

Sizing U



By Michael Grayson

Since Dr. James A. Anderson raised his right hand on June 9, 2008 and became the 11th official chancellor sworn in at Fayetteville State University, much has changed.

A significant investment in the university's infrastructure has been underway including new academic buildings and residence halls. Several programs have excelled, and the support of faculty and staff is well noticed.

The nursing program's recovery

According to Dr. Jon Young, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at FSU, in the first year of the nursing program there was a 63 percent pass rate on the licensure exam. The following year there was a 39 percent pass rate. Due to state-low passing rates the university investigated an immediate suspension on the admission of new students in the program.

Dr. Young said a whole revision in the nursing curriculum was deemed necessary. A new nursing building was also the foundation to meeting academic expectations.

Three things have happened in the last two years to restore the nursing program to respectability, Chancellor Anderson said. The first thing we had to do was increase the

passing rates. Second, we had to hire a chairperson to lead the program. Third, we had to rebuild our nursing faculty by hiring new faculty who were committed to serving our students and the program.

And, with the last two classes achieving passing rates of 85 and 100 percent, the nursing program appears to be showing some signs of revival.

Nursing Department Chair Dr. Afua Arhin, was hired as one of those individuals to assist in reshaping the nursing program. "I had to start from scratch" Arhin said. There were no faculty. Dr. Arhin credits the chancellor for being supportive, creating a good faculty base and making sure the program has what it needs to be successful. The first new class since the suspension will begin in January of 2013, he added. Dr. Young said the program has gained approval to be reactivated by the N.C. Board of Nursing.

The nursing program isn't the only program excelling these days. FSU's business program continues to be one of the university's most distinguished programs.

The School of Business and Economics

The School of Business and Economics is one of the best programs in the nation, Chancellor Anderson said. The only two programs ranked ahead of FSU in the state are Duke and UNC Chapel Hill.

Department of Accounting Chair and Professor of Accounting Ulysses Taylor, credits Chancellor Anderson for a lot of the success of the

business department has encountered. Chancellor Anderson is the head, Taylor said, and nothing can be done without the "head's approval".

Chancellor Anderson's support through various resources is what continues to move us in the right direction. "He is a visionary," Taylor said.

Assistant Professor of BADM 215 Dr. Carolyn Jewell, also acknowledged Chancellor Anderson for the success of the department. Dr. Jewell said the chancellor does not accept "mediocrity". He allows us to go to conferences to obtain the most modern knowledge. Chancellor Anderson also does a great job in supplying the program with money so that "classrooms are up-to-date." While giving Chancellor Anderson some credit for the success of the business program, Dr. Young also credits the Dean of business Dr. Assad Tavakoli for a lot of the accomplishments the program acquires.

The School of Business and Economics is accredited by the Southern Association of Business Colleges and Schools.

While respectable programs may be one way to attract potential incoming students, the sight of new advanced buildings can certainly help.

"I am pleased to say" that all these issues were addressed successfully," Anderson said.