



Local NAACP President Stephen Hairston with State President William Barber at the last Emancipation event, Jan. 1, 2007.

## ORGANIZATION IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING FREEDOM

TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

For over 50 years, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association has been celebrating the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's famous proclamation that freed the slaves.

The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863 and freed all the slaves in the rebelling Confederate states. So, every year on New Year's Day the Emancipation Association holds a service to celebrate. The service includes singing, comments from local community leaders and a speech on the meaning of emancipation. Last year's speaker was NAACP state president William Barber. During the service, scholarships are given to deserving young high school seniors.

Emancipation Association President Rudolph Boone said his group is dedicated to keeping the memory of that day of freedom alive.

"That's the main thing is to keep that for the people, to let them know that this was a day to remember, to celebrate. The way we do that is to have this gathering on the first day of each year," said Boone.

Next year's service will be held Jan. 1 at 11 a.m. in Union Chapel Baptist Church located at 300 25th Street. The speaker will be Samuel Stevenson, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church. Boone said all are invited to attend.

"We think that every person who believes in freedom, justice and equality ought to celebrate together regardless of race, creed, color or anything like that," said Boone. "This is a celebration day and our audiences have really been increasing."

He said the association used to hold the ceremony in the downtown courthouse. Eventually the celebration was held at various local churches, a tradition that continues today. The age of the association is unknown but Boone said the earliest records they have confirmed that it's been around since at least the mid-1950s.

The association has tried to branch out this year, offering the community some help with economic freedom by offering a financial seminar last week. Boone said that he felt finances was an important topic to educate the community on.

"If you don't have finances you don't have resources to do things for yourself or anybody else. It's important to know how to handle what finances you have and how to increase those



Boone

finances and do something constructive with them," said Boone.

The seminar featured financial advisor Danny Freeman who educated the small group that attended on how vital it is to save money and plan for retirement. Martha Jones, the association's vice president, said at least 10 people attended the seminar. She said last week's Thanksgiving holiday probably caused the turnout to be lower than expected but the people who were there got a wealth of information.

"It was very informative...and it was very helpful," said Jones.

The outreach that has become the association's staple for over 50 years is its scholarship program. Jones said the association really focuses on youth because they're so important to the future. She said that there's been a big push in getting contributions for the scholarship fund.

"We have our freedom, I know places it's not as viable as others, but we're still struggling...we just have to make the most of it and encourage our members to come and join and help us continue that effort," said Jones.

The association usually gives out three \$1000 scholarships to local high school seniors and last year gave \$100 each to five runner-ups. Boone said he hopes to increase that this year. He said the association relies entirely on the contributions of churches, businesses, organizations and individuals for the scholarship money. While the money isn't enough to cover tuition, Boone said, it is a great help to the students when it comes time to pay for books and other college expenses.

Boone said that they are also looking to expand their membership. The group had nearly 100 paid members last year and expects to have double that amount by the end of this year. Membership is only \$5 a year. Members can attend association

meetings and vote for officers.



Jones

The deadline for donations for this year's scholarship is December 1. Those looking to make a donation or who need a short extension on making a contribution can call Rudolph Boone at 767-4087.

## News Clips

### UNCG commencement is Dec. 20

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro will hold commencement exercises Thursday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m. in the Greensboro Coliseum, with Dr. Roberto Campo, associate professor of Romance Languages, as speaker.

Last spring, Campo received the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award from UNCG. A faculty member who came to UNCG in 1989, he teaches French and is a specialist in Renaissance literature. He holds master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. His address will be titled "Gen Ed for the Global Galette."

UNCG Chancellor Patricia A. Sullivan will welcome the graduates and their families, and will play a central role in the ceremony. Approximately 940 students are candidates to complete their degrees during the semester. The 501 graduates who completed degrees in August can also participate in the December ceremony.

### New state helmet law to go into effect

Recent changes to the state motorcycle helmet law will go into effect Jan. 1, 2008, to better specify what types of helmets can be worn. The new law also clarifies that the helmet must be properly secured on the head using a strap so that it will stay

on in the event of a crash.

Motorcycle helmets are considered legally compliant if they meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218, which requires helmets to have a firm inner liner of polystyrene foam that is about one-inch thick.

Compliant motorcycle safety helmets will also carry the symbol "DOT," for U.S. Department of Transportation, permanently installed by the manufacturer on the back of the helmet, as well as a permanently attached manufacturer's label on the interior of the helmet. Novelty-type helmets are not compliant with FMVSS-218.

To identify helmets that are compliant with FMVSS-218, motorcyclists can visit, [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedimot/motorcycle/UnsafeHelmetID/page2.htm](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedimot/motorcycle/UnsafeHelmetID/page2.htm) for more information.

### Local airman completes training

Air Force Airman Michael L. Fowler has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.



Fowler

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Daisy and Thomas Fowler of Lewisville. Fowler is a 2007 graduate of West Forsyth High School.

### A&T surpasses SECC goal

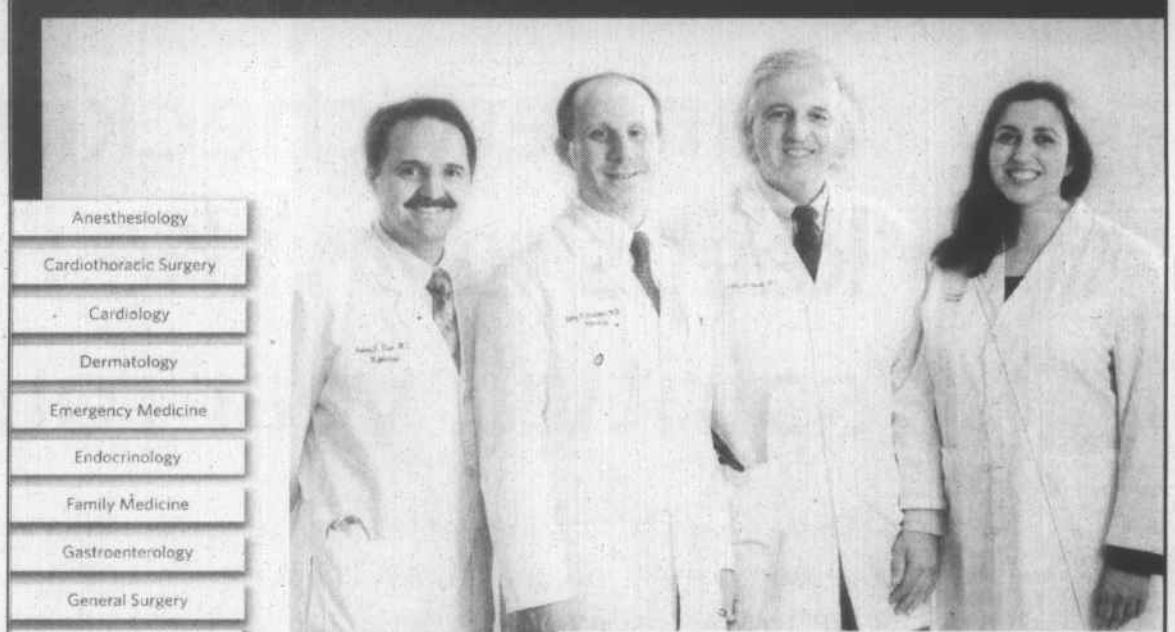
Employees at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University make a concerted effort this year to raise money for the State Employees' Combined Campaign, surpassing its goal and raising more than \$164,000.

"I am very excited to report that our 2007 State Employees Combined Campaign raised a total of \$164,376. Even more exciting is the fact that we not only exceeded our official goal of \$120,000 but, we also exceeded the \$151,750 we raised in the 2006 Campaign," said Dr. James J. Gooch, SECC committee chairperson. The number of contributors also increased to 880 topping off last year's list as well.

The SECC is the only state approved payroll deductible charitable giving campaign. A&T employees have always participated in making a difference by giving back to the community, state, nation, and international community and being "Partners in Giving".

The State Employees Combined Campaign began in 1984 as an effort to consolidate our giving to charitable agencies into one annual campaign.

"The campaign stats clearly highlights the dedicated commitment of support the Aggie Family has via their financial contributions for the productive and well being of the surrounding greater communities," Gooch remarked.



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## DID YOU KNOW THAT EARLY KIDNEY DISEASE MAY HAVE NO SYMPTOMS?

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