

DAY,  
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kept climbing in faith. Slaved, ambitious and gifted...his legacy is far too great to celebrate once a year."

The keynote address for Founder's Day was given by the Honorable Lyons Gray, a six-term member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. The theme to Gray's address was legacy. "I want to speak especially to class of 2006, because what I'm about to say, your brothers and sisters in this room already know. I want to speak about legacy and more importantly what we learn from legacy," said Gray.

"The brightest days lay straight ahead for WSSU. If the students take away anything from here today, let it be a sense of the past, and an appreciation of the risks and sacrifices so many took so that you could be here today."

Gray described the atmosphere of the latter 19th century, the period during which Dr. Atkins was forming Slater's Academy. A white racist revolution had broken out in Winston Salem, leaving Atkins to carry a lot of weight on his shoulders as he prepared to take on admirable endeavors. Gray said that as Atkins did the right, unpopular thing rather than the easy thing, his courage was displayed.

As Gray wrapped up his address, he left the students of WSSU with a "profound challenge" that Dr. Atkins probably took on himself.

"These three questions are meant to entice. You should ask yourself 'who am I?', 'why am I here?' and 'where am I going?'. If you can answer these three questions truthfully, you can live with any decision you make."

It is because of Simon Green Atkins' dream that WSSU students are capable of playing the roles that they do all over the world, according to Student Government Association president, Kristie Swink.

"I think the importance of Founder's Day is simply that Simon Green Atkins had a vision. Today we're that living vision and we continue to be as WSSU grows."

Dr. Melvin N. Johnson, Vice-Chancellor, reiterated the importance of this university holiday.

"By far I think WSSU has so many great reconnections to the past allowing us to celebrate vision and forethought of a man like Simon Green Atkins," he said.

## Correction

In the September 2002 issue of *The News Argus*, we mistakenly identified Emmanuel Akah as Emmanuel Sakah. We apologize for the inaccuracy.

# Steve Waddy's travels to Ghana made a lasting impression on him

By Constance Hyman  
ARGUS REPORTER

Steve Waddy, a senior history major from Columbia, Md., studied abroad during the spring semester of 2002 in Ghana, with the help of Dr. Olosope Oyelaran and the International Student Exchange Program based in Washington, D.C.

Waddy chose Ghana because of the great historical reference and the fact that many African-Americans have Ghanaian ancestry. Also, Ghana was the place of death of W.E.B. Dubois, an American writer.

To some, the mere thought of traveling outside of their hometown to come to college was frightening enough; just imagine all of the emotional, physical, and spiritual preparation that it would take to travel across the Atlantic ocean to a totally different continent.

Waddy said, "Emotionally I was ready to seek a new surrounding, and I had no time to be skeptical."

However, the physical preparation was a different story. He said that he had to get four shots and take pills to protect himself from malaria the entire time he was in Ghana and weeks after he arrived back in America.

Educationally, he did research at the University of Ghana in Legone, where he studied dur-

ing that semester.

Waddy said he wished that he would have talked to both someone who had studied abroad before and someone from Africa to get a good background and foundation for his travels.

Waddy, along with the about 60 other students, lived in traditional dormitories and participated in traditional studies.

It is common in America for race to be a barrier amongst its people but in Ghana, Waddy said, language was the barrier.

"If you were fluent in the language of Twi, a lot of barriers were broken."

Waddy is still studying the language. One thing that sticks out in his mind about the culture in Ghana was the European influence. Because Europe had a great deal of control, a lot of the products the people used and places they shopped and even banked with had European influence.

American culture is also popular in Ghana, Waddy said. The students listened to popular music from America, they would download BET on their computers and watch "bootlegged" movies.

He also visited some remarkable places during his stay in Ghana. He visited the slave castles in Elmina. He remembers the keen scent of slaves and the sight of blood on the walls and

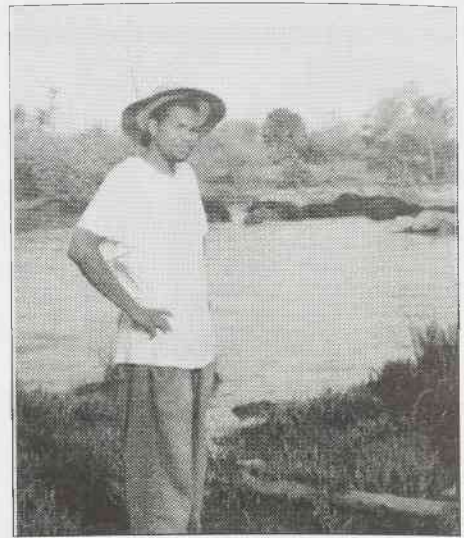


Photo courtesy of Steve Waddy

While in Ghana, Steve Waddy saw a beautiful waterfall and this lake.

the students feeling a sense of sorrow and pain. He also visited the slave fort called Grossfriedrichsburg. The students spent a weekend in Hohoe at the Wli waterfall, which he described as the most beautiful and remarkable site.

"Being in Ghana brought back a sense of reality," said Waddy. "I had to change my condescending views about people in reference to my perception of the North versus the South in American culture."

He said that Ghana also taught him to appreciate and take advantage of all of the opportunities he has in America because after talking to the people of Ghana he realized how much better off people are when they appreciate what they have.

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