

## DEWARREN LANGLEY— A LAW STUDENT COMES FULL CIRCLE

**D**eWarren Langley 2L, is not your typical second-year law student. Not many 24-year-olds started their own nonprofit at age 15 to encourage teens to become more politically active, or mentor upwards of 65 undergraduates as College Liaison for NCCU BLSA's Pre-Law Program.

For Langley, it started in Darnell Tabron's seventh-grade Law class at Shepard Middle School in Durham. There were no lawyers in his family, so the class was his first exposure to law. Taking part in a mock trial in Shepard's new moot courtroom gave him the first inkling that he wanted to become a lawyer. When he interviewed a lawyer as an assignment for another class, his career goal solidified and his course was set. Next came Jordan High School (class of 2003) and Hampton University (B.S. Business Management and Economics, 2007), followed by enrollment at NCCU School of Law.

Langley's passion is helping young people realize their goals in life. His own career goal is to be a juvenile defender, and he is already a seasoned volunteer, mentor and board member with organizations such as Partners for Youth, Standing Tall for Success, and Kids Voting USA. In fall 2009, he was able to bring his experience full circle when he chose Shepard Middle School as his teaching placement for the Street Law course. He says it was refreshing and rewarding to go back to his old school, where so many of his former teachers still are teaching. And he feels it was especially helpful to the middle schoolers for them to hear, "I was sitting where you are sitting now, and if I could do it, so can you."

exam, and law students also appreciate the opportunity to share their knowledge with young people in the community.

In Spring 2008, Law School Diversity Pipeline grant funds were used to add two activities to the regular Street Law program to encourage public school students to pursue legal careers. The first was a field trip to the Law School for three high school classes. It included a presentation by Professor Todd Clark; panels by law students and recent graduates; a mock



**DeWarren Langley talks to eighth graders from Shepard Middle School on a field trip to the Law School. Langley graduated from Shepard Middle and returned in fall 2009 as a Street Law teacher.**