



**Teen drug court sends off first graduates**

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**Carver runs healthy to NCSU**  
Forsyth County Public Library  
North Carolina Room  
660 W. Fifth St.  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Geneticist: Science doesn't support racial distinctions

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Georgia Dunston is a well known genetics professor and scholar and founder of Howard University's National Human Genome Center, but she told an audience at Winston-Salem State University last week that the term "genetics" is one she tries to avoid.

"The subject of genetics brings a lot of baggage, especially with underserved populations that have that negative history with how genetics has been used to manipulate them," she explained, referencing historical iniquities like the Tuskegee syphilis experiment and eugenics programs that deceived and harmed many blacks.

For the purpose of her lecture, Dunston defined the human genome (the genes, DNA and other genetic material in DNA) as "the complete set of instructions for making and operating the human body that each of us inherits from each of our parents at the moment we begin the cycle of life as a single cell."

There is legitimate human genome research involving the study and prevention of diseases, but Dunston says the genome's secrets go far beyond epidemiology.

"What I want to talk about today is the other side of the story, if you will,"



Dr. Georgia Dunston speaks at WSSU.

Photo by Layla Garms

she said. "The rest of the human genome theory is about inheritance and identification."

Although race and ethnicity are defining components of American culture and many others around the globe, scientifically speaking, there is precious little basis for racial distinctions, Dunston said.

"Seeing ourselves as different races

is a belief system, and we operate and live based on what we believe to be real," she declared. "... 99.9 percent of our total sequence is the same, regardless of where you come from on this globe. If 99.9 percent of your inheritance is the same, what is your basis for making distinctions between you? You

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Photos by Layla Garms

Candidate Katherine Fansler speaks.

## Candidates have their say

Democratic Party forum

features School Board hopefuls

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Democratic Party hosted a forum for School Board candidates Tuesday at the Central Library, ahead of the Tuesday, May 6 primary election.

Three of the candidates — Chenita Barber Johnson, Deanna Taylor and Malishai "Shai" Woodbury — seeking the two District 1 seats were on hand.

Woodbury, an instructor at NC A&T State University, said her experience with schools populated with students from low income families makes her highly qualified.

"I'm certified by the state as a priority schools leader and most of the schools in District 1 are priority level schools," she said. "... I think I am one of the best candidates to be on the school board because my experiences will allow me to make a difference."

Barber Johnson, an advertising consult-



Barber Johnson

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Local District Court Judges Camille Banks-Payne, Lawrence Fine and Lisa Meneffee.

Photos by Todd Luck

## Ellison stirs local Democrats



Rep. Keith Ellison with his brother, Eric (left).

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District fired up the party faithful at the Forsyth County Democrats gala Friday night at the Millennium Center.

Ellison made history in 2007 when he was sworn in on Thomas Jefferson's Koran, becoming the first Muslim in Congress and the first African American elected to the House from Minnesota. He blasted his Republican colleagues in Congress and those guiding GOP-led statehouses throughout the country.

"They're not responding to the needs of the people; they're not responding to the needs of the many; they're responding to the needs of the money," said Ellison, the brother of local attorney Eric Ellison.

Polls and pundits predict a gloomy midterm election season for Democrats this year. Ellison said Republicans are

See Democrats on A2

## Surprise visit by Wake ballers delights kids



Players sign autographs for the kids.

Photos by Todd Luck

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

The Wake Forest University Men's Basketball Team helped Hanes Hosiery Community Center celebrate the end of another successful youth basketball league season.

The players' visit last Thursday was arranged by Ashley Waring of the Youth Advocacy Group, which is made up of Wake Forest Law students who take on volunteer projects that benefit youth. For almost a decade, group members have



Allison Levene with Ashley Waring (right)

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