



# The Aggie Report

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR FACULTY AND STAFF OF NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY



Ankomah



Dobie



Kabadi



McIntosh



Smith



Somah



Worku

## Seven Receive 'Teacher of the Year' Honors

North Carolina A&T State University recently honored seven professors as Teacher of the Year for their respective colleges and schools during the annual Honors' Day program that was held March 22.

### School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

**Mulumebet "Millie" Worku**, an associate professor in the department of animal sciences, is committed to student centered teaching approaches and empowers her students to achieve their highest potential by being receptive to their needs and being aware of their circumstances. She encourages and respects sustained effort and diligent commitment to excellence.

As a result, Worku's students regularly excel in further studies and the work arena. Her students note that she "goes out of her way to demonstrate her commitment to each and every student" and that she is "always interested in the well being and success of her students as individuals and professionals in and out of the classroom."

### College of Arts and Sciences

**Mary A. Smith**, an associate professor in the department of biology, continually encourages her students to reach beyond their own visions and provides valuable opportunities to nurture their development as scientists, scholars and learners. As one of her students notes, "Dr. Smith inspires the genius, challenges the mind, and nurtures the soul."

Colleagues and students alike praise her deep commitment to actively involving undergraduate students in the process of learning, a pedagogical strategy that transforms students' lives. A colleague says, "... she has strived to make her students lifelong learners, equipping them with the tools, discipline-based fundamentals, and more important, the intellectual curiosity to take what they have learned and use it to further their careers."

### School of Business and Economics

The primary mission of **Kathryn E. Dobie**, a professor in the business administration department, is to provide students with the opportunity to grow in their understanding of their own potential and in their ability to reach their goals. To accomplish this, Dobie encourages students to expand their abilities through active involvement in the learning process.

Dobie believes that active discovery is essential for students to gain the passion for knowledge and the ability to apply it in varied situations, critical attributes in today's competitive world economy.

### School of Education

**Paul K. Ankomah**, an associate professor in the department of human performance and leisure studies, believes that teaching should help students move beyond the world of textbooks and factual knowledge to encourage reflective practice,

collaborative thinking and effective communication. He views students as discoverers of new ideas and knowledge creators rather than as passive receptacles for memorizing previously developed knowledge.

A former student writes, "Dr. Ankomah makes learning fun, practical and relevant to the ever changing and evolving world."

### College of Engineering

The teaching philosophy of **Vinayak N. Kabadi**, a professor in the department of mechanical and chemical engineering, is grounded by the commitment to bring out the best in his students. For example, in his core undergraduate classes, Kabadi began organizing recitation sessions outside the organized lecture hours. The recitations were so successful that other departments in the College of Engineering have made these types of sessions a requirement for their students.

One of Kabadi's former students wrote, "Professor Kabadi is one of the best instructors I have had in my entire academic life. ... I learned a lot in this class, but most of all I felt that my success and learning was important to him. It made me work harder knowing that Dr. Kabadi was pulling for me."

### School of Nursing

**Linda C. McIntosh**, clinical assistant professor, is committed to respecting the students she works

with as unique learners who are able to learn and produce scholarly work more efficiently when they are both challenged and listened to. Her willingness to work with students and treat them fairly is one reason she is respected by students and her colleagues.

A former student says, "Dr. McIntosh inspired me to put forth incredible effort by her encouragement and supportive coaching. She provided an opportunity for me to develop as a person as well as grow into a competent and caring nurse."

### School of Technology

**Syruwla L. Somah**, an associate professor in the construction management and occupational safety and health department, believes that true education involves preparing students for the duties and responsibilities of life. He says that effective teaching combines practical and theoretical teaching to ensure the "wholesome functioning" of graduates.

One of Somah's former students notes, "Upon meeting Dr. Somah, I was extremely impressed with his passion for seeing his students succeed, his superior knowledge and experience in the field. As a graduate and safety professional, I now appreciate all that Dr. Somah tried to instill in us on how to be an asset to our employer. Dr. Somah's excitement and passion for teaching and student learning is immeasurable and quite contagious." ■

## Academic Advisors Lauded for Excellence

The Center for Student Success recently honored seven members of the faculty at North Carolina A&T State University for excellence in academic advising.

The 2007 Excellence in Academic Advising Award identifies, honors and encourages faculty excellence in the area of academic advising. Based on information submitted by colleagues, students and staff, the recipients were chosen because of their continued dedication and commitment to working with students as they matriculate through our university.

- **Sylvia S. Black**, assistant professor, department of business administration (School of Business and Economics);
- **Pamela Ivey Chavis**, clinical assistant professor (School of Nursing);
- **DeRome O. Dunn**, assistant professor, department of mechanical and chemical engineering (College of Engineering);
- **Anthony Graham**, assistant professor, department of curriculum and instruction (School of Education);
- **Valeria J. McMillan**, associate professor, department of family and consumer sciences (School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences);
- **Barbara Milliken**, adjunct instructor, department of electronic, computer and information technology (School of Technology);

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## Work Pays Off for Outstanding Researchers

Six North Carolina A&T researchers have been honored by the university for their outstanding work.

**Loury Ollison Floyd** and **Stephanie Luster-Teasley** have received the *Rookie of the Year Award*, which was implemented two years ago to recognize assistant professors in their second year of appointment who have shown extraordinary research initiative and have displayed outstanding promise for future research activities. The award has a \$1,000 cash stipend.

Floyd is an assistant professor in the department of curriculum and instruction. Since her tenure began in 2005, Floyd has been awarded almost \$250,000 in funded research, she has authored several articles and she has presented at over 30 conferences and workshops.

Luster-Teasley is an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the departments of chemical engineering and civil, architectural and environmental engineering. Luster-Teasley has secured approximately \$260,000 in

sponsored research funding, she has produced articles in peer-reviewed publications and she has presented papers at several conferences.

**Margaret Kanipes**, an associate professor of chemistry, and **Dhananjay Kumar**, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, have received the *Outstanding Young Investigator Award*. The award is given annually to junior, tenure track or research faculty in the third or fourth year at the university and it carries a

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The 2007 Outstanding Researchers are (l-r) Loury Ollison Floyd, Dhananjay Kumar (standing), Margaret Kanipes, Mohamed Ahmedna (standing), Stephanie Luster-Teasley and Shanthi Iyer.

## Tornado Season is Here

Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground, and they can occur with little or no warning.

Tornadoes usually are preceded by heavy rain and sometimes hail. When hail falls from a thunderstorm, it is an indication that the storm has large amounts of energy and may be severe. In general, the larger the hailstones, the more potential there is for damaging thunderstorm winds or tornadoes.

The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, though they have been known to move in any direction.

While they can occur throughout the year, the peak season in North Carolina is March through May.

The University Police Department dispatcher, the Physical Plant operator or the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS) will monitor the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) radio at all times.

If a "Tornado Watch" is issued by the National Weather Service, all personnel will be alerted for broadcast warnings and reports on threatening conditions. If a "Tornado Warning" is issued (meaning a tornado has been sighted in the area), or if

a funnel cloud is seen by N.C. A&T personnel, the University Police dispatcher and/or the Physical Plant operator will notify A&T personnel by radio or telephone.

The University Police dispatcher and/or the Physical Plant operator will notify personnel in the most immediate path of danger and then notify all facilities that do not maintain a NOAA monitor.

"All employees are responsible for carrying out the necessary activities to reduce the amount of possible damage and to protect themselves and their co-workers," says Andrew A. Small, director of



environmental health and safety.

For more information, contact the EHS Office at (336) 334-7032. ■

## CALENDAR Of Events

### MARCH 30

- Senior Nursing Student Basic Skills Fair, Noble Hall, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

### MARCH 30-APRIL 1

- Career Development Conference

### APRIL 2

- Dance and Theatre Scholarship Gala, Harrison Auditorium, 7-9 p.m., \$

### APRIL 3

- Study Abroad Fair, Memorial Student Union-Exhibit Hall, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

### APRIL 5

- Faculty Forum, Carver Hall-Auditorium, -3 p.m.

### APRIL 13

- Researcher Appreciation Day

*\$ Admission*

*F Free*

*I Attendance by Invitation Only*

*R Registration Required*

*T Ticket Required*

*W Workshop or Conference*

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.

## Outstanding Researchers *continued*

\$2,000 stipend. Recipients of this award must have demonstrated outstanding capability and exceptional promise for significant future achievement as evidenced by distinctive contributions to their discipline. They must be innovators with unlimited potential for new discoveries.

Since her arrival at A&T, Kanipes has participated in research and directed the research of several students. She is currently the principal investigator on grants totaling half a million dollars from the Department of the Army and the National Institutes of Health. Kanipes is also preparing a manuscript and is the author of several papers, including 10 refereed journal publications.

Kumar has published over 18 technical articles in peer-reviewed journals, has been invited to serve on National Science Foundation review panels and is the recipient of two prestigious grants from NSF: the Nano Exploratory Research Grant worth \$100,000 and the Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Team funded at \$1.4 million.

The *Senior Researcher Award* is given annually to the most outstanding researcher. The recipient must be tenured and must have demonstrated sustained research productivity through submission of proposals, proposals that have actually been funded, refereed publications, citations received, intellectual property disclosures, patents and/or copyrights, and other pertinent contributions. **Mohamed Ahmedna** and **Shanthi Iyer** are the award recipients this year.

Ahmedna is an associate professor in the food science and nutrition program. He has submitted over 27 research proposals during his seven-year tenure at A&T, and he has been awarded 15 times in excess of \$4 million.


Ahmedna has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific papers and professional presentations, two book chapters and one reference book. In addition, he has successfully submitted three patent applications on research technologies developed in his lab. A recent publication was listed by *Science Direct* as one of the top 25 hottest articles worldwide as judged by the number of downloads on the Internet.


Iyer is a professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering and a trailblazer in the world of semiconductor research. She is also director of the Army Battlefield Center of Excellence for Environmentally Stable Flexible Displays. (There are only five Centers of Excellence in the United States housed at HBCUs. Iyer's is funded at \$2.5 million.)


Iyer has authored or co-authored over 60 refereed articles, proceedings and presentations and is referred to by her colleagues at institutions such as the University of New Mexico, North Carolina State University and Clemson University as a "dominant research force in the semiconductor materials area." Her outstanding work places her among the top researchers in her field throughout the world. ■

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## AGGIE BITS

 The School of Nursing is hosting its first Senior Nursing Student Basic Skills Fair today, March 30, in Noble Hall from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to rotate through various nursing skill stations designed to stimulate the minds of nursing students who are about to graduate.

 The Office of Career Services (OCS) and the University/Industry Cluster invites students to participate in their first Career Development Conference, "Transcending Your Limits," March 30-April 1, on campus. The conference will build and/or enhance students' networking ability, leadership skills, business etiquette and overall career development. It will open Friday evening with a presentation titled "From Backpack to Briefcase," followed by dinner. Saturday will be a full day of interactive workshops with various employers that will include sessions on perfecting interview skills, business ethics and etiquette, models for leadership, resume development, making transitions, and financial planning. Sunday will wrap with mock interviews (bring resume), brunch and a keynote presentation. Registrants must attend all three days. Register online at [www.careerserv.ncat.edu](http://www.careerserv.ncat.edu).

 Pre-registration for the fall semester begins April 2, using the new Banner student web system. Students registering during the pre-registration period will have their fees assessed after July 1. Registration is not final until all fees have been paid and is subject to cancellation for nonpayment or to collection. Students registering on or after Monday, Aug. 20, will be assessed a nonrefundable \$50 late registration fee. To access the new student web system, students must have their nine-digit Banner ID (available at Aggie Access ON-LINE) and PIN (available from their academic advisor, faculty advisor or department chairperson).

## Academic Advisors *continued*

- **Gail Wiggins**, assistant professor, department of journalism and mass communications (College of Arts and Sciences).

Academic advising plays a significant role in the overall retention of the student population by motivating them to clarify values, set goals, establish priorities, develop management and leadership skills, and understand how the academic system works and their relation to it. ■



Recipients of the 2007 Excellence in Academic Advising Award are (l-r) Anthony Graham, Sylvia Black, Pamela Ivey Chavis, Gail Wiggins, Valerie McMillan and DeRome Dunn. Not pictured is Barbara Milliken.



NORTH CAROLINA  
AGRICULTURAL  
AND TECHNICAL  
STATE UNIVERSITY

1601 East Market St.  
Greensboro, NC 27411

## The Aggie Report

**N.C. A&T State University**  
**The Garrett House**  
**400 Nocho Street**  
**Greensboro, NC 27411**  
**Phone: (336) 256-0863**  
**FAX: (336) 256-0862**  
**Email: [smbrown@ncat.edu](mailto:smbrown@ncat.edu)**

**The deadlines to submit information for The Aggie Report are available at [www.ncat.edu/pr/policies/copy\\_deadlines.html](http://www.ncat.edu/pr/policies/copy_deadlines.html)**

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Chancellor ..... Lloyd V. Hackley  
Special Assistant to the Chancellor ..... Shirley T. Frye  
Vice Chancellor, Development and University Relations ..... Mark Kiel  
Associate Vice Chancellor, University Relations ..... Mable S. Scott  
Editor ..... Sandra M. Brown  
Contributors ... Leschecia Allen, Shena Crittenden, Office of the Provost, Joyce Edwards, Mable Scott, Andrew Small, Mary Uzochukwu  
Photographer ..... Charles E. Watkins  
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Printer ..... Graphix Impact

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