

# WSSU's Chevara Orrin invited to White House discussion

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Chevara Orrin, Winston-Salem State University's interim director of business services, was recently invited to the White House to participate in a special Black History Month event.

"Winning the Future: African American LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender) Emerging Leaders at the White House" was held through a partnership between the White House Office of Public Engagement, the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (The Task Force)

to engage young African American LGBT emerging leaders and advocates in a productive discussion of relevant issues.

Orrin was instrumental

in the formation of the Gay-Straight Student Alliance at WSSU. She has been credited with helping to make WSSU one of the South's most LGBT-friendly histori-

cally black schools.

Representatives from HBCUs like Bennett College for Women, Howard University, Norfolk State University and Morgan State

University were also in attendance.

Attendees heard from President Obama's Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, who encouraged them to "be vigilant" and serve as the "real

bridge" in creating change. A number of other Obama Administration officials spoke, some of them shared their personal experiences when coming out of the closet.



Orrin



Chevara Orrin, seated in the left section on the second row in the middle, gathers at the White House with other LGBT advocates.

# Dancer wins several honors at competition

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Ashlee Dance, a ninth-grader who who takes classes at Positive Image Performing Arts Dance Studio under the direction of Courtney Taylor, won big at the recent "Encore Dance Competition for the Stars."

The competition took place Feb. 25-27 at Reynolds Auditorium. Ashlee and others on the dance team gave awesome performances and won numerous honors. Ashlee won first place in both the Jazz and Pointe divisions, and was also awarded the "Top Super Senior Soloist" overall award for the 15-18-year-olds in the recreational divisions.

Ashlee and other dancers will head to Myrtle Beach, S.C. in June for the Kids Artistic Revue National Dance Competition.



Submitted Photo

Ashlee Dance poses with the trophies she won at the recent "Encore Dance Competition for the Stars."

Submitted Photos  
Right: Piggott and local youngsters pose with former NBA star Charles Oakley.

Below: Chadwick and Piggott stand with present and past CIAA ball boys.



# Local kids enjoy the CIAA experience



SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Once again, Ben Piggott, the supervisor of Carl H. Russell Center, along with Robert Chadwick Jr., used vacation time to expose 40 local children to the 66th CIAA Basketball Tournament in Charlotte.

Both Piggott and Chadwick's mission is to educate children about the rich history of the CIAA Basketball Tournament by not only taking them to basketball games, but introducing them to famous alumni of CIAA

schools, as well as the fans and celebrities that frequent the tournament. Some local kids have also served as ball boys and ball girls at games.

The pair has escorted kids to the tournament for 15 years and has followed the event from Winston-Salem to Raleigh and now Charlotte. Piggott and Chadwick are currently seeking anyone who served as a CIAA ball boy or ball girl from 1996 - 2011. Contact Piggott at benp@city-ofws.org or Chadwick at rchadwick@nc\_cada.org.

# Forsyth County African American Caucus starts 'Barber Shop Talk'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



Submitted Photo  
NAACP President Wayne Patterson chats with Hollywood Cuts customers.

The African American Caucus of the Forsyth County Democratic Party Jacquelyne Barber Branch has initiated Barber Shop Talk, a forum series that will take place at black barbershops. The forums are designed to allow the black community to discuss the issues of the day that most affect their lives.

The first forum was recently held at Hollywood Cuts, 331 S. Green St., which is run by Robert Baskins, Christian Smith and Kenny Thompson. The guest for the forum was S.W. Patterson, the newly-elected president of the local NAACP. Hollywood Cuts customers asked Patterson questions on topics such as education, suppression of the black vote, voter participation, health care, unions and congressional representation. Another Barber Shop Talk forum will be scheduled this spring.

The African American Caucus Jacquelyne Branch meets the second Monday of every month at the NAACP Enrichment Center, 4130 Oak Ridge Drive.

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