

Recent Graduates



(shown above) Oyinda Oyelaran was one of three students in the class of 1997 to have a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She will be working with Merck Laboratories, with whom she has had a fellowship through the United Negro College Fund program.



(pictured left) Lottie Freeman attended Salem College on a Chatham Scholarship, the most prestigious scholarship the college offers. She will work on Wall Street with the J.P. Morgan firm.



Dawn Webb was a recipient of WXII's Jefferson Award for outstanding community service. Of the five regional recipients, Webb was chosen as the one finalist to advance to a national competition in Washington, D.C. in late June. Webb will be working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in Winston-Salem, for which she volunteered while a student at Salem.

GRAHAM

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that attitude can be, based on my own personal experiences."

The nine steps themselves are described by Graham as guidelines to a process, rather than goals that are reached and then left behind.

"I wrote this book to teach the process of success, how it works," he states. "Once you understand my first step, which talks about self-awareness, finding out who you are and what your strengths and weaknesses are, then you can go on to step two and build a vision for yourself. Once you build your vision, you can move on to step three and build a travel plan, which talks about preparing for the journey to success and so on. Each step leads you to the next, so that it is understanding that this is a continuous procedure that is most important."

The nine steps in Graham's book are 1. Check your ID, 2. Create your vision, 3. Develop your travel plan, 4. Master the rules of the road, 5. Step into the "Outer Limits," 6. Pilot the season of change, 7. Build your "Dream Team," 8. Win by a decision, 9. Commit to your vision. He believes these steps are fundamental in climbing the ladder of prosperity.

"These steps have developed as a I have developed," said Graham of the nine guides in his book. "And that speaks to the idea that success is a journey — life is a journey, and it's not about the end result; it's about the process of going through it."

He freely admits that each of these steps were difficult to mas-

ter and that none were more challenging for him than the first: checking his own ID.

"I think the hardest step for me was self-awareness, becoming aware of who I was as a person" said Graham candidly. "I had received so many different messages growing up and I didn't understand. Everything around was built on the notion of race, and I didn't have the images nor did I have the direction to find out who I was. No one taught me how to do that, and no one showed me."

"Once I found that (self awareness), everything around me became secondary to who I thought I was as a person. And once I understood who I was, that was my base, and I was then able to blaze my own trails."

Graham's commitment to community service includes, among others, the founding of Athletes Against Drugs (AAD), a nonprofit organization of athletes and other civic leaders committed to eliminating drug use among young people; service on the board of directors for the National Urban League and National Junior Achievement; and service on both the North Carolina Governor's

Commission for Savings and Loans and the North Carolina Governor's Council for Physical Fitness & Health. He believes that success is not merely measured in business achievements alone. He acknowledges that that belief spurred him to write a book that was not simply a chronicle to business success or a record of his own personal triumph.

HABITAT

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"sweat equity" hours.

Four out of the 24 members serving on Habitat's board are African-American; one is a Habitat homeowner. Donahue said that the board's African-American representation has been consistent since she first began serving, over three years ago.

It's tough to get volunteers, period, said Donahue.

"This is serious volunteer work," she said. "It takes a lot of time and a lot of dedication."

Deronda Kee Lucas, an African-American member of the board, admitted that there are more white volunteers than black, and said the problem may be with misconceptions of the volunteer process.

"A lot of people I speak to think you have to be part of a group to volunteer," said Lucas. "[But] anybody can help out at anytime."

Lucas added that many

African Americans who volunteer for other organizations have told her that they think Habitat never suffers for lack of volunteers. These people instead choose to dedicate their time to fledgling organizations or programs sponsored by churches.

As an ecumenical, Christian-based organization, Habitat has had some success courting African-American churches. The Congregations of the United Methodist Church sponsored five houses at Patterson Avenue and 13th Street. The project involved a number of black Methodist churches, said Morgan.

"We are always trying to get more minority groups involved," said Donahue.

However, the shortage of black volunteers doesn't mean Habitat's leaders begrudge the African-American community's level of involvement, Morgan said.

"We are not critical and have not been critical of the efforts of the black community," said Morgan.

BRAINSTORM

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forward.

"We have not had the black business people come in and talk to us," said Alderman Vivian Burke, who represents the Northeast Ward.

"We do have some people in our community who do have some money," said Malloy. "We can't always look to the city to develop businesses for us."

Allowing large industry to set up shop in East Winston may not be the answer, said Malloy. "[We could] do a site and establish that a company will come in who are not African-American," said Malloy. "I don't consider that economic development because the money doesn't stay in the community."

The aldermen agreed that there are pockets where black-owned businesses thrive. Johnson pointed to the 14th Street area, and said

strong community involvement has revitalized that section of her ward.

Burke mentioned that a strong business presence along the Liberty Street corridor sparked the Chamber of Commerce's interest in the Liberty Street project.

"We could show where we were generating all those dollars — and we didn't get any incentives to do it," said Burke.

The Choice
is
THE CHRONICLE

BOND

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That's news to Norma Smith, chair of the East Winston Development Task Force (EWDTF). "I was just recently informed that none of the economic development money was earmarked for East Winston," said Smith.

Former mayor Wayne Corpening, who created the EWDTF in 1988, originally assigned Joines as staff support for the organization. When the city hired economic coordinator Janet DeCreny several years later, the EWDTF was included among her other responsibilities.

Smith said that neither Joines nor Mayor Martha Wood attend EWDTF meetings. Joines attends almost every meeting concerning downtown development, and has at least one full-time staff member assigned to work on that enterprise.

"At one time I felt there was a genuine interest on the part of city government in the East Winston Development Task Force," said Smith. Over the past few years, Smith said, that interest dried up.

"The fact that none of the economic development money has been earmarked for East Winston speaks volumes," Smith added.

For some in city government, the debate is chicken-or-the-egg.

"No one is stopping [the EWDTF] from progressing," said Alderman Nelson Malloy of the

North Ward. Malloy and East Ward alderman Joycelyn V. Johnson said that the task force seems to have run out of steam on their own accord.

"They don't meet. They cancel their meetings," Johnson said. Smith admitted that the EWDTF did call off their last meeting, scheduled for May 13. But, said Smith, that was only the second meeting canceled in the last six months.

Committees of the task force meet regularly, Smith added. However, the committees do not usually convene at the task force's scheduled meeting place, the planning board conference room in the basement of city hall.

Smith said these committees are identifying new projects for the task force to assist. The EWDTF is also planning to assist the revitalization of businesses in the Liberty Street area.

The Liberty Street project's master plan, contracted by Jackson Person and Associates from Memphis, Tenn., was recently completed. Though aldermen won't vote on the plan until July, most assure that the vote is simply a formality and the plan will pass.

If the \$2.6 million bond passes, the architectural plan would use the money for indirect economic development. Street-scaping and other visual improvements would be made, in hopes a tidied Liberty Street would attract more business.

APOLOGY

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After the apology, Clinton announced plans to help Tuskegee University build a bioethics center that will serve as a memorial to those who suffered the experiments.

The president also extended the charter of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission to October 1999, which he hopes will maintain national focus on bio-ethical issues and potentially strengthen protection for human research subjects.

"I don't want to be known as a motivational person," said Graham. "What I want to be able to do is to inspire people to motivate themselves. I try to do that by teaching them some tools that they can take and learn for themselves and then apply them to anything they are involved in."

It would appear by public consumption that Graham has been able to, at the very least, motivate people into bookstores. "You Can Make It Happen" has made the New York Times best-sellers list for business books, and that, Graham said, has been a truly satisfying achievement.

"For me, making that list was a great accomplishment," he said. "I never thought I'd write a book, and to be able to do that and to be able to talk about my own journey is truly gratifying."

Graham said that he takes the charge of teaching the process of success very seriously. He feels that learning the process is the key to African-American upward mobility, and consequently, the path to freedom.

"Success gives you freedom, and freedom is the greatest, greatest, greatest gift in the world," he said. "I've found it myself and I know how wonderful it is for me as a person to have it, and then to help someone else discover it, it just creates all opportunities. Then you become a 'thinking' human being and you're not enslaved to anything."

"I think that more than anybody else, African-Americans need that more than anything else, and that's what we haven't been getting. I just hope that I

can provide a forum where people begin to think, so we can reduce the drop-out rate, reduce the violence in our community and improve the quality of our lives."

Graham will return to Winston later this month as part of the celebrity field of golfers who will battle the greens of Bermuda Run Country Club at this year's Crosby National Celebrity Tournament. This will be Graham's fifth straight Crosby, and he has nothing but praise for the tournament and for Winston-Salem.

"Winston-Salem is one of the finest communities in the country, and North Carolina is just a wonderful state," he said. "My family is from there and any chance I get to come to North Carolina, I love it."

"I know the Crosby very well, and it's a fun time because you get to see people you know, and I get to see a lot of people in Winston-Salem. For me that's a great opportunity."

Graham said he is encouraged by the growing diversity of spectators at the tournament.

"I'm glad to see more black people out at the Crosby as well," he said.

Graham also divulged that he has entered this year's Crosby with his eye on the gold. He believes that his golf game is as good as it has ever been.

I haven't played in a long time, but I'm more relaxed this year, so I don't have all the anxiety I used to have. That's probably why it's better," he said. "I just don't take it as seriously as I used to."

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