

# Human rights advocate to speak

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Miroslav Volf, an internationally recognized human rights advocate, author and theologian, will present a lecture titled "Generosity: Importance, Challenge, Possibility" at 4 p.m. Oct. 18 in Wake Forest University's Wait Chapel. The free, public lecture is presented as the Wake Forest Divinity School's 2005 Margaret A. Steelman Lecture.

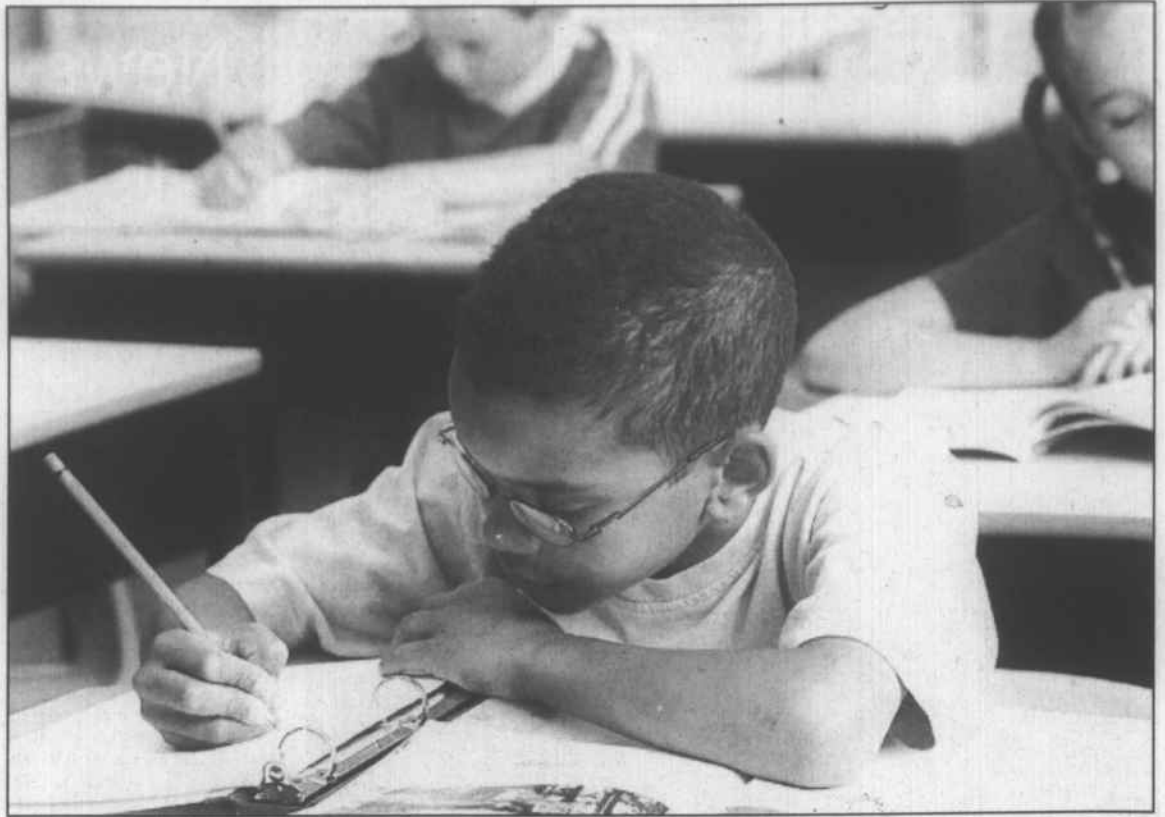


Volf

was an outspoken proponent of peace during the violent breakup of the former Yugoslavia and his specialty is how faith can connect to everyday life — especially to questions about violence.

Volf is visiting Wake Forest as part of events planned for the inauguration of the university's 13th president, Nathan O. Hatch. He will also give the talk "The Superficial and the Profound" at the 11 a.m. chapel service on Oct. 18 in Wait Chapel. He will be a panelist for the Oct. 19 academic symposium "The Moral Challenges of Professional Life," scheduled for 2 p.m. in Brendle Recital Hall in the university's Scales Fine Arts Center.

Volf, Henry B. Wright professor of systematic theology at Yale Divinity School and director of the Yale Center for Faith & Culture, is a native of Croatia who emigrated to the United States in the early 1990s. He



File Photo

A UNC-Chapel Hill study focuses on black students with high academic achievement.

## Study: 'Acting white' taunt not enough to prevent black student achievement

BY DAVID WILLIAMSON  
UNC NEWS SERVICES

### CHAPEL HILL

Despite a common belief that peer pressure against high academic achievement is prevalent among black students, a new study conducted by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University shows that that's not usually true.



Tyson

Generally, the researchers found, black adolescents are as achievement-oriented as white adolescents, contrary to what some observers, including academics, have thought. A small percentage of black adolescents might not try as hard as they could in school for fear

of criticism from other black students, but most are not deterred when others accuse them of "acting white."

"We analyzed interviews and existing data from eight North Carolina public secondary schools," said Dr. Karolyn Tyson, assistant professor of sociology in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. "We found little evidence suggesting that a burden of 'acting white' is a major reason why some black students do poorly in school and is a key contributor to the black-white achievement gap."

A report on the research appears in the latest issue (August) of the American Sociological Review. Besides

Tyson, co-authors are Drs. William A. Darity, Boshamer professor of economics at UNC and professor of public policy at Duke, and Domini Castellino, a psychologist affiliated with Duke's Center for Child and Family Policy.

How schools were organized was a factor in black students' attitudes about achievement, the researchers found.

"In particular, the racial and class composition of the most challenging classes, advanced placement and honors classes, at the high school level is critical in determining whether or not a climate exists that produces a burden of acting white," Darity said.

"A common complaint among successful students, regardless of race, was that they were to some degree stigmatized as 'nerds' or 'geeks,'" Tyson said.

Notions of how "acting white" has become a burden to many black students have become popular among many social scientists, she said. That is in part because those notions offer an easy answer to the question of why whites as a group fare better than blacks as a group in school. The racial achievement gap is one of the most stubborn and vexing problems in all of education and in U.S. society as a whole.

"...Surprisingly, sociologists have not paid enough attention to similarities in the daily experiences of black and white students in schools," the authors wrote. "Until we recognize that these processes generalize beyond one specific group, we will continue to go astray in our efforts to understand the black-white achievement gap."



Photo by Felicia McMillan

Eddie Bines sings as Davis Allen directs the rest of the choir.

### Big Four

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fans can enjoy the Old Timers' Basketball Game at 6:30 in the Carver High School gymnasium. Saturday night's dance will feature the original Manhattans and the Charles Green Group as special guests.

Hobart Jones (Carver '65), chairperson of the 2005 Big Four Committee, has been meeting with various committees for several months. He is very proud of the 2005 T-shirt design that features the faces of the first principals of the four schools: John A. Carter (Atkins), Edward E. Hill (Carver), Andrew B. Reynolds (Anderson), and Billy D. Friende Sr. (Paisley).

"Our theme is 'Bound By Heritage.' When we show our shirts to young people in the community, we want them to know who laid the foundation for these schools. We want them to know their history," said Jones. "These are the people who set the tone for what we have become, for what we have accomplished."

Roberta Blue (Carver '62) is the chairperson of the teachers' appreciation breakfast. The speaker for the event will be Nigel Alston, director, employee/community relations for GMAC Insurance. Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin (Carver) will serve as the mistress of ceremonies. Chairperson Blue has already received responses from 40 educators who are coming to the gathering. They represent all of the schools.

"They lived in our neighborhoods. They knew our parents and our families. They treated us like we were their children," Blue said. "They would punish us and then call our parents. Our parents would also punish us. We need more of this today. Children would be more disciplined if parents and teachers worked as a team."

Chairman Jones is also responsible for organizing the Old Timers Basketball Game. According to Jones, this game is a special time of fun and fellowship. Carver's new modeling group called "Spotlight" will be featured during the half-time show.

"We can get out our Ben-gay and lineament out to soothe our aching muscles after our Friday night of fame. We will pay for it on that Saturday morning," Jones said.

Milton "Pinknose" Wright (Carver '63) played football at Carver back in the day. Carver won the state championship in 1962 while he was on the team. Wright plans to play in the Old Timers game.

"I look forward to seeing local friends and others from out of town," Wright said.

Priscilla Montgomery (Carver '66) and Jamie Transou (Carver) have been working with Carver's Alumni Cheerleading Squad in preparation for the game. Each school will have its own team of players and its own cheerleading squad. Montgomery is looking forward to the camaraderie.

"Everybody is just having fun. Many of the cheerleaders have never been a cheerleader before. It is all about having fun and school spirit," Montgomery said. "The good thing is that it is not a competition. In high school, it was about who could really be the best. Now, it is more about having fun."

Another highlight of the weekend is the Big Four Worship Service. Cassandra V. Douglas (Carver '70) is chairperson for the service for the second time. The Rev. William M. Conrad (Carver '64) will serve as the keynote preacher. The Big Four Choir will provide the special music for the service. The Carver High School Gospel Choir will help lead the devotional music.

David L. Allen Sr. is the Big 4 2005 choir director, and Dr. Marion Pete Thomas (Atkins '70) is the assistant director. Some of the members who have been in the choir for several years include Georgia Smith (Paisley '68), Janice Benjamin (Atkins '65), Birdie Jackson (Anderson '67), Milton "Pinknose" Wright (Carver '63) and Peggy McCullough. According to Chairperson Douglas, a worship service is a fitting way to begin the celebration.

"We come from the generation of students who began each school day with the Lord's Prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a Bible verse. In chorus, we sang hymns and other religious music," said Douglas. "Each classroom had a Christian flag and an American flag inside. Kids and their parents were not in opposition to this setup."

"In fact, we are successful because of our connection to the church. I love community collaboration. This choir is a village effort because it involves people from many churches coming together as a unit," Allen said.

For tickets to the Big Four Dance, game, Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast and vendors' information, call Hobart Jones (722-8444), Judy Brown (767-1427) or Cassandra Douglas (722-1328). Tickets can also be purchased at Ellise-Marie Boutique (727-8847).

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