

North Carolina Central University School of Law
History and Scholarship Digital Archives

New Horizons Newsletter

Student Newsletters and Magazines

12-1-1992

New Horizons Winter 1992

North Carolina Central School of Law

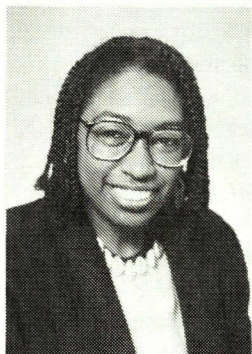
Follow this and additional works at: <https://archives.law.nccu.edu/new-horizons>

Recommended Citation

North Carolina Central School of Law, "New Horizons Winter 1992" (1992). *New Horizons Newsletter*. 8.
<https://archives.law.nccu.edu/new-horizons/8>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newsletters and Magazines at History and Scholarship Digital Archives. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Horizons Newsletter by an authorized administrator of History and Scholarship Digital Archives. For more information, please contact jbeeker@nccu.edu.

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni,

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings to you from the NCCU Law School community. Since my appointment as permanent dean in July, I have had the opportunity to become acquainted with many of you through the "Meet the Dean" receptions that have been held in Asheville, Char-

lotte, Washington DC, and Greensboro. It has been very gratifying to learn of your many accomplishments first-hand. I have met alumni who have impressive public interest careers, alumni who have thriving practices, and alumni who are performing admirably at every level of local, state, and federal government as public defenders, district attorneys, administrators, and judges. Moreover, I have been extremely impressed with the extent to which many of our more experienced alumni take time to assist our more recent alumni in becoming acclimated to the "real world" of the practice of law. Equally impressive are the testimonials I have heard from you concerning the beneficial experiences you had here as a law student. I am very pleased to have received such an overwhelmingly positive reception during my visits. I hope to have the opportunity to become acquainted with more alumni through future "Meet the Dean" receptions.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on recent activities here at the Law School. We have a current overall enrollment of 321 students. Sixty-seven students enrolled in our Day Program and twenty-six students enrolled in our Evening Program this fall. As a result of the large number of applications which we receive in relation to the relatively small number of applicants we admit, the admissions process at the Law School is extremely competitive. During the week of homecoming, one of our distinguished alumni, Attorney Willie Gary, at the invitation of the President of the Student Bar Association, gave a powerful and inspiring address that was very well received by students and faculty alike. Immediately following the homecoming game, well over one hundred persons were in attendance at the annual law school alumni reception. In October and November, Dean Joyner's Civil Rights class presented a series of informative and thought-provoking panel discussions on various civil rights issues.

We are in the final stages of some major renovations in the library which have resulted in an improved circulation desk, additional study areas and additional office space for library personnel. We are in the process of renovating two of our classrooms and updating our audiovisual equipment. A recent campus-wide rewiring project, when completed, will provide us with the latest technology in voice, video and data capability.

Our major undertaking by far this academic year was the seven-year accreditation visit which is conducted of all law schools approved by the American Bar Association. In November, a site evaluation team consisting of five individuals spent four days at the Law School inspecting virtually every facet of our program. We expect to receive a preliminary report from the site evaluation team in February and a final report from the Accreditation Committee of the American Bar Association in June or July.

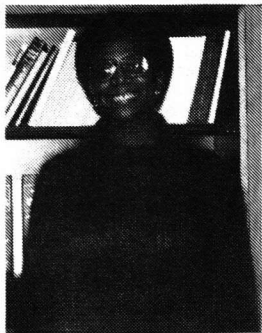
We are fortunate to have an outstanding administration, faculty and staff as well as excellent student and alumni leaders. As a result of the hard work of these individuals, we have had a busy and productive year thus far, and we look forward to more of the same for the remainder of the academic year.

As Dean, I am committed to ensuring that the Law School remain a vital force in the community. The importance of the Law School springs from its historical mission as an opportunity law school. The School opened its doors in 1939 to provide an opportunity for a legal education for African-Americans who, at that time, were excluded from the white law schools in the state. Many of those individuals subsequently used the legal skills they acquired at the Law School to assist poor, rural and African-American communities that otherwise would have gone unrepresented. The mission of the Law School is as vital today as it was in 1939, and the struggle to maintain its mission is ongoing. With your continued support and commitment, I am confident that the Law School will survive and thrive as we prepare to move into the twenty-first century.

Mary E. Wright

Dean

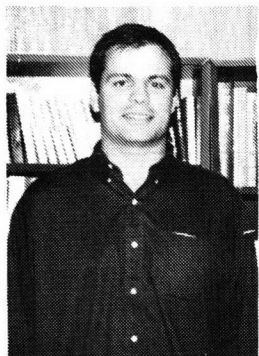
BOWENS SELECTED FOR FELLOWSHIP



Marilyn Bowens, a third year law student and editor-in-chief of the North Carolina Central Law Journal, has won a Selected Professions Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Washington, D.C. The fellowship will cover her expenses as a third year law student.

After graduation Ms. Bowens plans to clerk for the Honorable Justice Henry Frye of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

TYNDALL WINS NATHAN BURKAN MEMORIAL COMPETITION



Amos G. Tyndall, a third year student who is associate editor of the North Carolina Central Law Journal, won the \$500 first prize in the annual Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition. His selection was announced by Morton Gould, president of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. The competition is sponsored

in memory of ASCAP's first general counsel who died in 1936 and is designed to stimulate interest in the field of copyright law.

FOCUS ON THE FACULTY



Cheryl E. Amana has joined the faculty as an assistant professor. Professor Amana teaches family law, health law, and property. She received her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1977 and her LL.M. from Columbia University in 1990. She is currently an S.J.D. candidate at Columbia. Professor Amana serves on the NCCU task force on infant mortality. She

is a participant in the Conference on Minority Overrepresentation in the North Carolina Juvenile Justice System sponsored by the Governor's Crime Commission. She

also serves on the Durham Community Child Protection Team. Professor Amana has published an article on Recruitment and Retention of African-American Law Students which will appear in the next issue of the North Carolina Central University Law Journal. In November, she delivered a paper on maternal-fetal conflict at the conference on Women, Technology and Ethics at Morehead State University and at Columbia University School of Law.

Finesse B. Couch is serving as a visiting assistant professor. Professor Couch has taught civil litigation, trial practice, advanced legal writing, legal methods and contracts. She received her J.D. from Duke University Law School in 1984. Before joining the faculty at NCCU, Professor Couch worked with North Central Legal Services and the North Carolina Department of Administration and was a solo practitioner. She was elected by the student body as Law Professor of the Year in 1991. She is currently serving as the Faculty Advisor for BLSA and for the Third Year Class Graduation Committee.

Lundy Langston Johnston '89 is serving as a visiting assistant professor at NCCU School of Law. She is teaching torts. Professor Langston received her LL.M. from Columbia University School of Law in the spring of 1991. She was the first woman to be editor-in-chief of the North Carolina Central University Law Journal, and clerked for Justice Henry Frye of the North Carolina Supreme Court before attending Columbia. Professor Langston is co-advisor for the 1992 Law Week Committee.

Brenda M. Foreman is serving as a visiting assistant professor, teaching appellate advocacy and property. Professor Foreman received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1976. She has worked for the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (now Environment, Health and Natural Resources) as an Environmental Enforcement Officer, as an Assistant/Deputy City Attorney in Durham, North Carolina, and as a senior associate and head of the municipal department at Faison & Brown. She has also practiced in Durham as a solo practitioner.

Adrienne Lea Meddock '91 is currently serving as the Academic Support Specialist. When Professor Meddock is not supervising student tutors or teaching writing classes, she enjoys singing lead for the local band, BLOOM.

DEAN'S AWARDS PRESENTED AT LAW WEEK

Dean Mary E. Wright made the following alumni awards at the Law Week Banquet for 1991:

Victor Boone '75 was given the Julian Thomas Pierce Award in recognition of pro bono/legal services for poor and disadvantaged persons. This award goes to a graduate who is working or has worked for a legal services or other public

interest organization that is geared towards protecting the legal rights of poor and disadvantaged persons or a graduate who has done a significant amount of pro bono services for poor and underrepresented persons.

Angus B. Thompson, II '77 was given the Clifton E. Johnson award for outstanding contribution to the legal profession. This award is given to a graduate who has used his/her legal skills and training to make a difference and to protect the rights assured to all persons by the state and federal constitutions.

Alan McSurely '88 was given the Floyd B. McKissick Award for outstanding community service. This award is given to a graduate who has contributed to the community in which he or she lives by working with the city, county, state or national projects or the education system, by aiding the sick, elderly or homeless, by teaching illiterate persons to read and write, or by other worthwhile projects designed for the betterment of our society.

Carol Goins '89 received the Albert L. Turner Award for distinguished service. This award is given to a graduate who has contributed to the development and enhancement of a positive image for the Law School and the Law School's graduates.

Michael Morgan '79, current President of the North Carolina Central University School of Law Alumni Association, received the Daniel G. Sampson Award for alumni service. This award is given to a graduate who has made a significant contribution to the Law School through his or her active participation in the Law School's Alumni Association.

ALUMNI SPONSOR "MEET THE DEAN" DINNERS

Dean Mary Wright and members of her administration will be travelling around the State of North Carolina and points beyond for a series of "Meet the Dean" dinners with alumni. The first dinner was held in Asheville, North Carolina on October 14th at the Peddler Steak House. Dean Wright and Assistant Dean Patti Solari '82 met with Michael Morgan '79, President of the NCCU Alumni Association, and members of the Western North Carolina Alumni Association. Western Carolina Legal Eagles in attendance included: Donna Douglas '84, Eugene W. Ellison '83, Carol Goins '89, Paul Horrell '84, Howard McGlohon '76, Patrick B. Ochsenreiter '86, Michelle Rippon '81, Curtis Venable '83 and Stanley D. Young '84.

The Western Carolina Eagles presented Dean Wright and the Alumni Association with checks totalling \$3,000.00. Many thanks to our supportive alumni in the west and especially to Gene Ellison for graciously arranging the dinner and accommodations for Dean Wright and Assistant Dean Solari.

Dean Wright and Assistant Dean Janice Mills visited Charlotte, North Carolina on November 14th. An alumni dinner at the Excelsior Club was well attended. Alumni in

attendance included Bill Davis '86, Billy Ellerbe '79, Anthony Fox '82, Evelyn Harbin '88, Donnie Hoover '74, Grazell Howard '87, Grady Jessup '86, Georgia Lewis '89, McArthur Mitchell '89, Allen Patterson '87, Carl Shabica '75, Twanna Taylor '91, David Williams '87, and Vercelia Young '90.

Dean Wright and Associate Dean Irving Joyner joined alumni in the Washington D.C. area for a dinner on November 21st. Alumni attending the dinner included: Claudia A. Woods Butts '85, Michael D. Cheek '79, Gail M. Fraizer, Joyce W. Gaillard, Beryl Sansom Gilmore '70, Julia A. Hardy '76, Gerald J. Roper '72, Stephen O. Russell '76, Veda M. Shamsid-Deen '86, Frank S. Turner '73, Russell C. Washington '62, Brenda Baldwin White '86, Norma Denise Wilson-Taylor '75. Former Professor Roberta Y. Wright also attended the dinner.

Former Professor Wright and our Washington alumni donated more than \$600.00 to the Law School, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for their generosity and hospitality.

IN MEMORIAM

Archie C. Felton '69

Paul William Horrell '83

\$1.5 MILLION SETTLEMENT

On September 5, 1991, Asheville, North Carolina Attorney Eugene Ellison '83 settled two wrongful death claims arising out of the crash of Flight 508 on July 10, 1991 in Birmingham, Alabama for \$1.5 million.

Rev. Lovell Johnson, Sr. age 66, and his wife Marguerite, age 63, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin were among the 13 people who died



Eugene Ellison '83

crashed in a heavy storm while attempting to land at the Birmingham Airport. Rev. and Mrs. Johnson are survived by their son, Lovell Johnson, Jr. '83, an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee, and by their daughter, Muriel Eckert of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO PRESENT FIRST SILVER EAGLE AWARD

The NCCU School of Law Alumni Association will present its first Silver Eagle Award to Eugene W. Ellison '83 at the Law Day Banquet in March, 1992. Mr. Ellison is in private practice in Asheville, North Carolina and also serves as an Asheville city councilman.

The Alumni Association presents awards to its members based on the members' contributions to the Association in a single year. The Bronze Eagle Award is given for contributions between \$1,000 and \$2,500. The Silver Eagle Award is given for contributions between \$2,500 and \$5,000, and the Golden Eagle Award is given for contributions in excess of \$5,000. Recipients of the awards are given plaques and have their names permanently displayed in the lobby of the Law School.

The Alumni Association has presented Bronze Eagle Awards to Frank W. Ballance, Jr. '65 (1989), William Dudley, former President of the Alumni Association, '76 (1989), Ernest B. Fullwood '72 (1989 and 1990), Willie E. Gary '74 (1990), Donald L. Murphy '76 (1989), Willie J. Richardson '77 (1989 and 1991), J.J. Sansom, Jr. '47 (1989), and Joseph A. Williams (1990). A Bronze Eagle Award has also been awarded to the law firm of Dawson, Watkins & Hardy in Burlington. Two of the partners in that firm are NCCU grads, Alex Dawson '85 and Mildred Hardy '87.

Mr. Ellison is the first recipient of the Silver Eagle Award. In presenting his donation to Alumni Association President Michael Morgan and Dean Mary Wright, Mr. Ellison said, "Without North Carolina Central Law School, I would not be a successful attorney today. I just wanted to give back a little of what the Law School has given me."

The School of Law thanks you, Gene Ellison, for your generous contribution, and many thanks to our other alumni who continue to support the Law School and the Alumni Association.

CIVIL RIGHTS FORUM

During the fall, 1991 semester, Associate Dean Irving Joyner's Civil Rights Class presented "Critical Civil Rights Issues in 1991: Discussions of Issues Affecting North Carolina Citizens." The four programs included panel discussions on the following topics:

Whether the failure of the forty largest law firms in North Carolina to hire more than a token number of Black attorneys as associates violates 42 U.S.C. sections 1981 and 1983 and the United States Constitution?

Whether the "separate but equal" doctrine announced by the United States Supreme Court in *Plessey v. Ferguson*

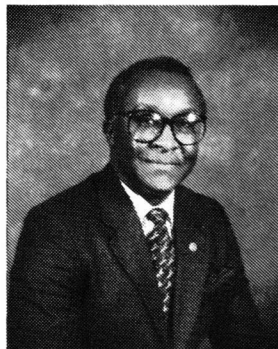
prohibits the forced merger of historically Black and White state supported universities, what steps are required by the Constitution to eliminate the funding and resource disparities which exist between those institutions and what steps are mandated to desegregate state supported higher education institutions?

Whether the failure of the forty largest law firms in North Carolina to hire more female attorneys as associates violates 42 U.S.C. sections 1981 and 1983 and the United States Constitution?

Whether the United States Constitution permits the creation and operation of Black male only elementary and junior high schools in urban cities with predominantly Black student bodies in an attempt to improve the educational attainment of young Black males?

The programs were held in the Moot Court Room at the Law School. They were well received and sparked considerable, sometimes emotional, debate among the presenters and other participants.

ULYSSES BELL ELECTED TO LENOIR-RHYNE COLLEGE BOARD



Elizabeth City State University's Vice Chancellor for Development and Planning, Ulysses Bell, was recently elected to the Lenoir-Rhyne College Board of Trustees as a Lay Member during the North Carolina Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bell is a 1976 graduate of the NCCU School of Law.

Lenoir-Rhyne College is one of twenty-nine ELCA colleges and is located in Hickory, North Carolina. The institution provides programs of undergraduate, graduate and continuing study which are committed to the liberal arts and sciences. Trustees elected at the annual assembly take office at the close of the meeting and serve a three-year term.

Mr. Bell's other board affiliations and memberships include: member, Board of Pensions, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (Chicago, Ill.), 1988-1995; member, Board of Directors, North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc. (Raleigh, NC); member, Board of Advisors, First Union Bank (Elizabeth City); member and co-chair, Mayor's Advisory Council (Elizabeth City); member, Elizabeth City Rotary Club; and Elizabeth City Local Board of Realtors.

LISA CRUTCHFIELD NAMED PLACEMENT DIRECTOR



Lisa Morgan Crutchfield has been named Acting Director of Placement and Recruitment. Crutchfield received her J.D. from Howard University School of Law in 1986. Before joining the administration at NCCU, she served as a staff attorney for North State Legal Services. Ms. Crutchfield replaces former Director of Place-

ment and Recruitment, Gayle Moses, who has taken a position with the Durham City Attorney's office.

LABAT R. YANCEY BECOMES VICE PRESIDENT OF EQUIFAX, INC.

Labat R. Yancey, a 1974 graduate of NCCU School of Law, has been promoted to vice president by Atlanta-based Equifax Inc. He assumes responsibility for the company's Consumer Affairs Office.

Mr. Yancey's career with Equifax began in 1979 as director of consumer/legislative affairs for



its credit information services company. He was promoted to assistant vice president of legislative/consumer affairs in 1986 and to corporate assistant vice president in 1990. He had previously served as a public affairs representative for E.I. DuPont de Nemours in Wilmington, Del.

A native Atlantan, Mr. Yancey earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College, a master's degree from New York University and a Juris Doctorate from North Carolina Central University. He has served the State of Georgia as a consultant to the director of Consumer Affairs, and the City of Atlanta, as special assistant to the director of planning and budget.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NCCU STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! LAW WEEK 1992 is scheduled for the week of March 23, 1992. The Student Bar Association has committed itself to strengthening the connections between alumni, administrators, faculty and students.

Toward that end, the SBA co-sponsored activities during 1991 Homecoming with the NCCU Alumni Association and law school administrators. There was an excellent turn-out of alumni at the activities; however, more of you are needed!

Your attendance at Law Week activities serves two important purposes: 1) law students have an opportunity to associate with Central graduates who are competent and successful professionals, and 2) alumni have an opportunity to meet and inspire a new generation of bright, energetic "attorneys-to-be." Law students value the opportunity to talk with alumni about their practices, current legal issues, legal experiences, and job opportunities.

The Activity Coordinators request your assistance in completing the following alumni survey. Please return your response to the NCCU Law Week Committee no later than February 20, 1992. The activity schedule and hotel information will be mailed out to alumni by January 31, 1992. We are looking forward to seeing you in March!

If you would like additional information, feel free to contact Ms. Kathryn Washington, SBA President, at (919) 560-6333 or (919) 560-6382.

Detach and return to:

NCCU Law Week Committee
North Carolina Central University School of Law
1512 South Alston Avenue
Durham, NC 27707

1992 LAW WEEK ALUMNI SURVEY

1. What role should alumni play in the Law Week activities?
2. What is the best way to increase alumni participation?
3. What alumni activities would you like to see during Law Week?
4. Should the speaker for the Law Week banquet be an graduate of NCCU? Why or why not? List your suggestion(s) for a speaker.
5. Hotel Accommodations: Where would you prefer that the hotel be located? What is a reasonable rate for rooms?
6. What are your fundraising ideas? What items would you buy?
7. Do you have additional comments or suggestions? Use a separate sheet, if necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Your input will be invaluable.

CLE PROGRAM PLANNED FOR LAW WEEK

The Law School will sponsor a CLE program on Friday afternoon, March 27th, 1991 from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. at the law school. The program will carry three hours of CLE credit approved by the North Carolina State Bar. Professors Walter E. Nunnallee and Thomas Earnhardt will discuss how to advise your business clients on the form of business which they should adopt, from tax implications to questions concerning management of the business.

For more information about the CLE program, contact Patti Solari or Lisa Crutchfield at (919) 560-6333. Registration information will be sent to you next month.

GOINGS ON

WILLIE GARY ADDRESSES LAW STUDENTS



Attorney Willie E. Gary '74 spoke to students, faculty and alumni during Homecoming Week about his experiences in law school and in practice.



Mr. Gary's talk was well-attended by students who enjoyed his inspirational message.

HOMECOMING RECEPTION FOLLOWS FOOTBALL GAME



Good food at the homecoming reception.



Dean Mary Wright chats with students and alumni.

NORTH CAROLINA BLACK LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP



Judith Washington '77 and Allyson Duncan present the Black Lawyers' Association Scholarship to second year law student Tracy D. Hicks at a reception sponsored by the NCBLA.



Lori Dumas chats with Lawrence Campbell '84 (center) and Alumni Association President Michael Morgan '79 (far right).



Enjoying good fellowship from left to right, Professor Regina Smith '88, Brenda Ford McGhee, Geoff Simmons, Director of Placement and Recruitment Lisa Crutchfield, Cecillia Spitt, Assistant Dean Janice Mills, and Ola Lewis '90

FACES



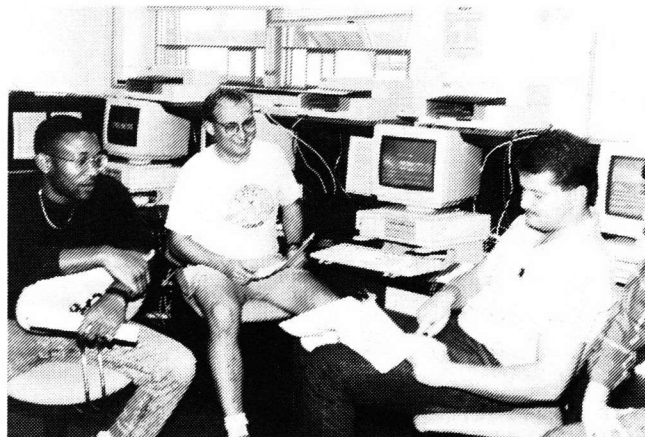
Students at NCCU have organized a program called FACES, headed by 2L Tonja Roberts. Members of the organization visit local elementary schools and serve as role models for young children. The children above visited the Law School for a guided tour.

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The Law Library has undergone substantial renovations in the past year. Here are some examples:



Professor Deborah Mayo-Jefferies '76, Director of the Law Library proudly shows off the new circulation/reserve area located inside the library.



Students make good use of the new Permanent Learning Center located on the first floor of the library. Use of the PLC is restricted to research in Westlaw and Lexis databases. From left to right: Mario White 3L, Jonathan Parce 3L, and Galen Braddy 3L.



Rufus Banks 3L makes use of the new study rooms located outside the Library where the old circulation/reserve desk used to be.

NEW HORIZONS

School of Law
North Carolina Central University
Durham, North Carolina 27707

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 284
Durham, NC