

# Top students benefit from Wright Fund



Erica Simon



Tameka Rosa

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN  
Special to the Chronicle

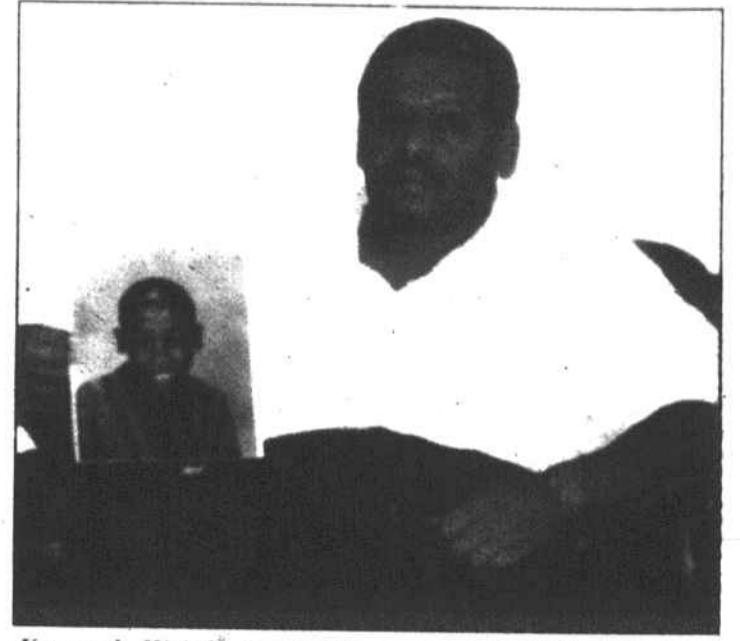
Kenneth W. Wright Scholars Tameka Rosa and Erica Simon attend Salem College and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University respectively. Rosa received \$500 and Simon received \$750.

Although Aug. 29 may mark one week down for Rosa and Simon, it also marks the second-year anniversary of the tragic death of Kenneth W. Wright, 9, who was struck by a car while trying to cross Carver Road. St. Matthew

Apostolic Church established the fund in his name in April of 1995. Pastor Joseph P. Lowery met Kenneth during one of his street crusades near Patterson Avenue. Young Kenny would always come up for prayer at the ends of the meetings. After the tragedy, the family contacted Lowery. They have since joined St. Matthew.

First Lady Josephine Lowery had the vision to "keep the memory of such a fine scholar alive; to ease the pain and suffering of the family; and to

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Kenneth Wright Sr. holds a portrait of his late son, Kenneth Jr., who was killed by a car two years ago.

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## 'Po', not poor,' remember days of old neighborhood

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN  
Special to the Chronicle

From the 1930s through the 1960s, Smith, Bruce, Vargrave Streets, and the surrounding area were home for many African Americans in Winston-Salem.

Almost 100 former residents of

this community joined for their sixth reunion at the Carl H. Russell Community Center last Saturday. They came to see their old neighbors, share their talent, their memories and their favorite covered dishes.

"This community is a place that once was," said Mary Jordan, president of the reunion committee. "If we

don't tell anybody, it will be forgotten."

She said she enjoyed growing up in the neighborhood, despite adversity. "We were 'po,' not poor," she said. "But we were happy. After Winston-Salem State purchased the land near the Anderson center, they built a dormitory in what was my bedroom." She lived at 813 Smith St.

Other officers include Helen Nichols, vice president; Juanita Williams, secretary; Shirley Wright, secretary; Marcella Jordan, assistant secretary; Stewart Carter, treasurer; the Rev. Lewis Crawford, chaplain; Margretta Key, program chairman; and Hattie McLaurin, food refreshment chairperson.

Oloff Grier said, "Every time I go near WSSU, I look at the trees I planted there when I was nine years old. They are still there, I am happy to see that the community and the university has expanded."

Dollie Hines said, "I enjoyed it while I was there, but I don't want to go back. I'm living my best days now."

According to Mary Fuller Jenkins,



Emmanuel Baptist Church was on Smith Street, serving as a center for spiritual uplift and education in the community.

there were many entrepreneurs and other professionals in the area. Jerry C. Gilmore Sr. lived on the corner of Vargrave and Stadium Drive. His father was the pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church. Their family later started Gilmore's Funeral Home. Paisley High School was named for Professor J.W. Paisley; Atkins High School, built in 1931, was the first modern high school for blacks. It was named for Dr. Simon Green Atkins, founder of the education movement in the Winston-Salem black community. He originally established Columbia Heights School on Wallace Street at the corner of Bruce Street. Columbia Heights Colored Grade School; the

Diggs Gallery was named after James Thackeray T. Diggs Jr., art professor emeritus at Winston-Salem Teachers' College from 1915 to 1989. All of them came from the community.

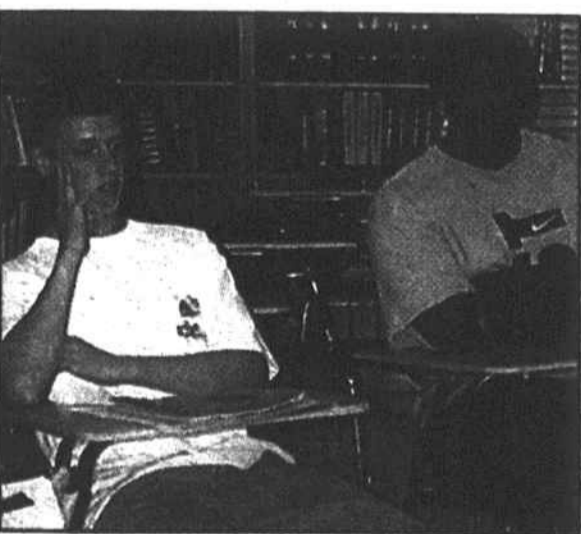
Some of the businesses started in the community are no longer in operation. Buster Green was part owner of the Camel City Cab Company. Fitch owned Fitch Funeral Home and the Scales family owned a cafe on Chestnut Street downtown, all of which are now closed. Also, the Garret Family owned Garrett Transfer Company, which was a moving service. Many of the residents who relocated often

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Gloria Swindell (left) lived at 627 Vargrave St. She and her husband, the deacon, discussed old songs with Reunion President Mary Jordan.

## Residents alarmed by high school drug survey



Jerry Saunders (right) and a fellow student talk about drugs in their high school.

By MAURICE CROCKER  
Community News Reporter

**KERNERSVILLE** — Parents, teachers, and school administrators of Glenn High School went back to school last week to learn a valuable lesson. The lesson learned wasn't one of math or science, but one of drug addiction and prevention.

More than 70 concerned citizens gathered in the school's library to discuss the increase of drug use among teens.

"If we just have one child on drugs, that's too many, but 80 to 90 percent is certainly something the entire commu-

nity should be worried about," said Adolplus Coplin, principal at Glenn High school.

The recent outcry among citizens came about after students at Glenn and East Forsyth participated in a survey concerning drug use among high school students.

According to the survey, 92 percent of the students believed that most students at their school use drugs, 83 percent indicated they saw drugs at school, and 36 percent indicated said they used drugs during the school year.

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Left to right are Adolplus Coplin, principal of Glenn High School; Nancy Harris of Step-One; Ava Troxler of Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention; and Angela McReynolds of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

## Holleman pushes for diversity in deeds office

By MAURICE CROCKER  
Community News Reporter

John Holleman, register of deeds for Forsyth County, has begun an effort to increase the number of African-American employees in city government.

"I'm the guy that has always been known as an advocate for the African-American community," Holleman said.

Holleman, a former school board member and county commissioner, said the only reason he accepted his



John Holleman, register of deeds, poses with Christine Jones, an intern in the department.

present job was to change the way government works.

"There is still a part of this community that is insensitive to diversity," he said.

According to Holleman, when he began as register of deeds, only 8 percent of the total work force was minority. Since that time, three additional African-Americans have been hired, bringing the percentage up to 22 percent.

Timothy Williams, the newest full-time employee at the Register of

Deeds Office, is the first African-American male in 30 years to work in the department.

"It's time for those in city government to decide whether they want to get serious about diversity or just window dress it," Holleman said. "In my past experience with local government, it's always been just window dressing it."

He also said the second-highest person on his staff is African-American.

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This Week in Black History

SEPTEMBER 9, 1968

Arthur Ashe became the first black winner of the U.S. Open Tennis championship, defeating Tom Okker of the Netherlands at Forest Hills Stadium, NY

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