

FEATURES

Ronald Williams survives the hardest year of his life

Patricia Commander
NEWS ARGUS STAFF REPORTER

The night of November 30, 2005, was just like any other night for Ronald Williams, a student at Winston-Salem State University. As he walked home, it never crossed his mind how close death was. Three days later he woke up in intensive care at Wake Forest University Baptist Hospital.

Williams only remembers walking down a sidewalk.

Williams was a victim of a hit-and-run.

Williams may have never been found were it not for drivers noticing glass and books in the street. They called the police for them to clean it up, but the police ended up finding him in the process.

Doctors thought he was dead when the paramedics brought him in. Williams remembers one doctor said, "I don't know how you did it, but somehow you did." Williams responded, "I didn't do it, but I know who did."

After waking, Williams discovered he had suffered several injuries including: trouble hearing, a paralyzed arm and shoulder, broken leg, and several bruises. Unfortunately, Williams learned his trials were not over.

After being examined by several doctors it was still uncertain when or if he'd walk again. But Williams declared to them, "Before I leave this hospital, I will take a step."

One night, a week after leaving the hospital, Williams called the doctor to ask about a smell coming from his cast. The doctors advised him to come to the hospital right away. The doctor said his leg had begun to rot, and if he had come later that night, or the next day, he'd have to have his leg amputated.

Despite all, Williams remained strong.

"Because of my faith, I knew I'd make it. God didn't give up on me, so there was no way I'd give up on myself. Giving up will never give you an answer to your situation."

Williams was restricted to a wheelchair, until March 2006. With continuous use of his wheelchair, he also began using a walker. By the end of April, Williams was walking on his own. He was even back on campus in time for the 2006 summer school session. He says, "We don't take the time to acknowledge and appreciate all the little things that we have and can do. Trying to walk all over was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do."

Williams believes that people should pay more attention to the simple things in life, "Because those things matter the most." Too much emphasis is put on the material things in life, he adds.

Williams had many people helping him get through this hard time in his life. Art Malloy, a former staff member at WSSU, stayed with Williams for the first two nights after the accident. Soon after, Black Men For Change, the WSSU organization Williams belongs to, helped out by supporting him and raising

money for him as well. Williams's church, Mount Olive Baptist church, also assisted. The University helped Williams a lot also. Dr. Melody Pierce, to this day, continues to support and help him. Williams says, "I don't think it would have been possible to overcome all the problems I was facing without the help of these people."

Williams says he would also like to give a special thanks to his parents who did everything for him when he could not do anything for himself; to Angel Lash, who was there for him the whole year as a true friend; to the WSSU English Department for their donations; and everyone else, for their prayers and support.

Williams describes his accident as, "The frosting on the cake." He states that 2005 was the hardest year of his life—he had someone to put a knife to his throat, and had another to pull a gun on him. Williams did not, and has not, let the year of 2005 stop him. "No matter how bad your situation may seem,

you can make it through anything," he said.

Throughout life, everyone encounters trials and tribulations. It's up to us to choose to wallow in those problems, or to have faith and overcome. Williams believed he'd be strong and survive through his many ordeals. "The first step is believing it will happen." He also said, "Things don't go wrong and break your heart so you can become bitter and give up. They happen to break you down and build you up, so you can be all that you were intended to be."

After his accident, Williams says he cherishes time and opportunity the most. "With time, comes opportunities. When they come, make the most of them." Perhaps Williams' testimony serves as a reminder, to take every opportunity to cherish the breath of life, and the ability to overcome.

On fifth anniversary of terrorist attacks, WSSU students reflect on Sept. 11

Sharrod Patterson
NEWS ARGUS STAFF REPORTER

September 11, 2006, marks the tragic fifth year anniversary of 9/11. On this day the nation became vulnerable to terrorism. This day will forever live in the hearts of every American. The events of 9/11 sparked a series of events that have been reshaping our country ever since 2001.

Students at WSSU felt the impact and recalled where they were five years ago.

A few of WSSU's own shared their feelings and insight about the day that changed American forever.

What were you doing?

How did it affect you?

How do you feel when you think back on that day?

Bryant Lewis, sophomore, music major:

"I was in my 9th grade social studies when another teacher came in and made us turn the TV on. [The tragedy] made me appreciate life more. I do not feel as if the US handled the situation well enough."

Quiotti Ratliff, freshman, nursing and biology major:

"I felt bad because innocent people lost their lives."

Tiona Robinson, freshman, special education major:

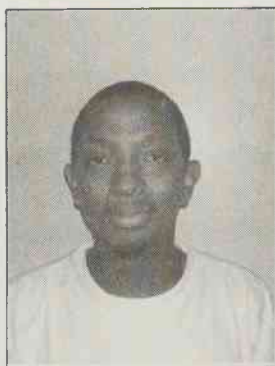
"I was in my eighth grade Technology class. I was sad and shocked it didn't seem real at first. I guess the [government] did the best they could do."

Mone't Macallister, freshman, nursing major:

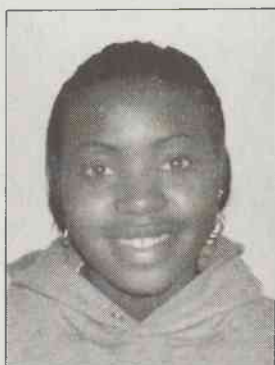
"I'm from Brooklyn, but I was in Wilson NC and it was my brother's birthday. I was a little scared because my mom and brother were up near it all. [I feel] more things could have been done."

Derrick Jones, senior, mass communication major:

"I was in history class. I was in shock could not believe it happened. I was hurt emotionally because most of my family who live in Harlem."



LEWIS



ROBINSON



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Attend Saturday Academy

Sponsored by Winston-Salem State University & co-sponsored by the S.G. Atkins Community Development Corporation.

Learning is lifelong and it is not a privilege or right; it is simply a necessity for anyone, young or old, that must live with the escalating pace of change in the family, on the job, in the community and in the worldwide society. (Cross, 1981)

Learning is a lifelong process. It is related at all points to the life experiences of individuals. It is to this end that the Saturday Academy has been designed.

The Saturday Academy houses and provides year-round opportunities to develop new skills, expand interest in new and exciting topics, learn job skills or enjoy enriching sessions in the arts. Classes are designed for all ages from elementary youth to retirees and include areas of language acquisition, professional and business development, basic education, personal enrichment, art, music, dance, drama and recreation.

Class Schedules

Spanish C-100 (Basic Conversational Spanish I) October 7, 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 2006
Time: 9:00 am - Noon
Fee: \$95 (includes course materials)
Instructor: Dr. Daniel Lopez
Room: 245 Anderson Center
Registration Deadline: 10/03/06

This course is an introductory conversational Spanish course designed to meet the needs of students or working professionals who desire a general spoken understanding of Spanish. No previous knowledge of the language is required. This course, the first in a series, emphasizes Spanish for basic communication. Spanish C-100 addresses the fundamental language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture but primarily focuses on speaking, listening and vocabulary acquisition for real-world practical application. Basic oral communication is the end goal of this course.

Business & Professional Writing - 100 October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2006
Time: 9:00 am - Noon
Fee: \$75 (includes course materials)
Instructor: Elizabeth Priest
Room: 204 Hall Patterson
Room: 259 Anderson Center, Oct. 21 only
Registration Deadline: 10/03/06

This course is an exploration of principles of correct grammar, sentence structure and punctuation. In this four-part course you will learn to: look at your message from your reader's point of view; decide what information to include and organize it logically; follow your writing plan to write a first draft; use active language and plain English that communicates clearly to any reader; and, write more concisely by cutting out unnecessary words.

Fundamentals of Speech October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2006
Time: 9:00 am - Noon
Fee: \$60 (includes course materials)
Instructor: Sonya Melton-Mickles
Room: 247 Anderson Center
Registration Deadline: 10/03/06

The purpose of this course is to help you develop skills and techniques needed to prepare, present and evaluate speeches. Participants will engage in introductory, expository and persuasive presentations. Individual and group evaluations will provide feedback that will identify strengths and constructively suggest improvements.

Microsoft Word 2003 October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2006
Time: 9:00 am - Noon
Fee: \$50
Instructor: Michael Milton, Computer Consultant, A+ Certified
Room: C-107 Anderson Center
Registration Deadline: 10/03/06

Learn the basics of word processing. This four session course is designed to explore the basic aspects associated with creating, formatting and finishing a word processing document. This course also covers features associated with word processing applications such as creating standard tables, using pictures and images within a document, importing objects and using mail merge tools.

GRE Test Prep November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 2006
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Fee: \$295 (includes course materials)
Instructor: Yuri Latif, Udaykumar Vyas
Room: 259 Anderson Center
Registration Deadline: 10/31/06

A comprehensive 28-hour review has been designed to help you develop the skills needed for successful test results. The program provides an in-depth overview of the various aspects of the GRE - CAT exam. Test-taking strategies for each aspect will be covered.

Participants will review:

- Verbal Skills** - a thorough orientation to the GRE exam and the extensive review of the important Reading Comprehension section with ample practice materials. Analogies, Antonyms and Sentence Completion are explained through helpful exercise sets and instructor lecture. Coverage includes the newly required Analytical Writing Assessment with detailed lecture material and an opportunity in class to draft a response.
- Math Problems** - an overview of arithmetic, percents, ratios, algebra, plane geometry and graphs with an effective combination of lecture, examples, exercises and practice sets.
- Problem-Solving and Quantitative Comparison** - a thorough presentation of basic approaches and common sense strategies for solving math problems. An in-depth analysis of the unique Quantitative Comparison section will be explored.

SAT Test Prep November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 2006
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Fee: \$125 (includes course materials)
Instructor: Elizabeth Priest, Tracey Keck
Room: 247 Anderson Center
Registration Deadline: 10/31/06

Let Winston-Salem State University prepare you to meet the challenges of the test that will open opportunities for college and university experiences. This program provides in-class and home study learning activities that will help you develop the skills needed to master the SAT exam. The review will be presented in four parts and offered over four consecutive Saturdays. Students will:

- Be exposed to the question-types that appear on the SAT exam through pre- and post-testing and instructor-led presentations.
- Be provided with extensive home study materials.
- Explore strategies, tips, tricks, test-taking techniques and useful exercises that will help to maximize a student's potential on the SAT.

Co-sponsored by



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For More Information

To learn more or to get a registration form online go to www.wssu.edu and click on Saturday Academy or call (336) 750-2633.