

Muhammad Ali Spiritual Center reveals his beliefs

By Frank E. Lockwood
KRT WIRE SERVICE

LOUISVILLE, Ky.

At the Muhammad Ali Center, the most famous American convert to Islam isn't bashful about his religious beliefs.

His testimony is displayed on the television screens and imprinted on the museum walls.

"Everything I do now, I do to please Allah," he said. "I conquered the world and it didn't bring me true happiness. The only true satisfaction comes from honoring and worshipping God."

To understand The Greatest, it's "absolutely" crucial to understand his spirituality, his wife, Lonnie

Ali, said in an interview.

"He was raised as a Baptist here in Louisville. Went to church here. His mother took him to Sunday School and to church, and from there he went on to become a Muslim, but all along the man has always been a spiritual man," Lonnie Ali said.

One exhibit includes a picture of Centennial Olivet Baptist Church, where Ali was baptized when he was 12 years old. Another features Ali with Malcolm X and Nation of Islam prophet Elijah Muhammad.

There's Ali and Mother Teresa, together in Calcutta. Later, it's the champion and the Dalai Lama, enjoying

each other's company.

Aloof isn't a word often associated with the champ. "Muhammad believes his celebrity is a gift from God and sharing that with others is an act of kindness. He strongly believes he should share it with others," Lonnie Ali said.

The center has a spirituality room, where visitors can recline on eight sleek, black leather chairs while they listen to the champ's spiritual philosophy.

Ali, once a fiery Nation of Islam member, is now a voice for interfaith cooperation.

"I've seen the whole world. I've learned something from people everywhere. There's truth in

Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, all religions. And in just plain talking," he says. "The only religion that matters is the real religion: love."

As he battles Parkinson's disease, Ali accepts it stoically.

"God gave me this impairment to remind me that I'm not the greatest. He is."

The champion is focused on eternal things.

"I want to do all I can so that when I die, I can go to the right place," he says. "And when we die, life don't end. Life's just starting. I want to do all I can to prepare myself for the hereafter."



Photo courtesy of KRT Wire Service

Muhammad Ali (right) spends time with his daughters, Jamillah (left) and Rasheeda, at the dedication of the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 20.

Don Flow encourages students to invest in their community

By Robyn Floyd
ARGUS REPORTER

Don E. Flow, president and CEO of Flow Motor Companies, urged WSSU students to remain in Winston-Salem after graduation and help the city flourish.

Flow spoke last month before a group of about 50 students and faculty members gathered in the R.J. Reynolds building as part of the Joseph N. Patterson Lyceum Cultural Events Series.

"We live in a society where we are free to choose a career, spouse, future and place to live," Flow said, adding that students must decide what type of futures they want to create for their own lives. "If you cannot imagine it, you cannot create your future," he said.

For the city to flourish, Flow said each generation should "invest in capitals." These capitals are: social ("the good"), intellectual ("truth"), aesthetic ("beauty"), economic ("plenty") and political ("order").

"Those who serve the needs of the community will be rewarded, and their life would be renewed," he said.



Photo by Robyn Floyd

Don Flow spoke to students and faculty as part of Joseph N. Patterson Lyceum Cultural Events Series.

Rams on the Move

Staff, students and alumni of WSSU are accomplishing great things

Departure: Sylvia Oberle, executive director for the Winston-Salem State University's Center for Community Safety, will be leaving the university on February 1, 2006 to accept the executive director position with Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County. A nationwide search will take place to

find Oberle's successor, but until then an interim executive director will hold the soon-to-be vacant position. Oberle has a long and productive history with community involvement. She has led WSSU's CCS since its founding in 2001, and has been nationally recognized as an expert in creating safer neighborhoods. Prior to that, she worked as the project coordinator for a local Justice Department initiative that brought community partners together with local law enforcement to work on neighborhood crime and safety issues. Oberle will replace Brenda Diggs at Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, who announced her resignation in September.

Performances: On Wednesday, November 30, the Fine Arts/Music Department of Winston-Salem State University presented the WSSU Wind Ensemble's Annual Holiday Concert. The program featured classic Christmas hymns and contemporary

literature by composers such as Sammy Nestico, James Christensen, and James Curnow. The WSSU Wind Ensemble is led by Dr. Michael Magruder, Director of Bands.

On Sunday, December 4, the Fine Arts/Music Department of WSSU presented a holiday concert featuring the Winston-Salem State University Choir, the Burke Singers, and University Men. The concert was free and open to the public. Those in attendance enjoyed a variety of holiday chorus selections, arias, and recitatives from George F. Handel's Messiah. Special guests and featured soloists included alumna, contralto Dorothy Childs, senior WSSU soprano Idra Green, and senior WSSU baritone Daniel Gales, as well as a chamber orchestra composed of community instrumentalists and WSSU faculty. The Choral/Vocal Department of the Fine Arts Department collected canned goods to benefit less fortunate families in the community.

Dr. Michael Battle speaks on war, hip-hop and the 'N' word

By Robyn Floyd
ARGUS REPORTER

Dr. Michael A. Battle, the president of Interdenominational Theological Center, gave a keynote address titled "Things Fall Apart" during the recent James A. Gray Endowment Symposium in the R.J. Reynolds lecture room.

Speaking before an audience of about 100, Battle said, "The war in Iraq is senseless, ill-conceived, not well planned and is based on lies." He added that "we [the U.S.] provided Iraq with weapons of mass

destruction.

"Our nation has not won an ideological war since World War II. Unless you are extremely stupid you don't believe Saddam Hussein committed the attacks on 9/11."

Iraq and the "N" word are among the things that Battle said are falling apart. He chastised those who use the word "nigger," saying "our ancestors fought, bled and died for us, but today we have a culture that says its okay to be a nigger again."

He also criticized the hip-hop industry, which he

said has been taken over by gangster rap and has no social, cultural or historical redeeming value. "There is no originality when every video has the same scenario," referring to cars bouncing up and down, guys in "thugged-out" clothes, and women with almost no clothes on. Battle said he is glad that some women are taking a stand against sexually explicit rap lyrics. "Women have drawn a line in the sand and have demanded respect, honor and to be lifted up," he said.

Funds from capital campaign benefit school in various ways

By Tiphane Deas
ARGUS MANAGING EDITOR

A \$35 million capital campaign that kicked off on Winston-Salem State University's campus recently is expected to generate funds for new academic scholarships, endowed professorships and strategic initiatives, according to Chancellor Harold L. Martin.

"We are looking to put about 40 percent of the capital campaign funds in scholarships for students, approximately \$14 million of the \$35 million," Martin said. "To date, we have raised funds to support 50 new scholarships."

"We have been using some of the funds already for students who arrived this year and some who arrived last year," he added.

The launch of the capital campaign attracted visitors from both the city and state.

Kevin Myatt, chairman of the WSSU board of trustees, said funds to recruit new and qualified professors is greatly needed.

"We need to be able to have the finances available to be able to bring those faculty members to the area and to provide them with research dollars," said Myatt.

According to Martin, students can also look forward to the dollars raised by this campaign generating better educational opportunities outside of the classroom, such as funds to send students abroad and to bring in prominent world figures.

Andrew Schindler, national chairman of the campaign, said networking holds the key to the campaign's success. William Friday, president emeritus of the University of North Carolina system, said contributing to the campaign is "the best investment you could make."

"The future lies in the hands of those who are training themselves to be really good scientists, engineers, lawyers, doctors, and that's a matter of the mind. A high school diploma won't carry you today. It's important to have, but you have to go on, and that's why Winston-Salem State's strength and quality is very important, and especially to this community."



Photo courtesy of Media Relations

The capital campaign launch attracted leaders such as William Friday, president emeritus of the North Carolina University system.



Photo courtesy of Media Relations

(Left to right) Kevin Myatt, Board of Trustees chair; William Friday; Chancellor Harold L. Martin; and Andrew Schindler, National Chairman of the campaign; came to support the cause.

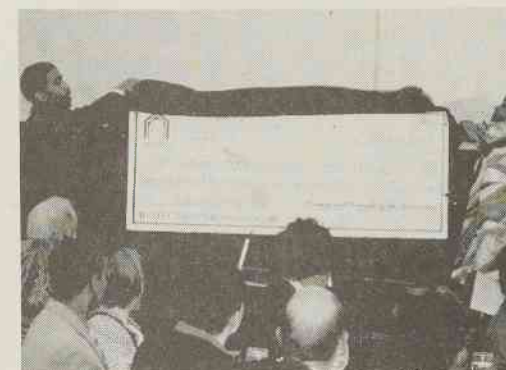


Photo courtesy of Media Relations

Jeremy Baitey (left) and Tierra Williams revealed one of many checks contributed to the campaign.

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