On the cover:
Latoya Ervin ‘12 wearing Hawaiian attire

Inside cover:
2012 Commencement Ceremony, King’s Park International Church,
Durham, NC

The NCCU School of Law published the Annual Progress Report.
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Dear Friends:

The 2011–12 academic year for the NCCU School of Law was filled with extraordinary accomplishments and exciting change. After seven years at the helm of one of NCCU’s signature programs, Dean Raymond Pierce announced that he was returning to private practice. Under his leadership, the school grew to become one of the most recognized and respected public law schools in the nation. The NCCU community extends its gratitude and thanks to Attorney Pierce for his service to the university.

Among the noteworthy successes in the past year was NCCU’s election to membership in the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). We became the fourth law school in North Carolina and one of only three HBCUs to join this prestigious group. Along with Attorney Pierce, a special thank you is extended to the faculty, staff and students who dedicated countless hours throughout the application process.

In a show of support for an issue that galvanized the nation and gained international exposure, the School of Law stood up and spoke out in March and April following the tragic death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. True to the School’s which created opportunities to promote justice and equality through the practice of law, students held a rally and subsequently hosted a panel discussion on race, crime and discrimination with area professionals from the legal community.

I am confident that the years ahead will prepare and graduate classes of eager and intellectually astute attorneys under the effective leadership of Attorney Phyliss Craig-Taylor. Dean Craig-Taylor is no stranger to the NCCU School of Law, having worked as a law professor here for six years beginning in 2000. She returns after serving as associate dean for academics at Charlotte School of Law in Charlotte. Dean Craig-Taylor’s vision for the School of Law includes “enhancing traditional pedagogy methods with cutting-edge technology that addresses the ever-changing legal profession in a way that inspires and trains students to apply their legal education to improve and contribute positively to our local, national and global communities.”

Dean Craig-Taylor, we are honored and privileged to have you at NCCU. Welcome back to your Eagle family!

Sincerely,

Charlie Nelms
Chancellor
AALS MEMBERSHIP

The North Carolina Central University School of Law was elected this past academic year to membership in the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), a nonprofit group that works to improve the legal profession by improving legal education. The AALS’s House of Delegates approved NCCU’s membership at its annual meeting in Washington, DC on January 5, 2012.

To qualify for membership in the association, a law school must demonstrate “a culture of research and scholarship,” said Raymond Pierce, then Dean of the NCCU School of Law. “It is a very rigorous process,” he added. “Clearly our faculty deserves this recognition.”

Then Chancellor Charlie Nelms also hailed the membership vote. “NCCU’s approval for membership in AALS is reflective of the university’s unswerving commitment to excellence, the strong leadership of Dean Pierce and the scholarly contributions of our faculty,” he said.

NCCU School of Law is only the third law school at a historically black university to join the association, joining those of Howard University and Southern University. Among the seven law schools in North Carolina, NCCU School of Law is just the fourth to gain AALS membership, joining the law schools of UNC–Chapel Hill, Duke University and Wake Forest University.
NCCU LAW STUDENT SELECTED AS SCHWEITZER FELLOW

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship announced the selection of its new class of North Carolina Schweitzer Fellows, one of which is NCCU law student Iyanna Henry ’13. Over the next year, those students selected will join approximately 250 other 2012-13 Schweitzer Fellows across the country in conceptualizing and carrying out service projects that address the social determinants of health in underserved communities. Henry will develop a mentoring and self-esteem program for minority middle school boys encouraging academic excellence and exposing them to the legal profession as a possible career choice.

Upon completion of the Fellowship year, Henry, along with the other selected students, will become Schweitzer Fellows for Life and join a vibrant network of nearly 2,500 individuals who are skilled in, and committed to, addressing the health needs of underserved people throughout their careers as professionals.
Judge Clifton E. Johnson Golf Tournament

North Carolina Central University School of Law hosted the Judge Clifton E. Johnson Golf Tournament in honor and memory of the late Judge Johnson ’67. During his lifetime, Judge Johnson earned several firsts. Johnson was elected to the N.C. Superior Court in 1978, the first African-American to hold the position since Reconstruction, and was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1982 by then Governor James B. Hunt. Only the second African-American judge to sit on the appeals court, he was elected later that year to a full term and reelected in 1990 before retiring in 1996 as Senior Associate Judge, the first African-American to attain the position. The tournament was held at Birkdale Golf Club in Huntersville, North Carolina, on August 13, 2011. The tournament raised funds for the Clifton E. Johnson Scholarship Endowment Fund. The tournament was organized by Judge Johnson’s children, Clifton E. Johnson II, Yulonda Johnson-Ervin and Development Department staff member Phyllis Houston-Washington. The tournament was well attended and culminated with an awards dinner in honor of Judge Johnson hosted by Brenda Gibson ’95 and Ronald Stephen Douglas ’82.

Phil Dixon Presents Check for Pro Bono Scholarships

Attorney Phillip R. Dixon, Sr. donated his 2011 North Carolina Bar Association’s Dr. I. Beverly Lake Public Service Award to the NCCU School of Law. The Lake Award recognizes outstanding lawyers in North Carolina who have performed exemplary public service in their community.

The generous donation by Dixon will provide scholarships for five NCCU Law students for their exceptional public service work. He chose the School of Law for the award because of its excellent Pro Bono Program, led by Director Page Potter.

Dixon’s son, Phil Dixon, Jr., is a 2008 graduate of the law school, and son Jonathan Dixon is a 3L at the law school.

Evening Program 30th Anniversary

The Evening Program 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner was held on November 5, 2011, in the Great Hall at the law school. Speakers included Assistant Dean of the Evening Program Adrienne Meddock ’91, Professor Thomas Mlodana Ringer, Jr. (retired), Gwendolyn Walker ‘96, Brenda Martin ’00, and Kyle Brazile, 2L. Professor James P. Beckwith read an essay he wrote entitled, “Reflections on the River.” The essay encompasses the long and arduous history of the NCCU School of Law Evening Program and the continued significance of the program. After dinner, several guests were invited to the podium to reveal how the Evening Program enriched their lives.

World Justice Project Rule of Law Conference

North Carolina Central University School of Law hosted the World Justice Project Rule of Law Conference on February 10, 2012. Attendees included representatives from collegiate institutions throughout the state. The colleges included North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Western Carolina University, and the University of North Carolina, to name a few.

Raymond C. Pierce, former Dean of NCCU School of Law, and James Silkenat, World Justice Project Representative, delivered the welcome address. Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of the University of California-Irvine Law School and Constitutional Law Scholar, delivered the keynote address concerning the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.

Following the keynote address, North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Mark Martin, served as moderator for the multidisciplinary panel discussion on how important the rule of law is in regards to the respective fields of study. State Superintendent of Education June Atkinson, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Rueben Young, Dr. Randall Williams, OB/GYN, and Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Justice, addressed the student body concerning the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.

The conference concluded with breakout sessions facilitated by various members of the legal community. Students expressed appreciation for the conference and the discussions regarding the rule of law as it relates to their particular study discipline.

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals

The United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in a special session at NCCU Law on March 23, 2012.
Judges Roger L. Gregory, Henry F. Floyd, and Barbara Milano Keenan presided over three cases: Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation v. Daugherty, Duffy v. Belk, Inc., and United States v. Burgess. Following the arguments, students joined the court for lunch and were provided the opportunity to speak with the Judges and their clerks. The visit by the court also included dinner at the home of then NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms and his wife, Jeanetta Nelms.

**John D. Fassett Collection Dedication**

In 2011, John D. Fassett donated his collection of writings by and about Supreme Court Justices to the NCCU Law Library. The collection contains 950 volumes, ranging in publication date from 1852 through 2011, and is currently being utilized by NCCU Law School faculty and students to enhance their scholarship and research. Additionally, the collection displays memorabilia from Fassett’s term as a Supreme Court clerk from 1953–54 and items related to Brown v. Board of Education, the groundbreaking school desegregation decision that was handed down during his term on the Supreme Court. Fassett graduated from Yale Law School and was a clerk for Justice Stanley Reed during that term. He grew up in New York State, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Rochester, and served in the military in both World War II and the Korean War. From 1954 to 1973, Fassett practiced trial and appellate law at Wiggin & Dana, a law firm in New Haven, Connecticut. He also taught courses in history and constitutional law at Yale. It was during this time that Fassett began his collection of books related to the Supreme Court. In 1985, Fassett left the practice of law to become CEO of an electric utility serving southern Connecticut. Following his retirement from the company, he moved to Florida where he wrote several books and articles, including *New Deal Justice: The Life of Stanley Reed*. To date, the Fassett Collection is the most comprehensive donated to the law school. In addition to the collection, Fassett donated funds to the library for the maintenance of the collection and operational support of the library.

**Asheville Alumni & Friends Luncheon**


**Raleigh Alumni Reception**


**Lumberton Alumni Reception**

Arnold Locklear ’73 hosted the Lumberton Alumni Reception at Adelio’s Restaurant in Lumberton, N.C. on December 9, 2011.
Dean Pierce Farewell Reception

The NCCU School of Law faculty, staff, and alumni surprised former Dean Raymond C. Pierce with a farewell reception in his honor in the Great Hall at the law school on May 14, 2012. The reception included an unveiling of his portrait.

After serving seven years as Dean of NCCU School of Law, Pierce has returned to private practice, joining Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP as a partner and focusing on business and government relations practice. He will also work with the firm’s education and federal policy practice group.
The 2012 Spring Commencement ceremony was held on May 12, 2012 at King’s Park International Church in Durham. William A. Gunn, General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., served as the keynote speaker. Gunn charged the graduates to be creative and resistant to fill the gaps in legal services, noting the effect of the recession on the legal profession. He also emphasized the importance of living balanced lives of Integrity, Commitment, being an Advocate, Respecting everyone, and being about Excellence, or “ICARE” as they move forward in the legal profession.
In fiscal year 2011–2012, the NCCU School of Law received a total of $16,799,802 for operations from state funding, Title III (federal) funding, and private donations. The School of Law incurred a 14% permanent budget reduction. The graph above illustrates the three sources of funding.

### 2011–2012

- **Total Law School Funding from All Sources**
  - **State Appropriated Dollars**: $12,188,149 (73%)
  - **Federal Appropriated Dollars**: $4,254,129 (25%)
  - **Private Contributions**: $357,524 (2%)

### 2011–2012 Fiscal Year Private Contributions Detail

- **Total Alumni Giving**: $127,121
  - **Corporate Giving**: $76,014
  - **Friends & Students**: $110,310
  - **Foundations**: $21,425
  - **Faculty & Staff**: $22,654

Our alumni giving participation rate (APR) goal was 20% for fiscal year 2011–2012. While we fell short of that goal, we were able to sustain a 14.5% alumni participation rate. Private donations provide funding for numerous student and faculty enrichment programs that include, but are not limited to, scholarships, bar stipends, special events, and emergency loans.
The Annual Fund is the unrestricted operating fund for the law school. These funds are essential for many special events and meetings. Contributions to the Annual Fund support student professionalism dinners, graduation, emergency loans, travel stipends for students, and other student activities. In addition, the funds support faculty activities, fundraising, the general counsel speaker series, and alumni publications like *Of Counsel* and the Annual Progress Report.

Scholarships awarded in fiscal year 2011–2012 reflect the law school's state, private, and federally funded scholarships. The total amount of scholarships awarded to law school students was $2,181,914. State funds were cut in half from last year, but there were more Title III (federal) funds awarded to make up the shortfall.

- **State Appropriations**: $695,411
- **Federal Funds**: $1,319,895
- **Private Contributions**: $166,608

Scholarship Funding

- **State**: 32%
- **Federal**: 8%
- **Private**: 60%

Annual Fund Operating Expenditures

- **Special Events & Meetings**: 22%
- **Student Support**: 11%
- **Bar / Intern Stipends**: 10%
- **Emergency Loans**: 7%
- **General Counsel Speaker Series**: 9%
- **Admissions / Marketing**: 6%
- **NC Leaf**: 4%
- **Merchant & Check Fees**: 3%
- **Alumni Publication / DirectMail**: 1%
The donor trend graph shows a year-to-year comparison of results for the last three years. The total number of contributions increased in fiscal year 2011–2012 by 24% compared to fiscal year 2010–2011. We set a record of alumni giving in 2009-2010 of 17%. We maintained the 17% APR for FY2010-2011 as well, but the APR went down to 14.5% in FY2011–2012.
$10,000 – more
John Fassett
Smith/Shavers Law School Scholarship Fund, Inc.

$9,999 – $5,000
Atiba Adams ’96
Marvin Genzer
Grady Jessup ’86
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Triangle Community Foundation
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Everett Chandler ’97
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