

North Carolina Central University Athletics

By Lewis Bowling

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LEWIS BOWLING

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
ATHLETICS

A HISTORY
OF THE
EAGLES



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Acknowledgments

North Carolina Central University has an athletic history second to none. From 1910, when NCCU was founded as The National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race, to 2022, NCCU has produced thousands of superb athletes, championship winning teams, and great athletic administrators and coaches. National championships have been won, many conference titles garnered, there have been many Olympians who have won medals, new sports introduced, facilities have been added and improved, budgets increased. NCCU has made the journey from Division II to Division I. Of course, there have been growing pains, disappointing losses, fumbles, interceptions, turnovers, but that is what collegiate athletics is all about.

This book has been a joy for me to write. I have been a faculty member in the Kinesiology and Recreation Administration Department at NCCU, what for most of those years was called the Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Department, for 26 years. Kinesiology is basically a study of how the body moves. I have worked with many of the athletes mentioned in these pages, having them in one of my classes or working with them in the weight room. It is my honor and privilege to write about NCCU Athletics history.

Athletics and sports history are subjects that have always interested me. I have written many articles in the *Durham-Herald Sun* newspaper about NCCU sports history over the years. I have written about Duke sports history as a staff writer for *Go Duke The Magazine* for well over ten years now. Along with writing for newspapers and magazines, three books of mine have dealt with sports history. They are *Wallace Wade: Championship Years at Alabama and Duke*, *Duke Basketball: A Pictorial History*, and *Alabama Football: More Than A Century Of Crimson Tide Glory*. Now I am happy to write about North Car-

Acknowledgments

olina Central University Eagles athletic history, which has as rich and gloried sports history as any university in the nation.

I want to thank my wife for 15 years, Beth, for her support and assistance. Beth was an English teacher, so usually after she edited all my work, my manuscripts get sent to the publishers without many changes needed; thanks to her for that.

I want to thank the people I have worked with for these past 26 years in the Kinesiology and Recreation Administration Department. Dr. Virginia Politano, as the Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Chair, hired me at NCCU in 1996. I also worked for Dr. Beverly Allen, Dr. Thornton Draper, and Dr. Jerono Rotich. Dr. Andrea Woodson-Smith is, at the time of publication, doing a great job as department chairperson.

I have worked with so many good people over the years at NCCU, and these people have helped me with this book in ways they probably don't even realize. Dr. Rob Stiefvater is a good friend, racquetball partner, and fantasy baseball opponent, and Dr. Stiefvater has helped me with technology questions countless times. I turn to Dr. Stiefvater for help, and he always is there for me. Dr. Amy Linder contributed a chapter to this book and helped me during the Covid-19 pandemic when we had to go online with our courses. T.J. Tipper contributes so much to the department in various ways and encourages me with my writing often. Ralph Davis is one of the anchors of our department, who sets such a good example for young people. Ralph is now in his 70's but is active as ever. Ralph has always been there for me, and I turn to him often. Rosalind Richardson is the Kinesiology and Recreation Administration Department Administrative Assistant and keeps us all straight. Rosalind is one we all turn to for help. Dr. Anthony Patterson is now working at UNC-Chapel Hill but while at NCCU offered his support many times. Dr. Catherine Dorwart has an office next to me now and she has been very supportive and I enjoy talking to her. Tiya Hines does such a great job at NCCU, such an asset to the Kinesiology Department, as is Dr. Dorwart. Kristina Robinson offers me good advice and I enjoy working with her. Carla Stoddard, Jinhong Jung, Dohyun Lee, Rudolph Bailey, Lei Guo, Elizabeth Jewell, Sonya Reddick-Shaw, Jeremy Smith, Walter Munoz, and Kimberly Oberle are good colleagues in the department.

I miss the man who had his office next to me for many years, Dr. Jessie Mann. Dr. Mann passed away a few years ago. We had many talks through all those years and walked the few steps into each other's offices many times

Acknowledgments

to chat. David Nass taught with me and coached tennis at NCCU for many years. Coach Nass is retired now but he is still a friend who always helped me whenever I needed him.

Dr. Ingrid Wicker McCree was the athletic director at NCCU from 2008 to 2022 and led the move from Division II to Division I in 2011. Dr. Wicker McCree has fully supported me throughout this book, giving me her time, access, and guidance, even writing a chapter on women's athletics at NCCU. Dr. Wicker McCree was succeeded by Dr. Louis Perkins, who has "big shoes to fill," following Dr. Wicker McCree, but for sure Dr. Perkins will continue to lead Eagles Athletics forward.

Kyle Serba was hired as the NCCU Sports Information Director in 1994, inducted into the NCCU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006, and today is Senior Associate Athletic Director for Strategic Communications and Deputy Athletics Director for External Affairs. Kyle has given me his full support and access since I first approached him that I was writing this book. Kyle knows as much NCCU athletic history as anyone, and I have often turned to him for help, and he has always given me his expertise and time. Kyle also agreed to write the foreword to this book, for which I am very grateful.

Andre Vann, Coordinator of NCCU Archives, has been most helpful. Andre has given me his time and knowledge of NCCU's history and made the archives available to me. Andre is a noted and respected author himself and has been a huge help to me in writing this book. Also, the timeline included in the book is a work of cooperation between Andre and me. Much of the dates for NCCU campus events came from Andre and the archives department, while most of the sports dates came from me. I wanted to combine the two so that the reader could perhaps better understand the role of NCCU's athletic history in the totality of important events and dates dealing with NCCU as a university.

Dr. Leroy Walker has passed away, regrettably, but he is a man I got to know and admire. I worked in the Leroy Walker Building on campus for 26 years, and at the beginning of each semester, would take my students on a tour of the building. The Walker Building is huge, many offices, a swimming pool, two weight rooms, an auditorium, three basketball courts, a dance studio, a couple of athletic training rooms, an aerobics room, equipment rooms, racquetball courts, many classrooms, and I am sure I am leaving something out. It takes all of one class just to walk around the building and point everything out. One of the stops I always make is a glass enclosed bulletin board dedicated to Dr. Walker. I tell the students of the man's great accomplish-

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ments, such as being the first black head coach of the United States Olympic Track and Field team, first black United States Olympic Committee Chairman, and Chancellor of NCCU, just to name a few. I want them to know the man behind the name of the building they come to each day for their classes. I had the privilege to know Dr. Walker, and a finer man I have never met. He was a man of integrity, humbleness, and one of the greatest track coaches in the history of the United States.

Another person to thank sincerely is Sam Jones, who died while I was writing this book, but not before Sam and I had several phone conversations. Sam is one of the greatest players in NBA history after a stellar playing career at NCCU. Sam was in retirement when we had those calls, and he joked with me that every time I called, he seemed to be either on the way or coming back from the golf course in Florida, where he lived. But he always seemed genuinely happy to talk to me and shared not only his exploits at NCCU but told me about many other athletes and events during his days in Durham.

There are many people I either knew, had in my classes, or talked to on the phone or through email, and they are just so many that I am afraid I will leave someone out. Instead of a list, I say thank you to everyone.

Foreword

When I arrived on the campus of North Carolina Central University in the summer of 1994, excited about my first day as the university's new sports information director, the office space I inherited contained a simple desk and a chair, but more importantly, there were boxes, shelves, and filing cabinets packed with documents and photographs. As I carefully sifted through the aged files, I realized I was taking a trip through the institution's athletics history.

My predecessors, including legendary photojournalist and writer Alex M. Rivera (who was inducted in the NCCU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1984, and later earned the distinction of having the Hall of Fame named in his honor), had done a remarkable job of archiving the many success stories, records, and championships accomplished by student-athletes, coaches, and teams since the school's first sports team competed in 1911. I realized in that first day on the job, that the significant task of maintaining the massive historic archives of NCCU Athletics was now in my hands. Even more, it was now my great honor and pleasure to build upon their dedicated work and continue sharing the phenomenal chronicles contained in the university's proud history.

During my more than two-and-a-half decades at NCCU, I have been blessed with a front-row seat and a behind-the-scenes look at history in the making. I've witnessed incredible individual feats—far too many to list (and fearful I may leave someone out if I attempted). I've celebrated numerous team conference championships, including repeat performances by softball (1998, 1999), women's cross country (2005, 2006) and football (2005, 2006), and three consecutive titles captured by women's volleyball (2004, 2005, 2006) and men's basketball (2017, 2018, 2019). I watched from the sideline as the game-winning, record-breaking 51-yard field goal sailed through the uprights

Foreword

for a second-straight football conference crown in 2006. I sat courtside next to flashy sideline reporter Craig Sager as the men's basketball team made its March Madness debut in the NCAA Division I Tournament in 2014. I stood inside the locker room for the head coach's pregame speech moments before the football team ran onto the field inside the Georgia Dome for the 2016 Celebration Bowl.

I was also quite fortunate to have met a host of the university's sports icons, including legendary track and field coach and former U.S. Olympic Committee president, Dr. LeRoy T. Walker; storied basketball practitioner/coach and two-time Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, John B. McLendon; Boston Celtics great and one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history, Sam Jones; and internationally renowned artist and former NFL lineman, Ernie Barnes.

Esteemed poet, author, and civil rights activist Maya Angelou said, "You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been." I look at telling the story of NCCU Athletics in the same manner. The more I know about the proud sports history of this distinguished institution, the better I am at chronicling the achievements of today's student-athletes, coaches, and teams.

And while I take great pride in the responsibility of building upon those file's I discovered in my first day on the job in 1994, this book, carefully crafted by respected historian and author Lewis Bowling, is a valuable building block in the foundation of NCCU Athletics history. This is an opportunity for the reader to take their own glimpse into the proud sports tradition of North Carolina Central University. Enjoy the journey.

Eagle Pride!

Written by Kyle Serba, North Carolina Central University Deputy Athletics Director of External Affairs and Senior Associate Athletics Director for Strategic Communications and Adjunct Instructor, NCCU Department of Mass Communication; and Alex M. Rivera, NCCU Athletics Hall of Fame Inductee (2006).

NCCU Timeline

- 1875** James Shepard is born in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 1894** James Shepard receives his Ph.D. degree in pharmacy from Shaw University.
- 1899** Dr. James Shepard is appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt to serve as deputy collector of the United States Revenue Department in Raleigh. Shepard serves in this capacity until 1905.
- 1909** The National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race is chartered.
- 1910** The National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race, now NCCU, opens with James Shepard as its founder.
- 1910** Baseball is played and is the first sport organized at what is now NCCU. Louis Bumpus is the first coach.
- 1916** The school is rechartered as the National Training School.
- 1921** Jesse Lawrence is hired as the first football coach.
- 1923** The school is purchased by the State of North Carolina and renamed the Durham State Normal School.
- 1925** The school is renamed the North Carolina College for Negroes.

NCCU Timeline

- 1928** North Carolina College is admitted into the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).
- 1937** With an enrollment of 362 on-campus students, 428 extension students, and improved facilities, what is at this time called North Carolina College for Negroes (NCCN) receives a Class A rating by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1939** The North Carolina General Assembly authorizes the establishment of graduate and professional degree programs.
- The Clyde R. Hoey Administration Building, the Angus W. McLean Dormitory for Men, the Annie Day Shepard Dormitory, and the Cadd Grant O’Kelly Athletic Field are all named and dedicated.
- 1940** The first graduate degree is awarded to Maude J. Yancey, who receives a master of science biology degree.
- John McLendon is hired as the men’s basketball coach, leads team to 14–0 conference record to win CIAA championship, and the team finishes 26–4 overall.
- 1943** The first law degree is awarded to Robert Richard Bond, who receives a bachelor of law degree.
- Rocky Roberson scores 58 points in a basketball game versus Shaw in a 94 to 43 win, thus outscoring the entire team by himself, and breaking the college basketball national scoring record.
- 1941–** World War II reduces the number of athletes and makes sports travel very difficult. There is no football team in 1943 and 1944.
- 1945** Leroy Walker is hired as the NCC track and field coach. His track athletes would win 11 Olympic medals, with at least one NCC athlete competing in every Olympics from 1956 to 1976.
- 1947** Annie Day Shepard, wife of NCC founder James Shepard, dies on February 8. Dr. James Shepard dies on October 6.

In tribute to Dr. Shepard, the North Carolina state legislature changes the name of the institution to North Carolina College at Durham.

- 1948** Dr. Alfonso Elder assumes the presidency of North Carolina College at Durham after Dr. Shepard's death in 1947. Dr. Elder expands the influence of the college both regionally and nationally from the late 1940s to the 1960s.

The first Founder's Day ceremony in honor of Dr. Shepard is held on November 3, 1948, in the B. N. Duke Auditorium with Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, as guest speaker.

William Springfield hits five home runs in five at bats in a baseball game against Howard University.

- 1949** During the span of 1944 to 1949, Roland Hayes, baritone soloist, and Marian Anderson, contralto, gave separate concerts on campus.

- 1950** Robert "Stonewall" Jackson from North Carolina A&T is the first black player from an HBCU to be drafted into the NFL. Jackson later in life serves NCC for many years as a beloved professor and coach.

NCC Gymnasium opens, now called the McDougald-McLendon Arena.

- 1951** The James E. Shepard Memorial Library is dedicated on November 3, 1951.

Football team finishes with 7–2–1 record under head coach Herman Riddick. Loses to Florida A&M in the Blossom Classic in Miami.

- 1952** The college is authorized to award Ph.D. degrees. A total of five Ph.D.s are conferred during this period, including to Dr. Walter Brown and Dr. Minnie Forte. The doctoral program is terminated in 1963.

- 1954** The "Court Eagles" win the undisputed claim to the CIAA Basketball Championship by defeating Virginia Union 62–58;

the team ends the season with a 23–5 record. Sam Jones from this team would go on to a great NBA career with the Boston Celtics, helping the Celtics win 10 NBA championships in his 12 years with the team. Tex Harrison, another member of the team, became a Harlem Globetrotter for many years.

1954 The NCC football team beats rival North Carolina A&T 7 to 6 to win the CIAA championship, then beats Tennessee State 19 to 6 in the National Classic to win the 1954 black national championship. This team is coached by Herman Riddick.

1956 North Carolina College at Durham student-athlete Lee Calhoun wins a gold medal in the 110-meter hurdle event at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. Calhoun is coached by Dr. Leroy Walker of North Carolina College at Durham.

Leontyne Price, soprano, and Duke Ellington, jazz musician and composer, hold concerts at NCC.

Emma Bullock is awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study French in France.

Matt Boone becomes the first NCC football player drafted into the NFL; there have been 41 players drafted since.

1957 The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools as an “A” class institution in 1937 and is admitted to full membership in this association.

NCC advances to the Division II NCAA Tournament for the first time.

NCC basketball player Sam Jones is drafted by the Boston Celtics. He is now a member of the NBA Hall of Fame and also the North Carolina Central University Athletic Hall of Fame.

North Carolina College observes the 10th Founder’s Day in honor of Dr. Shepard with an address by his friend and associate Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College. Also, the James E. Shepard statue is dedicated. The sculptor of the statue is William Zorach.

1960 On February 8, North Carolina College at Durham students stage sit-in at the Durham Woolworth's Store led by Lacy Streeter and students and members of the NCC chapter of the NAACP. Other stores picketed include S. H. Kress and Walgreen's.

Durham Mayor E. J. "Mutt" Evans declares November 9 through November 12 as "North Carolina College Days" in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the North Carolina College at Durham.

NCC's Lee Calhoun sets a world record in the 70-yard high hurdles event in 8.2 seconds.

NCC men's basketball team participates for the first time in an interracial tournament, the NAIA national tournament.

NCC wins its first CIAA tennis championship, led by head coach James Younge.

John Baker plays his last season of football at NCC, then plays 11 years in the NFL, and later serves as Wake County sheriff for many years.

Basketball gymnasium is renamed the R.L. McDougald Gymnasium in honor of alumnus and longtime contributor R.L. McDougald.

NCC football player and student Ernie Barnes is selected in the NFL Draft and plays five seasons in the NFL.

Lee Calhoun wins another gold medal in the 110-meter hurdles at the Olympics in Rome, Italy.

1961 NCC Marching Band plays in Yankee Stadium in New York City during halftime of an NFL game between the New York Giants and Dallas Cowboys.

Enrollment at NCC goes over 2,500 for the first time.

1963 North Carolina College students participate in mass demonstrations in downtown Durham, and business establishments admit patrons regardless of race. Dr. Alfonso Elder officially retires.

Dr. Samuel P. Massie is elected to serve as the third president of North Carolina College at Durham on August 9th, 1963.

NCC tennis player Joe Williams wins an NCAA championship and the NCC team wins the NCAA Eastern Regional Championship. Williams wins 30 consecutive matches in 1964.

Football team finishes season with an 8–1 record, beating North Carolina A&T 6 to 0 for the CIAA championship. The team, coached by Herman Riddick, is ranked number two in the nation in the final black college football poll.

- 1964** Dr. Helen G. Edmonds, history professor faculty of the NCC History Department and administrator from 1941 to 1977, is named dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1964 to 1971. She becomes the first black woman to hold this position in the United States. She is named Distinguished Professor of History by the college's board of trustees, the first person to have this title.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers an address in the gymnasium entitled "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution" to a capacity crowd of 5,000, including NCC students who had been on the frontline of the civil rights movement.

NCC's Edwin Roberts wins a bronze medal in the 200-meter run at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.

- 1965** NCC basketball player Ted Manning has one of the best games in NCC history when he scores 35 points and grabs 22 rebounds in an 80 to 78 overtime win over North Carolina A&T in front of over 5,000 fans at McDougald Gymnasium on the NCC campus.
- 1965** NCC football coach Herman Riddick retires from coaching with a 112–56–11 record, five conference championships, and one national championship.
- 1966** On February 1st, Dr. Samuel P. Massie, third president of NCC, resigns.

1967 Dr. Albert N. Whiting is named the fourth president of North Carolina College at Durham.

NCC Alumnae Dr. Ida Stephens Owens, class of '61, in 1967, is the first black woman to receive a Ph.D. degree from Duke University, and the first woman to receive any degree in biochemistry and physiology from Duke.

The class of 1967 is the last to receive the customary Bible at graduation as it had been a tradition since the founding of the school.

1968 The Office of Development and Public Relations is established and later becomes the Office of Institutional Advancement with a director and a secretary.

Former NCC basketball coach John McLendon becomes the first black assistant coach for the United States Olympic basketball team.

Richard Sligh is a player for the Oakland Raiders who play in the Super Bowl. Sligh, 7' feet tall, is the tallest player in NFL history.

1969 The North Carolina state legislature changed the name of the institution to North Carolina Central University.

On July 28th, 1969, The North Carolina Central University Alumni Association, Inc. articles of incorporation are filed with the North Carolina Department of Secretary of State, signed by H. M. Michaux, Jr., B. T. McMillon, and Robert L. McAdams.

The football team finishes with a 7–2–1 record and loses in the Boardwalk Bowl played in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

1970 Doug Wilkerson is drafted into the NFL with the fourteenth pick in the first round. He is eventually enshrined in the San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame and is a three-time All-Pro.

Floyd Brown retires as men's basketball coach after 17 years, with the most wins in basketball at NCCU with 249.

1971 NCCU alumnus Herman Boone leads T.C. Williams High School in Virginia to a 13–0 record and the state championship, finishing number two in the nation in the final rankings. This team has many white and black players during a time of much racial strife. This team inspired the movie *Remember the Titans* starring Denzel Washington as Boone.

1972 North Carolina Central University becomes a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina System.

Dr. William A. Robinson, stepson of Dr. James and Annie Day R. Shepard, dies in Phoenix, Arizona. He taught mathematics during the National Training School days of the school.

NCCU alumnus H. M. “Mickey” Michaux, Jr., is the first black person elected to serve in the North Carolina General Assembly, representing Durham from 1972 to 1977, and is reelected in 1983 and in each subsequent election until his retirement in 2019.

The School of Business is established as the fifth school at the university.

NCCU’s Larry Black wins gold and silver medals in track at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany.

NCCU’s Julius Sang, Jeff Horsley, Larry Black, and Robert Ouko set a new world record at the Penn Relays in the sprint medley relay with a time of 3:14.8.

NCCU wins NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Team National Championship in Billings, Montana, led by head coach Leroy Walker.

Football team finishes with 9–2 record under head coach George Quiett. The team plays North Carolina A&T at Wallace Wade Stadium on the Duke University campus in front of 32,000 fans. NCCU wins 9 to 7 to win the MEAC Championship, then loses to Grambling State in the Pelican Bowl.

1974 Charles Foster wins the NCAA Outdoor 120-yard hurdles national championship and is ranked the number one hurdler in the world. He places fourth in the 110-meter hurdles in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

1974– An addition is built to the James E. Shepard Memorial Library.

1975 The Chancellor's Residence is established in the Emorywoods community.

Maurice Spencer finishes his career at NCCU with 20 interceptions, is drafted in the third round of the NFL Draft, and is Most Valuable Defensive Player in 1976 for the New Orleans Saints.

1975 President Gerald Ford is awarded an honorary doctor-of-laws at the 50th Anniversary Convocation of the university.

NCCU establishes North Carolina Central University Hall of Fame and inducts Dr. James E. and Annie Day Shepard on the 100th anniversary of Dr. Shepard's birth at the 28th annual Founder's Day Convocation.

NCCU men's tennis coach James Younge retires; he was tennis coach from 1949 to 1975 and athletic director from 1959 to 1975.

1976 On May 20–22, the First National Convention of the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association is held in Durham.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. delivers the 29th Founder's Day Convocation address in the B. N. Duke Auditorium. A special tribute is arranged by Dr. Charles H. Gilchrist entitled "In Memoriam to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." and narrated by Phillip J. Simmons.

Louis Breeden plays his last season of football at NCCU, is drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals of the NFL, plays 10 seasons, and makes First-Team All-Pro in 1982.

Dr. Leroy Walker is appointed the United States Olympic Track and Field Head Coach, the first black person to hold the job.

1977 NCCU Alumnus H. M. "Mickey" Michaux, Jr. '52, '64, is appointed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter as head of the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of North Carolina, the first black person to serve in that position in the South since Reconstruction.

NCCU Timeline

Louis Breeden is drafted in the NFL Draft, has 33 career interceptions in the NFL, and eventually is chosen as one of the top 25 players in Bengals history.

The softball program is started at NCCU.

1979 Six members of the 1929 class (the first four-year class) are honored as guests at the Founder's Day Program.

Former NCCU basketball coach John McLendon is enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

1980 On September 19, The new Albert L. Turner Building for the School of Law is dedicated. Governor James B. Hunt and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart are guests and speakers.

"The First Gathering of Eagles" is held in honor of men and women athletic contributors at the university.

1981- The Bimbe Festival is held on the NCCU Campus.

1994

1982 Alumnae Dora E. Carrington '59, becomes the first woman to serve as president of the NCCU National Alumni Association and serves until 1986.

Alumnus and former registrar B. T. McMillon, upon retirement, serves as volunteer historian and archivist for the university, acquiring and cataloguing artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia associated with NCCU's history until his passing in 2013.

1983 On July 1st, Dr. LeRoy T. Walker becomes interim chancellor of the university. He had previously served the institution as chairman of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, head track coach and vice chancellor for university relations. The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, on the request of the University's Board of Trustees, formally named Dr. Walker as chancellor in February 1986 and made that action retroactive to the beginning of his term.

NCCU Timeline

1983– NCCU women’s basketball team wins the first conference championship for any women’s team at NCCU; Yvonne Edwards is the head coach.

1984 Jesse Jackson visits NCCU’s campus for a voter registration drive.

Alumnus Ernie Barnes is chosen as the Official Sports Artist for the 1984 Olympics.

1985 The university celebrates its diamond anniversary with a number of programs and events. The 2nd Annual Athletic Hall of Fame is held and for the first time honored pioneer women are inducted into the hall. The pioneers in basketball included Marian T. Alston, William Mae “Bill” Bailey, Mary J. Boyd, Annette L. Bryant, Clarissa A. Bryant, Willie L. Incorminias, Alice H. Dolphy, Maggie L. Lee, Thelma F. Smith, and Louise M. Shipman.

1986 On July 1st, Dr. Tyronda R. Richmond, formerly dean of the School of Business, succeeds Dr. Walker as chancellor.

NCCU plays Grambling State in football at Yankee Stadium in New York City.

Robert Clark plays his last season of football at NCCU, finishes his career as the leading receiver in school history with 210 catches, 4,231 yards, and 38 receiving touchdowns. He plays six seasons in the NFL and catches 165 passes.

Von Fulmore has perhaps the greatest game in NCCU women’s basketball history when she scores 41 points and grabs 32 rebounds on February 1 against UNC-Asheville. For the 1985–1986 season Fulmore averages 25 points and 18 rebounds a game.

Football team finishes with 9–2–1 record under head coach Hank Lattimore. The team beats Winston-Salem State University in the first round of the Division II national playoffs and loses in the second round to Sacramento State in a game played in California.

- 1989** The “Mighty Eagles” Men’s Basketball team captures the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II National Championship, defeating Southeast Missouri State 73–46.

Michael Lawson is hired as the head coach of Track and Field and men’s and women’s cross- country teams. Lawson is now a member of the NCAA Division II Track and Field Coaches Hall of Fame.

- 1991** Alumnus Daniel T. Blue, Jr., ‘70, is elected speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives on January 30th, 1991, is reelected in January of 1993, and serves with distinction as speaker until January 1995.

The McDougald-McLendon Arena is rededicated officially to honor former basketball pioneer and coach John B. McLendon.

Professor Mary E. Wright becomes the first female to serve as dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Law, having been appointed interim dean of the law school in 1990. She was one of only two black women in the United States serving as law school deans at that time and served in this capacity until 1994.

- 1992** Alumnae Eva M. Clayton, ‘62, is elected as a Democrat to the One Hundred and Second Congress, by special election to fill a vacancy, and is reelected to the four succeeding Congresses (Nov. 3, 1992–January 3, 2003).

Dr. Donna J. Benson is chosen as chancellor of NCCU.

Robert Massey, an All-American football player at NCCU in 1988, is selected for the 1992 Pro Bowl in the NFL.

Leroy Walker is chosen to be the United States Olympic Committee president, the first black person to hold the job.

- 1993** Attorney Julius L. Chambers returns to his alma mater to serve as chancellor and is the first alumnus to lead the university until his retirement in 2001.

NCCU Timeline

Dedicatory exercises and recital are held for the B.N. Duke Auditorium, with Dr. Herman D. Taylor as guest organist. The organ was installed in 1990.

The NCCU Alumni Association reconstructs the University Bell Tower (Shepard Bell), and it is dedicated during homecoming activities.

The official opening ceremony of the North Carolina Central University Community Service Office is held.

1995 NCCU announces a gift from the C. D. Spangler Foundation to fully endow the Daniel T. Blue, Jr. Chair in Political Science.

1996 The North Carolina Central University Jazz Program produces its first compact disc, "Central Visions," with funds from the recording making it possible for the NCCU Jazz Ensemble to perform at the Montreux Jazz Festival and at Euro-Disney in Paris during the summer of 1996.

Elisha Marshall becomes the first woman to win a national championship at NCCU when she wins the 100-meter dash at the 1996 Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 11.81 seconds.

1997 On April 1st, ABC News Nightline hosts a special segment on the "Secret Game," a basketball game played on the NCCU campus in 1943 between NCCU and Duke during a time of strict racial segregation.

Two-sport athlete Davita Watson Morant scores 30 points in a basketball game for NCCU and in 1998 is the CIAA Volleyball Player of the Year.

1998 NCCU, led by head coach Ingrid Wicker McCree, now the NCCU athletic director, wins the first conference championship in softball in school history.

Two-sport athlete Michelle Harrison finishes her career at NCCU, having been a standout on the basketball and softball teams.

1999 Softball player Stephanie Stubblefield is the CIAA Softball Player of the Year and is named an All-American. She plays professionally with the Durham Dragons.

2000 Three huge events occur in 2000 in Durham and North Carolina—the dawn of a new millennium, a January 20-inch snowstorm, and the passage of the 2000 Bond Referendum.

On November 7th, North Carolina voters overwhelmingly approved the largest bond for higher education in U.S. history, by passing the \$3.1-billion-dollar higher education bond with 73 percent of the vote. A record 87,467 Durham residents voted, with an overwhelming majority voting for the bond.

NCCU receives over \$145 million from the state education construction bond program.

NCCU's newspaper, Campus Echo, is chosen as the best overall HBCU student newspaper in the country.

NCCU graduate Tony Medlin is chosen for the Whitey Zimmerman Award, given to the top equipment manager in the NFL.

2001 Dr. James H. Ammons is elected NCCU chancellor.

Jason Smoots wins the indoor 55-meter dash and the outdoor 100-meter run to win the Division II national championships in both events. He also wins national championships in 2002 in the indoor 60-meter run, outdoor 100-meter run, and outdoor 4 by 100-meter relay. He is the national champion in the 2003 indoor 60-meter run and wins the 100-meter run at the 2003 Penn Relays.

2002 Katerina Glosova wins the Division II national championship in the 800-meter run. Glosova is a four-time Division II All-American.

Basketball player Amba Kongolo becomes the first women's player from the CIAA selected in the WNBA Draft, and is a 2002 Division II First-Team All-American.

NCCU football team beats North Carolina A&T 33 to 30 in overtime, coming back from a 27 to 0 deficit.

Bill Hayes, a former star football player at NCCU, retires from coaching football at Winston-Salem State and North Carolina A&T with 195 wins. Hayes also serves as NCCU athletic director from 2003 to 2007.

- 2003** NCCU Alumnus Judge “Toby” Fitch serves as the grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Its Jurisdictions from 2003 to 2018, following in the footsteps of Dr. James E. Shepard.

The Golden LEAF Foundation awards the university a \$19 million grant to establish the Bio Manufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise. In conjunction with the institute, NCCU will develop academic degree programs in bio manufacturing and biotechnology at the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degree levels.

The Class of 1983 dedicates a memorial plaque in honor of late fallen Eagle alumnus Harry Glenn, who died in the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The Office of the Chancellor provides a Rose of Sharon tree in honor of Glenn’s life at the lower corner of the James E. Shepard Administration Building.

- 2004** Former university First Lady Lottie L. Whiting, wife of Dr. Albert N. Whiting, dies in Columbia, Maryland.

The Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College High School opens its doors with 84 ninth grade students in the classroom wing of the NCCU School of Education building.

On October 29th, The James E. Shepard House Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is held during Founder’s Day exercises.

David Young is drafted in the second round of the NBA Draft by the Seattle Supersonics.

- 2005** On November 3rd, “Conversation with Former Presidents and Chancellors” is held with the university’s four living former chief executives [Albert N. Whiting (1966–1983), LeRoy T. Walker (1983–1986), Donna J. Benson (1992–1993), and Julius

NCCU Timeline

L. Chambers (1993–2001)] as a part of the 95th anniversary year of celebration.

November 4, 2005 95th Anniversary Legacy Gala is held; the Golden Leaf Foundation is awarded the Distinguished Corporate Citizen Award, and Alex M. Rivera, Jr., '41, is awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for years of service to his alma mater.

NCCU basketball player Cassie King scores 59 points against Bowie State, setting a school record for most points scored in one game.

2006 NCCU, under head football coach Rod Broadway, wins the black college national championship.

Shari Matthews is selected as the Division II National Player of the Year in volleyball.

2007 On January 12th, Rev. Bernice A. King delivers the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Address.

NCCU wins the Women's Basketball Championship in the CIAA as the NCCU Department of Athletics transitions to Division I.

On June 15th, the H. M. Michaux Jr. School of Education Building is dedicated.

Beverly Washington Jones serves as interim chancellor until Dr. Charlie Nelms is elected NCCU chancellor.

NCCU fields its first baseball team since 1975.

Over 4,000 people listen to future president of the United States, Barack Obama, speak at O'Kelly Riddick Stadium.

Greg Peterson is drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL.

Hakeem Mohammed wins the Division II national championship in the 400-meter run.

2009 On June 30, in commemoration of the upcoming centennial of the university, an official bell ringing ceremony and Charter Day Program is held on the centennial of the incorporation

of the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race, Inc.

O’Kelly-Riddick Stadium is transformed with the installation of artificial turf and a modern scoreboard to enhance the visitor experience.

LeVelle Moton is hired as men’s head basketball coach. He has led his teams to four MEAC Tournament Championships, four NCAA Tournaments, and one National Invitation Tournament

2010 On May 15th, noted radio personality Tom Joyner delivers the Centennial Commencement address where he gives each graduate a \$5.00 bill and each receives a university history book as a gift from the university.

On July 8th, the 100th Birthday Bash is held, with Chancellor Charlie Nelms presiding and official bell ringing by Anica Green—great-great-granddaughter of Dr. James E. Shepard. The ceremony includes the unveiling of historic markers and ribbon cutting for the Centennial Chapel Dedication, Centennial Garden, and historical plaque for both the Shepard House and Hillside High School. North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue brings remarks and greetings.

The last print edition of the yearbook is published.

2011 NCCU’s award-winning marching band, the Marching Sound Machine, is selected to perform on New Year’s Day 2011 in the 122nd Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

2012 Rededication ceremony is held in the James E. Shepard Memorial Library for the F. W. Woolworth & Co. lunch counter from the site of the student-led sit-in on February 8, 1960, protesting segregation of downtown Durham establishments.

First Lady Michelle Obama speaks in the McDougald-McLendon Arena on September 19, 2012, to a crowd of 3,000 in order to campaign on behalf of President Barack H. Obama, who was seeking reelection.

Charles Becton is elected NCCU chancellor.

2013 On February 8th, Dr. Debra Saunders-White is elected as the 11th and first permanent female chancellor of North Carolina Central University by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Saunders-White is installed in 2014.

NCCU beats North Carolina State University in Raleigh 82 to 72 in men's basketball. Jeremy Ingram of NCCU scores 29 points.

2014 First men's NCAA Basketball Tournament appearance, led by head coach LeVelle Moton.

2015 Eric Kimber is the first Eagle to sign with an MLB organization, the Kansas City Royals.

2016 MEAC football championship and Celebration Bowl appearance ends in loss to Grambling State, 10 to 9, for the black college football national championship.

Andrew Vernon is the first Eagle to be drafted in the Major League Baseball Draft in program history by the Milwaukee Brewers.

Chancellor Dr. Debra Saunders-White takes a leave of absence beginning in 2016 and her death comes in November of 2016.

2017 Three Ph.D. candidates who began their studies in fall 2012 graduate in May 2017 and become the first to receive a Ph.D. degree from North Carolina Central University in more than 50 years, since an Ed.D. program was discontinued in 1964. The three graduate in integrated biosciences from NCCU (in the BRITE and BBRI) and completed a dissertation. They are Dr. Rasheena Edmondson, Dr. Helen Onabanjo, and Dr. Elena Arthur.

2017 On June 26th, Dr. Johnson O. Akinleye is elected as the chancellor of North Carolina Central University after serving as acting chancellor since August 2016.

Spring 2018 The James E. Shepard Memorial Library revitalizes the NCCU Undergraduate Research Journal. The jour-

nal is now in a digital format and is a part of the Open Journal Systems.

2019 Corey Joyce of NCCU is drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the Major League Baseball Draft.

2020 James E. Shepard Memorial Library receives \$35,000 to establish the Renee Flood Stiff Professional Development Endowment Fund to support the Government Documents Collection and in support of student professional development and research.

Jibri Blount is named as the MEAC Men's Basketball Player of the Year. Blount, son of NFL Hall of Famer Mel Blount, signs as a tight end with the NFL's Miami Dolphins in 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic forces most classes to be taught online, and masks are required indoors on campus.

On June 4, Albert N. Whiting, fourth president and first chancellor of NCCU, passes away at age 102.

2021 Austin Vernon, younger brother of Andrew Vernon, who was selected in the 2016 Major League Baseball Draft, is selected in the 2021 Major League Baseball Draft by the Tampa Bay Rays

NCCU Alumnus Ryan Smith is a member of the 2021 NFL Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers team.

Maru Berghaus, a two-time MVP of the women's tennis team, is Valedictorian of the 2021 NCCU graduating class.

NCCU serves as a vaccination and testing site during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2022 Louis Perkins is hired as NCCU Athletics Director.

