



Ted Blunt enjoyed visiting with old friend Tommy Monteiro at WSSU's homecoming last week.

## Alum donates award to school

Ted Blunt is an uncommon, giving sort of person. Blinking only to hold back his tears, he gave \$5,000, given him by the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in recognition of his community service, to WSSU, his alma mater.

Blunt, WSSU class of '66, according to Chancellor Alvin Schexnider, is "a very special person whose student/athlete career under Bighouse Gaines is a sterling one, a man who has given the highest measure in education and community service."

In Atlanta, the week before WSSU's 1996 Founder's Day and Homecoming festivities, it became obvious that the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation agreed with Schexnider.

Blunt, already a member of the CIAA Hall of Fame, was nominated for the prestigious and rare award by Beauford Bailey, retired WSSU alum and faculty member, former Winston-Salem School Board member, and president of the WSSU Alumni Association. Bailey said, "Teddy is one of our finest, and we are honored to see him in the Parthenon of black college alumni, representing our school, for the first time."

Blunt, 52, like many WSSU alums of his generation, grew up poor, on public assistance, in one of Philadelphia's roughest housing projects. His mother, Helen, whom he thanked profusely and emotionally at the ceremony, worked three jobs to support Blunt and his four siblings after her divorce. Theodore was 5 at the time. Uncommon things happened, and he began to give life his all.

Blunt felt supported by what he called "a community from home to the neighbors, to teachers and preachers." Everybody looked out for him, even to the time he arrived at WSSU. While in pursuit of an Olympic-trial basketball career at WSSU, he also took a degree in elementary education. He holds a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University and has had a noble and notable career in the public school system of Wilmington, Del.

Twenty-five years ago, he began to give back, first as a social worker in Philadelphia, and then with the People's Settlement Association in Wilmington. He started Delaware's first after-school latch-key program and has been a leading and steady force in the city's YMCA athletic programs, the NAACP, the United Way, the United Negro College Fund, and the Cultural Arts Center.

Blunt talked glowingly of his wife of 36 years, Latrelle, and their three daughters, who, according to words given in his acceptance speech, "toiled with me through the uncharted waters of marriage and parenthood and family-hood." The Blunts have three grandchildren.

"Mr. Clarence E. Gaines, my coach, father figure, mentor and friend, is the one who made it possible for me to be standing up here, receiving this award," said Blunt. "It was Coach Gaines, who exhibits more love for WSSU than anybody living or dead, who made me believe so strongly in what black colleges do with students. Alumni must contribute financially to their institutions and market wherever possible schools like WSSU, which supported one like me." Blunt, when given a \$5,000

recognition award from the Coors Brewing Company, turned, and gave the money to the WSSU National Alumni Chapter for student scholarships.

Surely, Beauford Bailey, Chancellor Schexnider, and especially Bighouse Gaines, all present at the black-tie affair, smiled at Teddy Blunt, one of their finest, most uncommon, giving, alumni.

## Forsyth Teachers endorse Redge Hanes for State Senate

Redge Hanes, Democratic candidate for the North Carolina State Senate, has received the endorsement of the Forsyth Association of Classroom Teachers. Chuck Snider, who is president of the Association, cited the emphasis that Hanes has placed on education in his campaign and said he and his colleagues were impressed with Hanes' understanding of the issues. "We are convince that he can be a very effective legislator and advocate for improving the education system in a short time," said Snider. The Association has some 2,500 members in Forsyth County.

Hanes has made the improvement of educational opportunities in Forsyth County — from early childhood learning to the community college system — a top priority in his campaign.

Hanes believes strongly in teaching children early — in giving them a "Smart Start" — and ensuring that the classroom environment enhances learning. Hanes has advocated more security in public schools. "Teachers can't teach and children can't learn when they are scared," said Hanes.

Hanes also has called for alternative schools for students who are disruptive. "Kids whose bad conduct prevents other children from learning don't belong in a regular classroom. They should be in alternative schools," Hanes said. His opponents, Ham Horton and Mark McDaniel, voted against funds for both increased security and alternative schools.

Stressing the importance of community colleges, Hanes said, "Today we can never afford to stop learning. Our community colleges have to be strong in order to train and retain our people for the skilled jobs of the future." North Carolina teachers rank 42nd in the nation in average pay. "We have to keep good teachers teaching," said Hanes. "Better pay and benefits are two of the keys. A wholesome teaching

environment is another.

"Forsyth County children — and children all over our state — are attending schools that are crowded and in desperate need of repair. Schools should be safe and conducive to learning." Incumbent Senator Ham Horton has vigorously opposed a bond issue for school construction and repairs.

Hanes is a businessman who is making his first bid for elected office. He has said he will take a business-like approach to education: "That involves setting priorities and systematically achieving goals. It doesn't just mean spending more money. It means using our existing resources more wisely."

Hanes is the founder and chief executive officer of XPRES Corporation and an active civic leader. He has chaired the boards of SciWorks and the North Carolina School of the Arts and has served on the boards of the YMCA, Urban League, Chamber of Commerce and other local,



Redge Hanes, Democratic candidate for the North Carolina State Senate

state and national organizations that deal with education, the arts and the environment.

Hanes, 50, is a life-long resident of Forsyth County. He is the son of Helen Copenhaver "Copey" Hanes and the late Gordon Hanes. He and his wife Jane have two children, Lara and Philip, and live in the Pfafftown area.

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