



DCCC player coming to WSSU

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Career program scholarships presented

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THE CHRONICLE

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REFORM NOW!

Local voices calling for progress on immigration

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Rev. Glenn Pettiford, associate pastor of First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue, was among the collective of local clergy members who gathered on the steps of First Baptist last spring to call for immigration reform.

He and many other local residents are joining the national immigration debate that hinges on whether those who entered the United States illegally should be granted some kind of conditional citizenship.



Pettiford

Pettiford believes that they should. "I think we as America lose a part of people who could participate in the American economy — the American civilization — more completely," he said. "I think we're losing valuable perspective."



Mac-Thompson

For Pettiford, bringing a sense of parity to the immigration process is a moral obligation.

"For me, it's primarily a spiritual thing," he remarked. "I shall love my neighbor as myself."

A handful of local faith, business, education and law enforcement leaders called for Congress to take action on a long-stalled immigration reform bill during a panel discussion at Winston-Salem State University on April 3.

"I support immigration reform personally because I believe it's the moral thing to do," said C.J. Stephen, a former highway patrolman who took part in the discussion. "There are so many hardworking undocumented immigrants in the country that deserve to be citizens. I believe as a nation, we would view ourselves in a better light if we did what is right in the eyes of so many Americans. I believe we are all the same in the eyes of God and should be treated the same."

The recent discussion was sponsored by the national Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network and Raleigh-based Centro International; other panelists included Winston-Salem First Associate Pastor Chuck Spong and Dr. Jack S. Monell, Dr. Denise Nation, Dr. Edward Opoku-Dapaah, Dr. Donald Mac-Thompson and Keenan Williams, all of WSSU.

Mac-Thompson, chair of the Social Sciences Department at WSSU and an associate professor of political science, continued the immigration discussion last week with students in his American Presidency class, challenging them to pose as presidential candidates and explain their viewpoints on immigration reform.

"My view is that we should focus on immigrants that are already here, skilled workers that could help this country," said Bria Jones, a senior political science major. "By giving them their citizenship, it'll be a win-win for our country because they would pay taxes."

Endazha Hannah, a freshman from

See Reform on A7



Photos by Layla Garms

Candidates (from left) State Rep. Marcus Brandon, Curtis Osborne, State Rep. Alma Adams, State Sen. Malcolm Graham, Ravjive Patel and George Battle.

12th District hopefuls plead their cases to W-S voters

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

A standing room only crowd heard from Democratic candidates running for the U.S. 12th Congressional District seat that was left vacant when Mel Watt became head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

State Reps. Alma Adams and Marcus Brandon, State Sen. Malcolm Graham, attorneys George Battle and Curtis Osborne and former East Spencer mayor Ravjive Patel took turns fielding questions from moderator District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield at the Rupert Bell Neighborhood Center on April 17. It was the second in a series of pre-Primary forums sponsored by the Forsyth County Democratic Party.

Hartsfield questioned the candidates about their strengths and weaknesses, challenging each one to articulate what makes him or her the best person to represent the 12th, a serpentine district that includes parts of Charlotte, Concord, Salisbury, Lexington, Winston-Salem, High Point and Greensboro.

Battle, the general counsel for the Charlotte Mecklenburg



George Battle fields a question from the moderator, District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield.

See 12th on A7

For Queen and (Ram) Country

Miss WSSU eyes Ebony magazine title

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

City native Vanity Oakes has already made her reign as Miss WSSU memorable.

The senior marketing major was crowned Miss CIAA in February. Now, Oakes, who is set to graduate next month, is hoping to go out with a bang, by gracing the cover of Ebony magazine as its 2014 HBCU Campus Queen.

The competition, which is based solely on online votes, is an annual event designed to showcase HBCU queens from across the nation. The top 10 contenders will be featured in the magazine's September 2014 edition, and the number one queen will grace the cover. Voting is already underway at ebony.com, and supporters may



Mitchell



WSSU Photos by Garrett Garms

Miss WSSU Vanity Oakes with Mister WSSU Keenan Easter.

cast as many votes as they wish for the queen of their choosing.

Oakes, whose mother and brother are WSSU alumni, said she always knew she too was destined to become a Ram.

"It had a deep place in my heart," the 21-year-old said of WSSU. "Being that it was in my community, I just wanted to represent and celebrate the university as much as I could. I just love the school so

much." Oakes, a cheerleader, Dean's List scholar and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., said her experiences at WSSU have lived up to her lofty expectations. The crown has afforded the North Forsyth alumna a level of visibility that extends far beyond the campus.

See Oakes on A8

City enlists top brass to tout proposed bond referendum

Photos by Todd Luck

Residents survey bond information at the meeting.



BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Residents of the Northeast Ward got an up-close look on April 16 at what a proposed bond referendum would yield.

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who represents the ward, opened the meeting at the Carl Russell Recreation Center, instructing residents to visit the displays and city officials stationed around the gymnasium to learn more about what the pro-



See Bond on A3 Vivian Burke speaks.

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