

A&T Grads Excel As Accounting Managers Experimental Training Program Gets High Marks At A&T

By Richard Moore
GREENSBORO — In the recent North Carolina CPA examination, three 1982 graduates from A&T State University's accounting program passed all parts of the exam on the first attempt.

At the recent homecoming observance, three other A&T graduates returned to campus, all of them currently serving in accounting management positions.

These are the kinds of developments which have brought smiles to the face of Dr. Quiester Craig, dean of the nationally accredited School of Business and Economics.

When Craig arrived at A&T in 1972, records indicated only a few graduates had ever passed the rugged CPA examination.

He said "things began to happen" around 1975, after he had beefed up his faculty (now 75 per cent doctorates) and had infused the students with some much needed confidence about taking the CPA examination.

Those measures paid off and during the past seven years, more than 50 A&T graduates have passed the CPA exam.

Craig said when he came to A&T, he immediately recognized some of the problems. "One problem was that many of our students were not even familiar with the CPA environment and the requirements and expectations of that field. Many of the students actually met their first CPA when they came to the university," said the dean.

Craig also noted a need to upgrade his faculty. There were no doctorates teaching accounting in the school when he arrived. Today, five out nine teachers hold the doctoral degree. In fact, A&T employs



North Carolina A&T graduates that are now managers are from left: Mitchell Martin, Daniel Moore and Faye Moore.

five of the approximately 30 blacks with a Ph.D. degree in accounting.

One of those "role models" lured to A&T is 34-year-old Dr. Joseph Boyd, a CPA and the holder of a Ph.D. in accounting from the University of South Carolina.

Boyd, who has also operated his own accounting firm, is chairman of A&T's accounting department.

"We do try to motivate our accounting students to pass the CPA exam and to pursue management positions," said Boyd. "We tell them that there are unlimited opportunities

after they get basic CPA experience. It also helps now that they know people who have gotten through the CPA exams."

Boyd said the much improved performance of A&T's accounting graduates has helped the university's recruiting of good students. "We indicate that we teach our students to pass the examination and that makes an impression on people," he said.

The A&T faculty helped by inspiring their graduates to pursue management positions and it's paid off.

It was with obvious pride that one of the

former accounting majors, Daniel Moore, talked about his recent promotion to audit manager with the Arthur Andersen & Company in Philadelphia.

"I'm the first black manager for Arthur Andersen in Philadelphia," said Moore. "It looks like it will be another three or four years before there could be another black in such a position."

His wife, Faye, also an A&T graduate, is the first black female manager for the huge Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company in Philadelphia.

She said that in her

firm, no other black appears to be close to reaching the management level. Another accounting manager is Mitchell Martin, vice president and chief financial officer of CABLE Atlanta, Inc. He said there are a couple of managers of smaller firms in the Atlanta area, but only a very few with a multi-million dollar corporation. "You can count them on one hand," he added.

As chief financial officer for his company, Martin is involved with investing the company's funds and with controlling the audit. He functions in a firm which in just three years has generated assets of over \$53 million and has become the 49th largest Cable operation in the United States.

Martin said a spinoff from his promotion to management is the fact that he has been able to hire three other recent A&T graduates, one of whom is also a CPA.

The young managers each said that hard work was the key to their reaching the management level.

"You work hard. You take some punches and you endure," is the way Mrs. Moore put it.

The key thing," said Martin, "is preparing yourself and being willing to pay the price, and learning how the corporate structure works."

"I found out that people are looking at you and they are looking for you to blunder," said Moore.

"But once they find out that a debit here at A&T is the same as a debit at Duke University, they begin looking at us just as CPAs," he said.

Smith Concludes Navy Course

Thaddeus L. Smith, son of Charles and Mrs. Cora Smith, 223 Omega Rd., a 1982 graduate of Northern High School, has satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of study at the Airman Apprentice School, Department of the Navy, Orlando, Fla. He is now aboard the USS Independence in Italy.

An experimental training program which emphasizes letting the child have a part in his own education, is receiving high marks by the children, teachers and parents involved.

The High Scope program being tried by the Child Development laboratory at A&T State University, is the replication of a program developed by a private research foundation in Michigan.

Dr. Romona Clark, director of the A&T laboratory, said High Scope is a program in which the children "learn by a planned way of doing and participating. The child must have a part in his own education."

The program, according to Dr. Clark, is an approach to helping children develop language skills and the ability to reason.

In the opening phase

of the program in the morning, the teacher and children, in small groups, sit at a table and the children decide in what area of the room they want to work on that particular day.

After spending time at one of the interest centers located in the large room, the children are reconvened for "recall time."

"In this period, the teacher asks how they carried out the plan, what materials they used and what else could have been done."

"This involves constant questioning by the teacher," said Dr. Clark. "There are a lot of questions which require more than a yes or no answer. This is how the children learn."

The A&T professor said there has been a definite improvement of language skills for children in the program. "The teachers love the program. They say that discipline is easy to maintain because

children are kept busy thinking. It's really fun to see children come up with a real good idea," she said.

There are currently 27 children, ages 3-5, involved in the program, which is carried out from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The remainder of the children's day is spent in activities more teacher directed.

High Scope is based on the teachings of Jean Piaget, the father of child development, according to Dr. Clark.

She is assisted in the program by three professional teachers and student interns from the departments of home economics, early childhood education, social work, recreation and speech.

Dr. Clark, who holds the Ph.D. degree in family relations and child development from Oklahoma State University, said A&T is seeking to become a training site for teachers in the High Scope method.



PERRY
Perry Named Personnel Director

LAWRENCEVILLE, VA. — Paul Perry has been named Personnel Director at Saint Paul's College. An accountant at Saint Paul's for four years, Perry assumed his duties in the newly created position Nov. 1.

He received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from North Carolina Central University.

Perry is married to the former Ms. Patricia Harris and they have three children, Jerrold, Paul and Mia. Perry and his wife are both natives of Durham, N.C.

NIA National Service Weeks in Progress

"Every day is a new opportunity," says James Hawkins, chairman, National Services Weeks, sponsored by the National Insurance Association (NIA). "Every day" refers to the seven-week campaign that is being carried out, November 1 through December 17, by the 33 black-owned insurance companies that comprise the National Insurance Association.

The "opportunity" relates to a goal of National Service Weeks, special service rendered to each policyholder by representatives of the insurance companies. In addition to personal consultation, agents will have special literature for their policyholders. A brochure, "Protection

what life insurance can do and how the NIA companies can help; a special checklist provides a "Security Inventory" for the policyholder.

Chairman Hawkins, vice president, director of agencies, Universal Life, Memphis, states, "Our policyholders are becoming more sophisticated, more service conscious. They have a desire for the kinds of security that life insurance provides. Excellent service, which we as insurance counselors must provide, will help to create a climate of confidence and trust."

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ST. AUG.'S HEALTH CAREERS MAJORS STUDY ABROAD—Twenty-four health careers majors at Saint Augustine's College participated in the summer enrichment programs held at top medical schools across the eastern United States during last summer. Left to right, front row: Ms.

Idea Johnson, Ms. Caren Weldon, Ms. Dawn Harris, back row: Grover Benjamin, Ms. Delois Strong, Ms. Noretta Arrington, and Larry Keith, assistant director of the Special Training and enrichment Program (S.T.E.P.) at Saint Augustine's College.

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