

# NEWS & FEATURES

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## Miss WSSU: 'I want my legacy to be something memorable...'

BY GRANT FULTON  
CO-EDITOR

Latoya Nicole Perry, Miss Winston-Salem State University is a senior marketing major from Fayetteville, N.C. She is the daughter of Rickey and Cynthia Perry.

"I came to WSSU because I was offered a full scholarship, and I saw an opportunity and took advantage of that opportunity," Perry said.

"When I came here, I truly realized the true meaning of an HBCU and what WSSU has to offer, and that was the best choice I ever made."

Perry's favorite thing about WSSU is the closeness and the family environment.

"I feel that you really get to know your professors as well as the students," she said.

"You can connect with administrators on a one on one level, even though it seems that you are distant you can develop that strong relationship with them."

Perry served in the SGA as freshmen and sophomore class president and Vice President of External Affairs. She is



Photo courtesy of Office of Student Activities

also affiliated with the MBA club, Honors Program, Lumina Learning Community and the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.

"My favorite organizations are SGA and Royal Court," Perry said.

"Through these organizations, I have learned how to be a mature young lady and what the power of serving others can really bring to your life and to other people's lives."

Perry says she wants people to know that she really tries to make a difference.

"I want to be remembered as someone who truly made a difference to the University," she said.

"Asa Mack, VP of External Affairs once said to me, 'What will your Legacy be?' I want my legacy to be something memorable, something that has a lasting affect on this University."

In her role as Miss WSSU, Perry said that she hopes to bring joy to other people's lives.

Perry said she encourages everybody to go vote.

"If you don't get out there and vote then you are basically just wasting time. My take on the [presidential] election is that this is a monumental time in America.

"Barack Obama has done something

that no other candidate has done. He has galvanized young people, old people, rich people and poor people. I am excited, and it's good to see that everyone is involved."

Within the next 10 years, Perry says she sees herself owning a non-profit organization.

"I am not sure of what that is going to be yet, but I also see myself serving others, balancing a job and a family, but living good and fulfilling my dreams in life," she said.

During Perry's spare time, she goes shopping, hangs out with her best friends and boyfriend, listens mostly to gospel and R&B music.

Her favorite artist is Chrisette Michelle, and her favorite television show is "I Want to Work for Diddy."

Perry will be competing in The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation of Black College Queens Sept. 27.

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During this time he has implemented a "paradigm shift" that his student leaders follow throughout the program. The paradigm shift entails the transition that students go through when coming into the program as well as older members influencing and teaching the younger members.

"We are changing the entire perception of our band, the way we warm-up and how we rehearse," Magruder said.

Helping Magruder with his mission are staff members James Armstrong, Raymond Mietus, Tika Douthit, Kevin Poplar, Katrina Leake, Benetta Dease and Charlene Braceley.

"We are not just a band at this level. We are a band of musicians," drum major, Alan Sturdivant said.

"We have real student leaders who understand the paradigm shift I began," Magruder said. Leading the band are drum

majors Travis Thompson, Matthew Goodman, Alan Sturdivant, Willie Stroud and Theodis Chunn, a group also known as "Chain Reaction."

"All the students understand the total program," Magruder said. "The music program does not only consist of the marching band, it also includes the symphonic band." The WSSU symphonic band has spring and winter concerts.

"The goals for our program this season include remaining competitive and gaining the respect of their peers. We are not the biggest band, but we want others to say they still sound and look good," Magruder said.

The WSSU Red Sea of Sound is vying for a spot in the 2009 Honda Battle of The Bands competition. To vote for the Red Sea of Sound, visit [hondabattleofthebands.com](http://hondabattleofthebands.com).

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and it is now gated.

An academic advisor Kymberley Hoffman working in Hauser said she likes the gated lot.

"I think it was long overdue," she said. "It is much easier to park right behind the building we work. In the winter nights when it gets darker there's a safety issue."

Hoffman's office closes at 5 p.m., but she says she usually leaves at 6:30 p.m.

Students or employees may no longer pick their parking lot unless they purchase a decal to park in that lot. Commuters may no longer park behind the Hauser building, near the Childhood Development Center or behind the Anderson Center, but they can park near the Physical Plant. On-campus residents

may not park near the physical plant, Dillard or Brown Residence Hall. The largest portion of student parking is behind Wilson Residence Hall.

The cost for parking on campus varies; commuters pay \$70 and \$120 for shuttle lots FF and GG near the stadium. Employee parking fees range from \$210 non-gated to \$320 for reserved lots.

"The Ram Express stays full," said Ashleé King, a commuter, who rides the shuttle and does not like the new parking plans.

"I don't understand why we just can't park where we want to park. We are the ones that go here, so we should not have to go through so much trouble to park. I don't think it's easier. They charge an arm and a

leg to get a decal and \$70 by the stadium is still too much."

Ansel says WSSU is getting larger buses and parking meters for visitors.

WSSU's parking fees are among the bottom percent of fees charged in the UNC-System.

"The parking changes are to make it safer for the students and to guarantee employees and students a parking spot," Ansel said. "I've been here for five years, and one of the complaints we get a lot is it takes 30 to 40 minutes to find a parking spot. The stress of trying to find a parking spot is a thing of the past."