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# THE CHRONICLE

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## FAMILY OF RAMS

Seven first cousins attending Winston-Salem State

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Lnora Garrett Grayson, 77 passed away recently in Pittsburgh. She had lived a full life. She and husband, Curtis Grayson, raised nine children - eight boys and one girl - to become productive citizens.

The family matriarch also lived to see her wildest dreams come true - eight of her grandchildren attending college all at the same time. Seven of Grayson's grandchildren are currently students at Winston-Salem State University.

Glenn Garrett Grayson Jr., 20, and sister Shinora, 19, of Pittsburgh, and their cousin, Damian Grayson of Brooklyn, N.Y., started the trend when they came to WSSU in 2004.

Cousins Courtney Grayson of Brooklyn; Tamara Grayson of Durham; and Kevin McNair of Charlotte enrolled the following year.

Christina Grayson, the youngest of the cousins and Damian's younger sister, is a



Kevin McNair, from left, with his cousins Damian, Shinora, Garrett, Christina, Tamara and Courtney Grayson.

## Students link with the world

Real world exposure helps broaden perspectives

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Through the magic of video conferencing, economics students at Wake Forest University listened to a lecture on a multimillion-dollar effort to revitalize poverty-stricken parts of the Philippines. They weren't alone. Also watching and listening were students at another college.

The lecturer wasn't a professor. It was Andrew Parker, who heads the Kalahi-Cidss project, a \$182 million World Bank project that will build resources like schools, day cares and health centers in poor Philippine provinces. And those other college students watching weren't at another elite American college, they were in Ghana, where the need for economic assistance isn't a theory but a reality.

This unique course, which brings students from both sides of the world together with development experts from the World Bank is taught by Wake Forest economics professor Sylvain Boko and Mary McNeil, a senior operations officer with the World Bank Institute (WBI).

"The opportunity to interact with some of the leading experts in the field of development around the world is extraordinary," said Boko. "The opportunity to interact with people of their own age in another continent and meet twice a week and exchange, again, it's extraordinary."

The World Bank is an international financial institution that gives loans and other assistance to poor, developing countries. WBI is the arm of the bank that helps countries share and apply knowledge that will help them in their development.

Students in the class have



Boko

## 'Miracle' newswoman inspires others with her story

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraiser isn't until May, but local people are already being urged to join the fight against cancer, which, this year alone, will affect nearly 1.4 million Americans.

Last week, dozens gathered at the headquarters of Allegacy Credit Union on Hanes Mall Boulevard for a kick-off event for Relay for Life, which raises money through pledges secured by teams of walkers or runners that complete a short trek around Old Salem.

Margaret Johnson, a long-time anchor at WXII-12, talked about her own battle with cancer at the kick-off.

A recent survivor of both pancreatic and thyroid cancer, Johnson believes she is proof that miracles are real.

Johnson was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer just over a

year ago, after undergoing a routine surgical procedure.

"At best, they told me that I had a 30 percent chance of survival," Johnson recounted.

Within days, Johnson endured major surgery. Her gallbladder, pancreas and spleen were removed, along with part of her intestines and one-third of her stomach. The grueling surgery was followed by a 21-day stay in the hospital, six weeks of daily radiation treatment and six months of chemotherapy.

In the months that followed her surgery, Johnson would return to the hospital eight more times for treatment for complications.

Then, the unspeakable happened.

"This past June, I had something called a PET scan. It's a procedure where radiation is shot into your body and everywhere there's a problem, something lights up," she explained. "Well, the light lit up in my throat, and it lit up in my liver."



Gray



Margaret Johnson speaks at last week's kick-off event.

A fine needle biopsy pinpointed the cancer in Johnson's thyroid, which has subsequently been removed.

"I'm currently taking medicine to mimic what your thyroid is supposed to do. On top of that, no pancreas means diabetes ... also high blood pressure, didn't think that was going to be my story but I got that too," Johnson remarked. "It sounds overwhelming."

Despite many setbacks, Johnson has finally received a clean bill of health. Astoundingly, Johnson says she has actually been able to glean some positive things from her harrowing experience.

"It makes you appreciate the good in life," she said. "It makes you realize what's important, and that the little stuff, there is just no need to sweat it."

Through it all, Johnson said she managed to keep a positive attitude and now that she is healed, she is ready to tell the world.

"The cancer is gone, and I am one blessed little girl," she exclaimed with a smile.

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Jeffrey Powell speaks Saturday at the Greensboro Historical Museum's Veterans Day program.

## Powell helped to keep Air Force One soaring

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - When the President of the United States flies someplace, it's in a plane of such size, luxury and technology that it's often referred to as "the flying White House." But Air Force One couldn't stay in the air without the dedicated crew of the Presidential Airlift Group.

Retired Master Sergeant Jeffrey Powell was one of those crew members for nine years and served Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He gave a behind-the-scenes look at Air Force One at the Greensboro Historical Museum's Veterans Day program on Saturday. His love of discussing Air Force



Jeffrey Powell shakes hands with President Bush.

One showed, as did his wit, during his remarks and as he answered questions from the

audience. "I'm going to be here to answer any questions you have

about Monica Lewinsky," Powell joked at the beginning of the program.

As jet engine manager, he supervised six mechanics who were the only ones authorized to work on the two identical Boeing 747 200-B jets that take the president wherever he needs to go. Air Force One has a perfect safety record thanks to a crew that stands by 24-7 for maintenance and repair.

Air Force One is actually the call sign used to identify either of the 747s when the president is on board or any other U.S. Air Force craft carrying the president. Powell said each plane has 4,000-square-feet of carpeted space and costs \$56,800 an hour to fly. At that rate, a president is

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