

Polite hopes vast experience will pay off in race

The Chronicle reported last week in a headline and in a story that Jim Bob Campbell was the only African American seeking the sheriff's office in the upcoming election. That was not correct. Sheriff's Department veteran John Polite is also running and he is an African American. Here is a profile on Polite. — The editor

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Sgt. John Polite came to work for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department in 1975 in police communications, and he never thought he would be running for sheriff 26 years later. But Polite is running and is one of two black Democratic candidates on the sheriff's ballot.

Over two decades, Polite, a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, has worked in numerous divisions of law enforcement, ranging from the civil division, Highway Patrol, school resource officer, jail officer and court security and has earned to advance law enforcement certificates. Now a deputy sheriff in charge of 13 officers, Polite didn't think he would make an extensive career at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department when he began as one of the first black officers there. A family friend of Polite was instru-

mental in his being hired in his first job at the department. Polite knew that once he got his foot in the door time would show that he could do the job well.

One would think after all of that time and exposure to various levels of law enforcement, a bid for sheriff would be a natural progression for Polite. He considers it to be simply making the best out of change, which he has gladly welcomed and appreciated.

"I've always had the ambition to run for sheriff. It's something that has been in the back of my mind for sometime, and it's something that you have to concern yourself with and do in a timely manner," said Polite. C.C. McGee, whom Polite is up against in the Democratic primary, also works for the Sheriff's Department.

Deciding whether to run for sheriff, Polite said, "was something I had to pray about, and I gave it great thought and asked God to order my steps in this endeavor. With all that being done, I feel I was given a sign that it was my time to run." Polite said.

Even though Polite is eligible to retire in June of next year, he remains confident that his long-standing reputation in the community as a deputy sheriff and citizen will catapult him

to be a strong contender for sheriff. Unafraid of change and aware of what the officers and citizens both need throughout the county, Polite wants to bring about changes that he thinks are long overdue.

"I have the ability, the training, the knowledge and the integrity to do this job, and that's what I am putting forth to the citizens of Forsyth County," said Polite, who was born and raised in Winston-Salem.

If elected sheriff, Polite would like to reorganize the sheriff's staff to fully maximize employees' efforts by assigning more personnel to patrol throughout the county and taking more proactive methods to monitor potential criminal activity in the county. Polite is interested in developing a citizens review board made up of residents around the county to provide feedback on ways to handle criminals. He also would like to provide services and activities for the elderly, who oftentimes go overlooked and under-cared for by the community.

Aware that Forsyth County historically has been a difficult place for blacks to win countywide elections, Polite, who says he's unapologetically black, sees the uphill battle before him.

However, Polite feels residents are far more concerned with his abil-



Sgt. John Polite

ity to deliver justice than the color of his skin.

Polite regrets that both his mother and aunt are no longer living to see him run for office, because both were

so supportive of him early in his career. They encouraged him to take advantage of opportunities whenever they came his way, and he believes he is doing just that.

Head of UNCG's multicultural affairs dies

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — Students, faculty and staff at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro honored a beloved member of the UNCG family during a "Candlelight Remembrance Service" for Pamela Wilson, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, who died at Moses Cone Hospital Tuesday. The service was held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the fountain in front of the University Dining Center.



Wilson

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Pamela's immediate family and for the UNCG community as we share

their grief."

Wilson, who was a member of the UNCG family for almost 11 years, was a friend, mentor and role model for countless students. The Office of Multicultural Affairs coordinates several annual events that address and promote diversity, awareness and multiculturalism at UNCG, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award, a Black History Month series and the annual Shades of Color Conference, held recently.

Wilson was responsible for

bringing prominent African-American speakers to campus, including Myrlie Evers-Williams, Shirley Chisholm, Joycelyn Elders, Ossie Davis, coach Herman Boone and former boxing champion Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.

Before being named director of multicultural affairs, Wilson worked as an assistant director in the UNCG Office of Academic Advising and Support Services. A graduate of High Point University, Wilson

held a master's degree from N.C. A&T State University. She was an adjunct instructor at Guilford Technical Community College and was employed by A&T from 1980-89. She was a native of High Point.

MBA program approved for WSSU

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The proposed master's in business administration program of Winston-Salem State University's School of Business and Economics was approved March 6 by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors during a scheduled meeting of the board.

"This program will play a significant role in the university's goal of providing well-trained and highly motivated future business leaders for the region," said Dr. Arthur King, dean of the WSSU School of Business and Economics. "This program will be the high-quality, low-cost option for working professionals to obtain an MBA in the region."

WSSU's School of Business and Economics recently achieved accreditation from the prestigious accrediting agency AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. King feels the new MBA program will enhance the school's ability to leverage that accreditation.

The curriculum will stress the universal traits of management and their use in various organizations. The curriculum is designed to create an understanding of an organization's business activities and to develop business skills and high levels of competence in major concentration areas.

Candidates for the MBA degree can concentrate in any one of these areas: MBA with a concentration in financial services, MBA with a concentration in health-care management, MBA with a concentration in management information systems.

Candidates also may complete a general MBA by taking electives from several areas. A strong undergraduate education in any academic field is good preparation for graduate study in business. Prior academic work in business is not necessary. Students with undergraduate degrees in the sciences and liberal arts are strongly encouraged to

apply. Each candidate must have a bachelor's degree and submit a GMAT score. Sessions will be scheduled to give information to people

interested in enrolling in the program. For more information, call (336) 750-2342 or send e-mail to oluokunm@wssu.edu.



Attend our March Information Session

Tuesday, March 14
10am-11am or 6pm-7pm
Main Hall on the campus of Salem College

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You can e-mail the news department at news@wschronicle.com

NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

Project No.	County/Route	Type	Location	Metric/English	GOALS BY PERCENT		
					DBE	MBE	WBE
6.051044	Dare/Hyde	Construction of passenger/vehicle ferry	NC-12 from Hatteras Village to Ocracoke island	English	0%		
8.1242002	Duplin	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Northeast Cape Fear River and approaches on NC-41/50 near Chinquapin	English	10%		
8.2250108	New Hanover	Widening, grading, drainage, paving and structures	Smith Creek Parkway from proposed US-117 Connector to east of 23rd Street	Metric	9%		
8.2312001	Johnston	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over a branch and approaches on SR-1553	Metric	10%		
8.2321501	Nash	Grading, drainage, paving, and structure	Bridge over Stoney Creek and approaches on SR-1435 at Nashville	English	9%		
8.2430501	Columbus	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Frair Swamp and approaches on SR-1740 (Old Lake Road)	English	7%		
8.2462101	Robeson	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over CSX Transportation System and approaches on SR-1001	English	5%		
5.4641028	Robeson	Cleaning and painting of Ext structures and pollution control	3 Existing bridges at various locations along I-95 in Robeson County	English	0%		
5.4641029	Robeson	Cleaning and painting of Ext structures and pollution control	3 Existing bridges at various locations along I-95 in Robeson County	English	0%		
5.4641030	Robeson	Cleaning and painting of Ext structures and pollution control	3 Existing bridges at various locations along I-95 in Robeson County	English	0%		
8.1511501	Rockingham	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over Mayo River and approaches on US-220 Business	English	9%		
9.8079843	Guilford	Widening, drainage, paving and signing	NC-68 from South of SR-1556 (Gallimore Dairy Road) to North of Triad Center Drive	English	10%	5%	
8.1602201	Davidson	Median guiderail	I-85 from US-29/52/70/85 business to south of NC-109	English	12%		
8.2751001	Watauga	Grading, drainage, paving and culvert	Culvert on Clarks Creek and approaches on SR-1136	English	5%		
8.1792305	Catawba	Widening, grading, drainage, paving and culvert ext.	SR-1692 (Tate Boulevard Ext) from east of SR-1468 (Sweetwater Road) to SR-1476 (Fairgrove Church Road)	Metric	10%		
8.2812102	Gaston	Grading, drainage, paving and culvert	RC Box Culvert at Forest Brook Branch and approaches on SR 2444 (Gaston Day School Road)	English	9%		
8.2941001	Haywood	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge of Fines Creek and approaches on SR-1334	English	10%		
8.2580801	Richmond	Grading, drainage, paving and structure	Bridge over CSX Transportation System and approaches on SR-1713 (Rice Street) in Hamlet	Metric	5%		
8.1402210	Wake (8 weeks advertisement)	Grading, drainage, paving and structures	US-64 from I-440 (Raleigh Beltline) to New Hope Road	Metric	11%		

*** MONDAY, March 18, 2002 6 PM - MIDNIGHT ***

North Raleigh Hilton - 3415 Wake Forest Road - Raleigh, N.C.

LETTING DATE: March 19, 2002

Prime contractors will be available to receive quotes for trucking, sub-contracting and materials. M/WBE's needing more information and/or technical assistance may come to Room 522 to meet with representatives from the Bennington Corp., NCDOT's Supportive Provider. (919)832-6027

NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1-800-522-0453

Certification of highway contracting firms: Richard Chrisawn
Certification of supply/service/engineering firms: Robert Mathes
Comments or concerns: Delano Rackard: Director

