate professors in the department of economics and finance, School of Business and Economics, received a three and one-half-year research grant from the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$747,528 to study changing societal attitudes toward water scarcity as affected by ethanol

production and increasing groundwater depletion of the Ogallala aquifer. Undergraduate students from the School of Business and Economics and Ph.D. students from the Energy and Environmental Studies Interdisciplinary Program will participate in the research. The project will involve collaboration with geographers and survey specialists from Texas Tech University and Angelo State University.



Cathy Kea, professor of special education in the department of curriculum and instruction has secured a 325T grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation, for Project FIRE – Fostering Inclusive Responsive Educators. The project's aim is to redesign the elementary and special education teacher preparation program delivery model; to develop cross-cultural field experiences and validate competencies for urban classrooms and communities; to create three model PDS sites; to design and implement support systems to enhance retention and program success; and to evaluate and disseminate effective practices and models from Project FIRE.



Minnie Battle Mayes, director of the Office of International Programs has received The Edward Weisband Distinguished Alumnus Award from Binghamton University of New York. The award recognizes an alumnus each year whose life, work, career and contributions exemplify the highest standards of public service and deepest dedication to public affairs and sustenance of the common good at home and abroad.

As a political science student, Mayes was appointed by the president of Binghamton to serve on the African Studies Committee under the leadership of Weisband. The committee developed the department of African and African American Studies that began in 1973. In recognition of her work on the committee, Mayes was awarded a scholarship to participate in a six-week summer study abroad program in Liberia and Nigeria. This marked the beginning of a career in international affairs that included positions at the United Nations, U.S. State Department and The American Council for Nationality Services/Joint Voluntary Agency for Singapore and Indonesia.



Robert L. McNair has been promoted to campus recreation director. He oversees all Campus Recreation Center operations, programs and services, and directly supervises the intramural coordinator and support staff. Prior to this promotion, McNair served as director of intramural sports since January 2002. McNair has a B.S. degree in recreation administration from N.C. A&T, and he is pursuing an advanced degree in adult education with a concentration in higher learning.



Kimberly Sowell (second left), assistant vice chancellor for student affairs/auxiliary and enrollment services, explains the new AggieAlert emergency notification system to a new user. AggieAlert enables the university to send urgent news to cell phones and via other methods. Register today at www.ncat.edu/AggieAlert.

AGGIE BITS

NCFlex Open Enrollment period is quickly approaching, Sept. 29-Nov. 3, and this year everything will be done online. Translation: no paper enrollment forms!

Enrollment guides are being distributed this month (September) to help employees successfully access and use the online enrollment process. Training sessions for the new online enrollment process will be held every hour between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2. There will be a toll-free phone number for those individuals who do not use or have access to a computer.

Call the Benefits Office, (336) 334-7226, to enroll in a training session.

Get your official Aggie paraphernalia for the Greatest Homecoming on Earth from University Bookstore on campus in Brown Hall during regular business hours, or during extended hours at Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel, 4-10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 10.

N.C. A&T State University Executive Cabinet



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THE AGGIE REPORT

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