

# Cherokee students get college experience during visit to Wake

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Twenty-five students from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians — a tribe based in North Carolina — ended a tour of colleges this week with a visit to Wake Forest University.

The six-week tour took Cherokee high school students to 19 colleges in North Carolina and Tennessee. The students simply toured most of the colleges' campuses, but their trip to Wake Forest was a bit different. They spent four days on the WFU campus, occupying their time with seminars on college admission, career planning and lessons in scientific problem-solving and American Indian history.

"(The goal is) to get them excited about college and to have them develop the stamina and know-how to really make it in college and to go to any college they really want to," said Ulrike Wiethaus, Wake's director of religion and public engagement and one of the program's organizers.

In all, 15 Wake faculty members contributed to the project. This is the second year the student's college tour has ended with an educational program at Wake Forest. On Monday, students took part in a three-hour session that largely focused on Internet research. It was led by WFU Instructional Technologist Beth Boyd. Groups of students were charged with using information from the Internet to create an informational poster presentation about a American Indian role model.

Monday also included lunch with current Wake students, including members of the campus' Native American Student Organization (NASO). NASO President Lucretia Hicks, a Wake Forest senior who is also a Cherokee, said she hoped to set a good



Beth Boyd leads a lesson on Monday.



Nic Garcia



Lucretia Hicks



Ulrike Wiethaus

example for the students. "I want them to look at me as a role model ... cause I'm here and I'm making it, so they can look at me and see they can do the same thing," said Hicks.

Although the number of American Indians attending college has risen steadily over the last 30 years, according to the American Indian College Fund (AICF), there is still much room for improvement. Many believe that education is the only way for American Indians to change their fortunes — literally. According to the AICF, nearly 30 percent of American Indians

live below the poverty line, that is more than double the national poverty rate.

Tina Saunooke, an Eastern Band student coordinator, said that higher learning is a priority of the Eastern Band. The tribe often covers college expenses for its members who don't earn scholarships. Cherokee students are chosen for the college tour from schools in the tribe's five county area. This is the fourth year of the college tour. Saunooke said that over 65 percent of participants in the program end up going to college.

This was Nic Garcia's second time on the tour. The

17-year-old, senior at Cherokee High School in Cherokee, N.C., said the program really helped him get more comfortable with the sometimes intimidating idea of going off to college.

"It opens up a lot of opportunities," he said. "It shows what we need to expect after we graduate from high school; it shows us sort of what college life will be like."

Garcia is thinking about attending High Point University and double majoring in civil engineering and architecture.

# Democrats will honor Henry Frye

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The North Carolina Democratic Party will honor Justice Henry Frye at the Sanford Hunt Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 29. The event will be held during the party's Executive Committee meeting in Charlotte.

"I'm proud to add Justice Frye's name to this event," said Gov. Jim Hunt. "It is a privilege for me to share this recognition with two great men like Justice Henry Frye and Gov. Terry Sanford. Their service shone as a bright light into the dark corners of our society and stood as a beacon to all those who wanted to improve our communities."

Frye became in 1968 the first African-American elected to the state legislature in the 20th century. Serving in the House from 1969 to 1980 and

in the Senate from 1981 to 1982, Frye introduced legislation banning literacy tests as a requirement for voter registration.

He continued his efforts to expand opportunities for African-Americans in business and public service by co-founding the Greensboro National Bank, the Legislative Black Caucus, and the Caucus' scholarship foundation.

Frye was appointed as an associate justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court by Gov. Hunt in 1983, becoming the first African-American to serve on the court. In 1999, Justice Frye became the first African-American to hold the highest post in the Court, serving as its Chief Justice until 2001. He is currently an attorney at Brooks Pierce Law Firm in Greensboro.



Frye

## Council

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more young people involved in the process, because we're not the future; we're the present."

Fostering economic growth by creating a small business incubator; reducing crime; and bridging the gap between the older and younger generations in the ward are among Montgomery's chief objectives.

Hairston, 65, a Winston-Salem native, is making his second bid for the seat, after soundly losing to Johnson in the primary four years ago. He said his desire to run stems from a growing dissatisfaction with some of the city's business decisions. An outspoken adversary of the city's recent proposal to swap a piece of land it owns on Waterworks Road with one Goler Memorial AME Zion Church owns (a proposal that has been struck down), and the stalled downtown baseball park, Hairston says he feels his voice and those of others have not been adequately heard by Council members.

"To tell you the truth, I really didn't want to run," he said "but my choice was, if you're not going to run, just sit down and shut up."

A retired manager for Lucent Technologies, Hairston says creating more recreational areas and enhancing the existing ones in the ward will be a priority for him.

"When you pay your taxes, some of it should come back to your neighborhood and you should be able to identify it," he said.

Hairston, who has chaired the African-American Caucus of the Democratic Party for several years, also believes East Winston needs an economic boost. He thinks enticing a large business like Wal-mart or Sam's Club would be the best way to foster growth.

"There needs to be development because those are the kinds of events that anchor a neighborhood," he remarked. "Around an anchor like (Walmart) you find a lot of small businesses."

In the Northeast Ward, the longest sitting City Council member in Winston-Salem history will have her share of competition as well. Democrats Sam Davis, publisher of the Triad Sports Weekly, and Entrepreneur Claudia Shivers both have their eyes on Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke's seat.

Davis, 51, a Winston-Salem native, has challenged Burke in the past. A former educator and coach, Davis believes his rapport with young people in the area may tip the scales in his favor this time around.

"My key is my connection to the community," said Davis, who has coached in various sports settings across the city, including Pop Warner and Little League squads. "I've always lived in East Winston, taking pride in

trying to better my community. I'm a part of the community, and I believe in the community... I think that I will be able to represent the interests of the people in this ward (well)."

If elected, Davis says he will focus on implementing programs for youngsters to help them stay out of trouble and gain skills and interests that will serve them later in life. He also wants more emphasis on what he refers to as "economic reciprocity," meaning that money made by companies in the ward will be invested back in the community in some manner.

Shivers, a 34-year-old mother of five, has owned her own accounting and tax service for the past decade. She is an active volunteer with the ECHO (Everyone Can Help Out) Council, and says it was that affiliation that made her interested in running for the seat.

"I've been doing a lot of work in the community, especially with the ECHO Council," she related. "I think as a City Council official, I would be able to enhance that (even more)."

If elected, Shivers says she would focus on bolstering programming for youth and increasing development opportunities in parts of the ward where new construction is lacking.

"Ms. Burke does a great job bringing in resources, but there are other resources that are virtually untapped," she said.

Encouraging conversation about the educational system is also a plan of hers, Shivers says.

"It's difficult to find quality education choices," she related. "At this point, that's one of the weaknesses (of the ward)."

Burke, who joined the Council in 1977, says her record of service will speak for itself.

"I believe that anyone can talk, but you must show," she said. "That is my philosophy."

Among her proudest accomplishments is the development that has taken place over the last decade in the northern portion of the ward, a bustling area now home to many businesses, including Wal-mart and Lowes Foods. In addition, several parks have been created on her watch, Burke says, including the Crawford and Helen Nichols facilities.

More recently, Burke says she spearheaded the effort to create TheMIX, a special program for teens ages 13-16 held weekly at Hanes Hosiery and Miller Park recreation centers.

Burke believes her strong voice and positive attitude are two main reasons that she has been elected so many times.

"One of the things that has kept me moving in the right direction is that I have an open mind, and I believe in a positive atmosphere and that everybody has something to offer," she said. "...and I don't take anything for granted. I (always) work just like I've just been elected."

## Lewis

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possible."

While he recognizes that his bid has sensational appeal because of his ethnicity, Lewis says he wants the public to focus on his vision, not his color.

"I'm aware of the historic nature of this race, but I'm going to focus on presenting my life experiences," said Lewis, a business lawyer who lives in Chapel Hill with his wife, Holly, and the couple's three children. "...The reason I'm running for Senate is that I want to ensure that all North Carolinians have the same opportunities to express themselves at the highest and most productive level."

While a student at Harvard Law School, Lewis worked with First Lady Michelle Obama. He volunteered on President Barack Obama's 2004 Senatorial campaign and again for his bid for the White House in 2008. Lewis travelled across the state to drum up support for the then-Presidential hopeful. The experience made an impression on him, Lewis said.

"His victory was inspiring ... it made me think more deeply about my own experience and how I could best use that to serve the people of North Carolina and the country," he remarked. "... and I think the experience of getting to know North Carolinians throughout the state was helpful."

Lewis' campaign has hit the ground running.

"We've gotten off to a tremendous start; we've raised over \$109,000 in 20 days," he reported. "...Our message of providing broader opportunities for people and going to Washington to work on behalf of the people has resonated with citizens."

An alumnus of Duke University, Lewis says making educational opportunities available to all students, regardless of their parents' socio-economic or educational backgrounds, will be one of



Harvey Gantt tried twice to win in North Carolina.



The late Rev. Henry Lewis.

his chief objectives.

"I'm going to focus on ... making sure that we expand opportunities," he said. "The way that I was able to succeed was because educational opportunities were provided for me."

Educational reform is key in helping the state progress in tough economic times, Lewis believes.

"We're going to have to build a new prosperity and it is my belief that the way we

do that is to invest in the kinds of things that make people productive," he declared.

Creating what he calls a "smart government" is also an important component in helping the state and the nation dig out of the challenges they face, Lewis said.

"Smart government can not solve all the problems, but it can provide incentives for private businesses and non-profits to find their own solutions," he commented.

The last serious black candidate for a North Carolina U.S. Senate seat was former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt. The Democrat twice lost to Jesse Helms, although many considered him the more capable leader. Gantt endured a barrage of political advertisements from the Helms camp, many of which were racially-charged and designed to be divisive.

Forsyth Democrats Chair Fleming El-Amin remembers the Gantt campaign well.

"I'm very familiar with what Harvey Gantt tried to do in his campaign against Jesse Helms, and how ugly that got," he related. "I'm hoping

now we'll have a more civil (Senatorial) race."

El-Amin believes that Lewis' combination of business and human service experience may be the perfect cocktail for success.

"A big asset Kenneth has is his newness and his experience in the corporate (sector)," he said. "... I think Kenneth has an excellent chance (of winning)."

Lewis will likely have a tough Democratic primary before he will get an opportunity to face a Republican. Attorney General Roy Cooper was seen as the most likely Democrat to challenge Burr, but since Cooper announced earlier this year that he will not run, the field is wide open. N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall and even Winston-Salem attorney and war hero Cal Cunningham are being talked about.

For more information about the Lewis campaign, visit [www.kennethlewisforsenate.com](http://www.kennethlewisforsenate.com).

Photos by Todd Luck

File Photo