

# BUSINESS FOCUS

## Briefs

### Rep. Watts still looking at his options

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - A month away from his official retirement as a U.S. representative, J.C. Watts doesn't have a full-time job lined up, but the former wishbone quarterback has some options.

He's going to do some paid speeches and has agreed to let the Washington Speakers Bureau represent him. He has offers to serve on corporate boards and he says he wants to start a consulting firm.

Watts, who just turned 45, also has his autobiography - "What Color Is a Conservative?" - to promote.

He made the final cut for the president of the NCAA, but the job was given to Indiana University President Myles Brand.

Watts interviewed for a financial job in New York City, but traffic snarls and the hectic pace of the city didn't fit.

After more than a decade in a public office, Watts is in for some life changes. It will be the first time since 1991, when he was sworn in as an Oklahoma corporation commissioner, that Watts' world won't revolve around public service.

Since 1995, Watts has been the only black Republican in the House, representing Oklahoma's 4th District, which includes his home in Norman.

Watts recalled being criticized when he first came to Washington for saying that he didn't want to be a black leader, just a leader.

Now, he said, other black politicians have followed suit. Democratic Reps. Harold Ford Jr. of Tennessee and Gregory Meeks of New York have been quoted as saying they were tired of being identified as black Democrats.

"Ironically, when Harold Ford Jr. said a lot of the things I had said, it was cool for him to say it," Watts said. "There has to be somebody who makes it cool to be who you are."

Though Watts refused to join the Congressional Black Caucus, he took on traditionally black causes, seeking recognition for blacks in the nation's history, and traveling to Africa to talk democracy and economic development.

The legislation he worked the most on, aimed at helping the nation's most impoverished areas with tax incentives and allowing faith-based groups to get governmental aid for social services, was only partially approved.

Senate Republicans may take up the faith-based issue when they resume.

Watts said he would leave it to "pundits and historians" to decide whether he had broken any barriers in his four terms.

"I have shown," he said, "you can be black and be conservative and not have horns."

Recent events in his life have caused Watts to make choices about his future in office.

The last few years, he said, have been tough. Two of the biggest influences in his life, his father, Buddy, and uncle, Wade, died. He was shaken by the tragedies of April 19, 1995, and Sept. 11, 2001, and by the tornadoes of 1999.

### Las Vegas hotel settles bias suit for \$1.14 million with EEOC

(Special to the NNPA) - The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has settled a \$1.14 million lawsuit against the Mirage Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas for discriminatory practices against black job applicants.

The settlement agreement, filed concurrently with the EEOC's lawsuit, provides for \$840,000 in compensation for African-American and Hispanic workers, along with implementation of appropriate complaint procedures, anti-discrimination training and record-keeping obligations to be monitored by the EEOC.

Olophus Perry, director of the EEOC's Los Angeles district office, which has jurisdiction for Nevada, told reporters: "In addition to providing a substantial amount of monetary relief to the victims, the settlement puts in place extensive mechanisms to help prevent discrimination in the future. By monitoring the employer for the next three years, the commission will be in a position to act quickly should discrimination or retaliation occur again."

remarking on the cooperation between the EEOC and MGM Mirage in resolving the suit, Anna Y. Park, regional attorney of EEOC's Los Angeles district office, said: "The commission congratulates all concerned in reaching this settlement. We believe that The Mirage and its parent company are committed to a policy of nondiscrimination. During the next three years, we will work with The Mirage to ensure that the procedures put in place by this settlement agreement will be administered properly."

### Chamber's West Area Council will present breakfast meeting

The Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce West Area Council will present a holiday breakfast meeting Dec. 12 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. (registration, networking and coffee at 7:15 a.m.). The event will feature the Southwest Singers of Southwest Elementary School.

The breakfast will be held at Village Inn Golf & Conference Center in Clemmons (I-40 Exit 184). The breakfast is free to chamber members, but reservations are required by Dec. 9 to 777-3787, extension 1922. Lexington State Bank is sponsoring the breakfast.



Watts

## Selling cars has made Amos famous

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

You could say that Thomas "Famous" Amos has been in the car business almost all of his life. From the time his father owned several gas service stations in Winston-Salem Amos began learning and loving cars. Although he started working on cars at the age of 10, Amos' automotive sales career didn't begin until 1974 at Lou Healy Chevrolet. It turned out to be a good fit, because Amos is currently a sales consultant with Modern Chevrolet, where he has been selling pre-owned automobiles since 1986.

"The (Modern Chevrolet) owners are very loyal to their customers and to their employees," said Amos about why he has remained in car sales for so long.

A picture of Chevy Impalas made over a 10-year period hangs in Amos' office and serves as a reminder not only of his favorite automobile but also of the first car he ever bought and sold. As a teenager, he would buy a car, fix it up and then sell it in a few days, just to do it all over again with another car.

"I'm a fanatic about my cars," laughed Amos, who said he is adamant about washing his car, sometimes every day.

Amos, who spent his entire life in Winston-Salem, graduated from West Forsyth High School and was



Thomas Amos on the lot at Modern Chevrolet.

Photo by Courtney Gaillard



## Foundation invests in downtown

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The most significant commitment in The Winston-Salem Foundation's history was announced Nov. 26. The Foundation Committee approved a minimum grant of \$2 million to support downtown revitalization efforts and local economic development programs.

This multiyear pledge will be pooled with gifts from corporations, individuals and other foundations. The \$45 million Millennium Fund will be invested in downtown residential improvement, infrastructure development and economic development. The foundation has been asked to administer the Millennium Fund.

The Millennium Fund was established by the Winston-Salem Alliance, which is currently led by Andrew J. Schindler, chairman and CEO of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. The alliance will appoint a subcommittee of its members, as well as representatives from the foundations, lead donors, the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership and other representatives, to oversee the administration of the fund. This Millennium Fund Oversight Committee will review and approve all expenditures.

The foundation has positioned itself to continue its traditional grant-making to nonprofits in this community and be able to partici-

pate in the Millennium Fund in a very meaningful way.

"A healthy, thriving downtown is very important to our community," said Richard Budd, the foundation's chairman. "And we believe that a vibrant downtown where people can meet and interact informally will go a long way towards improving social capital. When new businesses look at Winston-Salem to relocate, our downtown is part of the mix, and it needs to be a place that has excitement and energy."

The vision is that hundreds of people will eventually want to live and work downtown. Downtown will have become alive because it will be Winston-Salem's intellectual and economic center, bustling with exhilaration.

The Millennium Fund will make grants in three main areas:

- Downtown residential development - Two existing projects are targeted as the highest priority: the historic Nissen Building conversion (approximately 145 units) and the Goler/Depot Street Community Development Corp. for ongoing efforts to create affordable housing in the CDC area. This three-block neighborhood revitalization plan is designed to spur additional private sector housing investment by providing a critical mass of

downtown residents.

- Infrastructure development - This includes:

- Downtown property control to acquire or protect certain properties.

- Loan fund for inducing a mix of small businesses - retail, arts, restaurants and entertainment - to move or stay downtown.

- Creation of downtown parks and other public areas to provide the architectural or other design of open spaces.

- Support of downtown organizations such as regular operating support to the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership.

- Support of existing downtown events and festivals.

- Downtown capital projects fund to encourage broader civic participation in projects undertaken by educational, entertainment and arts organizations downtown, such as a new public library or Sawtooth building renovations.

- Economic development - This includes:

- Business park development to develop additional business parks in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County in anticipation of the growth generated by the FedEx hub.

- Economic development fund to continue the recruitment of new businesses.

## Turner named KSU's interim president

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

FRANKFORT, Ky. - A former Kentucky State University dean will return to Frankfort to lead the institution during the next year, according to KSU Board of Regents Chairman William Wilson.

William H. Turner has a significant amount of experience in academia, and as a private consultant, Wilson said. Turner's consulting firm specializes in multicultural consultation, research, conflict resolution and strategic planning for major international corporations and foundations.

The Lynch, Ky. native was selected from four finalists who were interviewed



Turner

by the board a few weeks ago. Turner is a 1964 graduate of Lynch High School and a 1966 graduate of UK's Southeast Community College. He received a B.S. degree in sociology from the University of Kentucky in 1968 and a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1971. Turner went on to earn a Ph.D. from Notre Dame in sociology and anthropology in 1974, before being awarded postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Pennsylvania, George Washington University and Duke University.

From 1970 to 1995, Dr. Turner was engaged in teaching, research and administration at Fisk University, Howard University, the University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, Winston-Salem State University, Berea College and Brandeis University.

He is president of Turner & Associates Consultants, whose clients include the Appalachian Regional Commission, The Salvation Army, the Kellogg Foundation, Lowe's Company, Sara Lee Corp., the U.S. Department of State, and the Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation.

Turner is a prolific writer, having published essays and articles on subjects ranging from civil rights issues to the attitudes of college students. Of particular interest to him are the study of African-

## A&T hires new administrator

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Lee Young has been appointed assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management and director of admissions at N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University. Young will supervise the offices of admissions, student financial aid and the registrar. He will also chair the Enrollment Management Committee.

Before this appointment he served as associate vice president for enrollment management at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind.

Young has more than 25 years of experience in higher educa-

tion, five as an instructor and 20 in the enrollment management profession



Young

at such institutions as the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and Wichita State University. He has participated in and led various national enrollment management seminars and workshops that were designed to enhance professional development and strategic planning for enrollment man-

agers.

Young is affiliated with numerous organizations, including the Mid-Western Regional Council for the College Board, where he chaired the Governance Review Committee and was a member of the Program Planning Committee. He also chaired the Transfer and Articulation Committee for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and served as a member of the Financial Aid Committee.

Young received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Jackson State University. He is married to Patty Young. They have a daughter, McKenzie.