

Foundation For The Carolinas Offers New Scholarship Program

A new merit scholarship program for undergraduate students in the field of education is being offered through the Foundation For The Carolinas.

The William Tasse Alexander Scholarship Fund will annually offer merit scholarships ranging from 1,000 to 3,500 to Mecklenburg County residents majoring in education. Priority will be given to rising college juniors and seniors, but students in other classes will be

considered. The deadline for submitting applications this year was March 1, 1985.

The William Tasse Alexander Scholarship Fund was established by the late Margery Alexander Thompson, a Charlotte-Mecklenburg teacher for more than 40 years and an influential advocate for improving public education in North Carolina. Mrs. Thompson, who died in 1981, established the scholarship fund in her will and specified that

the fund be named in honor of her parents and grandparents. The William Tasse Alexanders, descendants of some of the Mecklenburg's earliest settlers, made their family home in the Mallard Creek area of the county.

Mrs. Thompson devoted her life, both inside and outside the classroom, to improving public education. She was instrumental in bringing about many educational advancements, including getting the

twelfth grade and the ninth month added to schools in North Carolina. She was also instrumental in securing increased salaries, retirement programs and other benefits for teachers.

Mrs. Thompson was an active member and held numerous leadership positions in the National Education Association, the North Carolina Education Association and the Classroom Teachers Association of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School

System (CTA). When she retired from classroom teaching in 1967, she became executive director of the CTA. She also served on the North Carolina Textbook Commission and the Governor's Education Commission.

The Foundation For The Carolinas is a community foundation serving a wide variety of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina.

For further information contact Marilyn Bradbury at 376-9541.

Henry Frye
—Supreme Court Justice—

Justice Henry Frye Speaks To Black UNC Alumni

CHAPEL HILL — When Henry E. Frye entered the School of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1956, he was the only black.

"I was married, busy and working," Frye said. "I lived in Greensboro and commuted every day to Chapel Hill. I was the only person of color there."

Frye, an associate justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, was the keynote speaker Saturday at a banquet which culminated Discovery, a black history program at the University.

Frye, a native of Ellerbe, told a crowd of about 160 black alumni that his daily trips from Greensboro to Chapel Hill worked out well until one of his fellow commuters started to arrive late for his ride.

"He told me that no one would notice if we came to class late," Frye said. "I told him, 'They may not notice you, but they would certainly notice me.'"

Frye, 52, an alumnus of N.C. A&T State University, graduated from the Law School in 1959 with honors. Of 105 students who were in Frye's first-year class, 80 graduated, 72 took the state bar examination, and 17 failed it, he said.

"I was happy. I was in the passing group," Frye said. However, he said, he made a 350 on the law school admission test and was asked to take a remedial reading course.

"I was too proud to take a reading course," he said. "To this day, I wish I had. It would have given me better reading skills."

There were two women in Frye's class and one graduated. "We were distinct; we were all minorities."

Frye said many of his classmates were World War II or Korean War veterans, married and had not attended the University as undergraduates. Frye served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1953 to 1955.

"Many of us were from poor backgrounds and shared similar experiences," he said. "It helped us get through."

While in law school, Frye gained the reputation of being an excellent student after making an "A" in his first class under Professor M.T. Van-Hecke.

"I studied very carefully in his class," Frye said. "Everybody knew who made A's. I was recognized as being a scholar based on examination." Frye later wrote for the N.C. Law Review, a student publication in the law school.

After graduating, Frye established a law practice in Greensboro. One of his cases, he recounted to the audience, was when he represented several of the cafeteria workers in their violent strike, which began in February 1967.

"It was a sobering experience," he said, "one that I will always treasure." Frye was hugged by several workers after the strike ended in March 1968, he said.

Frye was a law professor at N.C. Central University from 1965 to 1967.

Two years earlier, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina.

He served in the N.C. House of Representatives from 1969 to 1990 (except for 1972).

Early in his legislative career, he received statewide publicity for making motion for that body to adjourn to honor slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. on his birthday.


"That had little to do in making anything better for black people in North Carolina," Frye said. "But first impressions are important."

Frye served in N.C. Senate from 1981-82. Two years ago, Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. appointed him as a justice to the N.C. Supreme Court replacing Justice J. Phil Carlton.

Jesus said, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Matthew 6:6

The power of prayer turns the hand that turns the world.



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