

Campus/National News

Hurricane season prompts preparations

Sharrod Patterson
STAFF REPORTER

The first-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina has come and gone, prompting more people to prepare for this year's hurricane season. The season, which officially began June 1 and ends November 30, has already seen Tropical Storm Ernesto make its way to southern Florida.

No one wants to be caught in a hurricane, so what are some ways the nation is preparing for the season?

In order to be prepared for an eventual hurricane, the National Hurricane Center has what it calls "Hurricane

Preparedness Week," May 21-27. The main goal is to make sure that everyone in high-risk areas is prepared for any and everything.

Being ready to evacuate and having a safe place to go is the main goal of anyone caught in a severe hurricane situation. Most colleges and universities have evacuation procedures that help students living on campus find a safe place. Shelters are readily available to people who have had their homes destroyed or flooded.

So what happened with Katrina? According to what the director of the Federal Emergency Management

Agency, David Paulison, told FEMA, "Katrina's sheer force overwhelmed local, state and federal agencies."

FEMA had its "National Preparedness Month" in September. FEMA workers have been trying to help recover the nearly-destroyed city of New Orleans and other cities along the Gulf Coast affected by Katrina. FEMA has also changed its emergency response and recovery plan so that, as many Americans hope, history doesn't repeat itself.

For more information on hurricane season, see these Web sites: www.nhc.noaa.gov, www.fema.gov.



Photo courtesy of MCT News Service

Hurricane season makes many worry about a "second" Hurricane Katrina attack.

Loretta Copeland Biggs will be keynote speaker for WSSU's Founder's Day Convocation

Tiphane Deas
MANAGING EDITOR

Winston-Salem State University announced that Attorney Loretta Copeland Biggs will be the keynote speaker for the Founder's Day Convocation on Friday, Oct. 6, 9:45 a.m. in K.R. Williams Auditorium. Biggs is a woman with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the legal world, not to mention several honors and awards under her belt.

Biggs is a *cum laude* graduate from Spelman College with a bachelor's degree in political science. She graduated with honors from Howard University School of Law. However, she is no stranger to the Ram family, having served two non-consecutive terms on the WSSU Board of Trustees, including a current term that began in September 2004. She served her first term from 1999 to 2000.

Biggs is also a shareholder and partner with the law firm Davis & Harwell, P.A., where she practices family law including complex equitable distribution matters, complex civil litigation and appellate advocacy. Professional positions she has held in North Carolina include associate judge for the North Carolina Court of Appeals, State District Court Judge for the 21st Judicial District, Forsyth County and assistant district attorney.

Biggs was one of only three recipients in the nation of the United States Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety, and has also been awarded the International Common Ground Community Award by the largest non-governmental con-



Photo by Sharrod Patterson

Founder's Day honors Simon Green Atkins, WSSU founder, as this statue reminds students daily.

flict resolution organization in the world.

Biggs and her husband, Larry, are the parents of a daughter who is pursuing her master's degree in fine arts at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, Calif. They also have a son who is a junior at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

**Contributions from the WSSU Office of Media Relations*

Harvard drops early admissions ... should WSSU pick up the policy?

Tiffany Ross
STAFF REPORTER

As of Tuesday, Sept. 12, Harvard University is no longer using early action admissions. Early action admission allows students to send in their applications and receive their decisions earlier. The Ivy League university decided to terminate early admissions after acknowledging the negative consequences of the program. Harvard said that "early action admissions hurts schools' diversity because poor and minority students are less likely to use early admissions."

Harvard also stated that "early action admissions have created anxiety for more affluent students who take advantage of them."

The question is, if the early action admissions cause such problems, why have it at all? Early admissions is often used as a strategy to single out students with strong academic skills, but the program really does not have many advantages besides that. After Harvard announced that it will drop early admissions, it encouraged other Ivy League colleges to drop their early admissions too. So far, as of Monday, Sept. 18, Princeton had announced its plans to drop the early action admission program, and many are soon expected to follow.

Winston-Salem State University has never had an early action program; however, the university does have rolling admissions as well as dual enrollment. WSSU's rolling

admission program allows the university to continuously accept applications for enrollment to return the decision to students within three weeks.

Dr. Maurice Allen, Director of Admissions at WSSU, encourages students to apply as early as possible.

"Even though the university does not have early action programs there is discussion regarding setting deadlines for applicants in the future," Allen said.

The dual enrollment program allows junior and senior high school students to enroll into college courses and receive credit. "The university works with a few students from Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy that participate in this program," Allen said.

How do WSSU students feel about WSSU and early action admission? Melody Mallett, 20, a junior said, "early action admissions might be a good thing for WSSU because maybe it would give offices such as Financial Aid enough time to process loans in time for the fall."

Now that Harvard and Princeton have dropped early admissions, the admission process will become even more competitive for colleges and their recruitment staff.

It could allow for more opportunities for students who were left out or who were skeptical about applying to prestigious colleges. It gives the feeling that all applications are welcome, and would diversify prestigious campuses across America and enhance learning experiences for those students.

Homecoming 2006 Events Calendar

October

- 1 Gospel Concert: 6 p.m.-8 p.m. (KR Williams)
Drive-in Movie: 9 p.m.-10:45 p.m. (Practice Field)
- 2 Comedy Show: 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m. (KR Williams)
- 3 Poetry Slam Showcase: 4 p.m.-7 p.m. (Thompson 207 A, B, C)
Street Ball Game: 7:30 p.m. (Gaines Center)
- 4 Coronation: 7 p.m. (KR Williams)/ Immediately following, Royal Ball (Anderson Center McNeil Ballroom)
- 5 Yard Fest Concoction: 6 p.m.-9 p.m. (TSC Plaza)
- 6 Ram Rally: Noon-2 p.m. (Breezeway)
Ram Carnival: 2 p.m.-6 p.m. (TSC Plaza)
Step Show: 7 p.m.-10 p.m. (Gaines Center)
- 7 Homecoming Parade: 10 a.m.
Royal Reunion Luncheon: Noon (TSC Red Room)
- 8 Worship Service, St. Peters World Outreach Center: 10 a.m.

The News Argus

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* Opinions expressed in *The News Argus* are not necessarily those of the faculty or staff at WSSU.

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