

# Church forum explores racial inequalities

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
THE CHRONICLE

Racial inequalities spurred a Wake Forest professor to write a book looking at white people, African-Americans and Latinos.

The professor, Betina Wilkinson, held a forum at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem to discuss her recent book "Partners or Rivals: Power and Latino, Black and White Relations in the 21st Century."

The book was based on the dissertation Wilkinson wrote during grad school about racial attitudes between blacks, whites and Latinos in the United States. She wanted to delve into whether each group looks at the other as partners or rivals and what factors were involved to influence each group's thinking.

Born in Argentina, Wilkinson came to the United States at the age of six and was raised in New Orleans. She stated that the stracial atmosphere there was very uneasy, and race was very prevalent in her mind at a young age. She wanted an answer to the question, "Where are we today?"

"Even as a child I could see the racial inequalities that were around me," Wilkinson said. The book touches on the relationship between the black and Latino groups and how each one relates to the white race, and vice versa. Age, economic status and region of the country are factors that are included as well. She also touches on the recent upswing in the deaths of black youths such as Trayvon Martin.

The data was collected from a national survey and local focus groups in the city of New Orleans. Wilkinson stated that some of the most interesting data she found was that people in the certain black communities somewhat resent the Latino population because Latinos pose a possible economic threat to them; they believe that the white



Wake Forest professor Betina Wilkinson explains the research from her latest book "Partners or Rivals: Power and Latino, Black and White relations in the 21 century"



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Members of The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem listen intently to the information presented by author Betina Wilkinson

employer might hire the Latino before the African-American.

Following the forum, there was a panel discussion during which the participants were able to ask questions of Wilkinson about the book and the data.

The audience was totally engaged and asked a multitude of questions from the size of the survey group, what years the data was collected, to how different the millennial generation feels than baby boomers.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship holds forums often and has book reviews, and socio-political discussions as well.

"We thought it would be great to have her here because this group is pretty sophisticated," said Kenneth Osberg, the forum coordinator. "We are pretty progressive and open people here at the church, and I was happy to schedule her as soon as I found out about her book. Having these types of discussions will only help things get better."

Wilkinson still is optimistic about the future relationship between the races, stating, "When blacks and Latinos have more opportunities and don't feel discriminated against based on race, then they are more likely to form alliances with one another."

## Parent company of Bank of N.C. gains accolades

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

HIGH POINT — BNC Bancorp, the parent company of Bank of North Carolina, has been recognized as one of the best performing regional banks in the United States in 2015, according to SNL Financial. BNC Bancorp was the only banking company to make the Top 10 from N.C., S.C., or Virginia. This exceptional performance also resulted in BNC's shares having the highest total return among the top 25 publicly traded regional banks that made SNL's Best Performing list, increasing 48.95 percent in 2015.

Rankings were determined based on financial metrics focused on profitability, asset quality, and loan growth for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015.

Also, BNC Bancorp (NASDAQ: BNCN) was recently highlighted in an edition of Barron's magazine. The article discusses how the 13 acquisitions the company has completed and the two still pending could drive substantial growth in financial performance in the near future.

Full access to the article by David Englander, columnist at Barron's, can be found by going to: [www.barrons.com/articles/small-bank-growth-bnc-atlantic-capital-1460781743](http://www.barrons.com/articles/small-bank-growth-bnc-atlantic-capital-1460781743).



4Her's from the WSSU-NC MSEN/Ram Squad 4H STEM Club are pictured at the Forsyth County 4H Talent Show: (L to R) Reid Swann, 4H Club Leader Joseph Baker, Shandi McDaniel, Brianna Howell, Jayla Ford, Ciyah Ford and 4H Agent Shanika Gray.

## Forsyth County 4H talent show winners announced

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County 4H recently held its annual talent show.

The overall winner of the performing arts compe-

tion was Reid Swann, who performed an original R&B/Rap inspired composition titled "From the Start."

Shandi K. McDaniel earned second place with a

soul-stirring rendition of Sam Cook's "A Change is Gonna Come."

They will both represent Forsyth County at the upcoming North Central 4H District Activity Day at

Yadkinville Elementary School on June 18.

For more information about Forsyth County 4H, contact Shanika Gray at 336-703-2856 or email: [sygray@ncsu.edu](mailto:sygray@ncsu.edu).

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