



Photos by Layla Farmer

Men listen ideas for the school's mentoring program.

North Hills

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spill their heart." Other community members were invited to stand in for dads who are absent or were unable to attend the April 16 event.

"We are so excited to see men stand up, take time off from their jobs ... from whatever activity they had (planned) to come in and say, 'Yes, I care enough about my child ... to come in and encourage them in some way,'" Bitting commented. "Just knowing that the time ... has been taken gets these children excited."

The men met with Barber for a question and answer session at the start of the program. They then dispersed to visit the classrooms and spend some quality time with the students.

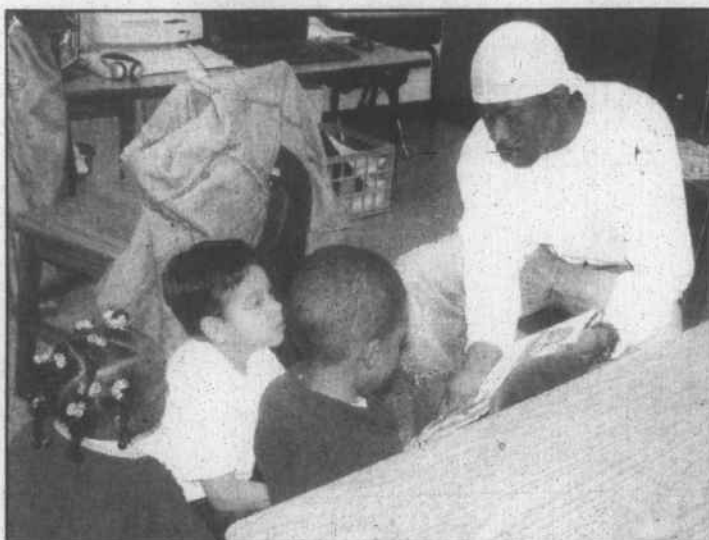
"I can't speak for your past, but somewhere along the line, my guess is one or two people influenced everybody in here in a positive way," Barber told the group. "Somebody has helped all of us - this is a way of giving back."

Jesse Hymes' children are grown. He felt it was important to reach out to the children at North Hills anyway.

"I know there's a need for help, especially with young



Pat Bitting with members of her class.



A volunteer reads to students.

males," said Hymes, a real estate appraiser. "I don't know if it's going to happen today but I'm optimistic - and I'll speak for the lot, sort of - that some kid's going to be saved from a path that they would have chosen had we not been here."

Eighty-two-year-old Lawrence Reaves came out to support his grandson Kie Hughes, a kindergartner.

"I thought somebody needed to represent him," said Reaves, a retiree. "I think they learn better and they are much more mannerable when you show them that you love them. By me coming here and support him in whatever he does here, it let him know that I do love him."

Kindergarten Teacher Wendy Campbell had four "dads" visit her classroom.

"I think they enjoy adult interaction; it gives them a little individual time," said Campbell, "I think they enjoy that it's a male figure. We talked a little bit this morning and some of the children did express that they don't have male figures in their lives so I think this is really beneficial."

For more information about Doughnuts for Dads or to volunteer at North Hills, contact Bitting, at 336-661-4940.



WSSU Photo

Donald Reaves speaks at his recent installation ceremony.

FTCC grads will hear from Reaves

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Donald Reaves will address the newest graduates of Forsyth Technical Community College at their commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 8.

The event will be held at 7 p.m. at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem.

Reaves had been vice president for administration and chief financial officer at the University of Chicago before coming to WSSU nearly a year ago. Before that he was executive vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer at Brown University. A native of

Cleveland, Ohio, Reaves graduated from Cleveland State University in 1976, and went on to earn his master's and doctoral degrees, both in political science and public administration, from Kent State University.

Approximately 1,100 Forsyth Tech students will earn associate degrees, certificates and diplomas that signify successful completion of their programs of study this semester. Forsyth Tech offers programs in Arts and Sciences, Business and Information Technologies, Engineering Technologies, and Health Technologies.

The graduation is open to the public at no charge. Parking at the Coliseum will be free for the event.

Doctor

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at the mosque for most of the last 20 years.

"I am very happy; I feel so happy after seeing patients; they are so thankful and giving me a great deal of satisfaction," said Athar, 67, of his motivation to continue the work. "I really feel very happy, like at the end of the clinic, I feel so glad that I came, although coming on the weekends isn't a very pleasant thing."

Over the years, hundreds of patients have come to the clinic in need of medication for a variety of ailments. Athar says he makes an effort to reach them emotionally as well as physically.

"I treat patients as friends - I want to emphasize that - we are not just physicians, I wish to be a friend of the patient so I can advise them very informally," he remarked. "I am Muslim also - I want people to have a better image of Islam, especially after all of these happenings."

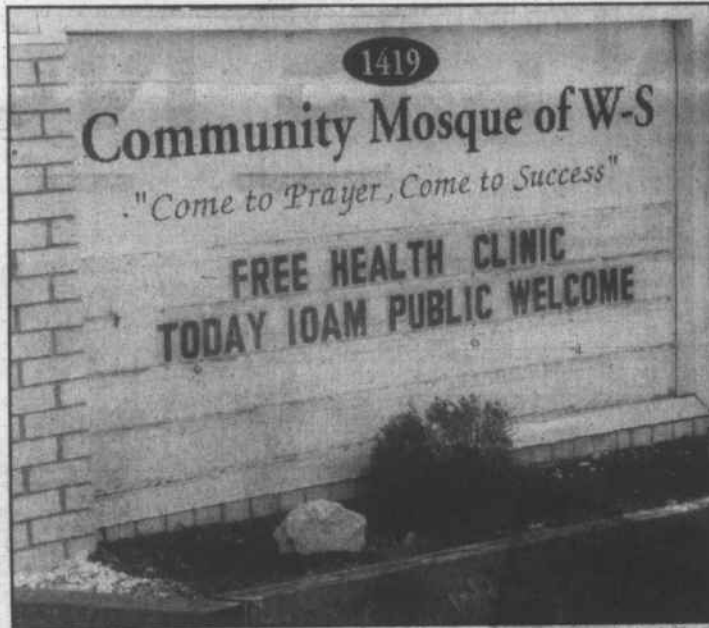
Community Mosque Imam Khalid Griggs helped bring Athar to the mosque over two decades ago.

"I was chairing an organization called Winston-Salem Improvement Association," he explained. "We had a health task force and we'd talked about doing free community health clinics and we couldn't find a doctor at that time who was willing to take what many doctors feel is the risk of malpractice suits ... Dr. Athar was very willing and able."

And so the partnership began. Griggs says it was a match made in heaven.

"I hope that I have a commitment to try to serve the community in whatever ways that I can, and he has the commitment to do his own thing," he commented. "It's just been a union - I have the enthusiasm, he has the expertise. I think the sacrifice that he makes to do it is tremendous. He drives from Mt. Airy, rain, sleet, snow or shine, he'll come down for the clinic."

The existence of the clinic is increasingly important to the community it serves, according to Griggs.

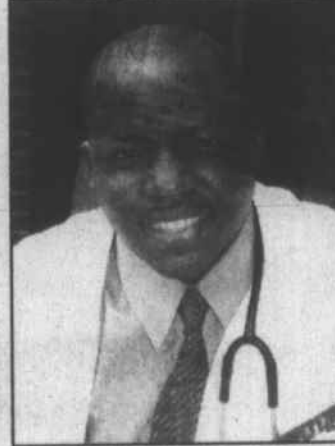


Photos by Layla Farmer

The Community Mosque on Waughtown Street has offered the free clinic for many years.



Imam Griggs



Mahaman Moussa

"The southeast part of Winston is the most under-served; the medical needs of the community are the most under-served of any part of the city," he stated. "So it's very important to have this offering in this part of town."

Mahaman Moussa, a family nurse practitioner and member of Community Mosque, studied under Athar at Winston-Salem State University and regards the physician as "an absolute mentor."

"When I was doing my master's at Winston-Salem State, he was my preceptor for about two semesters," explained Moussa, a native of Niger, Africa. "I know him very well and he treats people wonderfully."

He credits Athar's gracious bedside manner with the large number of returning patients.

"Many of them when I talk to them, they say they like coming here instead of going to their primary care physician," he revealed. "Dr. Athar and myself, we really take time - we're not rushing them - and we holistically treat them."

Working at the clinic under his mentor has been a great experience, Moussa says.

"It's really rewarding; I love it. This morning in about a few hours, I was able to do like four physical exams - that helped those young children," he said. "It's really a blessing; it's a very good opportunity and he is a wonderful person to work with."

For more information about the free clinic, contact the Community Mosque at (336) 650-1097 or Dr. Athar, at (336) 789-7555.

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