

CAMPUS NEWS

Lesotho's ambassador visits WSSU

Sharrod Patterson
PHOTO EDITOR

Beautiful mountain ranges, snow-capped mountains, temperate weather ... these are all ways that Lesotho, Africa, can be described. But beneath this gorgeous veneer hides a pandemic that continues to spread like a wildfire. Since its independence from Great Britain on October 4th, 1966, Lesotho has been in an uphill battle with its economic growth — and, most recently, the HIV/AIDS virus.

On March 27, Ambassador Molelekeng E. Rapolaki of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United States presented a lecture on "Health Issues and Threats in the Context of Globalization in the Southern African Region." Ambassador Rapolaki was invited by the Winston Salem State University School of Health Sciences and Office of International Programs. The lecture was presented at 1p.m. and was accompanied by a slideshow that depicted images of the ambassador's beautiful country and facts relating to the topic of discussion.

Prior to her appointment as ambassador in December 2001, Rapolaki had been the Principal Secretary of the Ministry in Lesotho from 1997 until 2001. Ambassador Rapolaki completed her B.A. in economics at the National University of Lesotho in 1980 and obtained her MPA with a concentration in



Her Excellency Molelekeng Rapolaki speaks with Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines.

Population Policy at the University of Southern California.

During Ambassador Rapolaki's lecture she put emphasis on Lesotho's continued work toward the betterment of the country.

"Lesotho is striving toward strengthening the access to health care by increasing the National Health Training College (NHTC)," Ambassador Rapolaki said.

The NHTC is the only school of higher learning that Lesotho has that concentrates in the field of health care as a profession.

In Lesotho, an epidemic of HIV/AIDS is becoming an ever-increasing burden on the country. The villagers of Lesotho look at HIV/AIDS as an outside disease brought in by tourist and outside contractors. In some villages, persons diagnosed with the deadly disease are often cast out of the village and left to fend for themselves in the wilderness.

Ambassador Rapolaki has been forming support groups aimed at educating the rural population on the deadliness of the disease and ways to effectively deter the spread of it within the

villages. Before the arrival of these support groups, villagers would often just die with no prior knowledge.

Ambassador Rapolaki stated that HIV/AIDS is prevalent in about 29 percent of the population, and with the life expectancy being at around 37 years this number may rise towards 36 percent by the year 2020. With one of the slowest growing economies in the world and a continued shortage of trained personnel and medical supplies, Lesotho will continue to be brutally afflicted by HIV/AIDS.



Photo by Sharrod Patterson

E-learning offers students more coursework flexibility.

Colleges planning for more online courses

Jerrod X. Johnson
STAFF REPORTER

The University of North Carolina system is preparing for the future by asking its 16 campuses to offer more online courses, also known as distance learning or E-learning courses. Administrators believe that the system's current student population of 202,381 may grow by half over the next 10 years, reaching nearly reaching 300,000 by 2017.

The UNC system includes Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). The system's initiative, "UNC Tomorrow", leads a large planning effort that draws input from citizen and community leaders across North Carolina. As UNC system president Erskine Bowles told the Associated Press recently, "We have a lot of people to accommodate, and we don't have the physical space to do that."

WSSU is accepting applications through June 15 for spring-semester admission to the university and a distance learning program of courses leading to a master of science degree in rehabilitation counseling. The coursework begins in Fall 2007. Courses are offered to working adults who are rehabilitation counselors or other human services professionals seeking a master's degree for career advancement, promotion, or position qualifications. Most of these professionals have a human services background or degree such as rehabilitation or psychology. Many are employed by state, federal and other governmental agencies; private companies such as insurance firms; and private, not-for-profit agencies.

WSSU Distance Service Coordinator Carl Leak predicts that "WSSU will be among the leaders in developing online courses and making them available."

"It is very challenging to tackle all of the technological nuances that seem to change daily," he said. "Just as traditional courses and programs require a joint effort from the entire campus community, the same is true for online programs."

E-learning can be based on CD-ROMs as easily as on the Internet and include visual, audio and text environments. Just as students can recall more information from well-organized textbooks with many visuals and headings, this same principle applies to their online counterparts. Because this method allows students to work at their chosen pace, it makes an excellent option for those with familial or career commitments. Also, learning online allows one to communicate with classmates all over the country. In organizations where learners are constantly changing, online-learning serves to greatly speed up the education process.

Among the advantages to using e-learning are:

- It is self-paced, allowing students to skip over material they already know and focus on real problem areas.
- Online learning can work from any location at any time, allowing people to work classes into their schedules where convenient.
- Online courses are quick and easy to keep up-to-date, and they allow a person to revisit sections they might not have understood the first time, resulting in greater retention of the material.
- Finally, students benefit by saving money (transportation costs going back and forth) and time by working online if

See ONLINE, page 3

'Apprentice' alum inspires students to aspire to their goals

Sharrod Patterson
PHOTO EDITOR

African Americans should consider their careers as their own little businesses in which they invest time and energy, said Dr. Randal Pinkett, the author of "Campus CEO". He stopped by the campus of Winston-Salem State University March 20 to visit with students and deliver a lecture on starting and growing your own business.

A scholar, entrepreneur and teacher, Pinkett is the founder, president and CEO of BCT Partners, a multi-million dollar management, technology, and policy consulting services firm based in Newark, N.J. His company works with corporations, government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

In December 2005 he became the first black contestant to win the final round on Donald Trump's hit show on NBC, "The Apprentice."

Throughout his day at WSSU, Pinkett discussed reasons for low levels of wealth among African Americans, and solutions to the problem. Pinkett said the average net worth of African Americans in 2006 was a mere \$19,000, a low figure when compared to the \$121,000 average net worth of Caucasian counterparts. Pinkett said that the solution to this dilemma is to focus not just on income, but also on wealth.

Pinkett said that 70 percent of millionaires today own their own businesses, and that a tenth of the high-growth businesses started with an initial investment of \$1,000 or less.



Photo by Samara Dunston

Randal Pinkett, author of "Campus CEO", visits with WSSU students.

He holds five degrees, including a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Rutgers University, where he competed on the track and field teams as a high jumper and long jumper. He earned an M.S. in computer science from the University of Oxford in England, and

he holds an M.S. in electrical engineering, as well as an MBA and Ph.D. from MIT.

Pinkett stressed that being good at something is not what someone should strive for, but that greatness in something is the ticket to a successful future.

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