

Hughes and Johnson faculty team at A&T

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Veteran journalists Sandra Hughes and Allen Johnson will share their expertise with tomorrow's reporters as faculty members at N.C. A&T State University.



Johnson

The school announced recently that the two have been named founding co-occupants of the News & Record / Janice Bryant Howroyd Endowed Professor in the department of journalism and mass communication. Howroyd, an A&T alum and accomplished business woman, currently serves on the university's board of trustees.



Hughes

This semester, Allen and Hughes are collaborating in teaching a mass communication seminar, which includes the exploration of current trends, challenges and issues in mass media as they pertain to journalists, audiences and technology.

For more than 35 years, Hughes has been a familiar face at WFMY News 2. A history-making broadcaster and Aggie, Hughes is the first African-American woman in the Piedmont to host her own talk show and first African-American to host "PM Magazine" in the Southeast region. Hughes recently announced her retirement from the station.

Johnson is the editorial page editor at the News & Record. The Greensboro native is also a former editor of The Chronicle. He joined the News & Record in 1987 as features editor. In 1992, he became sports editor and assumed his current title in 1999. Johnson has already taught part-time at a variety of area colleges, including UNC-Chapel Hill, UNCG and N.C. Central.

Cancer

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gical procedure in which the prostate is removed, along with some surrounding tissue and the seminal vesicles.

Pelvic lymphadenectomy: This surgical procedure involves removing the lymph nodes in the pelvis; it can help determine whether the cancer has spread.

Transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP): In TURP, the physician removes tissue from the prostate through the urethra (the tube that carries urine out of the body).

External radiation therapy: This therapy uses x-rays or other types of radiation to destroy cancer cells by directing radiation at the prostate from an outside source.

Internal radiation therapy (brachytherapy): Internal radiation therapy involves placing small radioactive pellets inside or near the cancer to destroy cancer cells.

Hormone therapy: Certain hormones can be given to block the growth of prostate cancer cells.

Cryotherapy: This new treatment is currently being investigated in clinical trials. It involves placing a special probe inside or near the

prostate cancer to freeze and destroy the cancer cells.

Chemotherapy: In chemotherapy, or "chemo," certain drugs are taken orally or injected into the body to either kill the cancer cells or stop them from dividing.

Biologic therapy: This treatment involves boosting the individual's own immune system to help fight the cancer.

High-intensity focused ultrasound: Ultrasound (high-energy sound waves) can be used to destroy the cancer cells.

Of course, if prostate cancer metastasizes, it becomes much more difficult to treat. Metastatic prostate cancer is one of the most deadly cancers in men, second only to lung cancer. Men diagnosed with prostate cancer should discuss treatment options with their physician to determine the best course of action for their individual needs.

— Contribution by Jaimie Hunter, MPH, CHES and Dr. John H. Stewart, IV

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Tests

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nate amount of tests that we required, and we thought that this was a good time to look at that," she explained. "...my hope is that that (opportunity to receive a diploma) would inspire people to want to go back and get a better education and expand their job opportunities."

The tests were a bone of contention for some in the local community, who had pointed to cases where students who have otherwise performed well in the classroom were denied diplomas because of their inability to pass one or more of the tests.

"Ever since the inception of the competency testing program ... there have always been concerns for those students who have not been able to pass them," said Lou Fabrizio, director of Accountability Policy and Communication for the state Department of Education.

The Rev. John Mendez of Emmanuel Baptist Church formed a group earlier this year to lobby for reconsideration of the competency testing requirement.

"When we first started meeting around that issue, our big concern was that there was a number of students who had done extremely well ... and for whatever reason could not pass the competency exam, and therefore could not graduate," he remarked. "We thought that

that was unfair, even punitive ... it whites out and ignores a student's entire work that they've done in high school and, as far as I'm concerned, that ought to be taken into consideration."

The competency test requirement ended with the Class of 2009. Students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system will now be evaluated based on their End of Course scores in a variety of subjects.

Simington explained. However, the students will still have to pass EOC tests in each of the subjects mandated by the school system to move up to the next level of the course, he said.

Mendez said his group is thrilled that the bill has been passed. He believes it will help boost the morale of many in the community whose self esteem was damaged by their inability to obtain a diploma.

"You need a high school diploma these days to be able to get ... a decent job. Those other (educational) alternatives don't carry the same weight," he said. "...I think this is going to help a lot of people, and I know a lot of them will be very happy to know that they can (now) graduate."

Those who have questions about obtaining a diploma after the fact because of the new law may contact Simington, at 336-727-2912.

Pool

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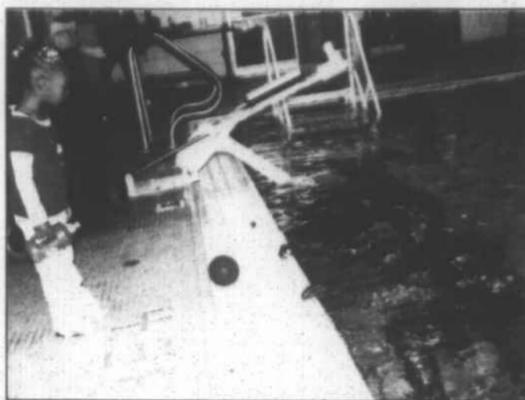
walking in the pool from one end to the other."

But getting from his motorized wheelchair into the pool didn't come with such ease. Using the pool steps or diving in — methods used by most swimmers — weren't an option for him. The Y erased that barrier for Johnson and many others this week when it unveiled its new motorized pool chair.

Johnson, a longtime Winston Lake Y member, broke-in the new contraption, which lowers those with physical limitations into the pool and lifts them out of it. Debbie Claxton, the Y's aquatics coordinator, operated the remote control-sized device that directs the chair's lowering and lifting.

Other local Y branches already use such chairs, which cost upwards of \$4,000. Claxton was on cloud nine when Randall Norman of the Stokes Family Y and Doug Mansfield of the White Family Y arrived to install Winston Lake's chair. Claxton hopes that those who felt that their physical limitations made the pool off-limits will take full advantage of it.

"I want this chair to be used every single day," said Claxton, who has already offered use of the chair and



Trixie Baker's granddaughter, Scyona, watches her work out in the pool.

pool to a local stroke recovery program.

The chair got high marks from Trixie Baker, who used it right after Johnson on Monday. Baker, also 41, has battled MS (multiple sclerosis) for the past nine years. Earlier this year, her fight led her to join the Y, where she works to build the muscles that the disease is trying to rob her of.

"I am a fighter," she said with a smile. "It's mind over matter. I don't let MS do me. I do MS."

Baker waved to her daughter, Antonia, and granddaughter, Scyona, as she was lowered into the pool. Antonia Baker, who would often have to help her mother into the water, is excited



Anthony Johnson walks in the pool.

about the chair as well. She said that she and her entire family have learned from Trixie to always look at the glass as half-full instead of half-empty.

"She doesn't let (MS) or anything get her down," Antonia Baker said as she watched her mom float along the pool's edges. "When all her grandkids come and see her, she gives them rides on her (motorized) scooter."

Johnson is a source of inspiration for many at the Y and beyond. In addition to his pool regimen, he uses the facility's elliptical machines, treadmills and stationary bikes. He lives alone and can even drive. Defying doubters and even the limitations of his own body are nothing new for Johnson. Doctors never expected him to make it after the accident, let alone still be functioning more than 30 years later.

Johnson now helps others with physical limitations to realize that the possibilities are still endless for them.

"All of my life I have been told, 'He can't do this; He won't be able to do that.' But I can do it," he said. "And if I can do it, you can do it."

Those interested in utilizing the pool chair can call Winston Lake Y Program Director Jolyn Roberts at 336-724-9205, ext. 114.

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