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NEWS BRIEFS

Honors Winners To Receive Certificates

All students receiving awards at the 44th Annual Honors Convocation will be presented specially inscribed certificates of achievement, announced Dr. Ruth Kennedy, chair of the Honors Convocation Committee and professor of English at NCCU.

"The committee wanted all honorees to receive a tangible expression from the university for their outstanding accomplishments in academic pursuits, leadership and service," said Kennedy. "The certificates, the committee feels, will provide the proper recognition of excellence and, at the same time, inspire all students to strive for the distinction of being honored on this special occasion."

The certificate was designed by artist James Osler, a member of NCCU's Media Resources Center.

The convocation, which honors NCCU student excellence and achievement, will be held Thursday, April 1, at 10 a.m. in the McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium.

The keynote speaker will be U.S. Rep. Melvin Watt, the new congressman from North Carolina's 12th District.

Physical Plant To Honor Superior Workers

Four outstanding employees of the NCCU Physical Plant will receive awards for maintaining professional standards in their work, for promoting good relations with the student body, and for good attendance.

The awards, which are part of a new incentive program to boost employee morale, will go to one employee from each of the four divisions of the Physical Plant—maintenance, housekeeping for academic buildings, housekeeping for auxiliary buildings, and grounds.

"We want to let our employees know that we care for them and appreciate their work," said Robert Smith, assistant to the vice chancellor for facilities.

Physical Plant employees are responsible for janitorial services, building repairs, and maintenance of the grounds on campus.

The names of award recipients and the exact nature of the award will be announced later this month, Smith said.

Congressman Watt Featured Speaker At NCCU's 44th Honors Convocation

"Give 'em Mel" was the campaign slogan that led Melvin Watt to a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The new congressman from North Carolina's 12th District scored an impressive Nov. 3, 1992 win, garnering 72 percent of the vote.

That same slogan—"Give 'em Mel"—was the rallying call of Dr. Ruth Kennedy, an NCCU English professor who chairs the Honors Convocation Committee, when speakers were being proposed for the awards program.

"Each year in planning this celebration of excellence, the committee seeks to present to the university community an individual whose achievements have been distinguished and exemplary and whose presence will be both significant and inspiring to our students and faculty. Congressman Watt was a natural choice," said Kennedy.

Watt will speak at the 44th annual Honors Convocation April

1, in McLendon-McDougald Gymnasium. The event begins at 10 a.m. and is open to the public.

Shortly after accepting the committee's invitation, Watt learned that he had been chosen as part of a select congressional group to visit South Africa, presenting a conflict with his speech at NCCU, noted Kennedy. "The committee, in consultation with Chancellor Julius Chambers and the congressman, changed the date and time to keep Watt as the speaker," she said.

Watt—whose impressive career spans law, business, and politics—is an important symbol for a day that honors academic excellence and achievement at NCCU, said Kennedy.

The congressman's current responsibilities include serving as a member of the

Democratic Caucus Steering and Policy Committee; the Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee; the Judiciary Committee; and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

A member of the firm of Ferguson, Stein, Watt, Wallas, Adkins & Gresham since 1971, Watt is also part owner of East Towne Manor, a 120-bed board and care facility for the elderly and disabled, which he helped develop in 1989.

His political activism includes service from 1985-86 in the N.C. Senate, where he was regarded as the outstanding freshman legislator and became known as "the conscience of the Senate." He was manager for three of Harvey Gantt's campaigns—city council, mayor of Charlotte, and the U.S. Senate race against Jesse Helms.

In 1986, deciding against a second term in the N.C. Senate, Watt announced he would not

seek elective office again until his two sons, Brian and Jason, completed high school. After honoring that pledge, he ran successfully for his current position in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Charlotte native graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1967 with a degree in business administration. Having earned the highest academic average in the UNC School of Business, he was appointed president of the business honors fraternity.

In 1970, he received his JD degree from Yale University Law School. He was selected to the Yale Law Journal and authored the "Tax Exemption for Organizations Investing in Black Business," 78 Yale L.J. 1212, in 1969.

Watt and his wife, the former Eulada Paysour, have been married 25 years.

A member of the Mt. Ol-

ive Presbyterian Church, Watt served as president of the Mecklenburg County Bar and has been active on various professional, community and civic boards and organizations—including Johnson C. Smith University Board of Visitors, Central Piedmont Community College Foundation, N.C. Association of Black Lawyers, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, Legal Aid of the Southern Piedmont, NCNB Community Development Corp., Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Sports Action Council, Auditorium-Coliseum-Civic Center Authority, United Way, Mint Museum, Inroads, Inc., Family Housing Services, Public Education Forum, Dilworth Community Development Association, Cities in Schools, West Charlotte Business Incubator, Housing Authority Scholarship Board, and Morehead Scholarship Selection Committee.

Watt's leisure time activities include tennis, basketball, reading, and spending time with his family.

Chambers Meets With Echo Staff



Campus Echo/Jason Williams

Chancellor Discusses Challenges Facing Campus Echo Staff

By JASON WILLIAMS
EDITOR

"I want to see the Campus Echo develop into a premier publication," said Chancellor Julius Chambers during a meeting with the Echo staff on Thursday.

Chambers met with the staff to discuss ideas and incentives to encourage more students to work for the student newspaper and what the university can do to make the Echo better.

"The print media is critical," Chambers said, comparing it with increased student interest in the electronic media. "We have so few minorities and so few disadvantaged people as editors, writers and publishers."

At an earlier Faculty/Senate meeting Chambers said that the Echo "lacked substance."

Chambers, a member of the Cam-

pus Echo during his undergraduate years in the mid-1950s, said that attitude of the staff was different then.

"We were proud of it and wanted to see it grow," said the 1958 graduate.

With that in mind, Chambers couldn't understand why no members of the current staff have stepped forward to run for editor next year.

"We've always had a student government president. We've always had a Miss NCCU," he said.

However, the incentives for president and Miss NCCU are seemingly better. The president and Miss NCCU both receive free room and board. The editor does not.

Members of the staff also discussed the paper's budgetary concerns with Chambers.

The Echo, which operates with a \$22,500 annual budget, has three paid staff positions: the editor, associate editor and business manager.

After the staff and printing is paid for, the Echo essentially operates on \$14,000.

Currently, the Echo has \$2,000 left with an anticipated \$7,000 in ad revenue.

The number of staff writers and journalism professor was also an issue.

Despite a large turnout at its initial meeting in September the staff has dwindled to 10 people, in a department that has at least 50 media journalism majors.

"We need to have more journalism professors," said News Editor Maurice Crocker. "We only

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SGA Rescinds Requirement For 3.0 GPA

By JASON WILLIAMS
EDITOR

Student Government officials and Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Roland Buchanan have agreed to rescind a ruling requiring a 3.0 GPA to hold five student government offices for the upcoming year.

Some students had complained the increased GPA decision, allegedly made during the 90-91 SGA session never went through proper channels and is not valid.

Officials agreed Feb. 25 to follow the *Eagle Eye Handbook*, which states that candidates need a 2.5 GPA. Officials also extended the filing deadline until March 3.

"The decision was not made on personal scenarios or melodramatic presentations," said Student Body President Phyllis Jeffers.

Jeffers says that the paperwork from the original decision is missing and that SGA must follow the only documentation it has. Charles Feamster, co-chairman of the Election Board agrees.

"A lesson can be learned from this. Documentation is the key to have any effect organization," Feamster said.

Since the change and the extension for filing, 16 more candidates
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Institute For The Study of Minority Issues Sponsors Two-Day Desegregation Conference

By RONDA ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina Central University's Institute for the Study of Minority Issues sponsored a two-day conference on desegregation March 5 and 6. The conference focused on the education of minorities since the 1954 Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education case that led to school desegregation.

The Third National Conference on Desegregation, held at the Durham Civic Center, included workshops on cultural diversity, educating black males, sexual harassment and innovative teaching methods.

Along with Chancellor Julius Chambers, who spoke on the history of school desegregation, the conference included such panelists as Irving Joyner, associate dean of NCCU's School of Law; C. Owen Phillips, the new superintendent of the Durham Public School System; Doris Betts, a writer and professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Barbara Reynolds, a columnist for "USA Today"; and Vic Hackley, chancellor of Fayetteville State University.

Several educators and community leaders were present to hear the panelists discuss affirmative action programs including the recruiting and hiring of minorities on college campuses. Several panelists said that although affirmative action programs may include token hiring, which is the hiring of minorities to fill quotas, it may allow some minorities to prove themselves in their field.

"When angry, count four; when very angry swear"-Mark Twain