

FEATURES

Arts District's 'Word on the Street' successful yet again

Erik Spencer
ARGUS STAFF

Just down the hill from Winston-Salem State University, the Downtown Arts District Association (DADA) of Winston-Salem is helping revitalize the local arts scene by sponsoring a personalized brick project.

The "Word on the Street" fundraiser enables individuals and groups to buy bricks that become a permanent part of downtown Winston-Salem. Fraternities, sororities and other groups can leave their mark on the city by ordering personalized bricks in honor of their group or in memory of a loved one. For a donation of \$100, the brick helps pave the Arts District, which runs through 5th, 7th and Trade streets.

In response to the success of its first brick project, DADA decided to revive this fundraiser. Although DADA doesn't have free reign over where the bricks are placed, the group works closely with the city to install bricks where people have requested.

"We still have to do what the city tells us to," said Kathryn Gauldin, a DADA volunteer. "They [bricks] must be laid flat."

Placement is limited to areas that have brick walkways. The process involves removing old bricks and replacing them with new, personalized ones, such as those in front of Sweet Potatoes, a restaurant on Trade Street.

For a non-profit organization that has to pay all of its expenses, the personalized brick project has gone a long way in increasing funds for the Arts District. Brick sales don't pay all the expenses, but they do help with them, Gauldin said. Gauldin is also quick to say that the brick project isn't just for individuals.

"A lot of businesses are choosing to put them in front of their stores," she said.

Donations from the brick project have helped sponsor events such as gallery-hops that occur on the first Friday of the month, when galleries extend their hours to display the work of local artists. Due in part to the increased interest in the brick project, events like the gallery-hops are now occurring on a monthly basis instead of only three or four times a year.

Gauldin, who has been with DADA since its inception, has seen the organization blossom into what it is today. She recalled that even before DADA was officially organized, it was a tight-knit community of artists. She has also seen the impact the arts have had on the neighborhood, as well. Once considered a "scary place," the downtown neighborhood has been cleaned up and crime has gone down.

For more information about brick project, upcoming events, and general information about the Downtown Arts District Association of Winston-Salem, you can check out the Web site: www.dadaws.com

Tips from Rams to Lambs Seniors of '08 offer advice to '11 freshmen

Tracey Bowen
ARGUS STAFF

The saying around Winston-Salem State is, "It's so hard to be a Ram."

No one knows more about the plights of a WSSU student than the senior class of 2008. The senior class has experienced it all, from all the trials and tribulations, to the late-night cram sessions and the Thursday-through-Sunday-night party hops. Along the way they've learned the tricks of the trade and have some advice for underclassmen.

"Freshman year is the foundation of your collegiate experience," says Robert Stevens, a 21-year-old senior political science major and 2008 SGA President.

"Making the best of the first year will put you in place for success in the future. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Seek out what the school has to offer. Utilize the first-year college program in the Hauser building, check out tutorial options and meet with your advisers and professors as often as needed. Always remember to put your best foot forward and you'll come out a winner in the end."

As the class of 2008 comes to its dawning day, thoughts of yesterdays past cloud the air. Students are reminiscing about the days of their freshman year and want to help set an example for the class of 2011.

"Yeah, I remember a few days freshman year when I didn't want to get up for class, but I made it through," said one senior who asked to remain anonymous. "Make good decisions. You don't have to go to every party out there. Make time for your studies. You don't want to look back with any regrets."

"It's nice to know that the seniors care,"

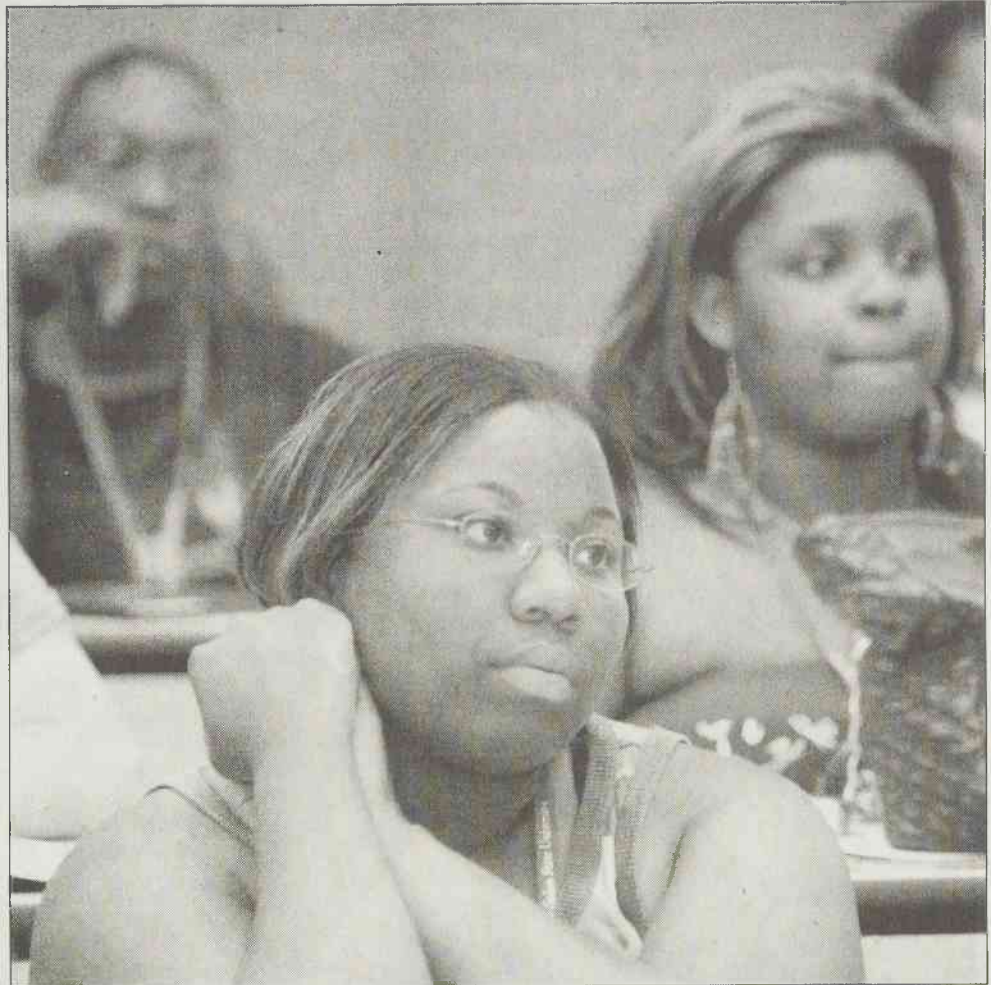


Photo by Garrett Garms

New students hear about the realities of college life in a variety of get-acquainted sessions.

says Whitney Herring, a 19-year-old freshman nursing major. "So far, all of the students I've met have been really nice. I do have to admit I have been a bit home-

sick, but going to class and some of the events they've had around campus have been fun. I know that I'll take any advice I can get."

'Phenomenal' Caesar grew up at WSSU

Gabrielle Leonard
ARGUS STAFF

Dianne Caesar, one of the 50 women featured in the book, *Jewels: 50 Phenomenal Black Women Over 50*, gives credit to her aunts and mother for being known as "phenomenal".

Caesar said that they taught her how to be self-efficient, and proud of where she comes from.

"When it came to sending girls or boys to school in a family, girls always went first. My mother had a great educa-

tion, considering the times that she was brought up in, but after she finished her options were limited. My mother is and was very intelligent, and with the help of aunts, helped shape me into the woman you see today."

Caesar also has close ties with Winston-Salem State University.

"I grew up at Winston-Salem State University campus. My house used to be where the Old Nursing Building is now," Caesar said. "My roots are here."

Caesar has been Executive Director of the Delta Arts Center for more than 10 years. She said that the picture was taken at the Delta Arts Center and that the exposure that she has received with her job has surpassed any expectations, and that it is a joy to go to a job that she loves everyday.

Caesar gave much of the credit for her being acknowledged in *Jewels* to her relationship with photographer Michael Cunningham, author of the best-seller book *Crowns*. When Caesar found out that

Cunningham was seeking out women 60 and up, she jumped at the opportunity.

"This was my mark on the world, and my one attempt to be remembered in the future," Caesar said.

Caesar said that she hopes current and future generations pay attention to their elders and learn from them.

"Believe in your self," she said. "Look to the lessons from the older generation and take care of your body because it is your temple."

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between a group of black students and one of the white students involved in Friday's fight.

Once back at school, Justin Barker, a white student, teased Bailey about getting beaten Friday night and used racial slurs to do so. One student punched Barker in the back of the head and others kicked him while he was down, leaving him unconscious. An ambulance arrived to pick Barker up, but he was never officially hospitalized and, later that night, went to a school function.

Six black students were arrested over the Dec. 4 school fight and their bonds were set. The highest reached \$138,000.

Bell and the other five were charged with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy in the fight with Justin Barker. On Sept. 4, charges for Carwin Jones and Theo Shaw were reduced to

aggravated-second degree battery, the Associated Press reported, citing a media report.

In July, Bell became the first to stand trial. After being represented by a public defender who did not call witnesses in Bell's defense, an all-white jury convicted him of aggravated battery and conspiracy charges after two days of deliberation. On Aug. 24, Bell was denied a reduction in the \$90,000 bail after prosecutors disclosed four previous brushes with the law.

On July 31, as many as 300 supporters rallied in Jena in support of Bell and all of the defendants.

Victoria Kirby, a junior speech communication major at Howard and a member of the Save the Jena Six Planning Committee, said the Jena Six issue cannot be ignored. The group was planning a Sept. 5 rally in support of the accused at Howard's Rankin Memorial Chapel.

"It's crucial for us to be involved," Kirby said of the Howard community. "What we do affects what happens in the black community."

Chigozie Onyema is a part of the planning team as well. The group is working to raise money for and awareness of the case. "It would behoove students at a historically black university to show solidarity with any case that calls into question the blindfold that the court is supposed to wear," he said. Onyema is a senior African American studies major and the president of the Howard chapter of Amnesty International.

"Historically, there has been a separate criminal justice system for black and white citizens," he said. He then referred to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from a Birmingham Jail, saying that it taught us that "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

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"African Americans tend to do better seeking health care when there's an African American nurse. There's already a trust factor," Campbell said.

According to WSSU's 2006 annual report, nearly 1,600 students were accepted into the School of Health Sciences, which is the largest academic unit on campus. Eighty percent are nursing students. This number represents a 400 percent increase in the last five years. According to Campbell, 90 percent of graduates were employed within three months of graduation.

Campbell credits the success of the program to the preparation of students and the diverse faculty. The video conference was sponsored by the WSSU Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities.

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The photo that accompanied last week's front-page Motorsport Management story was incorrectly credited. The photographer was Lee Adams.