

**INSIDE**  
•Women's Student Organization holds second annual "Women's Festival."

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# CAMPUS ECHO

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSE

North Carolina Central University  
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**ALSO INSIDE:**

•Department of Theatre presents African folktales and one-act plays.

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•Junior Biology Melissa Rayner student heads to Singapore in summer research program.

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## Eagles in flight

*Editor's note: The Campus Echo will publish in this column brief news items on current and former members of the NCCU community. Our goal is to let you know about significant and interesting achievements of the university's students, faculty, staff and alumni. We will publish news of awards and honors, internships, full-time jobs, graduate study, significant out-of-state travel and other information that will show the full range of activities by the Eagle family. If you have something you would like to be included in Eagles in Flight, please call us (560-6504) or drop by our newsroom in 319 Farrison-Newton Communications Building. We prefer to have submissions in writing, and you must include your name and local telephone number so that we can verify information.*

### Students

**Byron Craig**, a senior computer information sciences major from Chapel Hill, has been chosen for an internship with QAD Corporation....**Schnequa Jones**, a senior computer information sciences major from Durham, has received an internship with IBM-SAP Analysts....

### Faculty

**Percy R. Luney Jr.**, dean of NCCU's School of Law, was a featured lecturer March 2-9 at the Ghana School of Law, participating in events that marked the Ghana school's 40th anniversary. Luney lectured students faculty, and guests on the American legal profession and international law....**Dr. Kofi Johnson**, an associate professor in the department of political science, will hold for the second time an international conference on gender in Windhoek, Namibia from June 23 until January 26. More than 1,000 delegates representing 137 countries are expected to attend....**Dr. Sylvia Jacobs**, professor and chair of the department of history, published an article "James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey: An African Intellectual in the United States" in the *Journal of Negro History*.... "Art, Society and Performance," a book about the oral tradition in Africa written by **Dr. Ode Ogede**, a professor in the department of English, was published last December by the University Press of Florida. His latest book "Ayi Kwei Armah," about the life and works of the Ghanaian author Ayi Kwei Armah, will be released this spring by Heinemann Publishers U.S.A.....

### Alumni

**Michael P. Johnson**, '69, is vice president of Amoco Corporation in Chicago....**Isaiah Tidwell**, '67, executive vice president of Wachovia Bank, N.A., served as honorary chairperson of the 12th annual National Black Family Summit March 4-6 at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C....**Rhonda Harrison-Lewis**, years, a guidance counselor at Hillside High School in Durham, was named secondary counselor of the year by the N.C. School Counselors Association.....

The Campus Echo salutes those students who were honored at the Honors Convocation held April 3.  
**Congratulations!**

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## False rumor hurts blood drive



An NCCU student warily watches as a healthcare worker prepares to draw blood during the university's spring blood drive March 17-19.

Staff photo by Dawn Bowling-Wallace

**Blood drive organizers say a false rumor that blood collected at NCCU during the fall was HIV positive may have kept students from donating blood.**

by **Dinky Kearney**  
Staff Writer

North Carolina Central University held its annual Spring Blood Drive March 17-19, collecting 216 pints of blood, short of the 300 pints the university usually collects each semester.

Last year NCCU collected 537 pints of blood, up from the 475 pints collected in 1996.

Dr. Theodore Parrish, chairperson of NCCU's Health/Education Department, said he thinks he knows why some people chose not to donate.

"There is a rumor going around that 65 percent of the people that donated blood in the fall were infected with the HIV virus, and it has spread to surrounding colleges," he said. "The rumor has hurt NCCU's reputation. The rumor is ridiculous."

Parrish said he contacted Dr. Stephen Squiers, CEO for American Red Cross, and was told no

pints of blood collected at NCCU last fall were tainted with the HIV virus.

Parrish said his Health Education class will attempt to determine whether the false rumor about the HIV contamination of part of the fall collection had reduced the number of donors in the spring drive.

He said NCCU can't afford to lose students because of false rumors, and wants to find out what the American Red Cross and the Centers for Disease Control do as "damage control."

Parrish said he thinks the rumor originally surfaced when a member of NCCU's board of trustees asked Chancellor Chambers about possible blood contamination.

Still, the rumor didn't stop all students from donating.

Amy Flack, a sophomore pre-nursing major from Spindale, N.C., said she gave blood because she knows people who are anemic and need blood. "It makes you feel better when you are giving someone a chance to live a healthier, longer life," she said. "I'm also a bone marrow donor."

Jessica Silver, a junior biology major from Warrenton, N.C., said she gives blood every semester. "I have a rare blood type, O+," she said. "Any time you can give blood you should give it, because it is important to help other people."

## Phi Eta Sigma honor society inducts 122

by **Bria Culp**  
Staff Writer

Phi Eta Sigma, established at N.C. Central last semester for first-year students, inducted more than 100 students March 21 in its first induction ceremony.

Dr. Angela O. Terry, vice chancellor for student affairs, gave the introduction. Chancellor Julius Chambers, Miss NCCU Cheryl Woods and Dr. Peggy Watson Alexander, dean of student learning and founder of NCCU's chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, gave welcome addresses.

Sarah Hartley, a first-year

student from Durham, delivered a rousing rendition of "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

Esther Silver-Parker, president of the AT&T Foundation, the world's largest philanthropic organization, was the keynote speaker.

Silver-Parker spoke on the four skills of good leadership: principle, people skills, performance and perseverance.

Silver-Parker opened her speech by repeating what she said her mother had told her. "My mama used to say, 'If you always tell the truth you won't have to remember what you said,'" she said.

She stressed the importance of setting principles and standing

by them.

"Without principles, there are no relationships, only entanglements," said Silver-Parker.

Latrica Huffin, a first-year political science major from Fayetteville, N.C. said she was pleased to be inducted.

"I felt that it was a great honor for this to be opened up my first year," Huffin said.

"I am happy to be among the very first members."

Clifton Gray, a sophomore English major from Washington, N.C. who was also inducted, agreed.

"I count it an honor, pleasure and privilege to be inducted into Phi Eta Sigma," he said.

## Campus police propose handheld safety alarms

Campus police hope the miniature safety alarms, possibly leased to students for about \$10 per semester, will help students protect themselves in dangerous situations.

by **Shelvia Dancy**  
Editor-in-Chief

It's small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, or to attach to the end of a key ring, but it may be just what North Carolina Central University students need if they're ever in danger.

Security Escort, a miniature safety alarm, is one of the latest measures campus police are considering to make NCCU's campus safer.

One squeeze of the alarm would send radio waves to the campus police station, where police would be able to access critical information such as the student's name and location.

Much like a tracking system, NCCU police would be able to follow a student as she moves across campus.

McDonald Vick, Campus Police Chief and Director of Public Safety, said the alarms could be available as early as next semester for a small fee.

"Students would be able to lease the alarms from the school," said Vick. "Right now we're looking at students paying anywhere from \$10 to \$15. But I want to

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## Graduation speaker announced

from staff reports

The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes Jr., senior minister of The Riverside Church in New York City, one of the nation's largest multi-cultural congregations, has been selected guest speaker at North Carolina Central University's spring commencement ceremony, scheduled May 9.

Forbes, a native of Burgaw, N.C., has served as senior minister of The Riverside Church (built by billionaire philanthropist John D. Rockefeller in 1927) since 1989. He is the first African American appointed to the position. Forbes' sermons are aired weekly on WLTW 106.7 FM in New York City.

Before assuming his post at the 2,400-member church, Forbes served as the first Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1985-89, and as an Associate Professor of Preaching at Union Theological from 1976-85.

He has held pastorates at Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington, N.C., at St. Paul's Holy Church in Roxboro, N.C., at St. John's Holy United Church of America in Richmond, Va., and has worked as campus minister for Virginia Union University in Richmond.

Forbes received a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, N.Y. in 1975, a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1962, and a B.S. in Chemistry from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1957.

He earned his Clinical Pastoral Education Certificate from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond in 1968.

He holds 10 honorary degrees including degrees from Trinity College in Conn., Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, and Howard University.

Newsweek recently recognized Forbes as one of the 12 "most effective preachers" in the English speaking world in their March 4, 1996 issue. In 1984 and 1993 Ebony magazine dubbed Forbes one of America's greatest Black preachers.