

# Olympic champion Jones to speak at A&T

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Cullen Jones, a U.S. competitive swimmer and Olympic gold medalist, will be the keynote speaker for North Carolina A&T State University Student Honors Day Convocation. The convocation, which is free and open to the public, will be held Wednesday, April 10 from 10 a.m. - noon in Harrison Auditorium.

Jones specializes in freestyle sprint events. He is the first African American to break a world record as well as win a gold medal at the World University games when he was a student at North Carolina State University. When Jones participated in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, he became the second African American to win a swimming Gold as a part of the

world-record shattering 4 x100m Freestyle relay team.

During the 2012 London Olympic Games, Cullen added to his relay Gold from Beijing, with two Silver medals and a Gold medal, including an individual Silver medal in his specialty 50m Freestyle.

An ambassador for the USA Swimming Foundation's Make a Splash program, Cullen travels throughout the country providing free swim lessons to children of all ages. The program focuses on teaching children and minorities to swim and the importance of water safety and drowning prevention.

A motivational speaker, Jones speaks at universities, corporations and non-profit organizations regarding his Olympic experience and overcoming adversity to achieve any goal.



North Carolina resident Cullen Jones has won several Olympic medals.

## Emory

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ed by the U.S. District Court. A series of court proceedings have ensued in recent years, beginning prior to Emory's arrival in 2006. Both white and African American groups have, at one time or another, sued the school system over its assignment plans. The school board is currently slated to appear in court this spring for final proceedings, when they will learn whether the system has satisfied the requirements of integration laws and can officially be released from the court order.

"The district has taken appropriate steps to eliminate the vestiges of segregation," Emory said. "It doesn't mean that we are perfect and we don't still have work to do."

The online news site Camel City Dispatch also reported last week that Emory came under scrutiny from the Greenville area CBS affiliate for using public money to hire a private investigator to find out if some student athletes were qualified to play on certain football teams. A prevalence of students playing for teams outside of their residential districts reportedly led to this action, which Emory told Greenville-based Channel 9 was completely above board.

John Davenport, vice chair of the WS/FCS Board of Education, said he isn't

concerned about Pitt County's checkered court history.

"From the beginning, the Board was aware of the court mandated desegregation order that has been in place for nearly 50 years in the Pitt County community," he stated. "Dr. Emory was very transparent about the efforts she and her Board have taken to address an issue that preceded her tenure."

If anything, Davenport said Emory's experiences in Pitt County are a selling point to him.

"Her commitment to working with a diverse community with different opinions on how things should be done, as well as a divided Board of Education, is one of the things that attracted me to Dr. Emory for

the role of superintendent here," he said. "She has demonstrated that she has the tenacity to take on tough issues."

Emory said the challenges she faced in Pitt County have been great learning tools for her.

"It's not bad pressure," she said. "You need to feel that pressure to keep working hard ... so in some ways, it has been a good thing. I've learned a lot."

One of the subjects of debate has been an elementary school that opened in the county in 2011. Plaintiffs have argued that the school violates the court order because it is predominantly African American, but Emory said the school was opened to

serve the population around it, which happens to be predominantly African American and which was overwhelmingly in favor of the school's creation when administrators surveyed them prior to its construction.

"The parents of the students who lived closest to that school are predominantly African American and their children had been being transported from a pretty decent distance to another school ... to achieve better diversity in that school," Emory said. "I can't recall a parent we saw either in meetings or going door to door who didn't want to go to the new school."

Despite the plaintiff's objections, the school has been a success, achieving high growth on end of grade tests in three of four subject areas and landing a PTA award for its high level of parental involvement, Emory said.

"They're doing very well," she said. "They're making good progress."

Ronald Travis, principal of Carver High School, worked under Emory as a school administrator in Pitt County for four years.

"As an administrator, I found her to be very fair to all schools. She used her influence and school resources to ensure that all children received a good education," he said of Emory, who visited Carver last week, the day after her appointment was announced. "The energy and interest she displayed during her visit to Winston-Salem is sincere. She is very passionate about educating all children."

## Sherrod

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director of graduate programs and as the advanced nurse educator coordinator. In addition to his teaching duties, he also provides guest lectures related to nursing and health law in the Department of Healthcare Management, lectures to undergraduate

Scholars in the nursing program and, in the past, has taught health systems courses in the Department of Physical Therapy.

Prior to joining WSSU, Sherrod was associate director of the North Carolina Center for Nursing. On the national level, he has served as president of the Center for American Nurses and was one of 20 nurses in the nation selected as a

Robert Wood Johnson Executive Fellow. He is a past president of the North Carolina Nurses Association and has served on numerous nurse-focused statewide committees.

Sherrod earned his undergraduate degree in nursing at Barton College and his master's degree in nursing education at East Carolina.

## IBS

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can worsen IBS symptoms for some people, so lowering your stress level is also important. Some good ways to lower your stress level are regular exercise, meditation, yoga and counseling.

The best way to identify things that trigger or worsen your IBS symptoms is by keeping a journal of what you eat and when you eat it. This can help you determine the foods that your colon may be sensitive to or that cause your colon to not work properly. Talking with your doctor about your journal and your symptoms can help him or her develop a plan for you. There are some medications that can help with IBS if dietary changes and reducing stress are not enough to relieve your symptoms. You should talk with your doctor about these med-

ications and if they are right for you.

Do you need further information or have questions or comments about this article? Please call

toll-free 1-877-530-1824. Or, for more information about the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, please visit our web site: <http://www.wakehealth.edu/MACHE>.

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## Screenings

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Theatre, 209 Spruce St., from 4-5:45 p.m. on Sunday, April 14. The Southern Locavore Food Bazaar will follow from 5:45-8 p.m.

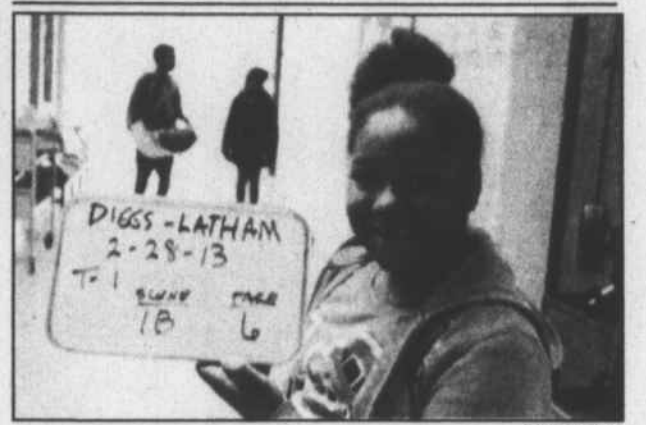
"The Muppet Movie," which centers around Kermit's cross-country trek, will be shown at the Hanesbrands Theatre from 6:30-8:05 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16.

Saturday morning cartoons will be screened from 10-11 a.m. at the HanesBrands Theatre on April 13 and April 20.

Admission is free for those 18 and younger. Tickets are \$10 for all others.

"We offer free community screenings to connect with audiences from throughout the community. This program also furthers our outreach efforts and ensures the Festival's demographics match both the diversity of our local community and the diversity of the films we present," said RiverRun Executive Director Andrew Rodgers.

For a full schedule of events, go to [www.river-runfilm.com](http://www.river-runfilm.com).



Shania Robinson helps to make the film.

## Films

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such television shows as "L.A. Law" and "Rescue 911." With the support of an Arts-in-Education grant from The Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County, she has been working with students at Diggs-Latham and Reynolds High School since January to make a short movie at each of the schools.

Both schools were chosen because of their focus on the arts. At Reynolds, Hill is working with students in the advanced theater program. Using a script that the students wrote, they are making a movie called "The Harrowing." Students have divided into six director/videographer teams and each team is directing a two-minute segment of their movie. It, too, is being shot on location.

At Diggs-Latham, Stevenson teaches dance and theatre, so using her students was a natural choice. Stevenson chose 12 fourth-graders in the honors program to participate in the project. The script for Kindness was adapted from a play by Kevin Stone. Hill is directing and editing the movie. She began the project by talking with the Diggs-Latham students about all the steps that go into making a movie.

Some students are working as actors. Others are operating the camera and handling such production responsibilities as holding up the clapboard marked with the number of the scene and take. Hill has been going back to the school periodically to shoot segments of the movie. "Kindness" is scheduled to be shown at the Awards Day program on April 12.

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