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Winston-Salem State University

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Jemison is graduation speaker

COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS

Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman to travel into space, will deliver the keynote address for Winston-Salem State University's 113th Spring Commencement at the Lawrence Joel Veteran's Memorial Coliseum at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, May 8.



Courtesy of Media Relations
Dr. Mae Jemison will deliver the 2004 commencement address.

A native of Decatur, AL, Jemison was reared in Chicago, IL, where an uncle introduced her to the world of science. Undaunted by a lack of role models in the field, she excelled academically, and at age 16 she entered Stanford University in Stanford, Calif., on scholarship. She graduated with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering and fulfilled the requirements for an A.B. degree in African and Afro-American studies. She then attended the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, N.Y., where she earned her M.D. degree in 1981.

Following medical school, Jemison served in the Peace Corps from January 1983 to June 1985. She was stationed in Sierra Leone and Liberia, West Africa, as the area Peace Corps medical officer. There she supervised the pharmacy, laboratory and medical staff. She provided medical care, wrote self-care manuals, and developed and implemented guidelines for health and safety issues. She also worked in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on research for various vaccines.

After returning from the Peace Corps in 1985, Jemison secured a position with CIGNA Health Plans of California as a general practitioner in Los Angeles, Calif. She began attending graduate classes in engineering and applied to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for admission to the astronaut program. She was accepted in 1987, one of only 15 candidates accepted from some 2,000 applicants.

Jemison successfully completed her astronaut training program in August 1988, becoming the fifth African-American astronaut and the first African-American female astronaut in NASA history. Jemison boarded space shuttle Endeavour in 1992, as a science mission specialist (a NASA first) on the STS-47 Spacelab J Flight, a successful joint U.S.-Japan science mission.

A distinguished physician, scientist, chemical engineer, linguist and educator, Jemison believes strongly in the value of public schools. In 1992, she was honored with the establishment of the Mae C. Jemison Academy, an alternative public school in Detroit, MI.

In 1993, when she resigned from NASA, Jemison began the Jemison Group Inc., a technology company in Houston, Texas. The group's projects include a satellite-based telecommunication system to improve health care in West Africa and The Earth We Share, an international science camp for students 12 to 16 years old. Her new corporation, BioSentient, is a medical technology company. Also, she is currently an A. D. White professor-at-large at Cornell University.

Jemison is the recipient of innumerable honors and awards, including the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Winston-Salem State University in 1991.

Minority students flock to WSSU

By Lisa R. Boone
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

In most instances when people hear the word "minority" when used in reference to race they immediately come to the conclusion that the people in that group are African-American, Asian, Hispanic, or American Indian. However, in some cases this is not true. For example, the amount of non African-American students enrolled at WSSU. There are 4,102 graduate and undergraduate students at WSSU for the 2003-2004 school year. Almost 4,000 of the students enrolled are undergraduate students, of these students 684 are not African-American.

Although WSSU was founded as a historically Black university many different individuals of different races have found that WSSU is the place for them to continue their educations

WSSU offers a variety of programs that people from various descents find interesting.

Anna Bear, a caucasian second-degree student seeking a degree in Spanish, said, "I wanted to study Spanish so I came to talk to Dr. Brookshaw; after talking with him about the Spanish program here I decided to come to WSSU. My experience here so far has been absolutely excellent. I enjoy attending this university very much. As a person seeking a second-degree I am very thankful for the excellent education I am receiving. I enjoy my classes, the instructors, the students and the environment here."

The "minorities" on the campus of WSSU have many reasons for attending the university.



Photo by Nicole Ferguson
Seniors Jill Robbins (left) and Marissa Chavis are Mass Communication majors.

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"You have a great history, you have to begin by realizing you are a very special person who belongs to a very special race of people and you have so much to be proud of."

-- Dorothy Height



Photo courtesy of Media Relations
Dr. Dorothy Height, 92, recently won the Congressional Medal of Honor. Her tireless efforts for equal rights have earned her national praise.

Excellence

Dr. Dorothy Height says as African Americans being good is not good enough

By Adrienne McInnis
ARGUS REPORTER

It is such a dramatic quote that it has influenced and remained with the renowned human and civil rights leader, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, through most of her adult life.

"Don't tell me that you have done your best,

your best is not good enough, it has to be excellent, this is a black newspaper." This is "The Negro World." An exact quote uttered from the mouth of Marcus Garvey, the leader of the largest movement during the 1920s, the Pan African movement, everyday to his staff. Height, who at 21 had the opportunity to be a part of Garvey's staff with the job of proofreading pages of "The Negro World" is

still living by these profound words today. "To be black, means you have to be the best," says Height.

Born in Richmond, Va., Height received a master's degree through scholarship at New York University. Height was a giant of the Civil Rights Movement.

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Campus police get motorized bikes to patrol campus

By Janell J. Lewis
ARGUS MANAGING EDITOR

Beginning this month, Winston-Salem State University will become the first campus in the country to provide its security officers with electric-powered bicycles like ones currently used by U.S. military forces overseas.

"Regular bike patrols are somewhat limited because it all comes down to the energy level and how in shape an officer is," said Jonathan Martin, executive assistant to the Chancellor.

However, the electric bikes, which look similar to mountain bikes, "have the ability to regenerate and recharge the battery by pedaling. So, in theory, you can really last longer by pedaling," Martin said.

WSSU has purchased four electric bikes. The bicycles are low-maintenance, quiet and operate with two motors - a 750 watt motor, with a top speed of 20 mph and a range of 15 to 20 miles and a 1,000 watt motor, with a speed of 30 mph and a range of 15 to 20 miles. The bikes fold in half for easy storage, and Martin added that they "create no emissions," so are "environmentally friendly."

Campus police will use three of the four bikes. The fourth is reserved for Chancellor Harold Martin, who plans to use his bright red bike to increase his visibility on campus among students.

Chief Willie Bell of the WSSU public safety department said the bikes will serve a dual purpose. They will create an opportunity for campus police officers "to enhance safety on campus" and "put us closer to our students."

"We're in a geographic area where we have a lot of hills," Bell said. A physically-fit officer may still have problems on a manual bike once in pursuit of a suspect.

In addition to the electric bikes, the university also plans to purchase some traditional bikes. And, Bell added that officers on all shifts will use both the electric and manually-operated bikes.

With the addition of the new pedestrian mall and clock tower on campus, the need for bike patrols is timely, Bell said. Officers on bikes will have access to areas of the campus that are not accessible by police cars.

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