

UNCG grant to enhance ESL instruction across the state

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - A five-year, \$1.4 million federal grant to the School of Education at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro will enhance English as a Second Language instruction across the state.

The U.S. Department of Education grant provides training in working with the growing number of ESL students in North Carolina's schools to UNCG faculty, undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and teachers in the Chatham County and Asheboro City schools. The project, TESOL for All (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages=Academic Achievement for Language Learners), addresses the achievement gap between ESL students and traditional students. North Carolina had over 90,000 ESL students in schools across the state as of October 2006.

Dr. Barbara Levin, one of the principal investigators for the project, said teachers are often not prepared for the added challenge of teaching ESL students, and licensed ESL teachers are in high demand.

"There are not enough licensed ESL teachers out there, so we want to prepare as many of our teacher educators and teacher candidates at UNCG, and experienced teachers in our partner school districts, to meet the needs of their ESL students. Teachers have done a fine job so far. They have bent over backwards to try to meet those needs."

TESOL is a coordinated effort among faculty in the UNCG elementary teacher education program, Chatham County Schools, Asheboro City Schools, the Center for New North Carolinians and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Dr. Kathryn Prater, Dr. Ye He and Dr. Ann Harrington, all from the CUI department, worked with Levin as investigators on the grant, which will distribute \$228,000 during the 2007-08 school year.

Dr. He said partnering with Chatham County and Asheboro City - two school systems that already have large populations of ESL students - is a win-win situation for UNCG and the schools.

The TESOL grant will add a new MEd program called the Classroom Practice Track program that will lead to initial licensure for teaching K-12 ESL students. This new program is designed to attract second degree, career changing adults into ESL teaching at the graduate level.

The leaders of TESOL expect to provide comprehensive professional development experiences for up to 30-45 teachers annually, ultimately serving over 1,300 ESL students at the end of the five-year grant period.

Film

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mainstream media. Morton wants to see a change in the messages being pervaded by the media. The problem began with what he described as the "disempowering" message that came out of the 1960s: "You've been held behind for 400 years; I can't expect you to compete, so I have to do something to help you out."

Interviews with black intellectuals in the documentary agreed that this has caused complacency in the black community. In order to re-empower the black identity, "The message is to take more responsibility in what we think about one another," Morton said.

A producer and director, Morton is also the founder of iYAGO Entertainment Group, LLC, a multimedia production company. He also established Give Us Free Production Inc., a commercial production company which produces independent documentary films and videos for distribution. He also serves as executive vice president of JynxDaCat Productions, a music production company. Morton lives in Upper Marlboro, Md.

For more information about the film, go to www.myspace.com/whatblackmenthink.

Group formed to preserve Forsyth County's history

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

It is no secret that Winston-Salem/Forsyth County has a rich history. The existence of places like Historic Bethabara and Old Salem are evidence of that.

Ironically, until recently, Forsyth County was one of only a handful of counties in the state that didn't have an organization established specifically to protect its historic sites.

"There wasn't an organization whose mission it was to tell about our heritage properties, and so people didn't know, and more and more and more of them were being lost," said Catherine Hendren, a local attorney and one of 22 founding members of Preserve Historic Forsyth, Inc.

The group was incorporated just recently, founded to address this growing need. While much is known about the county's strong Moravian roots because of places like Old Salem, Hendren hopes that Preserve Historic Forsyth will shed light on lesser-known aspects of local culture.

Preserve Historic Forsyth was born of the shared vision of a handful of its founding members, who were inspired by the city's Historic Resources Commission's inaugural Heritage Awards ceremony, held



Submitted Photo

Dozens attended the launch meeting earlier this month.

in May 2006. The group then recruited others within the area to join in the effort, and Preserve Historic Forsyth was created.

"It was so exciting to see all the (Historic Resources Commission) awards that were given to individuals and groups that had been leaders in historic preservation in Forsyth County

and to see the tremendous diversity of it," Hendren said.

Winston-Salem State University Librarian Vicki Jones' ties to the county's historic sites date back to the early '80s, when she served on the City-County Planning Board. As a board member, she helped to compile a list of the city's his-

toric sites. Jones says the experience opened her eyes to the rich heritage of the county.

"I hadn't even thought about it and I was a history major," she confessed. "When I took that job I really came to love (older properties) quite a bit."

Preserve Historic Forsyth, Inc. has afforded Jones the chance to reconnect with her passion for history.

"It's giving people a voice for what there is in the county," she said, "Trying to let others know what was there and trying to preserve what we do (still) have."

Jones says she hopes that the organization will help people understand the value of historic properties as well.

"Sometimes people don't know what they really have," she commented.

Hendren, who lives in an 1895 home in the city's Historic West End, says she has always been intrigued by historic properties.

"I have lived in wonderful, old houses all my life, and I grew up in this part of the country," she remarked. "I have, I guess, come to appreciate the landscape and the heritage of this part of the world. It is something that I would like to see preserved and not erased by sprawl and kind of homogenization, with everything beginning to look alike."

As part of its mission, Preserve Historic Forsyth will hold workshops to educate homeowners about the importance of preserving their historic properties. The group will also build a repository of materials on preservation techniques and resources.

Aside from aesthetics, historic properties have a lot to offer the community, Hendren asserts.

"We're also very much interested in the stories that go along with it, because if you have a building, what's interesting might be the architecture, but always, the story of the people who lived there and their lives are the best part," she said. "It's a way of knowing what people have accomplished and how they have accomplished it, so that you can better understand who you are and what you can be. You learn from your history about what the possibilities are for yourself."

Preserve Historic Forsyth will have a lot to keep it busy. The group will be working to preserve history in Winston-Salem and more than a dozen other townships in Forsyth County, including Lewisville, Abbots Creek, Bethania and Kernersville.

For more information or online resources, go to www.preservehistoricsforsyth.org.



Photos by Kevin Walker

A Mt. Olive member prepares bags of food Saturday for the hundreds who came for them.

Right: First Lady Eula Gray, right, with church member, Shantea McBride.



Mt. Olive

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Mt. Olive family is somewhat expected to open their hearts and wallets to help their neighbors. In addition to the Thanksgiving give-away, Mt. Olive sponsors annual

Halloween celebrations, back-to-school block parties and a year-round food pantry.

Gray - whose contributions to the community were acknowledged two years ago when the city named a street adjacent to his church in his honor - says that both saving

souls and giving back are essential missions for the church.

Gray knows that the black church has lost some of its luster. Many no longer consider it a beacon of hope and the nucleus of the community. The reason for that, Gray says, is

partly because of the church's actions, or rather, inactions.

"So many people have a negative outlook of the church because they think we just want to receive - that we just want their money," the pastor said. "We have to show that churches aren't just in this for

the money. We have to show that we care. We have to give."

Russell Funeral Home helped Mt. Olive with this year's give-away. The Woughtown Street Food Lion also contributed to the project by providing discounted turkeys.

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