

A&T professorship honors Shirley Frye

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

An endowed professorship honoring Shirley T. Frye has been established at her alma mater — North Carolina A&T State University.

Frye is a well-known community organizer and the wife of former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Henry Frye.

The Shirley T. Frye Distinguished Professorship in Urban Education was established through a \$500,000 award funded by the C.D. Spangler Foundation's Challenge Grants program for the University of North Carolina System. The School of Education received a \$250,000 challenge grant from the foundation and a \$250,000 match from the UNC Distinguished Professorship Endowment Trust.

Frye was chosen for her contributions as an alum and for her advocacy for excellence in education. She started her professional career in



Frye

Greensboro as a public school teacher and briefly taught at Bennett College. She served as an administrator in the public and private sectors at N.C. A&T and at WFMV TV. She is most known for her commitment to service and her involvement in more than 100 local, state and national organizations. Frye is the recipient of 25 awards, including the 1985 Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award.

Forum

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tone that people will get fair and equitable treatment."

Cunningham, who was named chief about 15 months ago, made it clear that he doesn't want to be judged by the Police Department's past sins, which include the highly-publicized botched investigation of Darryl Hunt, a black man who spent nearly two decades in prison after cops erroneously fingered him as the killer and rapist of Deborah Sykes, a young, white woman.

"I can't go back and fix issues that happened five years ago ... 10 years ago," said Cunningham. "Judge me by what I do and judge this Police Department by what it's doing today."

The police chief told the dozens crammed into a small meeting room at the Gateway YWCA that he plans to make the Police Department mirror the racial diversity of the community by the time he retires — although he said later that he has no set retirement date yet.

Progress is already being made in the city's longtime struggle to recruit more officers of color, Cunningham said. The latest class of 32 recruits is made up of mostly white men (18), but the number of blacks (five men and



Photo by Kevin Walker

A member of the audience asks a question.

one woman), and Hispanics (two men and one woman) are much better than past classes.

Cunningham added that in his 15 months on the job, 15 percent of all the minorities and 14 percent of all the women currently on the Police Department's payroll were hired.

Pauline Morris, the other forum panelist, complimented Cunningham for making some inroads in police/Hispanic relations. Morris, the head of the International Center at Forsyth Technical Community College, addressed issues key to the

city's growing Hispanic community. She corrected one audience member who asked a question about "illegal" immigrants.

"I choose to call people undocumented immigrants," she said.

Morris dissuaded Hispanics from not participating in the 2010 Census. She said there is talk among some of boycotting the government's population count as a way to protest the barriers that some immigrants still face to receive some services.

Garrity said the City of Winston-Salem's workforce is more diverse than ever, but

that work still needs to be done. The city still lacks racial diversity in its highest ranks and in departments such as Inspections, he said.

Eversley said racial diversity, or a lack thereof, is only an issue because systemic racism — and comments such as the ones made by Keith — have created a negative image of minorities in the minds of white people, who more often than not, are charged with deciding who will get hired.

"It takes a lot of work for employers in this city to see people of color as human beings," said Eversley.



Photos by Layla Farmer

Lou Baldwin receives his award from Center Case Manager Mary Hinton.

Bethesda

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During last week's anniversary event, current Bethesda residents like Mary Holman talked about how the Center's programs have helped to change their lives. Holman said drug and alcohol addiction rendered her to the streets.

"I had been using for about 20 years, starting at the age of 13," she related. "...it led me to a life of being homeless."

Holman has participated in various support groups at the Center. She calls the five months she has spent at Bethesda life changing.

"I'm on the verge of receiving a voucher for (my own house)," she proudly related. "My dreams for the future are coming true."

Tonya Mack returned to the Bethesda Center in 2006.

"I'd been to Bethesda twice before, but I wasn't ready to change," Mack remarked. "When I came to Bethesda this time, I was ready and willing."

Mack spent her days volunteering around the Center and eventually became a staff member. Homelessness is now in her past. She has a two-bedroom apartment of her own.

"Where I used to live, I now work," Mack related. "It's a great place for me because I know the people and I understand them."

Anthony Williams, a military veteran, ended up at Bethesda after he was laid off. He was able to sustain himself for a short time on his savings, he said, but when no other job materialized, he found himself homeless.

"When I walked through the doors, my first thought was, 'Thank God, I don't have to sleep on the streets,'" he commented.

Despite his dire circumstances, Williams says his time at the Center has given him

hope.

"Bethesda has given me a new outlook on life," he stated. "...I've made new friends here, but most of all, Bethesda has helped me in my spiritual growth. I was able to find ... a closer walk with God at this homeless shelter."

The center has found permanent housing for nearly 60 chronically homeless people — those who have been on the streets for one year or more — in each of the last three years, a fact that Executive Director Mike Ryan is quite proud of. The Center, which opened a new wing last December, is thriving, despite waning funding, he said.

"We are doing more with less," he commented.

The Center presented Beacon Awards to those who contributed significantly to its mission over the last year. Goler Memorial

AME Zion Church and Lou Baldwin Jr., president of the Baldwin Property Management Co., were the first-ever recipients of the awards, which the Center plans to present annually.

Baldwin has worked closely with the Center to help residents get adequate housing. He says he believes it is part of his moral obligation as property manager.

"Landlords and property managers in the community need to be part of the solution to this homelessness issue," Baldwin commented. "We need to be willing to open the doors and take a chance on some folks who might not otherwise qualify for housing."

Goler member Joyce Henry accepted the award on behalf of the church.

"It has truly been a blessing for Goler to partner with the Bethesda Center and the Ten Year Plan (to End Chronic Homelessness)," Henry said. "It's always a pleasure to know that ... you can be an asset to the people in the community."



Ryan

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