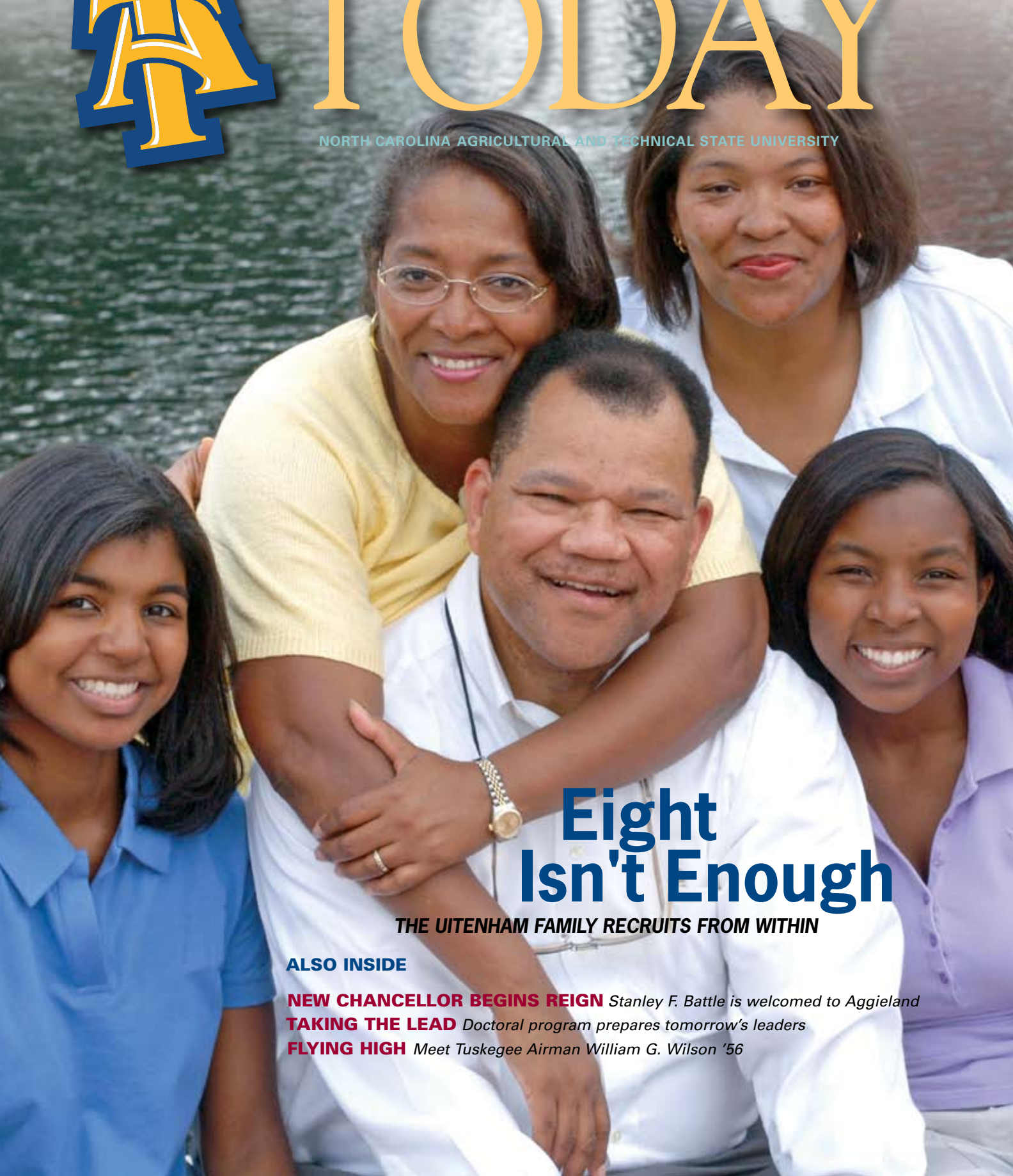




TODAY

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY



Eight Isn't Enough

THE UITENHAM FAMILY RECRUITS FROM WITHIN

ALSO INSIDE

NEW CHANCELLOR BEGINS REIGN *Stanley F. Battle is welcomed to Aggieland*

TAKING THE LEAD *Doctoral program prepares tomorrow's leaders*

FLYING HIGH *Meet Tuskegee Airman William G. Wilson '56*

Eight Isn't Enough

By June McDowell-Davis

When it comes to the number of Uitenhams at North Carolina A&T State University, try **25!**

Calling the roll at North Carolina A&T State University means hearing from lots of Uitenhams. That's because five Uitenhams have attended or are attending A&T, with two more on the way. Plus, three Uitenhams currently work at the university and there are 15 more who will consider A&T when they reach college age.

"It has just been a domino effect," says Leonard Uitenham, chair of the mechanical and chemical engineering department at the university and a full colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. "A&T has a lot of good programs, and as family members from all over the country come out of high school looking for a place to attend college, they find A&T is very competitive with other universities so they choose to enroll here."

Where do all of the Uitenhams come from?

Uitenham explains that he is the oldest of nine children – the only one with a Ph.D. and the only one who is a college professor. Not only have his wife Alvenia and daughter Tia attended the university and now work here – Alvenia in the accounting office and Tia in the campus event ticket office – but nieces and nephews who are children of his younger siblings from across the country also are attending or planning to attend A&T.

"I think the university sells itself," says Uitenham, who explains that he doesn't act as a recruiter; however, he and his wife do provide a family support network that serves as a back-up for his nieces and

nephews who are far away from home. "I think this is an added attraction in their choosing A&T and a comfort factor for their parents," he says.

First, wife Alvenia graduated in 2002 with an accounting degree, having taken some classes with daughter Tia, who graduated in 2001 with a degree in romance languages.

Then came Uitenham's nephew Fabias Uitenham from Kansas. He is a junior in computer engineering and also in ROTC. He will graduate in 2008.

Next came Kellie Uitenham, from Washington, D.C., who is a sophomore honor student in journalism and mass communication scheduled to graduate in 2009.

Following Kellie from the capital city was her sister Kristen, a freshman in chemical engineering slated to attend medical school after earning her degree in 2010.

Fatriziera Uitenham, also from Kansas, is the sister of Fabias. She is a freshman honor student in the nursing program and is scheduled to graduate in 2010.

But that's not all of the Uitenhams. Two more from Ohio are on the way. Nephew Nathaniel Uitenham, who served for two years in Iraq, will be coming soon, as will his sister Katherine.

The dominos keep stacking up as cousins of the nieces and nephews already attending A&T report good things about the university to their relatives, Dr. Uitenham says.

"They see the value of education in today's competitive environment," he explains, adding that A&T's national accreditation is a plus when seeking career opportunities.

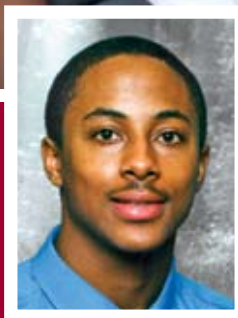
So how did Uitenham and his family end up in Greensboro? He served as a Marine Corps pilot in Desert Storm in 1991, taking a leave from his job with Sherwin-Williams in Ohio. After returning from active duty, the company sent him to North Carolina, where the family of four – wife and childhood sweetheart Alvenia, daughter Tia, son Leonard E., who is now a Marine, and Dr. Uitenham – settled for good.

For the past six years, Uitenham has been with A&T, taking another brief leave in 2005 to serve as a technical engineer for the Marine Corps in Iraq. He now teaches and supervises Ph.D. students at the university in addition to serving as a department chair.

"We love it here at A&T," he says, "and it seems our nieces and nephews do, too. They are gaining excellent educations while having a family cheerleading team to offer support when they need it."

Looks like the cheerleading will be long lasting, since there are five more Uitenhams still in high school and 10 more in elementary and middle school who will consider A&T as their college home.

However one looks at it, that's a lot of Uitenhams!



Leonard Uitenham (front row), chairman of the mechanical engineering department, began the trend of Uitenhams at N.C. A&T. Pictured clockwise from the top left are his wife Alvenia Uitenham '02, accountant; daughter Tia Uitenham '01, cashier, and nieces Fatriziera Uitenham and Kristin Uitenham, both freshmen, and Kellie Uitenham a sophomore. The inset is nephew Fabias Uitenham, a junior.

25