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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Mason crosses color line

*Black man sworn in as head of historically white lodge*

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

History was made earlier this month in Winston-Salem as the state's first black leader of an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason Lodge was sworn in.

Joseph Adegboyega is the new Worshipful Master of the Piedmont-Pioneer Lodge #685, an AF and AM Lodge that meets at the Masonic Temple on Miller Street.

It's not his first time making history as a mason. In 2002, he became the first black AF and AM member in the state, breaking down an long-established



Photo by NC AF & AM Lodge

Joseph Adegboyega stands with other members.

barrier left over from segregation that kept black men out of the organization. A separate lodge, Prince Hall, was estab-

lished for African-American masons in the United States. "There should be no reason why a black man should not be

in a masonic lodge side by side with the white man except for the fact that the South was bigoted, the South was segregated," said Adegboyega.

Adegboyega settled in North Carolina in 2001. He was born in Nigeria and attended college in France. He eventually moved to Canada, where he became a member of the AF and AM Lodge, an organization with lodges all over the world with no official restrictions on race. He then met a woman, who would become his wife, in North Carolina and moved to Kernersville to be with her. He is currently a self-employed addiction specialist working at Step One in Winston-Salem.

When he found a masonic lodge in Winston-Salem, his wife told him that it was only

See Adegboyega on A12



File Photos  
Youngsters march to the Benton Convention last year on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

## City prepares to honor MLK

*Special events will be plentiful*

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Activities designed to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will fill the day on Monday, Jan. 21, the day that, this year, is designated the national holiday in honor of the slain Civil Rights great.

Had he survived an assassin's bullet in Memphis on April 4, 1968, Dr. King would have turned 79 on Jan. 15. The nation has honored King since 1986, nearly three years after then President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law creating the MLK federal holiday.

Events will start bright and early in the Twin City on Monday. The Chronicle will once again hold its Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Benton Convention Center.

Again, the event will feature a slate of speakers who will focus on themes and issues key to King's legacy. Among those scheduled to speak are the Rev. Stacey Frazier, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church; Robert Stephens, the Student Government Association president at Winston-Salem State

University; Arnold Hance, Forsyth Technical Community College's executive vice president; Salem College President Susan Pauly; Mayor Allen Joiner; the Rev. Kendall Jones, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church; and Wake Forest Divinity School's Rev. Veronice Miles.

The Burke Singers will perform at the breakfast and Judge Denise Hartsfield will emcee. The event is free and open to the public; however tickets are required for those who wish to eat. As of Tuesday, all 550 tickets had been claimed. Those who wish to come simply to enjoy the program are welcome to attend, though.

The Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity will also have its long-running MLK breakfast program on Monday. That event will be at 8 a.m. at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 950 File St. After the breakfast, around 10:30 a.m., crowds will gather outside of the church to prepare to march downtown to the Benton Convention Center for the 28th

See MLK on A11



Pankey

## GUINEA PIGS BY CHOICE

*Seniors among first to tackle graduation projects*

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

After months of preparation, nine Parkland Magnet High School seniors presented their graduation projects before a panel of judges in the school's media center last week.

The projects were centered around the career path of each student's choosing. They shadowed professionals in their chosen field and completed an 8-10 page research paper on their findings. They were also asked to create a DVD or powerpoint presentation to accompany their presentations.

"This project represents an opportunity for them to explore any career interest that they have," commented Graduation Project Committee member Tonya Allen Clements, an English and journalism teacher at Parkland.

"It's just an incredible opportunity for them and when

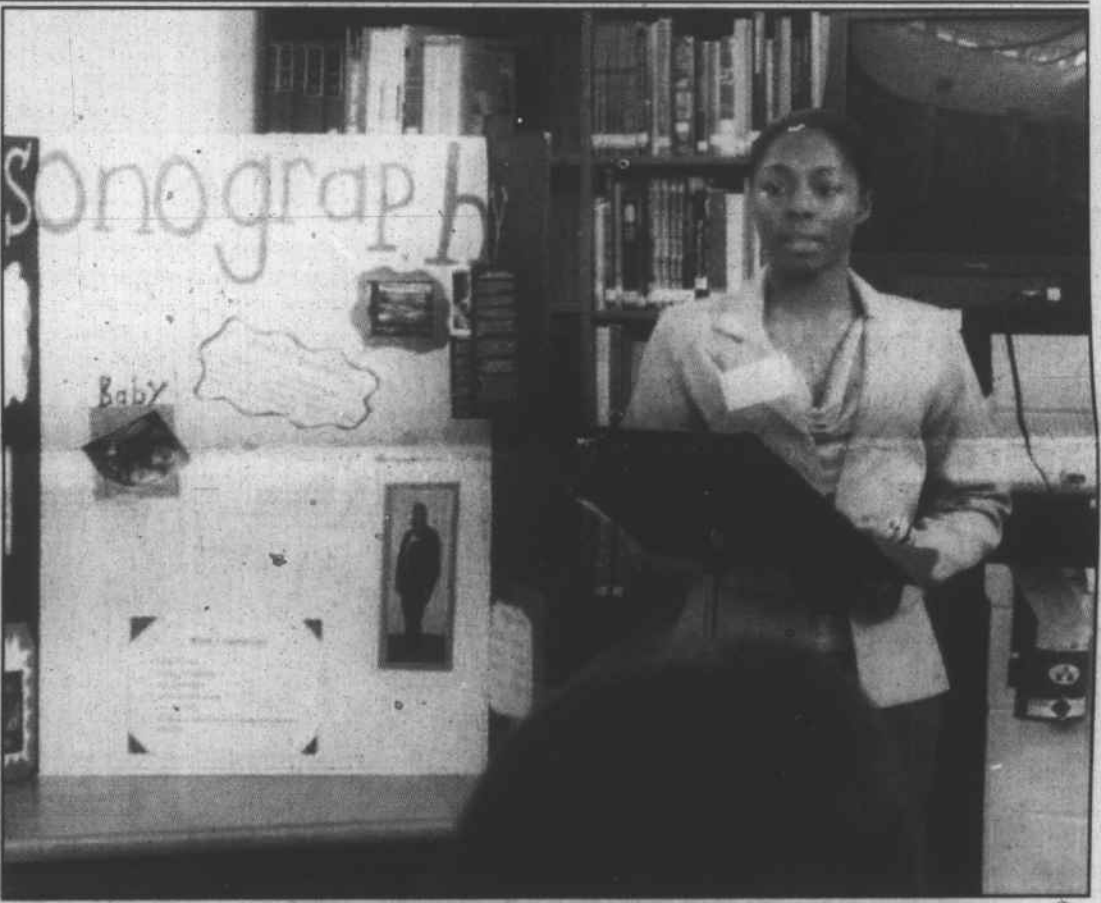


Photo by Layla Farmer  
Tokara Harper was among the students who stood before local judges last week.

they bring back to the classroom photos, the interview notes, the smiles, the sense of pride, you realize at that point that you've captured that child's attention, and that's what we have to do as educators," she added. "That's why I see this particular project as important to me, because I see it as a way for the children to

have some sort of preparatory ground."

Each of the presenters at Parkland volunteered to participate as part of a pilot program the school has hosted for the past two years. Carver and East Forsyth high schools also hosted similar pilots. The school system is readying itself for state-mandated graduation proj-

ects, which will be required of every high school senior beginning with the class of 2010.

"The state of North Carolina wants the students to be prepared to be globally competitive and to have 21st century skills," explained Alexandra Hoskins, who works with the school system's Graduation

See Projects on A4

## 'BEAR' ESSENTIALS



Photo by Layla Farmer  
Denise Smith, head of the local Girls' Primary Honey Is Gerald Lair, poses with her grandson, TaDarrrian, and some of the teddy bears that she and other members of the lair will give to local children next month. See the full story on page A11.

## Wake woos black students with top-notch program

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

The Calloway School of Business and Accounting at Wake Forest University has one of the strongest accounting programs in the country, with an exam passage rate for CPAs that would make other institutions green with envy.

"It's one of the school's premiere programs," said Debra Jessup, director of diversity initiatives at WFU. "Our students do extremely well on the CPA exam; we were number one or two ... in the nation, in the last 10 years in passing all four parts of the CPA."

While strong in academics, the school is severely lacking when it comes to diversity, as are most accounting programs nationwide. The current master's level program at Wake Forest is home to 66 students, only three of whom are African American, according to Jessup.

See WFU on A4



Photos by Ken Bennett/WFU  
Students listen intently during the recent Consortium.



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