

CAREERS

Briefly

Honor for A&T's Alston

Dr. Antoine Alston, interim associate dean of academic studies in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Studies at North Carolina A&T State University, recently received a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teacher Fellow Award.



Alston

The honor was presented at the organization's annual conference at the University of Wisconsin River Falls.

NACTA is a professional society that focuses on promoting, recognizing and rewarding excellence in teaching agriculture and related areas at the post-secondary level in North America.

Members are from two- and four-year public and private colleges and have a common bond of teaching agriculture and related subjects. Through the use of competitive awards, NACTA annually recognizes outstanding teaching and publication.

WFU Business MA program more popular than ever

A pre-experience graduate business degree at Wake Forest tailored specifically for recent liberal arts and sciences graduates is gaining in popularity. Wake Forest Schools of Business recently welcomed its largest class of Master of Arts in Management (MA) students since the program started in 2006.

The Wake Forest MA Class of 2013 includes 115 students from 63 different undergraduate institutions around the world. It's comprised of 52 percent women and 48 percent men, and 36 percent of the students come from underrepresented groups.

The 10-month MA program is designed for recent liberal arts, sciences or engineering graduates. It broadens students' education beyond the focus of their undergraduate studies by providing a business education in a hands-on learning environment that emphasizes teamwork and collaboration in solving problems.

"Throughout the program, we encourage students to 'find their fire' and explore how to leverage their passions into meaningful careers," said Steve Reinemund, Dean of Business. "We want every student to walk across (the) stage at graduation having already accepted a job with an organization that shares their personal values."

Thanks to the generosity of corporate partners, Wake Forest was able to provide 13 high-achieving students from underrepresented groups with Corporate Fellowships. The Corporate Fellowships include a full-tuition scholarship, a stipend for living expenses, and personal mentorship by an executive at a sponsoring company.



Reinemund

Hudson picked as YIT leader

Alex Hudson has joined the Youth in Transition Initiative (YIT) of Forsyth County as lead coordinator.

In this position, Hudson will play a major role in the on-going development and implementation of the initiative's efforts to connect young people aging out of foster care with the necessary supports and services to successfully transition into adulthood. YIT is a community collaborative that works to identify the challenges these 18 to 24 year olds face, research the resources that exist in the community and identify the service gaps that need to be filled.



Hudson

"Many people in the community did not understand that even though there are ways to extend the foster care support network, that network has not been tasked to meet the needs of those young people once they turn 18," Hudson explained. "Without community support and help identifying the resources that are available, these youth can end up living alone without any support and facing difficult life challenges that not only affect them, but also impact all of us. This initiative seeks to invest in their lives proactively by focusing on housing, education, employment, financial competency, establishing healthy and permanent relationships, and physical and mental health. In each of these areas, the young adults are being equipped for true ownership and engagement in their own lives."

Hudson moved to Winston-Salem in 2004 to serve as the high school ministries pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, a position he held for four years. He also worked part-time at Reynolda House Museum of American Art as an event and program management assistant and part-time at WinMock at Kinderton while he was in seminary. Hudson previously had been an area director for Young Life in DeLand, Fla. and associate area director for Direct Ministry in Corpus Christi, Texas.

A native of Atlanta, Hudson holds a B.A. degree in journalism with a broadcast news major from the University of Georgia and earned a Master's of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary last year. He and his wife, Kate, have four children.

Local airline employees win thousands

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem-based US Airways employees have been awarded \$10,000 each for their "Above and Beyond" customer service.

The employees, all reservations agents at the airline's Hanes Mall area call center, earned entry into the company's "Above and Beyond" employee recognition drawing.

Tom Groseclose, Yvonne Anthony, Victoria Harris and Michael Vincent were among the local winners. They won a portion of the more than \$260,000 that US Airways gives away each quarter to 360 employees.

The "Above & Beyond" program recognizes those US Airways employees who provide exceptional service to not only the airline's customers, but to fellow employees. The program allows US Airways'



(From left) Winston-Salem Reservation Sales Agents Tom Groseclose, Yvonne Anthony, Victoria Harris and Michael Vincent have pocketed \$10,000.

most frequent flyers (Dividend Miles Silver, Platinum, Gold and Chairman's Preferred members) and its employees at the manager level and above to submit coupons recognizing

employees for providing excellent customer service in the air and on the ground. All coupons received are entered in a drawing and each quarter US Airways awards: 10 employ-

ees \$10,000 each; 100 employees \$1,000 each; and 250 employees \$250 each.

"Our employees in our Winston-Salem reservations call center take great care of our customers and their fellow employees. This is what our 'Above and Beyond' program is all about," said Donna Kostelic, US Airways' director of Reservations. "Last year, we celebrated returning 200 positions back to the Winston-Salem area and now we are celebrating the 'above and beyond' accomplishments of our employees here."

Since the program's inception in 2006, the airline has received more than 270,000 A&B coupons and has awarded nearly \$6.5 million to more than 8,500 employees. US Airways congratulates its Winston-Salem \$10,000 recipients.

Leading Ladies



Photo by Fabio Camara

CNN's Soledad O'Brien (left) poses with Sheila Robinson, publisher of Triad-based Diversity Woman Magazine. O'Brien will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at Diversity Women's Business Leadership Conference, Oct. 29-30, at The Gaylord Resort in National Harbor, Md. O'Brien will also appear on the cover of Diversity Woman Magazine's fall issue. Lynn Tilton, founder and CEO of Patriarch Partners; Pat Harris, Global Chief Diversity Officer of McDonald's Corporation; and Michele Kang, CEO of Cognosante will also receive awards during the Mosaic Women Awards Luncheon. Learn more about the conference at diversitywoman.com.

Local stylist earns kudos at national competition

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Forsyth County hairstylist Tiffany Allen Thames was a top-five finisher at the Aug. 5 Third Annual Hair Fitness competition in Atlanta.

Sponsored by UnitedHealthcare and black-owned hair-care giant Bronner Bros., the competition seeks to dispel the myth that black women can't exercise and maintain a stylish, eye-catching hairstyle.

The competition, which was held during one of Bronner Bros.' large scale international hair shows, attracted stylists from across the nation. Each of them tried to impress the large crowd and a panel of judges by crafting exercise-friendly styles.

Linette Battle of Palm Beach, Fla. won first place. The top prize came with \$5,000 and a trophy for outstanding design and execution. Thames, the owner/operator of Kernersville-based Main Attraction Hair Studio, finished fourth. The Dudley Cosmetology University graduate is in high demand and has earned wide-acclaim for her hair design talents.

Organizers of the competition want the event to encourage professional hair stylists to create hairstyles that are

easy to maintain and empower their clients to make exercise a part of their daily routine. The Hair Fitness competition was inspired by studies that showed many African-American women avoid certain fitness activities in order to maintain their hairstyles, as well as the alarming rates of obesity among African Americans. According to the 2011 edition of America's Health Rankings, the prevalence of obesity among African Americans exceeds 30 percent in 36 states and the District of Columbia, which dramatically outpaces obesity rates for whites and poses serious health consequences for those affected - including diabetes and heart disease.



Photo courtesy of Tiffany Thames

Tiffany Allen Thames

FTCC receives funds to put folks back to work

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Forsyth Technical Community College is among the 10 community colleges selected to receive money from the North Carolina Back-to-Work program.

The \$5 million program, a partnership between NC Community Colleges and the NC Department of Commerce, is designed to help the long-term unemployed find employment and new careers. It focuses on providing job training and retraining; employability skills, including a Career Readiness Certificate, and third-party, industry-recognized credentials to the long-term unemployed.

Forsyth Tech will receive \$711,682 to implement the program as soon as possible. The Triad's Davidson Community College (\$514,066) and Guilford Technical Community College (\$879,711) have also been selected for the program.

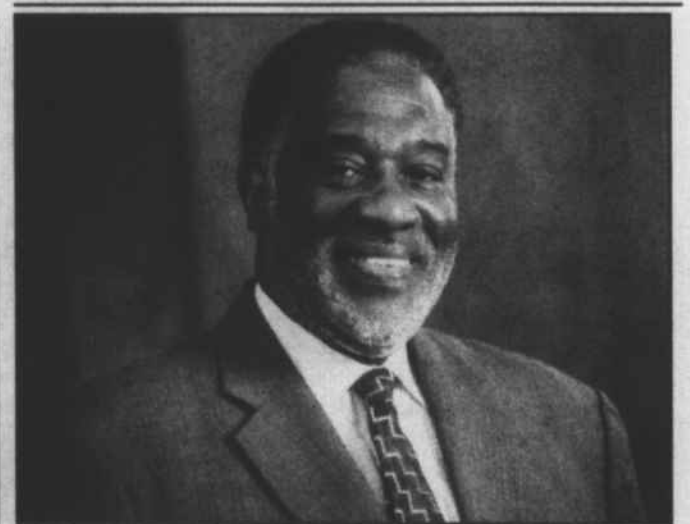
"We're delighted to have been chosen to participate in this program," said Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green. "This is one of our strong suits. Forsyth Tech has a great track record for working with employers in our area to match skilled workers with real job openings. We know where the needs are."

From 2000 to 2010, the Piedmont Triad lost nearly 90,000 jobs, the equivalent of losing all the jobs in Charlotte or Research Triangle Park, according to the Piedmont Triad Partnership.

"We are pleased that three colleges in the Piedmont Triad have been selected for the 'Back-to-Work Initiative,' said David Powell, PTP president and CEO. "These new training funds will allow us to prepare Piedmont Triad residents for jobs with existing employers, and with companies that may establish new operations in this area, and will help make our region more competitive."



Green



NCCU Photo

Interim Chancellor Charles Becton

Interim NCCU chancellor: Get off your 'Buts'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

One week after taking office, Interim Chancellor Charles Becton spoke to the assembled faculty and staff at North Carolina Central University on Tuesday, Aug. 14.

In a spirited address that mixed humor and rhymes with straight talk about the challenges ahead, Becton said he does not intend to come up with new programs or initiatives. As interim chancellor, he said he will "continue the wonderful work - the programs and initiatives - of Chancellor (Charlie) Nelms." At the same time, he said that for as long as he is in office, he will hold the faculty and staff to high levels of accountability.

A lawyer, former appeals court judge and law professor, Becton was chosen as interim leader for NCCU by University of North Carolina President Tom Ross shortly after Nelms, chancellor since 2007, announced his retirement. A search committee will soon begin the job of finding Nelms' permanent successor.



Nelms