

NEWS FEATURES

Remembering Investiture Activities...

Dr. Schexnider Becomes 10th Chancellor

BY AMY PHIPPS
Editor

On September 6, faculty, alumni, students, staff, visitors and friends of Winston-Salem State University packed K.R. Williams Auditorium for the investiture ceremony of the new chancellor, Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider.

In addition to those listed above delegates from other colleges and universities, and professional organizations came from all over the country to witness the festive investiture of Dr. Schexnider.

The investiture speaker, former Governor of Virginia, L. Douglas Wilder, is a close friend of Schexnider. He is known for his highly successful political

career which resulted in his becoming the first elected African-American governor in United States history.

Speaking from great experience, Wilder gave a dynamic speech which emphasized the importance of learning. Some of the reasons Wilder gave for pursuing a higher education were maintaining a competitive edge in the workplace, providing greater opportunity for financial success, improving society and developing strong leadership.

According to Wilder education improves the individual's ability to control his/her destiny. "No one is born delivered in success or defeat."

The direction he believes that is necessary for WSSU to continue moving forward will be found in the "bold,

innovative and imaginative leadership" of Chancellor Schexnider.

After taking the oath of office as administered by local District Court Judge Roland H. Hayes, Sr., Dr. Schexnider was invested by University of North Carolina President C.D. Spangler, Jr. and received the WSSU medallion.

Chancellor Schexnider responded to all of the warm welcomes given throughout the ceremony by paying tribute to WSSU founder Simon Green Atkins and to all of Dr. Schexnider's predecessors.

And what does Dr. Schexnider hope to see in WSSU's future? "I intend for WSSU to be the best undergraduate university in the area."



Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider

Taylor Delivers Strong Message To Students

BY MONICA ALEXANDER
Staff Writer

Susan Taylor, editor-in-chief of Essence magazine and senior vice-president of Essence Communications delivered strong, powerful messages to the students, faculty, staff, and visitors at WSSU during a week of Investiture events in honor of Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, the new chancellor.

Taylor came to the auditorium with a prepared speech, but decided to speak from her heart, not from a piece of paper. Taylor told the members of the audience that their lives are important from start to finish. "Life is not a dress rehearsal, this is it," she said.

Critical thinking was another important message in her speech. According to Taylor, this is the key to survival and success. "If we thought critically there would be no hunger, no jails, no homelessness, no drugs, and we would not be taking care of foreign countries before our own. If we thought critically, we could face the fact that life is a struggle no matter who you are, but this is how we know our power and intelligence," said Taylor.

Education and finishing college were other important messages in her speech. She explained that this has been one of her goals that she finally accomplished five years ago at age 45. She urged students to not worry about having a relationship while in school because, "being in love and in school is hard to handle and you must give yourself to yourself before you give yourself away!" Taylor added, "if you're in a relationship put sex on the back burner, for AIDS is claiming black people four times faster than any other group of people. This dreaded disease is especially attacking black women between 25 and 44. Remember that there is a universe of pleasure in just holding hands."

Taylor offered other words of wisdom. She says throughout your life the most important thing is to "maintain peace in your life, which is up to you to learn how to acquire, because it is not taught in class."



Susan Taylor autographs copies of her book for students

She reminded the members of the audience that, "God is in you, he never ever leaves you. God does things through you because we are earth angels. God needs you as much as we need him. God never fails you."

Taylor believes if you think critically, have peace within yourself, have faith and have courage you will have a good life. And remember, "don't fear the future because there are so many opportunities and doors out there to be opened."

Boogie Down At Ram Jam 1996 - Saturday, October 5, 8 p.m. LJVMC.