

## Library to present documentary of black men in Winston-Salem

By Jerrod X. Johnson  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

HisStory, a documentary depicting the lives of 35 African American fathers and sons from Winston-Salem will be presented at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 7 in the McNeil Banquet Hall in the Anderson Center.

The film, a compilation of interviews of fathers reflecting on their lives, their experiences and their hardships, is the featured event for this year's annual library benefit sponsored by the WSSU Friends of the Library.

The FOL Planning Committee, with the assistance of the library media production staff, shaped the interviews into a documentary.

HisStory features young and mature men from a variety of backgrounds and careers, including politicians, lawyers, physicians, educators and ministers who reflect on a variety of topics. The interviewees discuss the role of the family and church in their childhood to the influence of sports and politics in their adolescence.

"We are attempting to document just a few of the guiding principles and parenting techniques that were utilized to mold today's parents and strong leaders," Mae L. Rodney said.

Rodney, the founder of the Friends of the Library and WSSU's Director of Library Services, conceived the HisStory concept for the 2008 fundraiser.

"Many excellent parenting strategies used by grandparents and parents have been thrown aside for the easy way out and for the sake of giving children what they want instead of what they need.

Hearing only a few of the stories made me realize that the previous generation sacrificed a lot to give their children an education. They demonstrated a great work ethic and also taught their children to respect others."

The WSSU Friends of the Library 2006 and 2007 benefits focused on life challenges and experiences from a woman's perspective," Rodney said.

"In 2008, we opted to look at life from the male point of view and give men a voice in the shaping of family life and culture."

Larry Womble, N.C. House Representative and a WSSU alumnus, was interviewed in the documentary.

"I feel this program has created pride, awareness, closeness and empathy," Womble said. "This program has given me a deeper appreciation for the various people in my life, especially my relatives."

The program will be narrated by Lorenzo Meachum, a blues musician and nationally known performer of folk stories and music for more than 30 years.

Peyton Hairston, a retired educator and former WSSU Alumni Association president also participated in the interviews.

"I have worked in the public sector for years," Hairston said.

"When I was asked to be part of this, I was flattered and excited."

Hairston said that if young men take only one thing from his interview, it is to be more conscientious about the choices they make and their possible consequences.

"Young men don't always know their history or appreciate what their ancestors have done for them," Hairston said.

"They need to consider their actions not as individuals, but as part of a collective whole. You need to make decisions based on the good of the race."

Seats are \$50 a person and \$25 for students. Attendees can reserve all or part of a table of eight. The deadline for buying tickets is Nov. 3. Tickets can be purchased in O'Kelly Library 227.

## First gay, straight student group formed on campus

By Grant Fulton  
News Editor

Brandon Hughes along with other students had a vision of bringing both gay and straight students on campus, so he created the Gay-Straight Alliance.

The group made its debut this semester. Hughes is a senior and GSA's first president.

Hughes said that it's hard on campus to be openly gay.

"Some students may use derogatory terms when you walk by instigate fights, and the organization gives them a home to be with others like them," the GSA President said.

"A lot of us on campus thought that it was important for all the gay students and some of their friends to be able to have a safe space and talk about issues in an intellectual way," he said.

As the GSA President, Hughes said he wants to bridge a cultural gap between the gay and straight community.

"They don't have to respect us, but they have to treat us like human beings. just to bridge a cultural gap between the gay and straight community."

Chevara Orrin is the advisor of GSA. Orrin said it's difficult to have an organization like GSA on a black campus.

"At the organizational fair over 80 students signed up to be a part of the organization, and students came up saying that this is who they are and they need this organization, and that they are appreciative for this organization existing," Orrin said.

GSA has a membership of approximately 80 students.

GSA's mission is to serve as a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender WSSU students.

Since they started in August, the GSA has helped to create a "safe space" and raise awareness of some of the challenges faced by gay and lesbian students.

"I feel that the GSA is a great organization, and I am glad that we have it on our campus," Dominic Totten said. Totten is a member and openly gay student.

"There are a lot of issues concerning homosexuals that our administration is not aware of. Also there is a lot of hatred that is present, and I am hopeful the GSA can create an atmosphere that can help gays and straights learn more about one another," Totten said.

Rashad Little said he feels it's a diverse group that will stand up to its potential in the community in a respectful way. Little is a straight member of the organization.

"The alliance has many activities and events that have already occurred and are soon to be scheduled," Orrin said. "A group of students just returned with the co-advisor Thomas Clarke from Washington, D.C. from the Out for Work fourth Annual Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender and Straight Ally career fair."

Orrin says that she sees the organization flourishing in 10 years. She said she also looks what the things that have been accomplished already sees a bright future for the students as they see themselves as part of the campus and also as part of the broader GLBT community as they connect with other campuses.



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### Wanted:

Student producer to coordinate the videotape field production of this year's Homecoming parade in downtown Winston-Salem. Open to Mass Comm students. Experience not required.

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