

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Events

Feb. 12 – Scholarship Banquet

The Wake Forest Black Law Students Association (BLSA) will host its 31st Annual Scholarship Banquet on Friday, Feb. 12, at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts, beginning at 6 p.m. The theme is "Fulfilling the Dream," a response to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s call-to-action years ago and "what we are doing to fulfill his dream today, especially considering on-campus movements, student protests and presidential elections," says Ashlee Johnson (JD '16), event chair. The event will begin with a cocktail reception followed by dinner, the keynote address by Attorney Willie E. Gary and presentation of awards. Gary, a partner at Gary, Williams, Parenti and Watson, earned his reputation as "The Giant Killer" by taking down some of America's most well-known corporate giants on behalf of his clients, his website says.

Feb. 17 – 'Winston-Salem's African American Legacy'

At Carver School Road Library, 4915 Lansing Drive, on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 4 p.m., "Winston-Salem's African American Legacy" will be presented. The presentation and discussion will be with Cheryl Streeter Harry, author and director of African American programming at Old Salem Museums & Gardens. All ages are welcomed. For information call 336-703-2910.

Feb. 18 – Black Male Symposium

On Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., the Black Male Symposium and theatrical performance will be held in K.R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. The symposium will feature the play "We Shall Overcome" by Forget Me Not Productions, directed by Garrett Davis and will be followed by a panel discussion at 11:30 a.m. about the play and other civil rights issues. (There will be no panel discussion after the 6 p.m. performance.)



Garrett

Feb. 19-21 – 'We Shall Overcome' play

The play "We Shall Overcome," created by acclaimed playwright Garrett Davis, will be staged at Hanebrands Theatre for four performances Feb. 19-21 as part of the 2016 Gdavis Urban Theater Series. "We Shall Overcome" delivers a profound message of finding hope, dignity and spiritual growth even during times of adversity. The play explores the creation of the Southern Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) which resulted from sit-ins organized by Ella Baker, Baker was the Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) (played by Latonya Simms from Mama's Girls), who was concerned that SCLC, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (played by Brian Cager) was out of touch with younger African-Americans who wanted the civil rights movement to make faster progress. For further information, visit www.weshallovercome.me.

Feb. 21 – City Police, Fire Departments to honor retired personnel, contest winners

On Sunday, Feb. 21, the Police and Fire departments will honor their retired personnel and the winners of the Black History Month coloring and essay contests during the third annual Public Safety Black History Month Celebration. The celebration will be held at 3 p.m. at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, 4129 Northampton Drive. During the program, the Police Department will honor retired Captain Terry Jones and retired Sergeant Stephen Hairston for their service. The Fire Department will honor retired Captains Gary Brown and Aldine Cloud for their service, and Battalion Chief Shirese Moore, the first female African-American in the department to hold this rank. The public is invited to attend. For more information call CityLink311.

Feb. 22 – 'Thomas Day, Cabinet Maker'

Clemmons Branch Library, 3554 Clemmons Road, will present "Thomas Day, Cabinet Maker: Man in the Middle" on Monday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. Filmmaker and educator Laurel C. Sneed will present a lecture on Thomas Day, remembered as the black craftsman who ran the largest furniture business in the state during the time of slavery. A skilled artisan and savvy businessman, Day's shop turned out striking beds, bureaus, tables, sofas, and chairs that are just as highly coveted today as they were over 150 years ago. This dynamic, mediated presentation encourages audience participation as they analyze historical evidence and explore the mystery of one of our state's most extraordinary and fascinating historical figures. Call 336-703-2920 for information and to sign up for the program, which is a North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholars presentation.

Allan Younger keeps entrepreneurial spirit alive

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

In 2009, Allan Younger wanted advice for the consulting firm he'd just started, so he turned to the Small Business Center of Forsyth Technical Community College. Now as director of that small business center, he helps entrepreneurs overcome the hurdles to success.

The Forsyth Tech Small Business Center is one of 58 state-funded centers across North Carolina that provides services to small businesses and those thinking about starting one. The center is located at 525@Vine in the Innovation Quarter housed in 25,000 square feet devoted to Forsyth Tech's various business and industrial services.

The center holds more than 15 education sessions and about 40 appointments for business counseling a month.

Younger, who counsels small business owners himself, said that the center provides advice and guidance for what can often be a very daunting process of opening and maintaining a business.

"One of my biggest goals ever since I started this job in 2013 was to help people increase their confidence that they can be successful," he said.

Younger said that he had several sessions himself when he was starting up his own management consulting business, GRACE Consulting. He said it was very beneficial to him and opened his eyes to things like what he, as a business owner, would need to keep records of for taxes.

He said he was inspired to go into business by his father, who worked for IBM for more than 30 years. He said there's no



Photo by Todd Luck

Forsyth Tech Small Business Center Director Allan Younger used the center before he became its director.

shortage of African-Americans working in business or starting their own small businesses.

"I think a lot of it is because a lot of African-Americans grew up either in families, or knowing people who owned their own small businesses," he said.

Younger also teaches business courses at Winston-Salem State University. He says many of his students come into class already thinking about starting their own businesses. Younger said about 40 percent of those served by the center are minorities. Among the center's many community partnerships is one with the City's Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program to hold events there.

Younger, who grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, has a degree in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters in Business Administration from Winston-Salem State University.

He worked in the mortgage industry for years at companies like General Electric and Republic Mortgage Insurance Company. After being laid off during the recession, he decided to start his own consulting firm. In 2010, he started giving educational presentations for the Small Business Center, and in 2013 he became its director.

As director of the Small Business Center, he oversees two employees who coordinate the education

and counseling sessions there. The Center has about 15 volunteer counselors and about 30 presenters for its workshops. It also has two satellite offices: one in The Enterprise Center and the other in Walnut Cove.

He said aside from advice, guidance and education, the center also has meeting spaces, computers and Internet access for its clients. It also shares information with local businesses online through its LinkedIn group.

To see events and register for counseling or educational sessions at the Small Business Center go to: <http://www.forsythtech.edu/services-businesses/small-business-center>.

Feb. 23 – Potato Chip taste test

Find out about the African-American who invented the potato chip, then take part in a Potato Chip Taste Test at the Kernersville Branch Library, 130 East Mountain St.

Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 4 p.m. Let the staff know of any food allergies before participating. This is for youth in grades 6-12. Call the library to register at 336-703-2930.

Feb. 24 – 'Intro to African American Genealogy'

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 10:30 a.m. at the Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center, 1110 East Seventh St., "Intro to African American Genealogy" will be presented. Historical factors can make researching African-American ancestors difficult. This program will cover the basics of getting started with genealogy with a special focus on research tips and resources for African-American genealogy. For information call 336-703-2950.

Did you know ...

That in 1935, Benjamin Thornton created a device that was the predecessor of today's answering machine?

N.C. GOP statement honors black history

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — "This month we celebrate the achievements; legacy and contributions African-Americans have made throughout history to strengthen our country," said N.C. GOP Chairman Hasan Harnett in a statement.

"We also reflect on the significant impact they've had on the Republican

Party, especially here in North Carolina. As we commemorate Black History Month, we remember the great works of those who came before us but also look towards a future where economic and educational opportunity is abundant for all North Carolinians — something our Republican leadership fights for each and every day."

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