



Ernie Pitt and Bishop Todd L. Fulton pose for a photo with Allyson Kristina Pannell, one of the scholarship winners, on Thursday, June 30.



Ernie Pitt and Bishop Todd L. Fulton on Thursday, June 30 pose for a photo with Andrew Denard Cuthrell, a scholarship winner who said he was very happy to receive his scholarship.

Awards

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opportunity to go to college otherwise," Fulton said. "With the scholarships, they are able to go to college and Awards get the items they need, such as books and supplies." He said that with the scholarships, they are able to obtain a good footing once they arrive on their respective campuses.

The service was filled with well wishes to the recent graduates along with singing from the St. John C.M.E. Praise & Worship Team. The Rev. Omar L Dykes, pastor of St. John, delivered an inspirational message to the graduates letting them know they are the future.

"As we send these student forward to matriculate their baccalaureate degree, we are sending them out

because they are chosen, but also they are chosen to come back and give to the community," said Dykes. "It's wonderful, because I was an at-risk youth by having a low GPA, but I was able to obtain my college degree, so the blessing for me was that I saw myself in them. It made me proud to see there are some still taking advantage of higher education."

The students said they were very grateful for the scholarships provided by the conference. The winners were: Alexander Henry Choyce, Allyson Kristina Pannell, Amber LaRosa Peppers, Andrew Denard Cuthrell, Chamberlain William Russell, Devin Terry Singleton, Jeremiah Terrell Gallant, Justin Stephon Walker, Kyndal Dionne Dodd, Nazjah Nicole McBride and Tatyanna Smith.

Scholarship award winner Andrew Denard Cuthrell

said, "It's a big accomplishment for me, graduating high school as a young black male. It's hard for us out here in society because people put labels on us before they meet us, so it's definitely a big accomplishment."

Joy Dodd, mother of Kyndal Dionne Dodd, said, "We are very proud that Kyndal received this scholarship. It means a lot because her goal is to give back to the community and for the conference to honor her with a scholarship is great."

Ernie Pitt, publisher emeritus and owner of *The Chronicle*, was one of the presenters of the scholarships. He pledged \$5,000 toward next year's scholarship fund. The MCWSV plans to double the amount of scholarship money disbursed next year.

MCWSV officials say they are very proud of the scholarship recipients.



The new citizens take the Oath of Allegiance during the Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony at Old Salem Museum and Gardens.



Raluca Mironescu holds her Certificate of Citizenship she got on July 4 at Old Salem Museum and Gardens.

New Citizens

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Allegiance, have been tested on their ability to speak, read and write English; their knowledge of government and to make sure they have good moral character. Naturalization ceremonies are regularly held year-round by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for those who meet the criteria for citizenship. On July 4 alone, there were 100 naturalization ceremonies with 7,000 new citizens.

Hagan, a former state and U.S. senator, said freedom and opportunity are the top draws for those immigrating to the United States. Yet, from the founding of the country, those things have been limited by race, religion, wealth and gender, she said.

"It's equally true that there's been an unstoppable trend toward inclusiveness in America," she said. "A trend that, with the passage of time, has broken down walls and doors to allow more and more people the opportunity to excel and the freedom to follow their dreams no matter how big

they are."

Hagan said choosing to become a U.S. citizen is "one of the most patriotic acts that anyone can perform." But she also said immigration has become a hot button issue in this year's elections.

"We are in the midst of an electoral season in which essential issues, especially regarding immigration, are being debated," she said. "Who should be allowed to come into the United States? Who should be allowed to stay? Should families of immigrants be broken up?"

Amra Beslagic, a supervisory Immigrant Services officer, told the new citizens to enjoy their special day. Beslagic told them, as a Bosnian refugee who became a citizen herself, she knew all the steps it took to get there.

"I welcome you, finally, to your naturalization ceremony," said Beslagic. "You can sit back and relax. There are no more tests. There are no more interviews."

The new citizens came from countries all over the world, including Croatia, China, Mexico, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam. The new citizens can now do things only U.S. citizens can do, like reg-

istering to vote or traveling with a U.S. passport.

Hasnaa Stinou and her husband, Abderrazak Mouslim, both became citizens together on Monday.

"Wow, I'm very happy!" said Stinou about becoming a citizen.

The couple came from Morocco five years ago in search of a better life and said the immigration process has been a smooth one. They now reside in Greensboro and work in packing. Mouslim said they're hoping to find better employment. He said he is planning to take more classes at Guilford Technical Community College.

Raluca Mironescu, who is from Romania, came to the United States to be with her husband after he immigrated. She resides in Winston-Salem and says she'd found the states to be "very welcoming." She works in accounting while her husband is in information technology. Both are recent Forsyth Technical Community College graduates.

"It's an opportunity for anyone to start over," she said about coming to the United States.



Sandra McIlwain and Ray Ledbetter tell the congregation the history of Men's and Women's Day.

Correction

The Chronicle apologizes for an error made in The Chronicle on June 30. On page B5, The Chronicle ran a story with the headline "St. John C.M.E. brings Men's and Women's days together." With the article was a photo with the wrong cutline. The correct photo and caption are above. The Chronicle regrets any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this error. The Editor

Changes

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organization.

"For many of us, Evelyn's name is synonymous with leadership, synonymous with service, synonymous with trust, synonymous with virtue. Evelyn's name is synonymous with the Urban League."

"We are quite sad to see her go," Smith said.

Although her reign as board chair has come to a

close, Acree noted, she will always be a part of the organization.

"You know what they say," said Acree. "Once an Urban Leaguer always an Urban Leaguer."

Other directors whose terms have expired are Beaufort Bailey, Ron Weatherford and Sofia Porter.

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 SATURDAY JULY 9: THE GET RIGHT BAND (FUNK ROCK)

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