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Maya Angelou (Courtesy MayaAngelou.com)

## Maya Angelou remembered At Wake Forest University

By Katelyn Ferral

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) - In the quiet bookstore at Wake Forest University, student Mazella Sloan reads out lines from her favorite Maya Angelou poem, "Phenomenal Women." With a song-like cheer of sass and empowerment, the rhyming lines begin: "Pretty women wonder where my secret lies. I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size."

"Isn't that awesome?" Sloan says.

Angelou, 86, died May 28. It was the first day of lectures for the summer classes at Wake Forest, the poet and American Studies professor's creative and academic home.

"I felt like she was describing me and her, and it made me feel like she was talking about me," said the rising junior from Laurel Hill. "Every woman thinks she has flaws, but every woman is phenomenal."

Angelou was known throughout the world as a literary pioneer and champion of civil rights. At Wake Forest University and in Winston-Salem, where she lived, students and professors remembered her as a hero on campus, a gracious mentor and friend, a warm hostess, and a beloved and inspirational teacher.

Her poems put a strong voice of insight into the American, African American and human experience, showcasing themes of rising up, of survival, said Dr. Mary DeShazer, a Wake Forest professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies who worked with Angelou.

The intimacy with which Angelou wrote resonates with all kinds of people, even those who have no background in literature or poetry, DeShazer said.

Angelou cultivated that

intimacy with her students by teaching a class at her home in which students would first memorize, then perform poems.

Every student who took her class said it was a remarkable experience, said DeShazer, who described Angelou as "very down to earth."

"She was generous, warm, funny," DeShazer said.

Angelou began teaching at Wake Forest University in 1982, after she first visited the university to read her work. In addition to teaching students, she mentored other professors and faculty at the university, DeShazer said. Angelou also took the time to read DeShazer's book as it was getting published and wrote a foreword for it, she said. (Continued On Page 3)

### 10 Things to Remember about Author Maya Angelou

By The Associated Press

Ten things to remember about poet and writer Maya Angelou, who died at age 86:

1. HOW SHE GOT HER NAME

"Maya" was a childhood nickname bestowed upon her by her brother. "Angelou" was inspired by the last name of her Greek-American first husband, Tosh Angelos.

2. SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH LANGUAGE, BUT SPENT YEARS IN SILENCE

After being raped by her mother's boyfriend at age 7, she stopped talking, because she thought her words had led to his death (the man was found beaten to death shortly after being sentenced to prison).

3. HOW SHE LEARNED TO USE HER VOICE AGAIN

A family friend, Mrs. Flowers, took Angelou under her wing and gave her poems to memorize and recite. She was writing her own poems by age 9.

4. SHE WORKED WITH MALCOLM X, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Angelou helped organize Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity, though it dissolved soon after his death. She also served as the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed by King.

5. WHY OPRAH REMEMBERS HER AS A MENTOR

"She moved through the world with unshakable calm, confidence, and a fierce grace ... She will always be the rainbow in my clouds."

6. A POET OF THE PEOPLE

Angelou's poems "And Still I Rise" and "Phenomenal Woman" regularly made the rounds of social media, and she collaborated on a collection of greeting cards and gift items with Hallmark. "If I'm the people's poet then I ought to be in people's hands - and I hope in their heart," Angelou said in a 2002 AP interview.

7. POET LAUREATE OF PRESIDENTS

Angelou was only the second poet to perform at a presidential inauguration when she read at Bill Clinton's ceremony in 1993. She also read a poem at the White House's Christmas tree lighting in 2005 under George W. Bush and was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.

8. "I'M NOT A WRITER WHO TEACHES. I'M A TEACHER WHO WRITES."

Angelou described herself this way in a 2008 USA Today interview. At Wake Forest University, she taught courses like "Race in the Southern Experience" and "Shakespeare and the Human Condition."

9. SHE CREATED FOOD FOR THE BELLY AS WELL AS THE SOUL

Angelou's oeuvre includes two cookbooks, both of them incorporating anecdotes from her life. She said food was central "in my desire to understand who I am and where I am."

10. HER RULE TO LIVE BY

Angelou was known to quote the Roman poet Terence: "I am a human being. Nothing human can be alien to me."

## Magic Johnson to join push to help minority boys

By Jesse J. Holland

WASHINGTON (AP) - Basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson will help lead a White House push to get more Americans involved in reversing underachievement among young minority men, President Barack Obama said May 30.

Johnson, along with Joe Echevarria, chief executive of accounting and consulting firm Deloitte LLP, will help lead an "external push to get more folks on board," Obama said as he met with stakeholders in his "My Brother's Keeper" program.



Ervin "Magic" Johnson

The president initiated the program in February to help try to reverse some of the challenges facing black, Hispanic and Native American boys and young men. Obama discussed an initial "My Brother's Keeper" progress report with his Cabinet on May 29 and met with members of the task force on May 30.

Obama said he was pleased with the task force's progress so far, and the final goal will be to "really put in place not only an all-hands-on-deck effort on the federal level, but a partnership with the private sector so that we can see some concrete outcomes."

Johnson was a Hall of Fame player in college and with the Los Angeles Lakers. Since retiring from basketball, he has been successful in business, investing in

theaters, a production company and restaurants. He has also been an activist in the fight against HIV after being diagnosed with the virus in 1991.

Echevarria worked with Obama on the White House Forum on Women and Economy in 2012. He has served on the Corporate Advisory Board of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting, which named him Executive of the Year in 2007, and chairs the University of Miami's business school board of overseers.

Obama unveiled the "My Brother's Keeper" program at the White House in February. Under the initiative, businesses, foundations and community groups coordinate investments to come up with or support programs that help keep young people out of the criminal justice system and improve their access to higher education.

Several foundations pledged at least \$200 million over five years to promote that goal. Obama also signed a presidential memorandum creating a government-wide task force to evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches so that federal and local governments, community groups and businesses will have best practices to follow.

The progress report noted several areas that the initiative should focus on, including mentorships, getting better data on minority boys, making sure young boys enter schools ready to learn, reducing violence and reforming the juvenile justice system.

"This report really reflects the beginning of the work that we're undertaking and we're very much looking forward to seeing where it leads," said Cecilia Munoz, White House director of domestic policy, on May 29.

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Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report



MORAL MONDAY DEMONSTRATORS

## Even as North Carolina General Assembly Locks Its Doors on Moral Monday, 11 Protesters Arrested Yesterday for Sit In at Gov. McCrory's Office

Statement by the NC-NAACP

RALEIGH - People from all across North Carolina rallied at the General Assembly May 26 for the latest Moral Monday protest of harmful legislation passed last year by Gov. Pat McCrory and the legislature. Despite the legislature locking the doors in an attempt to keep petitioners out, a group of 11 people - everyday North Carolinians impacted by a lack of health care access and environmentally polluting policies - staged a sit-in at the governor's office.

The 'McCrory 11' were arrested and charged with second-degree trespassing around 7 pm Monday after refusing to leave until McCrory agreed to meet with them about the impact of his policies on the health of the land and people of North Carolina.

Yesterday's Moral Monday went on despite the Senate's decision to hold a midnight session on Friday, allowing them to avoid returning to the General Assembly until Wednesday and miss the demonstration. The group changed plans by instead focusing on the governor, to whom they also delivered a letter calling on him to repeal the extreme policies; repent for the impact they are currently having on North Carolina's poor and working class and to restore a legislative commitment to governing for the betterment of the state.

"Speaker Tillis and Senate Leader Berger knew we were coming, and they locked the doors to the General Assembly building to prevent us from coming in," said Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, president of the North Carolina NAACP. "But we would not be moved from our purpose - calling upon them and Gov. McCrory to repeal these disastrous policies that are hurting the very people God loves - the sick, the poor, the women and children, the elderly, the least of these. Our eleven moral witnesses would not be moved from their attempts to petition the governor directly. If we expand Medicaid in our state, we would save 2,800 lives. If we cleaned up coal ash and blocked fracking in our state, we would save lives. That is what this moral witness today was about. To our governor and our state lawmakers, we say: if you are going to engage in premeditated political ideology that hurts the least of these, then we will give no quarter. These are matters of life and death, and the blood will be on their hands."

(Continued On Page 3)