

SSAAH wil have reception and membership drive on Nov. 29

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Society for the Study of Afro American History of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (SSAAH) will have a holiday reception Nov. 29 from 5-7 p.m. at the Delta Arts Center, 2611 New Walkertown Rd.

The event will also serve as a membership drive for the organization, which is dedicated to preserving local black history. Members are also working to start a local black history museum where it can store the many historical artifacts and documents it has gathered over the years.

SSAAH has roots going back to 1983 when a group of dedicated residents decided to develop a

black history society. Founders of the group included Louise Hamilton, Dr. Bill Rice, Ella Whitworth and the Rev. Henry Lewis. These foot soldiers toiled many hours to keep local black history alive and relevant.

Today's members are equally as driven and are devoted to ensuring that the organization and the legacy of its founders continues. The public is invited to attend the reception to learn more about the organization and its goals.

Guests are asked to RSVP with Lester Davis (336-971-6851 /lsinclair927@aol.com) or Connie Smith (336-785-1854 /clsmith1160@yahoo.com).

Lenders

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Vince Sheheen, a lawyer who is suing payday lenders on behalf of customers, said the posters will not help.

"What's going on is we have people who are generally in very unstable situations financially," Sheheen said. "Literally, it is window dressing."

The posters do mark a shift for the industry, Sheheen said. "They have typically called it a fee and tried to say it's not interest," said Sheheen, who also has pushed legislation overhauling payday lending regulations.

The signs aren't expected to affect business at the nation's

largest payday lender, South Carolina-based Advance America Cash Advance Centers Inc., company spokesman Jamie Fulmer said. The company has long posted similar disclosures so consumers have "the information that is best for them to make their choices," Fulmer said.

Advance America is one of several lenders named in Sheheen's lawsuit, which claims the companies attract borrowers to "unconscionable loans" and trap them in an endless cycle of trying to repay the loans.

"We think those lawsuits are frivolous and we're going to vigorously defend ourselves," Fulmer said.

Institute, and James H. Johnson Jr., director of the institute's Urban Investment Strategies Center, wrote in the study.

"Black-owned businesses, for instance, are also important employers of North Carolinians, creating almost 85,000 jobs. Above and beyond their direct and indirect impacts on North Carolina business revenues, black workers contribute immensely to the state's economic output and cost competitiveness in a number of key industries."



Kasarda

leaving as its fifth-leading scorer. He went to Duke for a master's and then a law degree. He also has worked as an NBA agent, practiced law and helped out on Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

The school's alumni seem unconcerned about Sorrell's inexperience in academia.

"The alumni are overwhelmingly enthusiastic with the changes Mike has made," said Kevin Kelley, a 2000 Paul Quinn graduate who founded a Dallas law firm with a classmate. "His ability to fundraise and bring in other supporters of the college has nothing to do with whether he has published any articles."

Sorrell does not want to change the school in the slow, careful, committee-heavy fashion for which colleges are known. He wants to change Paul Quinn now.

"I am never going to be an academic," he said. "They are very staid. They are very academic. They wear tweed. There is a place for those guys, and I respect them and I am awed by them."

"But that's not what my school needs and that's not what this community needs. They need someone who will roll up their sleeves and fight - fight for their students and fight for the school."

Spending

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(\$453 million), for a net cost to the state of about \$759 million, or approximately \$420 per resident after their tax contributions are considered.

"The net cost to the state budget must be seen in the broader context of the aggregate benefit blacks bring to the state economy," researchers John D. Kasarda, director of the Kenan

PFLAG AWARDS HONOR THOSE WITH OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) presented several awards last month to honor individuals, businesses and others that have proven themselves to be allies to the city's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

The Oct. 27 Kaleidoscope Awards ceremony was held at Augsburg Lutheran Church.

PFLAG says the awards "aim to highlight the powerful changes being made in all aspects of life by fair-minded, straight allies and organizations who recognize that moving equality forward for GLBT individuals is the key to achieving justice in every part of our lives."

"Often it is difficult for the families and friends of GLBT people to stand up for their loved ones for many of the same reasons gay people do not speak up," said Thomas Farmer, president of the Winston-Salem PFLAG chapter. "This event is about strengthening and broadening our community and support structures. It is about letting our community know who our role models and advocates are and in turn empowering all of us to find our voice."

Nominations were accepted in four categories - Business, Faith Community, Individual and School.

Dell, Inc. took the business prize for its strong anti-discrim-



Members of Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem accept the faith award.

Right: The Rev. Susan Parker of Wake Forest Baptist holds her trophy.



ination and anti-harassment policies. The international computer giant, which has a super-sized production facility in Winston-Salem, also offers benefits for same-sex couples and a networking group that preaches the importance of acceptance and tolerance.

The City of Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem Hospice & Palliative Care Center and the Winston-Salem Foundation's Youth Grantmakers in Action were also nominated in the business category.

The faith award went to Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem.

The church was cited for its strong stances on human rights issues. The Rev. Charles Davis, the church's pastor, also refuses to perform legal wedding ceremonies until the law allows all people, mainly same-sex couples, to marry legally. Davis does perform religious union ceremonies for same-sex and

heterosexual couples. Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Winston-Salem and Church of the Holy Spirit Fellowship were up for the faith award as well.

The Rev. Susan Parker, an associate pastor at Wake Forest Baptist Church, won the individual award for her active role with several organizations that push for social justice and change. Parker's efforts as a bridge-builder are well known throughout the city.

Wade Boyles, Jamie Lawson and City Council Member and N.C. lieutenant governor candidate Dan Besse were also nominated for the individual award.

PFLAG did not receive nominations in the school award category, a fact that is troubling to the organization, which says schools should do more to protect and support gay youngsters.

The organization presented Jonathan Chaney with the Volunteer of the Year Award for his tireless work for PFLAG. Chaney has lent his talents to designing and redesigning the organization's newsletter, Web site, fliers and posters.

Wake Forest Law Professor Shannon Gilreath was the event's keynote speaker, and Jason and deMarco, a gay duo known for their spiritual tunes, performed.

For more information about Winston-Salem PFLAG, go to www.pflagwinstonsalem.org.

Scam

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\$2,900?"

Though it is pretty typical wording for a long-standing hoax, many people never imagine that a scammer would contact them in such a manner, says David Dalrymple, President & CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Northwest North Carolina.

"You have very little to confirm the identity of somebody by email," he stated. "But most folks take (the identity of the sender) to be the gospel, you know the absolute truth - they don't fathom that that can be falsified."

No one is safe from such intrusion, as an official of a prominent civil rights organization learned recently. The

official, who when interviewed last week asked that their name and organization not be used, still has no idea how scammers gained access to the organization's address book, which contained nearly 2,000 names and e-mail addresses.

The official was unaware that a scam e-mail had been sent from the organization's address until phone calls began pouring in from recipients.

"Folks ... called my cell and also my office number to make sure I was okay, and that made me feel really good," the official said. "Thank God, most of them thought it was a hoax anyway."

A mass e-mail was sent to all of those in the organization's address book, warning

them of the scam, and as far as the organization knows, no one on the list fell victim to it.

"I have not heard, and I pray to God, that they don't (send money to the scammers) because that's the part that really is so bothersome, that they'll be thinking that they are helping me, and I'm alive and well in North Carolina, not in distress," the official commented.

Unfortunately, the savvy of those affected by this organization's victimization is not mirrored throughout society, and Dalrymple cautions all Internet users to be suspicious of anyone who contacts them asking for money or information.

"If you see somebody you know, a name that you know, you'd better confirm through

some other means with them before you start believing it really is them," he advised.

Telltale signs of fraudulent emails include poor grammar - which may indicate a lack of understanding of the English language - and ambiguous greetings such as, "Dear Ebay Member," or "Dear Bank of America Customer," Dalrymple says.

Internet scams are here to stay, and recipients must learn to be more cautious in order to protect themselves, he warns.

"(These scams are) absolutely happening. If people think that it's the exception, it's not. The folks that are doing this to us, they can gain a lot by doing very little," he stated. "Question - you need to question (everything)."

Sorrell

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\$5,000 from Paul Quinn. Fantroy, a former member of the school's board of directors, has pleaded not guilty.

Instability at the top has not helped. Sorrell is the school's fifth leader since 2001.

Enrollment is down by about 100 students to 600 this year. The endowment has shrunk to less than \$5 million, Sorrell said, and the school has been running with operating deficits. Buildings are in need of repair, the campus roads are pocked by potholes, and students complain of bad food in the cafeteria and bug infestations in the dorms.

Sorrell has big plans. He wants to raise academic standards and increase enrollment to 2,000. A fundraising campaign he's pushing will "raise more money than we've ever raised in this school's history," he said.

"There is no example for what we're about to do," Sorrell said. "We're going to turn what has generally been considered a mediocre historically black college into a great, small liberal arts college. That's where we're going."

There's also may be no example of a college president with as unlikely a career path.

The Chicago native played basketball at Oberlin College,

DNA

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point to a country of origin. That's more difficult for blacks, because many of today's African nations literally didn't exist a century ago. For blacks who are the descendants of slaves, family history often hits a roadblock at about 1870 because that's when their last names first started appearing on federal records.

DNA testing can help people reach back further, perhaps all the way to Africa. "This is going to help some individuals to cross the waters and that's why it is so significant," she said.

Gates developed a passion

for his own ancestry while producing the 2006 PBS documentary series "African American Lives." DNA testing done in conjunction with the program revealed some surprises in the family histories of Gates and other prominent black Americans.

Gates, for example, discovered that an ancestor fought in the Revolutionary War.

"Going about making that PBS series showed me that there was a lot of confusion in the field of African ancestry," he said.

Gates plans on donating some of the profits from the project to the Inkwell Foundation, which aims at using genetics to reform the way science and history is taught.



Walton-Raji



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* Sources: According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) annual Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey; study date: 2007. Strategic Consumer Research Inc. conducted an independent national study of 600 CCRx members and 600 competitor members in the same areas; study date: May 2007.

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