

West Charlotte history on brick mural

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Corporation funded the art.

"By commissioning this sculpture, we wanted to add something meaningful to the neighborhood that illustrates its history and dignity," CMDC chairperson Frances Harkey said.

"This isn't museum art, Smith said. "People like to get up close and touch it," she said.

Smith said she tried to include all of the ideas she was given by the group in her design, which include an African American female scientist, veterans of World Wars I and II, blue collar professions such as masonry and welding, and the story of the first paved road in the state. Wilkinson Boulevard was one of the first paved roads in North Carolina.

"This is 6,000 pounds of bricks," she said.

To create the designer bricks, Smith said she received the bricks when they were still in clay form. Then she carves in the designs, using "kitchen knives and meat tenderizers."

Smith said the next step is to bake the bricks at 2,000 degrees for about a week.

"Each brick is numbered, so when we put it up, it is brick by number," she said with a laugh.

Despite the detailed designs on the bricks, Smith said any skilled mason would be able to put one of her projects together.

This isn't the first time Smith has dotted the Charlotte landscape with

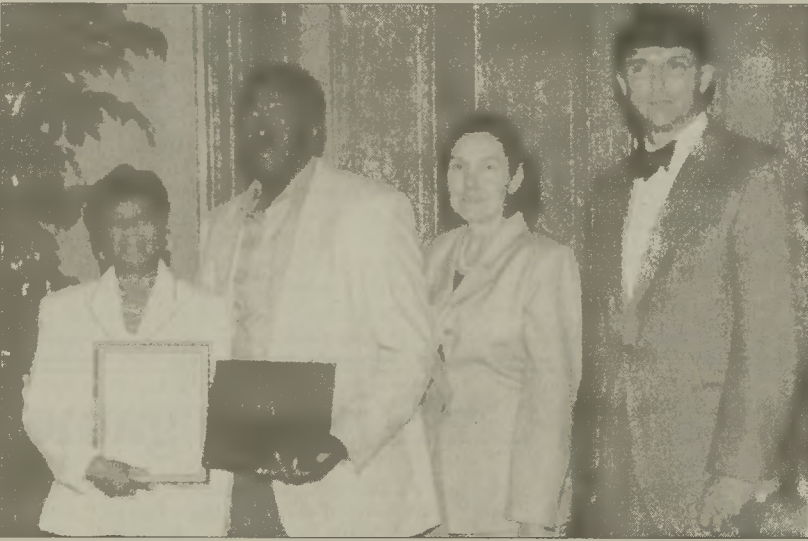
her work. She was commissioned to install panels at Charlotte Latin School.

The creation of the artwork and the Wilkinson Business Park is part of the Advantage Carolina strategic plan.

Business and civic leaders developed the plan to address strategic issues in the Charlotte region.

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WINTHROP UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL



PHOTO/HAROLD TYSON

Senior remembered on campus

By Harold Tyson
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Winthrop University held a memorial service for LaTina Renee Wilson, a senior family and consumer science major who died of the flu in December.

Winthrop University representatives, including her faculty advisor, two professors, and Pat Graham, Dean of the Richard Riley College of Education attended. Wilson was scheduled to graduate in May.

Thomas Moore, Winthrop's vice president for academic affairs officiated the ceremony during which Wilson's parents, the Revs.

Albert and Claudette Wilson of Mullins, S.C., received a certificate of attendance in honor of their daughter.

According to Albert Wilson, LaTina was a healthy, vibrant young woman of 22 when she began feeling ill in the spring of 2003. At that time she was diagnosed with Raynaud's disease. Shortly thereafter, doctors at Duke University Medical Center found her to be afflicted with scleroderma, a disorder that causes hardening of the body tissue.

"The medications she was using to fight these diseases caused a weakening of her immune system - that's when the flu took hold," he says.

Revs. Claudette and Albert Wilson receive a certificate of attendance in honor of their daughter, LaTina Wilson, from Pat Graham, dean of the Richard Riley College of Education, and Thomas Moore, vice president for academic affairs. LaTina Wilson, who died of the flu in December 2003, was scheduled to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in family and consumer science.

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Unlike popular belief, Black readers of Black-targeted newspapers are young, mature and have solid careers.

53% are A18-44
62.3% are A25-54
57.5% are A35-64

ADULTS-AGE	Percentage
18-24	10.9
25-34	17.6
35-44	24.6
45-54	20.1
55-64	12.8
65-74	10.8
75 PLUS	3.2

OCCUPATION	Percentage
HOMEMAKER	3.5
RETIRED	16.7
BLUE COLLAR	21.5
CLERICAL/SALES	17.2
PROPRIETOR/MANAGERIAL	10.8
PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL	12.5

Source: The Media Audit Black-targeted newspaper report 2003

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