



Black Alumni Society

SEPTEMBER 2006

▶ HOMECOMING 2006 IS QUICKLY APPROACHING. FIND OUT WHAT BAS IS PREPARING AS NC STATE TAKES ON GEORGIA TECH 2

▶ SECOND ANNUAL BLACK ALUMNI CONFERENCE HONORS TRAILBLAZERS AND ATTRACTS ALUMNI FROM AROUND THE NATION 2

▶ CHARLOTTE CHAPTER HOSTS ANNUAL SEND-OFF FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES 3

▶ FIFTY YEARS AGO, FOUR MEN MADE HISTORY BY BECOMING THE FIRST BLACK UNDERGRADUATES AT NC STATE 4

STRIVING TO FOSTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI, STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND UNIVERSITY FRIENDS TO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ENRICHING NC STATE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

A year of progress

The Black Alumni Society (BAS) was formed to keep the African American graduates of NC State in contact with one another after completing their studies at the university.

By Jinea Turk '02

The 2005-06 fiscal year has been a year of progress for the Black Alumni Society. BAS hosted several successful events, including the Homecoming tailgate and social, a joint event with the UNC-Chapel Hill Black Alumni and the Second Annual Black Alumni Conference.

The Black Alumni Society has also experienced growth with the addition of two chapters in the Atlanta, Ga., and Washington, D.C., areas and a third chapter in the planning stages in the Los Angeles, Calif., area. The BAS vision is based on three core initiatives: 1) to encourage alumni participation in the Black Alumni Society, 2) to foster a relationship between current NC State students and BAS and 3) to increase the enrollment and graduation rate of

African American students.

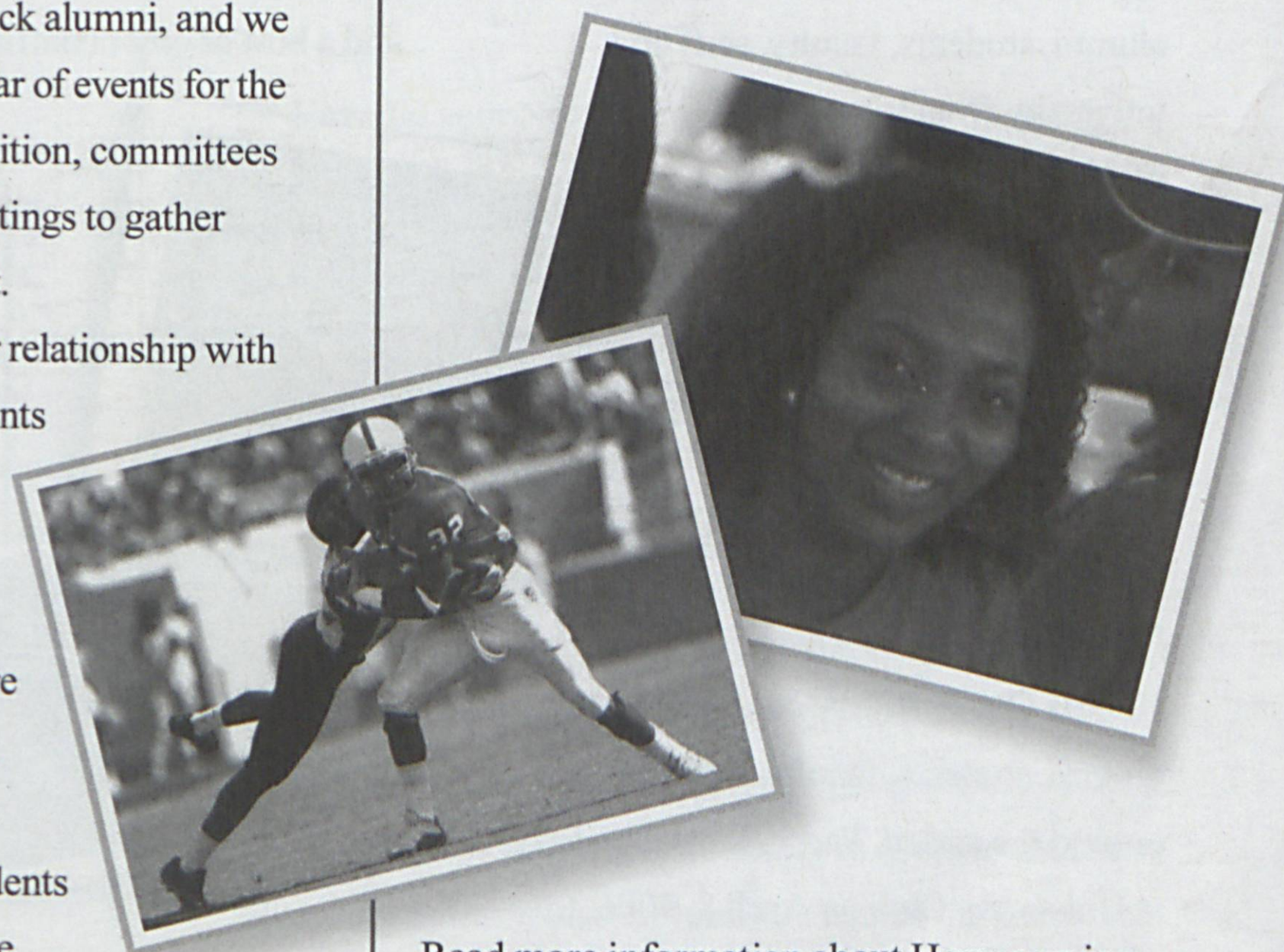
BAS recognizes that providing a variety of events is critical to increasing the participation of black alumni, and we are preparing a calendar of events for the next fiscal year. In addition, committees will hold monthly meetings to gather alumni ideas and input.

Building a stronger relationship with current NC State students and increasing African American students' enrollment and graduation rates are intertwined initiatives. In order to ensure that African American students succeed at NC State, we need alumni to volunteer their time.

progress continued on page 3

Revisit the faces and places that made your time at NC State memorable.

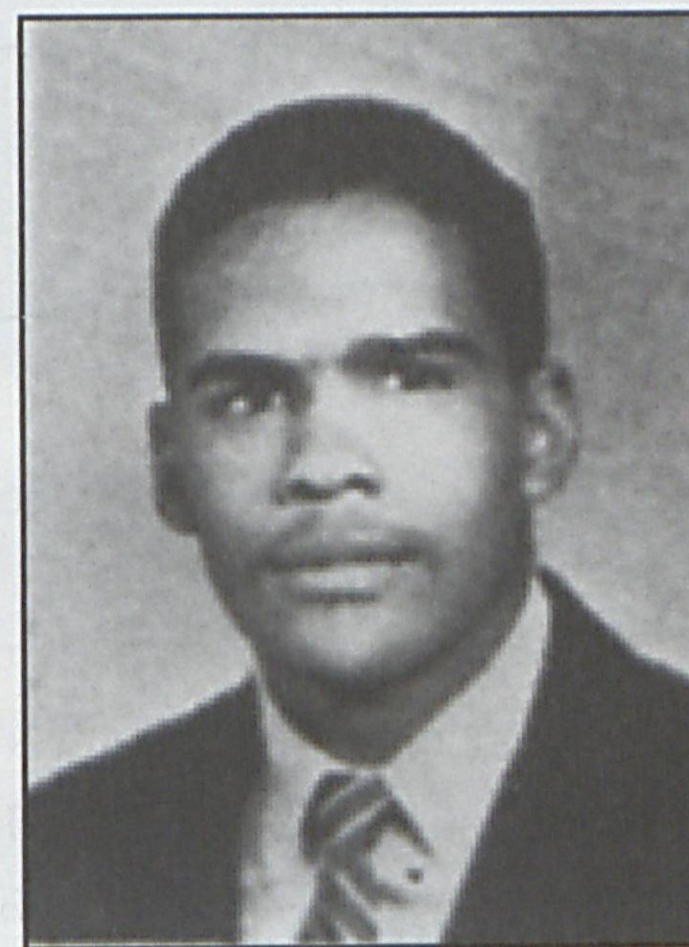
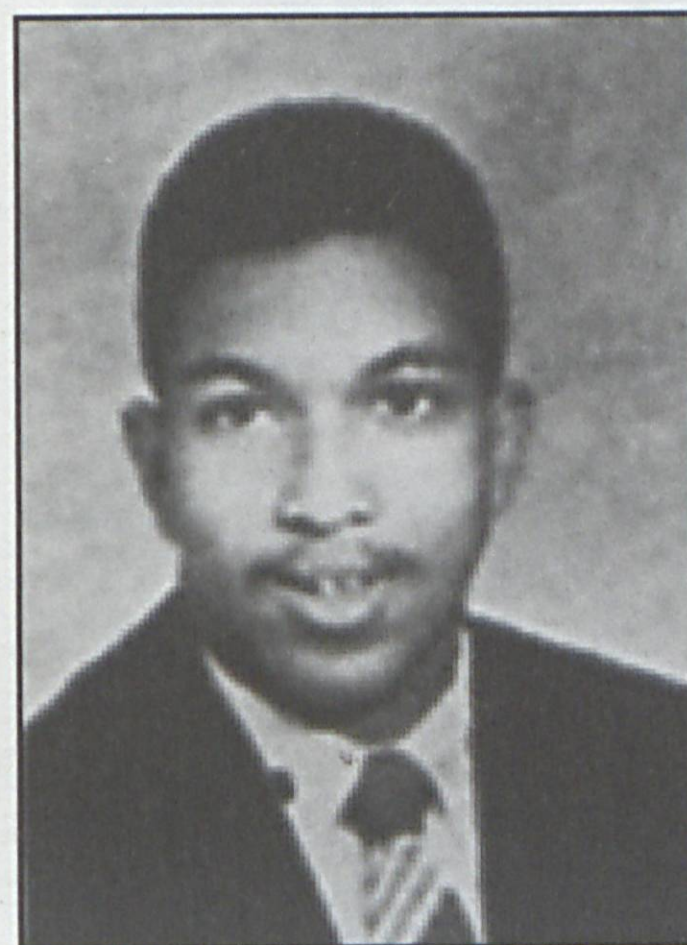
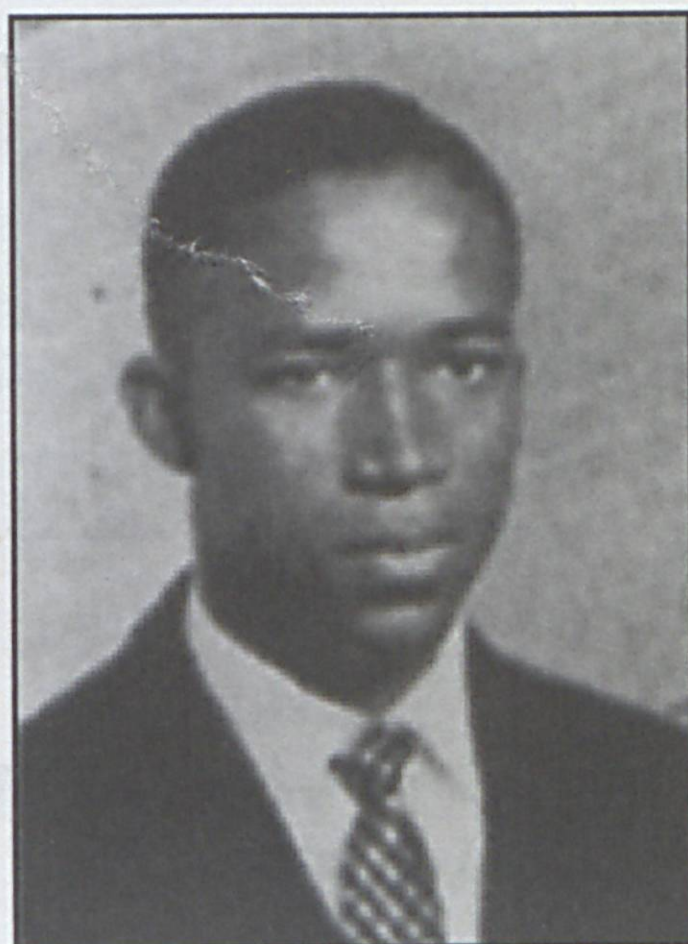
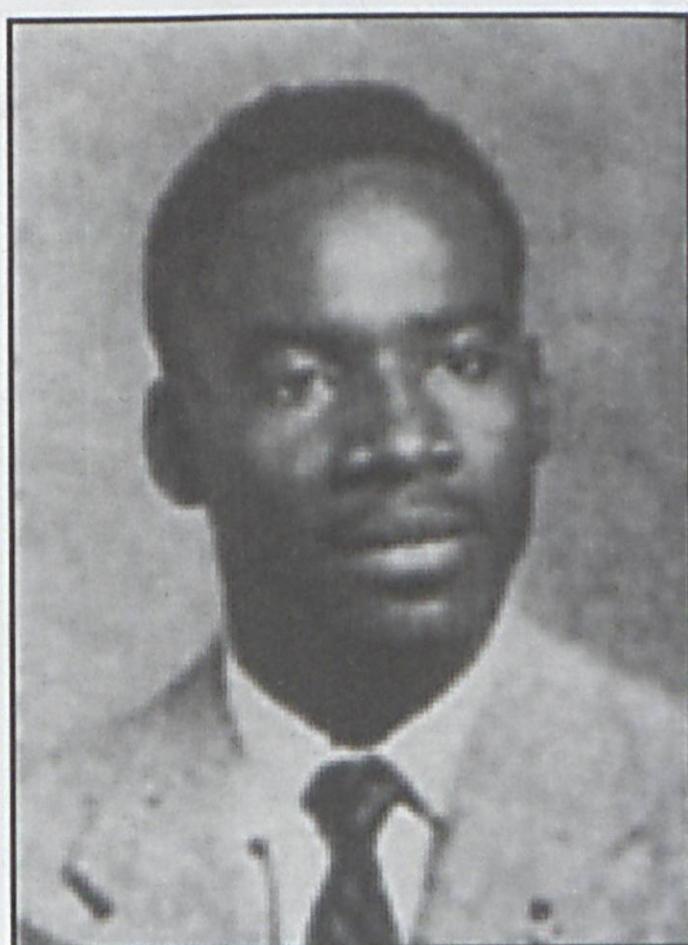
THE CABARET. THE BAS GENERAL BODY MEETING. THE TAILGATES. THE REUNIONS. IT ALL BEGINS AS NC STATE SENDS THE GEORGIA TECH YELLOWJACKETS "PACKing".



Read more information about Homecoming 2006 and special events hosted by the Black Alumni Society on page 2.

Breaking ground at NC State University

Fifty years of integration: 1956-2006



From left to right: Edward Carson, Manuel Houston Crockett Jr., Irwin Richard Holmes Jr. and Walter VanBuren Holmes

By Diane H. Becton '73

In 1955, State College of Raleigh (now NC State University) was forced to lift its ban against black undergraduate students after *Frasier versus University* (1955) declared that blacks must be admitted to UNC-Chapel Hill's undergraduate program. State College being part of the Consolidated University of North Carolina had to abide by federal law.

Two black undergraduates, Edward Carson and Manuel Crockett, both from Raleigh, were admitted as freshmen in the summer of 1956. Irwin Holmes and Walter Holmes, both from Durham, but not related, would join Carson and Crockett for the 1956 fall semester. All were engineering students. Edward Carson, Manuel Crockett and Irwin Holmes enrolled in electrical engineering. Walter Holmes enrolled in mechanical engineering with an aerospace option.

These four young men made arrangements to live off campus during the 1956-57 school year because there weren't any integrated dormitories. In preparation of the arrival of black students, on June 23, 1956, a special mandate was sent campuswide, letting all facility administrators know that the "university policy is to treat all regularly enrolled students in the same way, regardless of race. This means that in the dining halls and activities, Negro students will be treated exactly like white students, without special

concessions or restrictions."

In 1956, Walter Holmes became the first black member of the marching band. Holmes stated that white students at State accepted his presence, but he was often intimidated by white students on other campuses and sometimes could not march with the band. Irwin Holmes had similar discriminatory experiences on the 1957 tennis team as he traveled to other campuses. Of

course, Irwin was the first black to play tennis at NC State. He was co-captain of the team during his senior year.

Manuel Crockett and Irwin Holmes were the first black athletes in the Atlantic Coast Conference. They were members of the track team in 1957. In 1958, Walter Holmes became the first black to play soccer.

In 1960, Irwin Holmes became the first black to receive an undergraduate degree from NC State. Edward Carson and Walter Holmes received their degree from NC State in 1962. Manuel Crockett transferred to North Carolina Central University in pursuit of another curriculum. He graduated from NCCU in 1962.

Edward Carson and Manuel Crockett both live in Raleigh and Irwin Holmes lives in Durham. Walter Holmes also lived in Durham until he passed away on March 13, 2004.

*Manuel Crockett
and Irwin Holmes
were the first
black athletes in
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Conference (ACC).*