

Carter

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Hartsfield said that on the campaign trail she would tell voters about a memory book she made for Carter's fourth grade class. In the book, Hartsfield declared her desire to one day be the Attorney General of the United States or a lawyer. Hartsfield, who went on to become a lawyer before being elected to the district court bench, said that Carter exposed her students to many different occupations and encouraged them to dream big.

"It showed to me just the inspiration that Ms. Carter put into us every day to believe that we can dream outside the ordinary boundaries, to believe that anything was achievable," said Hartsfield, who introduced Carter at the dinner.

Carter was also Curtis Richardson's fourth grade teacher. Though he came from a modest home in the Happy Hill Gardens, he said Carter always made him feel just as worthy and special as his classmates who came from wealthier families.

"We were always made to feel 'You're equal; you can be what you want to be as long as you have the drive,'" said Richardson, who retired after 26 years with Richardson Safety Equipment, a company he founded.

Marilyn Odom, an adjunct professor at Forsyth Technical Community College and another of Carter's formers, helped to organize the event. She said she was honored to lend Carter a hand. Odom calls Carter "our favorite teacher" and said she "made everyone feel special and important."

"She looked for the gifts in us and she inspired us, and what she brought to me was a love of language," said Odom, who graduated from N.C. State University with a degree in speech communications.

Special dinner guests included Donna Cannon, the current principal of Diggs-



Dr. Carter holds her latest book, "I Can Keep You in My Heart."

Latham Elementary School (in recent years the two schools have merged); and Gloria Diggs Banks, the granddaughter of Jefferson Davis Diggs, for whom Diggs Elementary is named. Denise Franklin of 88.5 WFDD served as the mistress of ceremonies and Janice Price performed musical selections.

Carter said her students truly have had a profound effect on her life. The things she learned with her students in social studies classes inspired her to travel to each of the seven continents.

They also inspired her to found the Listen to the Children International Foundation, which distributes benches to schools and churches. The benches are intended to be used as places where children and adults can have conversations.

Carter has also written several books aimed at inspiring children, including "Win-Win Attitudes for Kids." Her latest book, which she wrote in its original form for a student in 1975, is called "I Can Keep You in My Heart." The book is designed to help young people who are coping with loss.

Even after retirement, Carter continued teaching in Michigan until 2001. She still visits classrooms to talk about her books and the principles they advocate.

Speaker warns against 'by stander behavior'

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Some of the most visible faces on the Wake Forest University campus came together Monday to hone their skills as student leaders during the school's second annual Student Leadership Summit at The Barn, the University's newly constructed student gathering place. The students, who hold top positions in organizations ranging from fraternities and sororities to the SGA, discussed best practices for effective leadership and instilling school spirit in the incoming crop of Demon Deacons. Towards the end of the day, Laurel Banks of the Office of Advocacy and Support asked the students to take out their cell phones and engage in an interactive conversation with Filmmaker Mike Dilbeck.

"Everything you've been doing today leads right into this conversation," said Dilbeck, who has addressed more than 30,000 college students over the last two years. "This is for every single person in this room, no matter what your age, no matter what your level of accountability is."

Dilbeck, a resident of Chicago, has produced over 60 educational and promotional film productions, but is best known for founding the Response Ability Project, an educational initiative designed to empower individuals to step in when they witness an affront of any kind against someone else, rather than engaging in what is known as "bystander behavior," where people remain complacent. He opened the program with a "Bitch Session," inviting those present to sound off about the things they are most tired of.

Students responded with answers like "people who narrate movies unnecessarily," "people not taking responsibility for their own actions" and "apathy." Dilbeck said the purpose of the session was to engage the students and encourage them to approach situations from a more active standpoint. He showed his own willingness to address the tough issues by taking the students to task for voluntarily segregating themselves by race.

"This section of the room is very colorful," he said, gesturing to several tables that were largely populated by African Americans, "and this section is very white."

Then he added his own entry to the bitch session.

"I'm sick of people not being inclusive and not inviting people in," he said.

Dilbeck said he doesn't mind making his audiences squirm a little in the spot-



Mike Dilbeck speaks.

light of his candor.

While most speakers frown on the use of cell phones during a keynote, Dilbeck embraced the unorthodox approach, inviting the students to text their thoughts to his iPad as he tackled issues like hazing, discrimination and drug and alcohol abuse, all of which can be exacerbated by bystander behavior, he said. He said the anonymity of texting has helped students to be more open during the talks, and share things they don't have the courage to stand up and say out loud.

Dilbeck says bystander behavior, which he sees as a disease that plagues college campuses, can have grave consequences.

"People are literally losing their lives," he said. "College students are dying because of bystander behavior."

An alumnus of Texas Christian University, Dilbeck was a charter member in the formation of a chapter of a prominent fraternity on his college campus. As a young man, Dilbeck said he believed his role in bringing the frat to Texas Christian would be part of a glowing legacy he would leave behind for others to enjoy. He served as the organization's first president and was even voted Man of the Year by his brethren for his efforts. Though he was highly regarded amongst his peers, Dilbeck says he failed to take a stand against the negative things that were taking place within his organization, such as hazing and alcohol abuse.

"By all accounts, I was a leader," he said. "Looking back 20 years later, I can admit to you today, I wasn't a leader at

all. I was a wimp acting like I was a leader ... I sold out for being liked."

The chapter was closed shortly after it began.

"That legacy that I created from the ground up ... only lasted a few years. It's now closed. Why was my chapter closed? I think you can connect the dots," he said. "I want to believe that if someone would've had this very conversation that I've been brought in to have with you today ... maybe, just maybe I would've made the right decisions."

Dilbeck urged those present to "Identify" a problem when they encounter it, "Go Beyond" the thoughts that urge them to keep the status quo, and "Take Action" against the things that go against their values as human beings.

"You cannot be a leader and be a bystander at the same time - it's not possible. You're either at any given moment being a leader or you're being a bystander," he told the students. "... My intention is that you leave here now committed to intervene on that which stops you from being the leader you wanted to be."

Student Athlete Advisory Committee Vice President David Hopkins said Dilbeck's message resonated with him.

"I really enjoyed it. It had some great points in terms of ... setting examples, which I think is important," said the 21 year-old city native. "It really made me realize how many opportunities we have to change things that we don't take. You don't really realize that until after the fact."

Hopkins, a senior, religion and communications major and member of the school's tennis team, said attending Dilbeck's talk has sharpened his focus on the importance of standing up for his peers. By the time he left The Barn that day, Hopkins had resolved to eradicate his involvement in bystander behavior.

"I'm just trying to step up when I see things that aren't the right way and just make a conscious effort within myself to not hold back because of fear," he commented.

For more information about the Response Ability Project, visit www.RAProject.org or search for Response Ability on Facebook.



Hopkins

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