

Medical Center names first black chaplain

By FELECIA MCMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

The Rev. Calvin Runnels had no idea he would ever make history when he moved to Winston-Salem.

But recently, Runnels, an associate minister at Emmanuel Baptist Church, did just that.

He was awarded a certificate of graduation on Aug. 19 from the School of Pastoral Care at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, after completing three

years of supervisory training in clinical pastoral education.

In June, he became the first African American in the hospital's 52-year history to become a part of the department of chaplaincy and pastoral education. The department opened in 1947.

"When I came here, my intent was just to do a year residency. However, after doing a residency, I felt called and led to go on to chaplaincy after seeing the lack of African Americans in the field," Runnels said. "There is a need in

hospitals and in the educational role of the chaplaincy."

Sharon Engebretson, chaplain and ordained minister, is the director of the department. Engebretson said she was happy with Runnels' selection.

"Our selection of Chaplain Runnels was based on his qualifications and gifts for ministry," said Engebretson. "We believe he brings a wonderful dimension to the faculty, and he will contribute significantly to the ministry of the department. We are really

pleased."

In the department of chaplaincy and pastoral education, Runnels will carry out various duties. He will supervise students in clinical pastoral education; provide pastoral care ministry to patients, family and staff in the medical center and execute administrative responsibilities.

Runnels says he never intended to end up in Winston-Salem.

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felt called and led to go on to chaplaincy after seeing the lack of African Americans in the field," Runnels said. There is a need in hospitals and in the educational role of the chaplaincy."

"I was searching during my seminary days for God to direct me into an area other than parish ministry or pulpit ministry. I wanted to find creative and innovative ways to do ministry," he said.

According to Engebretson, who has been director of the

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Runnels

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CHRONICLE

1974 - Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1999



25 years and counting

Chronicle holds bash

Angelou, Sybil, Terry enthrall thousands during day-long party at Rupert Bell Park

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It wasn't like The Chronicle had not come to Rupert Bell Park before.

For five consecutive years the weekly newspaper had brought its own brand of summer fun to the park and the people of Winston-Salem.

Over the years there's been music, dancing, games for kids and enough food and drink to satisfy an army.

The sixth annual We are Family Day followed in the tradition of its predecessor. The music was lively, the star power was impressive and the food and crowd were plentiful. The six-hour plus celebration took place Saturday under clear skies and a vibrant sun.

But there was something different about this year's celebration, something that gave it a distinction that none of the previous events could boast: This year's celebration just happened to coincide with The Chronicle's 25th birthday.

The meshing of the annual event and the celebration of the paper's 25th anniversary made for an extra special celebration, said event organizers.

"Today we are going to fan the flame with music and great ceremonies. ... This is your celebration," said Fannie Henderson, The Chronicle's director of advertising, as she kicked off the event from a stage in the park.

Henderson spearheaded the planning of the celebration. The theme of the event was "Fanning the Flame." It was chosen because of the paper's mission of carrying the eternal torch for African American journalism in the city, organizers said.

Fire (as in flame) was a running theme at this year's event. Several luminaries were lighted throughout the day in honor of those who have made the community a better and brighter place.

To add emphasis to the event's theme, a nine-foot, silver torch was set up beside the stage; it was lighted and burned for more than five hours.

Making the celebration a reality took three months of mental planning and another three months of physical planning. It was billed as a day for The Chronicle family and families from around the city to come together to share in their collective history.

The many facets of Saturday's event stretched as far as the eye could see. Kids of all ages set up camp with colorful blankets and lawn chairs on a hill. A children's area was located there, complete with face painters, a balloon artist and storytellers.

Across the park, several large, white tents housed the food service area. There was enough food to feed 5000, said one of the

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Photos by Bruce Chapman

Thousands attended The Chronicle's 25th Anniversary/We Are Family Day at Rupert Bell Park Saturday. Clockwise from left, a woman cheers as singer Sybil ends a set; Sybil runs through her rendition of "Don't Make Me Over"; acclaimed poet Maya Angelou brought the crowd to its feet with her spirited speech; comedian Debra Terry, with her son, led the crowd in a chant of "We Are Family"; Janet Taylor lights a torch during a special ceremony; a group of children surround McGruff, the Police Department's mascot.



Schexnider faces challenge

Executive committee votes to hold confidence vote on WSSU chancellor

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Another brick falls for Alvin Schexnider.

A portion of the wall that holds Chancellor Schexnider's tenure at Winston-Salem State University together came tumbling down late last week, as the executive committee of the university's board of trustees unanimously decided to allow the full board to take a vote of confidence on Schexnider at its next meeting Sept. 17.

The committee's decision came six days after the release of the school's annual state audit, which revealed that financial matters at WSSU have not always been properly documented.

But the committee seemed more concerned with the "special report" that was released with the audit last week. The report dealt with Schexnider and his use of public money. The Office of the State Auditor conducted the inquiry of Schexnider after it received several anonymous tips on its hot line that public money was being misused.

Theodore Blunt, chairman of the board of trustees and an executive committee member, referred to the special report as a "fraud report" at one point after the meeting last Friday.

"We do not wish to be in an adversarial relationship with the State Auditor's Office. In fact, we commend the state auditor for conducting his duties and responsibilities of his office in a manner that helps us maintain our mission," Blunt said, reading from a statement from the committee.

"We expect the chancellor to abide by the state regulations, the board of trustees' and university system policies. Winston-Salem State University, for its future, must remove any impediments which would prevent it from helping to improve higher education for North Carolina's future."

Schexnider was out of town much of last week tending to a sick relative. Lee Hampton, vice chancellor of university advancement, and other members of Schexnider's administration were present at the meeting. Reportedly, Schexnider had

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Schexnider

Back in the day



Tim Jackson and Patricia Brown, then librarians at the East Winston Branch Public Library, sort Kwansasa supplies in this 1984 photo. For a look back at the last 25 years, see our special "Progress Edition."