

Alum association seeks support

The alumni association raised \$1 million last year and projects \$2.5 million this year

By **CURLYN SMITH**
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Hidden away like a pearl in an oyster in the basement of the William Jones building, up the hallway from the Community Service office, is N.C. Central University's Alumni Association.

Inside, in a blue dress shirt and a floral print tie, is Alfred Richardson, director of fund raising. Some say he's

the hardest working man on campus. His job is to raise money for NCCU by the way of alumni and friends of the university.

Last year those working inside the oyster raised \$1 million from alumni giving. North Carolina provides approximately 30 percent of the university's budget, according to Richardson.

That means that in order to operate 70 percent must come from tuition and outside sources, such as alumni support. This year they hope to raise \$2.5 million.

There are 39 U.S. chapters in four regions: West, Northeast, Southeast and a division exclusively for North

and South Carolina.

"We all have the same kind of alumni. What we don't have is an appreciation for giving back in our groups versus theirs," said Richardson when comparing NCCU's alumni to those of other universities such as Duke, N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill. "Their booster clubs booster clubs can even pay the coaches salaries."

At Central the coaches are paid out of state funds.

Alumni for any university is critical. They are often the biggest group of fans to support sporting and cultural events. When they are absent an event looks bare.

Some alumni have even written

NCCU into their will. They understand, according to Richardson, "...that if you don't give away some of this money, you're going to have to give it to Uncle Sam in taxes. So which would you rather do, support the university and African-American students who you can help get an education? Or do you want to give it to the federal government and have it used as welfare?"

According to Richardson during their college years students often don't recognize that they will face many obstacles, that things are never perfect at any university. "You have to get awful old before you get intelligent," says Richardson. "I am my brother's keeper."

Rankings

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•UNC-Pembroke, which is ranked in the third tier of the regional university listing, with a 2.7 rating.

•Fayetteville State University, which is in the fourth tier, has a 2.1 rating.

NCCU fared better in other areas. Compared to the other five historically black universities in the UNC system, NCCU had the highest freshman retention rate, the highest percentage of classes under 20, and best student-to-faculty ratio.

North Carolina A&T University enrolled more students in the top 25 percent of their high school class, and their incoming freshmen had higher SAT/ACT scores.

Fayetteville State University had the highest alumni giving rate, and Elizabeth City State University had the highest graduation and full-time faculty rate.

Barton College, with an academic reputation rating of 2.7, Elizabeth City State University (2.6), Johnson C. Smith (3.0), Shaw University (2.6) and St. Augustine's (2.8) were among those ranked in the third tier of regional liberal arts colleges.

In the listings for the top 50 national research universities, Duke was ranked 7th, UNC-Chapel Hill 27th and Wake Forest University 28th.

IN BRIEF

Choir marks 12 years of worship and praise

The N.C. Central University Worship & Praise Inspirational Mass Choir will be celebrating its 12th Anniversary on Oct. 31 in the B.N. Duke Auditorium at 3:30 p.m.

The Inner-City Mass Choir, of Charlotte, will be the featured guests.

Advance prices are \$3 for students (\$5 at the door). Tickets may also be purchased at the NCCU Ticket Office.

—Campus Echo staff

Smoldering Elders Cafe deadline is today

Students interest in performing in the Smoldering Elders Cafe need to sign up by Oct. 28. Students can show off their talents — singing, reciting, playing instruments, or other creative outlets — at the event.

The Smoldering Elders Cafe is sponsored by NCCU's Women's Student Organization. The event is at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4 in Baynes Hall Lounge. Tickets are \$3. Contact Precious Vines, WSO president, at 530-2636 or 530-2608.

—Campus Echo staff

Black History Month entries due Dec. 15

Students and faculty interested in submitting entries for Black History Month February 2000 should contact Oscar Williams, assistant professor, in the Department of History. The theme is "The African American Legacy and the Challenges for the 21st Century."

The deadline for submissions is Dec. 15. Williams can be reached at 530-7134.

—Campus Echo staff

It's that time again, students of English

Two-part comprehensive exams are required for all English majors and minors at the end of their sophomore year.

The composition examination is scheduled for Nov. 4 in the Communications Building, room 311 from 4-6:30 p.m.

The literature exam is scheduled for Nov. 11 in the Communications Building, Room 311.

Students should register for the examinations in the English office, in room 307 by Friday, Oct. 29.

—Campus Echo staff

Central alumna gives advice, encouragement to successors

By **DESHELIA HALL**
ECHO STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 19, alumna Toni Tupponce spoke to students about becoming involved in student activism. The meeting took place in room 144A of the Student Union.

Several people attended the discussion and took advantage of the great wisdom of a North Carolina Central University graduate. Tupponce said she is concerned with what is happening to the university and wants to make sure students are getting what they want out it.

Tupponce listened attentively as students expressed their problems and frustrations regarding the university, and she advised them on possible solutions to overcome the challenges they face.

Tupponce encouraged students to find an alumnus who can help them reach their goals in life and to be persistent. She said she feels that NCCU is an excellent institution.

"It's your responsibility to make North Carolina Central



CRYSTAL FOREMAN/Staff Photographer
NCCU graduate Toni Tupponce speaks to students at the Student Union about their concerns.

University be the great institution that it is," said Tupponce.

Tupponce said she wants students to learn from their experiences and not to be afraid to try new things.

Justin Higgins, a sophomore

political science major said, "We as students need to challenge the administration and faculty to make North Carolina Central University the best place to be, so let your voice be heard and not shunned, be proud to be an eagle."

Tupponce was very active in her major, sociology. She was a "young life" counselor who canvassed for voter registration.

Tupponce was "Miss Choir" in 1974 and Ms. Alumni in 1976.

While living in Durham, Tupponce became active with the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. She received her master's in regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tupponce served on the National Nominating Committee for two years. She was recently elected to the board of directors of Catholic Social Services for the Charlotte Diocese.

On the side, Tupponce is a professional singer and has traveled to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, and Ireland.



Ed Boyce/Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Beverly Bryant helped develop NCCU's hospitality and tourism program along with Dr. Sunday Okeiyi. The program now has 65 majors enrolled.

Hospitality program gathers momentum

By **DANISA BAKER**
ECHO STAFF WRITER

The hospitality and tourism program was approved Nov. 14, 1997. It admitted 12 students in the spring of 1998. Now in its fourth semester, the program has over 65 majors for a B.S. degree in hospitality and tourism administration.

Dr. Beverly Bryant, director, and Dr. Sunday Okeiyi, assistant professor, are the two faculty members who developed the proposal for the program in this area. NCCU's chapter was inducted last spring.

The purpose of the Hospitality and Tourism Administration Program is to prepare students to assume leadership and entrepreneurial roles and to obtain management positions in the lodging, food service, recreation and travel/tourism sectors.

"It is like the saying 'a new tide steers the boat,'" said Okeiyi. "The program is new and projection and industry support has led to re-engineering of the program in the state."

The program is constructed under the Department of Human Sciences. It requires 128 hours for completion; with 21 hours of business and business administration. Business prerequisites include principals of accounting I & II, finance and cost control, micro- and macro-economics, principals of marketing and management.

There is a requirement of three internships within the

major offering 1,000 hours upon graduation.

Students may choose from four concentrations within the program:

- hotel management
- restaurant/food service management
- international hotel management
- tourism management.

Okeiyi said: "I feel a student should be multi-skilled for the next millennium."

Career opportunities in this field of study range from parks, hotel management and nightclubs to air travel and cruise lines.

The Hospitality and Tourism industry is the largest-growing sector of employment in the world and it employs more people than the agricultural, auto, electronics, steel, and textile industries combined.

"We know there is a job for our students when they graduate," said Bryant.

NCCU will graduate the first class of hospitality and tourism administration degrees in Dec., 2000.

Stephanie Jones, business administration major, said, "This is the only program at NCCU with built-in internship that offers 1,000 hours. With graduation you not only get a degree, but you get experience. Networking is endless."

Okeiyi said: "This program is designed for minority students and is the most comprehensive. That is what makes it unique."

Cliff Notes from the president's desk

By **CLIFTON GRAY**
SGA PRESIDENT

Once again, it's homecoming at NCCU! I hope that you are as excited as I am about our last homecoming of the 20th century. Therefore, let's work to make this one of the best yet.

We dedicate the week's activities to the life and work of Coach John McLendon, an Eagle legend whom our gym is named for.

The Student Government Association, Student Activities Board, University Choir, Bon Vivant Fashion Society, Pan-Hellenic Council, and Worship & Praise Inspirational Mass Choir have worked countless hours to ensure the success of this week.

This year the cafeteria has agreed to open for breakfast right after pre-dawn.

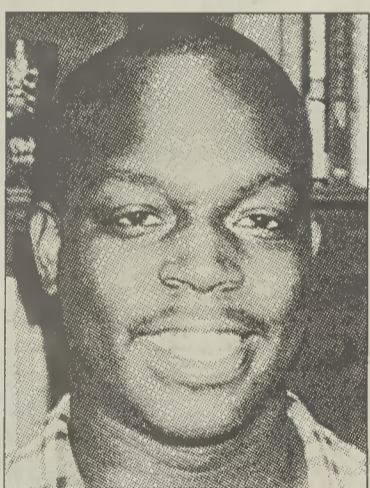
So, there is no excuse for us not to be at the parade on Saturday.

I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome our alumni back to campus. I'm sure that you are happy to find that the hills are still sloping, the greens are still verdant, the lovely blossoms still show beautifully, and the Eagle is still no common-ordinary barnyard fowl!

However, all is not well in the camp.

Can you believe that there was a proposal to charge campus groups \$50 an hour to use the Walker Complex?

I know it's ridiculous and



I hope that you are as excited as I am about our last homecoming of the 20th century.

unacceptable as long as I am president of this association.

Did you know that Miss NCCU and Bon Vivant could no longer have a runway in B.N. Duke anymore? That too is ridiculous.

How dare university officials sacrifice years and years of tradition? And did you know that we had to have a demonstration just to get air-conditioning in the communications building? Ridiculous!

Did you know that the MC was screaming in the microphone for security at the Apollo Show last week, and security just looked at him and did not move?

Alumni, I can go on and on about the ridiculous things we have to fight for at Central today. Yet, I'm sure you know that we will continue fighting.

However, I'm baffled now. At a time when school spirit is supposed to be at its peak, I can't help but question: What is happening to North

Carolina Central?

I don't know what's happening, but I know that we will do everything in our power to get our North Carolina Central back.

That is why we have demanded a few things around here. Some of our demands have come to fruition, like the extension of main computer lab hours; others have to wait until the Board of Trustees meets in November, like the extension of co-ed hours.

Something else disturbs me as well. The Internal Affairs office within the Student Government Association is responsible for two very important things among others. One of those is the residence hall tour.

I implemented the residence hall tour in September so that students can have an opportunity to communicate their concerns with SGA officials, but we have got to go to the lobby on the Monday night when SGA is in our residence halls.

Student Government won't know what bothers us unless we communicate it. Does our low turnout at the tour mean that we are satisfied with everything that goes on here?

I would hope not. The second responsibility is the supervision of the Council of Presidents. The director of Internal Affairs has informed me that the organizational presidents are not showing up to the council's meetings, as they should.

If you are in a registered student organization on this campus, you need to question your president as to why he or she is not fully representing your voice on the council.

Well, that's enough of my preaching for this issue, and by the way Ed and Echo staff, the paper is outstanding!