



American Pride

Photo by Jacob Pitt

Winston-Salem State University student Quamakia Shavis stands in front of her portrait last week in the school's Diggs Gallery. Shavis is among the WSSU students featured in Photographer Sheila Pree Bright's "Young Americans" exhibit, which is currently on display at Diggs.

Reform

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as well as provide children with insurance. These programs are:

- Medicare - A federal insurance program that covers Americans over 65 years old who are eligible for Social Security benefits, patients with end-stage renal disease, and persons who have been receiving Social Security disability benefits for two years.

- Medicaid - Jointly funded by the states and the federal government. Medicaid pays for health and long-term care services for low-income Americans who generally lack access to private insurance. About half of all Medicaid enrollees are children. Low-income parents, seniors, and persons with disabilities are also covered.

- State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) - is a joint federal-state plan that provides health insurance for children in low-income families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance. It is called NC Health Choice for Children in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, as in many other states, many communities have free clinics and community health centers where persons who have no insurance and qualify based on their low income can receive free or low cost care. There are other people who do not have health insurance but who pay out-of-pocket for care either by choice or because they cannot afford health insurance but don't qualify for the government programs. These people often go to emergency rooms, urgent care facilities, community health centers, and health departments to get care.

What are some of the key terms related to health care reform that I should know?

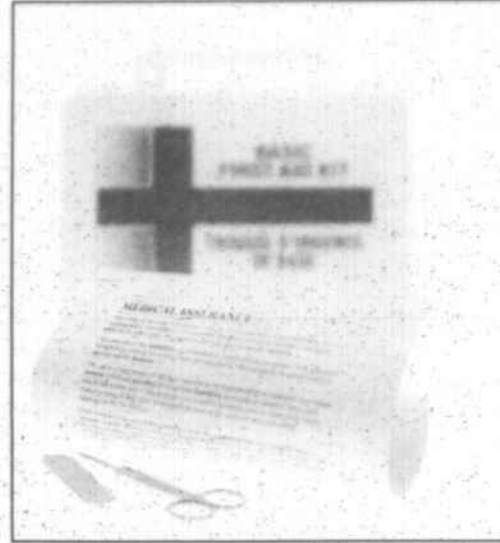
There has been much talk in recent months and years about the possibility of creating a system of Universal Coverage for health insurance in the US. Universal coverage means that all Americans would be covered by health insurance. Universal coverage can be achieved by public insurance alone or by a combination of public and private insurance. Such plans are currently offered in other countries around the world, like Canada and England.

Other means of reform that have been discussed lately include:

Employer Mandate - A policy that would require all employers (public and private) to provide health insurance coverage to all of their employees;

Individual Mandate - A policy that would require all Americans to purchase their own health insurance coverage if they do not have insurance through work and are not eligible to enroll in a public program; and

Play or Pay Mandate - A policy that would require employers to either offer their employees health insurance ("play") or pay a fee to the government ("pay"), which would use the revenues to enroll uninsured persons into either public or private insurance plans.



Ensuring all Americans have access to care means increasing access to health insurance and lowering costs. One way to lower costs that has been discussed is to move from a treatment model (the way our system currently is set up) to a prevention model. This means that health costs related to things we do to keep ourselves healthy (screenings, regular physicals, classes, etc.) should be low cost and/or covered by insurance. This model stresses the importance of keeping people healthy in an effort to reduce the costs associated with illness (e.g. prevent illness altogether rather than simply treating it). Also, it is important for health care providers to have protected time to meet with each of their patients to assist them in staying healthy and detecting any problems early.

President Obama has set forth an agenda to help all Americans obtain health insurance. A few of his ideas include requiring insurance agencies to cover preexisting conditions, providing a tax credit to small businesses so they can afford to provide coverage for their employees, lowering drug costs, and ensuring that people get a tax credit for their premiums.

Unfortunately, in recent decades, the health care system has become more financially-focused and less patient-focused, which deters people from participating in it to maintain their health. It is important for all of us, the public, health professionals, health care providers and policymakers, to work on returning our system to a patient-focused, prevention model to reduce our costs and improve the health of our communities.

For more information, you can visit the National Coalition on Health Care's Web site at www.nchc.org, or call them at 202-638-7151.

- Contribution by Sarah Langdon

Do you need further information or have questions or comments about this article? Please call toll-free 1-877-530-1824. Or, for more information about the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity please visit our web-site: <http://www.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth>.

WSSU

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tion to his speaking. Wheeler is also a personal and executive coach. He was elected to the National

Steering committee for the National Football League Players Association and facilitates workshops for that group.

Founder's Day honors Dr. Simon Green Atkins, who began Slater Industrial

Academy in 1892, which was the foundation for today's university.

There will be the traditional wreath laying ceremony at Dr. Atkins statue on campus at 8:45 a.m. prior to the Convocation.

FMC

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There are more than 5,000 hospitals in the United States. FMC is one of only 19 medical centers in the country and the first in North Carolina to have earned the Gold Plus recognition from the AHA/ASA.

"Gold Plus awards from

the American Heart Association are difficult to achieve," said Robin Voss, vice president of stroke and neurosciences at FMC. "This puts us among an elite national group of primary stroke centers that consistently maintain high standards for rapidly and accurately diagnosing and treating patients with acute stroke."

Central to FMC's stroke program are around-the-clock access to a dedicated stroke team, brain-imaging scans and, when appropriate, clot-dissolving medications. FMC's stroke team includes neurologists, neurosurgeons, vascular surgeons, neuroradiologists, physiatrists and rehabilitation medicine specialists.

'Fences'

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Place on the UNCSA campus at 1533 South Main St. at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 29; at 8 p.m. on Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 4-7; and at 2 p.m. Nov. 1 & 7. The Oct. 29 performance benefits The Larry Leon and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin/Winston-Salem Urban League Endowed Scholarship Fund at

UNCSA. Tickets to the Oct. 29 performance are \$50, which includes a post-show champagne and dessert party with the actors and director. Tickets to the other performances are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. Call the UNCSA Box Office at 336-721-1945 for reservations, or visit www.uncsa.edu/performances to purchase tickets online.



August Wilson



Derek and Misty live in a northwestern Winston-Salem suburb. When their adjustable rate mortgage increased last year, the new payment was more than they could afford, even though they both work. A United Way-funded program helped them save their home from foreclosure, reduce their monthly payment by 25 percent, and maintain much of their equity. They urge everyone to give to United Way so that more people can be helped.

United Way is helping people across our community face unprecedented needs through its safety net of vital services including food, shelter, financial assistance, and health care.

We are reducing the number of our children that drop out of high school.

We are helping people get new or better jobs.

United Way is doing the things that make our community a better place for all of us.

We can do more if more people give.

This year, every single gift is important.



Support from everyone has never been more important. Please give today at www.forsythunitedway.org