

Opinions & EDITORIALS

From the Editor

Positives and negatives seen at conference

Winston-Salem State University alumni and Labcor manager Brian K. Little said, "being prepared is key" in the opening speech to kick-off the inaugural WSSU Mass Communications Conference. However, no one could have prepared for what unfolded during the two-day event.



JONES

Each day featured an opening speech, a concurrent morning session, a lunch speaker and a concurrent evening session. Media professionals in print, broadcast, advertising and public relations came to share their knowledge and insight about the media industry with students.

Students took advantage of this opportunity by asking questions at the sessions and networking with media professionals in an effort to begin their careers as media specialists. Not only did students have an opportunity to exchange resumes and present portfolios, but they also had the opportunity to receive out-of-class instruction from media practitioners.

There is no doubt that the 2002 Mass Communications Conference proved that WSSU is a campus of champions based on the positive impression it left on students, faculty, staff and guests.

Nevertheless, it is important to mention one concern. There are about 200 students pursuing a mass communications degree. One would expect to see most, if not all of the students at a conference that meant so much in terms of career opportunities and learning about the industry. The opportunity does not happen often.

Unfortunately, student apathy reared its ugly head at the conference. There were 87 students in attendance, a relatively low number of students in proportion to the number of majors on both days of the conference.

For those students that were there, they now have an upper hand on their apathetic colleagues. There is no excuse for apathy, especially in an industry that is as competitive as mass media. Maybe the students in attendance can pass on the importance of taking advantage of all opportunities to their colleagues so that next year's conference will only have enthusiastic students that are ready to take on the mass media world.

Influential Black Writers



Argus illustrations by Jamil Steele

Langston Hughes (from left) wrote poems, novels, plays, stories, opera librettos, lyrics for musicals and a cantata from the various themes of his life to become one of America's leading men of letters.

Booker T. Washington was born in Franklin County, Va., just before the Civil War began. Washington grew up and tenaciously pursued an education in the turbulent Reconstruction era.

Jessie Redman Fauset was a library editor of the NAACP's *Crisis* magazine (1919-1936). Fauset was one of three people Hughes credited with "mid-wif[ing]... they nursed us along until our books were born." Fauset was among the first African-Americans to graduate from Cornell University.

Lorraine Hansberry's best-known work, the 1959 play *A Raisin in the Sun*, was the first play by an African-American woman to be produced on Broadway, and it won the Drama Critics Circle Award.

Graduating senior shares thoughts on WSSU's positives and negatives

By Raoul Davis
GUEST COLUMNIST

As a freshman in 1997, I remember WSSU as a controversial campus, a home of embezzlement rumors and student protest. A laughing stock locally, unable to take care of its business, a stagnant university.

Today, WSSU is increasing enrollment and improving its image by being accountable. It's a growing campus that is building facilities and programs. As Chancellor Martin says, "Who could have imagined?"

During my years at WSSU, there have been some continuous positives and negatives. One positive has always been the Division of Student Affairs. People such as Ms. Cameron, Mr. Cumbo, Ms. Cole, Mr. Gladden, Mr. Hester, Ms. Hood, Mr. Malloy, Ms.

Muhammad, Dr. Pierce, Mr. Roseboro, Ms. Sloan, Ms. Smith and previously Dr. Kennedy-Sloan have rigorously supported students.

Whether it was helping with a program, finding a job, looking over a letter or paper or needing someone to talk to, these people have readily made themselves available. Another constant area has been student leadership. From past and present leaders such as Carmille Akande, Karen Taylor, Mataryun Wright, Carlos Winston, Corey Ruffin and Rolanda Patrick, to future leaders such as Antoine James, Safari Jeffries, Marques Johnson, Kristy Swink and Mignon Turner. WSSU students have a reputation for effectively representing students on the university, state and national levels.

Finally, a diverse faculty with

multi-faceted teaching styles has been advantageous in helping students think critically.

Continuous negatives at WSSU include the disrespectful treatment of students in certain Thompson Center offices. I hope a time will come when students can walk into the Registrars office feel welcome.

I hope a day will dawn when a crying freshman on her first day of class, who's having a financial problem, can hear a response from Billing and Receivables staff other than "Call your parents to come get you," as one of this year's SGA cabinet members heard when she was a freshman.

I have some challenges to issue for the improvement of WSSU.

First to university faculty and staff: Embrace the university's

See SENIOR,
Page 6