

The Chancellor's Report

*April 2019***Donation to Wolfpack WORKS Literacy Initiative**

NC State College of Education's Wolfpack WORKS literacy initiative was recently awarded a \$12 million from the NC Department of Public Instruction. The goal is to improve early literacy outcomes across the state and to support K-12 teachers. Currently, only 60% of North Carolina fourth graders are reading at a proficient level and this program aims to increase that to 100%. This program expands upon its previous work of incorporating literacy-specific induction support to first- and second-year K-12 teachers in Anson, Bertie, Caswell, Duplin, Edgecombe, Granville, Greene, Halifax, Kannapolis City, Martin, Nash-Rocky Mount, Northampton, Vance, Warren, Washington and Wilson schools. The new funding allows the program to extend to all third-year K-12 teachers in the same school districts as well, bringing the total number of teachers helped from 170 to more than 240.

Faculty receives Hollaender Award

Randy Jirtle, professor of epigenetics in the Department of Biological Sciences at NC State has received the Hollaender Award from the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society (EMGS). He was selected for the Hollaender Award based on his discovery that the environment can influence inheritance of phenotypic traits through epigenetic reprogramming, which represents one of the most important scientific advances of the 21st century. Jirtle has coauthored more than 200 scientific publications, holds two U.S. patents, and has been an invited speaker at more than 70 national and international meetings.

Scott Award presented to Faculty Member

Tom Ranney, the JC Raulston Professor with NC State's Department of Horticulture Science received the Scott Medal from Swarthmore College's Scott Arboretum in March. The Scott Medal is a coveted award that recognizes excellent contributions to the science and art of gardening. Since 2004, Ranney and his colleagues with the Mountain Crop Improvement Lab in Mills River have introduced 50 new cultivars of landscape plants with a total estimated retail value of more than \$100 million. Notable cultivars include the Invincibelle Spirit hydrangea, the first ever pink-flowered 'Annabelle' hydrangea. A portion of the proceeds from each Invincibelle Spirit sold is donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. The plant sales have raised more than \$1 million for breast cancer research to date.

Alumnus named Ambassador

NC State College of Engineering alumnus Craig Lewis Cloud has been named the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Botswana. Cloud earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from NC State in 1986 and credits his engineering degree with helping him adapt and thrive in his career of Foreign Service. During his career, Cloud has served in senior leadership positions in Afghanistan, India, The Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly known as Swaziland) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In his new position as ambassador, Cloud's primary role is to implement the United States' foreign policy and development goals in Botswana.

Whiting Award and Others for NC State Alumnus

Poet and NC State alumnus Tyree Daye was one of 10 recipients for the 2019 Whiting Award, one of the largest and most prestigious awards offered for emerging writers in the United States. The Whiting Foundation awards \$50,000 to writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama based on early accomplishment and the promise of early accomplishment. Daye earned his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from NC State in 2017, just two short years ago, and published his poetry collection *River Hymns* shortly thereafter. He has also won the 2019 Palm Beach Poetry Festival Langston Hughes Fellowship, received the 2019 Kate Tufts Poetry Award, is the 2018-2019 Diana and Simon Raab Writer-In-Residence at the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, and is a Cave Canem fellow. His second collection of poetry, *Cardinal*, is forthcoming from Copper Canyon Press.

CVM Students Compete in 2019 Animal Health Hackathon at Cornell

College of Veterinary Medicine students and faculty advisers participated in Cornell University's annual Animal Health Hackathon. Trey Cook, a second-year CVM student, and his team of engineering and marketing students from different universities won first place in the Market Ready Solution category for their product FarmSpeak. This app is designed to overcome language barriers between farmers and the non-English speaking laborers and veterinarians who work with them. Laborers complete forms with pictures and easily translatable words and phrases, which are then scanned and translated into a downloadable booklet of information for the farmer to share with veterinarians. The idea not only allows for effective dissemination of information between parties, but also serves to empower workers. The inaugural NC State Animal Health Hackathon is tentatively scheduled for September 27-29, 2019 at the CVM.

Smithfield Foundation Donates \$200,000 to Soldier to Agriculture Program

The Smithfield Foundation, which is the philanthropic arm of Smithfield Foods, Inc., announced a \$200,000 donation to NC State's Soldier to Agriculture Program (STAP) in early March. This program provides career-introductions and hands-on training to help veterans make the transition from military service to agricultural careers, North Carolina's top industry. The donation will provide a full year of funding for the partnership between STAP and the Fort Bragg military base career center, which will allow for the construction of larger facilities and upgraded classrooms to recruit veterans and house agricultural courses and studies.

Textile Protection and Comfort Center Turns 25

This year marks the 25th year of NC State's Textile Protection and Comfort Center (TPACC). TPACC allows students and faculty and staff researchers to take a holistic approach to researching and testing fabric or completed garments, which sets it apart from other research centers. It has gained national attention for its advanced technology like PyroMan and the Man-in-Stimulant Test (MIST) facility. Over the years, TPACC has produced innovative protective clothing and gear for fire fighters, soldiers, and first responders as well as athletic wear and bedsheets for consumers.