

# Thanksgiving at Carver came early

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WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS

At Carver High School, Thanksgiving came on Tuesday this year.

Students in the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism – under the leadership of academy coordinator Dewayne Tillman – served a Thanksgiving meal to students on the A/B Honor Roll and their families.

Thanks to LaShonda Stone of Mansion House of Design and her sister, Swynette Stone-Smith, who is an Exceptional Children case manager at Carver, the media center had been transformed into an elegant dining area.

The food had been donated by Carver families.

“Everybody’s parents brought a dish,” said Mitzi Pastrana, a senior in the academy.

Eyvette Abbott, whose son, Edmund, is a sopho-

more at Carver, had brought fried chicken. Abbott, who is the pastor at Miracles Outreach International Ministries, said she was glad that Carver was having the dinner.

“It means a lot,” Abbott said.

“It’s great,” said Marquitta Sims, who had come to have dinner with her niece Delmaja Bess, who is a senior.

“This is a wonderful time,” Tillman said as he welcomed everyone.

Principal Travis Taylor said that he appreciated what Tillman and the students were doing.

“This is an opportunity for people to come together,” Taylor said.

One goal of the event was to strengthen the connections between the school and community, said Lakeyia Ingram, the career development coordinator for Carver.

Some academy students see participating in

the academy as a step toward owning their own business one day.

“I want to own my own business where everybody comes to have a good time,” said senior Kanijah Edwards. “I want a place where everybody can come and enjoy their family and friends.”

Junior Fashad Morrison wants to own a technology business one day. He thinks that the experience of serving others that he is gaining through the academy will serve him well in reaching that goal.

“It sets up real-life experiences for customer service,” Morrison said.

Something on the minds of several students in the academy was Carver’s reputation in the community. Most students at Carver care about their school, about making good grades and about being successful, said senior Jakyia Vance.

Some people think of Carver as a troubled



WS/FCS photo

Academy of Hospitality & Tourism students served A/B Honor Roll students and their families under the leadership of academy coordinator Dewayne Tillman, second from right. Lakeyia Ingram, the career development coordinator for Carver, is first on the left.

school, though, they said. They hope that events such as the Thanksgiving dinner help give people a positive impression of Carver.

“Carver is more than what you think,” said Pastrana. “We have a lot of great things.”

By the time everyone had been served, more than 200 students, parents and members of the community

had shared Thanksgiving dinner.

“This amount of parental participation is a landmark for Carver High School,” Tillman said.

Other Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools also served Thanksgiving dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day, the people at Hall-Woodard Elementary School served

more than 500 students and their families at the school. St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and churches from the Kernersville area united to sponsor the meal. (See story on page B5.)



Photo provided by Exclusively Photography

Left to right) Charles Thigpen, Azzalea Thigpen, Debra Hale, and Willie Johnson sing the freedom song “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ‘Round” as they march in Selma, Alabama in an excerpt of the play “When Courage Becomes Contagious: Remembering Selma Then and Now” by Felecia Piggott-Long, Ph. D.

## Play about voting rights gets attention during election season

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The play “When Courage Becomes Contagious: Remembering Selma Then and Now” by Felecia Piggott-Long, Ph. D., has been performed in the community several times in this election season.

Bishop Sir Walter Mack wanted to encourage church members to get out the vote. The early voting schedule started on Thursday, Oct. 20 - Saturday, Nov. 5. Several of the candidates who were running for office attended the church service and spoke about their platforms. Dr. Mack encouraged members to vote their con-

science, but to also remember the Word of God as the plumbline or the standard for a Godly leader.

On Sunday, Oct. 16, the Union Baptist Drama Ministry performed an excerpt of the play. They performed a scene from the Voter Registration office in Selma, Alabama.

More than 150 people attended a dinner theatre for the play “When Courage Becomes Contagious,” which was featured for the Big Four on Friday Sept. 16.

The background for the play: African Americans citizens had to muster up the courage to register to vote in spite of the

literacy tests they were subjected to. Voting officials might ask African-Americans to guess the number of marbles in a jar, or they might ask them a question such as “When was President George Washington’s birthday?”

Katherine Martin served as the narrator for the presentation. Willie Johnson played the role of President Barak Obama when he stood on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 2015 to celebrate the re-signing of the Voting Rights Act 50 years later. Charles Thigpen, a Selma police officer, and Azzalea Thigpen, the Selma Voter Registration Clerk, harassed Black voters

Richard Rowell, Lisha Edmonds, and Debra Hale. Reynita McMillan and Justin Johnson were also Selma demonstrators. Cameron Brown supplied photographs of Bloody Sunday, Selma Demonstrations, and the gathering on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965 and 2015.

“Voting rights are important” said Dr. Piggott-Long. “I wrote this play to call attention to the unsung heroes who have demonstrated for voting rights in Selma, Alabama, and in North Carolina. We cannot take voting for granted. Now is the time to cast our votes and participate in the political process.”

## 2 from area receive Governor’s Award for Excellence

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

TaWanna Archia, a program manager for Career Development & Community Engagement in the Student Affairs Office at UNC School of the Arts, and Robert Walker, director of business services and systems for UNC-Greensboro, are two of 16 recipients of the 2016 Governor’s Awards for Excellence.

Archia won in the Public Service category for her efforts at raising awareness of the sensitive topic of domestic violence.

She founded I’m My Sister’s Keeper, an organization dedicated to providing support for domestic violence victims. She started the organization after one of the members of her church was killed as the result of an abusive relationship.

The mission of I’m My Sister’s Keeper is to identify the presence of domestic violence in the community

and provide resources and support to those who suffer in abusive relationships. I’m My Sister’s Keeper is a faith-based organization that welcomes everyone.

To raise funds for the organization, Archia has organized a series of fundraising events, including a Winter Wellness event with health screenings and wellness tips, a “Zumbathon” with a seminar about negative thinking, and an on-going t-shirt fundraiser. Volunteers for I’m My Sister’s Keeper also regularly prepare toiletry packets for local battered women’s shelters.

Walker has proven himself as an innovator by virtue of his work improving UNCG’s mail delivery service, award officials said.

Walker and Archia were honored at the Governor’s Awards for Excellence luncheon and ceremony on Sept. 27, along with 14 other state employees, for his efforts

at overhauling a university-wide mail delivery service.

Walker received the award in the Customer Service category.

In addition to making the mail service more accessible, the new system Walker devised cuts costs and is environmentally friendly. UNCG spent less than \$10,000 on it; a commercially available alternative would have exceeded \$100,000.

The Governor’s Award for Excellence was created in 1982 to acknowledge and express appreciation to employees for outstanding accomplishments beyond the scope of their normal duties that are a credit to the person and the state of North Carolina.

Employees are nominated for the award by their supervisors and co-workers. Recipients are selected by a committee of their peers.



Photos from the N.C. Governor’s Office

TaWanna Archia receives her award certificate from Paula Woodhouse, interim director of the Office of State Human Resources, and School of the Arts Human Resources Director James Lucas.



Robert Walker is pictured with Paula Woodhouse, interim director of the Office of the State Human Resources, and Charles Maimone, vice chancellor of business affairs at UNC-Greensboro.