

UNCG graduates to hear from Ross next month

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Davidson College President Thomas W. Ross, a former superior court judge who guided a major revision of sentencing guidelines for the state court system, will be the commencement speaker for The University of North Carolina at Greensboro on Friday, May 16.

UNCG's 116th graduation will be the final one for Chancellor Patricia A. Sullivan, who is retiring on July 31. UNC President Erskine Bowles will be on hand to bring greetings to the graduating class, and will join UNCG Trustees administrators and other well-wishers on the platform.

The ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. in the Greensboro Coliseum. The university will recognize students who have completed degrees at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels. Three honorary degrees also will be presented.

Ross became Davidson's

He is the president of Davidson College and former Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation leader

president on Aug. 1, 2007, after three decades of leadership and public service in North Carolina. In addition to his 17 years service as a superior court judge, he also headed the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. He was a member of the UNCG Board of Trustees from 2003-07, serving two terms as chair from 2005-07.

A Greensboro native, Ross graduated from Davidson in 1972 and went on to graduate with honors from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law. He taught at the university's School of Government, joined a Greensboro law firm and served for one year in Washington, D.C., as chief of staff of a congressional office.



Ross

In 1984, Gov. Jim Hunt appointed Ross as a superior court judge - at the time, the youngest in the state. While working with felony cases, Ross became familiar with problems in the state justice system that caused uneven sentencing and a burgeoning prison population. In 1990, the Chief Justice of the N.C. State Supreme Court appointed him to chair a new Sentencing and Policy Advisory Committee, with a 23-member panel of judges, lawyers, legislators, citizens and law enforcement officers.

In 1999, N.C. Chief Justice Burley Mitchell appointed Ross as director of the state's Administrative Office of the Courts.

Soon after, the trustees of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation invited him to become its executive director. His seven years at the foundation involved him in state issues and politics, advocating for legislative reform and creating coalitions of non-profit agencies to increase their influence in public affairs.



Erskine B. Bowles introduces Donald Reaves to the WSSU community last year.

Reaves

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ing the school's academic bar and recruiting more top-notch educators.

Reaves received his under graduate degree from Cleveland State University. After completing his master's degree (1978) and a doctoral degree (1981), both in political science and public administration at Kent State University, he accepted a tenure-track faculty position at Northeastern University in Boston. Although Reaves soon joined the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare, rising to Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Cost Control, he continued to teach as an adjunct professor at Northeastern. He would later return, full-time, to education.

Reaves is married to Dr. Deborah Ross Reaves, a clinical psychologist. They have two adult children: Marc, a graduate of Cleveland State University who is employed as a real estate agent in Cleveland; and Katherine (Katie), a graduate of Yale University, who presently attends the University of Chicago Law School.

More than 1,000 people from around the nation, are expected to participate in two



Dr. Reaves lays out his agenda to the faculty.

days of installation events. The Rev. Jesse Jackson will be among the special guests. He is slated to take part in a Student Forum today (April 10) at 3:30 p.m. in Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. Jackson is expected to give an address entitled "The Role and Relevance of Historically Black Colleges Yesterday and Today."

Here are some of the other public events scheduled as part of the installation.

• Today, April 10 at 9 a.m. at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium: Faculty Forum Discussion "Reclaiming Lost Potential: The Young Black

Male." The panelists will be: Jeromy Bailey, Dr. Edwin D. Bell, UNC Professor James H. Johnson and Dr. Nkrumah D. Lewis.

• Tonight at 7 p.m. in Anderson Conference Center, Dillard Auditorium, an Alumni/Community Forum Discussion - "The Role of Alumni in the Advancement of the University."

Featuring panelists Curtis Richardson, '76; Victor Bruinton, '82, Fred Warren, '67, Clyde Caudle, '93, Tim Grant, '80, Nicole Ferguson, '04, Cheryl Harrison, '82 and Peyton T. Hairston, Sr., '54.

Visit

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School of Health Sciences. Ramokoena toured each department in WSSU's health sciences school, meeting most of the faculty. She also visited local hospitals to learn about the clinical training medical and nursing students receive. She, even attended the North Carolina Conference for Health Professionals Diversity in Greensboro. The conference, co-sponsored by WSSU, allowed Ramokoena to meet guests such as U.S. Senator Richard Burr.

Ramokoena said her country faces a shortage of health care professionals. Many who graduate from medical school find the lack of resources and challenges in Lesotho too daunting so they head to "greener pastures" in other countries. One idea she got from her trip is accelerate programs that let nurses graduate in one year instead of three. This is a common way U.S. colleges like WSSU combat the American nursing shortage.

Peggy Valentine, dean of the School of Health Science, said that Ramokoena will take back with her a memorandum of understanding between the two schools. Once approved, it will formalize the relationship between WSSU and the Lesotho college. Valentine said WSSU will help the college with curriculum development. There are also plans for a faculty and staff exchange program once funds are secured. A course that will connect WSSU students and Lesotho students by video conference is in the works as well.

Valentine said the partnership will be good for WSSU. An



Jenkins

international perspective can benefit future health professionals in a shrinking world, she said.

"The more we expand our knowledge and understanding of people from other parts of the world, the more we can provide quality healthcare that's culturally appropriate and sensitive," said Valentine.

At a reception to bid farewell to Ramokoena, several WSSU faculty members who have visited Lesotho spoke. They described it as a beautiful country. Its mountainous terrain has earned it the nickname, "The Kingdom in the Sky."

Anne Jenkins, professor of occupational therapy, visited the country in December 2006 with a group from WSSU that deliv-

ered donated sheet sets to orphans. The group also explored needs that the university could address in the country.

"They are only poor financially and technologically, but are rich in love for life and humanity," said Jenkins.

On that visit, the WSSU encountered an orphan with clubbed feet. The child's limbs prevented her from attending school and moving around her village. Last year, Jenkins returned to Lesotho with a special bicycle that solved that problem for the young girl. The professor said she found the people there very accepting.

Ramokoena is thankful for the help of WSSU. Others too are reaching out to help elevate her nation.

The poverty-fighting Millennium Challenge Corporation recently awarded the National Health Training College a grant to build three new dorms.

Ramokoena remains hopeful for the future of her college and her country.

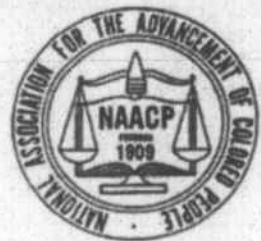
"One day, of course Rome was not built in one day, we will be where you are and, with your support, can see the ray of light at the end of the tunnel," she said.

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Presents

"2008 Annual Freedom Fund Gala"
6:30pm * Friday * April 25, 2008
Grand Pavilion Ballroom, Embassy Suites

Guest Speaker:

Ret. Ambassador Andrew Young
Former Mayor of Atlanta and Dr. ML King, Jr. Confidant

Theme:

"An Informed Community: Power Beyond Measure"

Tickets: \$30
Tables Discounted \$200
Souvenir Journal Ads Available

For More Information contact:

Stephen Hairston, President - 336.813.7311
Daphne Holmes-Johnson, Freedom Fund Chairperson - 336.767.3470
Linda Sutton, Branch Secretary - 336.870.2168

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Outreach Mixer

Samet Corporation and SRS, Inc. invite construction subcontractors to participate in an information session centered on the construction of the **Downtown Winston-Salem Ballpark**.

When: Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: The United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church
 450 Metropolitan Drive NE
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101

During this session, we will:

- a. Have a Meet and Greet Networking Reception (6:00PM - 6:30 PM)
- b. Discuss the project scope
- c. Discuss the Subcontractor / Supplier Qualification Form
- d. Discuss project logistics and scheduling
- e. Discuss Subcontractor/Insurance requirements

Preconstruction and Operations staff members will be available to answer your questions.

To register, complete the information below and return no later than April 11, 2008 by fax to (336) 544-2640 or e-mail cavens@srsincorp.com

For more information, please call Corey Avens, SRS Inc. at (910) 443-2522 or Charles Hutchings, Samet Corp. at (336) 544-2600.

Company Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____
(limit 2 per company)

Phone/Fax () _____ / () _____

Email Address _____