

# CAMPUS NEWS/FEATURES

## Moffett lecture focuses on today's African-American church

Trygeania Dowell  
ARGUS STAFF

The James A. Gray Endowment Symposium opened with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Diane L. Givens Moffett addressing issues of the African-American church in the 21st century.

On Thursday Oct. 4, the James A. Gray Endowment Symposium began its first lecture for the fall semester at Winston-Salem State University on "Religion and Ethics" in the Dillard Auditorium at the Albert H. Anderson Conference Center. The Gray lectures address some of the most pressing moral and ethical issues of our time.

Moffett is a senior pastor at Saint James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. One of her sermons, "Giving Birth," was featured in the June 2004 issue of "Outstanding Black Sermons" published by Judson Press.

Moffett, a writer, poet and singer addressed the issue of "The Role, Rationale and Relevancy of the African-American Church in the 21st Century." She opened up her lecture by greeting her audience with "Jesus Joy."

According to Moffett, the first black churches were founded as early as 1776.

After giving a brief descriptive history on the African-American church, Moffett addressed the issue of where the African American church is today. She also described how the African-American church aided in the healing process during and after slavery.



Photo by Garrett Garms  
Dr. Cedric Rodney talks to members of the audience to during the James A. Gray Endowment Symposium.

"Boundary Breaking Ministry organized underground railroads," said Moffett. She commented on the historical African-American church that helped slaves obtain their freedom through the Underground Railroad and mentioned it wasn't until the civil rights movement that the African-American church opened up its doors to all who were seeking freedom.

Moffett also talked about her concern with the African-American church in the 21st century and "Who is God calling us to be." Some of her other concerns are that 60 percent of the black church is female, and that black people

are breaking away from their roots, she said.

Moffett feels that the decline is perhaps because the black church is not meeting the needs of black men.

"In historical times the black church was about community and now people are all about 'me,' Moffett said.

The James A. Gray Endowment Symposium is scheduled for five more lectures within the next year. For more information, see the WSSU Web site or contact the program director of the James A. Gray Endowment Symposium, Dr. Cedric S. Rodney, Professor of Religion and Ethics at 336-750-2479. Or e-mail him at [rodney@wssu.edu](mailto:rodney@wssu.edu).

## Law draws new map for financial aid

Pamela Yip  
MCT WIRE SERVICE

DALLAS

A new federal law revamping education financing provides good news for students eligible for financial aid: Interest rates on subsidized student loans will be cut in half over the next four years.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which President Bush recently signed into law, has been called the largest overhaul of aid to college students since World War II.

While it doesn't change the strategy and approach that families should take when shopping for college financing, it will give them more benefits to go with the financial aid options that are available.

Major provisions of the new law include:

□ Pell Grant increase. Recipients of the popular federal Pell Grant will see a gradual increase in the annu-

al limit over the next five years. This is big news for students.

Under the new law, the annual limit on federal Pell grants will rise from the current level of \$4,310 to \$5,400 in 2012.

□ Interest rate cut. The law phases in a reduced interest rate on new subsidized federal Stafford loans to undergraduate students. The rate will be reduced from the current 6.8 percent to 6.0 percent starting in July, 5.6 percent in July 2009, 4.5 percent in July 2010 and 3.4 percent starting July 2011. In July 2012, it will revert to 6.8 percent unless Congress acts.

□ Income-based repayment. The program assures past, present and future students with federal loans that their payments will be "fair and manageable and will not extend indefinitely."

The program, which becomes available in July 2009, is open to anyone with

federal student loans, whether they borrowed in the past or are current or future students.

The program caps student loan payments at a reasonable percentage of income. It's a sliding scale, so the lower the borrower's income, the lower the percentage cap.

The program also limits buildup of interest. When capped payments aren't enough to cover interest charges, the program covers the interest on subsidized loans for up to three years, and any further interest doesn't compound.

The program cancels most remaining balances after 25 years. For those in public service careers, remaining debts can be forgiven after 10 years.

□ Higher income protection allowance. The law raises the amount of money students can earn before it affects their eligibility for financial aid.

## BACK in the DAY

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ARGUS STAFF

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK:

High school children's theatre opens with successful run of Snow White ... New state border sign was recently completed on the Utah Colorado line ... One year subscription to the Vernal was \$3.50 ... Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Williams and daughter Susan of Springville were in town for the opening of deer season ... Larry Hacking of Post 2244 was presented with his Eagle Scout badge during the Ashley LDS State Conference ... Casada Rig Building and Oil Field Construction phone number was 448 ... Three-room furnished apartment with laundry accommodations rented for \$37.50 a month ... Farmer complains about hunter shooting the locks from his gates, drove around with a spotlight and drove through his crops ... Local residents gather outside Hotel Vernal for a tour of the Red Wash Oil Field Thursday of last week ...

Source: Utah digital Newspaper; *The Vernal Express*; Vernal, Utah, Oct. 24, 1957

35 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK:

In the news: McGovern calm in face of doom. George McGovern is accepting the news of a possible pre-election settlement of the Vietnam War without despairing his own presidential candidacy ... Wake Forest dedicates a \$550,000 annex to Carswell Hall the law school building ... The annual convention of N.C. Music Teachers Association convened at Salem College ... Premium Saltine Crackers sold at 29 cents for a 1-pound box ... Mississippi NAACP state president and state Democratic Party chairman was arrested in Washington last week for possession of drugs ... Paper napkins sold for 9 cents per package ...

Source: *The [Winston-Salem] Sentinel*, October 1972

25 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK:

War Refugee Dilemma: Quit School or Lose Aid: That was the choice given to Minh Huynh, 16, when a change in refugee assistance required him to make a choice ... Federal agents in Miami seized a cocaine laboratory and shut it down ... Pascal decides to limit Medicaid funding on abortion ... Israel decides to dismantle troubled airline El Al ... Wealthy investors decide it is time to start a new national football league because of television ... A correction was made on Conway P. Coe's obituary about number of surviving grandchildren ... City councils across the nation are changing Halloween because of cyanide in Tylonol. Also hospitals are taking X-rays of candy to make sure nothing poisonous is in it ...

Source: *The Washington Post*, October 1982

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK:

Thompson Student Services Building, a spacious 114,000-foot facility that has nine

administration offices, five student government offices, student and faculty dining, and other student service offices, to be dedicated Friday ... It's the one-year anniversary of the Washington Million-Man March; the march will leave the Winston Mutual building, 1225 E 5th Street and go downtown to the Corpening Plaza ... Klea Scott, who attends the North Carolina School of the Arts, is to appear in the Cosby Show on October 7 or 14 ... CAT-TV and Mass Communication Department form a union ... Dr. Schexnida becomes tenth Chancellor at WSSU ... Quarterback La Carl Walker was sidelined with shoulder injuries, and sophomore Travis Pender was named starting quarterback by Head Coach Kermit Blount ... There was a Clinton/Gore '96 advertisement campaign ...

Source: *The News Argus*, October 1997

Archival information for "Back in the Day" is courtesy of O'Kelly Library, WSSU

## Johnson's book showcases minority Medal of Honor winners

WSSU MEDIA SERVICES

Dr. John L. Johnson, associate dean of Winston-Salem State University's School of Health Sciences, has written a book highlighting Congressional Medal of Honor winners of color.

The book's premise came about as a result of Johnson overhearing a conversation among several teenagers on an Atlanta street about the Congressional Medal of Honor. One asked the other if he had ever heard of it (Medal of Honor) before and the response came back "no." Then the young man wondered aloud if any African-Americans had ever received that medal. The other said "probably not." That exchange led to Johnson's self-published research creation, *Every Night and Every Morn* (title comes from a William Blake poem), an informative and powerful new book, the first to identify and profile all known minority Medal of Honor recipients.

"That conversation led me to do my own informal research," said Johnson, a U.S. Army veteran. "What I found got me to thinking that there should be a single

resource where information about all persons of color, and other minorities, who received the Medal of Honor could be found."

The research contained in Johnson's book reveals that 88 African Americans, 22 Native Americans, 32 Asian Americans, 40 Hispanic/Latino-Americans, 18 American Jews, and one woman have been awarded the Medal of Honor, our country's highest award for military valor during the time of war since it was established in 1863 during the American Civil War.

The main body of Johnson's book, recipient profiles, consists of a photograph, if available; military and biographical data on the recipient; the actual citation, which describes the action for which the Medal of Honor was awarded; and the most poignant and interesting section of the book — an epilogue describing who these recipients were, where they came from, and what became of them.

Most of the early Medal of Honor recipients were former slaves or immigrants. Most came from humble backgrounds and entered

the military to seek better economic opportunities. Johnson said some recipients were outright rascals and scoundrels while in the military, who later redeemed themselves by their heroic actions.

"A significant number did not have happy endings," Johnson recalled. "Some died alone and in poverty. Some were murdered and others were lost to history and little or no information about their lives could be found."

Johnson calls the book a "must-read" for all, especially for youths of color, so they may know the contributions and sacrifices members of their community made in defense of our country.

*Every Night and Every Morn* can only be purchased directly from Johnson's Tristan Press Web site at [www.tristanpress.com](http://www.tristanpress.com).

Schedule of lectures and book signings: Oct. 25 WSSU, Diggs Gallery, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.; Oct. 27-28 Ft. Benning, GA: Book Signing, Main PX, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and, Nov. 3-4 Ft. Bragg, NC, Main PX, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.



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