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Trey Songz finishes Cingular tour at WSSU

By Lisa R. Boone
ARGUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Screeches, screams and squeals erupted from a dim Whitaker Gymnasium Sept. 24, as 20-year-old recording artist Trey Songz walked onstage.

The R&B singer from Petersburg, Va., captivated students. His performance at WSSU marked the end of his Cingular Wireless Historic Black Colleges and Universities "Back to School" tour. The 22-campus tour began at Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana.

Identical twins Amber and Ashley Neal were among the dozens of students who attended the concert, and Songz picked the two to join him onstage.

"The concert was excellent," Amber

Neal, a junior nursing student, said. "I was surprised when he picked my sister and then I got to go onstage with her. It was one of the best experiences of my life. I was going to leave because he took so long, but my friend made us stay because she is infatuated with him. I am glad I didn't leave."

Ashley Neal echoed her sentiment. "I was just amazed that he picked me. I didn't really like him at first. I went because he is a celebrity who came to our school, but now I think he's my husband," said the junior mass communications major jokingly.

Born Tremaine Neverson on Nov. 28, 1984, Songz lived a regular life with a love for music. By 15, Trey had entered and won 20 talent shows. Upon

graduation from Petersburg High School, Trey moved to New Jersey after meeting his producer, Troy Taylor. After being signed to Atlantic Records for two years, Trey's debut album "I Gotta Make It" was released July 26.

The WSSU concert was part of a special night of entertainment presented by the Campus Activities Board. It featured student performers, comedian Michael Blackson, along with Songz. Students also danced to music by Tommy G Mixx.

Lisa Boone, editor-in-chief of The News Argus, caught up with Songz before the performance. To read her interview with the man called the "Prince of Virginia," turn to page 5.

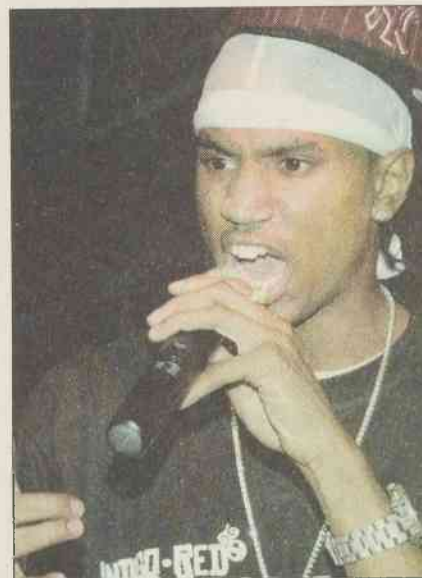


Photo by Garrett Garms
R&B singer
Trey Songz
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WSSU alumni accepts position as senior communications manager at Dell plant

By Lisa R. Boone
ARGUS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When Dell, the world's largest personal computer maker, offered WSSU alumni and former mass communications instructor Donna Oldham the position of senior communications manager, she couldn't refuse and in large part because of what she describes as the company's commitment to a quality workplace and diversity.

North Carolina is banking on Dell to boost the state's economy by employing hundreds of others like Oldham. Specifically, Dell has projected that it will hire 1,500 employees within five years, and it moved a step closer to fulfilling that projected goal on Wednesday, Oct. 5 when it officially opened its newest and largest plant in Winston-Salem — a 750,000 square-foot manufacturing facility in the city's Alliance Science & Technology Park on Temple School Road.

"[My experience at Dell] has been incredible," Oldham said. "I was at Duke Hospital as head of communications for almost eight years and Dell presented such an attractive package in terms of their commitment to diversity, their commitment to a quality workplace that it was something that I decided that I could leave my former employment for to take a chance at Dell..."

On hand for the grand opening was Dell Inc. chairman Michael Dell and Gov. Mike Easley, who, along with other state officials, lured Dell to the state with \$318 million in grants and tax breaks.

"If you are computer illiterate or road

kill on the information highway, don't blame me and don't blame Dell," Easley said. "You've got an opportunity. This facility will create 1,500 good-paying jobs for 1,500 hard-working North Carolina families. This \$100 million investment is exactly what they need."

"I want to tell you, Michael Dell, that you have picked up the morale of this region 110 percent and we appreciate Dell being here," Easley added.

The new facility will produce Dell's build-to-order desktop computers. Michael Dell presented Easley with one of the first computers assembled.

Thurmond Woodard, vice president of Global Diversity and chief ethics officer, came to WSSU in June to speak with students about opportunities at Dell and technology at WSSU.

"I was very pleased to spend some time with my long-time friend, Chancellor Harold L. Martin, and his faculty and to learn and see how they have used technology in the educating of students at Winston-Salem State University," said Woodard.

At a media luncheon held the day before the Dell grand opening, Richard



Photo by Garrett Garms
Donna Oldham, WSSU grad and former communications instructor, is senior communications manager at the new Dell facility.

Komn, the company's program director, talked of plans for Dell to form a partnership with WSSU.

"If you look at where our current cites

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Photo by Garrett Garms

The alumni work closely with Chancellor Martin and the school to provide opportunities for students.

Alumni's generosity benefits students

By Larry Williams
ARGUS REPORTER

When senior Tina Foster graduates, she expects to remain an active alumnus, giving not only her time but money.

"It's important to give back so that the future students have what I enjoyed," the 23-year-old said.

Many current students profess to feel the same way that Foster does. But after graduation, students often get busy with their new lives and forget about the need to give back.

Winston-Salem State University ranks first among historically black colleges in the state when it comes to alumni giving, with almost 10 percent of alumni contributing financially to the university. At nearby North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University, alumni giving is 8.9 percent, and it's 2.3

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The Burke Singers dedicate original song to the victims of Hurricane Katrina

By Erin Perkins
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

While most of the nation watched helplessly as New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region drowned in rolling waters let loose by Hurricane Katrina, two student singers at Winston-Salem State University found a way to cope with the sorrow that the televised images stirred in their souls.

They transformed their grief into words and set it to music.

"How could the wealthiest country in the world leave its own citizens to die? When the towers came down, you were there the next day. And it took you five days to make your way to me. Had we been wealthy and middle-class white people, would I be singing this song."

Shameia Gardin, a junior music business major, got the idea for the song soon after TV images brought home the plight of hurricane victims. Gardin developed the tune and then recruited her friend, LaShonda Davis, who wrote the lyrics for "Cries of Katrina."



Photo Garrett Garms

The Burke Singers performed an original piece dedicated to victims of the recent hurricanes.

Both are Burke Singers, a female a cappella group whose members are in the university choir. The Burke Singers gave a debut

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