

### Masonya Joy Bennett Earns Doctoral Degree



Masonya Joy Bennett, a native of Morven, received the Doctor of Philosophy in Global and Sociocultural Studies from the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University, Miami, Florida on Saturday, April 28. Her dissertation topic was "The New South: Negotiating Race and Space in North Carolina's Immigrant Communities." The major professor guiding Bennett's Doctoral Committee was Dr. Andrea Queeley.

Masonya was a 2003 graduate of Anson High School. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Arts in African Studies and International Studies. She later earned a Master of Arts from UNCC in Latin American Studies.

Fluent in Spanish, Bennett immersed herself in Spanish speaking countries prior to attending Florida International University. She first participated in a study abroad experience in the Dominican Republic where she studied at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre Maestra. Following her graduation from UNCC with the undergraduate degree she taught English at the St. John's Bilingual School in Puerto Cortez, Honduras for one year. After earning the Master's degree she taught English for two years at Universite El Norte in Barranquille, Colombia.

Masonya is currently teaching Africana Studies courses at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. Masonya is the daughter of Nelson and Winnie Bennett of Morven. She has two siblings, Adrienne and Paul.

### Report Armadillo Sightings in North Carolina to the Wildlife Commission



The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is asking the public to report any sightings of nine-banded armadillos to the agency. Commission biologists are seeking observations to help them determine the range expansion of armadillos in the Tar Heel state.

To participate, volunteers who spot an armadillo in the wild should upload and share their photos on the NC Armadillo project, which launched on May 17, 2019, on the free online platform iNaturalist. Volunteers can upload their photos

via a computer at [www.inaturalist.org/projects/nc-armadillo](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/nc-armadillo) or they can download the free iNaturalist app, which is available for iPhone and Android.

People who want to report observations but do not want to use iNaturalist can send their armadillo observations to [armadillo@ncwildlife.org](mailto:armadillo@ncwildlife.org). The email should include:

- A photo of the armadillo
- When it was observed (date and time)
- The location where it was observed (GPS coordinates are best, but a detailed location description is acceptable)

Armadillos are native to Central and South America but have gradually expanded their range into the southeastern United States. In 2007 the agency received the first confirmed sighting of a nine-banded armadillo in Macon County and in the last 12 years has received more than 170 reports in 46 counties.

The number of counties with confirmed observations is 27, stretching from Cherokee to Dare counties, and makes it likely the armadillo is expanding its range naturally throughout North Carolina, rather than being helped by human intervention, according to Colleen Olfenbuttel, the Commission's black bear and furbearer biologist.

"Whether armadillos continue spreading beyond their current range will be largely determined by climate," said Olfenbuttel. "Mild winter temperature conditions are good for armadillos. Since they lack thick insulation and must dig for most foods, freezing conditions can cause them to starve or freeze to death."

"However, North Carolina is experiencing fewer long stretches of below freezing weather, which is allowing armadillos to expand northward."

Learn more about armadillos by reading the Commission's armadillo species profile and visiting the armadillo webpage at [www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Armadillo](http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Armadillo).

### Think You May be Eligible for WIC?

WIC is a nutritional supplemental program for pregnant, postpartum, or breastfeeding women, infants and children under 5 years of age. To be eligible for WIC you must live in North Carolina.

If you receive Medicaid, Work First Families Assistance, or SNAP you automatically meet the income eligibility requirements.

A family may be eligible for WIC based on your household income, even if you do not receive Medicaid, Work First Families Assistance, or SNAP. The following list is income guideline that went into effect July 1, 2018.

- Family of 1 – monthly income \$ 1,872 – weekly income \$ 432
- Family of 2 – monthly income \$ 2,538 – weekly income \$ 586
- Family of 3 – monthly income \$ 3,204 – weekly income \$ 740
- Family of 4 – monthly income \$ 3,870 – weekly income \$ 893
- Family of 5 – monthly income \$ 4,536 – weekly income \$ 1,047
- Family of 6 – monthly income \$ 5,202 – weekly income \$ 1,201
- Family of 7 – monthly income \$ 5,868 – weekly income \$ 1,355
- Family of 8 – monthly income \$ 6,534 – weekly income \$ 1,508

For a family size greater than 8 please call the office for income information. For income based on annual, bi-weekly, or twice a month please call the office. The WIC office is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The office phone number is 704-694-9844. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# Spirit Night

Thursday, May 30  
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THERE IS STILL TIME TO AVOID THE FEE AND PUBLICATION OF YOUR NAME BY PAYING THE DELINQUENT TAXES IN FULL. FULL PAYMENT WILL SAVE YOU INTEREST COSTS TOO.

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS ON UNPAID TAX ACCOUNTS IMMEDIATELY.

Call 704-994-3220 with questions.

Remit payments by mail or in person to:

Anson County Tax Collector  
101 South Greene Street  
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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Credit & Debit cards are accepted.

An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.

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