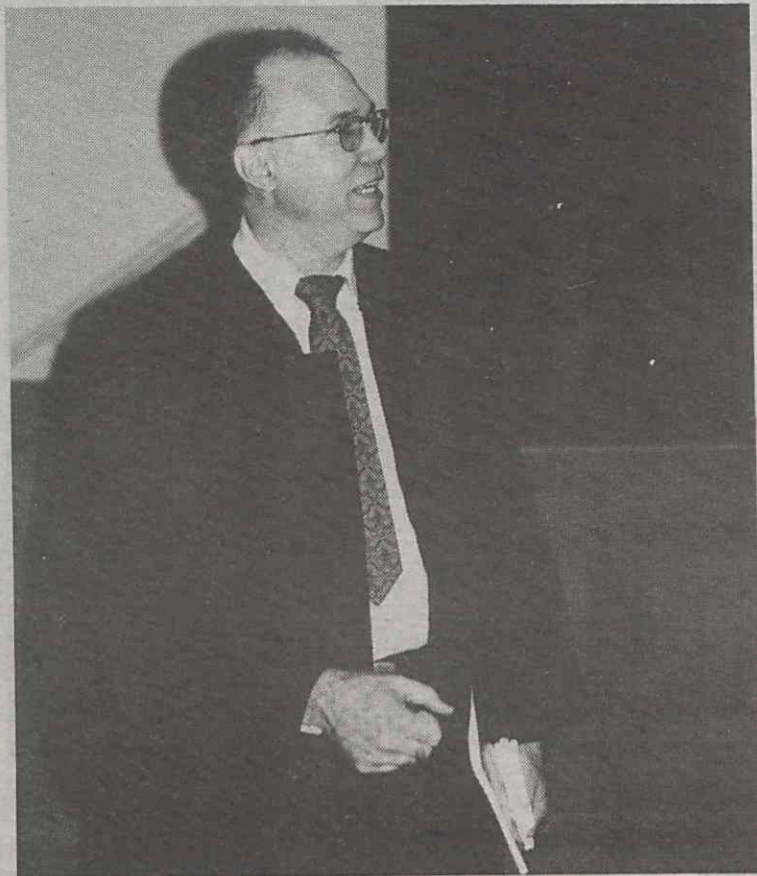


MLK, Jr. Day speaker urges students: 'Be prepared to change'



Judge Herbert Richardson responds to a question following his speech during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Tribute.

By BRANDY PATE

"Be prepared to change" and "be honest with yourself" were the keynotes of Judge Herbert Richardson's speech during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Tribute held Thursday, January 13 at WCC Lecture Hall.

Sponsors of the program included the Diversity Committee and the Multicultural Association for Enrichment (MCAE). The Rev. Timothy Dortch, Pastor of Goldsboro Chapel Free Will Baptist Church led the audience of about 200 in "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and Alfonzo Jones, student soloist, performed "No Weapon Held Against Me."

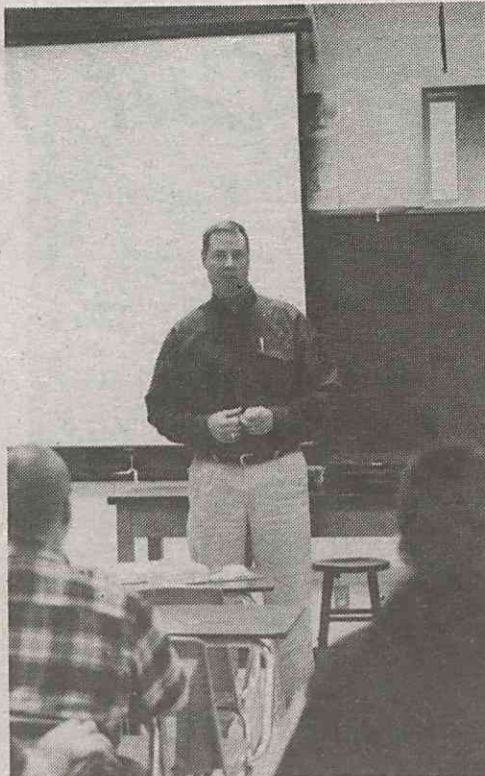
Dr. Edward H. Wilson, Jr., President of Wayne Community College opened the program with a welcome and the wish that the new millennium will see the realization of the goals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wayne County Commissioner Mr. Jimmie Ford, introduced the guest speaker, The Honorable Herbert Richardson, Sr., who was born in Nash County. A graduate of Northern Nash High School, he attended NC Central where he was a political science major, despite having been told that he did not have the grades to get into college.

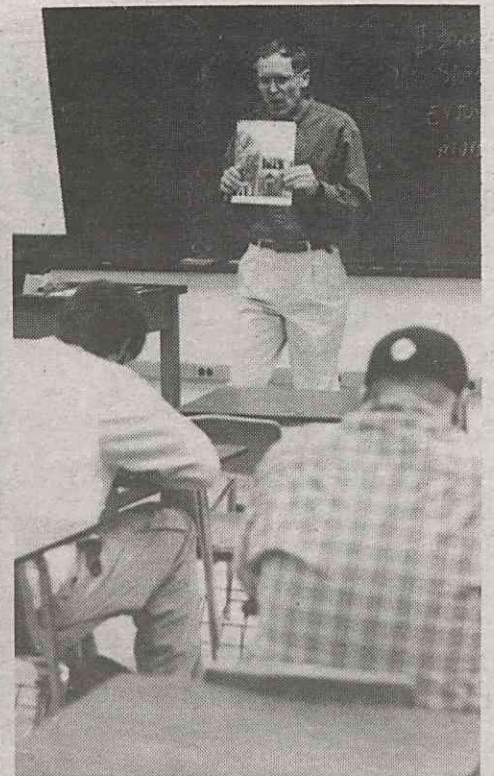
Richardson, 47, said he had been on the bench for 22 years. He said there is no place in the 21st century for lazy people. "Work yourself to death if you want to succeed. There is no excuse to be untrained or uneducated. In America, television teaches us to deceive and cheat each other, but when you can look at yourself and tell the truth you become a bona fide person."

From 1994 to the present, he has been the Chief District Court Judge of Robeson County. He said, "My daddy always told me that everything I needed to succeed was in me from the day I was born, put there by God. All I needed to do was go out and get it."

After the speech, Tracey Ivey, history instructor and chairperson of the Diversity Committee, presented Richardson with a check of appreciation which he gave to President Wilson for the student scholarship fund.



Chris Durand



Dr. Larry Jahn

Speakers extoll benefits of wood products careers

By SAM DAVIS

On Wednesday, February 23, about a dozen pre-engineering, math, and science students heard about the benefits of a degree program in the wood products industry.

Dr. Larry Jahn from NC State and Chris Durand, representing Georgia Pacific Corporation, one of the leading companies in the field, spoke at the Holly building (formerly HSS) at 2:00 p.m.

Durand discussed the rewards available to graduates in North Carolina.

Currently a shortage exists of educated, technologically oriented people in the field.

Jahn said that NC State boasts a 100% job placement for graduates of this program.

Prior to graduation, students normally have 2 or 3 job offers they can consider.

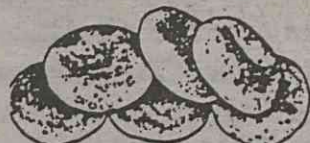
This demand has led to higher starting salaries, averaging in the mid-\$30,000 range. Many graduates earn over \$50,000 a year after a few years.



Officers for the WCC Association of Nursing Students include (l to r) Phyllis Hembree, president; Tonya Sibbett, vice president; Kathy McAluff, treasurer; and Jay Brim, historian. PHOTO: JASON ROWE

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