

CAREERS

Grants help vets

Modest Needs Foundation, a national non-profit organization promoting self-sufficiency by assisting low income workers and newly returning veterans facing short-term financial emergencies, is marking the one-year anniversary of its Homecoming Heroes grant program for military veterans.

The program provides one-time financial support to U.S. military members returning from active duty to ease their transition from military service to civilian life. In its first year, the Homecoming Heroes grant program distributed more than \$70,000 to deserving veterans. To date, 100 percent of approved applicants have been funded, and the program is expected to help twice as many veterans this year.

Veteran applications are financed by Modest Needs' donors wishing to thank them for their service and sacrifice. When pooled together, individual donor contributions and monthly pledges have replaced heaters, repaired cars, halted foreclosures, and prevented eviction and homelessness for U.S. veterans all over the country.

Grant recipients include Greensboro's Jerry Perry, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who returned from an overseas tour of duty to find his claim for VA benefits was delayed far longer than he expected. He had depleted his savings to survive through the waiting period. The grant helped to save his family from eviction.

Life-changing Homecoming Heroes grants up to \$1,500 each are currently available to veterans who are transitioning from active duty to civilian life in the last three years and are waiting for an anticipated, foreseeable source of income which will permit them to be self-sufficient. Learn more at <http://www.modestneeds.org>.

Wiggins picked for Academy

Gail Wiggins, interim chair of the department of journalism and mass communication at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, is one of 17 professors, administrators and communications professionals chosen to participate in the seventh annual Scripps Howard Academic Leadership Academy to be held June 1-5 at Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication.

The academy, co-sponsored by the Scripps Howard Foundation and the Manship School, brings together academics and professionals to learn administrative strategies and gain insight into academic leadership.

Wiggins has taught in the broadcast production sequence at North Carolina A&T for more than 26 years. She also coordinates the internship program, NABJ Multimedia Short Course and the American-African Universities (AAU) Collaborative. Wiggins is a former college television station manager and radio personality. She received a master's degree in educational media at North Carolina A&T and studied film and video production at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Wiggins

Senator meets hero

U.S. Senator Kay Hagan last week congratulated Army Sergeant Kyle White of Charlotte on his Medal of Honor and thanked him for service when she met with him in her Washington, DC office. Sergeant White was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions in Afghanistan by President Obama during a ceremony at the White House on May 13.

During a bloody combat engagement in the Nuristan Province of Afghanistan on Nov. 9, 2007, White bravely pulled one of his comrades out of the line of fire and then fashioned a tourniquet out of his belt to save the life of another soldier who had been badly injured.

White is the seventh living recipient to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan and the second Sky Soldier in the 173rd Airborne to be recognized with the nation's highest military decoration. White separated from the Army on July 8, 2011. He lives in Charlotte and works as an Investment Analyst.

Sergeant White's awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and "V" device, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one campaign star, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral "2" device, the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Parachutists Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Valorous Unit Award.



White

Honorary doctorate for Ruffin



NCCU Photo

N.C. Central Chancellor Debra Saunders-White presents Dr. John Ruffin, a former NCCU faculty member and retired director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), with an honorary degree on May 9 during the school's commencement exercises. Ruffin delivered the address, imploring the 371 graduates to, "Decide what you are passionate about, be open-minded and flexible."



Hughes



Stone

Hughes will receive NABJ honor

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Triad Association of Black Journalists (TABJ) has announced that Sandra Hughes will receive the Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award during the 39th annual National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Convention & Career Fair slated for July 30 - Aug. 3 in Boston. The honor goes to a journalist whose lifetime body of work has had a positive and long-lasting impact on the profession.

Hughes' television career spanned four decades. She worked at Greensboro-based WFMY-TV from 1972 until her retirement in 2010. She began working at the CBS affiliate as a general assignment reporter, and later served as a program host and anchor. She was the first African American woman in the Piedmont to host her own daily talk show. Hughes also served as the station's community affairs manager. In that role, she hosted a number of service events, drives and initiatives that improved the lives of local people. Hughes now teaches journalism at her alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University.

NABJ's Lifetime Achievement Award has been renamed for the late Chuck Stone, one of NABJ's 44 founders and the organization's first president. Stone, who was a Tuskegee Airman in World War II, served as White House correspondent and editor of the Washington Afro-American, editor-in-chief of the Chicago Daily Defender and political columnist and senior editor for the Philadelphia Daily News. In his later years, Stone worked as professor of journalism at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was 89 when he passed away in April.

IFB employees and volunteers recognized

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind (IFB) recently honored its employees, volunteers and customers for their commitment to helping IFB provide jobs, training and services for people who are blind or visually impaired. IFB, which has manufacturing facilities in Winston-Salem and Asheville, is one of the nation's largest employers of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Justin Stokes, a member of IFB's optical team, was named IFB Employee of the Year. Born with achromatopsia, a genetic disorder causing legal blindness, Stokes graduated from Appalachian State University in 2006 and recently entered IFB's Career Development Program, which provides additional training and skills development for employees looking to advance their careers.

Kim West, director of First Impressions at the IFB's Asheville, was awarded the IFB Career Achiever Award. Born with a form of glaucoma that has left her with only limited sight in one eye, West is a graduate of the Morehead School for the Blind. Her husband Tony West, who is also blind and an IFB employee, introduced her to IFB.

Greg Whybrew, who oversees IFB's building and grounds maintenance, received the IFB Delmer Wall Award for outstanding service by a sighted IFB employee. Whybrew was hired 22 years after a chance meeting at a yard sale with late IFB



IFB Photos

IFB Delmer Wall Award Winner Greg Whybrew (accepts) his award from Dan Boucher.



Stokes



West

See IFB on A7

'Women of Vision' receive awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Several community leaders will be honored today on the campus of Winston-Salem State University at the YWCA of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County's 33rd Annual Women of Vision Award Luncheon.

The Education Award will go to Dr. Peggy Valentine, dean and professor of the School of Health Sciences at WSSU; the Non-Profit Award will be presented to Cindy Gordineer, CEO of the United Way of Forsyth County; the Volunteer Award will be presented to Dr. Betty Alexander, an active community advocate.

The Lifetime Volunteer Award will be presented to Grace Sidebotham, a volunteer of more than 40 years; the Public Service Award recipient is Winston-Salem



WSSU Photo

See Awards on A9 Dr. Peggy Valentine is among this year's winners.