

# Office to aid community opens

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University School of Law has officially opened the Smith Anderson Office of Community Outreach within the newly transformed Worrell Professional Center, 1834 Wake Forest Road.

The Office houses the Law School's Pro Bono Project and Public Interest Law Organization.

The Pro Bono Project began as a con-

centrated effort to provide legal information to a community that was underserved and, in some cases, uninformed about the legal process. Under the guidance of Outreach Director Professor Beth Hopkins and Pro Bono Project Coordinator Denise Hartsfield, students involved in the Pro Bono Project and the Public Interest Law Organization gain hands-on experience

vital to their development as citizen lawyers, and continue to seek new horizons to reach individuals in need of legal assistance.

The Public Interest Law Organization promotes Wake Forest's tradition of training lawyers who serve not only their clients, but also their communities, state and nation. PILO works with the Office of Career and Professional Development to create an easy-to-access repository of information for students seeking internships, externships and fellowships.

The opening of the Office was made possible through the financial generosity of Raleigh law firm Smith Anderson and many of its attorneys.

"Our firm, at its core, is deeply committed to promoting a culture of pro bono service and the betterment of our community," said alumnus Gerald Roach.

For more information about the Wake Forest University School of Law, visit <http://law.wfu.edu/>. For more information about Smith Anderson, visit [www.smith-law.com](http://www.smith-law.com).

## Abused

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Based on The Chronicle's preliminary investigation of numerous files from the Forsyth County Clerk's Office, she may be right.

There are two versions of what happened to Napoleon Hall Wilson, 81, of Winston-Salem in August 2005 — one through interviews, the other through public documents.

Mr. Wilson was a proud military veteran and widower who was known for being industrious, fiercely independent, and kind. He owned property and had been successful in business. His family respected his generosity and work ethic. They believed that in his waning years, Wilson's advanced age required family care, management and companionship.

According to documents, Napoleon Wilson was seen much differently by psychiatrists at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center (WFUBMC), social workers at FCDSS, and ultimately, Theresa Hinshaw, then an assistant clerk in the Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court's Office.

In an August 23, 2005 letter to clerk Hinshaw, Dr. Joseph Williams of the Dept. of Psychiatry at WFUBMC, wrote Wilson "...was admitted to the adult psychiatric unit on August 18, 2005 after law enforcement became concerned about his mental status." Dr. Williams went on to state that "...the patient had called 911 several times complaining of the garbage collectors in his community trying to do harm to him." Dr. Williams went on to state that Mr. Wilson, "...had demonstrated increased agitation, confusion and memory loss over the course of the past month," adding that Wilson's "caretaker" indicated that he had not been keeping up with his medications.

The letter maintained that Wilson had had dementia since 2000 and a history of seizures that bring about a "...state of psy-

chosis."

"Because of these mental and cognitive limitations, it is our opinion that Mr. Wilson is not capable of conducting health, personal and business affairs in a responsible manner," Dr. Williams continued in the August 2005 letter. "Therefore it would be in his best interest to have a guardian appointed to oversee these decisions."

"There are no known family members available to do this," Dr. Williams concluded in the letter to asst. clerk Hinshaw.

By Williams' own admission, Mr. Wilson had been in their care at the psychiatric unit since August 18th, allegedly brought in by law enforcement, but by the time the doctor wrote that letter on August 23rd, no family members living in Winston-Salem had been contacted by either the hospital or police, even though Wilson's "caretaker" was familiar with them.

Six days later, that notarized letter, entered on August 29, 2005, was used in a "Petition for Adjudication of Incompetence and Application for Appointment of Guardian or Limited Guardian and Interim Guardian" to the Forsyth Clerk's Office.

The documents show the petitioner being a "Maryanne Keller" of "UCBH - Risk Management." That petition lists Wilson as "an inpatient in the facility named above," and his address as "Sticht Center," referring to the J. Paul Sticht Center on Aging and Rehabilitation, part of the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

The petition goes on to state that Wilson "...has dementia, paranoia and agitation..." referring then to the "attached letter" from Dr. Williams.

Page two of that petition notes that Mr. Wilson "lacks capacity" for all indicated areas of "independent living," adding that "caretaker lives w/him."

Finally, under a section titled "Recommended Guardian(s)," it is written

that if the caretaker is not interested, "...then FCDSS."

A receipt shows that a "Maryanne Keller" paid the required \$40.00 filing fee.

On that same August 29, 2005 date, clerk Hinshaw issued a notice for a Sept. 15, 2005 hearing on the incompetence petition, and "Order Appointing Guardian Ad Litem," a clerk-appointed attorney who is supposed to legally advocate for the patient. That document, which is not file-stamped as entered, showed that attorney Fred P. Flynt III was appointed.

If Mr. Wilson did not want attorney Flynt, he had the legal right to hire his own attorney to represent his interests in that Sept. 15th hearing. By all accounts, Wilson had the means because he wasn't indigent.

Another "Notice" on the incompetency hearing for appointing a guardian dated August 29th, 2005 only lists the caretaker's name and Winston-Salem address — the address Napoleon Wilson reportedly lived at — as being formally notified to "...appear and offer evidence as to whether the Respondent (Wilson) is an incompetent adult and a guardian should be appointed."

The caretaker is not a relative, yet her name is the only one listed to appear.

It is now eleven days since Napoleon Wilson was brought in to the hospital, according to Clerk of court records, and yet there is still no documented effort on the part of law enforcement, the hospital, the Clerk's Office, or later, according to Wilson's cousin, Sandra Jackson, the guardian ad litem supposed to be advocating for him, to locate any family in the area.

Ms. Jackson, now in her 50's, not only lived at the same address in Winston-Salem then as she does now, but has also been an employee of the city's sanitation department for over 27 years. In addition, she was already a guardian of an adult family member at the time, meaning her

records were already on file at the Clerk's Office.

But more importantly, Ms. Jackson told The Chronicle, the caretaker in question was actually a woman named "Sarah" (The Chronicle is withholding her last name), Napoleon Wilson's girlfriend of several years who was known very well by Jackson and communicated with her often. Wilson and Sarah were living together years after his wife had deceased.

So why didn't any official, from any of the institutions involved, ask Sara if Mr. Wilson had family in the area and how to contact them? Sandra Jackson says that, in fact, they did know, because Sarah did tell at least the hospital since she had to be in contact with doctors about his medication.

"She told them he has a niece who could take care of him," Ms. Jackson told The Chronicle, noting that she had always thought of Mr. Wilson as an "uncle," and referred to him as such, even though they were actually cousins.

In fact, on Sept. 15, 2005, Ms. Jackson says she accompanied "Ms. Sarah," to the Forsyth Hall of Justice, Room #243 as directed, but when they got there, they were told that the special proceeding had already taken place, and FCDSS had been appointed guardian of person for Napoleon Wilson.

Sandra Jackson says that what happened next was nothing less than a horror show, with her being denied being able to see her cousin for three months, taking pictures of his injuries from alleged abuse at the all-white facility he was being kept at; and ultimately being denied her application to become his guardian.

The ordeal, she believes, allegedly contributed to his death.

In Part Two, Ms. Jackson tells her side of the story, and why she believes that FCDSS and the Clerk's Office allegedly conspired to work against Napoleon Jackson's family.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

A North Forsyth High School student, who wore this hoodie, had to be treated at a hospital after being handled by a school resource officer.

## Incident

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"I am glad that someone was willing to step up and share the video."

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Chief of Staff Theo Helm said the school system was not at liberty to discuss the situation.

"The matter is now being handled by the police department," he said. "As a result, I really can't say much about the situation, only that a student was injured."

It is unclear what action has been taken against White. According to multiple sources, White is a fairly new officer with the Winston-Salem Police Department.

According to Captain Catrina Thompson of the Police Department's criminal investigation division, White is still working at North Forsyth.

"Officer Randall White is still working in full capacity at North Forsyth High School," Thompson continued. "The incident is currently under internal investigation."

Thompson did say criminal charges are pending against the two students involved.

According to court documents, Asahiah and the other student involved in the fight are to appear in court on Dec. 9. Both students were charged with

affray and disturbance of other citizens in a public place.

In a video obtained by an unknown source, White seems to initially control the situation by putting Rogers against a wall. Then it appears he then proceeds to slam the teenager to the ground.

Although it was on Snapchat, that video has since been removed from all social media platforms.

After the incident, Asahiah said she asked White for a simple apology, which she never got.

"I was in his office after the incident and he continued to walk in and out while others tried to stop the bleeding," she continued. "When I asked him for an apology, he said he had already given me the ticket and he felt he had done the right thing."

When Sharon Rogers finally spoke with White's supervisor, hours later, she was told that justice had been served, and that the police officer did his job.

"I asked him a few times to get a better understanding of what that meant, but it was easy to figure out," she continued. "They believe he was justified in his actions."

After seeing the video multiple times, it is clear that the officer could have taken other actions to control the situation, said Asahiah's father, Jeffery Rogers.

After seeing the video

for the first time, he was visibly shaken up, he tried to hold back tears.

"It hurts my heart to see my daughter handled like that," he continued. "I forgive the officer for what he has done, but we want, and need justice."

"If we don't speak out about this situation it could happen to someone else, and we want to prevent this from happening to anyone else."

As of Tuesday, Nov. 10, school administrators from North Forsyth had not returned calls from the Rogers family or The Chronicle.

Both students have been expelled and told they cannot return to North Forsyth for the remainder of the school year, although original documents from the school stated the students were only to be suspended for five days.

Sharon Rogers said after days of trying to contact school administrators, she has decided that it is a lost cause, because they are not responding.

"I have tried to contact the principal and the school since the day this happened," she continued. "The next step for us is finding a lawyer who can help us."

"We want to make sure children throughout the school system are safe. This seems to becoming a trend in school across the nation, and its time for it to stop."

CELEBRATING 45 Years

December 3, 2015 @11:30 am  
Millennium Center | Winston-Salem, NC

GUEST SPEAKER:  
WSSU CHANCELLOR ROBINSON, PHD

HONORING  
DR. MANDERLINE SCALES  
VISION AWARD  
(exemplary service to early childhood education)

## Don't Get the Flu!

The flu is a serious illness that can easily be prevented with a flu shot

Everyone older than 6 months should get a flu shot every year!

High Dose vaccine is available for those over 65 yrs.

Starting Oct. 1, flu shots are always free at

Forsyth County Department of Public Health  
799 N. Highland Ave. Winston-Salem, NC  
Clinic 3 Hours  
M-W 8:30a-3:45p, Th 9:30a-6:45p, Fr 8:30a-11:45a

For more information about the flu vaccine contact the health department at 336-703-3100 or visit [www.flu.nc.gov](http://www.flu.nc.gov)

## Have an Opinion?

Let us Know [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com)