

...money for the ... helped him," said Boyd. ... always support my children. I ... asked people I worked with, family members and school friends to help us."

Cleopatra's mother, Cecelia King, has assisted Cleopatra in raising money for the school before. Mother King is from Liberia, West Africa. She was very proud of Cleopatra's success. Cleopatra was also proud of herself.

"I feel good about winning, and I love raising money for the school," said Cleopatra. "I love school, and I love math. Mrs. Hunter is my math teacher."

Cleopatra has already planned a spot in her home for her crown to rest on.

"I will put my crown on the counter over the TV so people can see it," said Cleopatra. "I'll keep my red sash as a souvenir from Petree."

King said: "We believe in education. This is not the first time we have raised money for the school. We always want to help the schoolteachers get what they want. We will always contribute to the school."

Boyd said: "The dance turned out great. There may have been more students here had it not rained, but we had a good crowd. We had a lot of parents available to help. We always look for the support of the parents."

The Valentine's Day Dance was a fund-raiser to supply additional educational supplies that teachers have requested. Many of the students consider the dance very special and they dress to impress.

Jaylin Hayes, kindergartner, had his older brother help him get dressed. He came in a gray pinstriped suit. His father, Joseph Hayes, came to the dance to help chaperone and watch his son dance.

"Jaylin went home from school and changed his clothes. He was ready to change. He was excited about coming down here," Hayes said. "He said that he was going to dance, but I knew he wouldn't."

Fourth-grader Richard Jackson came to the dance for a second time.



Above: PTA officers Shantele Williams (secretary), Shonta Fleming (volunteer coordinator), Meredith Boyd (president), and Mia Parker (PTA liaison) spearheaded the fund-raiser.



At left: Laurie Newton dance with her son, Curtis.

Michelle Dancy, Breddan Robinson, and Tina Hooks helped to serve punch in the cafeteria during the dance. Dancy had rather stick around and help rather than just drop her son off.

"If you stick around, you can have some fun. My son is the youngest of five children. I am always volunteering with the school," said Dancy. "There is no hesitation. I will be there. It is fun to get on the floor with the kids. I have had a ball."

Robinson volunteered for the first time.

"The dance is a nice thing for the school to do. I work so much, but I took two hours off from work to help," said Robinson. "It is important for parents to be involved with their children. It helps your children, and it is good for parents to come out and support events for their children."

Leslie Johns, teacher of English as a Second Language K-5, came out to volunteer.

"I love what I do. I didn't have to pick up my daughter tonight, so I decided to watch the kids. I am just amazed at the way they move. I never knew that elementary schools had dances. I have always worked at middle schools."

"I have been dancing all night. It is hard to sit still in here because when you see all of the people dancing around, it makes me want to get up. My favorite song is Nelly's 'Getting Hot in Here.'"

Fifth-grader Iesha Hodges was attending her first dance at Petree.

"It's good. It's fun. I like dancing and seeing all of the people, all of my friends," Hodges said. "My favorite song tonight is 'Step in the Name of Love.'"

DJ Arthur Gray Sr. has done many dances for middle and high school settings such as Northwest, Philo and North Forsyth. He said that the elementary students are

less inhibited about dancing.

"You can play just about anything, and they will dance if it is upbeat and movin'," said Gray. "This is a good bunch of kids here tonight. The song that they request most is 'Stop in the Name of Love.'"

Parent Janette Robinson was surprised to see her son Benjamin dancing because he refuses to dance at home.

"Benjamin has been dancing all night. My son watches a lot of television, but does not dance a lot at home. I am very surprised to see him dance so much today," Robinson said. "I told him that I was very proud of him."

# Wake event to emphasize both faith, academics

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University Divinity School will celebrate Black History Month Feb. 16 and 17 with its annual Akoni (pronounced awknee) events. This year's events will feature Delman Coates, a Baptist minister and emerging national expert on black church issues.

Coates will present a lecture, "The Black Church in the 21st Century," Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in Wingate Hall's Lower Auditorium. His topic will focus on breaking down the barriers between "town and gown," the black community and divinity schools. A question-and-answer session will follow the lecture.

On Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. in Wait Chapel, Coates will lead the Akoni service, "In Praise of Great African Ancestors," in which congregants will thank God for their faith and for the faith of their "valiant ancestors." (Akoni is a West African Yoruba term that means "valiant ancestors.") Both events are free and open to the public.

Brad Braxton, Wake Forest Divinity School's Jessie Ball Dupont assistant professor of homiletics and biblical studies, said: "When it comes to serious academic work and serious faith development, some African-American churches tend to emphasize one over the other. We want to reclaim the best of the black church in both areas' rigorous, in-depth theological training and warm, heartfelt, down-home religion. Delman is an up-and-coming expert who admirably



Braxton

bridges both.

"Both events are meant to be celebratory as well as educational. We invite the black church community to attend both events. Monday's lecture will be invigorating, and Tuesday's service will be warm and spirited and include the exuberant style of singing, preaching and worship style characteristic of black churches."

The Akoni service will feature the singing of familiar black hymns; call-and-response preaching; libations, a West African tradition of pouring a liquid offering; and a remembrance of the Maafa, which is a West African Kiswahili term for "disaster" or "terrible occurrence," in which participants lament the more than 500 years of suffering and hurt people of African descent experienced through slavery and exploitation.

Also highlighting the service will be a substantial roll call in which the names of "valiant ancestors," those who have made significant contributions to American history, will be called out. These names will include Martin Luther King Jr., the great African physician Imhotep, civil rights activist Ida B. Wells as well as lesser-known individuals who surrounded the well-known and were instrumental in their success.

Coates is a native of Richmond, Va. He holds an undergraduate degree from Morehouse College and a master's of theological study from Harvard Divinity School. He is a doctoral candidate at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University.

The Akoni events are part of Wake Forest's theme year, "Fostering Dialogue: Civil Discourse in an Academic Community," which is dedicated to exploring how free people with passionate interests and beliefs can communicate openly without turning dialogue into discord.

# THE CHRONICLE

## The 21st Annual

### Community Service Awards

Submit Your Candidates Today!

THE CHRONICLE invites you to help in the selections for the recipients for the "Man and Woman of the Year," "Community Service Award" and the "Lifetime Achievement Awards." Recipients will be chosen by the Chronicle staff and advisory team. Judging will be based as follows: "Man and Woman of the Year" will be persons who have demonstrated outstanding character and serve as role models for others. The man or woman of the year should be someone who has triumphed over a personal tragedy or someone who has helped an individual to overcome an obstacle in order to obtain a better standard of living. The occurrences should have taken place during the past year. The recipients of the "Community Service Award" will be judged based on contributions to the African-American community. The individual must have demonstrated a commitment through affiliation with community-service agencies, community institutions, schools, churches, etc. The recipients of the "Lifetime Achievement Awards" will be long-

time stewards in the African-American community. Each recipient of this award will be someone who has, over the years, epitomized what "role model" means. Nominees should be Piedmont Triad residents. The winners will be recognized in the February 2004 Community Awards Special Edition. The recipients will receive commemorative plaques at the 21st Annual Awards Banquet in March. Please print legibly and be as specific as possible in describing your nominee's accomplishments. Use additional paper if necessary.

**Nominations must be received by THE CHRONICLE no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2004.**

Deliver your form to:  
THE CHRONICLE  
617 N. Liberty Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
336-722-8624

- Man of the Year
- Woman of the Year
- Community Service Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Phone # (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Activities, memberships, affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain briefly your candidate's service achievements. \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone # (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_