

COMMUNITY



Two graduates of WSSU embrace in Saturday's commencement.

Computer Graphics Used to Draw Kids to Books

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Students at Moore School discovered the value of reading and multiculturalism through a new type of children's book that features video game-like graphics.

Bill "Dallas" Lewis, founder and publisher of Silly Billy's Books Inc. of Ohio, used high-energy narration and computer-generated illustrations to excite a group of mostly kindergarten students about reading books.

Some students first met Lewis through his publication, *The Last Book*, when media coordinator Arden Knight read the book to them.

Although Lewis uses a lot of black characters throughout his books and on the covers, Knight urged the school to invite him after seeing a spark of enthusiasm in the kids toward the book.

"I shared his book with the children and it was well received," Knight said. "I knew they would love to see the computers and illustrations he made."

Lewis started writing children's books three years ago because he wanted to teach children the importance of reading and understanding different cultures.

"This is something I always wanted to do," he said. "The world is filled with bigotry and nobody wants to talk about it. I wanted to help the world be a better place..."

Lewis usually puts black characters on the cover, but inside the books' content involves people of many different races.

"Our books sell reading. The pictures look like video games and makes reading more fun," he said. "I want to see different cultures of people, but not the stereotypical images. There are all different types of people having fun with each other."



Bill Lewis uses high-energy narration with students at Moore School.

Jubilant Grads Urged To Grab Opportunities

By BLANCHE CARTER
Special to the Chronicle

A jubilant graduating class of 467 seniors donned their hoods Saturday morning during Winston-Salem State University's commencement exercises at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

The largest group to receive baccalaureate degrees from Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson Jr. were 156 nursing graduates, who set a record for the university.

Fannie Gaston-Johansson, a prominent medical researcher and a 1959 WSSU nursing alumna, was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Gaston-Johansson, who is a distinguished professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, exhorted the graduates to seize opportunities wherever they present themselves and to stay focused on what is important.

"Just say 'yes' to opportunity, and when the door of opportunity open do not be distracted by insignificant things that don't really matter," she said.

"WSSU instilled in me that I was to become one of the most important nurses in the world. If WSSU has put this idea in your head you can be the greatest of whatever you want to become."

"If you can dream it, you can attain it," she said.

Gaston-Johansson, who received an honorary doctorate of humane letters at the ceremony, is a native of Hickory.

She is known for her research in managing pain in advanced breast cancer patients. A consultant to the nation of Sweden on health care, Gaston-Johansson received a doctorate of medical science and then taught at Sweden's University of Gothenburg for 15 years before joining the faculty of the University of Nebraska.

She has held the Elsie M. Lawler Chair at Johns Hopkins since 1993. In the late 1960s,

Gaston-Johansson served on the WSSU nursing faculty and was chairman of the curriculum committee.

She told the graduates that being invited by Chancellor Thompson to deliver the commencement address "was to be my greatest achievement to date."

More than 2,500 guests were in the audience as Winston-Salem State's largest graduating class marched across the stage to accept their degrees from Chancellor Thompson. Among the graduates were two cadets who were commissioned as 2nd lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

On Friday evening, the nursing graduates received special recognition at the traditional pinning ceremony held on campus.

Twelve hundred people in the audience heard remarks by Beverly L. Malone, the Dean of the School of Nursing at N.C. A&T State University. Also receiving pins were nine graduates of medical technology, one of two allied health programs offered at WSSU.

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