



Submitted photo
Forsyth County Senior Democrats, including old and new officers, are shown (L-R): Jim Shaw, president; Winston-Salem Councilwoman Molly Leight; Fred Terry, president elect, and Jim's wife,

Senior Democrats gain new leader

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

At the December meeting of the Forsyth County Senior Democrats, Jim Shaw, Senior Democrats president, "passed the gavel" to Fred Terry, who will become president of the Senior Democrats in January. Jim Shaw has led the group since 2013.

W-S NCCU alumni give to Kimberley Park Elementary

BY LARUE P. CUNNINGHAM
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

"Truth and Service" is the creed of North Carolina Central University (NCCU). The local alumni association strives to give community service through Kimberley Park Elementary School (KPES), home of the "Little Eagles."

This relationship developed from the MEAC Basketball Tournament reading initiative when the Little Eagles were adopted. Each month alumni donate items of the month to support students and faculty. These items include: pen-

cils, colored markers, tissue, sanitizer, hats, scarves, gloves, flash drives, etc., as well as water for EOG's and spring outdoor activities. When informed of other special needs, the big Eagles try to grant the request.

The greatest need is for volunteers to assist in classrooms and serve as mentors. "Reading to a student or having a student read to you carries the powerful message that you care," the chapter said in a statement. Several Eagles work with KPES students one-on-one while, others are available for various tasks at the school.

Four Eagles delivered bountiful Thanksgiving boxes to KPES in mid-November. KPES Home School Coordinator Mia Parker delivered these boxes to selected families. The boxes contain foods for breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus a traditional Thanksgiving meal with the sides. Gift cards will allow the families to purchase other necessities.

In addition, hats, scarves and gloves were collected and delivered in preparation for colder weather. The next delivery for the December item will be flash drives. Box Tops for Education are collected

each month and are an ongoing support effort.

The local alumni chapter meetings are held every fourth Tuesday at Forsyth Technical Community College (FTCC) West Campus (Bolton Street) at 6:00 pm. "Come join fellow Eagles and help the chapter soar," the chapter said in a statement.

LaRue P. Cunningham is Winston-Salem NCCU recording secretary.

Twin City Stage receives matching grant offer

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Twin City Stage (TCS) is happy to announce it is participating in a fund-matching program with the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County for up to \$30,000 for donations received by TCS from individuals, business and corporations through the end of its fiscal year (June 30, 2016).

For more than 80 years, Twin City Stage has been the premiere community theatre of Winston-Salem.

Founded as The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem, it offers a wide variety of main stage plays and musicals each season, as well as acting classes and camps for children and teens.

The company merged with the Children's Theatre of Winston Salem in 2011, and continues to offer educational theatrical productions for school groups multiple times a year.

Those wishing to make a donation to the theatre can do so by visiting www.TwinCityStage.org and clicking on the "Donate Now" button, or by mailing a check to Twin City Stage, 610 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

In addition to monetary donations, the theatre is also happy to accept gifts of stocks and estate bequests.

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WSSU photo
Shown are Winston-Salem State University educators (L-R): Dr. Mike McKenzie, Department of Exercise Science chairman; Dr. Dorothy Bethea, Department of Occupational Therapy chairwoman; Dr. Audrey Millar, Department of Physical Therapy chairwoman; and Dr. Peggy Valentine, School of Health Sciences dean.

New 'Assurance Agreements' help with graduate programs for WSSU Students

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Students earning a bachelor's degree from Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) will have a leg up on their competition when they apply to the university's highly competitive Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) or Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) programs.

A new "assurance agreement" – the first of its kind offered at a historically black university – guarantees admission into the university's DPT program for WSSU exercise physiology students who maintain at least a 3.4 GPA and meet the other normal admissions requirements. The university's DPT program typically receives 500 applications for 30 seats in the program, making the early assurance agreement a significant advantage for WSSU undergraduates.

"This is tremendous for our students," said School of Health Sciences Dean Peggy Valentine. "Because of the rigor of the program and the number of appli-

cants, many very deserving students do not gain admission. The early assurance program supports WSSU's new strategic plan in promoting equity in graduate education and supports our commitment to increasing the number and diversity of health care professionals."

A student meeting the prerequisite criteria would enter the DPT program with one semester remaining in their undergraduate program. The first graduate in the DPT program would count toward both their bachelor's degree and the DPT degree, saving the student one semester's worth of time and tuition.

"We have had many exercise physiology students do very well in DPT programs across the state and the country," said Mike McKenzie, chair of the Department of Exercise Science. "This program keeps our best students at WSSU and gives them the opportunity to get a head start on their graduate education."

Meanwhile, WSSU students interested in the university's Master of

Occupational Therapy program can take advantage of a similar agreement. Any WSSU student who meets the MOT prerequisites is guaranteed admission. Although this agreement is open to students from every major, it will be most appealing to students in the exercise physiology or therapeutic recreation programs.

"Students will benefit from this opportunity to streamline their goal for graduate school and gain additional motivation to stay focused as they complete the undergraduate degree," said Joanne Coco-Ripp, program coordinator for the therapeutic recreation program, who noted that similar to the DPT program, the MOT receives about 400 applications for 30 seats.

Added sophomore exercise physiology major Justin Fitts, "These programs put me ahead of the game. I won't have to take a semester or year out of school like some students do just to get accepted into a program."

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