May 10, 2024

Dear Class of 2024:

On behalf of the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students, congratulations on your graduation from our beloved university. Your degree represents an important milestone in your life: the transition from college student to North Carolina A&T alumni.

In one of my last acts as chancellor — and forever a proud alumnus — it is my distinct pleasure to commemorate this occasion with you. Having faced and surmounted many challenges during the course of your college years, you can choose from among myriad opportunities as you start the next phase of your life. Never forget the rich history and traditions of our alma mater and the support of the faculty, family and friends who have been a source of inspiration and support during this chapter of your personal journey.

This accomplishment should fill you with both immense pride and a profound sense of responsibility. The rest of your life begins today. With that, your next challenge is to seize the opportunities that lie ahead and commit to making an impact on the world. Today, you join a powerful global community of Aggies who share a clear vision to Lead, Create, Discover, Inspire, Dream and Love … because that’s what AGGIES DO!

We are not concentrating on endings today, but on bold new beginnings. Graduates, as you proceed with your endeavors, from starting a career to furthering your education on the path to creating a successful life, know that you are well prepared. Remember that greatness should not be measured by your personal success alone, but by the lives you enrich along the way as well.

As Aggies, we are always doing, never done.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Martin, Sr.
Chancellor

Commencement ceremonies predate the awarding of the bachelor’s degree at what was once called the “Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race”. The earliest confirmed commencement program took place during the week of May 22-27, 1897. The performance of First Lady Susie B. Dudley’s play “How Shall I Go Up To My Father?” at the 1898 commencement is considered the birth of theatrical arts at North Carolina A&T. Before bachelor’s degrees were awarded, the earliest agricultural students at the college completed a research thesis for a “diploma of graduation”. James B. Dudley had just completed his first year as our 2nd President when the Board of Trustees gave authorization to the faculty to create curriculum for the bachelor’s degree of science on May 28, 1897. The original courses offered for the bachelor’s degree were “Agricultural” for a B.Agr., and “Mechanical” for the “Women’s” courses for the B.S (Bachelor of Science). Female students were not approved for enrollment in the Agricultural course.

Out of nearly 100 students enrolled beginning in Fall 1896, seven were eligible for graduation in 1899. Known collectively today as the “Superior Seven”, they were William “Willie” Thomas Cain Cheek, Isaac Summerville Cunningham, Austin Wingate Curtis Sr., Epps Luther Falkener, James Matthew Joyner, Peter Edward Robinson, and Adam Watson. Their class motto was “No Steps Backwards”.

The Women’s course along with the Domestic Science department were discontinued in 1901, but that did not stop Frances (Crimes) Bryant from earning her B.S degree in 1901 followed by Hannah Bullock and Florence Garrett in 1902. Women were readmitted to the bachelor’s degree study programs in 1928.

Today in May 2024, we celebrate as North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University awards nearly 1,500 bachelor’s degrees, also several masters and doctoral degrees, and the 125th anniversary of our first class.
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.

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.

Dear A. and T., dear A. and T., the signet thou shalt be,
Set by our great old commonwealth, proud boast 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.

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.

ALMA MATER

Dear A. and T. 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.

Dear A. and T., dear A. and T., the signet thou shalt be,
Set by our great old commonwealth, proud boast of the free;
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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.
Stephanie G. Adams is the fifth dean of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at The University of Texas at Dallas. Previously, Adams served as dean of the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology at Old Dominion University (2006–2019), department head and professor of engineering education at Virginia Tech (2011–2016) and held administrative positions at Virginia Commonwealth University (2008–2011) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1998–2008). Her research interests include broadening participation, faculty and graduate student development, international/ global education; teamwork and team effectiveness; and quality control and management.

In 2003, Adams received the CAREER award from the Engineering Education and Centers Division of the National Science Foundation. She is a leader in the advancement and inclusion of all in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. Adams has worked with a number of colleges and universities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations on topics related to graduate education, mentoring, faculty development and diversifying STEM. A few examples include: The University of Michigan, North Carolina State University, NASA Must Program, QEM Network and the Gates Millennium Scholars Program.

Adams is a leader in the advancement and inclusion of all in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. She has had the privilege of serving on the board of directors for a number of STEM organizations including the American Society of Engineering Education, the National Society of Black Engineers, Women in Engineering ProActive Network, and the National QEM Consortium. She has also worked with the National Academy of Engineering, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Institute of Industrial Engineers, Quality Education for Minorities Network and the Council of Graduate Schools, to build supportive educational coalitions and partnerships in advancing the engineering profession and educational community.

Adams has received numerous awards including the 2017 WEPAN Founder's Award (2017); ASEE Engineering Management Division Bernard R. Sanchak Award (2016); North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Distinguished Alumni Award (2013); DuPont Minority in Engineering Award from the American Society of Engineering Education (2008); the Holling Teaching/Advising/Mentorship Award, the Henry Y. Kleinkauf Outstanding Assistant Professor Teaching Award, the Assistant Professor Service Award and the Chancellor’s Fulfilling the Dream Award from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and the Janice A. Lumpkin Educator of the Year from the National Society of Black Engineers. In 2005, she was selected as an AAAS/NSF Science and Engineering Policy Fellow; and in 2006, she was an invited participant for the U.S. Frontiers in Engineering Symposium hosted by the National Academy of Engineering.

Adams is an honor graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, where she earned her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1988. In 1991, she was awarded the M.E. in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia. She received her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1998, where she concentrated on Industrial Engineering and Management. She holds membership in a number of organizations and is a Past President and a Fellow of the American Society of Engineering Education, is a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Board of Directors and is a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.
THE ACADeMIC COStume

The academic costume worn today derived from practices originating in the Middle Ages. When European universities were taking form in the 12th and 13th centuries, the scholars were usually clerics as well, and consequently they adopted costumes similar to those of their monastic orders. Cold halls and drafty buildings made caps and floor length gowns with attached hoods a necessity for warmth. Probably because of the costumes’ religious heritage, they remained largely drab until the universities gradually began to pass from the control of the church, whereupon some aspects of the costumes took on brighter hues. Old prints reveal a strong similarity between the regalia worn in early universities and the academic costume worn today.

In light of the nation’s strong English heritage, academic costume has been in use in the United States since colonial times. To establish a standard of uniformity with regard to the practice, an intercollegiate commission was formed which prepared a code for caps, gowns, and hoods which has been adopted by all universities. Originally round, the shape of the cap is now the more familiar mortarboard square—a shape that resembles a scholar’s book. Legend has it that the privilege of wearing a cap was the initial right of a freed Roman slave. The flowing gown has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship for it covers any dress, which might indicate rank or social strata. The hood not only indicates the type of degree, but also is lined with the official colors of the university from which the degree was obtained.

THE GOWN

BACHELOR – Blue, full cut with long pointed sleeves.
MASTER – Black, long or short sleeves with arc-shaped panel extended for each sleeve.
DOCTOR – Black, with velvet panels on front of gown and three velvet bars on each sleeve. Color of the velvet may be black or distinctive of the field of study.

THE HOOD

BACHELOR – Three feet in length with a two-inch wide velvet.
MASTER – Three and one-half feet in length with a three-inch wide velvet.
DOCTOR – Four feet in length with a five-inch wide velvet and panel at the sides. The lining of the hoods, which is folded out, bears the official colors of the institution from which the degree was received. The color of the velvet is PhD Blue.

Candidates for doctoral degrees at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University wear gowns fastened at the neck and hoods draped down the back and the black mortarboard with a gold tassel.

UNITeD STATES AReM FOrCes VeTeRaNS

These graduates are wearing white stoles.

MACE

The mace, a ceremonial insignia, dates back to ancient Rome to honor heroes and nobility. Maces were later used in the courts of England, during the reign of James I of England as symbols of authority. Today, maces are associated with academic and governmental processions. In academic use, it is the symbol of the college/university as a body of scholars within its own legally constituted authority. The chief faculty marshal carries the mace during all formal academic processions.

A gift from the graduating class of 1961, the mace of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University was presented October 24, 1991, during the centennial year celebration. The university’s 42-inch long mace reveals a two-faced sterling silver crowning head or boss with the seals of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and the University of North Carolina on either side. Both university seals rest on a sterling silver etched State of North Carolina seal.

Alternating ebony and ivory solid wood rings that symbolize the university’s African American heritage are located on the mahogany wood shaft. The history and mission of the college/university throughout its 100 plus years of existence are etched on the wooden shaft of the mace between the rings. They represent service to African Americans, the missions of the university’s schools and colleges; scholars; the Greensboro Four sit-in; the Aggie mascot, and sports. The base or terminus (end piece) is a silver-plated cup engraved with a figure of a runner which symbolizes the athletic legacy and forward moving strides of the university.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University’s mace is a result of planning, research and fund raising by the class of 1961. The special designs of the mace represent the joint efforts of the Mace Committee who contacted Emblem & Badge Inc., in Providence, Rhode Island, to craft the mace. Dr. Vallie Guthrie, chair; Dr. Dorothy Alston; Dr. Sullivan Welborne; Dr. William C. Parker; Dr. Basil Coley; Dorothy J. Richmond; Lewis Brandon III; Earnest Sherrod, and members of the class of 1961; and the Class Coordinating Committee were instrumental in the procurement and final version of the mace, which was presented during the October 24, 1991, Founder’s Day Convocation. The mace was carried by the Chief Faculty Marshal (chair or president of the Faculty Senate) at the May 5, 1991, commencement and is utilized at all formal ceremonial occasions for the university.
PLEASE NOTE: The listing of names of degree candidates in the commencement program is not to be considered official evidence that all degree requirements have been satisfied.

MASTER’S AND DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
- Steidrick Baker
- Macy Gibbs Dedmon
- Brandi Harvey
- Cotton Toler Metts
- Lakiya Elizabeth Inez Smith

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
- Kai-Nadir Dawson
- Nina Xoie Holstrom
- Lovelyn Bihnchang Epouse Ngwa
- Stephen Anim Ofose
- Deborah Obliso Okpodoyin
- Olukunfuro Okunnu Joji Osuoyemi
- Destiny MacClay West
- Kennedy Elizabeth McKenzie Wimbish
- Terence Jude Wood

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH AND AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
- Kerrington Alise Barnes
- Sarah Yveline Bataille
- Chinewuha Christopher Okoye
- Sukanya Poddar
- Ebony Thornton

MASTER OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY
- Jaba-Janei Atmore
- Deondre L Miller
- Rae'Lyn Latisha Morgan-Pegues

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING
- Nicholas Aaron Brewer
- Douglas M Brown
- Justicia Khiera Logan
- October Campbell
- Katrina P. Dowdy
- Jamie Nicole Fuller-Alston
- Nicole Michelle Griffin
- Rachell Marie Lindsay
- Isha Dalton Milton
- Sydney Michelle Rogers
- Janae Courtney Taylor

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY
- Bilal Mohammed

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- Nina-Simone E. Beav
- Marcus William Black
- Michelle Leoni Brooks

GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ADULT EDUCATION
- Ashton Jovin Atmore
- Deondre L Miller
- Racyn Latisha Morgan-Pegues

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
- Victoria Hope Hassell
- Kathy L Johnson
- Maggie Gwendolyn Haynes Mattafay
- Marius Alexander Mason
- Shareeka D McCullough
- Breana Renee McDougal
- Christina Inez Ross
- Jennifer Lee Rowe
- Zackary James Schlegel
- Tasha B Shaffer
- Loyd Mills Silva Dios Rais
- Briana J Steele
- Rayana Lynn Swanson
- Karis Alizah Taylor
- Tencicia Rene Toliver

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SCHOOL COUNSELING
- Destiny Amyrah Renees Campbell
- Jocelyn Davina McRita
- Shalara Mosley

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COUNSELOR EDUCATION AND SUPERVISION
- Harris Alexis Carter
  I Graduated, What’s Next: Examining the differences between HBCUs and PWIs and their effectiveness on minimizing depression, stress, and anxiety for African American first-generation graduates
- Major Advisor: Justin Adams

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES
- Chae Avong-Colle
  A Phenomenological Study of the Perceptions of Church-going Black Millennials Regarding Christian Clergy Leaders
- Major Advisor: Steven Culver
GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Dashaun L Blakeney
Kiavondra LaDoria Champion
Rosemond Yawa Churchill
Tony Alexander Crandell
Alecia G Gill
Crystal Eury Goddard
Summer Rose Hudson
Danta Samson
Antione Vente Jones
Harshitha Karnati
Scottie D Lawson
Sade R Littlejohn
Rafael Fabian Portilla
Desiree Michelle Sanders
Ashly Elaine Sealey
Jacquelyn Williams Trotz
Earl Stacey Young Jr

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Ese Sonia Elhator
Impact of Hydrogen Peroxide-Dependent Oxidation on Protein Kinase A (PKA) Substrate Interactions
Major Advisor: Robert Newman
Janica Natasha Demetria Gordon
The Effect of Waste and Biomass Burning on Air Quality and Health in Africa
Major Advisor: Solomon Billig
Megan Mouton McBee
Investigation of Hygroscopic and Optical Properties of Aerosol Derived from African Biomass Fuels
Major Advisors: Solomon Billig and Marc Fiddler
Abdella Babikir Alamin Salem
Floodwater Mapping Using Synthetic Aperture Radar and Optical Data Fusion
Major Advisor: Leila Hashemi Beni
Brittany Renee Sanders
Major Advisors: Misty D. Thomas and Joseph L. Graves Jr.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICS
Jeremiah Davis
Lela Amiya Shumpert

CERTIFICATES

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE
Ella Cheri Bennett

ADVANCED MATERIALS
Telvin Ledell-Haines

ADVANCED WASTE MANAGEMENT
Joshua Terrell Best
Damien Avery Cain
Kathy L Johnson
Deborah Nkechi Osaduyin
M3 Redovan Rashid
St. Sadiq Saleh
Wede Jane Taweh

ADVANCED WASTE MANAGEMENT
Megan Mouton McBee
Investigation of Hygroscopic and Optical Properties of Aerosol Derived from African Biomass Fuels
Major Advisors: Solomon Billig and Marc Fiddler

DATA ANALYTICS
Mary Ayoola Balogun
Tia T’Anna Bass
Zachariah Benjamin Brown
Al-Nay Monique Mungo
Peter Ayodele Solomon
Temitope Damiotun Soneye

GENERAL MANAGEMENT
Vernnessa Greenlee

HUMAN LACTATION
Jade Yeong-Hye Chiu
Alison Durham Harrison
Morah Jean/ Hil
Ammani Karen Huntley
Tosin Raquel Johnson
Andrea Leatrice Priest
Natalie Riley
Daisy Mariah J Shift
Senta Stewart

INTERDISCIPLINARY ENVIRONMENTAL
Joshua Terrell Best
Damien Avery Cain
Wede Jane Taweh

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING
Ragni C George
Kathy L Johnson
Marcus Alexander Mason
Shareeka D McCullough
Nakia Rose Morrow
Bria Janessa Roddy
Briana J Steele

REHABILITATION COUNSELING AND BEHAVIORAL ADDICTIONS
Kathy L Johnson
Marcus Alexander Mason
Shareeka D McCullough
Nakia Rose Morrow
Bria Janessa Roddy
Briana J Steele

SYSTEMS AND SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY
Nicholas Anthony Bick

COMMISSIONS

CANDIDATES COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY
Cadets Commissioned May 10, 2024
Avery Taylor Collins, Master of Business Administration

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INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI OATH

I hereby solemnly pledge allegiance to my Alma Mater in appreciation for the opportunities for development afforded me as a student at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

I pledge active membership in the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Alumni Association wherever I may be. Through association with fellow alumni, I shall forever do my best to uphold the ideals and traditions of my Alma Mater.

I pledge to exemplify high ideals by rendering positive and dignified service to the community, state, nation and world, thus living to bring honor and respect to my Alma Mater.

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Tonya L. Smith-Jackson, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
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INTERPRETERS
Latoya Jordan
Valerie McMillan

ANNOUNCER
Joseph Level

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees.

North Carolina A&T State University does not discriminate on the basis of age (40 or older), color, disability, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, National Guard or any other basis protected by law.

N.C. A&T is an AA/EEO and ADA compliant institution.

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