

North Carolina A&T leader ends fine tenure

By Sandra Isley
Special to Sentinel-Voice
GREENSBORO (NNPA) - Hearts are heavy on the campus of N.C. A&T State University this week. James Carmichael Renick, the school's beloved chancellor, announced that he will step down June 1 to accept a position with the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C.

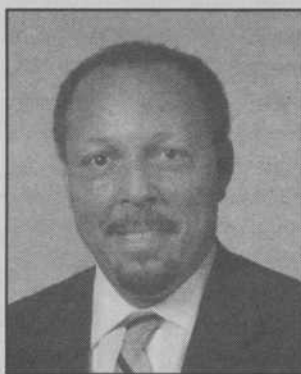
Renick has been the school's leader for the last seven years. Over that time, A&T's campus has exploded and its reputation as one of the nation's foremost historically Black colleges has been cemented. School officials hope that whoever succeeds Renick will continue moving the school forward and fulfill a strategic vision for the campus of which Renick was the

architect. "Chancellor Renick has provided us with exemplary leadership. We're really, really pleased, and he will be missed," said Velma Speight-Buford, chairperson of A&T's board of trustees. Renick announced his decision in the school's administrative building among members of his staff and other school officials.

Under Renick's guidance, the university has seen record-breaking student enrollment. He helped to establish a middle college for at-risk male high school students in Guilford County. In 2005, the school named its new School of Education Building in his honor. "It was a highlight for all of us," Renick said about the honor. "It's very special when the trustees decide to name a building after you

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— James Carmichael Renick
Chancellor, N.C. A&T



while you're still walking around." Sitting alongside A&T's first lady, Peggy Renick, the chancellor described their positions as being stewards. He wanted to make sure that the public understood that the university was not in any kind of jeopardy, citing that he made the decision to move on because of personal endeavors. "Leading A&T has been,

for me, a lifelong dream. Leading another institution, for me professionally, would be anticlimactic. That's why I'm going to an association. I'm not going to another institution," said Renick. In 1983, Renick had worked as a fellow for the American Council on Education and decided to return after being offered the position of senior vice president for programs and research. "I fell in love with what an organization like that can do to advance higher education," he said. "It just matched my skill sets."

Renick said he will continue to carry out his duties as chancellor over the next few months, which now include easing the minds of students. "This is just a transitional phase," he said. "I think there's something teachable in what is occurring, particularly in the context of leadership. I want to engage students, to talk to them in a very real way, about what it is that we can learn from a transition."

Speaking on behalf of the university, Speight-Buford remarked that Renick's leaving was news that's brought about many mixed emotions. She added that his absence would leave a void within the school, as well as the community. Still, it is something that the university is willing to accept, because it encourages all young, creative, intelligent people to move on, she said.

"This is an opportunity for the chancellor to continue to pursue his dream at a different level. I think he deserves that," Speight-Buford said. The process of finding a replacement for Renick has already begun. Speight-Buford is chairing the search committee. The committee will work from a broad list of prospective candidates, eventually dwindling the list

down to three or four candidates. Those candidates will be submitted to University of N.C. President Erskine Bowles. The UNC Board of Governors will ultimately hire the school's next leader. The school also announced last week that Provost Carolyn Meyers is leaving. She has accepted the presidency at Norfolk State University in Virginia. A replacement for her position will be made by the chancellor. Speight-Buford said Meyers' position won't be filled until the new chancellor is in place. Renick thanked Greensboro for being kind to him and his family and to A&T. He offered his replacement some advice.

"An institution needs certain skills at certain times. It's important for any leader to not only be concerned about when they arrive but, also, what is the appropriate time to leave, and how you leave it when that time occurs," he said. "I am confident a new leader will come into A&T and take it to the next level." Sandra Isley writes for the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

Jazz

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at the age of 10, has performed with greats like Sammy Davis Jr. Despite her mainstream disco career in the 1970s, Shaw found her way back to her jazz roots in the '80s and continues to perform around the country. Composing jazz and playing instruments in the background behind artists is a huge role for jazz artists and ensembles. From Pate composing soundtracks to pianist Wallace tapping the keys for greats like Carmen McCrae and B.B. King, these legends have been the backbone of several popular recordings, including movie soundtracks.



MARLENA SHAW

"I had the opportunity to conduct a studio orchestra [for the movie "Shaft in Africa"]. I composed, conducted and arranged the entire soundtrack," Pate explained. He believes it's essential to have an understanding of where things come from, especially when studying Black History. "We always talk about other things during Black History month," Pate said. Jazz and blues is "the only true art form in America," he added.

Performing with greats like Sam Cook, B.B. King and the Drifters, some of these artists only caught the back beams of the spotlight. All the same, their impact on jazz and music in general is still apparent. For tickets and information, call the box office at 895-2787.



JOHNNY PATE

Marrow

(Continued from Page 2)
cover every aspect of our state of health in this society, but my foundation can become the fuel behind nationwide drives in churches, community-based centers and organizations to seek

bone marrow donors needed so others can have a second chance at life." The National Marrow Donor Program reports that it facilitates an average of 200 marrow or blood cell transplants each month and

has helped give more than 20,000 patients a second chance at life. For more information on the national registry and donor volunteers go to www.marrow.org or call 1-800-526-7809.



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