

Community News B1

Producing 'competitively-qualified students'

WFU minority scholarships named for former 'Katie B' chief

Chronicle Staff Report

Dr. Joseph G. Gordon has long played a prominent role in the Winston-Salem medical community. Recently, Wake Forest University recognized his many contributions with a scholarship named in his honor. At the university's Founder's Day convocation February 7, it was announced that the Joseph G. Gordon Scholarships will provide financial assistance to minorities who attend WFU.

Beginning his Winston-Salem practice in 1956, Dr. Gordon, 67, joined the radiology department at Kate B. Reynolds Hospital as its director. In 1965, he was named the hospital's first medical director. He was elected chief of Reynolds' medical staff in 1969.

Since 1970, Dr. Gordon has been associated with Wake Forest's Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Initially, he was assistant professor of clinical radiology at the medical school. Later, he became an associ-

ate professor of radiology and director of minority affairs. Currently, he is associate professor emeritus of radiology. At the medical school, he was awarded the James L. Quinn III Memorial Award for teaching excellence.

Throughout his career in Winston-Salem, Dr. Gordon has served on the boards of numerous organizations. A partial list includes: the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, St. Augustine's College, the Forsyth Heart Association, the Forsyth County Hospital Authority, Goodwill Industries, and the Forsyth County Health Planning Council.

Before moving to Winston-Salem, Dr. Gordon practiced medicine in South Carolina and in the Army. He served in the Army during World War II and the Korean War. A native of Jamaica, he was raised in New York and received his medical training at Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

Calling the scholarship a significant honor, Dr. Gordon said, "It is satisfying that you are considered in such a light by people you have worked with all these years." He told those at the convocation he is particularly enthusiastic because the scholarships recognize young people in education.

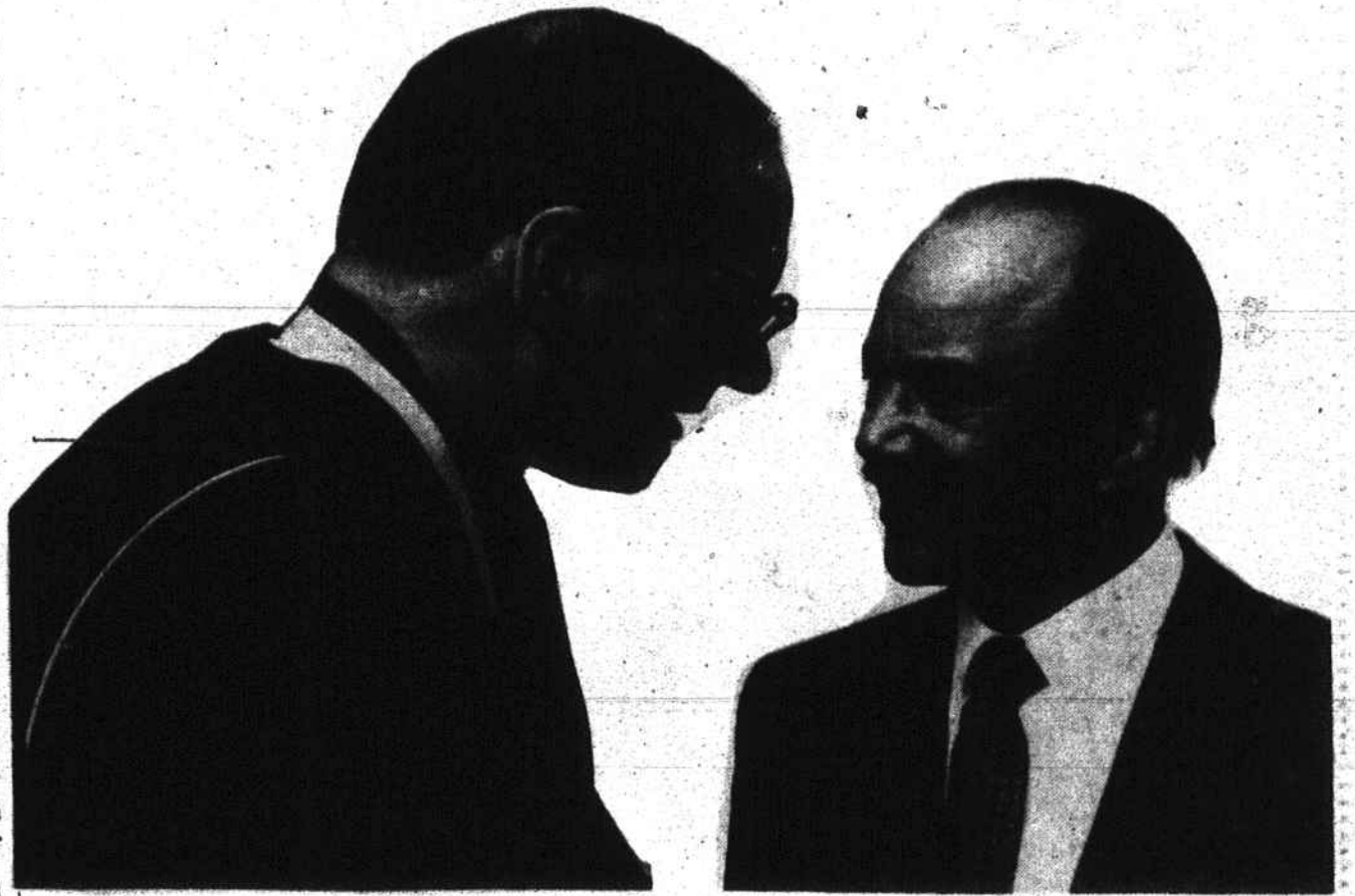


Photo by Susan Mullally Clark
Dr. Thomas K. Hearn Jr., WFU president, congratulates and Dr. Joseph G. Gordon.

"Education is going to do more for us as minorities than any other element that we're exposed to at the present time," he explained.

The scholarships, which are for students of the undergraduate schools, will provide what Dr. Gordon described as "competitively-qualified students" for the graduate schools of the university. He said by doing that, there will already be a pool of students to supply the medical, business, and law schools. Dr. Gordon said that he is

happy with the extremely competitive showing of minority students. "It's exciting what they are doing," he said, adding, "Wake Forest has been trying to do the right things."

On a final note, he said, "My hope is that we here in Winston-Salem will be able to produce the competitively-qualified students out of high school so that a significant number of these students in those college programs will be our own students — students from our city."



Photo by Susan Mullally Clark
Dr. Joseph G. Gordon is flanked by the recipients of the WFU minority scholarships now named in honor of him.

Delta's 16th National President speaker at Founder's Day event

Calling upon the frequent image of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority members racing around with little red and white bags, Thelma Daley, the sorority's 16th national president, challenged Deltas and other members of the community to examine the contents of their own "bags."

Ms. Daley delivered the keynote address for the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter's annual celebration Sunday, Feb. 3, at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Center. The program also included the selection of Louise Smith, chapter president, as Delta of the Year.

Ms. Daley's message included a charge for the audience to further empower themselves and while in the process to ensure the empowerment of black children.

"I don't normally see Deltas in their black dresses. But many times when I see Deltas, they're carrying little red bags. Although you're in your black dresses today, you're still carrying them," said Ms. Daley, an education counselor in the Baltimore school system. "Today, we're going to call them empowerment bags and all of us here have them. The ultimate goal of empowerment is to enable a person to maximize her abilities and nurture her potential."

Ms. Daley called the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter "an empowered group, sharing their empowerment with others." She said also that there are children crying who are in need of empowerment from role models. Ms. Daley told the audience of more than 100 people, that each of them should examine their individual "little bags" and determine how they could reach out to those children.

"Are we reaching out to those around us to help them find a purpose in life? Many of those who are dysfunctional have a purpose in life in their bags. We find purposes for our youth, especially our black youth," she said. "If we're going to empower our children who are crying, we're going to have to reach out to them."

"From your bag are you able to share yourself, are you able to band together and network? In your bag,

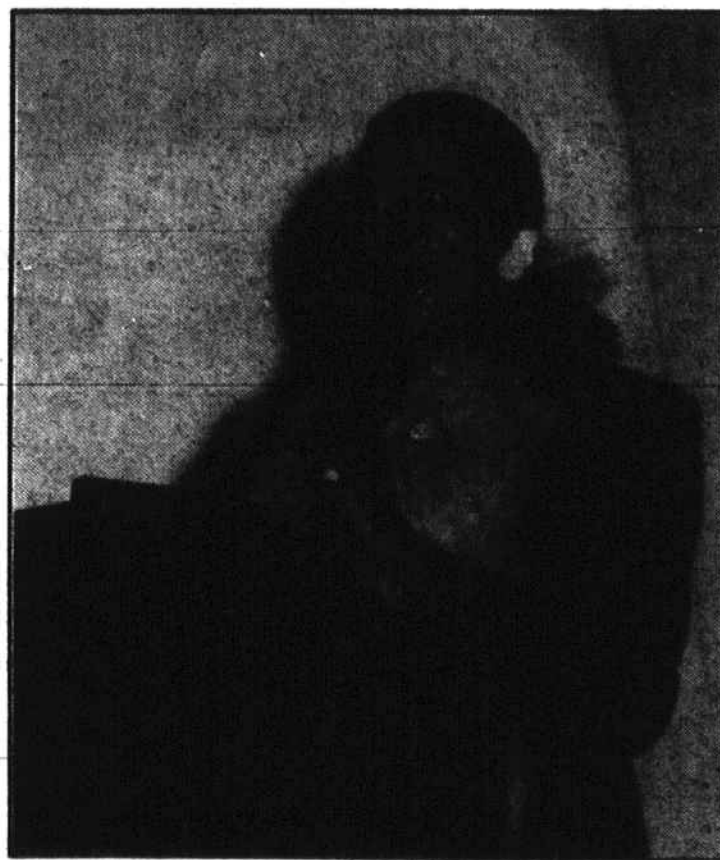


Photo by C.O. Matthews
Founder's Day speaker, Dr. Thelma Daley, 16th National President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

do you have enough room for another person's in your bag for yourself? What's in your bag that you can share with a child? Are you empowered enough to build a bridge for a black youth?"

The Twin City Choristers, directed by Dr. Permillia Dunston, provided the musical entertainment for the occasion.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. was founded by 22 women in 1913 on the campus of Washington's Howard University. The founders dedicated themselves and the future of the sorority to community service based on a five-point thrust that includes, among other areas, political awareness, social action, education and youth. The sorority is composed of more than 150,000 college-educated women in more than 800 chapters throughout the country and abroad.

The Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter annually sponsors "Jabberwock," which provides scholarships for outstanding students, "Las Vegas Night," and the "Moravian Cookie Drive." The chapter also is involved in other community-service projects such as "School America." The chapter currently has more than 115 active members.



Photo by C.O. Matthews
Louise Smith receives the 1990 "Delta of the Year" award from Seleh Wycke.

OUR FOLKS IN THE PERSIAN GULF

By PATRICIA SMITH-DEERING
Community News Editor

Letters from home mean so much more these days to the men and women who are battling the U.S.-Iraqi war in the Persian Gulf than they do during peacetime. But, letters from those African-

Americans who are bravely defending the land of their loved ones can also be reassuring. At least that is how Marjorie E. Evans felt when she received correspondence from her son, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas M. McLendon, on board the amphibious assault ship USS *San Antonio* (LST-1155) in the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Desert Shield.

The *Chronicle* first spoke with Ms. Evans in early January when the deadline for war was fast approaching, and she was apprehensive about what that would mean for her son. When news of the bombing reached her on that Tuesday evening as television networks broadcast the sights and sounds on the 7 o'clock news, she was at work on the second shift at Archer Aluminum. She recalled, "I got just really upset. I cried at work... It just tore me apart."

Ms. Evans was somewhat reassured when she received her son's letter dated the day following the outbreak of hostilities—a letter that made no mention of the war but focused on the little things about home that tend to keep those on the firing lines

going. He wrote of sending Christmas cards that he had managed to find onboard ship and hoped that he had not forgotten anyone, especially Mom. His tone was bright and optimistic as he assured her that he was doing "alright."

The mother of three and grandmother of three said that she keeps in touch with her daughter-in-

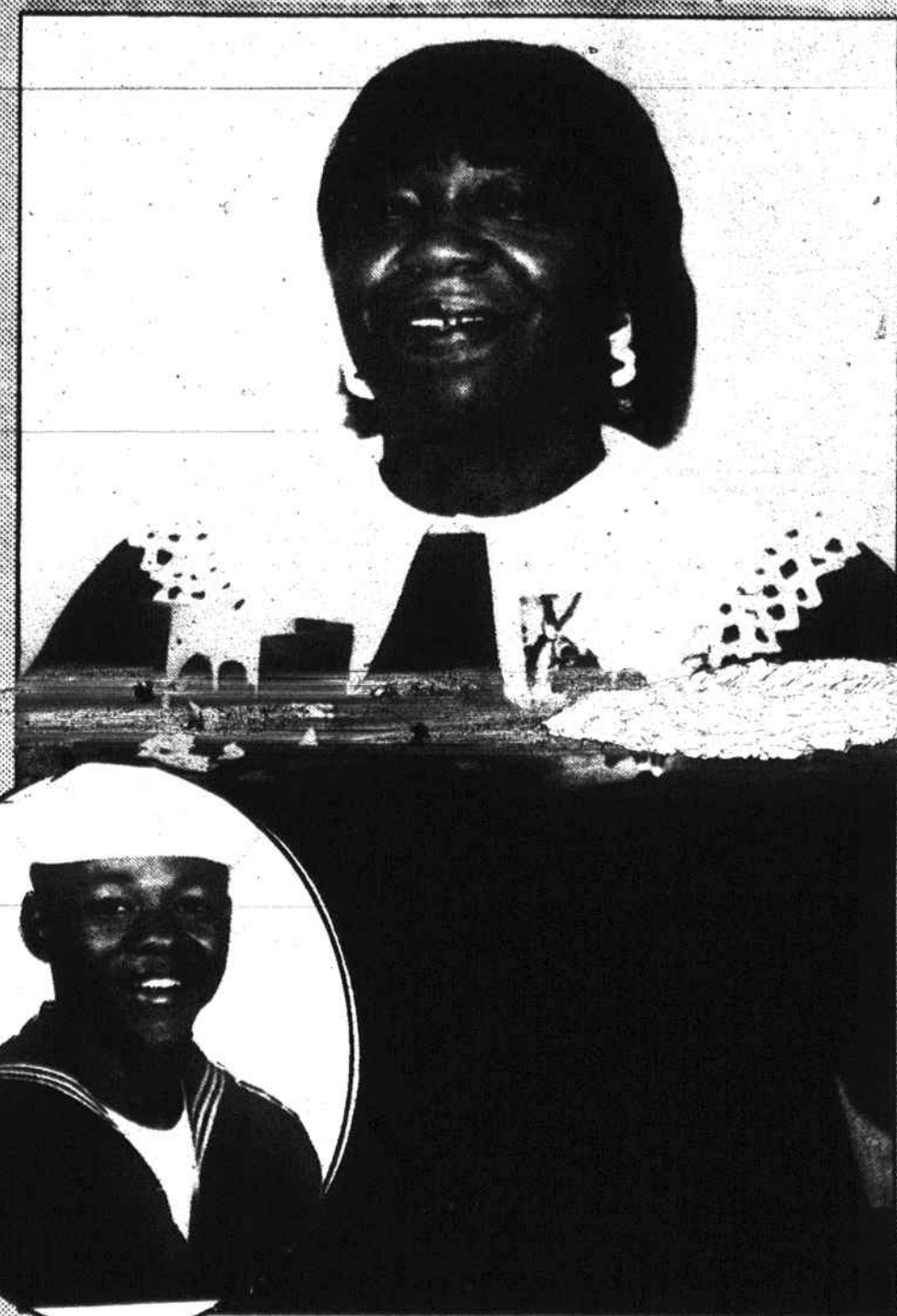


Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.
Ms. Marjorie E. Evans takes comfort in letters from her son (inset) Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas M. McLendon and calls from his family in Norfolk, Va.

law, Veronica McLendon, who lives with the couple's three children in Norfolk, Va. — where he's stationed — twice a week. Ms. Evans said, "She doing a little bit better," commenting on Mrs. McLendon, "but we try to keep her from looking at it on TV."

Ms. Evans refrains from following the daily broadcasts of what's going on. Vaguely recalling the first televised war, Viet Nam, she said, "It was just not broadcast like this one is. I don't think it's good... It really keeps me upset." That and the recent death of her mother, she said, cause her to "really break down."

But, Ms. Evans takes comfort from her family including, as her son described in his letter, "Grandkids that adore their grandmother... You're always talked about with lots of love and good things behind it."

The young Navy petty officer who is ready to give his life for his family and country also said in what is surely an understatement, "You know I really feel bad, that I can't do more for you. You carried me thru life for as long as I can remember. And, I thank you... I love you and God bless you also."