



WSSU Associate AD Tonia Walker poses with her son Wayne Jr., daughter Daijah and husband Wayne Walker. WSSU photo

## WSSU's Walker honored with Nell Jackson Award

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (NACWAA) will honor Winston-Salem State University Associate Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator Tonia Walker with the 2008 Nell Jackson Award later this year.

The Nell Jackson award is bestowed annually to an athletics administrator who exemplifies the qualities of Dr. Nell Jackson. The award is given to an individual who demonstrates qualities such as courage, conviction and perseverance and to an athletic administrator who is an advocate for gender equity and diversity.

"I am deeply humbled to be recognized as this year's NACWAA Nell Jackson Award recipient," Walker said. "This is an awesome honor. In everything that I have accomplished, I always remember that I stand on the shoulders of giants like Nell Jackson. Giants who have paved the way for females in this profession with blood, sweat and tears —

tears that fertilized growth and opportunities for women. This recognition speaks to all that my personal circle of supporters has contributed over years, in my plight to become a director of athletics in the future. Without them, this honor could not have been possible."

Walker is in her ninth year at Winston-Salem State University where she serves as the Rams' Associate Director of Athletics as well as serving as the Senior Woman Administrator. She has been a member of the WSSU Athletics staff since August of 2000 and will enter into her ninth year of service to Winston-Salem State University in 2008-09 making her the most senior administrator in the WSSU Department of Athletics.

She is responsible for internal operations of the department and has been instrumental in fundraising efforts, the implementation of CHAMPS/Lifeskills programming, SAAC initiatives, and new opportunities and exposure for athletic staff and student-athletes. An integral figure in the university's transition from

NCAA Division II to Division I (Football Championship Subdivision) status she brings a wealth of knowledge of intercollegiate athletics to the University. Walker came to WSSU from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) head office where she began her career in 1993.

Named the 2003-04 and 2005-06 CIAA Senior Woman Administrator of the Year, Tonia was one of eight participants around the country selected for the NCAA Fellows Leadership Development Program.

She is currently a member of the Region 3 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee, the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association and the Black College Coaches and Administrators Association.

The Nell Jackson award will be presented at the NACWAA Administrators of the Year banquet on Monday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Omni Hotel and the CNN Center in Atlanta.

## WFU's Bingham's team finishes fourth at Olympics

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Despite entering the finals of the 4x400-meter relay with the fastest qualifying time, fifth-year senior Michael Bingham and the Great Britain relay team could not hold off the powerful U.S. squad and wound up finishing fourth last Saturday at the Bird's Nest in Beijing.

For the second straight day, Bingham ran the third leg of the relay. The Great Britain team, behind Bingham's blistering 44.50 400-meter split in the prelims, ran a season-best 2:59.33 on Friday. Even though the Brits bettered that mark with a 2:58.81 in the

finals, the team finished out of the medals.

The Americans took the gold behind strong performances from 400-meter gold medalist LaShawn Merritt and Jeremy Wariner. The U.S. set a new Olympic record with a time of 2:55.39.

The Bahamas crossed the line in 2:58.03, edging out the Russians for the silver medal by just .03.

Bingham will return to Wake Forest this fall, where he is a two-time All-American and a two-time ACC-Champion in the 400-meter dash. He has also earned All-ACC honors during the indoor and outdoor campaigns all three years at Wake.



Bingham

## "Tailgate Showdown" scheduled

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Enjoy the Wake Forest Football season opener against Baylor right here in Winston-Salem tonight when BB&T presents Game Night at BB&T Field.

The actual game is taking place in Waco, Texas, but you'll be able to get in on the action and watch the game with fellow football fans, free.

Starting at 3 p.m. today, fans can participate in a "Tailgate Showdown." The competition will feature a panel of local celebrities who will be in search of the best Wake Forest tailgate party. Celebrity judges include Wake Forest Head Basketball Coach Dino Gaudio, WXII-12 Meteorologist Lanie Pope and Nobles Restaurants' founder Jim Noble.

Tailgates will be judged based on several criteria including food, décor and overall excitement. Winning tailgates will receive a Wake Forest prize pack and on field recognition at the Wake Forest versus Ole Miss football game on Sept. 6. Spaces for the tailgate competition are still available by calling the Wake Forest Sports Marketing Office at 336-758-5011, but preregistration is required.

At 6 p.m., entertainment, including inflatables, live music, concessions, and the new Deacon Shop trailer will begin. There also will be a Deacon Tower Open House, during which fans will have the opportunity to be among the first to experience this exciting and impressive addition to BB&T Field. At 8 p.m. the game will be aired on big-screens on the field and in Deacon Tower. Admission is free and concessions will be available for purchase. Seating is first-come first-serve.

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