

WSSU HOMECOMING

# WSSU's event is more than just a parade

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

The booming sound of bass drums, mixed with joyous laughter echoed through the crowded streets of downtown Winston-Salem this past weekend as Winston-Salem State University's annual Homecoming parade pounded the pavement.

The parade began at Fourth and Poplar Streets and ended at Bowman Gray Stadium, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Over the years the parade has become one of the most anticipated events associated with WSSU's homecoming, not just for alumni and students but for the community as well.

For many who live in the vicinity of the historically black university, attending the parade is a family tradition.

A number of residents said they remember their parents taking them to the parade and felt it was important to pass that tradition on to their children.

Lakiesha Robinson said she looks forward to the parade because it gives her a chance to see people she hasn't seen in years or since the previous year's parade.

"The parade is definitely a tradition for my family and friends," she continued. "It's more than just a parade. It feels more like a family reunion than anything else."

A number of attendees showed up over an hour early to beat the rush and find a good spot to stand. Some even brought lawn chairs for a more comfortable view.

In years past, over 1,000 people crowded the streets just to catch a glimpse as local bands,



Photos by Tevin Stinson  
A member of Winston-Salem State University's Marching Band makes his way down Fourth Street during the Homecoming parade on Saturday, Oct. 31.

ing in to greet and mingle with members of the community.

A number of residents welcomed Robinson to the city with handshakes and words of encouragement. A few mentioned that seeing Robinson blend with residents showed them that he is a man of the people.

James Herd said seeing the newly installed chancellor walk parts of the parade route was different and exciting at the same time.

"All the years I've attended the parade, I don't think I've ever seen a chancellor do that," he continued. "I'm excited to see the impact he makes on the university and this community."

step teams and dance troops did their thing.

Marching bands from Walkertown, Parkland and Carver high schools all participated in this year's parade. A number of bands from other states participated as well, including Crossland High School from Maryland, and

Heritage High School, which traveled from Florida.

Heritage band director Brandon Jenkins, a WSSU alumnus, said, although the weather was cooler than they are accustomed to, the opportunity to participate in the parade is one he, nor his students will never for-

get. "Bringing the band to North Carolina was cool, both figuratively and literally," he said. "We are still on Cloud Nine."

Throughout the journey, Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson and his wife, Myra, frequently got out of the vehicle they were rid-

# Nurses' banquet honors trendsetters

BY TORI P. HAYNESWORTH  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Nursing Alumni Organization had its annual scholarship banquet on Thursday, Oct. 29,

career."

Dr. Kenon also took the time out of thanking his first nursing manager at Duke University Medical Center, who helped him pave the way to pursue his



Capt. Twanda Scales

at the McNeil Banquet Hall in the Anderson Conference Center on WSSU's campus.

The banquet took place during WSSU's homecoming, held Oct. 24 through Oct. 31.

The evening captured two honorees who were given awards for being trendsetters of the 21st century, and taking their nursing careers to the next level going above and beyond the call of duty. Both of the recipients were graduates and alumni of WSSU.

"A trendsetter is a game changer, a risk taker, an inspired innovator, and a love of culture," said alumna Constance Carlton. "These two honorees are people on the move in the health arena. They are leaders, pace makers, and pace setters who are inspiring the next generation."

Bettie Little presented an award to the first honoree, Dr. Clifton Kenon.

Dr. Kenon has many years of experience being a lactation nurse helping women with breastfeeding and helping infants with their nutrition, as well as working in public health.

"I want to thank every family that has trusted me with their care, whether it being the hospital or at the community setting," said Kenon. "You, the patients, the people that I had the opportunity to serve, are truly the highlight of my

nursing career, breaking the color barrier and defying the odds of being a male nurse. Kenon also had the pleasure of meeting with First Lady Michelle Obama.

Sandra Wilder presented the next award to the second honoree, Capt. Twanda Scales.

Scales, after graduating from WSSU, started off working at Brenner Children's Hospital, before taking an interest in becoming a travelling nurse. She now resides in Maryland working for the National Institute of Health.

"Nursing is a serious profession, it's nothing that you take for granted. And I just have to consider is this something I can do, work with people, knowing that they trust me, to make sure that they can exit the hospital and they get the best care from someone who is compassionate," said Scales.

Capt. Scales reflected how she was determined to complete the nursing program, and how study groups and help from the faculty was much appreciated. She also acknowledged her family and friends being a support system.

Another highlight of the ceremony was when Charlena Garrison, president of the WSSU Nursing Alumni Organization, rec-

See Nurses on A9

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