

Dr. Wesley Clement Is Man Of Numerous Interests

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Dr. Wesley Clement, Charlotte ophthalmologist, is a man of many interests and many abilities. President of the Charlotte Business League for the second year, Dr. Clement has been chosen as one of this year's Black History Month Achievers by The Post.

Community involvement is a vital aspect of life for the eye surgeon. "As a resident, you naturally want to help out," he commented. "Becoming involved enables you to learn a lot about what goes on in the community, other than the confines of your business or profession. I like meeting people, working with people," he added.

Raised in Durham, Dr. Clement went to Atlanta to attend Morehouse College. He is a graduate of Meharry Medical College in Nashville. St. Louis is where he did his internship and residency at Homer G. Phillips Hospital. In August, 1975, Dr. Clement opened his practice in ophthalmology in Charlotte, the first black eye surgeon in the city.

A member of the Charlotte Business League since its inception in 1977, Clement stressed that he would like to see the League expand. "Any business person that wants to join is welcome," he stated, explaining that someone need not be self-employed to belong. A number of members represent area corporations. One of the questions presently before the League is whether there should be enabling legislation to enforce the city's M-WBE program, which at this time is voluntary.

Dr. Clement's interest in medicine began in high school, where, he reported, he was "inquisitive about medicine" and where science was one of his favorite subjects. He decided to



Dr. Wesley Clement
Local ophthalmologist

major in biology and pre-med.

It wasn't until his internship, however, that he considered specializing in ophthalmology. He intended to go into general surgery, but "it just so happened that Homer G. Phillips had a good ophthalmology program," he explained.

Unlike many other physicians, Dr. Clement maintains a practice by himself. "Ophthalmology is not as demanding as some specialties, in that there isn't much night work," he noted. He likes the combination of office work and surgery that his practice entails. Another aspect of his profession that he enjoys is being able to see results.

Dr. Clement remarked that other physicians rarely treat eye diseases, and there isn't any overlap with other surgeries, as there often is in other medical specialties. His focus on one organ, the eye, has

been "very intriguing" and influenced his decision to embark on the ophthalmologic specialty.

Dr. Clement is active in his church, First Baptist-West on Oaklawn Avenue. He was the church's 1983 Man of the Year and has just come off the Board of Directors. He also served on the Civil Service Board and the Board of Friends of Fourth Ward. Clement is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Masons, Zechariah Alexander number 833 Lodge, Charlotte Consistory number 35, and Rameses Temple number 51.

Dr. Clement's wife, Gynise, is a Charlotte-Mecklenburg teacher who works at the teachers' learning resource center on West

Blvd. She is also a partner in Joseph's Food Services. Their five children - Benny,

17; Wesley, Jr., 15; Billy and John, 9; and Nikki, 7 - all attend Charlotte

schools. The Clements make their home in Fourth Ward.

Carolina Launches Major Minority Scholar Program

CHAPEL HILL - The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is launching a major effort this semester to attract some of the nation's most promising black scholars.

Object of the effort is to increase the number of highly qualified minority applicants for faculty openings on campus.

Dr. G. Philip Manire, vice chancellor and dean of the Graduate School, said on Wednesday night at a reception for the nine 1984-85 scholars that the pressure is enormous among major American universities for the best and brightest minority faculty members.

"The number of minority scholars going into graduate education is dropping, so we intend to use the postdoctoral training approach so successfully employed by medical schools and the sciences," he said.

University Chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III said: "We believe this

postdoctoral program is unique in American higher education. We think it is the first and only program of its type designed to give minority scholars in the humanities the opportunity to concentrate on specialized research at this kind of institution before they begin a teaching career in

higher education."

The local participant in the program is:

-Barbara A. Williams of Charlotte, a scholar in physics and astronomy. She graduated from UNC-Greensboro and earned her master's and her PH.D. from the University of Maryland.

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