

## Farmer and Garms Say 'I Do'



Chronicle Reporter Layla Farmer and Winston-Salem State University Photographer Garrett Garms tied the knot on Friday, April 20 during a private sunset ceremony on the banks of the Currituck Sound in Corolla, N.C. The couple will reside in Winston-Salem.

### WFU

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black students.

"The vote was not unanimous, but it nonetheless made Wake Forest the first private Southern university to open its doors to black students," stated Provost Emeritus Dr. Edwin Wilson. "After '62, progress toward full integration was very slow, but step by step, the college became more supportive of and more hospitable to black students."

On Friday, Wake Forest kicked-off a yearlong celebration of the history-making vote during a special gathering at the Bryrum Welcome Center dubbed "Faces of Courage: Celebrating 50 Years of Integration."

"As we look back this afternoon to 1962 and the years that followed, we must realize anew our debt to those few men and women of courage who challenged what they saw as an injustice," Wilson said. "It was a prelude to the Wake Forest of today... We have become, I hope, in ways that could not have been imagined 50 years ago, an open university."

Dr. Barbee Oakes, assistant provost for Diversity and Inclusion and the event's organizer, said the decision to integrate has allowed countless students and faculty members from a wide array of backgrounds to come to know and love Wake Forest and to help enhance its legacy.

"Half of the audience today would likely not be here were it not for the courage and bravery of people, many of whom did not look like us," said Oakes, who was recently recognized nationally for her efforts to promote diversity and inclusion on the prestigious campus. "The impact of that decision is reflected in nearly every facet of the university today. Although it was controversial and scrutinized at the time ... integration was absolutely necessary to further the mission of Wake Forest."

A lunch counter sit-in staged jointly by students at Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State University in 1960 had given rise to calls for integration on the WFU campus. Trustees answered that call with mixed emotions during their vote. Ed Reynolds, the school's first African American student, arrived on campus in the fall of 1962.

"We stood up as a community in a room full of people who were primarily sitting down and said, 'This is a value that we hold and this is something that we want to do,'" declared Matthew Simari, a current student trustee. "...It was a victory for this entire community."

WFU President Nathan Hatch, whose office co-sponsored the event, said Wake Forest continues to make strides in becoming more inclusive. He read a 1970



SGA President Trè Easton



Sonia Kuguru



Matthew Simari

quote from Reynolds - who came to Wake from another African nation, Ghana - stating that he believed Wake had improved its race relations since the time he was a student.

"Ed acknowledged the university had indeed come a long way, and the same could be said of more recent progress," said Hatch, who cited the addition of Muslim and Jewish chaplains and the establishment of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning (LGBTQ) Center on campus last summer among the school's more recent accomplishments. "Wake Forest is indeed forging ahead... No university is perfect, but Wake Forest is engaged in



Dr. Edwin Wilson

the constant pursuit of betterment."

Dr. Herman Eure, a biology professor, was among those who helped to change the face of the university. Eure, a member of the

school's Class of 1974, was the first African American to be conferred a WFU Ph.D. He became the school's first full-time black faculty member later that year. Eure said the school's next frontier to conquer will likely surround issues of class.

"The biggest hurdle to total inclusion today has more to do with economics than it has to do with race," he said. "You have to provide the means ... for people to be able to come to a place like Wake Forest."

Oakes said Faces of Courage celebrations will continue in the 2012-2013 school year, with a slate of programs designed to provoke thought and encourage candid conversations among diverse groups.

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