

N.C. A&T janitor thanked for making difference

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the courage in which you can look someone in the eyes or see someone slouched, and you go over and say, 'Is there any way I can help you?'

That happened one late Friday afternoon in April. Davis was taking out the trash when he saw a student trying to climb out of a second-floor window at Cherry Hall, the building beside McNair.

Davis took off. When he got

to the classroom, he found the student shaking uncontrollably. Davis pulled him from the window and asked, "Are you all right? You're having a seizure."

Davis calmed him down by draping a washcloth on the student's forehead and asking another student to sit with him. Then, Davis ran out and called an ambulance.

The student, who was taken to the hospital, turned out to be fine. He hadn't

taken his medication. But after that episode, every time he saw Davis on campus, he'd hug him, shake his hand and say, "You know, you saved my life."

Davis' other work-related adventure happened about 11 p.m. on a Thursday in March. At that hour, McNair is always quiet and a bit spooky, especially when small sounds make big echoes down its empty hallways. That's when Davis saw the

man in Room 419.

The man was sitting behind a computer, all fidgety as he talked on his cell phone and typed at a keyboard. Davis spotted something silver at the man's feet. He thought it was a gun.

"Hey, how you doing?" Davis said as he passed by.

He felt the man's eyes staring into his back. Davis had never seen the man before, and he knew something didn't feel right. So, he had a

security guard call campus police. Minutes later, the man was led out in handcuffs.

Those two events helped Davis snag his recent awards. But it's the little things Sarin and others remember. Such as helping students find misplaced laptops. Or using coat hangers to help employees get into their locked cars. Or giving a purse, with \$1,800 inside, back to the woman who lost it.

"You're lucky," he told the

woman. "If it was anyone else, you might not have gotten it."

Earlier this month, on a day he'll never forget, Davis wore polished loafers and his favorite four-button suit when he received his medal during a ceremony at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. While there, he thought about the elderly woman he knew only as Ms. Murphy. She called him "Buster."

Study: Landfills follow poor, minorities

By Gary Robertson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — North Carolina communities with significant minority populations are more than twice as likely to be located near landfills than overwhelmingly white areas, according to a study presented Monday to a legislative committee.

The study, billed as the first of its kind in North Carolina, was presented to the Joint Select Committee on

Environmental Justice, a panel created this year to evaluate the impact of present and future landfills on minority groups and the poor.

"We found that permitted solid waste facilities are more prevalent in nonwhite communities than white communities," Steven Wing, an epidemiology professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, told panel members during their first meeting.

The committee was created

by a law that placed a one-year moratorium on permitting new landfills in North Carolina. The ban, which took effect Aug. 1, will delay planning and development of at least four proposed landfills that would expend the state's narrowing landfill capacity.

The panel is expected to recommend by February how to ensure human health concerns and citizen equity are protected when landfills are

considered. A separate legislative commission is examining how to improve rules about permitting landfills.

During Monday's meeting, Wing presented a doctoral dissertation completed in August by UNC-Chapel Hill student Jennifer Norton.

It examined Division of Waste Management permits for 419 solid waste landfills from the 1970s through 2003. Norton looked at U.S. Census

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