

95-96



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Eagle-Aggie festivities, page 4

Issue 50

North Carolina Central University
Durham, NC 27707

September 22, 1995

Freshman enrollment takes a dip New strategy aims to boost academic standards

By Erica Dixon

Recent changes in the admissions standards have left the administration seeking to rebound from low freshman enrollment.

"When Chancellor (Julius) Chambers announced that we were to have an average SAT score of 950 for the 1995 entering freshman class, many students and alumni of the university took this to mean that every student's score had to be 950," said Undergraduate Admissions Director Nancy Rowland.

Headed by Chambers, the administration is promoting an agenda that will strengthen North Carolina Central in resources as well as student diversity. This campaign included setting a target average SAT score of 950 for the 1995 entering freshman class.

To achieve an average SAT score of 950, the high scores of applicants had to balance out the low. What this means is that for every considerably low score, there had to be one higher than 950 to reach that average.

Because 82 percent of freshmen enrollees must be from



Freshmen quickly learn that studying in the library is a way of life to Eagles

in-state, a North Carolina applicant who scores 750 or above and meets all other admission requirements receives consideration, while out-of-state applicants receive preference if their SAT scores are a minimum of 850. Traditionally, according to Rowland, students from outside North Carolina have an average

SAT score of 900 and above. According to the college board's national release of averages for 1995, the average African-American's score is 744, while the average score of the African-American in North Carolina is 727.

The Chancellor feels that raising standards will aid in recruiting top students and

placing NCCU in equal standing with colleges ranked higher in the UNC system.

"We are trying to recruit top students, black and white, to build a diverse student body and to prepare students to be able to address, successfully, the challenges of the future," Chambers said.

The University will suffer

growing pains because of the upgrade, and this will be most acute this year, Rowland said. Compared to the 752 first-time freshmen enrolled in August 1994, 500 first-time freshmen are presently enrolled at the University.

Although overall enrollment is not down because of the increased number of transfers, the lower number of freshmen enrolled has affected on-campus living as well. According to Residence Director Phillis Shumate, the total number of freshmen living on-campus is 430. Given that 450 students can fill Eagleson alone, 249 women now occupy Eagleson, and 14 live in Baynes. One hundred and forty-four men occupy Chidley, while 15 male and eight female freshmen live in Annie Day Shepard.

Rowland is sure that enrollment goals will be met for next year.

"We are seeking a diverse freshman class for Fall 1996. . . The faculty, staff, and alumni are committed to meeting the admissions goals."

English professor takes over post as interim provost

By Alicia B. Williams

Long-time NCCU professor and alumna, Dr. Patsy Perry, has been named Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Perry succeeds Dr. Mickey Burnim at the request of NCCU Chancellor Julius Chambers. Burnim has been named Interim Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University, replacing Jimmy Jenkins.

"I want to contribute whatever I can, whenever I can, regardless of the department," Perry said.

Her effectiveness can be seen in the Honors Program. In 1993, Chambers asked Perry to prepare a proposal for the University's Honors Program. It was approved by the Board of Trustees, and in August of 1994, she was appointed to the position of Honors Program Director.

During the 94-95 school year, members of the University Honors Program were able to travel frequently. Three honors seniors, one of which received a two-year fellowship with a \$1,000 monthly stipend, visited Ohio State University. Students also participated in culturally enlightening events, namely a summer trip to Ghana, West Africa. Perry said that the experience is one which the students will not forget.

"They came away with a new understanding of what's important in life: self-perception, and relationships we have with others," she said.

Honors Program secretary Gloria Chambers, who has worked in the program since last November, said that seeing Perry leave is extremely hard.

"She has a very good rapport with the students and spends a lot of time planning activities for them."

Mrs. Chambers said that Perry was instrumental in

incorporating a budget that allowed the administration to run more smoothly and allowed the students to travel and meet other honors groups.

"Dr. Perry is very encouraging. I'm happy about her appointment because she supports the students and pushes them to the limit," said sophomore honor student Catilla Everette.

Perry received her undergraduate degree in English from NCCU, continued at the University and received a masters' degree. She received her P.h.d from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an alumna of NCCU, Perry is willing to serve in any capacity.

"I loved NCCU even before I enrolled," she said.

Perry's calling to the position of Provost in no way takes away from her love for the students. "I find it a great joy to work with the the students, I have found them to be creative and energetic and eager to participate in our activities. I miss them already."

Ms. Chambers said she hopes to have the opportunity to work with Perry again.

"I know the position is interim, and I don't know what the future holds, but she will definitely be missed," she said.



Dr. Patsy Perry

Patsy Perry, Provost

Birthplace: Greensboro, NC

Education: B.A., NCCU; M.A., NCCU; Ph. D., UNC-Chapel Hill

Initial Career Goal: Teacher

Occupation: Professor of English, Honors Program Director

Reaction to position as Provost:

"Shocking, I had little time to think to think about it, because the position was called for immediately, so I said, Yes, I'll try my best."

Statement of Goals:

"It's the kind of position where I hope to carry out the responsibility of the job, and to be effective. I will certainly work to advance academic programming at Central."