

FSU's founding fathers

By Deja McNeal



With \$136, seven African American men, David Bryant, Nelson Carter, Andrew J. Chesnutt, George Grainger, Matthew N. Leary, Bishop Thomas Lomax and Reverend Robert Simmons, bought some property on Gillespie Street in 1867 to build a school to teach black children.

The Howard school was the precursor to what would eventually become Fayetteville State Teachers College in 1947.

After some additional changes to the institution, Fayetteville State University acquired its present name and became part of the University of North Carolina System in 1972, according to FSU documents.

The story and the school's rich history is celebrated with the Founders Day Convocation as a way to pay respect and recognize the great efforts it took to build FSU.

This year the 146th Founders Day Convocation was held on Apr. 11 at Seabrook Auditorium.

The federal government recognizes 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States. HBCUs are defined as schools created to educate black Americans prior to 1964, according to ed.gov/edblogs/whhbcu/.

In a 2011 proclamation celebrating HBCUs, US President Barack Obama, said "HBCUs continue a proud tradition as vibrant centers of intellectual inquiry and engines of scientific discovery and innovation. New waves of students, faculty, and alumni are building on their rich legacies and helping America achieve our goal of once again leading the world in having the highest proportion of college graduates by 2020," according to ed.gov/edblogs/whhbcu/.



FSU Founders Site Courtesy of Dennis McNair

This year's keynote speaker John "Ben" Brown Jr., a former chair of Fayetteville State's Board of Trustees and FSU Class of 1989 graduate, echoed that sentiment. As he strolled down memory lane, Mr. Brown described some of FSU's history including the creation of buildings on campus, many of which are named after the founders of the university. Mr. Brown also expressed excitement about the future of FSU and its continued development and expansion.

Past and present Broncos, who are familiar with the history of our school, also spoke at the event leaving the FSU community with encouraging and inspiring words.

"Don't give up, don't dive out and don't give in," said Jeannette Council, the vice chair of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and FSU Class of 1963.

The ceremony ended with FSU Chancellor James Anderson giving out awards to the keynote speaker and the family of the year (Barnes & Braswell family).

BABY, I'M GETTING MY DEGREE

By Latricia Shaw

People find numerous reasons why they do not start or finish school.

They may say, "I don't have money."
Financial Aid is available.

They may claim, "I am working full time."
Fayetteville State University offers classes on weekends, evenings and online.

Another common excuse is "I don't have a baby-sitter."
FSU also offers a solution to that problem also with its childcare center located on campus.

The 30-year-old childcare center currently has 80 students enrolled. It is open from 7:30 am until 5:30 p.m. The center care for children ages six-months to four-years-old and offers a pre-k program.

Gloria Moore Carter, the director of Fayetteville State Early childhood learning center since Feb. 2012, said the application process is simple, and can be downloaded online.

The cost of childcare varies based on the needs of the family. If you need Department of Social Services assistance, it is available. So the excuse of not being able to start or finish your education has been expelled and now you can say, baby, I'm getting my degree!



Courtesy of bluedevel-nation.net