



An elder learns to play the piano in A&T's Senior Scholar Program.

## Learning is a lifelong adventure

By JOYA WESLEY  
Special to THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO, N.C. - The 22-year-olds finishing up their undergraduate degrees aren't the only senior scholars on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University these days.

A&T's Senior Scholar Program is bringing the 65-and-up set to Aggeland to learn to play the piano and to use a personal computer for desktop publishing or to navigate the Internet, or to take classes toward degrees.

The program gives older

adults the opportunity to enhance their learning experiences by taking credit and non-credit courses, workshops and seminars.

The program was formed as a result of Administrative Memorandum No. 90, published by the General Administration of the University of North Carolina. The memorandum gives state citizens 65 or older the opportunity to take college courses tuition-free.

Senior citizens taking A&T credit courses pay only student fees. Students taking the Senior Scholars computer and piano

courses must pay a \$35 registration fee.

"A&T's Senior Scholars Program is likely to be expanded in the near future," said program coordinator Shirley R. Douglas of A&T's Office of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions. A recent interest survey indicated support for a tour trip to Charleston, S.C.

The piano course is taught by Walter F. Carlson, former A&T band director and music education professor, who recently retired after 47 years at the University. Gloria Dyson, computer training coordinator in

A&T's computer center, teaches the computer course.

While interest is growing in the computer course, the piano course has been a strong draw from the beginning, largely because of Carlson, who says many of his students in the beginning were his friends and acquaintances.

"It caught on right quick," he says. "They seem to enjoy it and so do I." Douglas says the course is so well-attended that the program added a summer session.

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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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THURSDAY JANUARY 22, 1998



This bronzed-colored bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., sculptured by Wilbur L. Mapp, was unveiled at the program.

## Community reflects on King

By BOMANI MAWULI  
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

The 18th Annual Noon Hour Commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. attracted hundreds of people across racial lines to the M.C. Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem on Monday.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was smart, well-educated, an humanitarian, a Southern Baptist preacher, an author, a practitioner of non-violence, the most effective civil rights leader in this nation's history,

an orator, a son, a brother, a husband, a father," said Mutter Evans, owner and general manager of radio station WAAA.

The founder of the Noon Hour Observance, Evans served as this year's emcee. This special event was sponsored by radio station, and its co-sponsors were the Winston-Salem chapter of the NAACP and the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission.

During the two-hour service members of the community spoke of the many remarkable roles King played throughout his short life.

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## City's loan program has dubious fate

Black businesses could lose their access to hundreds of thousands of loan dollars

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE  
THE CHRONICLE Editor

Management of the city's small business loan program has been handed over to a sub-contractor while city officials determine whether or not to end it, Assistant City Manager Allen Joines said this week.

"Bill Dowell has a track record for doing this sort of thing at Winston-Salem State. In the 10 years he's been working with that program, he's helped create roughly 7,000 jobs," said Joines.

Joines made his comments this week shortly after announcing that the responsibility of managing the small business loan program would be removed from the duties of the city's special development administrator. Until last week, reviewing and approving loan



City promotes Derwick Paige.

applications fell under the discretion of this administrator.

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## Juvenile Justice Council initiates discussion

Δ School official says racial balance is a constant focus of the public schools.

By BOMANI MAWULI  
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

Perhaps it was appropriate for the Juvenile Justice Council (JJC) of Forsyth County to hold a meeting and workshop about the county's school redistricting plan on the actual birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—Jan. 15. That's

because the JJC seems to share Dr. King's dream, or vision, of racial equality.

King had a dream that one day "little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and girls and walk together as sisters and brothers."

And the JJC and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (W-S/FC) Board of Education appear to be trying to maintain at least a racial balance, if not a union, in its school system.

The meeting and workshop took place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem. The participants, approximately 50,

were divided into five groups of about seven members each. One group was composed of mainly school social workers.

The groups discussed the School Redistricting Plan and its specific issues of housing patterns; integration versus segregation; school assignments and transfers; and the role of the Equity Commission.

The Redistricting Plan itself was approved by the W-S/FC Board of Education on May 31, 1995. The goal of this plan is to offer parents and students the choice of attending a neighborhood school or another school within their design-

nated school or residential zone.

The zones, as determined by the school board, consist of eight elementary school zones, six middle school zones, and eight "independent" high school zones. The high school zones have "a new liberal transfer policy," which allows a student to choose a high school outside of their residential zone.

In addition to teaching the Standard Course of Study, all schools will emphasize a particular theme, or focus, such as mathematics and science or communications.

However, a racial balance within

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The School Redistricting Plan creates eight elementary school zones.

## 12th District has changed, Mel Watt, however, has not

By JOHN MINTER  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Three-term U.S. Rep. Mel Watt will run for reelection in a district drastically changed from the one he was elected to serve in 1992.

The 12th District, one of two majority black districts formed after the 1990 Census, was redrawn last year after a legal challenge on racial grounds.

The new district, which begins in Charlotte, once included

portions of 10 counties that snaked along I-85. Now it only includes six and ends in Guilford County, rather than Durham County.

The district is no longer majority-black, with 47 percent African American population. Only 42 percent of its registered voters are black. The old district had a 54 percent black population and 51 percent black voter

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Mel Watt

## Alfred Burrell is about to make history

By JOYA WESLEY  
Special to THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — Alfred Burrell, an electrical engineer from Pomona, Calif., made history at North Carolina A&T State University last month.

Burrell was the first to defend his dissertation, the last step in earning A&T's first Ph.D. At the May commencement ceremony, Chancellor Edward B. Fort will hand him his degree and place on his head the hood that signifies the Ph.D.

Until then, Burrell is busy exploring job opportunities, although he already has a position in hand.

"I'm supposed to be going to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, but I'm also looking at other areas," Burrell said. "I'll wait until May to celebrate."

Fort and the College of Engineering administration and faculty will also be celebrating as the university's Ph.D. programs in electrical and mechanical engineering bear their first fruit.

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Alfred Burrell