

Colleges, museum get funds for black studies programs

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

WASHINGTON African-American studies in North Carolina will get a boost thanks to \$460,432 in grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Sen. John Edwards announced on Friday. "Scholars across North Carolina are learning more and more about our country's rich and varied history," Edwards said. "Students of African-American history in particular are unearthing the diverse but often forgotten voices of the past, giving us all new insights into who we are as a nation." N.C. Central University won \$225,000 to enhance elementary and middle school curricula that address African-American history. The grant

will help the Thomas Day Education Project expand a successful statewide outreach program nationwide. The project is named after one of North Carolina's most famous cabinet-makers and furniture craftsmen. Edwards wrote a letter of support for this application last year. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will receive \$135,871 to preserve oral history recordings of



Edwards

See Colleges on A4

WSSU building computer center

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Winston-Salem State University administration and staff along with members from the local business and technology community broke ground on a brand new computer science facility on the WSSU campus April 3. Construction will begin this week.

The building is the second of nine major construction projects that the university plans to undertake with the \$42.3 million in bond money approved by state voters in 2000.

The new 62,000 square foot, \$12.3 million computer science facility will be constructed next to the physical science building, which is being renovated. University officials are calling the new building symbolic because it will bulk up the school's presence on the north side of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The new building also will be located adjacent to the soon-to-be restored F.L. Atkins Building, a historic house that once was home to WSSU's founder, Simon Green Atkins.

Chancellor Harold L. Martin called the occasion a historic event and said the new building will link the university to Winston-Salem and the downtown area Research and Development Park as well as stimulate economic development.

"This groundbreaking signals the continuation of the university's aggressive construction schedule for several building and renovation projects planned for our campus over the next few years," Martin said.

The new facility will be the first of its kind on the campus of WSSU. It will house classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices and administrative facilities specifically for the computer science department.

Elba Jones, chair of the computer science department, shared her excitement about the groundbreaking for the building that will serve as a computing hub for the entire university. She told the history of the computer science department.

"These less than ideal facilities in no way diminished the (computer science) program," Jones said. "In fact, I think it put emphasis for us to make a stronger program."

Jones also spoke of the great impact and opportunity this new facility will create for the university and community at large.

The computer science department at WSSU has come a long way from its meager beginnings when one class had to use the administrative computer facilities during lunchtime.

The department's next home was a makeshift lab in Hill Hall, which Jones said



An artist's rendering of the new building.

Image courtesy of WSSU



Several members of the WSSU family took part in the groundbreaking.

Photo by Courtney Gaillard

displaced a few members of the science department. That location made way for the information superhighway to travel through WSSU. After two more moves, the faculty and staff of the computer science department made a final relocation into Carolina Hall (with additional labs in the R.J. Reynolds Center), where it currently is housed.

Others who joined Chancellor Martin in the "ceremonial dirt tossing" included Brenda Diggs, board of trustees member; Melvin Johnson, vice chairman; Elva Jones, chairperson of the computer science department; Tiffany Green, computer science student; Anthony Wright, computer science alumnus;

Angus Small of information resources; and Bill Dean, president of Piedmont Triad Research Park.

State Reps. Warren Oldham and Larry Womble along with other local officials such as Alderman Joycelyn Johnson expressed their support and satisfaction with a new academic building on campus. All made statements about the building's future place in the landscape of this historic African-American educational institution.

Womble, a WSSU graduate, said, "I'm glad to see that WSSU has a mission, and a vision that we're going to be the best regional university in the state of North Carolina."

Frye to keynote WSSU convocation

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Henry E. Frye, retired chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, will deliver the keynote address at Winston-Salem State University's 2002 Honors Convocation on Thursday, April 18, at 5 p.m. in Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium.



Frye

Frye practiced law in Greensboro for 21 years and was admitted to the federal District, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and to the U.S. Supreme Court.

He holds an impressive list of firsts in North Carolina history. The first African American to be elected to the N.C. House of Representatives in the 20th century in 1968, Frye served in the House for 12 years and was then elected to a two-year term in the N.C. Senate.

In 1983 he became the first African American to serve on the N.C. Supreme Court. In September 1999 he was appointed by Gov. James Hunt to serve as chief justice of the Supreme Court, another first. He ran for election in the general election in November 2000 and was defeated by a member of the court, Justice I. Beverly Lake Jr. Frye retired from the court effective January 2001 and joined the law firm of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP. Frye was also

See Frye on A10

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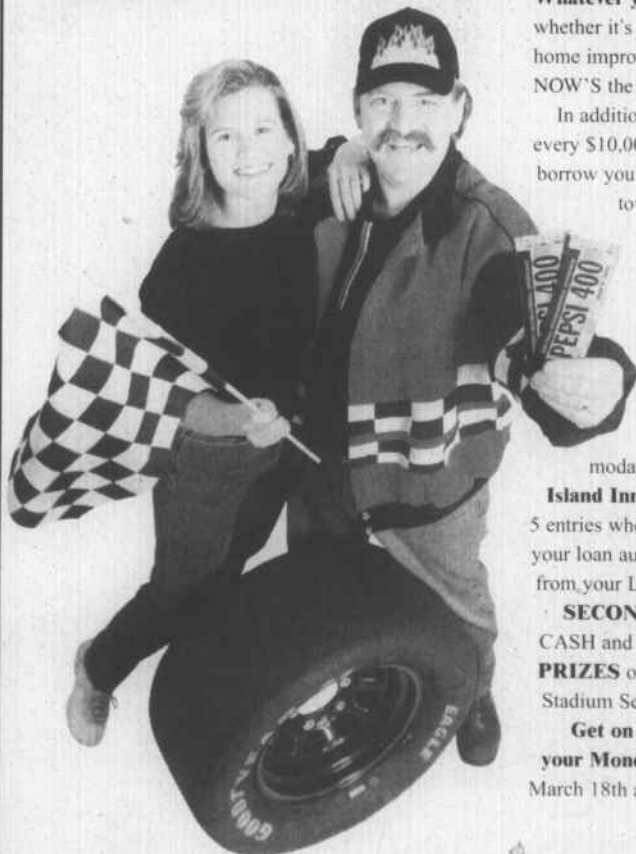
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