

**Ronnie**

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Over the years Long has filed several appeals, but none have been successful. But in 2017 the Fourth District Court agreed with Long and sent the case back to District Court, where it is now.

While discussing Long's case during WSSU's History, Politics, & Social Justice Spring Colloquium on Thursday, Jan. 24, Jamie T. Lau, supervising attorney of the Duke Wrongful Conviction Clinic, said, "This system here in North Carolina can wear you out and wear you down."

"...That's what they've been trying to do in Ronnie's case."

Lau, who joined team "Free Ronnie Long" in 2014, said when he looked at the case, he saw someone who fell victim to backlash from the state in response to the progress that occurred in the 1960s. He said that backlash manifested its way into the criminal justice system.

Arguments for Long in the Fourth District Court will begin March 19-21. Lau said he is optimistic that Long will finally see justice. He said when looking at the evidence, it's clear the law enforcement officers who investigated the case lied to conceal information and evidence that proved Long was innocent.

After listening to the evidence presented in the case, Dr. Larry Little urged dozens of students in attendance to rally together and demand elected officials do the right thing and free Ronnie Long. Little, a co-founder of the local chapter of the Black Panther Party and current associate professor of social science at WSSU, is well known for his involvement in the exoneration of Darryl Hunt, who was wrongfully convicted for the rape and murder of Deborah Sykes in 1984.

Little encouraged the students to start a petition and a possible march on Attorney General Josh Stein's office. He told the students it's not easy doing this kind of work, but they can make a difference.

"... It can be long and it can be frustrating, but we can have success. We've heard the evidence.



Ronnie Long, a native of Concord, has spent the last 42 years in prison for a crime he says he didn't commit. Last week students from Winston-Salem State University joined the fight to "Free Ronnie Long".

They know the truth. They just won't do justice, so what I suggest we do is start a petition drive," continued Little. "... Those are the things you have to do. If we do this for Ronnie, I promise you they will have to make a move."

For more information on the case of Ronnie Long or to join the fight for his freedom, visit Free Ronnie Long on Facebook.

## W-S Ambassadors present Everyday Awards

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

During their annual meeting on Friday, Jan. 26, the Winston-Salem Ambassadors awarded five women with the Everyday Award.

The Everyday Award is presented annually to celebrate our neighbors, friends, and colleagues in Winston-Salem who work

tirelessly, day in and day out, and make our city a better place. These everyday heroes do not seek recognition for the things they do, but nonetheless make Winston-Salem a better place.

This year's Everyday Award winners are: Jen Oleniezak Brown (Fearless Winston-Salem & The Engaging), Allyson Rorem (Jasper & Fern), Latasha Barr Lewis (Cam's Coffee

Creations), Kayla Pinger (Emergency Restoration Xperts) and Roberta King Latham (Bennett Guthrie Latham).

Winston-Salem Ambassadors is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate by increasing awareness of the city of Winston-Salem. For more information, visit wsambassadors.org or call 336-794-6050.



Everyday Award winners Latasha Barr Lewis, Kayla Pinger and Roberta King Latham during the Winston-Salem Ambassadors annual meeting last week.

## Superintendent, NAACP president, speak on viral video

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Last week, a 10-second video surfaced of students from Reagan High School using racial slurs. In response to the video, Superintendent Beverly Emory said students at the school will hold discussions about ways the school can highlight and model equity.

In the video, which received dozens of shares and hundreds of views on social media, four white boys can be heard repeatedly using the "N-word." In less than 24-hours, the video had made all the local news networks and the "white boys from Reagan" were the talk of the Internet.

In the days following the viral video, Emory issued this statement saying the video was unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The statement reads: "The video that has surfaced in recent days showing some of our students using racial slurs is

completely unacceptable. The language and behavior in this video is alarming. It is offensive and simply not acceptable in our district. We work daily to create an atmosphere that respects and honors ALL students. Regardless of the motivation or intent, such behavior affects us all."

Emory went on to say they will follow disciplinary policies to "ensure those involved know this is not representative of who we are."

She continued, "With that said, we are working to come up with ways to turn this upsetting situation into a teachable moment. In the coming days and weeks, students at Reagan High School will hold discussions about ways the school can highlight and model our district core value of Equity. We will focus on the importance of honoring the diversity of all students. We will continue the important conversations about the inappropriate use of social media.

"I never want our stu-

dents to feel offended or disrespected. I regularly see our students demonstrating incredible acts of kindness and support. I am so disheartened one video is being seen as a representation of our students when that is just NOT who we are."

In a statement on Facebook, Rev. Alvin Carlisle said although the students used language that fuels hate, to call for a public punishment of the students would be "asinine." He said, "Hateful rhetoric has always been the calling card for white supremacists. In this season of emboldened racism, we can expect to see more videos as we have of the students at Reagan.

"To call for any public punishment of these students is asinine. They were not under the control of their school. They were on their private time, in a private vehicle. Bold and effective action is always steeped in logic."

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