

Student Life

College student conquers hardships

Loss of sight
no hindrance to
success

Derrick L. Armstead
Features Editor

Shawn Venters could have given up when he was diagnosed with diabetes, at eight years old.

At 23, diabetes complications caused him to lose his sight.

This native of Jacksonville, N.C., now 33, does not consider these random occurrences to be a hindrance to success.

"There isn't any resentment over my present situation, because I try to work around it and not let it hinder me," said Venters.

Student uneasiness

After battling such hardships, Venters, a senior sociology major, should have no problem finishing college.

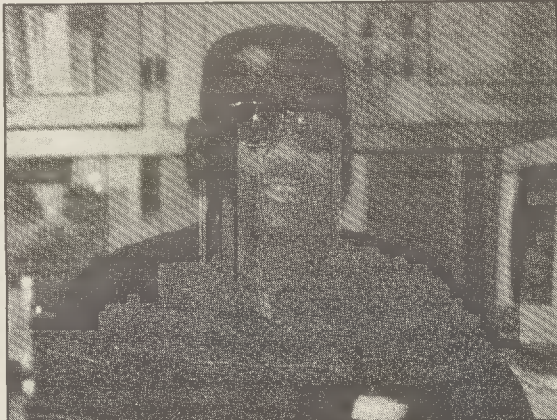
Many students have seen Venters on campus, but in the majority, only know him by face.

"Most students find it hard to [feel comfortable] when they are around me," said Venters.

Although he is thankful to students who offer to direct him to on-campus sites, he can sense their uneasiness about his blindness.

What happens when the classes end, and the extra-curricular activities begin?

"As far as most social events



Shawn Venters doing work study in the Office of Student Affairs

are concerned, many students tend to shy away," said Vickers.

Venters does not think that he is purposely slighted, but more so that he is not seen as a typical student.

Medical treatment

With an average of 18 hours per week dedicated to medical treatment, it is sometimes difficult for Venters to keep academics in perspective.

He must undergo dialysis for up to five hours at a time.

This procedure is performed at 1 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Ren Center-Durham, a dialysis clinic located on Fayetteville Street.

It is in the classroom that Venters feels he can contribute as much as any other student.

"I have no problem with classroom discussions, and lectures," he said. "Library re-

search and textbook reading are the most difficult for me because they are not written in Braille."

In this area of his studies he does request assistance from the Community Service Program.

A sense of humor

The steps located between the Edmonds Classroom Building and Hubbard Chemistry Building are cumbersome to climb.

Venters sees those same steps in a jovial manner. Even when he thinks he has mastered the campus layout through landmarks and familiar sounds, the noisy construction is helpful.

"Those particular steps keep me aware of my surroundings," Venters said.

The next time you become disgruntled about the construction of those steps, just take a second or two to think of someone who does not terribly mind them exactly the way they are.

University Briefs

By Toni King

FBI director to present keynote address

Carolyn G. Morris, assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will be the keynote speaker at North Carolina Central University's spring commencement.

An NCCU alumnae and native of Jackson, North Carolina, Morris received her bachelor of science degree in mathematics from NCCU in 1960.

Later she went on to receive a master of arts degree from Harvard University in 1963.

In 1980, Mrs. Morris joined the FBI as chief of the Systems Development Section of the Technical Services Division. She was promoted to Assistant Director heading the Information Re-

sources Division, in October, 1995.

Before working for the FBI, Mrs. Morris worked as a teacher and subsequently as a mathematician, systems analyst, and computer programmer.

Spring commencement ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. at the O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium.

The inclement weather site will be the McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium.

The university will award bachelor's and master's degrees to graduates of its College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Education, School of Library and Information Sciences, and School of Law.

Giddings excited about working with NCCU

Author and scholar Paula Giddings accepted Duke faculty post in women's African and Afro-American Studies.

Giddings, a 1995-96 Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar at Duke, will begin teaching both undergraduates and graduate students in the fall.

Giddings says that she is excited about working more closely with North Carolina Central University.

"I've spoken at N. C. Central-- a series of lectures-- and I've known and been impressed by Chancellor Chambers for a number of years."

She also says that Duke University was very enthusiastic about conducting group seminars with N. C. Central students.

During her 1996-97 academic year at Duke Giddings will teach

courses that will reflect her pivotal role in African and Afro-American studies and women's studies.

As a journalist, Giddings has written extensively on international and national issues, thus providing contributions to the historical picture of black women in America.

Giddings is currently writing a biography for Simon and Shuster of the anti-lynching crusader, Ida B. Wells.

She is also the author of two well-known books on the social and political history of African-American women: "When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America" and "In search of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement."



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