

ROC helps campus groups with funding, networking, training opportunities



JORDAN HOLLOWAY
REPORTER

The 100 active organizations at Winston-Salem State should have circled Jan. 30 on their calendars.

On that day the Registered Organizations Council will have a Retreat in the Thompson Center.

ROC is an organization that serves as a governing body for all of the organizations on campus.

The speaker for the retreat will be Rasheed Cromwell. Cromwell is a NC A&T graduate and served as the SGA President. He is now a lawyer in Washington D.C.

"This retreat is going to give the organizations that don't usually mix a chance to network and share ideas; it also gives them an opportunity to get leadership training and talk about their organizations upcoming events," said Steve Stephens, associate director of student activities.

ROC has sponsored several events including a "ROC Clubs &

Organizations Day" at Carver High School; "Salsa Magic" with the Royal Court; and the "ROC Gym Jam."

In collaboration with The Talented Tenth, ROC will sponsor an Oratory Competition where students can showcase their public speaking skills Feb. 12.

If an organization is active for one year it is allowed to receive funding from ROC pending approval of the assistant vice chancellor of Campus Life, Theo Howard.

Organizations that do not attend the ROC meetings or the retreat could receive sanctions from the Office of Student Activities.

Jonathan Jackson is a junior, management information systems major from Charlotte, and the vice president of external affairs.

Jackson said after the retreat ROC is going into an evaluation period to review campus organizations that have been active the past year to determine if they made any progress.

Jackson also serves as the facilitator for ROC meetings and all other organizations on campus.

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counter after not being served because of they were black.

The sit-in sparked a national boycott at several other lunch counters and eventually led to integration five months later.

The forum entitled "21st Century Activism and Protest: The State of the Civil Rights Movement" was hosted by Emmy-award winning radio and television personality Ed Gordon, former host of BET's "Conversations with Ed Gordon." The event was divided into two segments.

The first segment "Sit-ins, Marches, and Boycotts: A Retrospective" featured the panel including Bennett and NC A&T students; Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Bennett College president; and Civil Rights activist the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Jackson was adamant about the sit-in being a huge spark for the Civil Rights Movement. He also stressed the importance of not being content with the Greensboro Four's efforts and that the movement is continuous.

"This is not a spectacular one-round, one-lick fight," Jackson said.

"I want us to honor the four who broke the ice. You've got to use this freedom to bring about change."

Malveaux expressed the relevance of educating younger people about their history and the importance of implementing information critically, as well as global issues and economic structures. "We have to continue to reinforce our history," Malveaux said.

The second segment "Jena 6, Racial Profiling, and Predatory Lending: Emerging Leaders and Contemporary Civil Rights Issues" had a panel consisting of Warren A. Ballentine, an attorney, activist, and syndicated radio talk show host as well as WSSU alum and critically acclaimed award-winning journalist Stephen A. Smith.

The panel focused on the communication barrier between younger and older adults.

"When you go to the younger generation and break things down to them in practical terms, they will see how they can make a difference," Smith said. "But we are not doing that in the community. We're letting them run around with their heads cut off, having a perfect view in rose-colored glasses."

WSSU junior and Mass Communications Club president Jasmene Braden said that the forum was excellent.

"To be in the midst of people who have so greatly impacted the Civil Rights Movement like Jesse Jackson really showed me how important it is to keep the movement going," Braden said.

The forum and the opening of the Museum were recorded by RAM-TV.

"We heard and saw a new generation of activists. And we were challenged to continue the fight," said Marilyn Roseboro, associate professor in the Mass Communications department.

"It's not over."

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